



# Immigration, population growth in Sub – Saharan Africa and development assistance

UNIVERSITAIRE STICHTING – FONDATION UNIVERSITAIRE

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# Louis Baeck: a lifelong interest in development problems

- ▶ From “The World is our Village” (“De wereld is ons dorp”), 1971
- ▶ to “Text and context in the thematisation on postwar development”, 2000.

# Three of Baeck's main insights

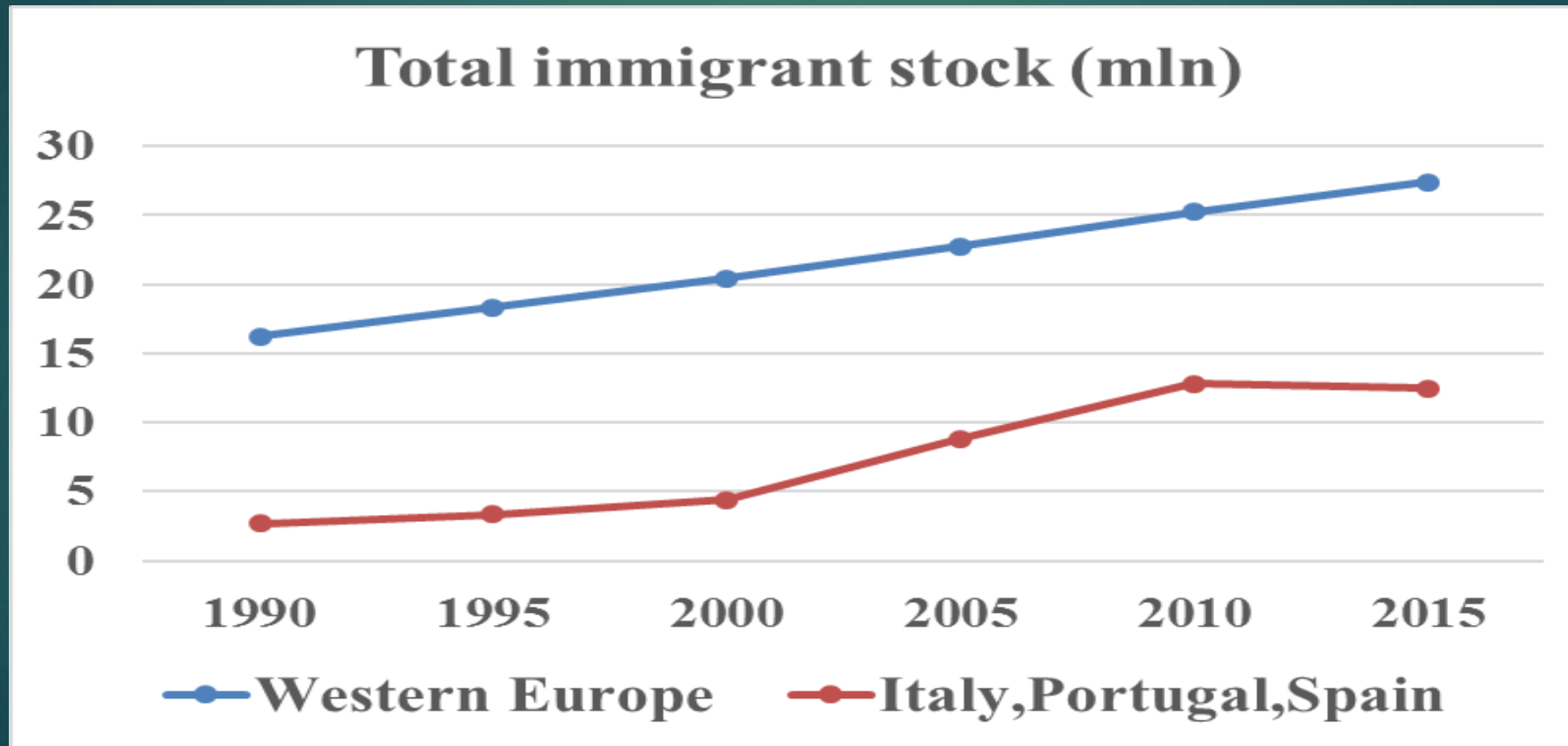
- ▶ **Development is not just economic growth: social and political change, change of values, ideology underlying those changes.**
- ▶ **Development path is not unique (the path followed by Western Europe and the US); each country can decide on its own development path.**
- ▶ **Demographic evolution is important. (Ch. 4 of his 1971 book)**

# Subject of this debate: international migration (from Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe) and its background

- ▶ International migration not a typical Baeck topic.
- ▶ But its background (population growth, gaps in standards of living) has been an integral part of his publications on development.

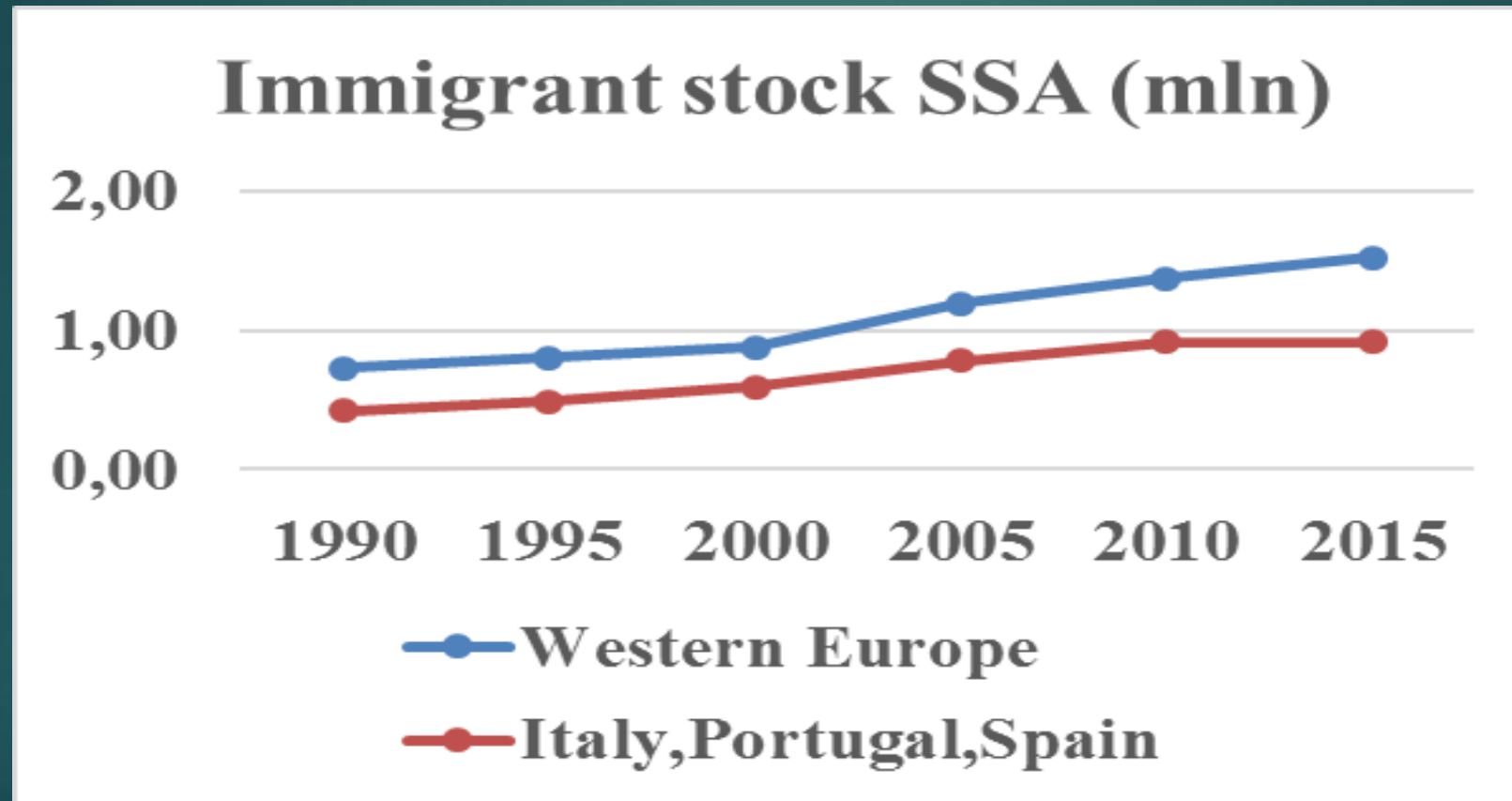
# Total number of migrants in Western and Southern Europe

- steady increase
- acceleration of immigration in Southern Europe 2000-2010



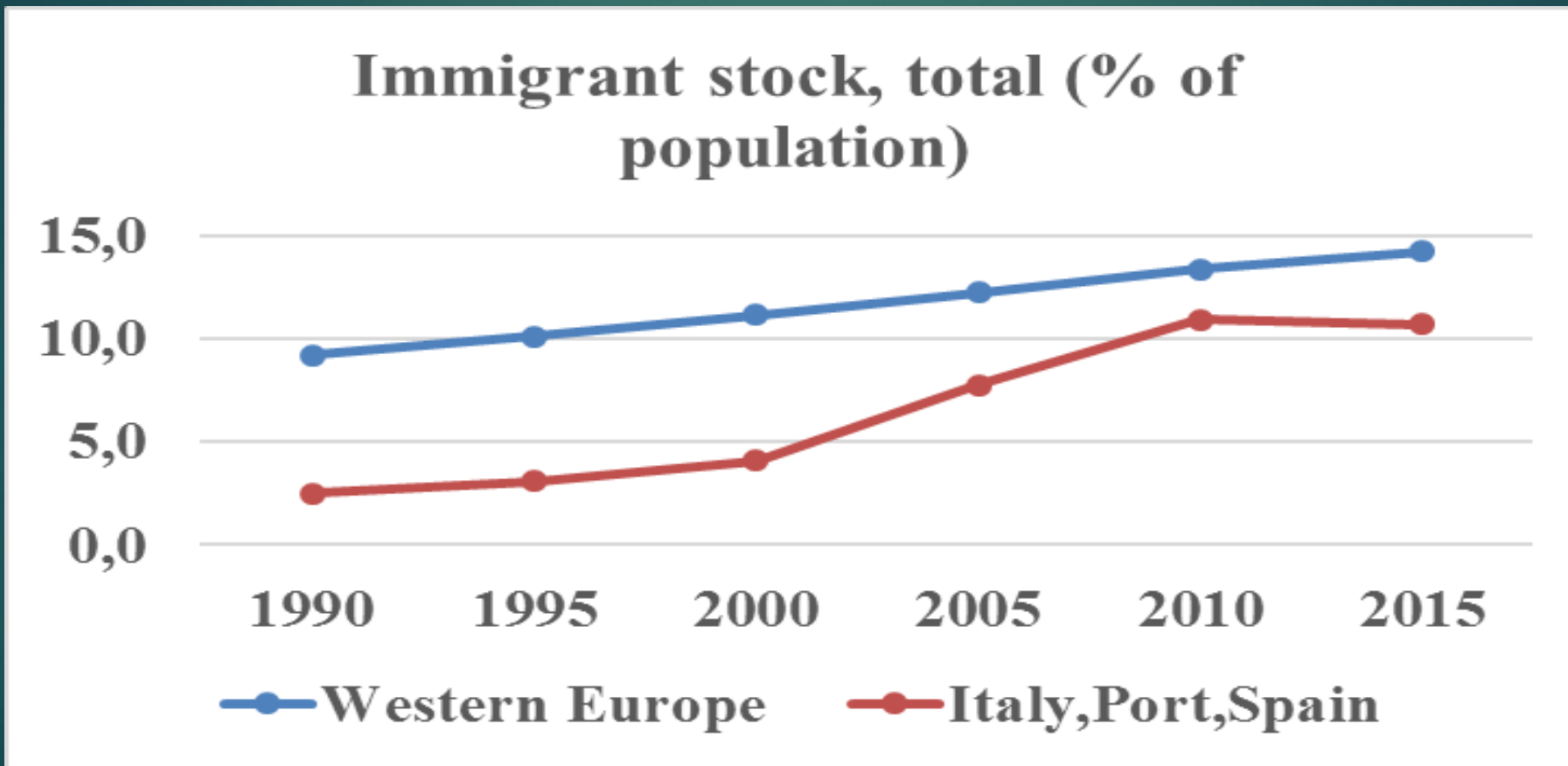
# Number of immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa

- steady increase
- no acceleration in Southern Europe



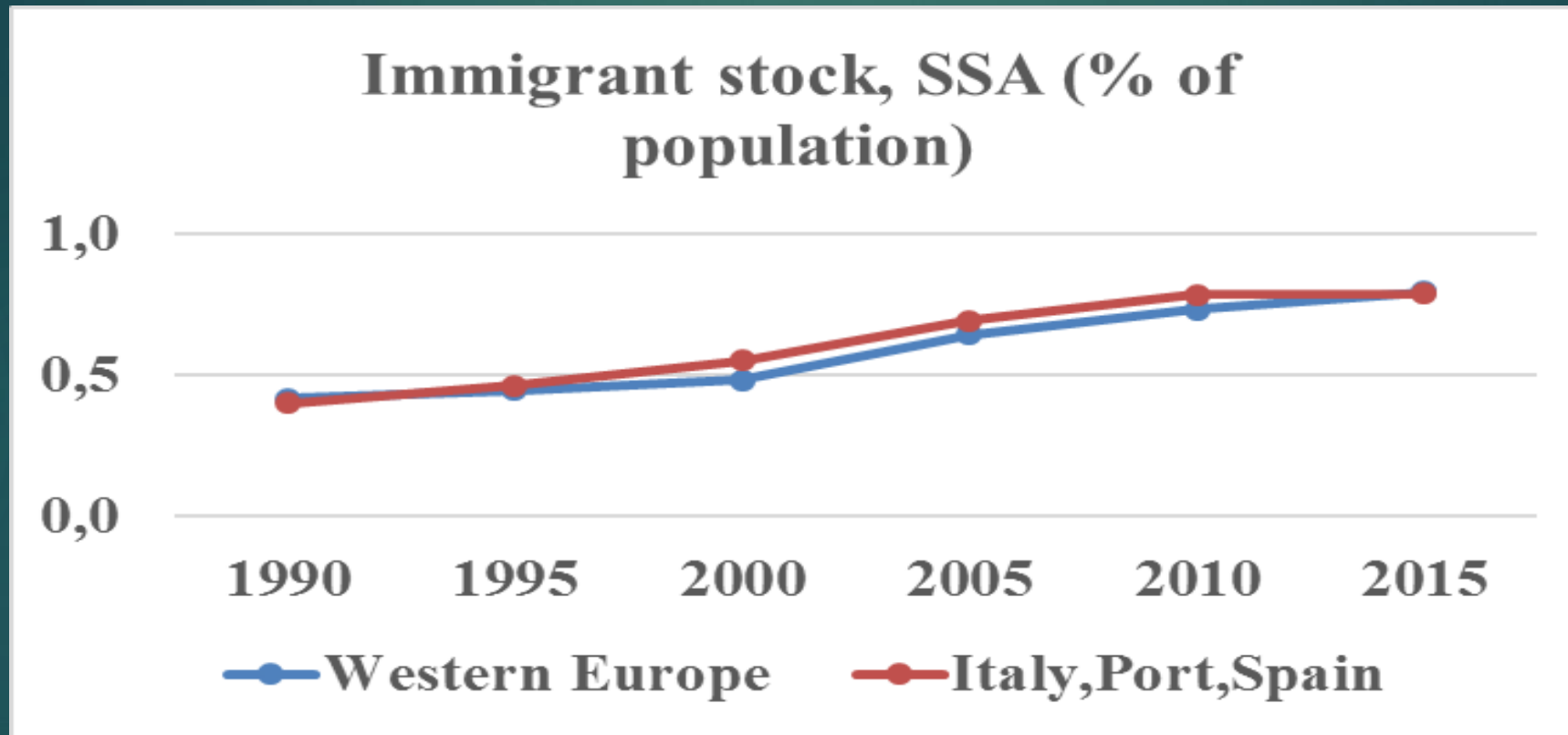
# Immigrants as percentage of population

- steady increase;
- acceleration in Southern Europe 2000-2010.



# Immigrants from SSA as percentage of population

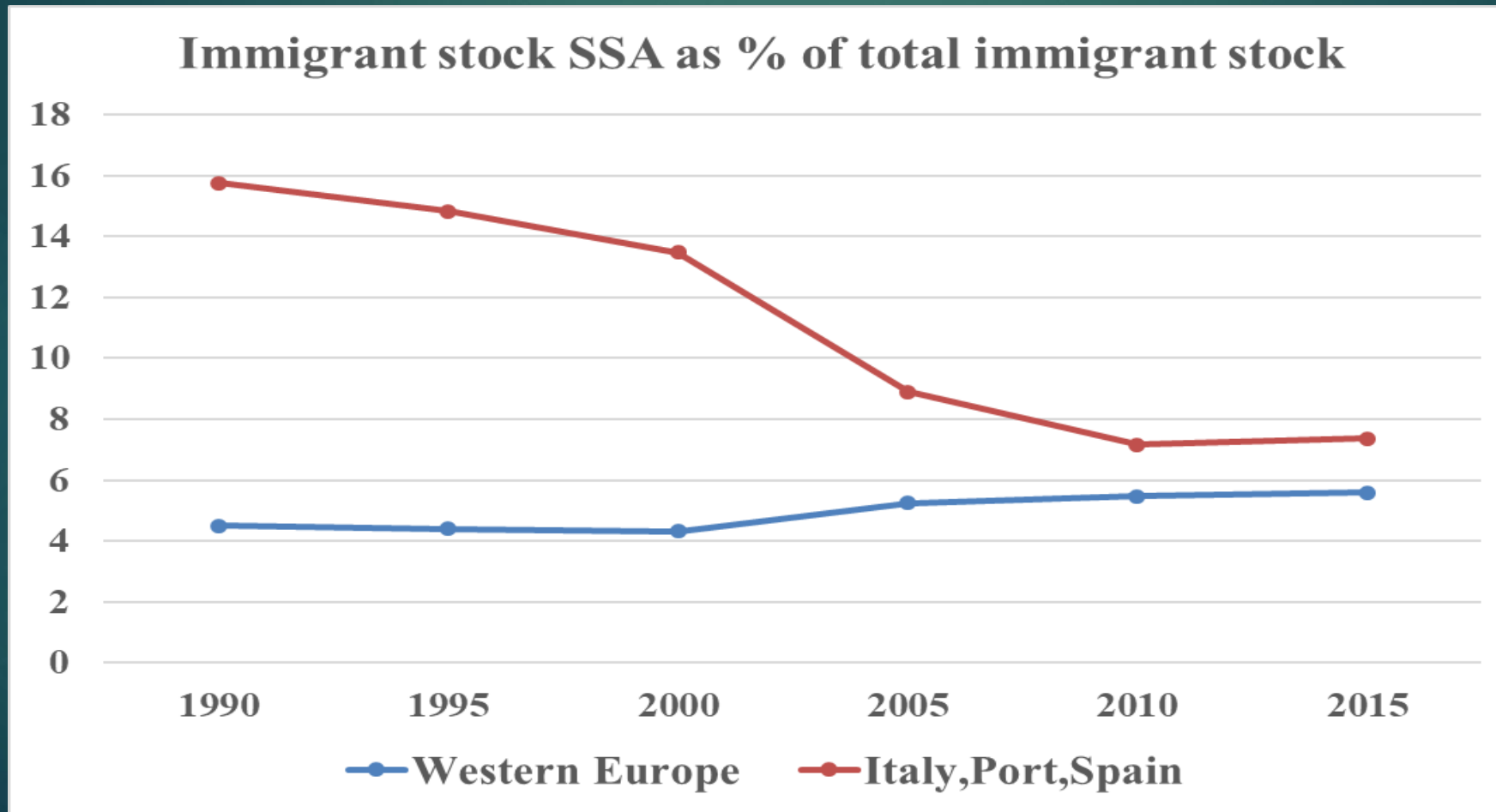
- fairly similar in Western and Southern Europe
- steady increase; from 0.4% to 0.8%)





# Immigrants from SSA as % of total immigration

- Western Europe: slight increase after 2000;
- Southern Europe: steady decrease, accelerating after 2000



# Conclusions on immigration, Western and Southern Europe, 1990 - 2015

- (1) Steady increase of number of immigrants (stock), and of their share in population.
- (2) Also steady increase of number of immigrants (stock) from Sub-Saharan Africa, and of their share in population.
- (3) Share of immigrants from SSA in population remains rather low, less than 1%.
- (4) This relates to the past. What about future trends?  
Determinants of migration.

# Determinants of international migration

- ▶ **Demographic evolution in countries of origin/destination.**
- ▶ **Difference in living standards in countries of origin/destination**
  - **benefits from migration.**
- ▶ **(Falling) costs of migration.**
- ▶ **Other determinants: violence, presence of groups of immigrants ...**
- ▶ **Migration policies in countries of origin/destination.**

# How use findings on determinants?

- ▶ As basis for forecasts on migration: will differences in population growth, gaps in standards of living... create massive migration pressure?
- ▶ As background for migration policy: if immigration raises problems in Western Europe, what can be done to reduce the pressure?

Specific question: is there a role for development assistance?

# Why does immigration raise fears among natives?

- ▶ A fraction of the public in host countries has a negative perception of migration.
  - Migration reduces standard of living of natives.
  - It threatens employment of natives and exerts downward pressure on their wages.
  - Public expenditure on migrants exceeds their contribution to public revenue.
  - Migrants are a threat to our social life and values.
- ▶ Is this perception correct?