

Diversity and dynamics of mobility patterns and future prospects between Romania/Bulgaria and the Ruhr Area

RUB

Timișoara 23.05. - 25.05.2023

1. The project
2. Diversity in municipalities of arrival and of origin
3. Diverse mobility patterns
4. Different prospects for the future
5. Conclusion and outlook

SÜDOSTEUROPA
STIFTUNG
MERCATOR

Dear Ms Esztero, dear representatives from municipal administrations and organisations in the Ruhr area and from Timișoara, Barbulești, Brașov, Făgăraș, Suceava and Plovdiv! Dear Mrs Șerban, dear Mr Pamporov as our speakers from Bulgaria and Romania today! On behalf of the entire team of our project "Immigration from Southeast Europe: Enabling Participation and Cohesion at the Municipal Level", I would like to warmly welcome you to this event! How do migratory movements between different cities in Romania and Bulgaria on the one hand and in the Ruhr region in Germany on the other take shape? It can be a win-win project for the migrants themselves and their families, for the municipalities of origin and arrival, but it can also bring many challenges for some or all of those involved.

For more than two years now, we have conducted interviews in the municipalities in our project and successfully interviewed a total of 600 migrants concerned about many aspects of their life paths and migration histories. We would like to share and discuss some of the results with you at this conference.

1. The project

"ZuSudo: Immigration from Southeast Europe - Enabling Participation and Cohesion at the Municipal Level".

Team

Direction **Prof. Dr. Ludger Pries**

Coordination **Dr. Christian Schramm**

Collaborators **M.A. Andreea Nagy, Rumyana Shopova, Leif Tietz**

Implementation

Ruhr University Bochum

Funding

Mercator Foundation

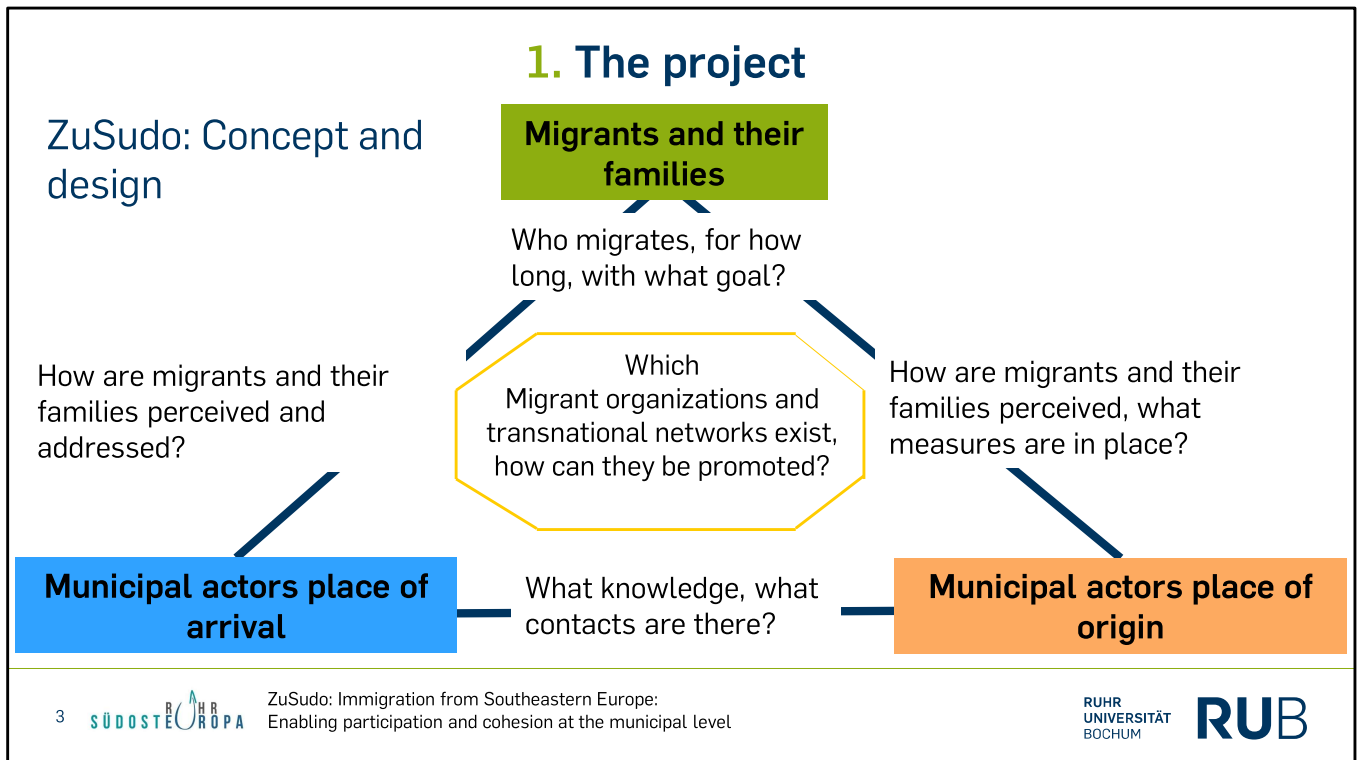
Duration

April 2021 - June 2024

Web

eu2migraruhr.eu

Our project "Immigration from Southeast Europe - Enabling Participation and Cohesion at the Municipal Level" is funded by the Mercator Foundation and conducted at the Ruhr University Bochum. The project is coordinated by Dr Christian Schramm. With Andreea Nagy, who grew up in Romania, studied and worked in Timisoara, the US, France and Belgium, and with Rumyana Shopova, who completed her schooling in Bulgaria and is studying in Germany, two very motivated staff members. Both of them now live in the Ruhr area and therefore know the different life contexts of migrants from Romania and Bulgaria very well. Leif Tietz supports us in the team in many ways.



We have focused the concept and the questions on three central groups of actors: the migrants and their families themselves as well as the municipal actors in the regions of arrival and origin. We are particularly interested in the following questions:

1. Who migrates, for how long, with what goal?
2. How are migrants and their families perceived and addressed in the regions of origin and arrival? What special measures are in place?
3. What knowledge and contacts exist between communities of origin and arrival?
4. Originally, we also wanted to know which migrant organizations and transnational networks exist and how they can be promoted. Here, however, we have so far been able to register far fewer activities - compared, for example, with immigrant groups from Turkey or Poland.

1. The project

Targets

Supporting municipalities as places of arrival and negotiation of participation

- Comparison of the orientation of municipal integration work with the orientations of immigrants
- Promotion of (cross-border) cooperation between municipal and other actors

Increase participation opportunities for immigrants

- Making visible the complexity of migration and participation experiences, skills & needs.

Strengthen migrant organizations

With this project, we want to support municipalities as places of arrival and negotiation of participation. For us, negotiating participation is primarily about mediating and balancing between the orientation of municipal integration work and the orientations of the immigrants themselves. We would also like to promote cross-border cooperation between municipal and other actors - this event is, after all, an example of this.

With regard to the migrants themselves, we want to **improve their chances of participation by** making visible the complexity of their migration and participation experiences, their abilities and needs.

Finally, we want to strengthen the work of migrant self-organizations through cooperation.

1. The project

Design & Methods

Data collection and analysis

- Expert interviews with representatives of (migrant) organizations and municipalities (Duisburg, Essen, Dortmund, Hagen, Gladbeck, Oer-Erkenschwick & Fagaras, Brasov, Barbulesti, Toflea, Tecuci, Suceava)
- 600 standardized interviews + qualitative interviews with migrants

Practical orientation

Outputs

- Research Report

Regarding the design and methods of the project, I would just like to briefly note that we essentially used 2 data collection methods:

We conducted about 60# expert interviews with representatives of (migrant) organisations and municipalities in Duisburg, Essen, Dortmund, Hagen, Gladbeck, Oer-Erkenschwick as well as in Fagaras, Brasov, Barbulesti, Toflea, Tecuci, Suceava. These interviews were generally recorded, transcribed and systematically analysed.

We conducted 600 standardised interviews and additional qualitative interviews with migrants from Romania and Bulgaria who had at least one working stay in the Ruhr area. Since we also asked about all previous labour migration stays, we can draw a rather complex picture of mobility patterns.

The project is strongly focused on interaction and benefit for the migrants concerned themselves and the professionals in the municipalities. To this end, we have organised regular advisory board meetings, are doing events like this and will produce a detailed evaluation report.

1. The project

Partea 2 istoricul locuitorilor și al locurilor de muncă

Nr. serie	2.1 Unde și în ce timp a fost prima dată în afara țării natale?	2.2 De când și unde locuiește în prezent?	2.3a Care a fost primul dvs. loc de muncă la această locație?	2.4 A fost acesta locul de muncă în baza unui contract sau informal?	2.5 Ați avut asigurare de sănătate?	2.6 Îndrepta dvs a fost eficientă sau informală?	2.7 Au fost recunoscute calificările dvs din țara de origine?	2.8 Ați participat la următoarele activități din perioada în care ați lucrat în această țară?	2.9 Care dintre următoarele activități din perioada în care ați lucrat în această țară vă aduce cel mai mult venit?	2.10 Pentru ce timp ați lucrat în această țară?	2.11 Unde au locuit partenerii/ul dvs și copiii dvs în această perioadă?	2.12 Care a fost motivul principal pentru care v-ați mutat din această locație?	
1	Ucraina 01.1995	München	Muncitor șantier	1	1	?	2	5	3	3	NA	G: 80	3
2	Romania 07.1995	OB	În construcția casei	NA	2	1	NA	5	NA	5	NA	G: 20 =	5
3	Ierusalim 01.1996	München	Muncitor șantier	1	1	2	2	5	3	3	NA	G: 20	3
4	TEL AVIV ISRAEL 01.1998	München	Muncitor șantier	2	1	2	2	5	3	3	NA	G: 20 → 2011 =	5+
5	BANANGALU 02.2004	OB	Muncitor șantier	NA	2	1	NA	5	NA	3	NA	G: 20 → 2011 =	5
6	TORINGO 04.2012	A. München	Muncitor șantier	2	2	2	2	5	3	3	PK =	G: =	3
		B. München	Muncitor șantier	1	1	1	2	5	3	3	=		
7	UK 02.2011	München	Muncitor șantier	1	1	1	2	5	3	3	F = 2 R0	G: Torino	3
8	Duisburg Germania 08.2011	München	Muncitor în abator	1	1	1	2	5	3	3	F R0	G: Torino	3

Here you can see an excerpt from our questionnaire. For each individual employment relationship, we have collected information in detail about the organization, the residence status and health insurance, the importance of the income for the family's livelihood, and the distribution of the family at that time. This provides a great deal of information on the mobility patterns of the respondents.

2. Diversity in municip. of arrival and departure

Diversity within the individual arrival municipalities

- Between individuals in government agencies and organizations (commitment, interpretation of own mission, etc.)
- Between different authorities and (migrant) organizations
- Personal networks are of central importance for collaboration

Diversity between arrival municipalities

- Historically developed administrative structures and the location of the actors responsible for integration are of central importance.
- In addition to other factors such as: the overall political orientation, experience with previous migrations, housing market, labor market, financial situation, etc.

Diversity between communities of arrival and origin.

In this second section, we would like to point out a central characteristic that characterizes our societies today. Diversity. Since we are looking specifically at the municipal level, it is important to understand that there are firstly very different perspectives on and approaches to migration/integration within individual municipalities, namely between authorities and organizations and the individuals working in them, as well as between different authorities and migrant organizations. Personal networks are of central importance for the cooperation of these actors. This is another important reason why we have invited you to this event. Secondly, the respective arrival municipalities also differ from one another, in some cases considerably, for example with regard to the way in which the administrative structures, labor markets, etc. are organized. Thirdly, the municipalities of arrival and origin also have very different ways of dealing with the topic of migration as a whole.

2. Diversity in municip. of arrival and departure

Imagined and actual diversity through migration

In Germany

- Despite decades of immigration after 1945, Germany was only recognized as a country of immigration about 20 years ago
- In 2005, 7.3 million *foreigners* (8.9% of the population) became 15.3 million (18.6% of the population) *people with a migration background* (source: Federal Statistical Office).
- Today, there is a complex picture of, among other things, (family) migration experiences, cultural-ethnic and legal status diversity

Despite all the differences, you also have commonalities as municipalities of arrival and origin of migration, namely with regard to the imagined and actual diversity in your communities. In Germany, the effects of migration dynamics into the labor market, as family migration or even as refugee migration were ignored for decades and only recognized and dealt with at the beginning of the 2000s. As a result, the proportion of people in Germany whose lives were shaped by migration suddenly doubled in the public perception. Today, a complex picture of family migration experiences, cultural-ethnic and legal status diversity, and other characteristics has been established.

2. Diversity in municip. of arrival and departure

Imagined and actual diversity through migration

In Romania and Bulgaria

- In BG/RO, too, diversity has long been barely noticed and even suppressed
- In addition to strong emigration, there have also been important immigration movements in recent times; into the labor market or as refugee migration
- Two challenges in the long term: continued emigration and simultaneous transformation into immigration countries

A similar development can be seen in your municipalities in Romania and Bulgaria. There, too, diversity and immigration were hardly noticed for a long time and even suppressed. Today, however, in addition to strong emigration, we also see important immigration movements; into the labor market, for example, from South Asia or as refugee migration, for example, from Ukraine. In the long term, in addition to the challenge of continued emigration, you will also have to face the simultaneous change to an immigration society.

2. Diversity in municip. of arrival and departure

→ Common learning processes

How do we deal with the diversity and dynamics of migration processes and the associated challenges for integration policy?

Step 1

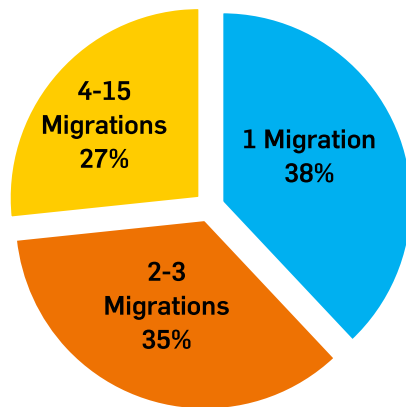
Recognizing mobility patterns and intentions

Let us take this as a starting point for our joint learning process. How do we want to deal together with the diversity and dynamics of migration processes and the associated challenges for integration policy?

A first step is to recognize and understand mobility patterns and mobility intentions.

3. Diverse mobility patterns

Mobility patterns: spatial movements over time between and within countries of arrival and origin.



Number of migration events in the life course

33 Countries of arrival

- 21 EU
- 12 EU-External

I now turn to mobility patterns. Mobility patterns are the actual spatial movements over a period of time between and within countries of arrival and origin. Our survey shows that 38% have 1 migration, 35% have more than 2-3 migrations, and still just under another third have experienced more than 4 migrations. In total, we identified 33 countries of arrival, of which 2/3 are in the EU.

3. Diverse mobility patterns

Not one mobility pattern, but four typical migration types

1) Emigration or immigration

The goal is a permanent change of the center of life, perhaps shorter visits to relatives, but the aim is a new life in Germany for your own and especially for your children.

2) Return migration (temporary or long-term)

The goal is a medium-term stay for education or to save money with a clear intention to return, family migrates only to a limited extent, clear projects in country of origin

3) Transnational migrations

Centres of life in different places and countries, no clear arrival/return strategy, successive-iterative migration.

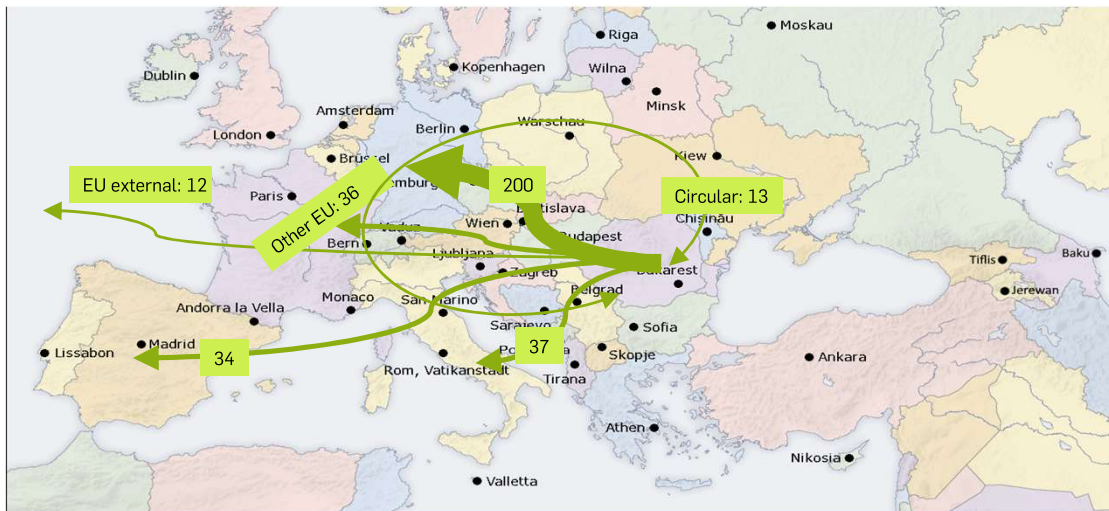
4) Circular migration

Quite frequent and purposeful, often seasonal commuting between fixed place of residence in country of origin and various places of work in Germany

As we will now show, however, one cannot assume just one mobility pattern, but should be guided by four migration types. Basically, we can say that these types are rarely found in pure form. However, they help us to orient ourselves. A first type is emigration or immigration. The goal here is the permanent change of the center of life. Maybe there are shorter visits of relatives, but for the own life and above all for the own children one strives for a new life in Germany. A second type is the return migration (temporary or long-term). The goal is a medium-term stay for education or to save money with a clear intention to return. The family migrates only to a limited extent. There are clear projects in the country of origin. A third type is transnational migration. Here the centres of life are found in different places and countries. There is no clear arrival/return strategy and repetitive migrations between more established and newly developed destinations are evident. A fourth type is circular migrations, in which there is quite frequent and purposeful, often seasonal, commuting between a fixed residence in the country of origin and various places of work in Germany or other countries of arrival.

3. Diverse mobility patterns

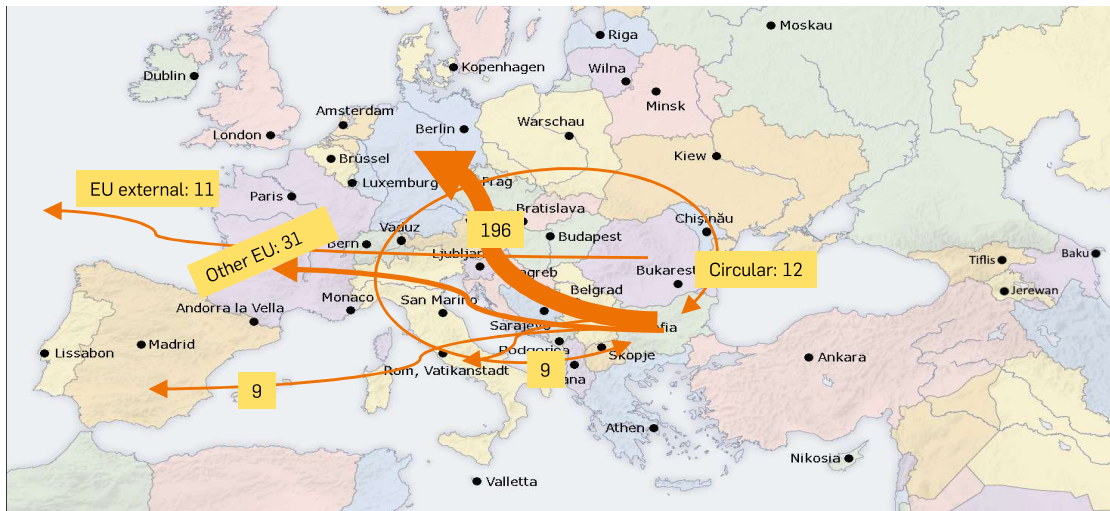
1. migration from Romania/Moldova



We would now like to show you the spatial movement patterns and the respective share of migrants for the first three migrations that we were able to determine in our survey. Here and in the following slides, we will only record the most significant movements in terms of numbers. Let's start with migration from Romania/Moldova, shown in green. As you can see, a large share goes directly to Germany, while other movements are distributed in roughly equal parts to Italy, Spain and other EU countries. A smaller share moves circularly or leaves the EU.

3. Diverse mobility patterns

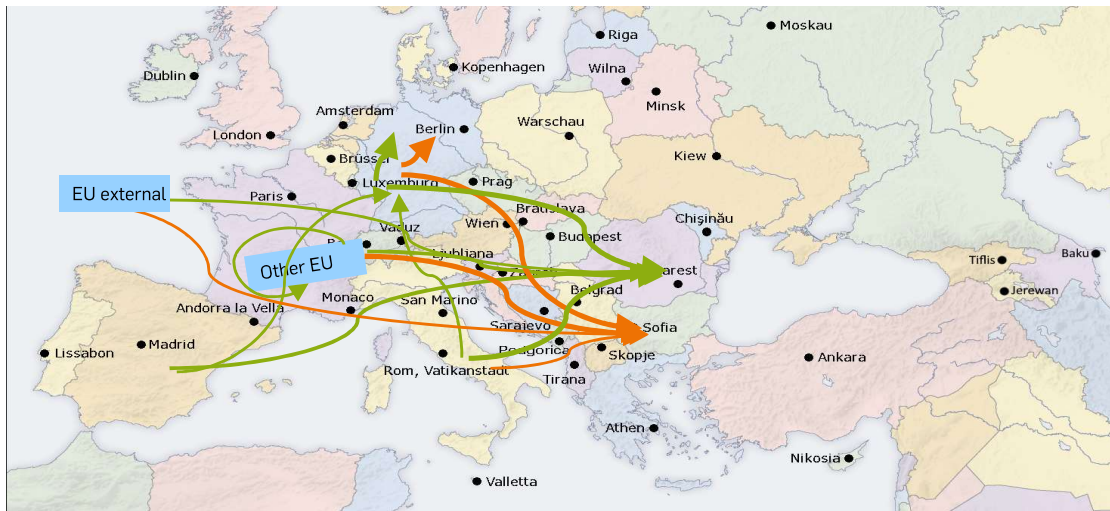
1. migration from Bulgaria



Migration from Bulgaria, shown in orange, shows a similar pattern. However, Italy and Spain are less significant. Bulgarian migration is thus more strongly distributed among various other EU countries (UK, France, Greece, for example). Overall, about 2/3 of both groups migrate to Germany.

3. Diverse mobility patterns

2. migration



In the second migration we find a large part of return migrations to Romania/Moldova and Bulgaria from the different countries of arrival. Both groups also continue to migrate within Germany. To a lesser extent, Romanian migrants from Italy and Spain move on to Germany.

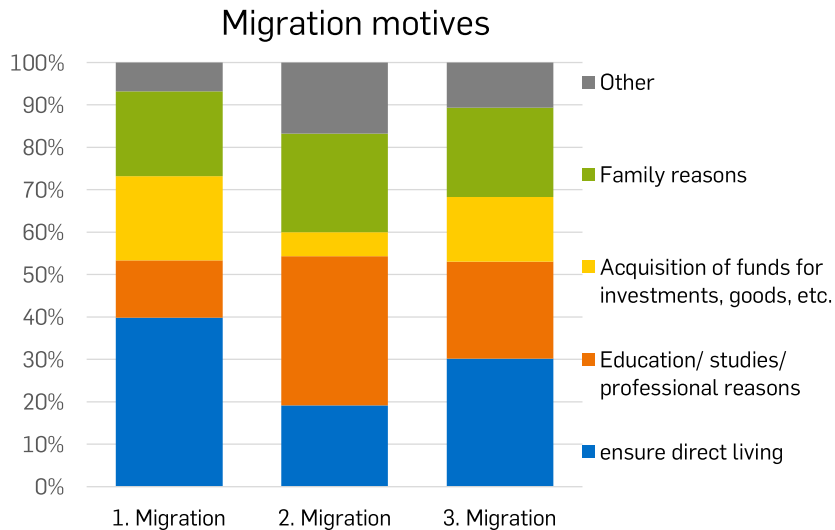
3. Diverse mobility patterns

3. migration



In the third migration, there is again a dominant pattern of movement from the countries of origin to Germany. To a lesser extent, there is also migration within Germany, from Romania to other EU countries and back to Bulgaria. The overview maps should give a first impression at this point. Tomorrow, we will have the opportunity to take a closer look at the respective migration types in individual cases.

3. Diverse mobility patterns



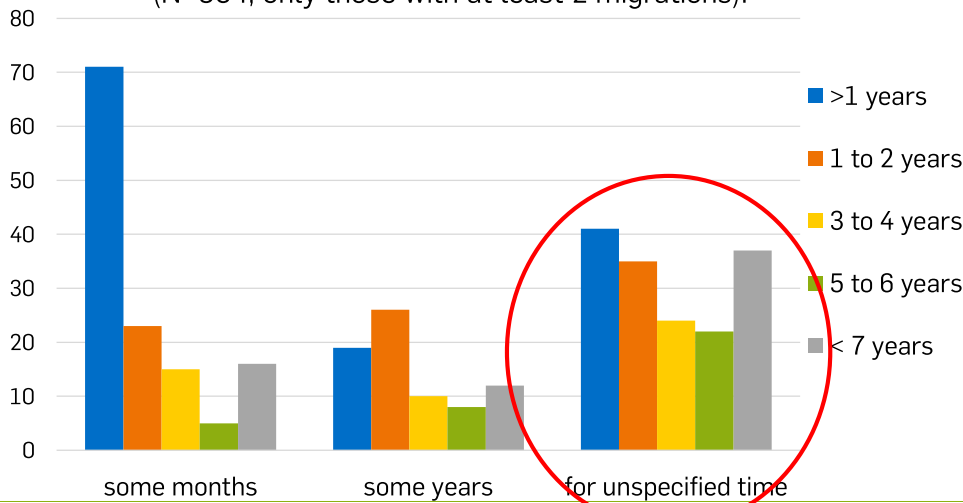
Motifs change in the course:

1. migration especially often for existential reasons.
2. migration more in connection with employment and education as well as for family reasons.
- etc.

Migration processes are dynamic. It is therefore important to understand that migration motives change over time. While the first migration is particularly often for existential reasons, the 2nd migration is more strongly related to employment and education as well as family reasons. In the third migration, the proportions shift again in each case, etc.

3. Diverse mobility patterns

Planned length of stay vs. actual length of stay, 1st stay
(N=364, only those with at least 2 migrations).



There is a significant correlation between intentions and actual length of stay.

At the same time, however, it also shows the openness of migration projects

However, migrations are not only dynamic. Another important characteristic is also their openness in principle. Like so many other projects in our lives. In this graph, you can see the relationship between the length of stay planned before migration (the lower horizontal axis) and the actual length of stay (vertical axis) during the first migration. Here, only cases are included that continued to migrate afterwards. On the one hand, there is a significant correlation between the intentions and the actual duration of stay. This becomes clear, for example, from the blue bar of the actual stay "up to less than 1 year" for the intended "several months". On the other hand, at the same time, the openness of migration projects is shown by the significant part of the answers for the intended duration "for an unspecified period of time". With this small insight into the openness of migration projects, I would like to conclude my part and hand over to Ludger Pries, who will further deepen this aspect.

4. Different prospects for the future

Future prospects of migrants:

What are - based on previous experiences - the more or less clear expectations and plans about the future center of life and work, about shaping the future for the children and family as a whole?

7. future orientations (sustainability of work, housing and life opportunities, mobility).

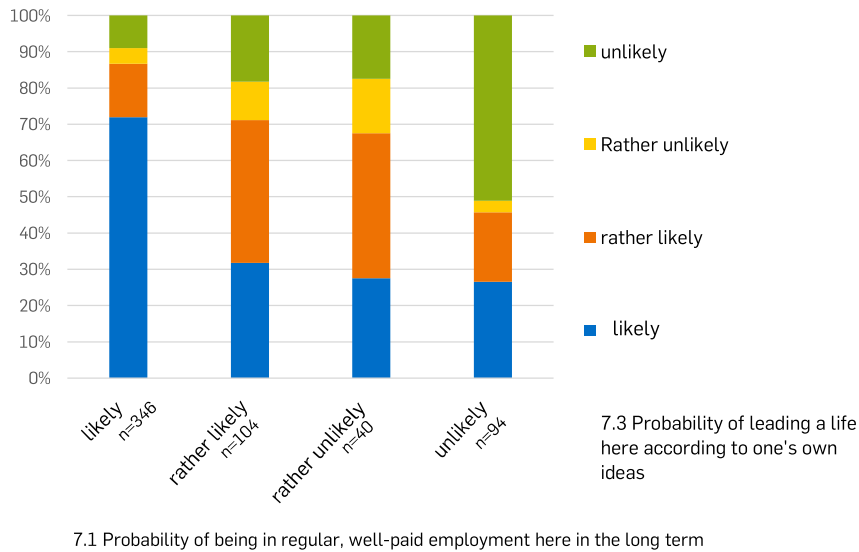
- 7.1 How likely do you think it is to have regular, well-paid employment here in the long term?
- 7.2 How likely do you think it is to have housing here in the Ruhr Area that meets your expectations within the next 3-5 years?
- 7.3 Overall, how likely do you think it is to have a life here that meets your expectations?
- 7.4 Do you think it is likely that you will move again in the next 1-5 years?
- 7.5 Where would you go?

A larger block in our survey relates to the future prospects of the migrants. We are interested in the expectations and plans of the migrants surveyed regarding the future center of their lives and work as well as the future of their children and families.

To this end, we had formulated the following questions, among others:

- 7.1 How likely do you think it is to have regular, well-paid employment **here** in the long term?
- 7.2 How likely do you think it is to have housing **here** in the Ruhr Area that meets your expectations within the next 3-5 years?
- 7.3 Overall, how likely do you think it is to have a life **here** that meets your expectations?
- 7.4 Do you think it is likely that you will move again in the next 1-5 years?
- 7.5 Where would you go?

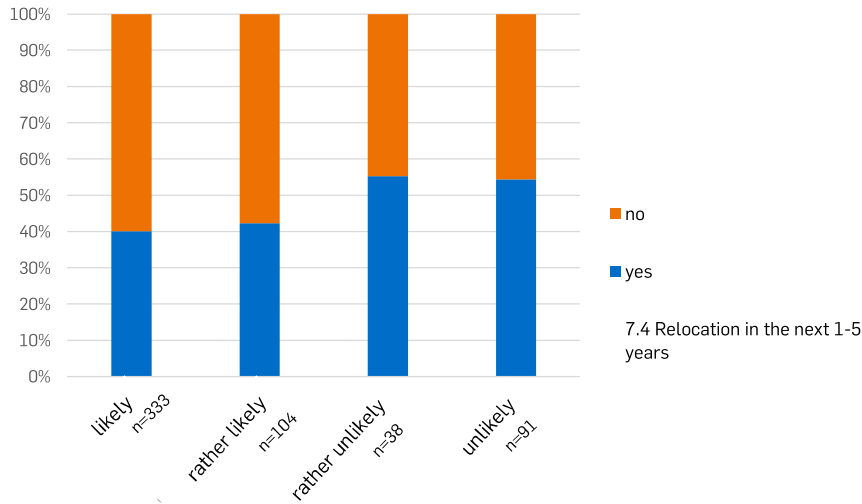
4. Different prospects for the future



Respondents associate a good long-term life in Germany with good long-term employment prospects.

Those who consider it likely to have good long-term employment in Germany also consider it likely to be able to live a good life here. (n=584; p=99%).

4. Different prospects for the future



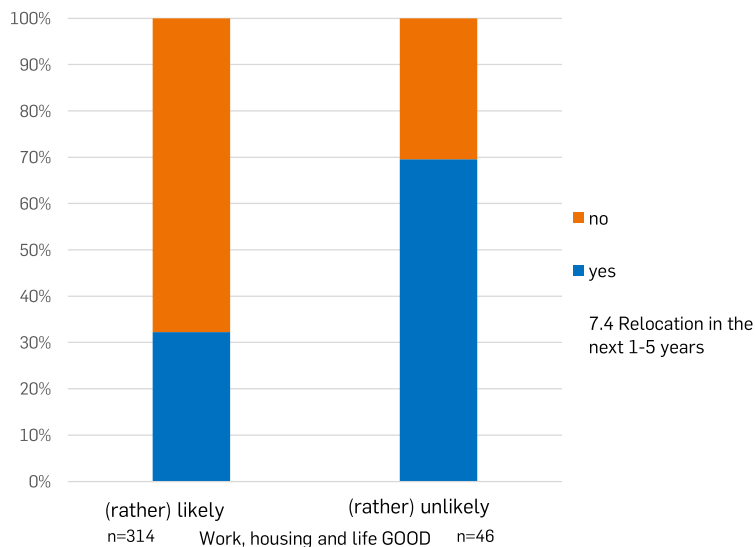
The prospect of long-term, well-paid employment in Germany reduces relocation intentions.

7.1 Probability of being in regular, well-paid employment here in the long term

We also compared how the prospect of long-term regular well-paid employment in Germany is related to intentions to move in the next 1-5 years. Those who consider well-paid employment likely or rather likely, express significantly less often relocation intentions than those who consider well-paid work (rather) unlikely.

Those who think it is (rather) likely to have good long-term employment in Germany think it is (rather) unlikely to move in the next 1-5 years. (n=566; p=97% sign.)

4. Different prospects for the future



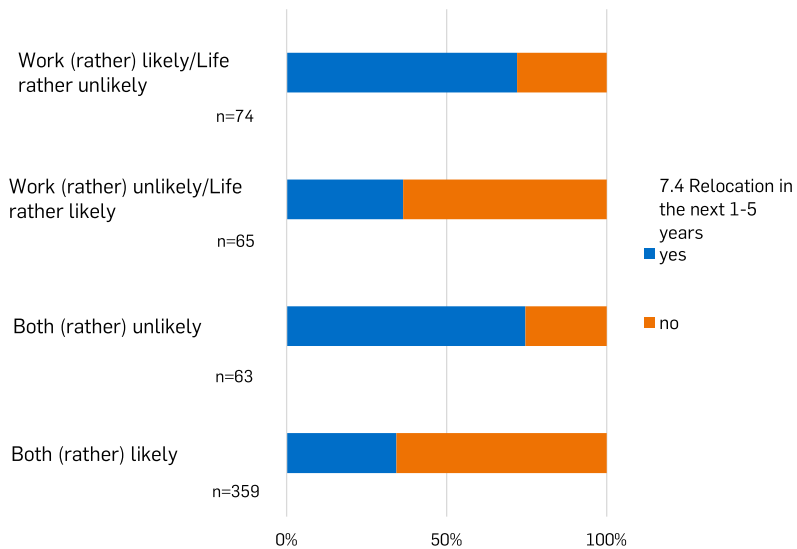
Two-thirds of those who consider their future employment, housing **and** living conditions to be good overall don't want to move.

We also formed an index from the three aspects "prospect of good job opportunities, good housing conditions and a good life in Germany overall". Of the 600 respondents, 314 consider it likely or rather likely to have good working, living and housing conditions in Germany. Only 46 consider it rather unlikely or improbable. The chart shows that two-thirds of the Future Optimists do not intend to move in the next 1-5 years.

Those who think it is (rather) likely to have good long-term employment **and** housing **and** employment in Germany think it is (rather) unlikely to move in the next 1-5 years.

(n=360; p=99% sign.)

4. Different prospects for the future



Prospect of good work is much more often associated with relocation plans than prospect of good life overall. → For long-term staying, people need more than just work.

Those who consider good work in the future likely, but good living conditions overall unlikely, express relocation intentions significantly more often than those who consider good living conditions overall likely, but good work futures unlikely. This can be interpreted in the way that people are considering more than just good work for staying in the long term.

Those who consider it (rather) likely to have good work and a good life in Germany in the long run, consider a move in the next 1-5 years (rather) unlikely - and vice versa. Good life prospects are more important for (not) moving than good job prospects (n=561; p=99% sign.)

5. Conclusion and outlook

1. Migratory movements connect Romania/Bulgaria and the Ruhr Area in different ways: depending on mobility patterns, cross-border life relations and future prospects, the Ruhr Area is a region of arrival, a diaspora or part of transnational life.
2. The opportunities and challenges for migrants and their families themselves, as well as for the communities and regions involved, range from win-win to lose-lose.
3. A Successful arrangement requires (1) awareness of the diversity of migration, (2) mutual understanding and recognition, (3) sustained cooperation among stakeholders, and (4) the contribution of resources.

Migratory movements connect Romania/Bulgaria and the Ruhr region in different ways: depending on mobility patterns, cross-border life references and future prospects, the Ruhr region is a region of arrival, a diaspora or part of transnational life.

The opportunities and challenges for the migrants and their families themselves as well as for the municipalities and regions involved range from win-win to lost-lost.

Successful design requires (1) awareness of the diversity of migration, (2) mutual understanding and recognition, (3) sustainable cooperation between those involved and (4) the contribution of resources.

5. Conclusion and outlook

Thank you for your attention!
and
welcome to the international exchange:

**"Municipal Perspectives on Migration and Arrival between
Romania, Bulgaria and the Ruhr Area in Germany".**

Timișoara 23.05. - 25.05.2023

Thank you for your attention
and
Welcome to the international exchange:

"Municipal Perspectives on Migration and Arrival between Romania, Bulgaria and the
Ruhr Area in Germany".

Timișoara 23.05. - 25.05.2023