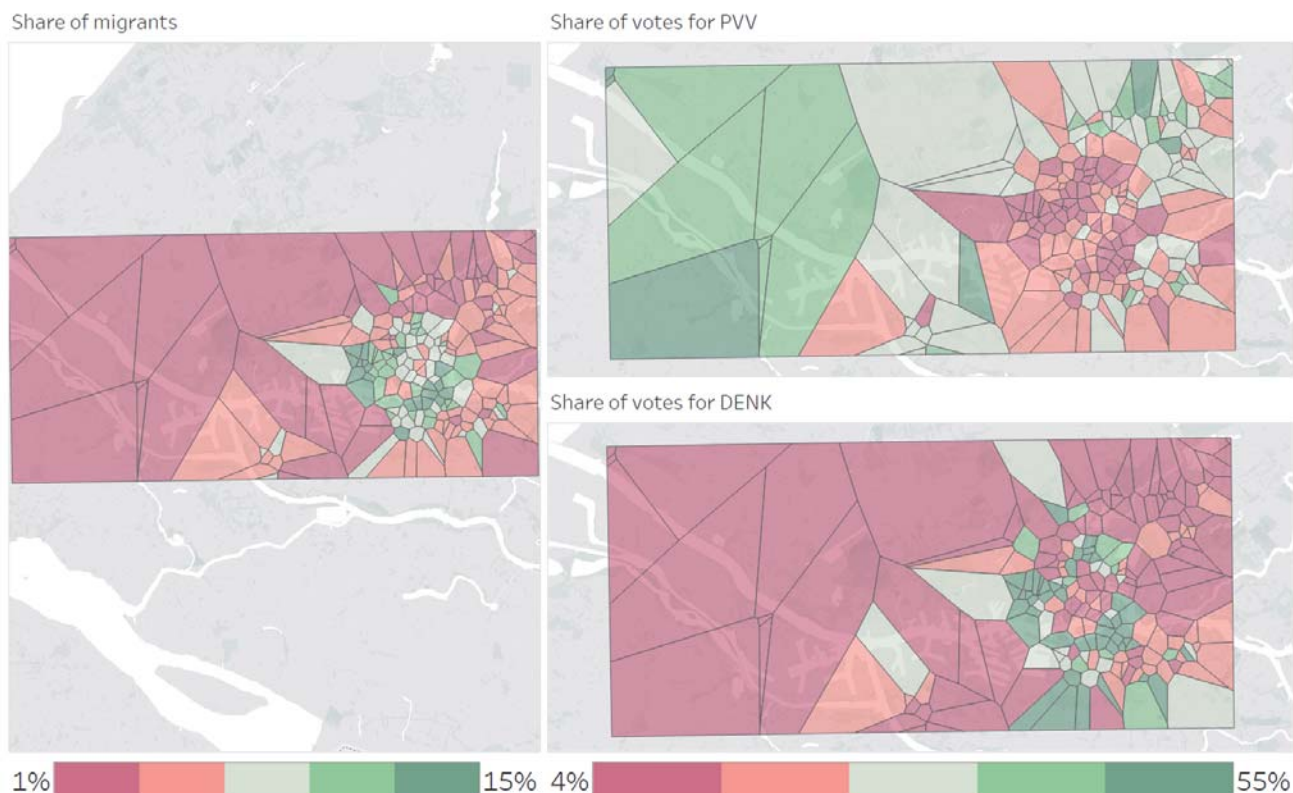


# D4I - Data for Integration

## How does migration relate to electoral outcomes in cities?



Across Europe, some political movements have sought to capitalise on negative public perceptions of migration. It is assumed that the higher the presence of migrants, the greater the backlash against migration and support for parties with anti-immigration platforms. Initial findings from the D4I initiative on migration and diversity in European cities challenge these assumptions in two respects.

First, studies on migration and elections have tended to focus on a national or regional scale but this has resulted in a loss of significant detail and nuance. The data from D4I allows for a closer look at dynamics in specific neighbourhoods and electoral districts.

Second, this closer look shows how in most cases the higher levels of support for anti-immigration parties come in areas where there is a relatively lower

concentration of migrants or none. To put it simply, those who feel threatened by migrants are generally those who are not in regular contact with them.

For example, in the city of Rotterdam during the Dutch elections of 2017, the highest vote shares for the anti-immigrant PVV party came in electoral districts with a low concentration of migrants. These results are shown in the maps above, where support to the immigrant-based DENK party is also shown.

Voting behaviour is best understood through a broad set of explanatory variables, including level of education, income and cultural values. When combined with data on residential patterns at high spatial resolution such as the ones provided by the D4I, new insights can be gained on the local electoral dynamics within cities.