Improving refugee integration through data-driven geographic assignment

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Agenda

1. Introduction
2. The GeoMatch Algorithm
3. Implementation Case Study
4. First Learnings

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Immigration Policy Lab

Designing solutions for an integrated world

- We **evaluate and design** policies surrounding the integration of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers worldwide
- We **work in partnership** with governments and immigrant service providers to implement evidence-based policies and conduct rigorous evaluations
- An interdisciplinary team or researchers, data scientists and program managers at **ETH Zurich** and **Stanford University**

Context

Key questions in refugee and immigrant integration

What kind of policies are the most effective and cost-efficient in **facilitating successful integration** into host countries' economies and societies?

Data-driven tools have the potential to **deepen our understanding** about drivers of migrant integration outcomes and **serve as input for personalized policies**

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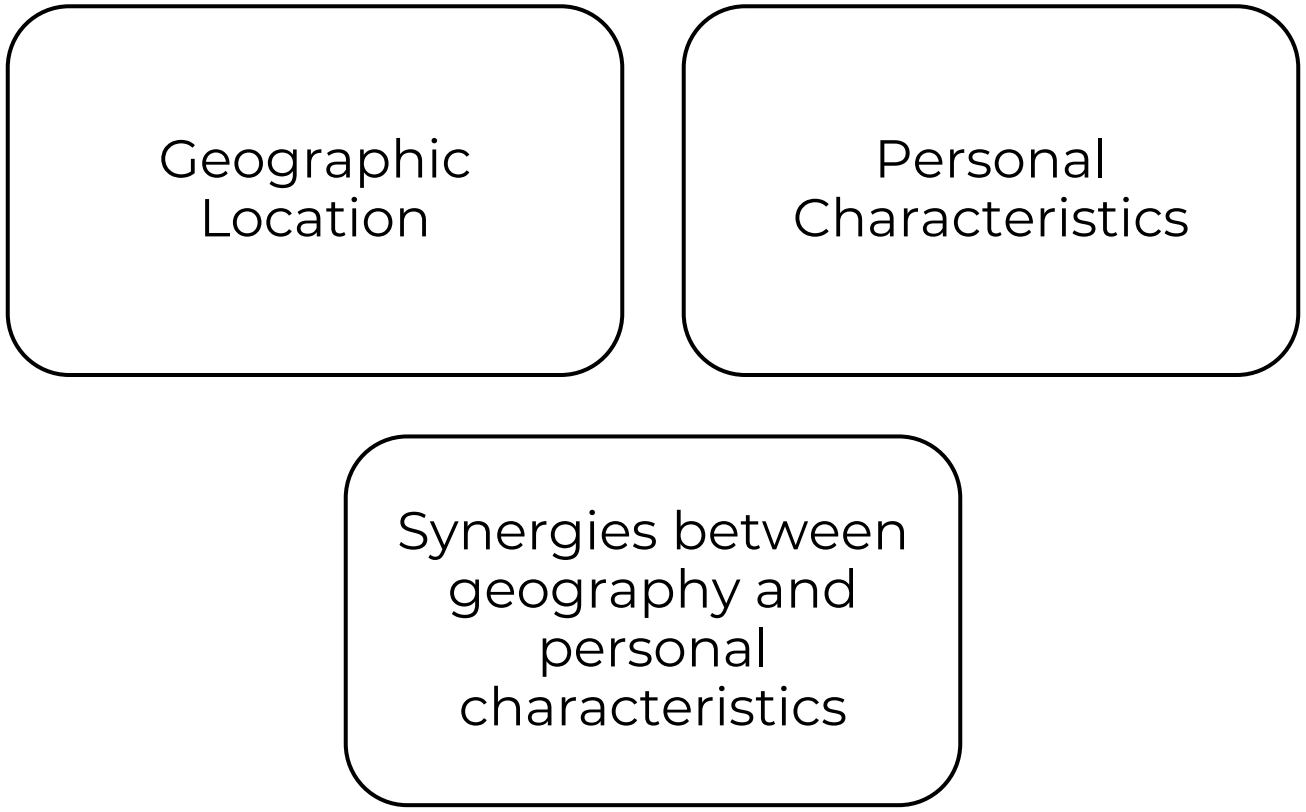
Factors that Shape Economic Self-Sufficiency



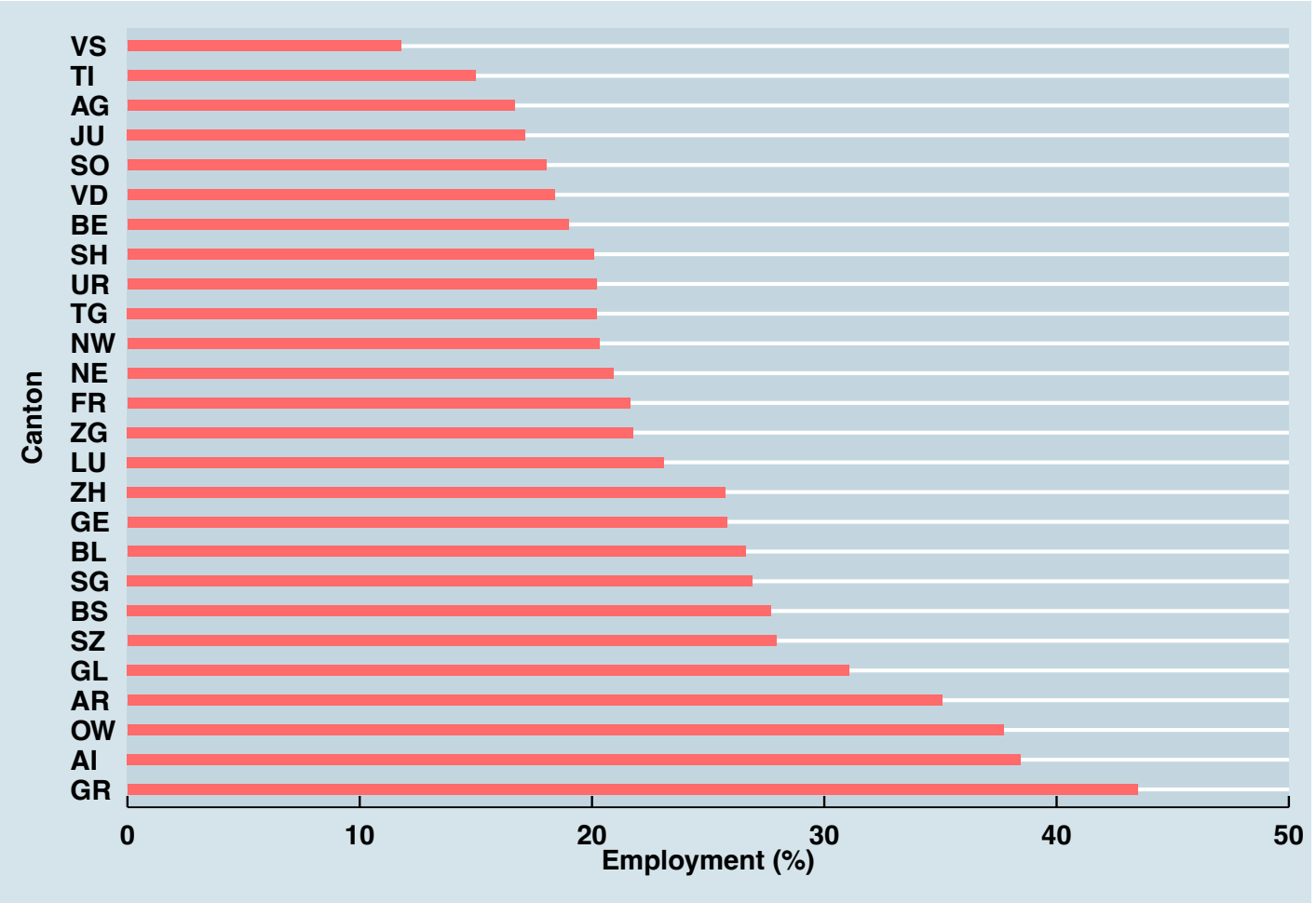
Geographic Location

Personal Characteristics

Synergies between geography and personal characteristics

Refugee Employment by Location

Swiss data



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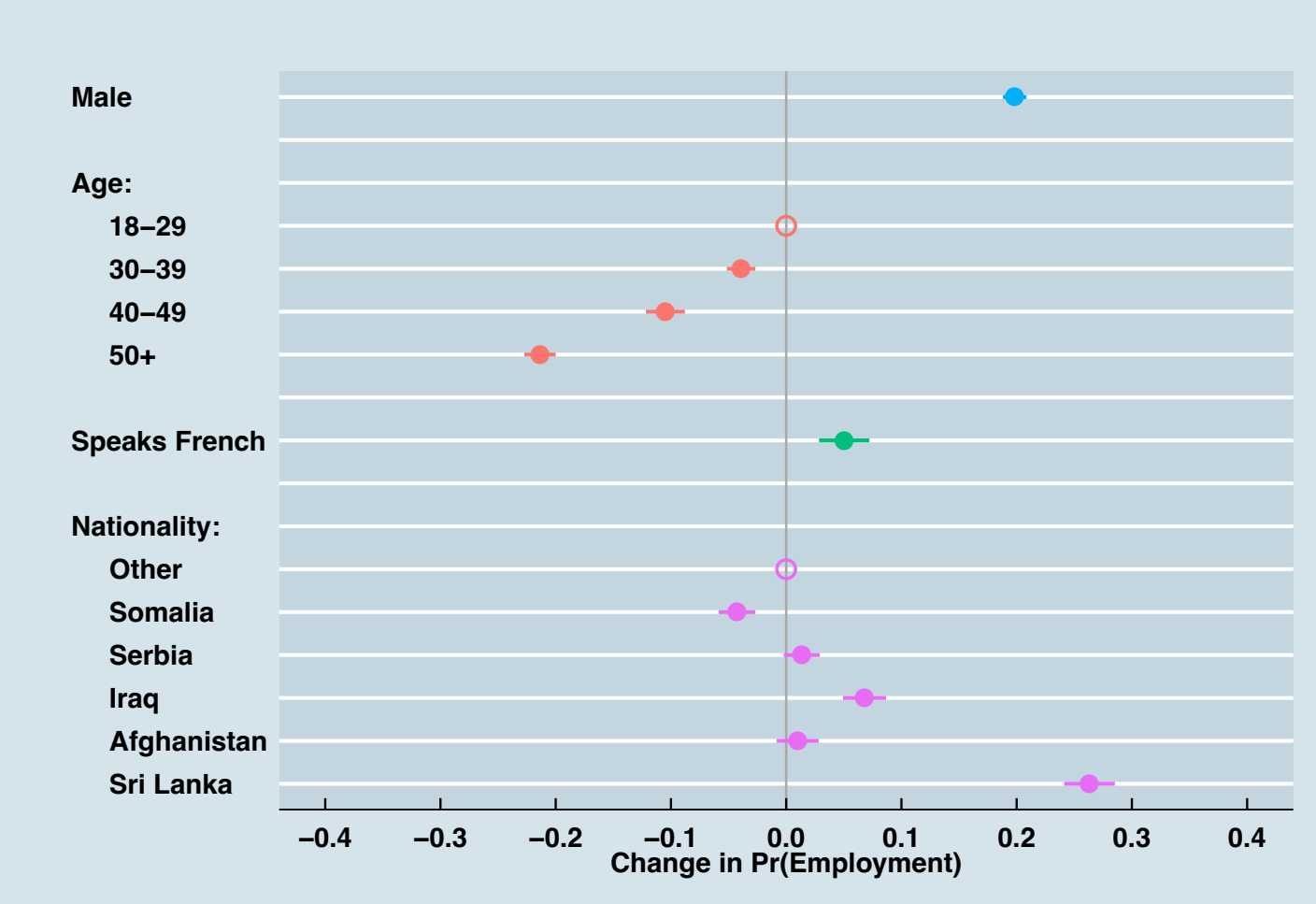
Geographic Location

Personal Characteristics

Synergies between geography and personal characteristics

Individual Predictors of Refugee Employment

Swiss data



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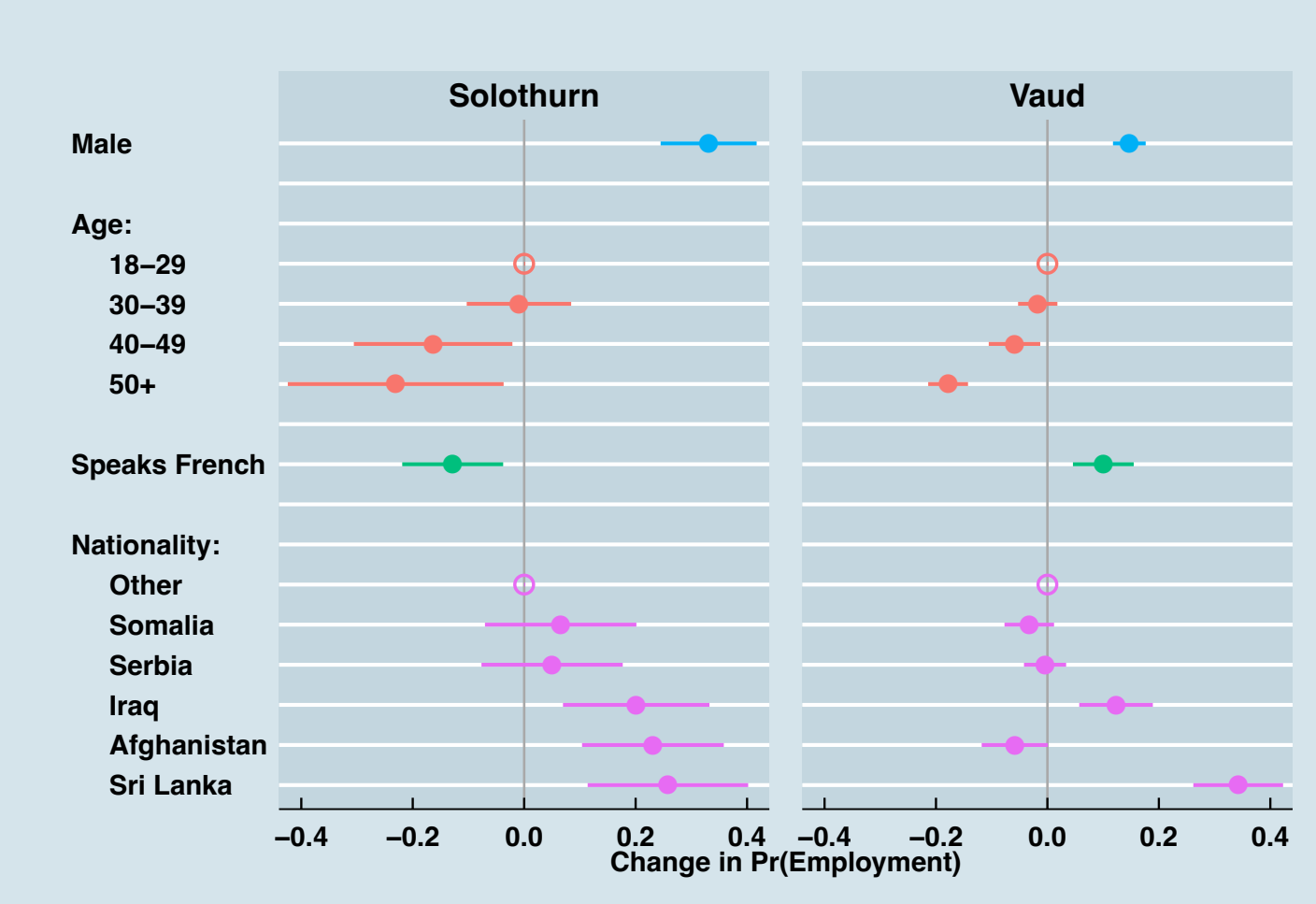
Geographic Location

Personal Characteristics

Synergies between Individual Predictors and Locations

Synergies between geography and personal characteristics

Swiss data



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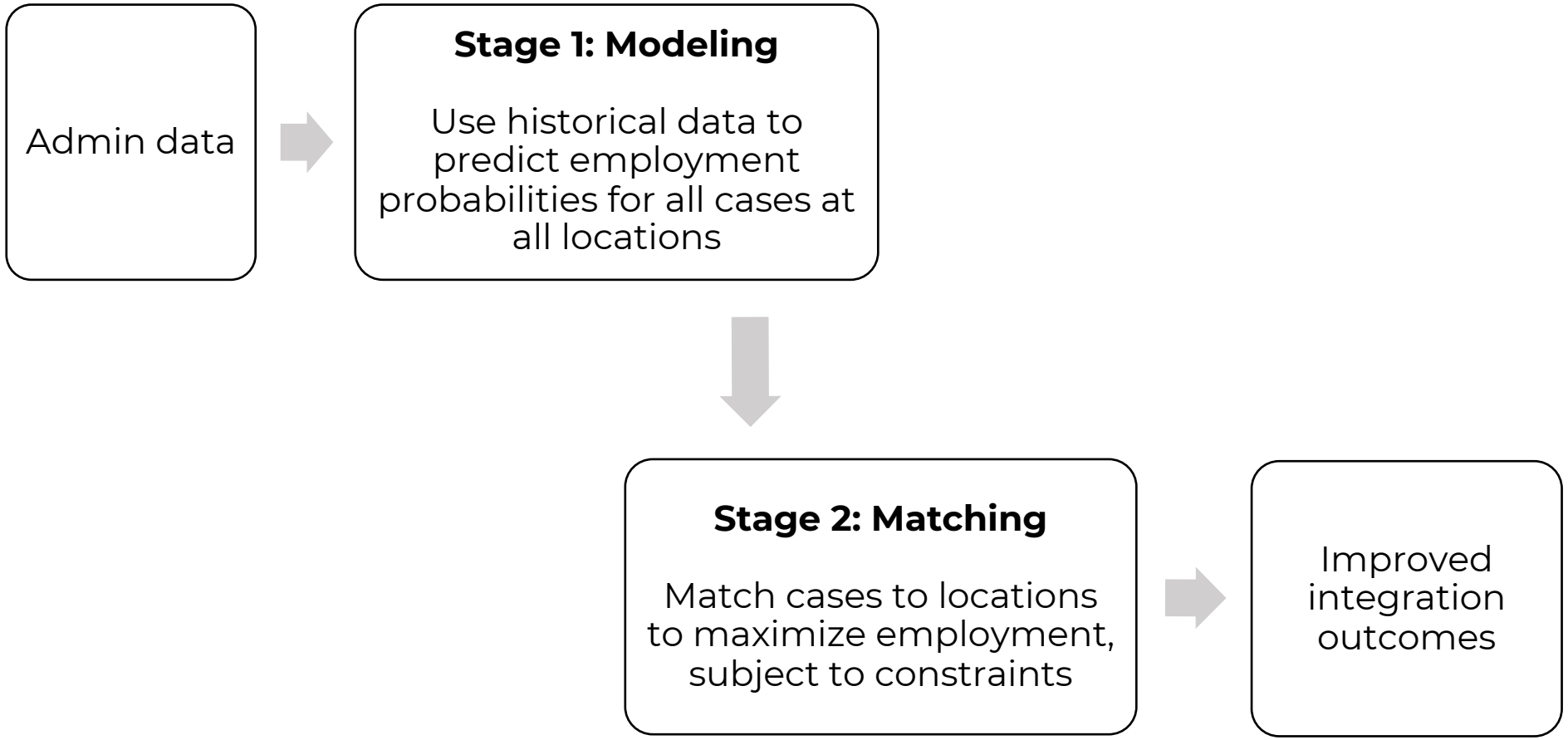
How the GeoMatch Algorithm Works



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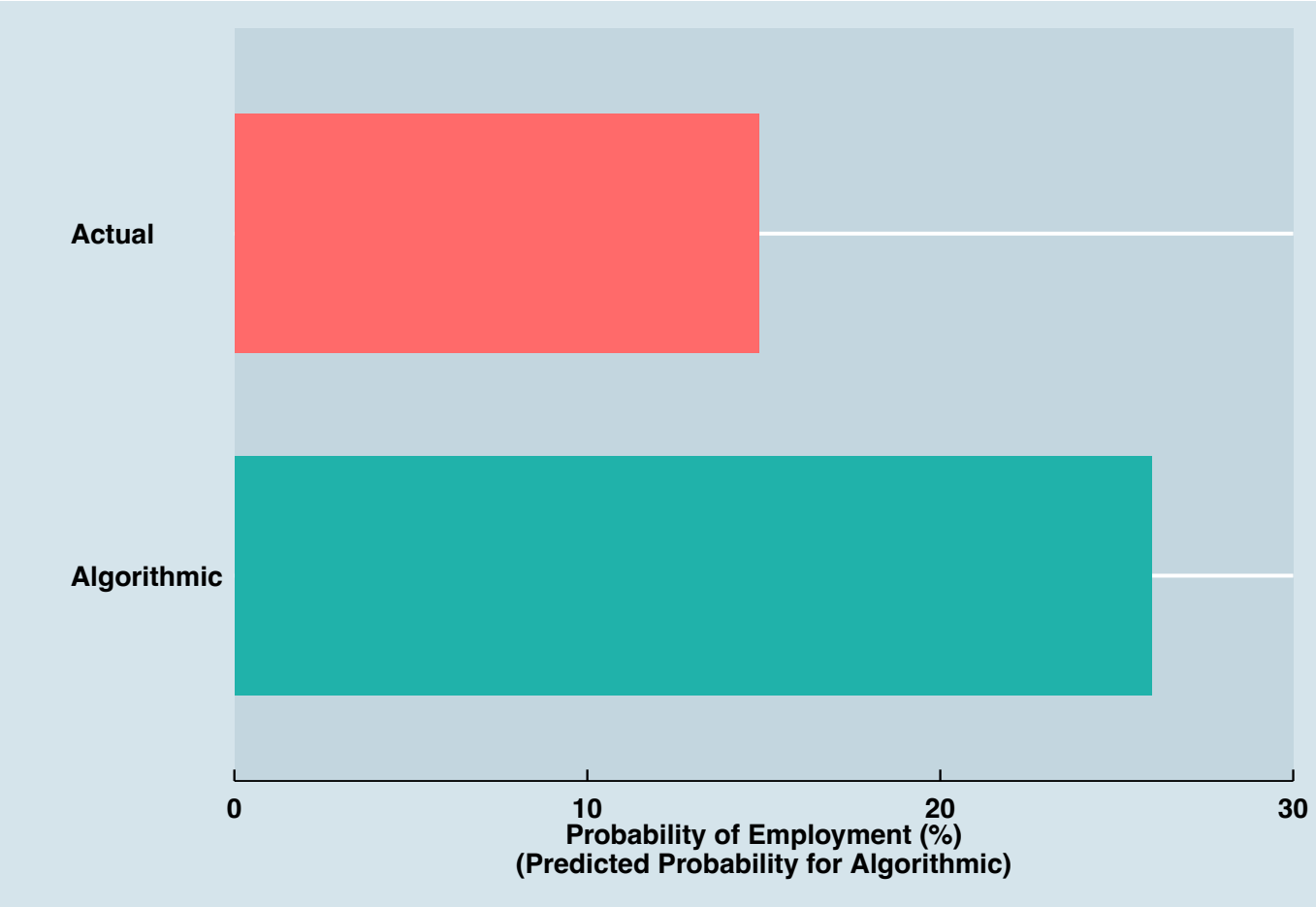
Swiss Back Test Results

The back test demonstrates that the GeoMatch algorithm could boost employment rates by 30-70% depending on constraints



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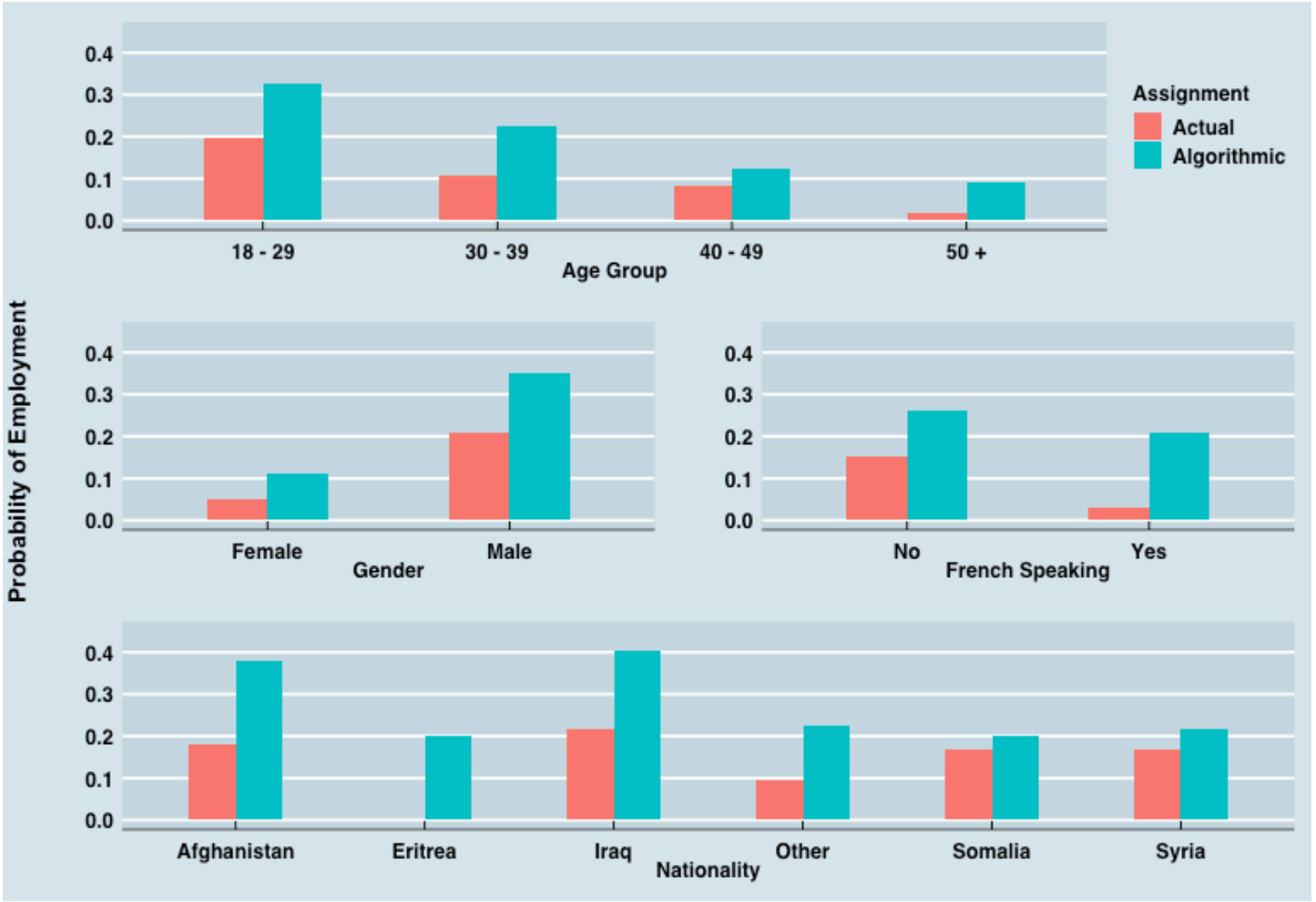
Swiss Back Test Results

The GeoMatch algorithm back test demonstrated potential gains in employment across groups



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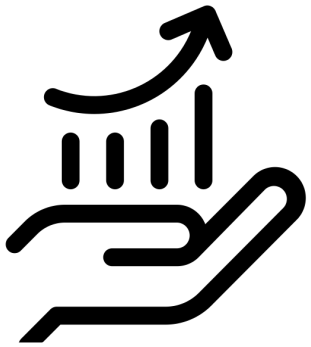
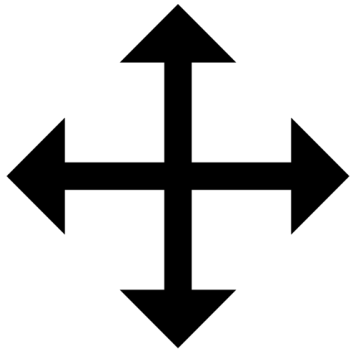
The GeoMatch Algorithm

Using insights from data to enhance the allocation process

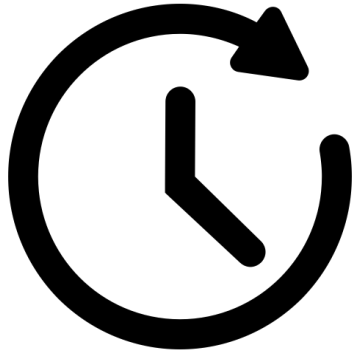


Potential for robust gains in back tests across diverse contexts

Scalable, cost-efficient, and actionable for a large population



Flexible in incorporating preferences and outcome metrics



Dynamic over time by adapting to new synergies in the data

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Phase 2 Case Study: Switzerland

Asylum seekers cross the Swiss border and arrive at a Reception and Processing Center to **apply** for asylum

Status Quo Process

Swiss Secretariat for Migration placement officers **randomly assign** cases to Swiss cantons proportional across regions

Asylum seeker **relocates** to assigned canton to receive accommodations and, if applicable, access employment programs

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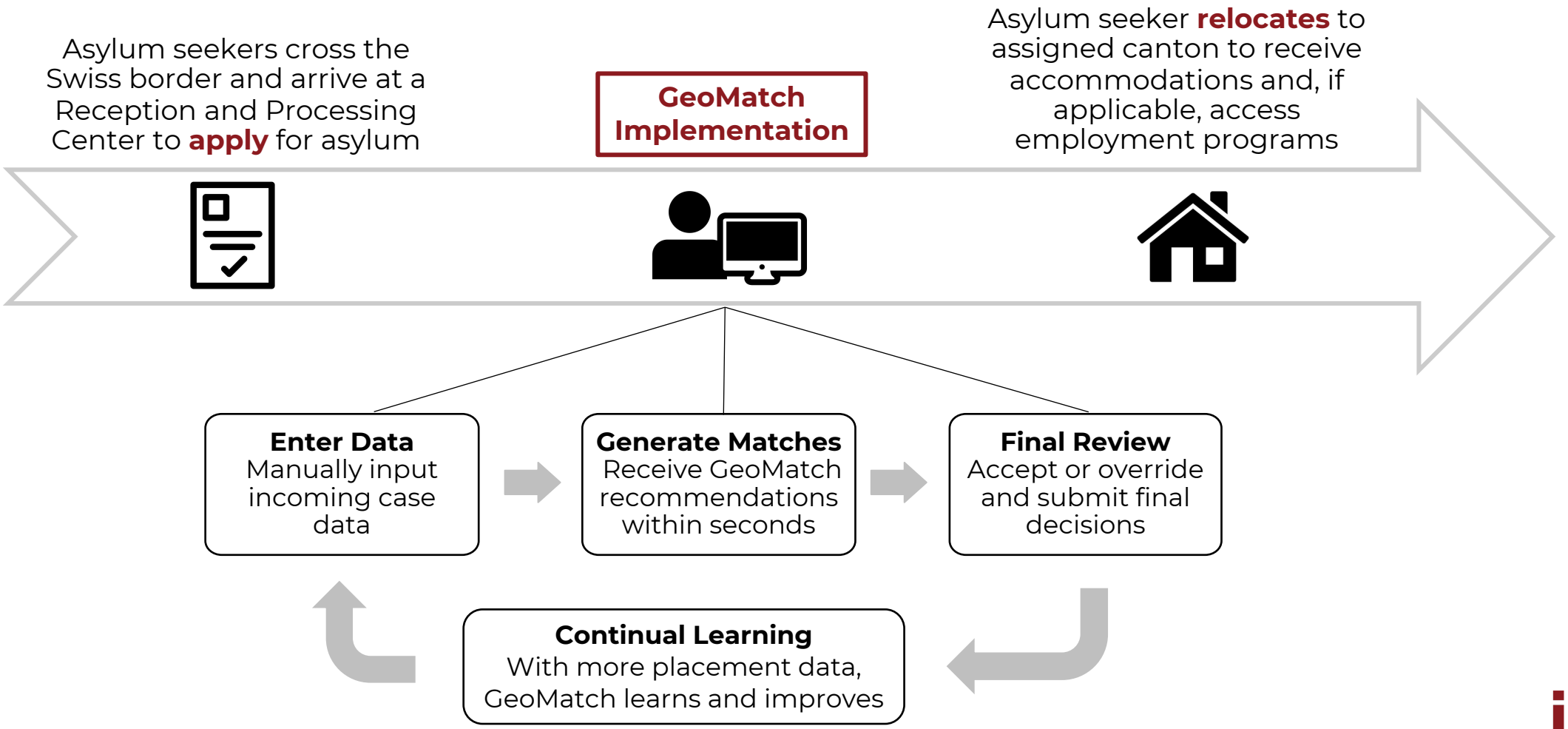
Phase 2 Case Study: Switzerland



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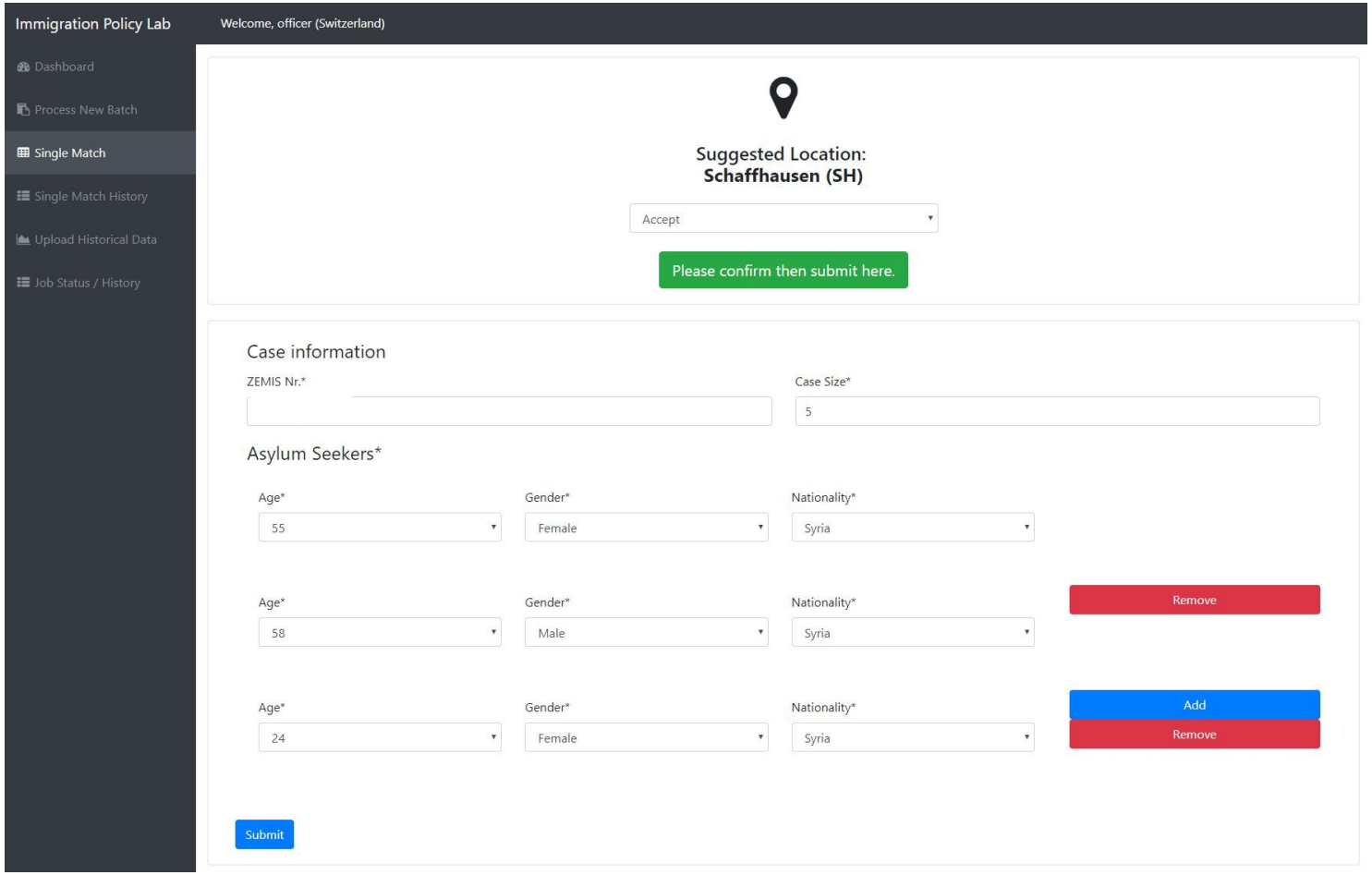
Phase 2 Case Study: Switzerland

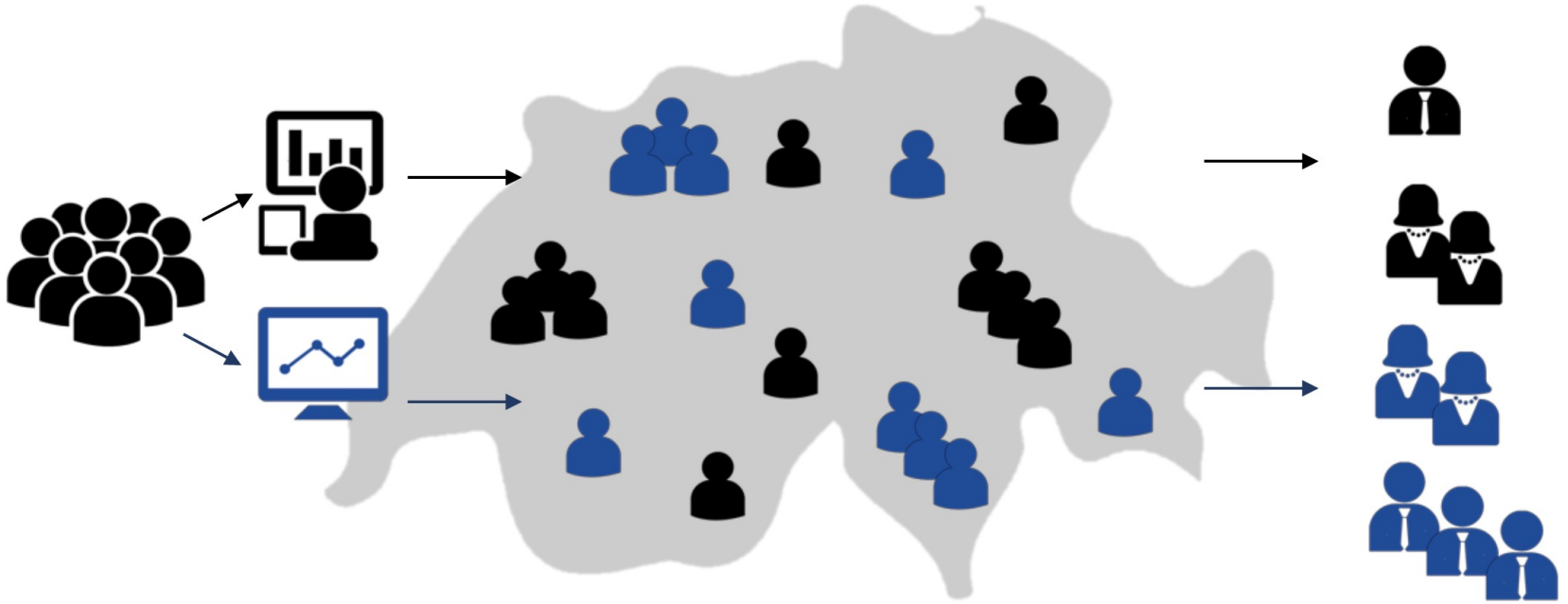
The IPL team and the Swiss Secretariat for Migration co-designed a user-friendly interface to implement the GeoMatch tool



Phase 2 Case Study: Switzerland

Double-blind Randomized Control Trial 2020+:

Algorithmically supported placement versus random allocation (status quo)



Randomization → Allocation → Integration

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GeoMatch: Challenges and Lessons Learned

Insights from our multi-context GeoMatch implementation experience

Emphasize Co-Design

- Collaborate with partners to design human-centered and customized tools, facilitate seamless implementation, and establish **final decision-making power of users**

Ethical & Responsible AI

- Ensure potential gains in outcomes across groups through careful tests, pilot programs, and **rigorous evaluations** in multiple country contexts before scaling up our work

Regulatory Context

- Comply with and provide input on a dynamically changing policies and regulations including **GDPR Privacy** and **AI Impact Assessments**

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Thank you for your attention!

Questions or feedback?

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