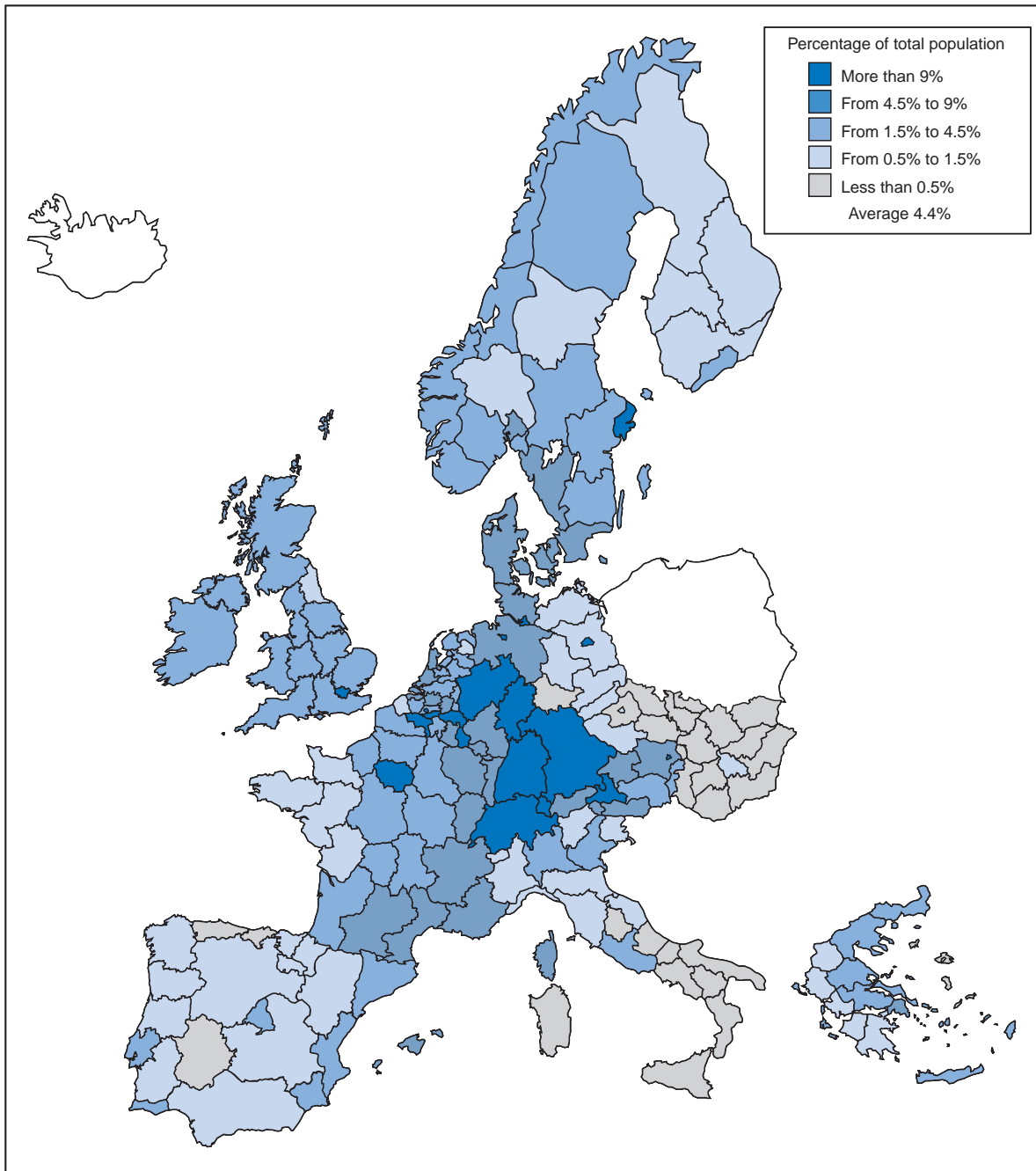


Map I.1. Foreign population in the European regions, 2001



Note: Population aged 15 and over, except for Denmark, Luxembourg and Switzerland for which data cover the whole population. For those three countries data are not broken down by region. Data are not available for Iceland and Poland.

Source: Eurostat and OECD Territorial Statistics and Indicators.

Box III.3. Main determinants of labour market outcomes for immigrants and their descendants in Denmark

Over the 1990-1999 period, labour force participation rates for immigrants and their descendants decreased. This observation is one of the factors motivating the New Act on Immigration (see Section 4) and has also led to further analyses of its causes.

- Years of residence: there is a positive correlation between amount of time spent in Denmark and labour force participation rates. Immigrants who have spent 2 years or less in Denmark have participation rates much lower than those of immigrants who have spent 10 years in Denmark (25% compared to 54%).
- Age at time of immigration: In general, immigrants who were between 0 and 12 years at the time of immigration have higher participation rates (55%) than immigrants who were between 13 and 29 (45%) and immigrants who were between 30 and 59 at the time of immigration (30%). Education in the Danish school system appears to be an important determinant of labour market success. A further explanation may be that immigrants who were less than 30 years old at the time of immigration, find it easier to adjust to the Danish labour force demands, than immigrants who had already participated in the labour force in their country of origin.
- The relative value of education in the home country: immigrants and descendants with a Danish education qualification have higher participation rates than immigrants with an equivalent education acquired in their country of origin. This indicates that immigrants cannot always use their education acquired in their country of origin to gain access to the Danish labour market.

the most strict in dealing with absenteeism are also the most successful, the Act on Integration has been changed so that it is now mandatory for city councils to consider sanctioning unwilling participants. Employed immigrants and refugees are exempted from such sanctions.

On January 17, 2002, the new immigration minister Mr. Bertel Haarder, presented to the government a number of proposed changes to Danish immigration laws:

- Family reunion will be limited to spouses older than 24; the immigrant's parents cannot, in principle, immigrate and requests from spouses between 18 and 24 years of age will be closely scrutinised.
- Permanent residence permits can only be granted after 7 years of uninterrupted legal residence (now 3 years).
- Immigrants will be excluded from social assistance during the first seven years of their stay.
- Entry of highly qualified immigrants will be made easier.