

# Voting abroad: analysis of 2024 Russian presidential election in immigrant communities

*Presentation for AQMSS II*

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# Why should we care?

- The right to vote abroad is a recent, non-universal and heterogeneous phenomenon (Collyer, 2013), still debated normatively (Bauböck, 2006)
- Voters abroad are frequently misaligned with voters at home (Vintila et al, 2023; Battiston and Luconi, 2020; Szulecki et al, 2023)
- Political participation in home-country affairs matters for identity:
  - Migrant voter turnout is not determined by poor integration in the host society (Gherghina and Basarabă, 2024);
  - Studies emphasize homesickness and sense of belonging as motivators (Boccagni, 2011)
- Very few studies explicitly linking voting abroad to political out-migration or voting in protest
  - Autocracies generally extend voting rights to immigrants when they support the incumbent and restrict when they don't (Umpierrez de Reguero et al, 2021; Iams Wellman, 2020)

# Broadening the scope

Russian data comes in handy for multiple reasons:

- Broad international coverage
- Unique multi-country exit poll with good by-station coverage
- Comparable data from 2018 (also with exit poll)

These enable us to estimate:

- Rough effects of war migration on the change in immigrant political preferences
- Selection processes in countries with and without exit polls
- Socio-economic determinants of external voting
- Destination countries' features' effect on voting

# Data

- Central Election Committee results of the election by voting station:
  - 287 voting stations across 145 countries and 261 cities
- Exit poll
  - 65 voting stations (= cities) across 44 countries
- Exit poll raw data
  - 69261 respondents in total
    - Sex, age, time out of Russia, time to reach voting station, trust in the result and vote choice
- Other data sources for country-level characteristics

# What we want to test

- Individual-level predictors, main interest - time of migration (before and after Crimea, after 2022)
  - Multinomial models (+ data imputation) and nested logit models
- Country-level predictors of vote shares
  - Multi-level models with country-level predictors and aggregated voting station/country-level models
  - Military bases, offshore status, "unfriendly nations", cultural and physical (geopolitical) distance to Russia
- Differences between 2018 and 2024 presidential election results abroad
  - Cumulative effect of war, politization and migration
  - Models for strictly exit poll sample and the whole sample
- Differences between exit poll and official results
  - Ecological analysis for falsification possibilities