

# Romanian and Bulgarian trajectories of migration and transnational participation vs. local policy responses in origin and arrival

RUB

20th IMISCOE Annual Conference  
3–6 July 2023, Warsaw

Christian Schramm

1. The framework - *ZuSudo* project
2. Locating the research interest
3. Conceptual frame
4. Methods
5. Results
6. Conclusions

SÜDOSTEUROPA  
STIFTUNG  
MERCATOR

# 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, Romyana Shopova, Leif Tietz**

Implementation

**Ruhr University Bochum**

Funding

**Mercator Foundation**

Duration

**April 2021 - June 2024**

Web

**eu2migraruhr.eu**

## 2. Locating the research interest

**Perceptions & practices of municipalities of arrival**  **Migrants experiences & aspirations**

- Romanian, Bulgarian migration = poverty (Roma) migration
- Migration = *immigration* with long term settlement and certain expectations of processes of *monistic assimilation*
- But Intra-European Migration is diverse, complex and dynamic (Scholten 2019, Engbersen 2017, Reeger 2018, Snel/van Ostajen/ 't Hart 2019, Mooyaart/ de Valk 2021)

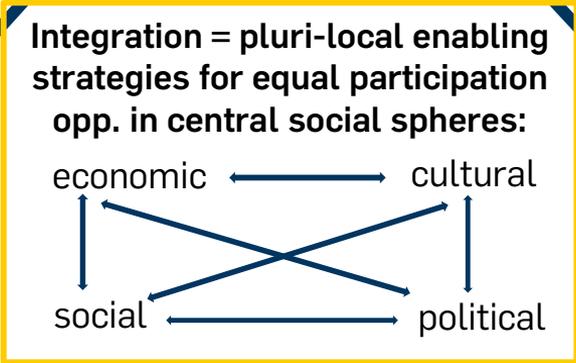
**„Participation (integration) is negotiated locally in municipalities of arrival“**  **Biographic experiences and present transnational life references, e.g. in municipalities of origin**

- The importance of previous experiences & perceptions of opportunities of participation in different locations
- It matters also how municipalities of origin regard migrants and their families, in general what importance does migration have (Anghel/Fauser/Boccagni 2019; Ulceluse 2020)

### 3. Conceptual frame: Units of analysis & reference

- 1. Longitudinal perspective
- 2. Symbolic interactionist perspective
- 3. Transnational perspective

Migration as social practice in daily life worlds; migration events as „objective“ social situations, handled through „subjective“ patterns of perception, orientation and action



Biographical orientations and structures of daily life worlds, opp. for participation in origin (labour market, political etc.) & other places, future aspirations

Role of familial and ethnic-cultural networks, role of mediators (formal/informal)

(precarious) labour market participation, mistrust towards authorities, unions;

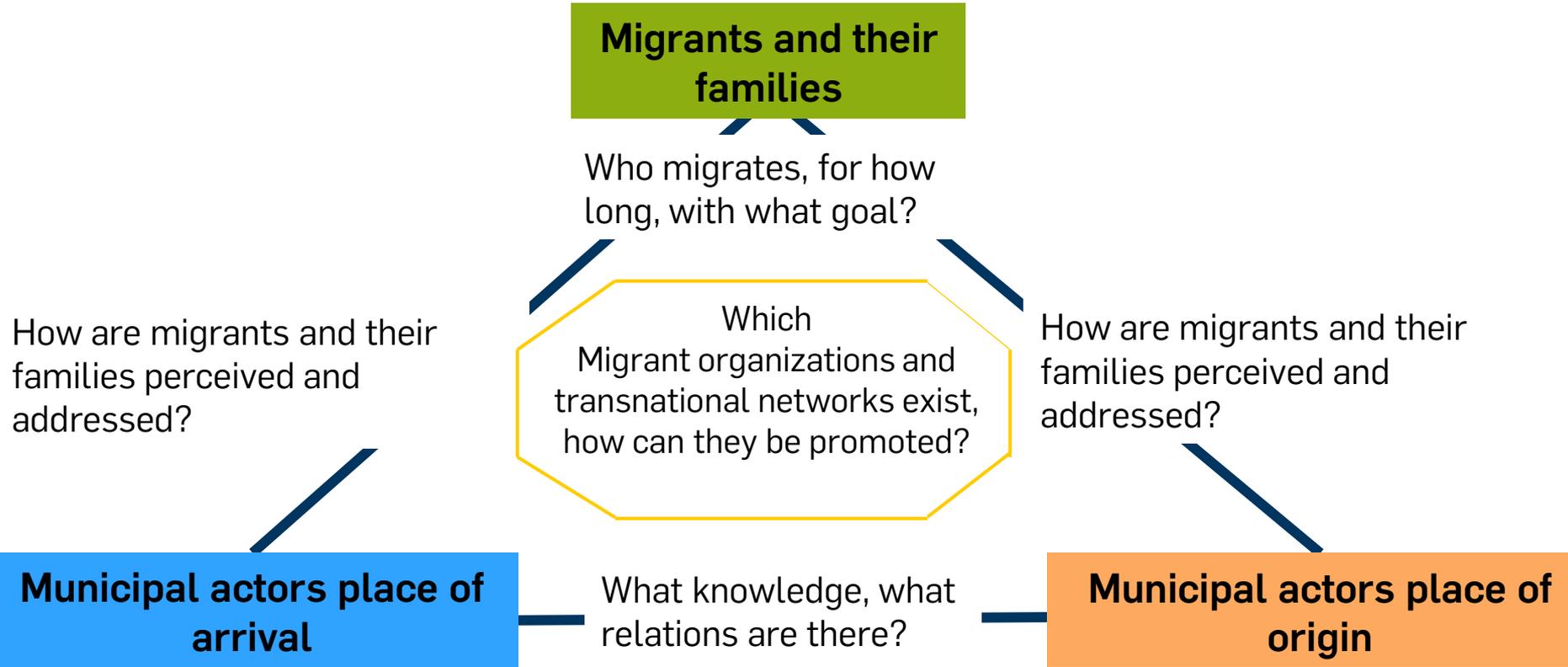
Municipal perceptions and practices regarding integration

Regulatory efforts of national, state, local actors (e.g. unions, ministries of labours, municip.)

Municipal perceptions and practices in origin

t

### 3. Conceptual frame: Empirical units



## 4. Methods

### Mixed Methods

- **60 Expert interviews** with representatives of municipalities and (migrant) organizations **in 6 cities in the German Ruhr Area & in the most relevant regions of origin**
- **600 standardized interviews** with migrants (500) and returnees (100) + qualitative interviews (Germany, Romania & Bulgaria)
  - **Migration, work and family trajectories**, current evaluation of possibilities of participation and mobility aspirations
  - Sampling quotas: **sex** 50/50; **education** 20% low/60% medium/20% high; **diverse field entrances**; ~ 60 to 80 interviews in each municipality

### Action orientation

- Focus on interaction and benefits for migrants and professionals in the municipalities: <https://eu2migraruhr.eu/>

# 5.1 Results: Perceptions & practices of municipalities of arrival

Ruhr Area in Germany as region of arrival and Romania/Bulgaria as countries of origin

## Roma migrants overwhelm Duisburg

Since Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU in 2007, an increasing number of poverty-stricken Roma have come from these countries to Germany. The city of Duisburg is struggling to deal with them, and residents are annoyed.



Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/roma-migrants-overwhelm-duisburg/a-17052814>

From a dominant focus on public order, control, driving out and ad hoc measures to tackle existential crises, towards the creation of a differentiated landscape of integration measures

Specific configurations of governmental and non-governmental organisations (!) and individuals who often are tasked to do both, exercise control (residence, public order, social benefits) and offer support (Bogumil et al. 2023, Ratzmann 2022, Kolb 2023)

Previous migration experiences, transnational daily life references or future aspirations are often not perceived -> *migration = immigration*

## 5.2 Results: Perceptions & practices of municipalities of origin

### International exchange: contrasting interests between municip. of arrival & origin

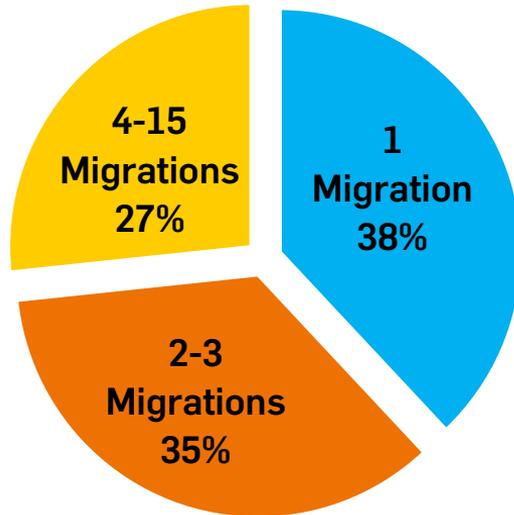
Municipalities of arrival	Municipalities of origin
Better general understanding of context conditions in origin (education, health, work, specific on Roma populations)	More knowledge about migrants experiences and return intentions, needs of returnees like: how to access social benefits after return?
What are the typical reasons for leaving the country? What are the prospects for staying in origin?	What are the German municipalities doing to attract migrants?
Contribute to adjust expectations before migration, to prepare migration better	How can we manage integration of new migrants from Asia?

*„We don't hide information from them [before they leave], we just don't give them“*

*„When they come here, we are not able to keep up with all the demands they have, canalisations, roads etc.“*

## 5.3 Results: Migrants experiences – mobility patterns

Number of migration events in the life course

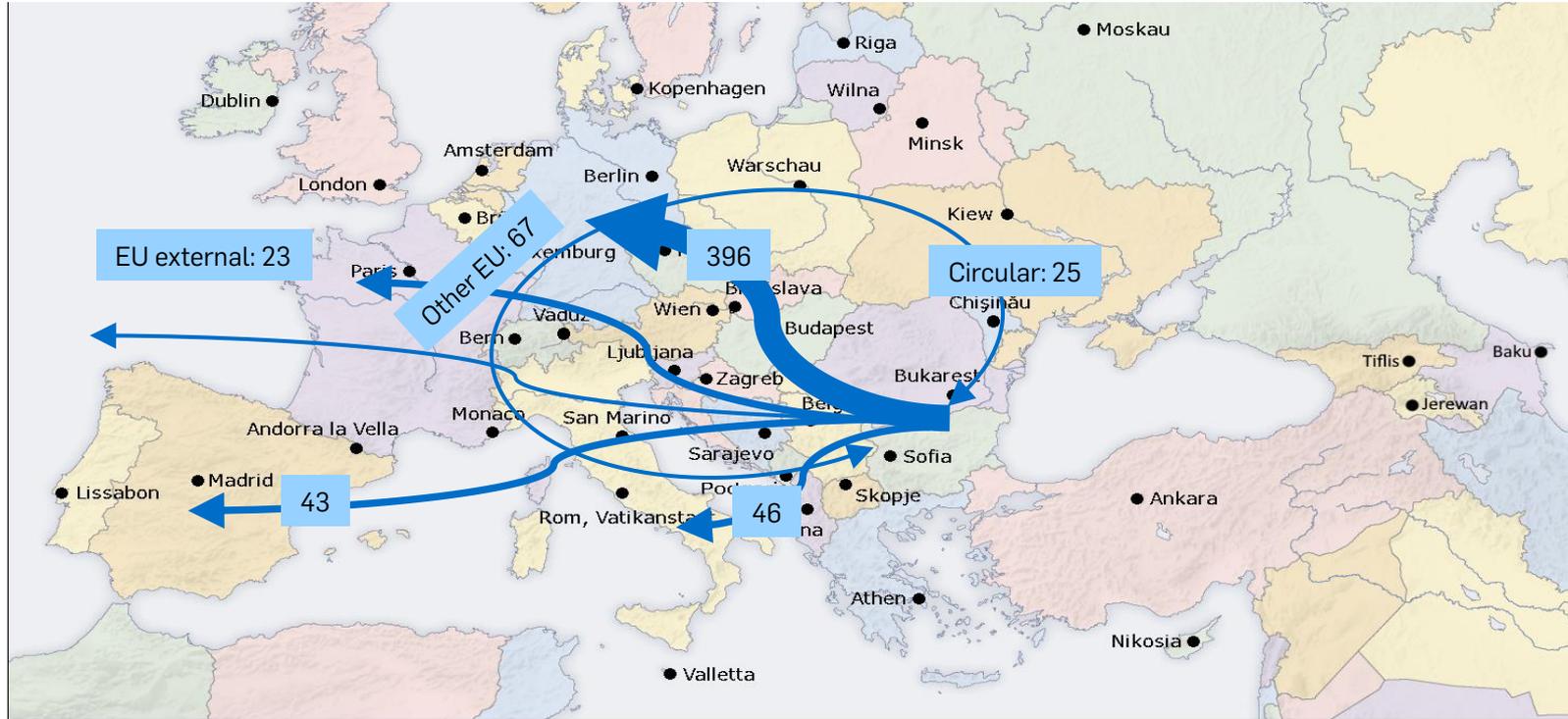


**33 Countries of arrival**

- 21 EU
- 12 EU-External

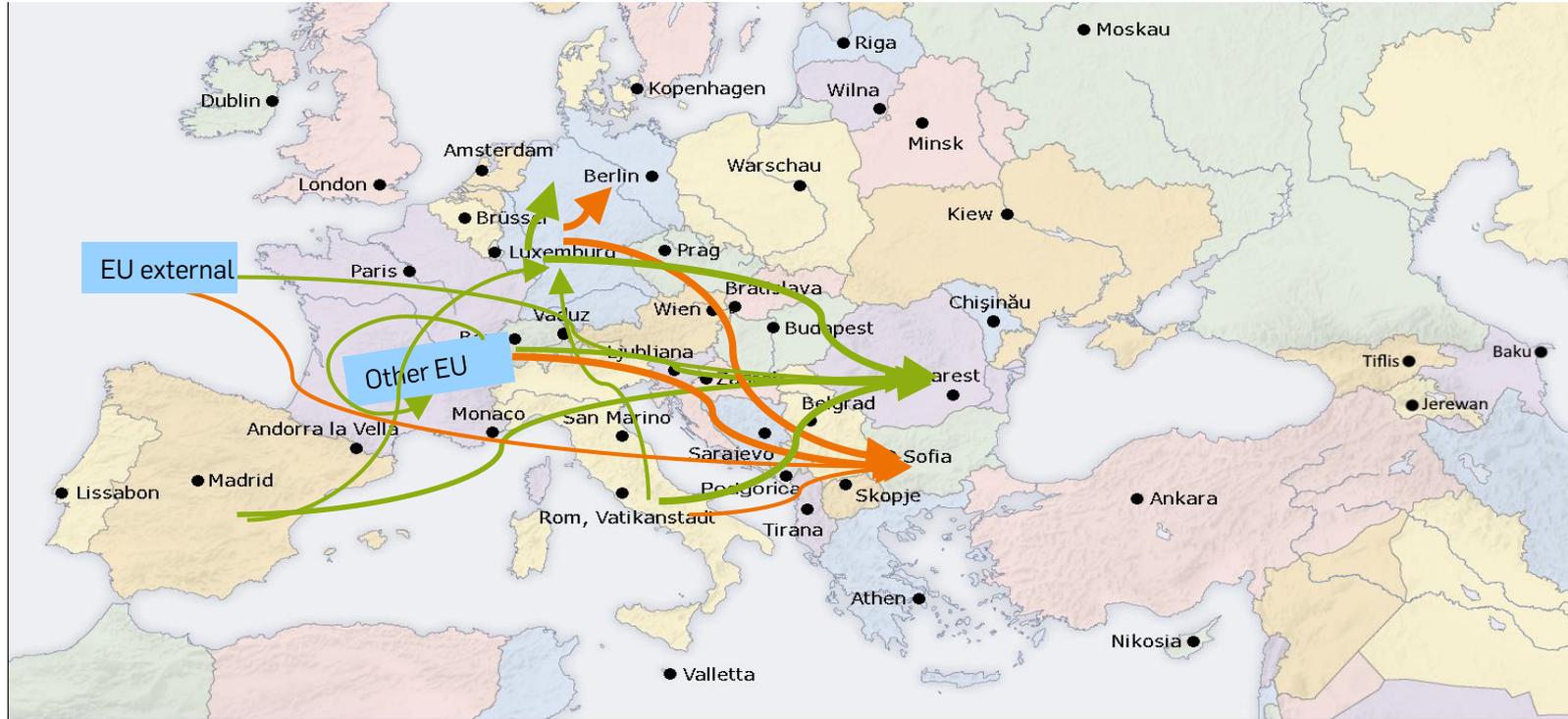
# 5.3 Results: Migrants experiences – mobility patterns

## 1. migration from Romania/Moldova & Bulgaria



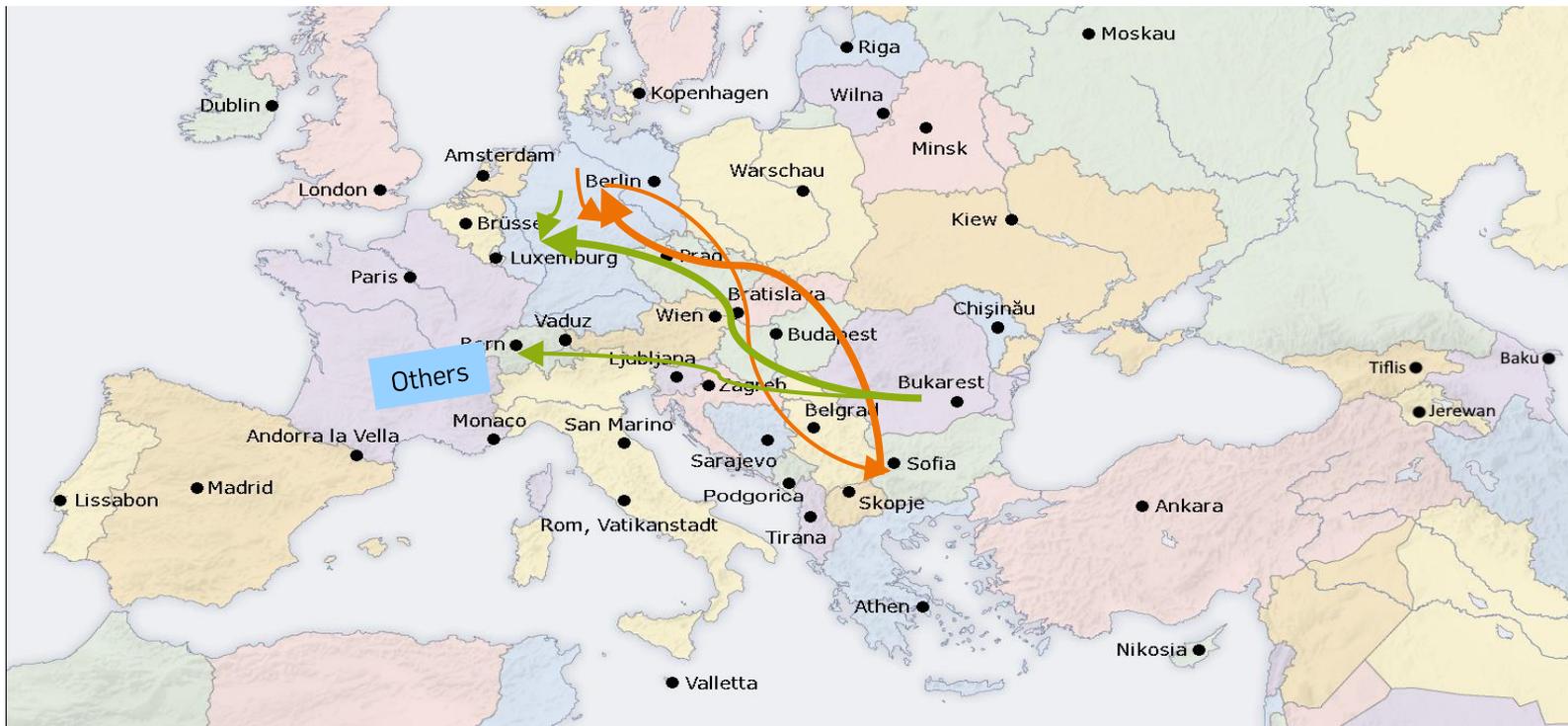
# 5.3 Results: Migrants experiences – mobility patterns

## 2. migration

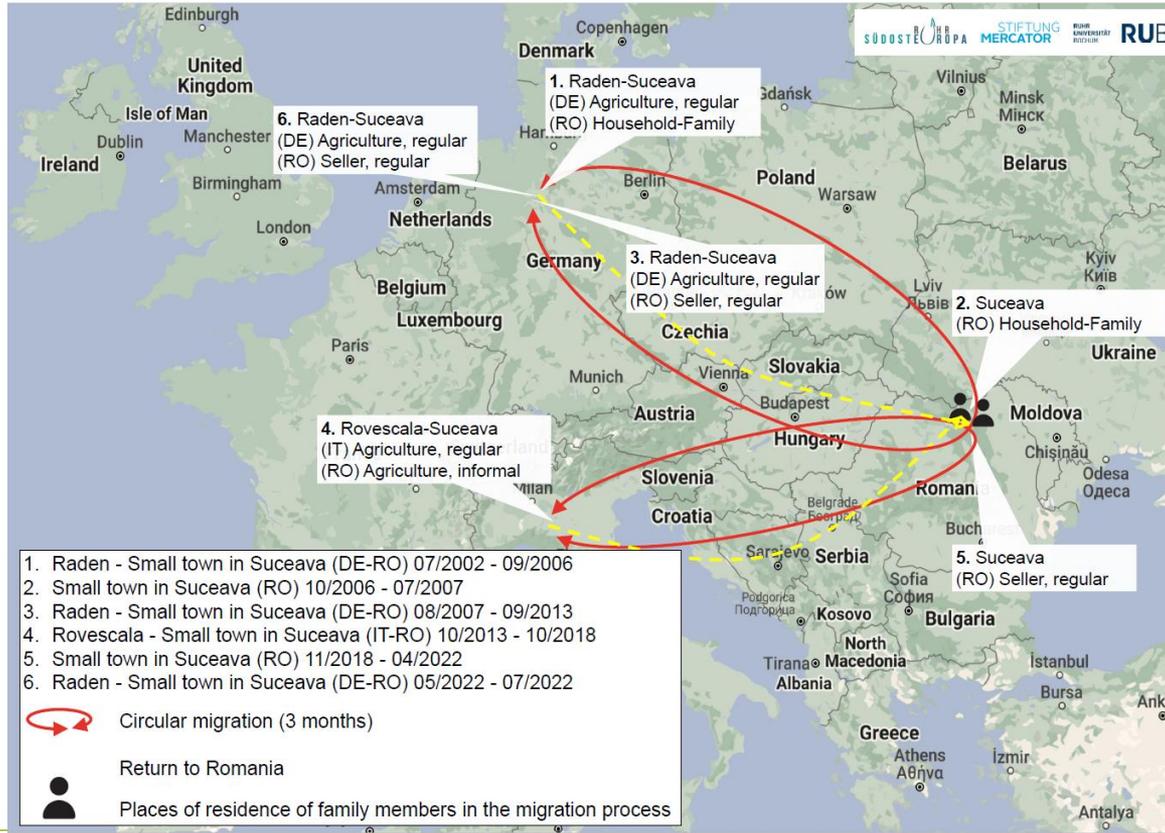


# 5.3 Results: Migrants experiences – mobility patterns

## 3. migration

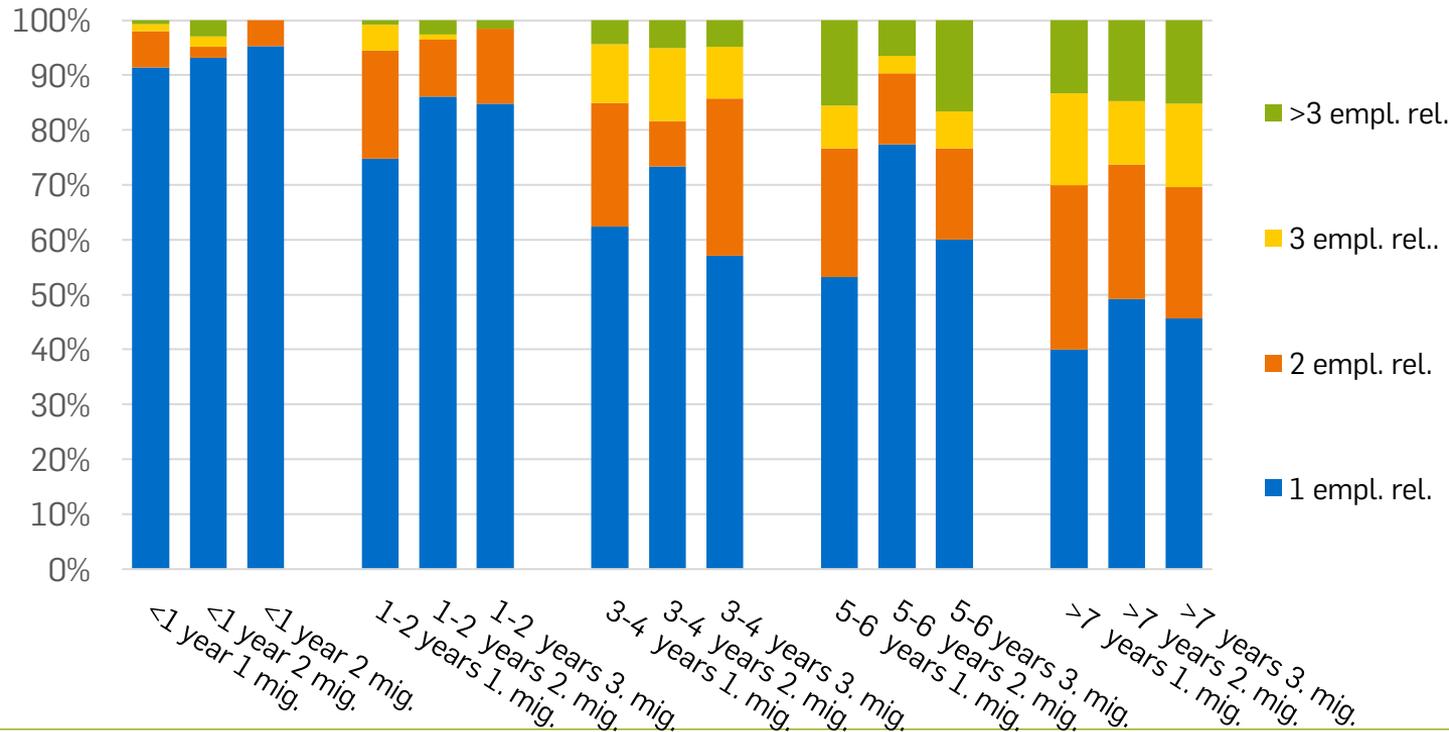


## 5.3 Results: Migration types



# 5.3 Results: Migrants experiences – work trajectories

Duration first 3 migrations & number of different employment relationships



The longer the stay, the more frequently employment relationships are changed

(for each p=99,99% sign.)

# 5.3 Results: Migrants experiences – mobility patterns

## Not one mobility pattern, but four 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

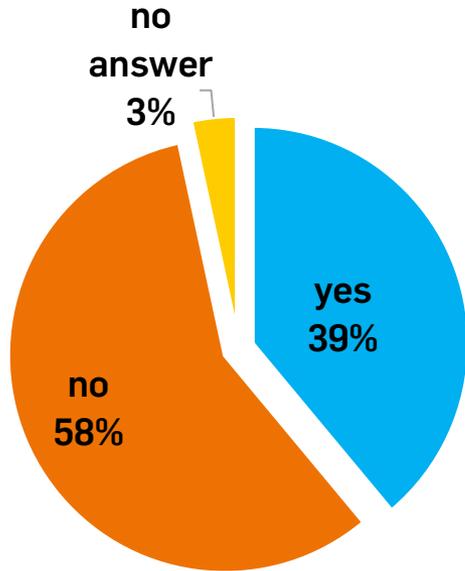
Centres of life in different places and countries, no clear arrival/return strategy, successive-iterative migration.

### 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 (see Pries 2004)

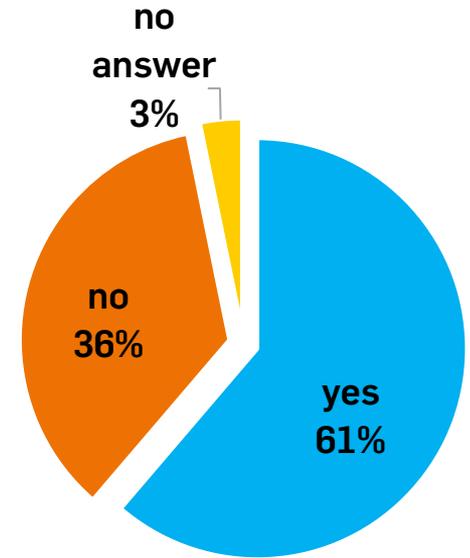
## 5.3 Results: Migration aspirations

Do you think it is likely that you will move again in the next 1-5 years? (n=501, without returnees)



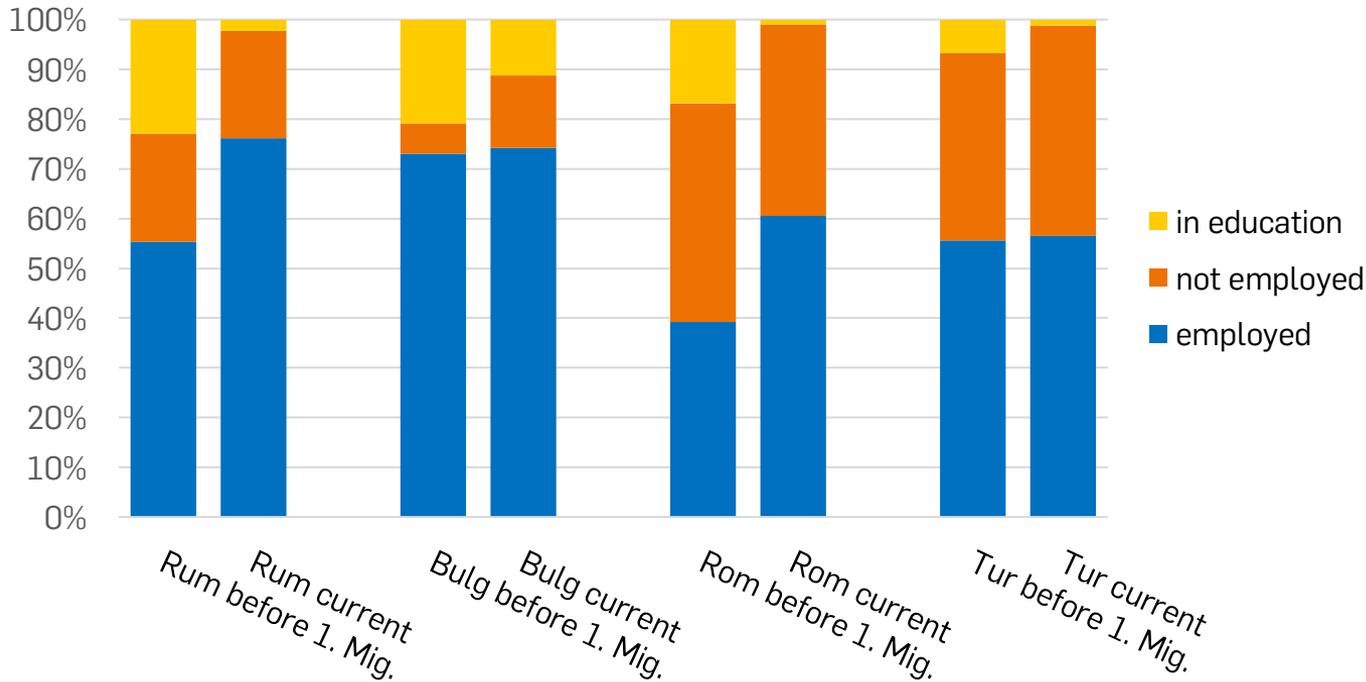
30% have children or partner in other countries  
70% have parents or siblings in other countries  
55% send remittances  
64% do visits at least once a year in other countries  
40% own real estate in origin  
50% have participated in elections in origin in the last years

Do you think it is likely that you will move again in the next 1-5 years? (n=93, only returnees RO/BG)



## 5.4 Results: More differentiations

Language groups and Employment status before first migration and at the moment of the interview



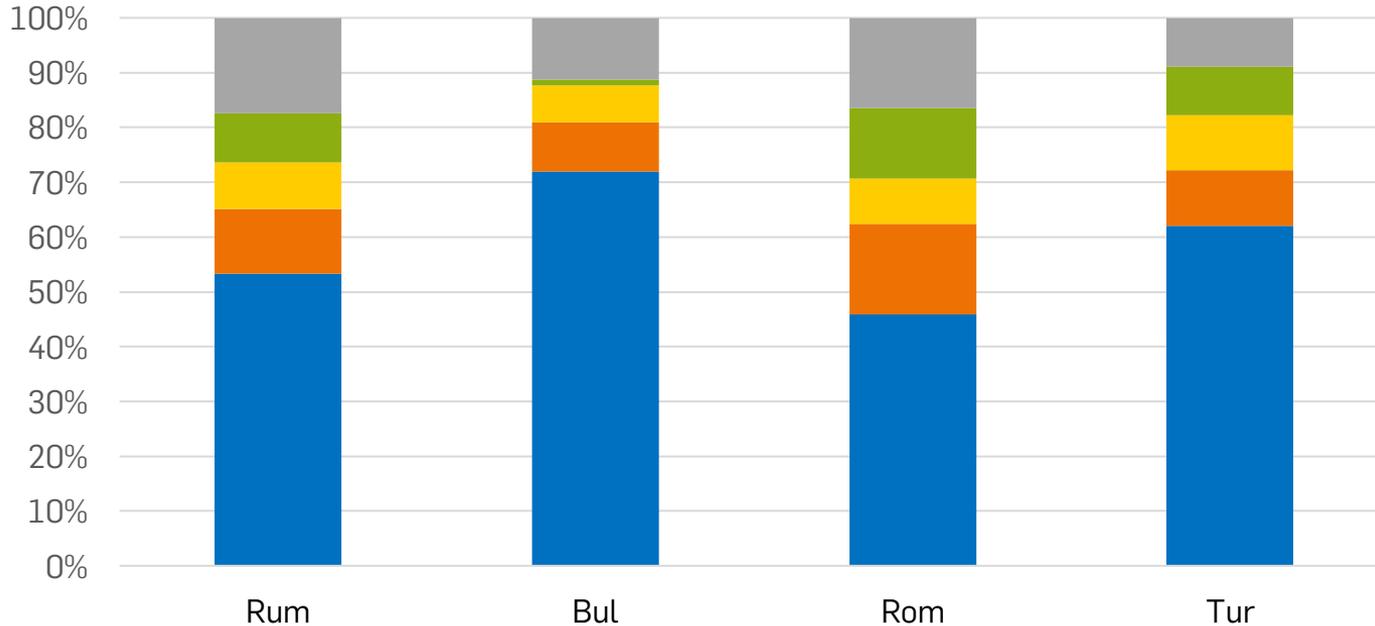
Big differences in labour market participation between language groups RO/BG and Rom/Tur.

Romanian and Romanes speaking could improve their labour market participation, while Turkish and Bulgarian speaking could not.

(for each  $p=99,99\%$  sign.)

## 5.4 Results: More differentiations

Desired support in life areas



Work/training/language is most important for all, spec. for Bulgarian and Turkish speakers

For Bulgarian speakers housing is less problematic

Romanes speakers wish for more support in housing and education of children

■ Work/training (incl. Language) ■ education of children ■ health ■ housing ■ in none

(p=99,97% sign.)

## 6. Conclusions

1. Participation is being negotiated pluri-locally, in origin, arrival and other places; how exactly depends also on the type of migration. Academia should explain this better to the relevant actors (and propose measures e.g. common projects on language training in origin).
2. Migration is diverse (different subgroups affected by social inequalities but also with different resources), complex (types, regions/durations) and dynamic (openness, changes over time). The configurations of actors in receiving and sending municipalities who engage with migration/participation are also different (e.g. role of civil society organisations) and complex.
3. We need adequate resources and procedures to introduce this complexity to migrants and to other relevant actors in origin and arrival, i.a.w. to foster mutual understanding, recognition & cooperation (remember the triangle..).

# Thank you!

[christian.schramm@rub.de](mailto:christian.schramm@rub.de)

[www.sowi.rub/pries](http://www.sowi.rub/pries)

<https://eu2migraruhr.eu/international-conference-in-timisoara-23-25-may-2023/>

[\(https://eu2migraruhr.eu/internationaler-austausch-in-timisoara-rumanien-mai-2023/\)](https://eu2migraruhr.eu/internationaler-austausch-in-timisoara-rumanien-mai-2023/)

# Literature

- Reeger, Ursula (2018). Consequences of Intra-European Movement for CEE Migrants in European Urban Regions. In: Scholten, Peter/ van Ostaijen, Mark, Eds. (2018): *Between Mobility and Migration. The Multi-Level Governance of Intra European Movement*. IMISCOE Research Series. Cham: Springer, pp. 45-62.
- Snel, Erik/ van Ostaijen, Mark/ 't Hart, Margrieha (2019). Rotterdam as a Case of Complexity Reduction: Migration from Central and Eastern European Countries. In: Scholten, Peter/ Crul, Maurice/ van de Laar, Paul, Eds., *Coming to Terms with Superdiversity. The Case of Rotterdam*. IMISCOE Research Series. Cham: Springer, pp. 153-172.
- Gabriel Anghel, Remus/Fauser, Margit /Boccagni Paolo, Eds. (2019). *Transnational Return and Social Change. Hierarchies, Identities and Ideas*. New York: Anthem Press.
- Ulceluse, Magdalena (2020). Local government responses to emigration: The case of Bosanci, Romania. In: *Migration Policy Practice. A Bimonthly Journal for and by Polymakers Worldwide*. Vol. X, Nr. 3, pp. 9-11.
- Mooyaart Jarl.E./ de Valk Helga A.G. (2021): *Intra-EU migration 2010-2020*. QuantMig Project Deliverable D4.2. Hg. v. Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI-KNAW)/University of Groningen. The Hague.
- Scholten, Peter (2019): *Mainstreaming versus alienation: conceptualising the role of complexity in migration and diversity policymaking*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.
- Ratzmann, Nora (2022): "We Treat Everyone the Same". Formal and Informal Expressions of Institutional Discrimination Against Intra-EU Migrant Citizens in German Job Centres. Hg. v. DeZIM Institut (DeZIM Research Notes, 13|22).
- Loschert, Franziska/ Kolb, Holger/ Schork, Franziska (2023): *Prekäre Beschäftigung – prekäre Teilhabe. Ausländische Arbeitskräfte im deutschen Niedriglohnssektor*. Hg. v. Sachverständigenrat für Integration und Migration (SVR). Berlin (SVR-Studie, 2023-1).
- Bogumil, Jörg/ Kuhlmann, Sabine/ Hafner, Jonas/ Kastilan, André/ Oehlert, Franziska/ Reusch, Marie C. (2023): *Lokales Integrationsmanagement in Deutschland, Schweden und Frankreich. Verwaltung und Koordination im Mehrebenensystem*. Baden-Baden: Nomos.
- Pries, Ludger (2004): *Determining the Causes and Durability of Transnational Labour Migration between Mexico and the United States: Some Empirical Findings*. *International Migration* Vol. 42, Nr..2
- Pries, Ludger. (2021): *Verstehende Kooperation. Herausforderungen für Soziologie und Evolutionsforschung im Anthropozän*. Frankfurt am Main/ New York