

# Language Testing Regimes in Europe

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EU member states

# Migration: issues

- Population count
- Economic impact; contribution of migrants
- Needs of migrants, action plans and good practice in meeting those needs
- Impacts (services; infrastructure)
- Communication; co-existence; cohesion.

# Migration: positions

- EU: Respect for linguistic and cultural diversity
- Diverse national discourses: multiculturalism as a social resource; moral position; problem
- Challenges & positions:
  - multiculturalism & civil rights
  - interculturalism - equality of cultures
  - assimilation - mainstreaming in schools.



# Measures for (im)migrants

National gate-keeping measures include:

- integration programmes
- language tests
- knowledge of society tests

Adoption of points system under consideration in UK.

# Measures: rationale

Official discourses:

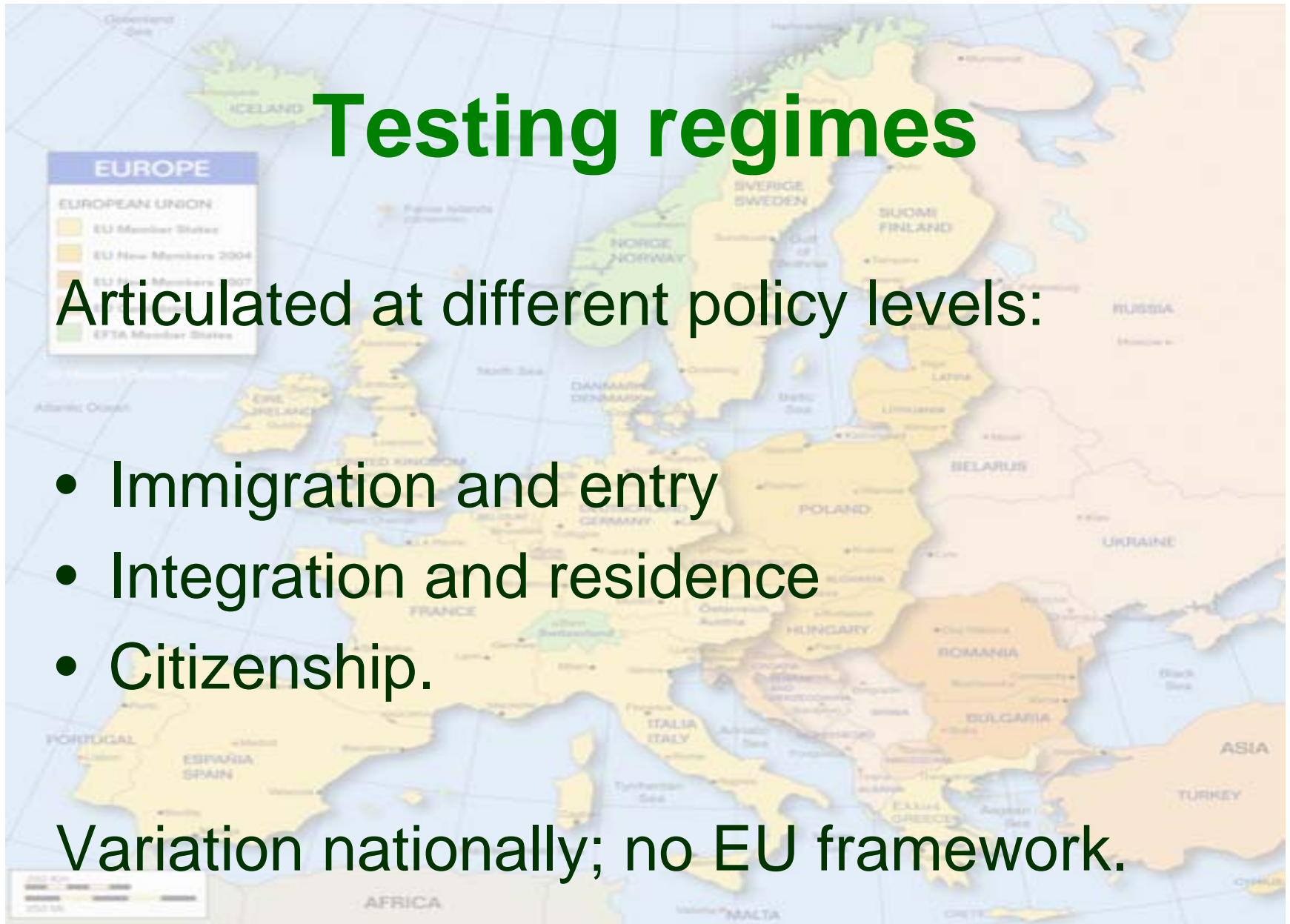
- social justice & cohesion (moral)
- active citizenship ( political)
- means for newcomers to adapt
- democratic way to include them in public life.

# Testing regimes

Articulated at different policy levels:

- Immigration and entry
- Integration and residence
- Citizenship.

Variation nationally; no EU framework.





# Testing regimes: critique

- Use of tests as a means to control migration flows
- reliability, validity, relevance of tests
- appropriateness of tests on ethical, legal & linguistic grounds
- suitable to measure degree of integration?



# Measures: criticisms

Underlying purpose:

- Reasserted idea of integrity of nation rooted in stable monolingualism
- national means to deal with supposedly divisive multilingualism.

Complexity of procedures in expanding EU. Is a more centralised approach needed?

# Literature

Extra, G., Spotti M., and P. Van Avermaet (eds). 2009. Testing regimes: Cross-National Perspectives on Language, Migration & Citizenship. *Advances in Sociolinguistics*. London/New York: Continuum.

Hogan-Brun, G., C. Mar-Molinero & P. Stevenson (eds). 2009. *Discourses on Language and Integration: Critical Perspectives on Language Testing Regimes in Europe*. Amsterdam: J.Benjamins.



*Merci.*

*Thank you.*