Seminar: 'Capturing testimony of the contemporary migrant crisis'
20 November 2019 – University of Essex, Colchester

GEMM Project: WP4. The lived experiences of migration

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GEMM
PROJECT

GROWTH,
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES,
MIGRATION & MARKETS

The lived experiences of migration - the qualitative study

Objectives

❖ to study mobility experiences as embedded in specific social contexts;

❖ to capture the dynamic process of mobility: from the multi-layered migration decisions to the diverse economic and social outcomes for individuals and societies;

❖ to highlight the factors for the successful integration of migrants.

Methods

❖ **Desk research** – overview of academic literature and public debates on migration in 6 EU countries

❖ **Interviews-in-depth (fully transcribed)** with both potential and actual migrants – the study looks into the motivations, mobility channels and assessments that migrants make of the sending context, as well as of the receiving context

❖ **Semi-structured interviews (fully transcribed)** with experts from recruiting agencies

The lived experiences of migration - the qualitative study

Interviewee selection

Six countries – six national research teams
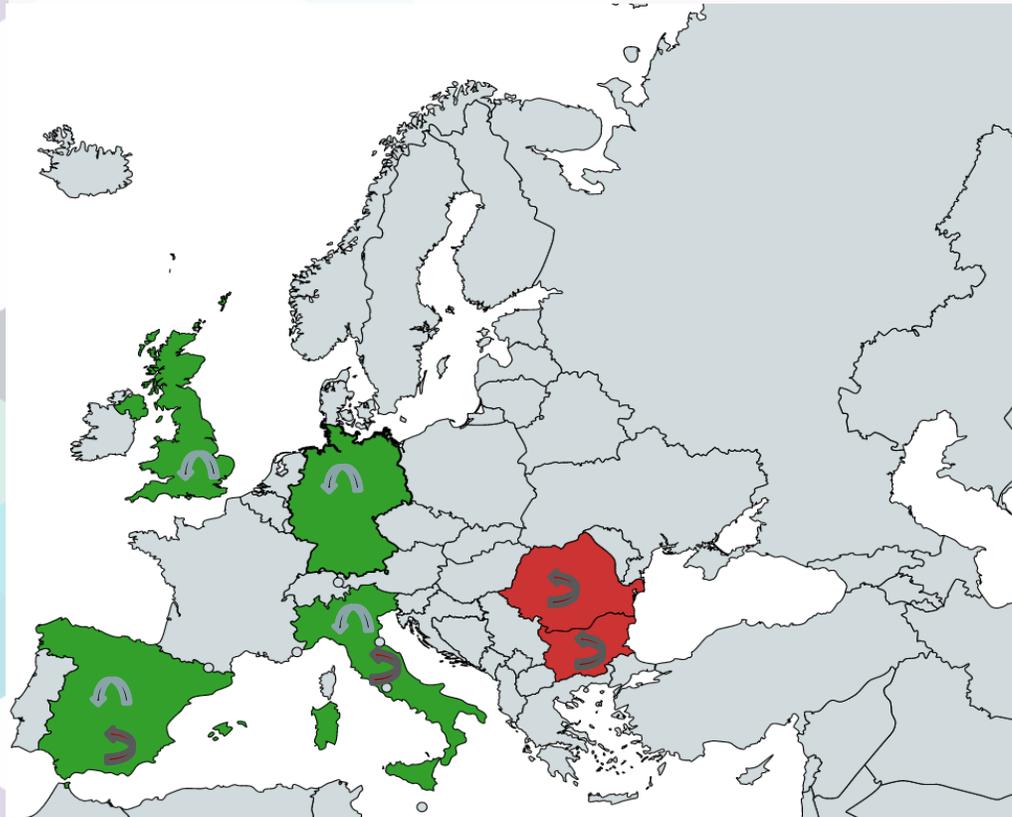
- ❖ **Bulgaria and Romania** – as countries predominantly sending migrants to other European countries

- ❖ **Germany and the UK** – as mainly receiving countries

- ❖ **Italy and Spain** – as countries that are both receiving and sending migrants

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Interviewee selection

Three groups of interviewees

❖ **'actual migrants'** – people who have migrated from the four sending countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Italy and Spain) and who have lived in the four receiving EU countries (the UK, Germany, Spain and Italy) for at least two years

❖ **'prospective migrants'** – people who have plans to migrate in less than 12 months to any of the EU countries (the UK, Germany, Spain, Italy)

❖ **'experts'** from public and private recruiting agencies, working on different levels of the organizational hierarchy and on different levels of the operation (international, national and local)

Quota sampling design

❖ **Gender** (equal distribution)

❖ **Skills levels** (two thirds higher skilled, one third lower skilled)

❖ **Occupational sectors** (finance, ICT and health for the higher skilled and construction and domestic services for the lower skilled)

❖ Maximum diversity in terms of **age, family situation and length of migration experience**

Distribution of interviews conducted by the six country teams – 236 in total

Prospective migrants

42

13	10	10	9
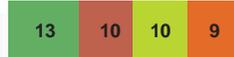
From: BG RO IT SP

Agency experts

40

10	10	10	10

From: BG RO IT SP

236
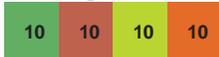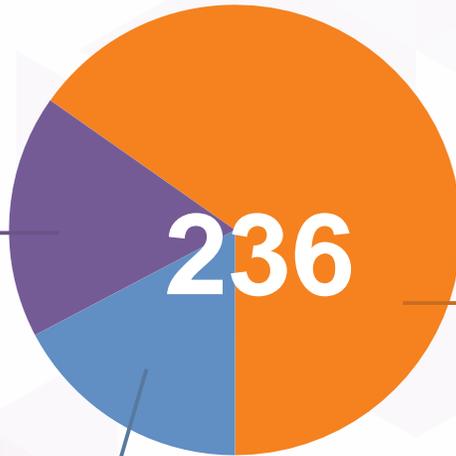
Actual migrants
154
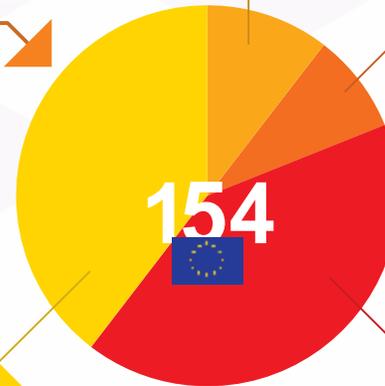
154

SP 16

10	6

From: BG RO

IT 13

7	6

From: BG RO

DE 61

10	8	21	14	3	5

From: BG RO IT SP US CH

UK 64

15	8	20	13	2	6

From: BG RO IT SP US CH

5

The process of data collection
Recruitment of research participants

❖ The method for identifying interviewees:
- *formal channels – consulates, labor offices*
- *informal channels – personal contacts, Internet sites and social media*

❖ *Three interview guides for the three groups of interviewees* according to their specific roles in migration process.

❖ **Type of interviews: in-depth interviews** (covering specific themes, having prompts in each of them but mostly encouraging interviewees to speak freely about their experiences and views on the themes)

The process of data collection
Ethical challenges

❖ Applying for ethical approval by the 6 research teams

❖ Developing procedures for informing, securing consent and safeguarding the privacy of the participants:

Three letters of informed consent in respective mother language

❖ Providing the basic information about:
- *the project;*
- *the selection of participants and the procedure of the interview;*
- *notification that the interviews will be recorded;*
- *lack of obligation to participate and right to withdraw at any point;*
- *methods of anonymization of the data and methods of storage in a data archive;*
- *rules for data use in this project and for future research.*
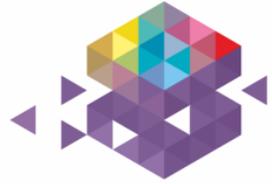
Preparing data for analysis and reuse
Main challenges

Each research team has made *the interviews in their own mother language*:

❖ The file names of interviews (audio files and transcripts) have *an uniform coding style*:

Country of origin/ Country of destination/ Category of interviewee/ Number/ Gender/ Age
BG   UK   AC   1   F   27

❖ *Anonymization* – any information that would allow the interviewee to be identified or exposed is removed or highly aggregated so that identification is impossible.

❖*Creating summaries in English* for the all 236 transcripts (3 pages each) – extracting the main points under the themes in the respective interview guides.
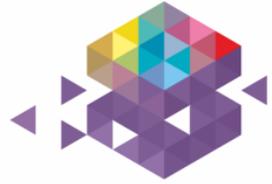
The unified database
Contents

❖ An Excel file with the list of the transcripts and summaries of each case.

❖ Values/categories of 12 indicators presenting the main characteristics of each case
   There are 2 more indicators which are relevant only to the interviewed experts
   – *type of organisation* and *position.*

Interview ID	Date of Birth	Gender	Occupation	Organisation	Position	Marital Status	Number of Children	Ethnicity	Country of Origin	Interview Summary	Place of Interview	Date of Interview	No of Pages	Text File Name

❖ The transcripts follow the text of the audio files in full and their total length is about 5 000 pages.

The potential for data to be reused in future
Future research perspectives

The unified data collection ***The lived experiences of migration*** is deposited at Colchester, Essex: UK Data Service. 10.5255/UKDA-SN-853333
http://reshare.ukdataservice.ac.uk/853333/

❖ Free access

❖ Opportunity for other research teams to re-use and analyse the data or use the methodology (interview guides, sampling design, letters of informed consent)

Thank you for your attention !

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