



# **Romania: 30 years of international migration**

Monica Serban  
Institute for Quality of Life Research (ICCV), Romanian Academy

Municipal perspectives on migration and arrival between Romania, Bulgaria and the Ruhr area  
in Germany  
Timisoara, Romania, 23-25 May 2023

My name is Monica Șerban, I am a scientific researcher at the Institute for Quality of Life Research (ICCV), one of the research institutes in the field of sociology of the Romanian Academy.

I would like to thank the organizers for the generous invitation to participate in a conference that concludes an extremely interesting project for actors from Germany, Bulgaria and Romania alike.



## Content

- Migration of Romanians abroad
- Effects of the international migration of Romanians
- Migration policies from an origin perspective in the Romanian case
- Future?

My presentation today focuses on international migration of Romanians. Inevitably, after more than 30 years of international migration, the presentation will have a high generality character, unfortunately we do not have time for details. What I have proposed is to briefly introduce you to the evolution of this migration, to talk a little about its effects and the attempts of the Romanian state to manage it. I hope to pique your interest and curiosity on this subject and, if there are any questions, I will be happy to answer them, here, as time permits, or via email (in the document you received, I specified my email address).



## **Migration of Romanians abroad**

So, a few words about the evolution of international migration of Romanians after 1989 and the current situation.



## From an almost closed country... to one of the most important sources of intra-European east-west migration

### 1989

- High pressure for migration;
- Few models of 'doing' international migration;
- Weak support for future migration developments (migration networks unevenly distributed regionally)

### Today:

- Substantial migration;
- Complex, dynamic migration, marked process of diversification (types, destinations);
- Consistent effect;
- Important topic of debate in the public arena

I firmly believe that the explosive development of Romanian migration and its huge volume cannot be understood without understanding the context in which it emerged, more than 30 years ago. Back then, in 1989, under the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu, Romania was one of the most closed countries of the former communist bloc. The marked closure to the outside world led to immense pressure for international migration, to plans postponed for many years, and explains the explosion of Romanian migration in the first years after 1989. Romania was one of the poorest European countries at the end of communism, but at the same time, due to the pro-natalist policy implemented by the Ceaușescu regime, one of the countries with a young population in the European context, in other words with a very high potential for migration. If the reasons for migration were numerous, the ways 'to migrate' that Romanians knew were limited: there were few Romanians abroad with whom one could communicate without restrictions, there were few types of migration. The main support came from the old exile and networks connected with the migration of ethnic Germans, in particular, also unevenly distributed throughout Romania. And yet, although Romanians, as mentioned, did not really "know" how to migrate, in 33 years, they have become one of the main mobile populations at European level. Romania, together with Poland, is today the main source of intra-European mobility. Romanian migration today is extremely complex, incorporating a wide variety of types of migration, extremely dynamic, with rapid changes in destinations and characteristics of flows. And, if in 1989, international migration was practically a non-existent topic on the public agenda, especially after accession to the European Union, it has become one of the major topics of debate in the public space (see also Beciu, 2012), i.e. a very present topic in our lives, Romanians, whether we are migrants or not.



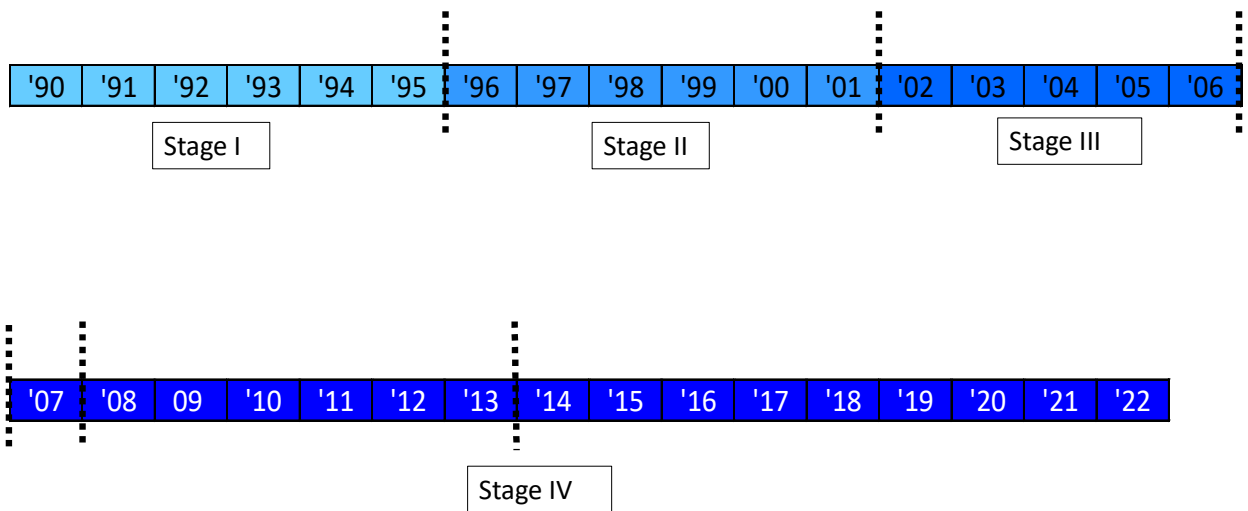
## How many Romanians are abroad? (I)

- "Various estimates indicate that between **3-5 million Romanians currently live and work abroad**. If we take the most optimistic figure of **3.58 million from the UN (2017)**, emigrants represent about **18.2 percent of the population**." (Dospinescu & Russo, 2018: 7)
- **Romania** - in the **top 20 countries globally** in terms of total number of emigrants in **2020** (McAuliffe, M. and A. Triandafyllidou (eds.), 2021: 202)
- In **2013, 75% of Romanians living abroad** (according to place of birth) were in 5 European countries: **Italy, Spain, Germany, Hungary and the UK** (author's calculations based on: Bilateral Migration Matrix 2013, World Bank)

However, what figures are we talking about when we say that Romanian migration is one of the most important in Europe? This chart shows various estimates that "reveal" the volume of Romanian migration. The various estimates, based on different methodologies, place the figure between 3 and 5 million. If we take as a reference a relatively moderate estimate (about 3.5 million Romanians), then it means that about 18% of Romanians live outside the country's borders, or in other words a little less than one fifth (according to Dospinescu & Russo, 2018). The figure is high and this is confirmed by Romania's placement in global rankings among the top 20 source countries in terms of number of emigrants (McAuliffe, M. and A. Triandafyllidou (eds.), 2021). Extremely interesting for our discussion today is the fact that Romanian migration is a migration concentrated in Europe, more precisely in the European Union. Estimates of the number of migrants showed that already a decade ago, about 75% of Romanians going abroad lived in 5 European countries, and Germany was already one of the most important destinations. This is an additional argument, if one were needed, about the importance of your project and its results for Romania.



## Timing of Romanian migration abroad

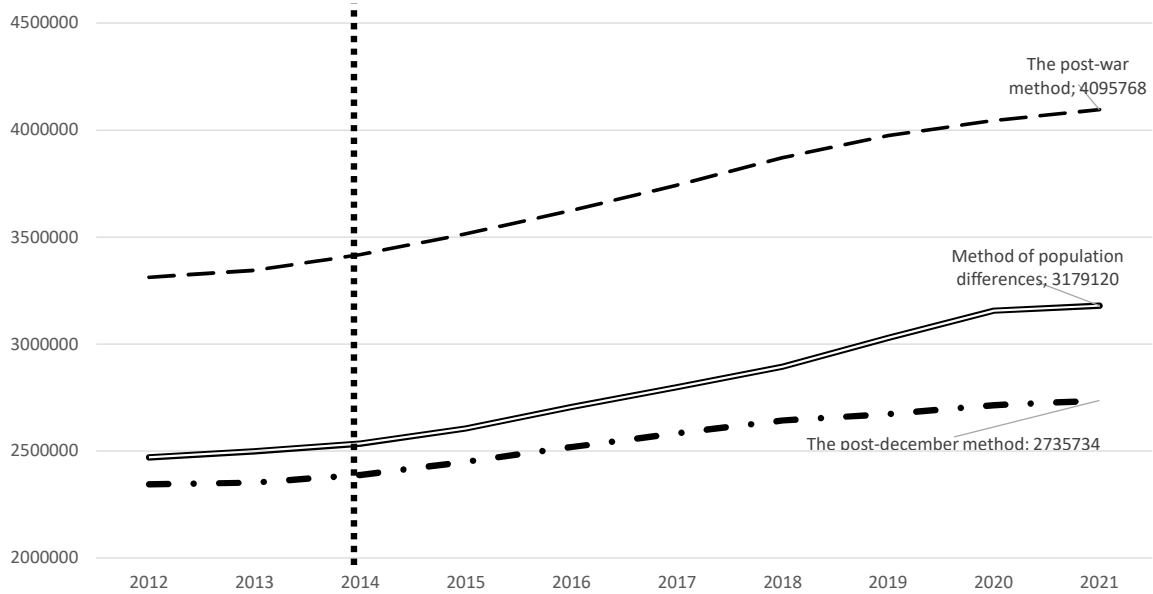


Source: Sandu, 2006 & author's adaptations/updates

How did it come to this? What is the evolution of this migration? Unfortunately, we do not have time to discuss the causes associated with the evolution of Romanian migration over the last 30 years, but I think it is essential to understand that it has developed in stages or phases, which have had a markedly different profile, with different migration intensities, destinations and dominant types. The attached map shows the main stages schematically, with time markers marking when the stage changes occur. As you can see, a first stage lasts until the mid-1990s. It is a phase of research, for which the closure of the communist period is largely responsible. Somewhere towards the end of the last decade of the last century, the result of a hesitant transition, to put it mildly, and a young population, migration for work becomes the major type of migration. It is, however, a period of movement restrictions for Romanians. Only in 2002, with the lifting of visa restrictions in the Schengen Area, migration for work explodes, especially to two European countries in the process of becoming immigration countries, countries with a high need for unskilled labour (especially in the domestic sector, construction and tourism) and with a high tolerance for informality in the labour market. These are Italy and Spain. This phase, which can be associated with the period up to Romania's accession to the European Union, i.e. until 2007, leads to the formation of large migration networks and the establishment of what we call "migration culture" in many parts of Romania (see also Horvath, 2008). Even these two elements alone are prerequisites for a long-term migration development. Accession to the EU has brought a freedom of movement that Romanians had not previously experienced, with substantial reductions in the costs and risks of international migration. However, the effects of accession were quickly counteracted by the onset of the economic crisis, which had a strong impact especially in the southern European area, where the two main destinations of Romanian migration at the time, Italy and Spain, were located. The post-crisis resettlement is marked by a new milestone: the end of the period of transitional restrictions on access to the labour markets of EU Member States. Since 2014, all EU countries have been open to unrestricted labour migration of Romanian European citizens and the change has had a substantial effect on Romanian destinations, in the context of the effects of the 2008 financial crisis.



## How many Romanians are abroad? (II) Estimates of the National Institute of Statistics (INS)

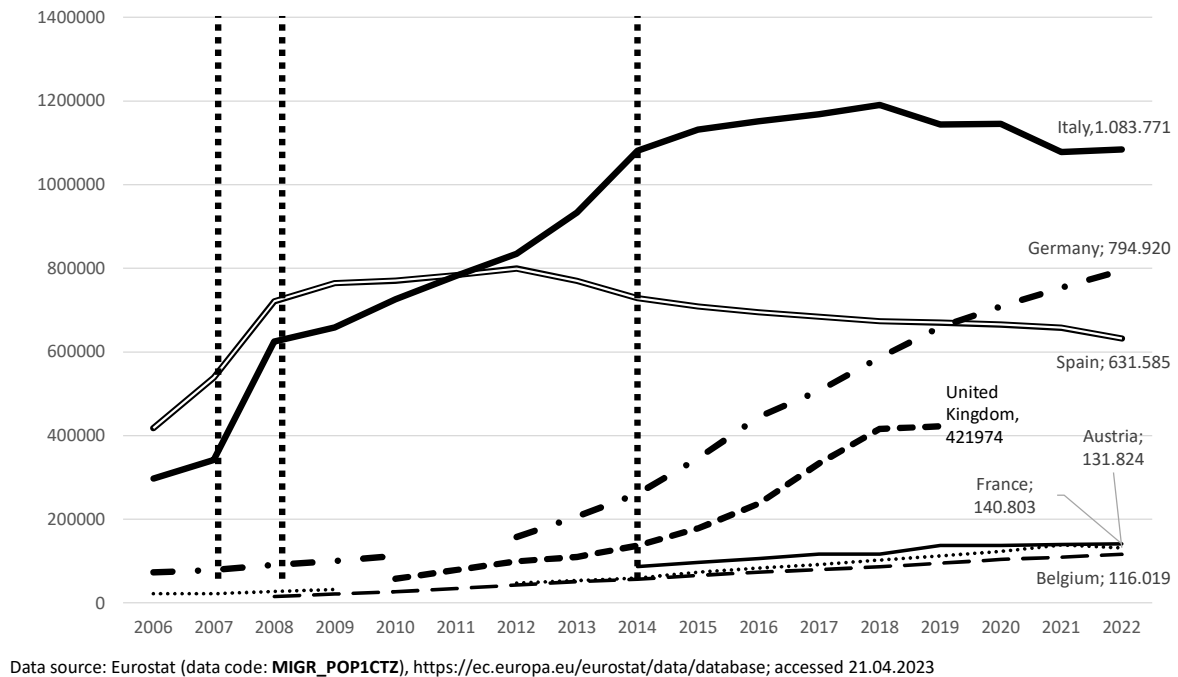


Data source: NSI (2023). *Migration phenomenon*; figure by the author based on data presented on page 15

This chart illustrates the evolution of Romanian migration for 10 years, starting from 2012. The estimates included here were recently released by the Romanian Institute of Statistics (INS, 2023) and use different estimation methods, marked on the graph. They are consistent with the estimates presented above and suggest a continued increase in the stock of Romanians abroad. Perhaps, a slight flattening can be detected in the last three years analysed, but it is surprising how the younger generation takes over the mobility patterns of previous generations. Of course, it is likely that this population will increase not only through new departures from Romania, but also through the children of Romanians already abroad. However, the data suggest, once again, a highly developed migration, which obliges us, at least at the origin, to make serious management efforts.



## How many Romanians are abroad? (III) European destinations

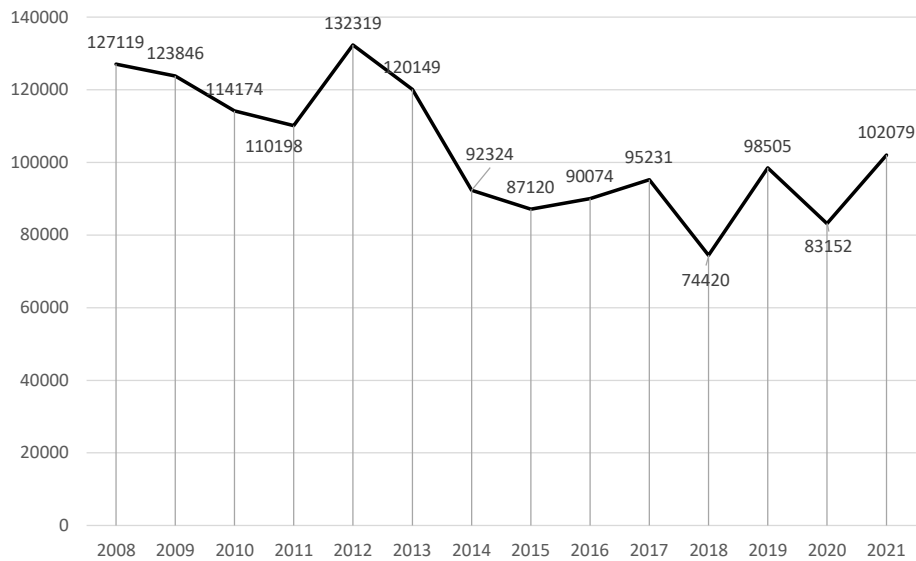


I said earlier that the migration of Romanians is concentrated in Europe, more precisely in the European Union, and is extremely dynamic, including in terms of destinations. This graph, based on data provided by Eurostat, registering migrants on the basis of citizenship, shows the evolution of Romanian migration from the pre-accession period until recently, for European destinations with a stock of at least 100,000 Romanian citizens in 2022. It can be seen that the number of Romanians from Italy and Spain increased sharply in the initial phases of labour migration. The economic crisis, the effects of which are naturally detectable in the few years that follow, substantially reduces the growth rate of the number of Romanians in the two countries. The effects of the economic crisis combine, as mentioned above, with the effects of the removal of all transitional restrictions at EU level and we are witnessing a reorientation of migration from the southern area of Europe to the central-northern area. Germany, as well as the UK, have seen substantial increases in Romanian stocks. The sources are multiple: on the one hand it is about departures from the country oriented towards the two destinations, on the other hand it is about movement between destinations, a phenomenon highlighted since the 2000s in the case of Romanians (on the subject see also Ciobanu, 2015).





## How many Romanians return from European countries?



Data source: Eurostat (data code: **MIGR\_IMM3CTB**), <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>; accessed 21.04.2023

Of course, in the case of a European Union country, migration is closely connected with return, and for more than a decade now, the specificities of intra-European migration have been discussed, its "fluid" character, with arrivals, departures from origin and rapid re-orientations to other destinations (Engbersen & Snel, 2013). Such migration is difficult to record, but return data can provide clues to the degree of movement associated with a migration. This graph attempts to provide a picture of return, admittedly imperfect - because return migration is itself very hard to record. The data comes from Eurostat and records Romanian citizens returning annually. They suggest, apart from annual variations - some of which are probably due to the quality of the records, that around 100,000 Romanians return from abroad each year. This is a further argument for the assertion that we are dealing with an extremely dynamic phenomenon, probably with strong links between those who have left and their place of origin and with a high potential for re-orientation towards their origin as conditions in Romania change.



## **Effects of the international migration of Romanians**

If this is the situation of Romanian migration today, it is natural to wonder about the effects of such a large-scale migration. Discussing the effects of migration of Romanians is difficult because, with almost one fifth of the population living abroad, we expect migration to affect every dimension of social life in Romania. We can discuss effects on the labour market, effects on the education system, effects on the structure of the population according to various characteristics, economic effects, etc. An exhaustive review is practically impossible, and a hierarchy of them would inevitably be subjective. That is why I have chosen the strategy of focusing today's discourse on the effects which, to a greater or lesser extent, have become topics of public debate. It is interesting to note that the effects of migration become constant "presences" in the public space around the time of accession to the European Union, when the migration of Romanians was constantly brought to attention (see also Beciu 2012, for details), probably also in connection with the demands of the supra-state body during the accession negotiation process.



## The most debated effects of migration (I)

### Remittances (financial):

- **2008: €6.4 billion (4.5% of GDP, maximum);** sharp decrease after 2008 (Dospinescu & Russo, 2018, p. 14)
- **2015:** the negative trend (decrease) is reversed: remittances start to increase
- **2017: €3.8 billion (2% of GDP)** (OECD, 2019, p. 165)
- **2020: \$5.9 billion (2.4% of GDP)** (World Bank, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS>, accessed 21.04.2023)
- **"Croatia, Latvia and Romania are (countries) most dependent on personal remittance inflows to the EU in 2020"** (Tweet; [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Personal\\_remittances\\_statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Personal_remittances_statistics))

**Remittances** (or remittances) are probably the most frequently discussed effect of migration, certainly the first in chronological order and, overall, with **positive evaluations**. I have chosen not to present a trend in the volume of remittances over a longer time series because of variations induced by changes in the way remittances are recorded and calculated. Without going into technical issues, the chart suggests that remittances have been an important source of foreign exchange for Romania, peaking at over 4% of GDP at the onset of the economic crisis. The 2008 peak comes against the backdrop of an upward trend in remittances since the early years after 1989. After 2008, there follows a period of several years of decline, then the trend reverses and the overall amount starts to rise again, but the remittances as a percentage of GDP never reaches the 2008 level. The latest estimate I am presenting is from 2020, from World Bank specialists. However, it represents a decrease from the previous year, because 2020 is the year of the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. In the previous year, the figure presented by the same source was considerably higher, at around \$7.7 billion. It is hard to say to what extent Romania's dependence on remittances is acute. Romania is certainly far from the highest levels of dependence recorded globally, but at EU level, as can be seen from the Eurostat commentary, it is, together with Croatia and Latvia, among the most remittance-dependent EU countries.



## The most debated effects of migration (II)

**2006/2007** → Effects on the family, especially **children left at home**:

- **2007: 170,000 secondary school pupils** with at least one parent abroad (UNICEF, 2008)
- **2022** (September): **73,868 children** whose parents are working abroad (ANPDCA, 2022)

**2006/2007** → Effects on the labour market, in particular **labour shortages** in certain economic sectors; link with immigration

- **2017**: about **23% of the working population abroad** (Dospinescu & Russo, 2018, p. 6);
- **2021**: 25,000 work permits → **50,000 work permits for foreigners**
- **2022**: **100,000 work permits for foreigners**

While remittances are a major "product" of migration, the debate on the other effects has seen peak and then wane, with possible returns - rather meandering trajectories of interest, if you will.

The effects on the family, in particular on **children left at home as a** result of parental migration, has been one of the most intensely discussed topics and subsequently an area for policy intervention. Interest in the topic was triggered in 2006-2007, when several non-governmental organisations and later international organisations published several reports on the phenomenon of children with one or both parents going abroad. The phenomenon was substantial in 2007, with a survey-based UNICEF estimate putting the figure at around 170,000 secondary school pupils with at least one parent abroad. Although the number of children left at home has been significantly reduced, it remains high, as indicated by the estimate produced by the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA). In principle, evaluations have highlighted the **negative effects** of parental migration on children, and discussions about the situation of these children periodically resurface in the same negative terms.

Another set of effects with a rather sinuous path in public discussions is that of the effects of migration on the Romanian labour market. The subject appeared in the public space in the same period of 2006-2007, when Romania's sharp economic growth in the run-up to the economic crisis highlighted the **labour shortage** already faced by certain economic sectors (the Horeca sector, for example). Since then, the labour shortage has been connected with emigration, and the solutions connected with stimulating return migration and immigration. It is absolutely obvious in the case of Romania that such an effect is manifest, if we take into account the characteristics of the Romanian population abroad. They represented according to estimates, as early as 2017, more than one fifth of Romania's working population (Dospinescu & Russo, 2018), and while return migration, despite the (also sporadic) efforts of the Romanian authorities to stimulate it, probably remains at a relatively low constant level, the interest in labour immigration has steadily increased in Romania in the recent period.



## The most debated effects of migration (III)

### 2010 → "Brain drain", especially **the migration of doctors**

- "According to official data, in **2013 more than 14 thousand doctors** work abroad, representing more than **26 percent** of the total number of Romanian doctors." (Dospinescu & Russo, 2018, p. 6)
- **2018: 40% of medical students** declared their intention to go abroad; about **¼ had clear plans to leave** (Boncea & Voicu, 2019)
- The number of current professional certificates issued by the Romanian College of Physicians is on a **downward trend** between **2016 and 2020**

### 2011 → Demographic effects, in particular **population decline** and **ageing**

- "(...) Romania's population declined from **22.8 million in 2000** to **19.6 million in 2017**, with external migration accounting for more than **75% of this decline**." (Dospinescu & Russo, 2018, p. 7)

Quite predictably, the rise of the migration debate in the public space has led to discussions about the so-called "**brain drain**" (or "brain migration", in a rather uninspiring translation). It is about the discussion of the departure of the highly qualified and its effects. There is one category on which the public debate has been particularly focused: **doctors**. Physicians' departures start to be discussed especially after EU accession, when Romanian doctors' access to a job in EU countries becomes easier. Departures were already substantial 10 years ago in relation to the total population of doctors, although recently, as the data on the chart shows, there are signs of a downward trend. Departures are strongly **negatively** connoted and are constantly invoked in relation to the poor functioning of the Romanian health system, often playing, in my opinion, the role of an excuse for the lack of intervention/reform of the system.

Finally, another type of major effect in relation to its presence in the public space is the effect of migration on Romania's population, in particular the impact on the **decrease in volume** and, more recently, on the **change in the age structure of the population**, by accentuating the ageing process. The 2011 census allowed the first calculations to be made and since then the subject has regularly returned to the public arena. Only the first aspect is mentioned on the map, but more and more voices are discussing the contribution of emigration to population ageing.



## Romanian attitudes towards migration abroad

	To a very small extent	To a small extent	To a large extent	To a very large extent	NS	NR	Total
Intention: to migrate for a while to another country	20%	23%	28%	21%	5%	1%	100%
Intention: to migrate permanently to another country	36%	28%	16%	13%	6%	2%	100%
Level of Agreement: people in Romania should stay in their own country	11%	23%	29%	32%	4%	1%	100%
Level of Agreement: It is everyone's duty to contribute to the well-being of the country of their birth	8%	15%	38%	35%	4%	1%	100%
Level of Agreement: Romania stands to lose from the migration of its citizens to other countries	6%	11%	34%	45%	3%	1%	100%
Agreement: Families of those who have left the country suffer	6%	13%	33%	44%	3%	1%	100%

Data source: WVS Romania 2022 (national probability sample; 1503 respondents); Şerban&Voicu(2018)

If we have tried to briefly review the main types of effects of migration discussed in the public space, it is interesting to see how Romanians relate to the phenomenon. Unfortunately, the survey data I have access to is quite old, but as early as 2012, Romanians in Romania did not have, we could say, a favourable attitude towards international migration. The survey data indicate a preference for temporary migration, concomitant with a rather strong rejection of permanent migration and a focus of public opinion on the negative effects of migration.



## **Migration policies from an origin perspective**

While we have so far discussed effects, the question that naturally arises in the discussion is related to attempts to shape migration and its effects through migration policies. The subject of migration policies from an origin perspective is extremely complicated, because migration can be shaped by a multitude of interventions, coming from very different fields, managed by different institutions, whose work is difficult to coordinate and, at research level, difficult to identify. Here we will work with a definition of these policies that includes as components: policies aimed at emigration; return and diaspora (for details, see Şerban 2014, 2015).



## Romanian emigration, return and diasporic policies: the pre-accession stage

- **1990s:** building legislation to manage the international movement of individuals; normalising relations with the diaspora

- early **2000s:** EU pressure and externalisation of migration control → intense interventions in the migration component;
- **2006 - 2007:** synchronisation of legislation with the new EU status and the right of free movement of Romanian citizens as EU citizens;

*Reproduction of the general policy-making mechanism based on the country of origin - country of destination power imbalance; domination of foreign policy interests*

In principle, there are two main stages in the evolution of migration interventions. The first is related to the pre-accession period to the European Union. Prior to that, we can talk about a period in which the Romanian state adopts the necessary legislation to normalize international movement, after the communist period, in which this movement was heavily restricted, and to normalize relations with the diaspora. It is only at the end of the 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s that we can talk about an effort to build policies with the intention of shaping them, especially in relation to emigration. Why emigration? Because it is a period in which emigration for work begins to impose itself as the dominant type, the pressure for emigration is high in the interior and, by virtue of the EU accession process, the pressure on the Romanian state to regulate/control external migration increases. The period 2006-2007 is one of relaxation of restrictions and preparation for free movement of persons. Overall, the pre-accession phase is therefore a phase dominated by interest in migration, where foreign policy goals are important and Romania, as a country of origin, has little bargaining power.





## Romanian emigration, return and diasporic policies: the post-accession stage

- Initiating measures on the diaspora created by migration, mainly by incorporating them into already existing 'accidental diaspora' policies (Brubaker, 2005);
- Interest in return migration (intermittent) - linked to prospects for increased immigration;
- Efforts to exploit the transnational character of Romanian migration (e.g. measures related to transnational research collaboration; stimulating transnational business investment)
- *Various measures aimed at reducing the migration of certain professional categories (e.g. doctors; skilled construction workers) or the protection of certain social categories at risk as a result of migration (e.g. children left at home)*

In the post-accession period, the focus shifts from migration-centred policies to diaspora-centred policies. The so-called 'mobility diaspora' (DPRP, 2020), produced through emigration, is incorporated into the package of provisions that the Romanian state already had in place by referring to the 'accidental diaspora' in Brubaker's (2005) terms or the 'historical diaspora' in the terms used by the Romanian authorities. As mentioned earlier, the connection between emigration and the lack of labour in certain economic sectors and the prospect of increased immigration led to the adoption of a series of measures aimed at return, measures of an intermittent nature that remained rather "on paper". As interest in the diaspora grows, so does interest in developing policies that address the transnational character of Romanian migration. Attempts to get Romanian researchers abroad to collaborate with Romanian researchers by funding joint research projects, joint events or study visits to Romania are perhaps illustrative examples. The recent funding scheme for transnational business "Diaspora start-up" (for details, see Croitoru, 2021) also falls into the same category. Finally, in the same recent period, policy measures in other areas can also be identified that have (also) justifications in the area of migration effects (mitigation of negative effects). Such measures, which indirectly target migration, are associated with incentives to reduce the outflow of individuals belonging to certain professional categories, such as doctors or construction workers. Also, without directly targeting migration, but in connection with it, certain social categories considered at risk as a result of migration benefit from protection (e.g. children left at home).



## The evolution of Romanian emigration, return and diaspora policies



Data source: author-coded database on migration legislation in Romania (1990-2012), based on the "policy on paper approach" (Czaika & de Haas, 2013) (for details see Şerban (2014); Şerban(2015))

What does it all look like together? I won't dwell on this picture, it is the result of several years of work on migration policies. It is a "policy on paper" approach (Czaika & de Haas, 2013), based on the identification and codification of legislative measures related to migration in Romania, illustrating the stages discussed above and the different evolution of the components: diaspora/return/emigration.



## Migration, effects, policies...

### PROBABLE...

- ... Romania will continue to be one of the important sources of intra-European migration/mobility; this is not necessarily a question of a large number of future departures, but of **movement**, a migration in a "coming-falling" pattern. **Transnationalism** is probably a key feature in describing the evolution of this migration; it is unrealistic to expect high levels of **return**, in the classical sense of the term, especially in the short/medium term, but as the first generations of post-december migrants become retirees, the composition of return migration will change;
- ... the complexity of the effects of migration will increase: uneven territorial impact; new types of effects (e.g. elderly people left alone at home);
- ... interest in migration policies will increase in the diasporic component, it is difficult to predict in which direction, probably with the continuation of existing directions; possible/desirable that interest in measures at regional/local level will increase (including as a result of processes of territorial differentiation of effects).

I confess that I found it very difficult to present the evolution of Romanian migration, its effects and migration policies in 20 minutes. But it was an extremely useful exercise for me as a researcher. As most of the plates rather present conclusions, for the end I will try a forward-looking exercise of imagination regarding the three elements discussed. On migration: I would say that it is unrealistic to expect a reduction in the importance/"presence" of the phenomenon. I do not believe that the demographic potential will allow a significant quantitative expansion of the external migration of Romanians in the medium term, just as economic conditions will probably no longer make it desirable for more and more categories of individuals. But, probably, movement will be its main feature. Elements of transnationalism will be increasingly present, as the return component will probably take on other characteristics. In connection with these developments, we are likely to see a diversification of effects, which come with the ageing of Romanian migration (e.g. the ageing of parents left alone at home as a result of migration), just as the territorial differentiation of effects is likely to become increasingly visible (e.g. the marked ageing of the population in rural regions with low fertility rates and high emigration, such as part of the rural south of Romania); it is very difficult to say what will happen to policies. Probably interest in the diaspora will continue to grow, probably following the directions already developed; and, I don't know if the last statement on the board is not rather a hope of mine... I hope that interest in targeted interventions at regional/local level will increase, by virtue of a foreseeable process of accentuation of the territorial differentiation of the effects of migration.

**Thank you!**

Municipal perspectives on migration and arrival  
between Romania, Bulgaria and the Ruhr Area in Germany  
Timișoara 23.05. – 25.05.2023

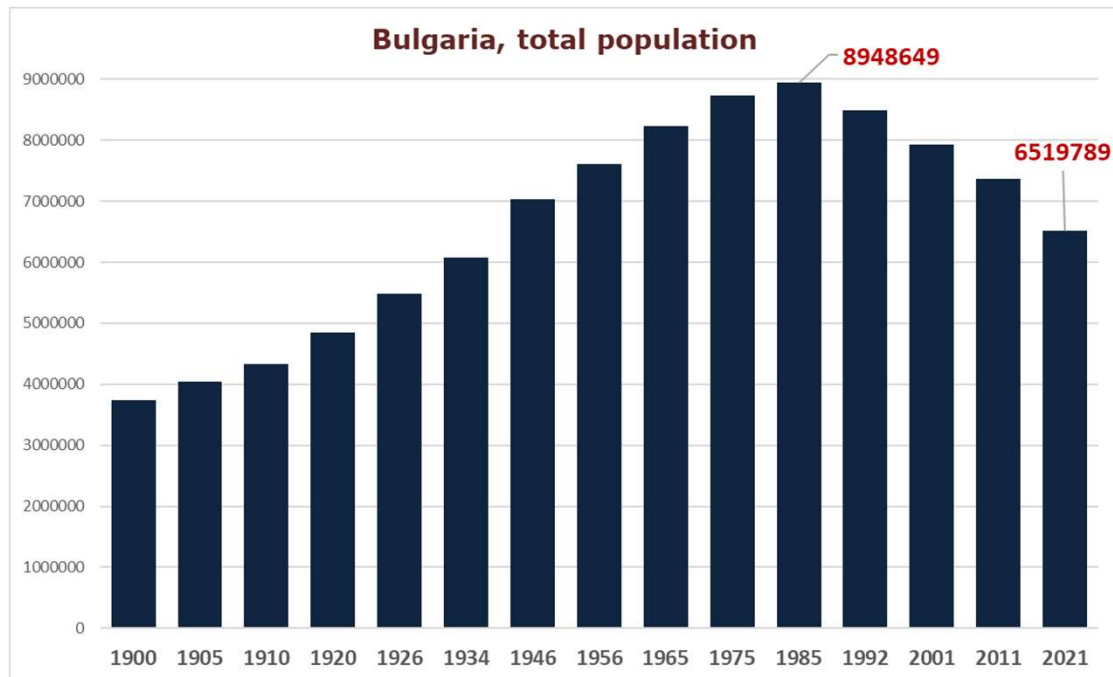
## Bulgaria: Recent migration trends and effects



Alexey Pamporov, PhD

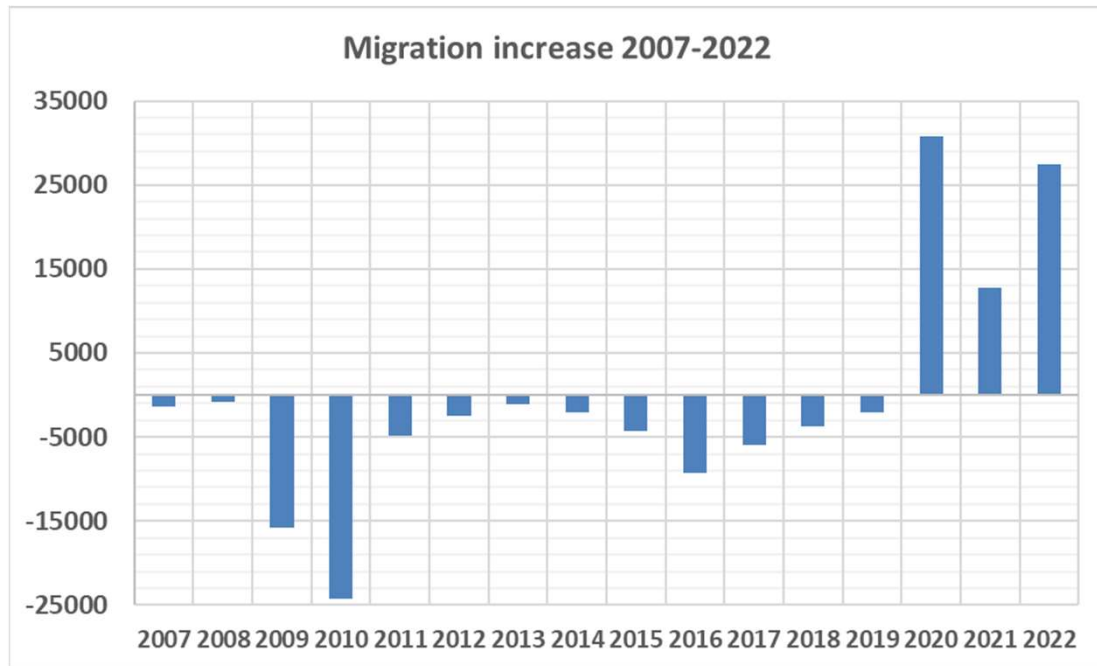
*Associate Professor*

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences



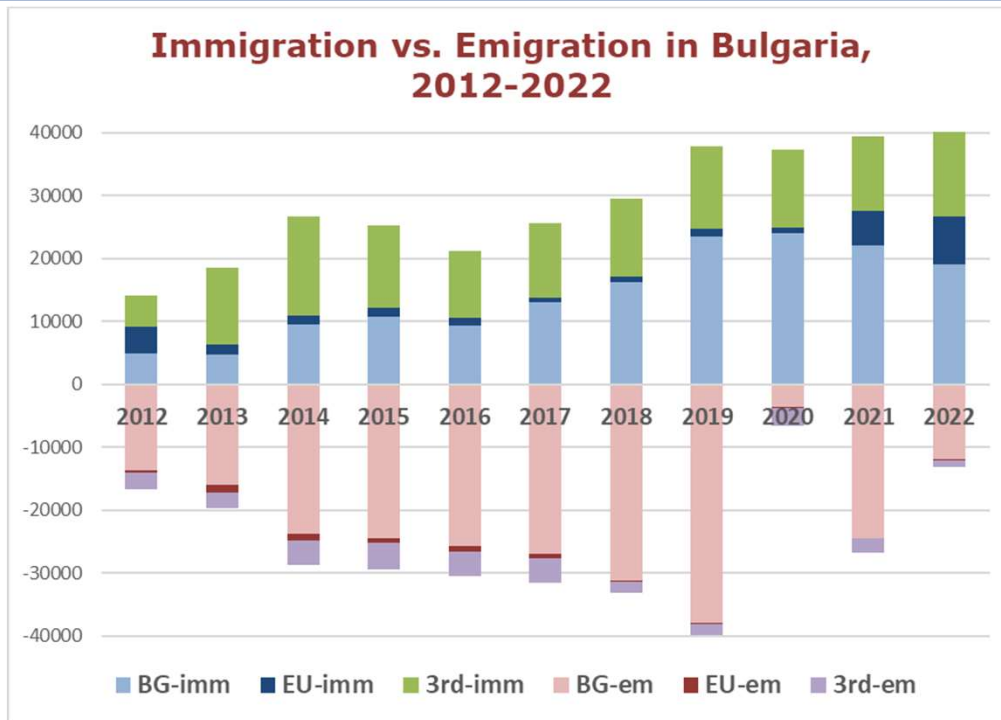
Source: NSI

The total population in Bulgaria is decreasing since the end of the socialist regime and the beginning of the transition to market economy.



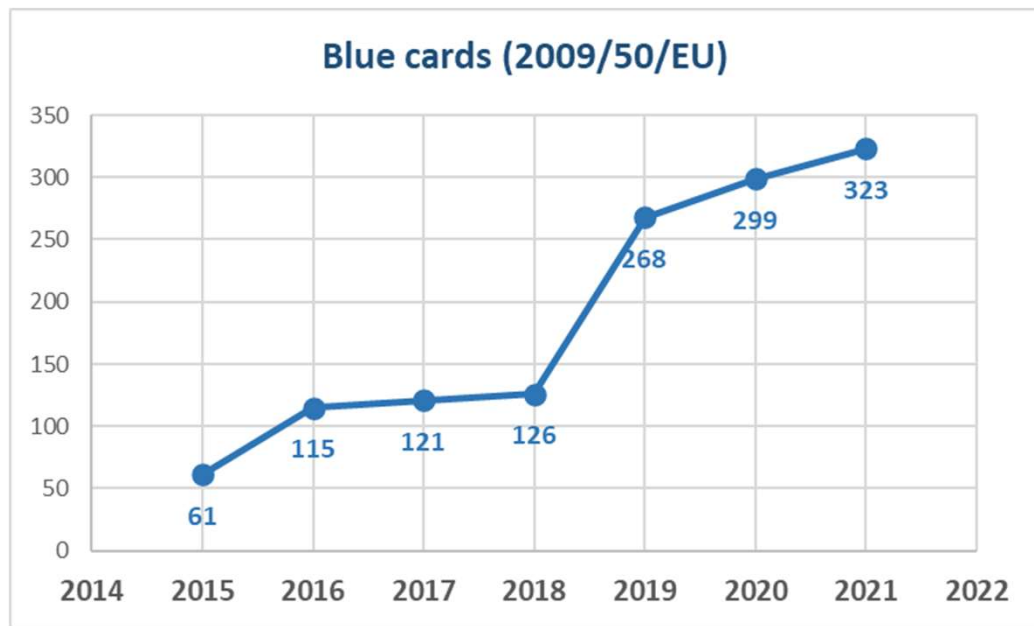
Source: NSI

Bulgaria used to have a negative migration increase since the 1990s and joining the EU, in 2007, didn't change that trend. However, the Covid-19 pandemic was the first pull trigger, and for the past 3 years, there is a significant positive increase.



Source: NSI

Looking at the structure of migration by origin of the migrants, it shows that both some Bulgarian ex-pats are returning and some other EU nationals have chosen Bulgaria. Otherwise, the third country nationals are almost constant annual number since 2013.

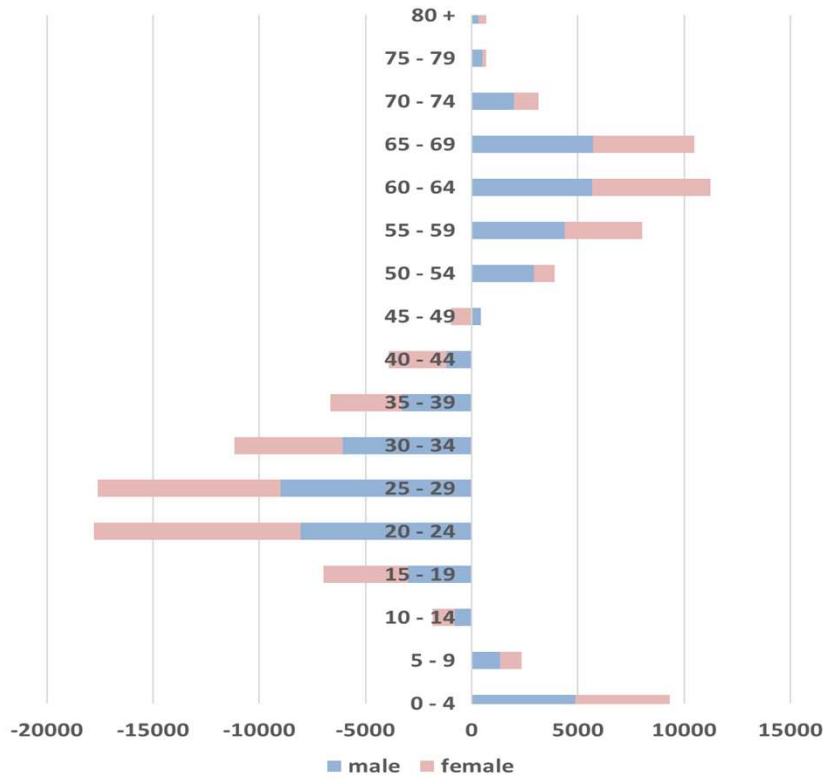


Source: NSI

Unfortunately, speaking for the third country nationals, those are not the Blue card holders. However, there is a significant increase in that respect, too. Although the numbers are still small.

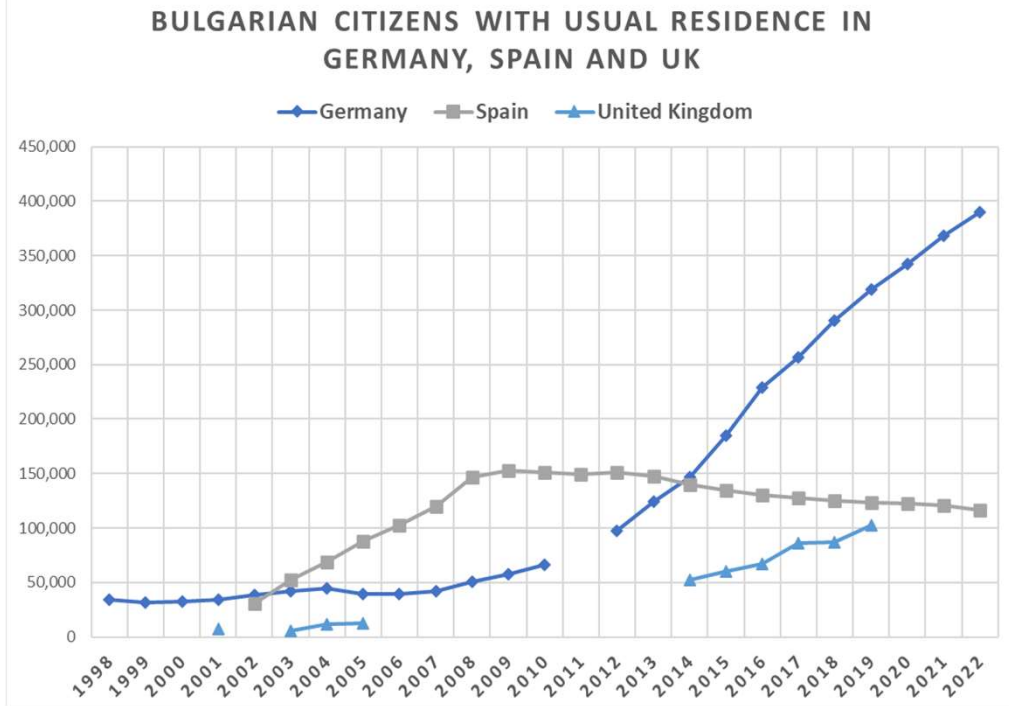


Migration increase in 2010-2021 by gender and age group



Source: NSI

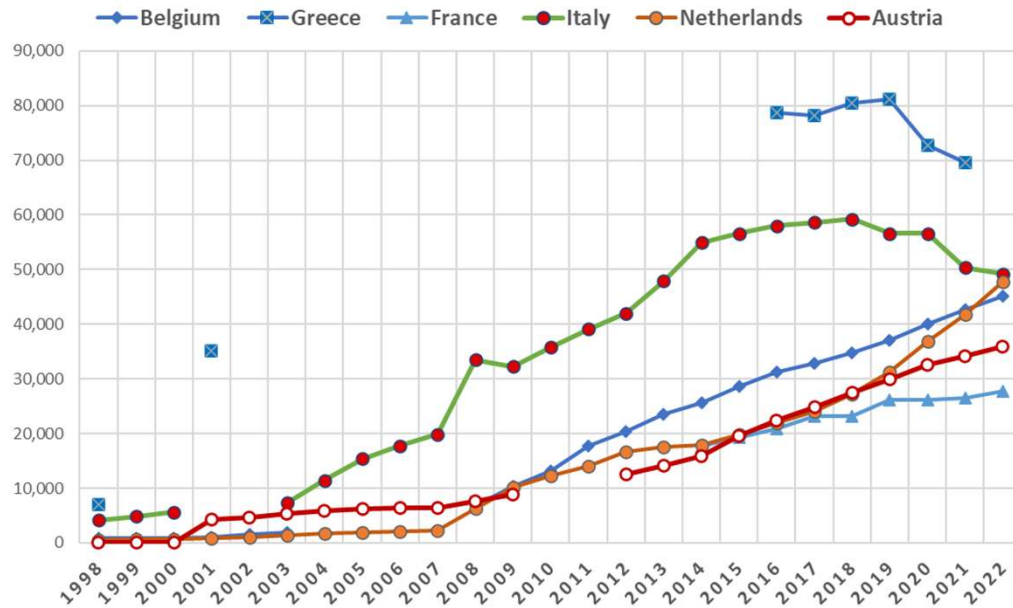
Looking at the structure of migration by age and gender of the migrants in a long run, the trend is not so positive. The emigrants are young labor force and women fertile age, the immigrants are people in the third age (50 and over), as well as some babies and toddlers.



Source: Eurostat

The top 3 countries for the Bulgarian emigrants are Germany, Spain and UK. Spain was the number one country from 2003 till 2013, but since the 2014 Germany is No.1 beyond comparison. However, we need to keep in mind that those figures are about people who spend the past 12 months abroad and do not reflect the seasonal workers. Then figures about Spain will definitely change.

### BULGARIAN CITIZENS WITH USUAL RESIDENCE IN SIX EU COUNTRIES

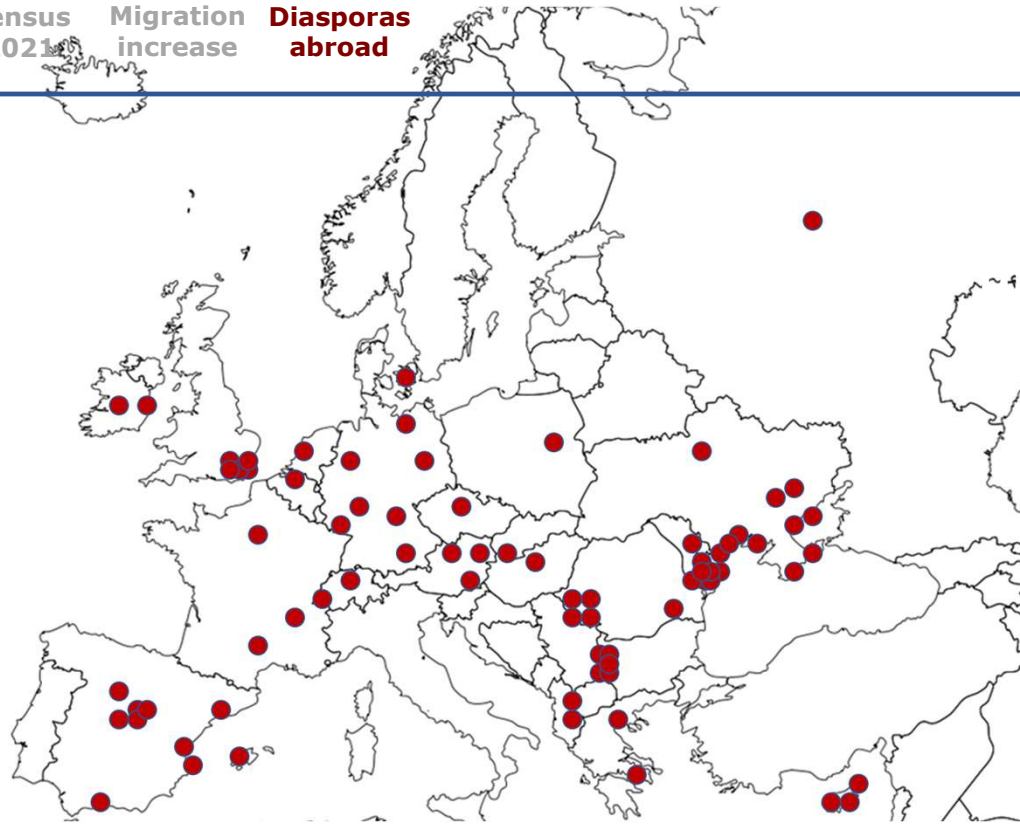


Source: Eurostat

The next 6 country show to different tendencies. The interest towards some usual destinations like Greece and Italy was strongly affected by the Covid-19 and emigration to these two countries is decreasing. At the same time, since 2012, when the labor market in all EU countries was open for Bulgarian citizens, a permanently increasing trend of emigration towards Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands is observed. The emigration towards France is increasing but stays at relatively low levels, if compared with the total country population. However, similarly to Spain, the figures about Greece, Italy and France are not very accurate due to the “pulsing diasporas” of seasonal workers.



Since Eurostat is not everywhere and not showing everything, there are some indirect, qualitative approaches for location of the diasporas: the Bulgarian schools and churches abroad



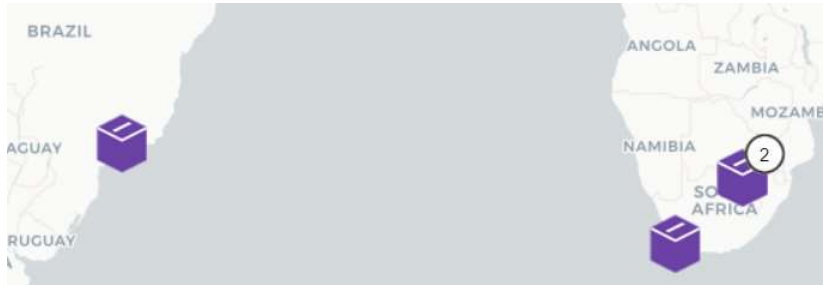
Source: QL data

Since Eurostat is not everywhere and not showing everything, there are some indirect, qualitative approaches for location of the diasporas: the Bulgarian schools and churches abroad

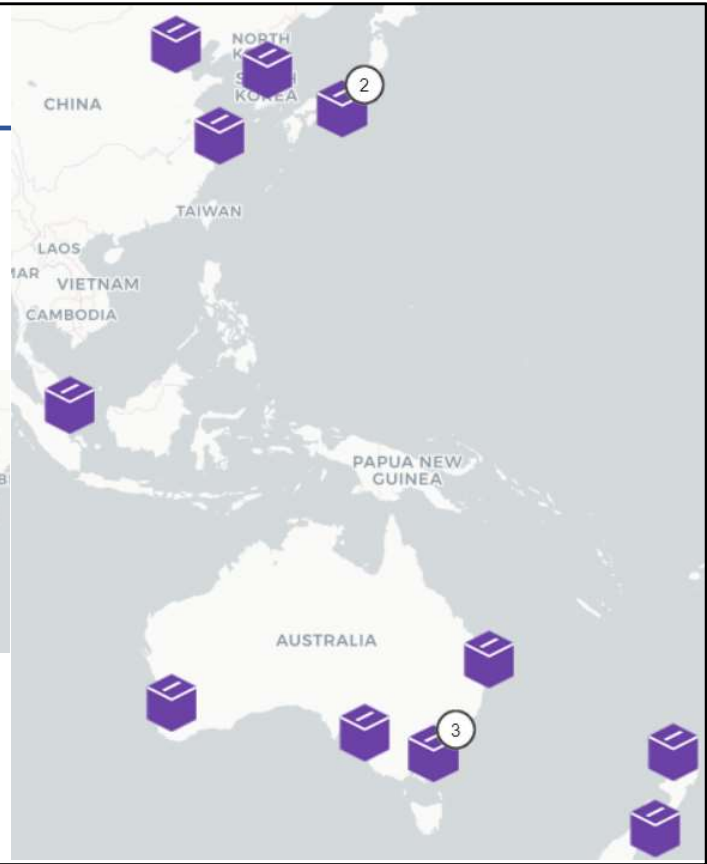


Source: Glasuvam.org

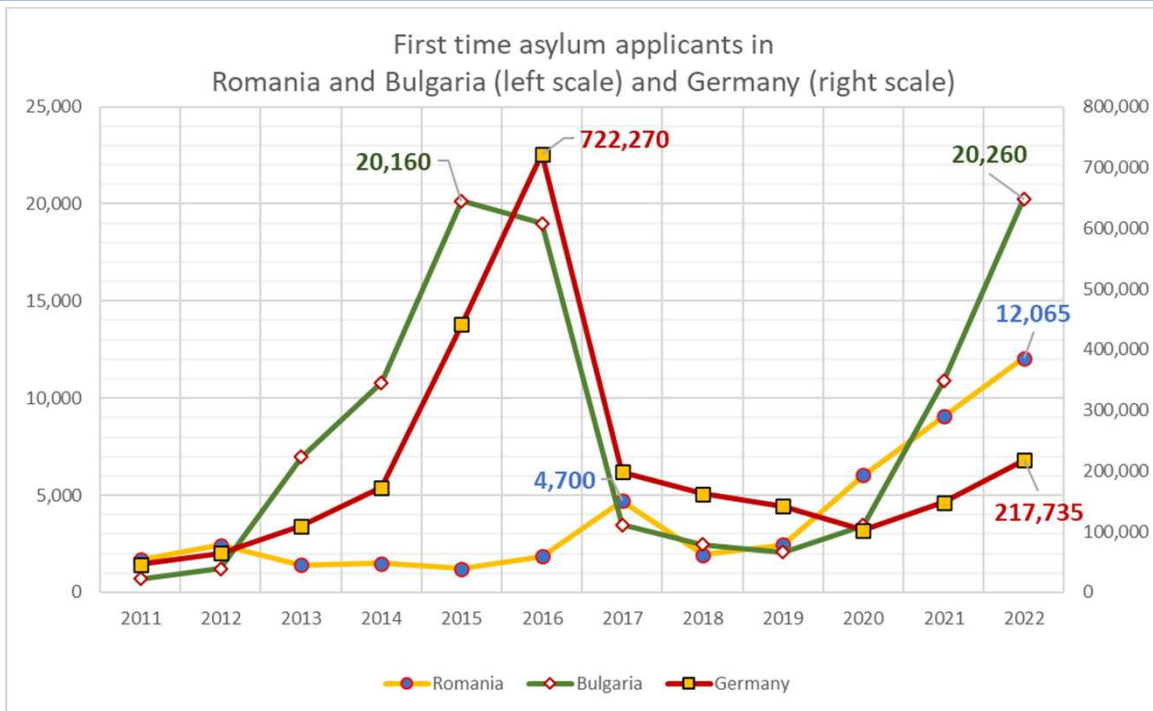
And the voting stations for parliamentary elections, although there is some bias, since there are some voting stations just in Embassies



Source: Glasuvam.org



And the voting stations for parliamentary elections, although there is some bias, since there are some voting stations just in Embassies.



First time application rate

Bulgaria 3.1  
Germany 2.6  
Romania 0.6

Source: Eurostat

The migration process includes also the asylum seekers. The trends in Germany and Bulgaria are absolutely similar, just the numbers differ significantly and Germany accepts 10 times more applications. However, if we compare 220 thousand to 83 million with 20 thousand to 6 ½ million, it seems that currently Bulgaria has even higher first application rates. Both the numbers and the rate in Romania are relatively low, but the trend show significant increase already.



### Asylum applications in 2021

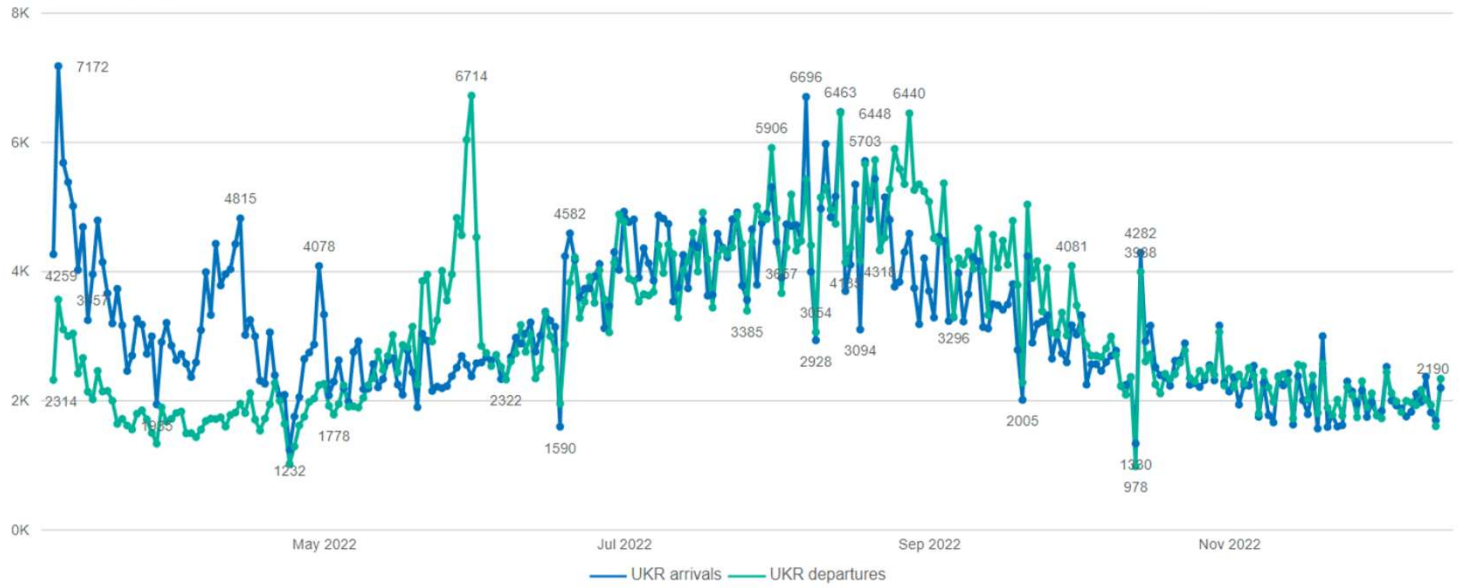
	Total	Pending at end 2021	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Rejection	Refugee rate	Sub. Prot. rate	Rejection rate
	10,999	7,556	143	1,876	1,256	4%	57%	39%
<b>Breakdown by countries of origin of the total numbers</b>								
Afghanistan	6,025	4,545	50	33	767	6%	4%	90%
<b>Syria</b>	3,758	2,368	59	1,792	21	<b>3%</b>	<b>96%</b>	1%
Iraq	479	200	13	8	146	8%	5%	87%
Morocco	206	129	0	0	88	0%	0%	100%
Pakistan	173	56	0	0	101	0%	0%	100%
<b>Stateless</b>	60	35	4	19	14	<b>15%</b>	<b>70%</b>	15%
Iran	53	44	3	8	17	11%	28%	61%
Algeria	44	27	0	0	17	0%	0%	100%
Bangladesh	32	24	0	0	9	0%	0%	100%
Tunisia	32	19	0	0	14	0%	0%	100%

Source: SAR

Bulgaria definitely treats different applicants in different manners, with regard of their country of origin. The rejection rate of the Syrian refugees is just 1%, about the stateless refugees (mainly Palestinians and ex-USSR born persons) is 15%. At the same time, all the applicants from other countries are rejected.

Arrivals / Departures

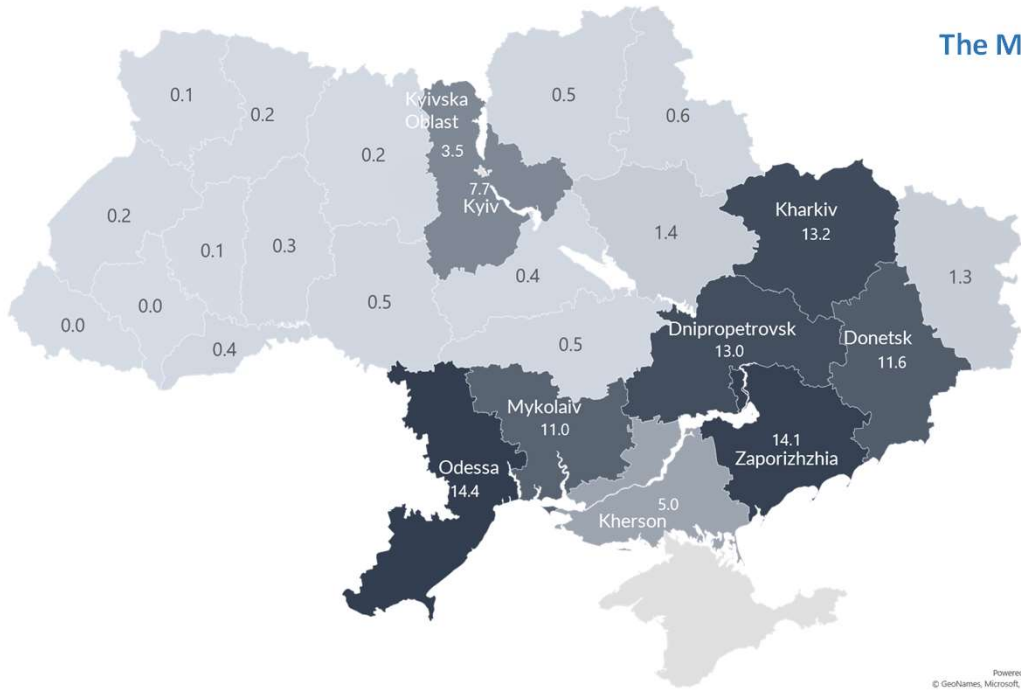
Border police data



Source: UNHCR

The Ukrainian crisis and significantly changed the migration picture both in Europe and Bulgaria. The Border police data shows the waves of in and out migration with regard of Bulgaria.

The Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment 2022 preliminary data



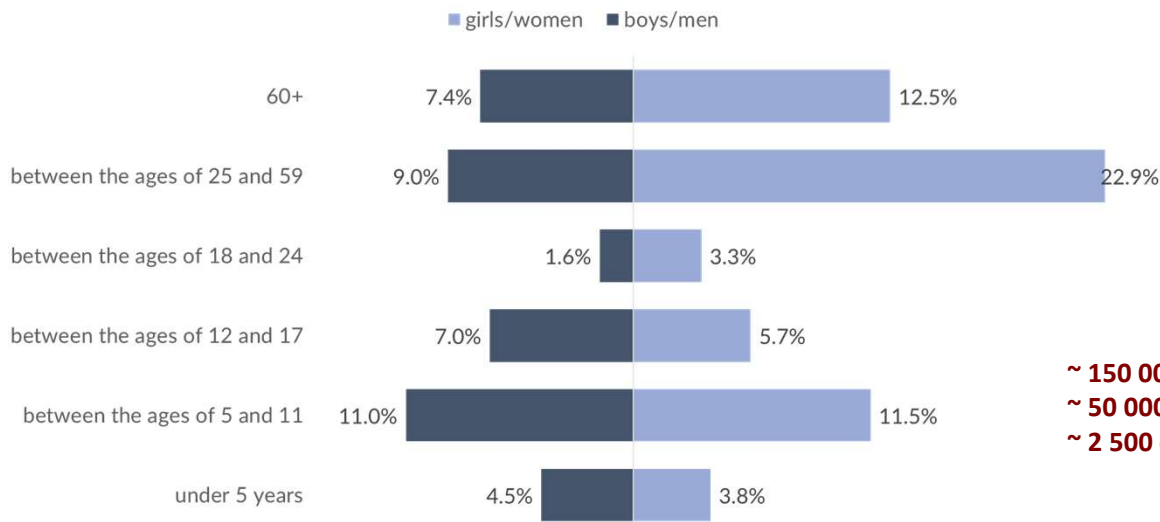
Powered by Bing © GeoNames, Microsoft, TomTom

Source: UNHCR

The UNHCR randomized survey shows the regions of origins, which coincide with the regions of the frontline.

The Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment 2022 preliminary data

Structure of population of Ukrainian refugees living in Bulgaria (percent of total population)

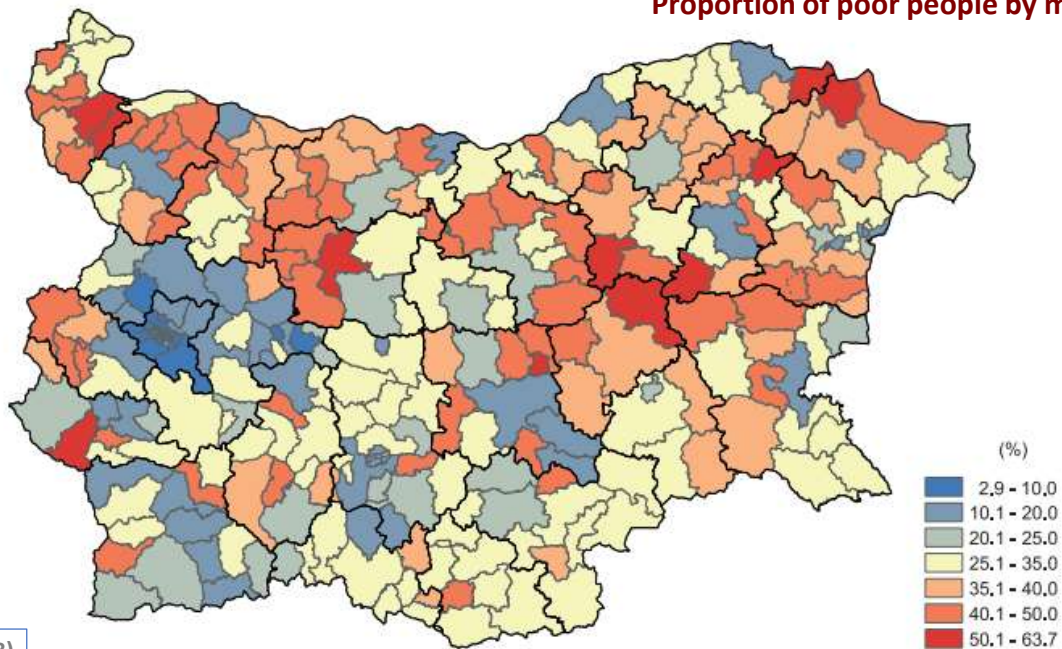


~ 150 000 temporary protection  
 ~ 50 000 settled in BG  
 ~ 2 500 children at BG schools

Source: UNHCR

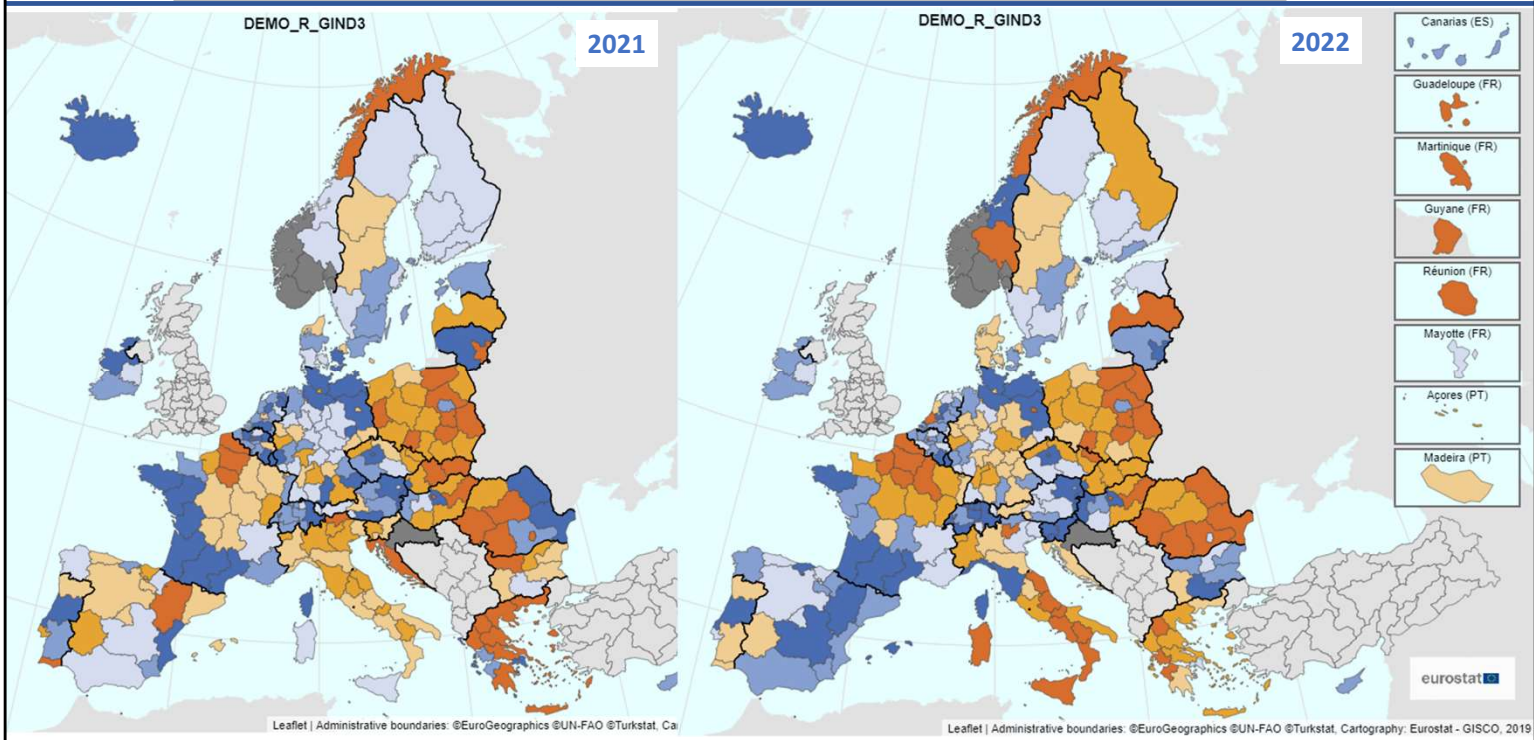
The age-gender pyramid shows that the displaced persons from Ukraine with temporary protection status are mainly women and children. A very different figure in comparison with all other immigrants in Bulgaria.

Proportion of poor people by municipality, 2011



Source: NSI (2018)

I know I am expected to give some explanations on the trends. My favorite explanation is the existence of regional disparities, regarded as inequality in income and quality of life. In the internal migration usually, the blue zones are attracting in and the red are pushing out the population. (Btw, Ukrainians also settle in the Blue zones, since there is better access to employment, education, healthcare and social services). So, people want to live better and nobody blames them about. **Ubi bene ibi patria** said the Romans. “The Home country is where one is treated well”.



However, we need to be careful, when using the data and also in our messages. The net migration rate in two consecutive years show absolutely different picture in Bulgaria, Romania and Germany. Which one to present? What the audience will take and put forward in the public policies? We just need to be aware of use and misuse of data. Of interpretation and misinterpretation of the social facts.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

Alexey Pamporov  
[apamporov@gmail.com](mailto:apamporov@gmail.com)

Thank you for your attention

# 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.

# 1. The project

ZuSudo: Concept and design

**Migrants and their families**

Who migrates, for how long, with what goal?

How are migrants and their families perceived and addressed?


Which Migrant organizations and transnational networks exist, how can they be promoted?

How are migrants and their families perceived, what measures are in place?

**Municipal actors place of arrival**

What knowledge, what contacts are there?

**Municipal actors place of origin**

 3 ZuSudo: Immigration from Southeastern Europe: Enabling participation and cohesion at the municipal level

 RUHR UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

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 locuinței și al locurilor de muncă

Nr. serie nr. Loca- litate	2.1 Unde ați locuit pentru prima dată în afară României timp de cel puțin o lună?	2.2 De când până când ați locuit acolo? luna, /anul, sau "până azi"	2.3a Care a fost primul dvs. loc de muncă la această locație? Numele societății sau activitatea profesională + telecomunic. introducere: "OB" pentru firmă loc de muncă, "H" pentru gospodărie/familie	2.3b Dacă ați avut și alte locuri de muncă în timpul acestei șederii, care au fost acestea? Se aplică "Alte locuri de muncă": - Schimbarea angajatorului - Pierderea locului de muncă (OB) - Trezirea la muncă în gospodărie/familie (H) în cazul în care Studiați și Lucrați, notați doar "studii" și angajat" și doar înrețirile 2.5, 2.6, 2.9-2.13 în caz contrar faceți o bordă între 2.1 și 2.3b.	2.4 A fost relația de muncă în baza unui contract sau informal?	2.5 Ați avut asigurare de sănătate?	2.6 Șederea dvs a fost oficială sau informală?	2.7 Au fost recunoscute calificările dvs din țara de origine?	2.8 Ați participat la orice dintre următoarele formări în această perioadă?	2.9 Care dintre următoarele afirmații despre venitul dvs. în această perioadă este adevărată?	2.10 Pentru cât timp ați planificat inițial să rămâneți în această locație?	2.11 Unde au locuit partenera/ul frați dvs în această perioadă?	2.12 Unde au locuit părinții și copiii dvs în această perioadă?	2.13 Care a fost motivul principal pentru care v-ați mutat din această locație?
1	Wings Day Ucraina	01.1995-06.1995	Muncitor șantier	1	1	?	2	5	3	3	NA	G: PO	3	
2	Roman Romania	07.1995-07.1996	OB + a construit casa proprie	NA	2	1	NA	5	NA	3	NA	G: RO =	5 construit casa	
3	Ierusalim ISRAEL	07.1996-03.1997	Muncitor șantier	1	1	2	2	5	3	3	NA	G: RO =	3	
4	Tel Aviv ISRAEL	03.1997-05.2002	Muncitor șantier	2	1	2	2	5	3	3	NA	G: RO → 201 =	5+	
5	Romania România	05.2002-07.2004	OB * căsătorit	NA	2	1	NA	5	NA	3	NA	RO	5+ căsătorit și revărs de informații în rândul prietenilor	
6	Torino Italia	07.2004-04.2017	A. Muncitor șantier 2004-2017 B. Muncitor șantier 2017	2	2	2	2	5	3	3	PK =	G: =	3	
7	Ucraina UK	06.2017-07.2021	Muncitor șantier	1	1	1	2	5	3	3	P = 1 RO	G: Torino	3	
8	Dorchester Germania	08.2021-până azi	Muncitor în abator	1	1	1	2	5	3	3	P: RO	G: Torino	15	

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

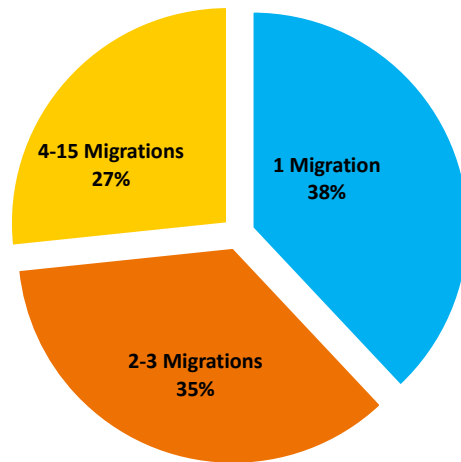
#### Recognizing mobility patterns and intentions

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.

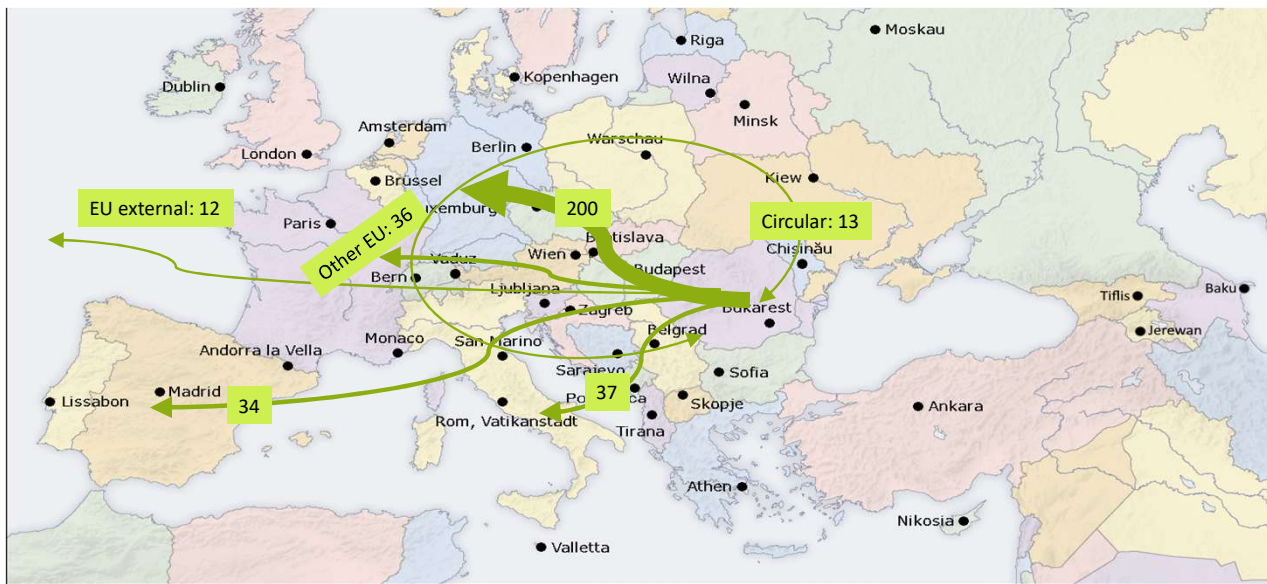
##### 4) Circular migration

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

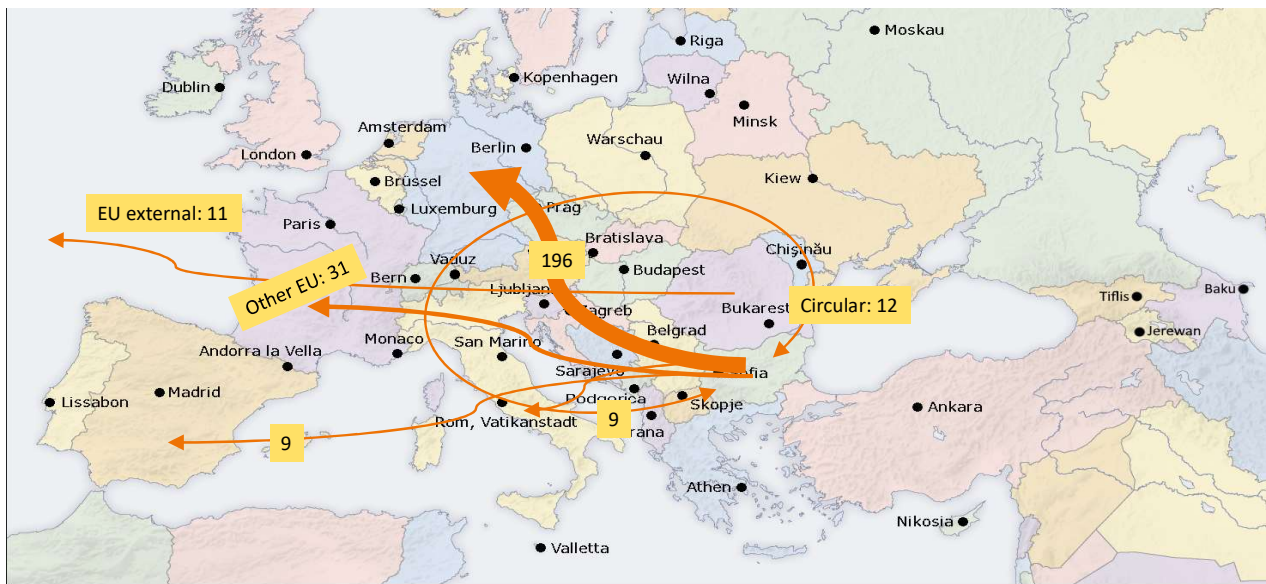
#### 1. migration from Romania/Moldova



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

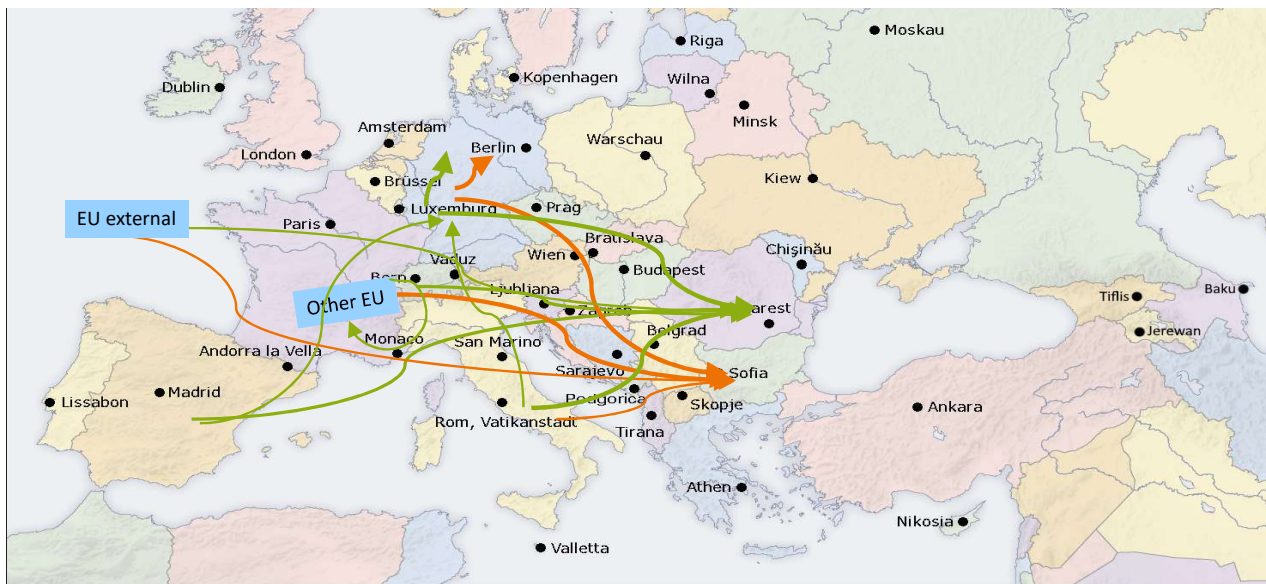
#### 1. migration from Bulgaria



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

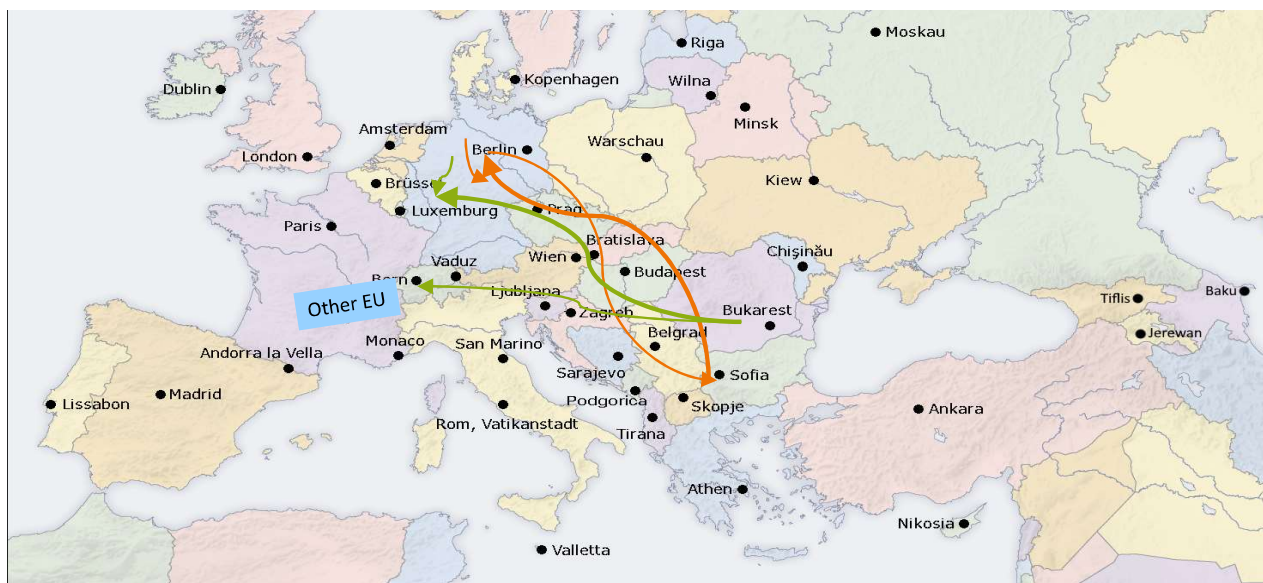
#### 2. migration



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

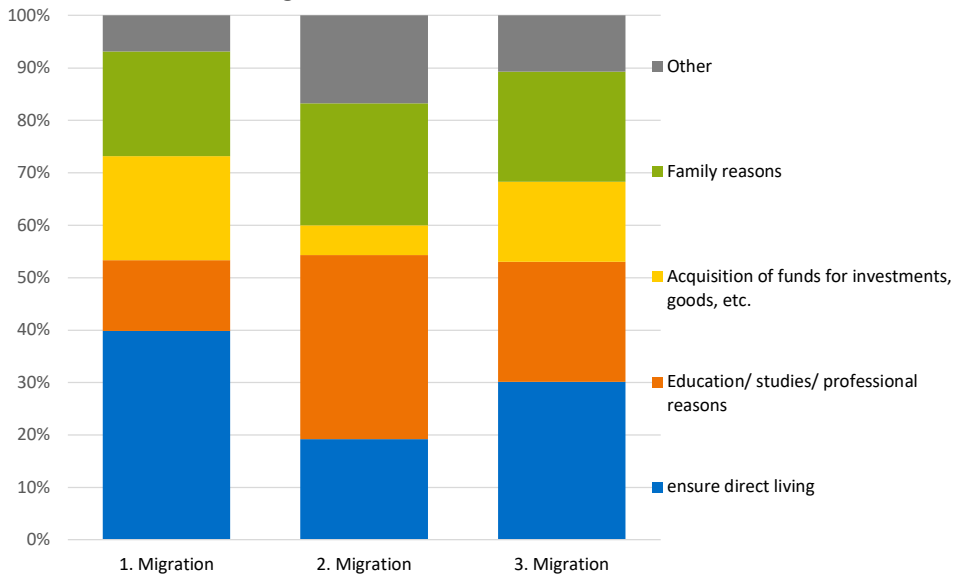
#### 3. migration



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

Migration motives



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.

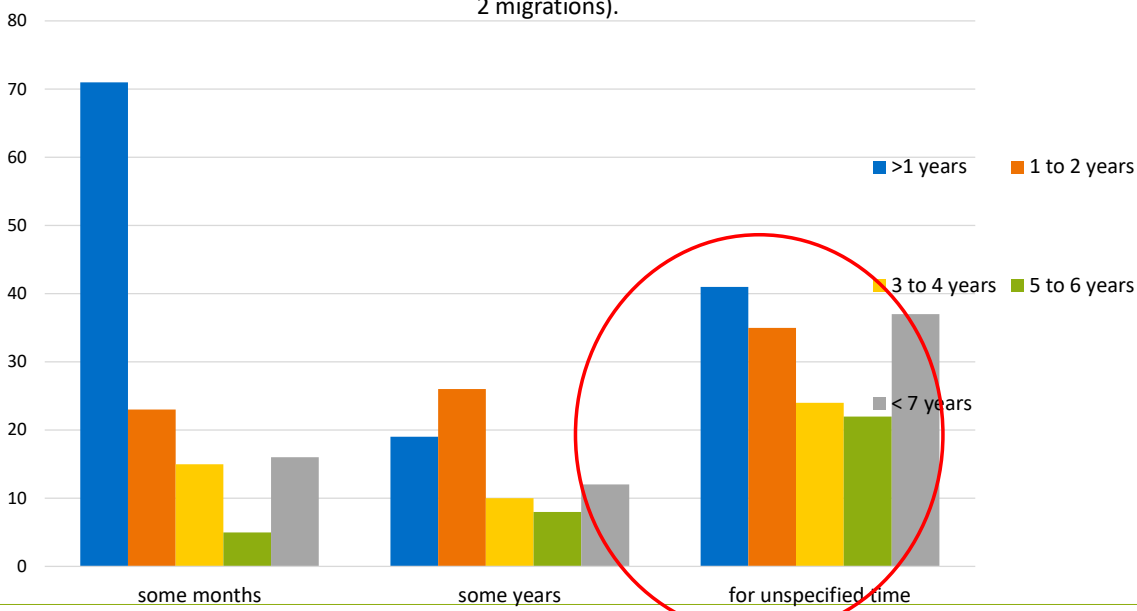
etc.

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).

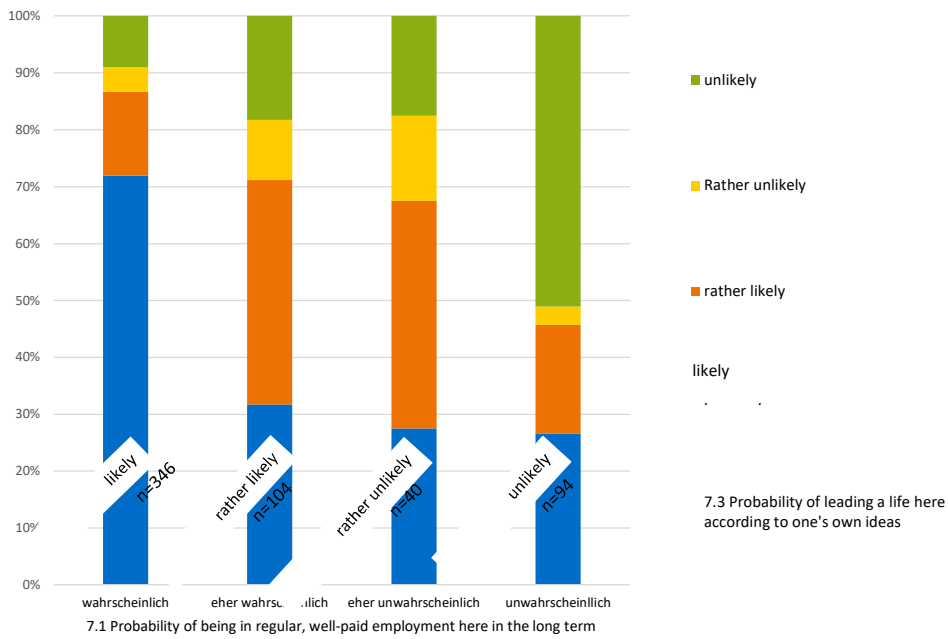
- 7.1 How likely do you think it is to have regular, well-paid employment here in the long term?
- 7.2 How likely do you think it is to have housing here in the Ruhr Area that meets your expectations within the next 3-5 years?
- 7.3 Overall, how likely do you think it is to have a life here that meets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

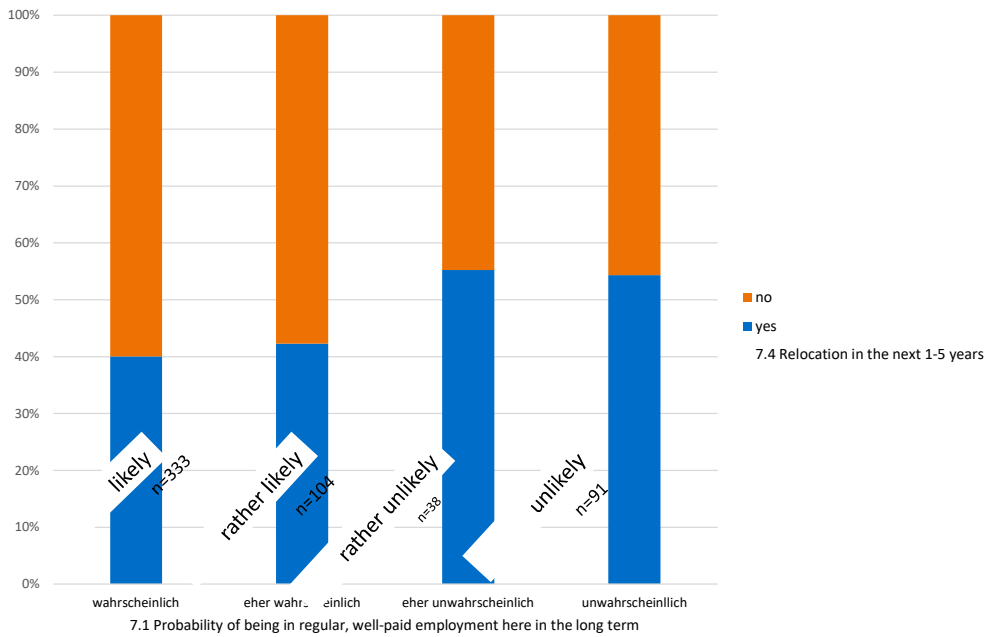
## 4. Different prospects for the future



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

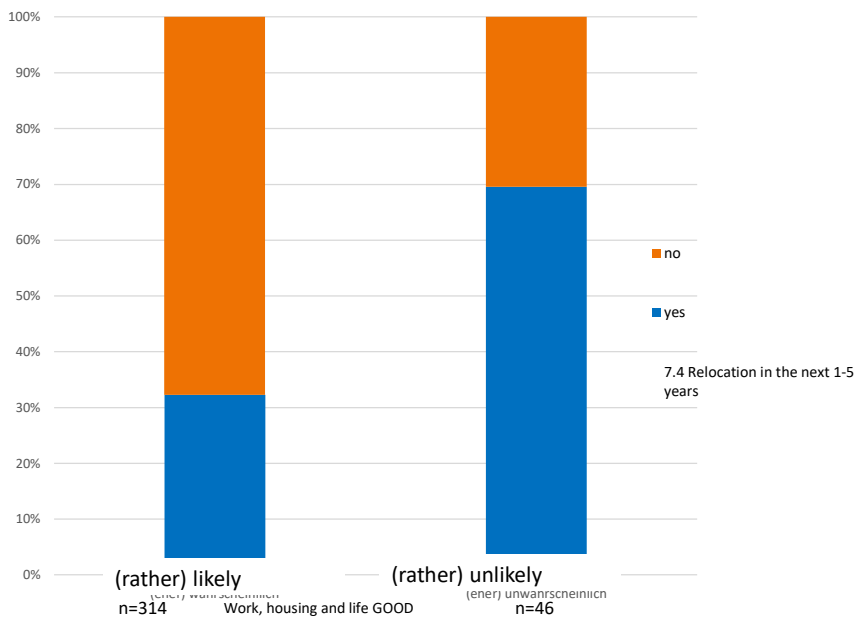


The prospect of long-term, well-paid employment in Germany reduces relocation intentions.

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

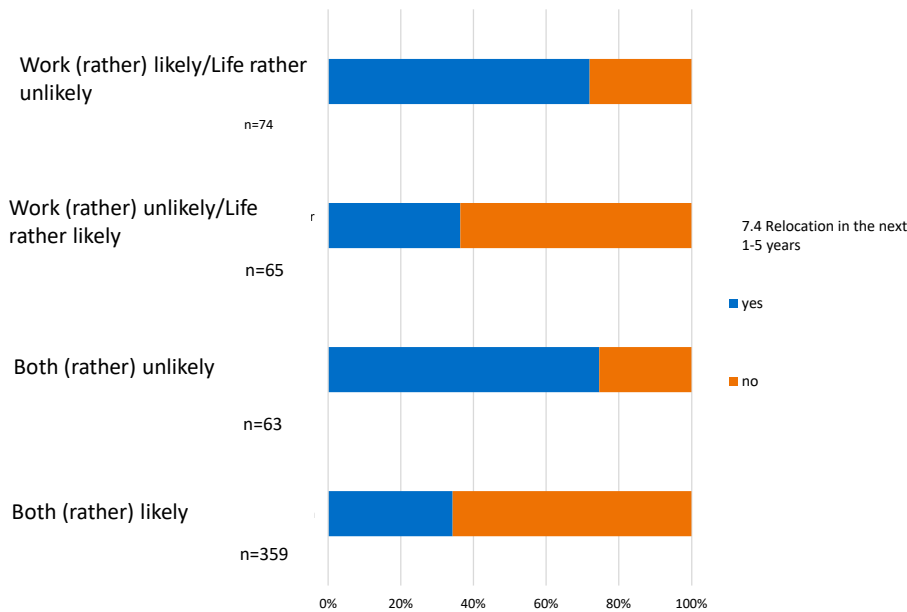


Two-thirds of those who consider their future employment, housing **and** living conditions to be good overall want to move.

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