

# EUMAGINE

*Imagining Europe  
from the Outside*

Newsletter

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## EUMAGINE's recent project activities

The **quantitative data collection** was done through a survey which was administered in face-to-face interviews to 8,000 persons, 500 in each of the 16 research areas, and took place simultaneously in the 4 countries. The questionnaire had been translated into (and back-translated from) a variety of local languages: Turkish, Kurdish, Russian, Ukrainian, Wolof, Peul, Arabic and evidently French. The biggest challenge proved to be the development of a common sampling strategy applicable in both densely populated urban areas with very small nuclear families (e.g. 2 to 3 person households in Kiev, Ukraine) as well as sparsely populated rural areas with very large households (e.g. 30 to 50 person households in Orkadiéré and Darou Mousty in Senegal).

The **qualitative data collection** was done in two stages: the semi-structured interviewing of 320 informants (20 in each of the 16 research areas) and the structured interviewing of resource persons at migration NGOs, civil society organizations and the embassies of the major immigration countries (8 to 9 institutions in each research country). The challenge here was the transcription into French and English of the interviews and their coding into a list of pre-established themes.



Hein de Haas (IMI, Oxford), Iryna Lapshyna (CSR, Ukraine), Evelyn Ersanilli (IMI, Oxford)

## 3rd Consortium meeting, Oxford, 23-24 June 2011

EUMAGINE's 3rd consortium meeting focused mainly on the preliminary survey results, the conceptualization and actual planning of the two phases of the qualitative data collection process, and the drawing up of a concrete dissemination programme and activities in terms of joint publications and presentations at international forums of the project results. In addition, it was decided to add to the project an additional Consortium meeting in Rabat in April, which will deal exclusively with data analysis strategies and methods in preparation for the within and across countries reports due by Autumn 2012.

**Project summary:** *EUMAGINE examines how people's perceptions on democracy and human rights – in relation to their regions and countries of origin as well as places abroad – affect their perceptions on and attitudes to migration. In addition, it investigates how perceptions on human rights and democracy interact with other determinants of migration aspirations, to what extent migration is perceived as a valuable life project, and how potential migrants compare Europe to other migration destinations. The project encompasses Morocco, Senegal, Turkey and Ukraine as research countries and within each country, four research areas have been identified: 1) an area that is characterized by high emigration rates; 2) a second, comparable socio-economic area with low emigration; 3) a comparable area with a strong immigration history; and 4) a location with a specific human rights situation.*



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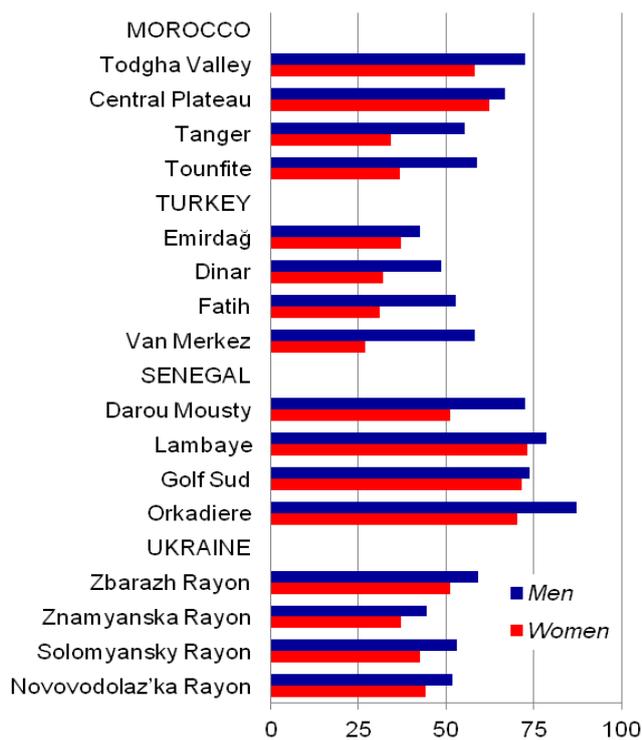
## A few preliminary research results

In the wake of the trainings on **qualitative data** collection techniques that took place in September in Istanbul and in October 2011 in Rabat (see photo), the EUMAGINE teams went into their respective four research areas to locate 20 informants of differing gender, ages, professional occupations and educational background and having a variety of migration experiences and different migration aspirations. Following the collection of interview data from a total of 320 semi-structured interviews among the populations of the 16 Research Areas, which were all tape-recorded and transcribed into English or French, the UA team visited each of the 4 countries for a workshop on NVivo coding techniques in January and February 2012 and with a particular focus on a common interpretation of the themes in the EUMAGINE 'codebook' on which the data are coded. Project Paper 8 with the first qualitative data analysis results from interviews with (prospective) migrants comes out in May 2012. The 2nd phase of the qualitative data collection involves unravelling perceptions and beliefs by other relevant actors in the sending countries, such as foreign embassies, notably visa departments of main destination countries, national governmental departments that deal with emigration issues, and civil society organisations (NGOs), who deal with emigration matters or the human rights situation in the respective country. The interviews with these actors include their views of the country's human rights situation, the beliefs, attitudes and practices of their clients (the emigrants) and the media discourses on emigration, with the aim of studying how other relevant actors in the field of migration perceive the (prospective) emigrants' perceptions. The interviews are currently ongoing, and the report of the analysis of qualitative data on human rights and democracy NGOs and organizations is expected to be ready in April 2012.



Aysen Ustubici (Koç U.) and Yuriy Bilan (CSR) in a role-play at the Istanbul workshop in September 2011

*"Ideally, if you had the opportunity, would you like to go abroad to live or work some time during the next five years, or would you prefer staying in [this country]?"  
(Proportion who would like to go abroad)*



The **quantitative data** processing stage combining the 8,000 person survey results into one project wide database with cleaned and evenly weighed data proved to be very challenging because of the great variety in country specifics yet the process is nearing its end and Project Paper 7 with the preliminary results will be ready and posted on the EUMAGINE website at the end of May. This figure is based on non-processed, unweighted survey data and needs to be read with the necessary reservations. The numbers nevertheless give some idea of the differences between the four countries with regard to migration aspirations. On the whole, migration aspirations seem to be highest in research areas in Senegal, followed by Morocco. In all 16 research areas, migration aspirations are more prevalent among men than among women. However, every country also has regions where the gender difference in migration aspirations is minimal.

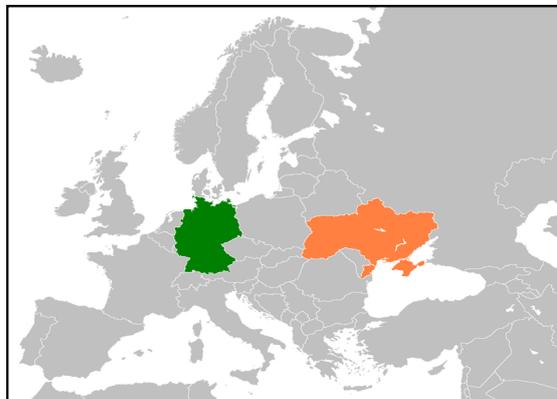
The principles underlying the subsequent **extensive and in-depth analyses** at research area and country level (Project papers 9 to 12) and cross-country level (Project Paper 13) will be debated and decided upon at the 4th Consortium meeting in Rabat in April 2012.

## Some unexpected fieldwork experiences

The fieldwork stage of the EUMAGINE project (March 2011-February 2012) yielded not only a wealth of information on the topic of the research questions, yet it also provided some amazing experiences for the project's field researchers in their interactions with the local populations.

### From Ukraine: close, closer, not so close ...

Medicine and Aviation – these are probably the most prestigious fields of study in all times. The national institutes for Aviation and Medicine in Kyiv are known to have large numbers of foreigners among their students. It was interesting to find out what motivated foreign students to come to Ukraine to seek education there. Students from the National Aviation University who talked to the researcher originated from countries such as Tunis, Nigeria, India and Sri Lanka. It appears that until their arrival to Ukraine at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester they were sure they were going to study in the EU; their disappointment proved overwhelming and at the same time embarrassing. A student of the medical university coming from Saudi Arabia explains to the researcher that : “ You know, the manager who presented Ukraine and in particular the National Aviation University was very convincing and kept repeating the words “European country” . In my understanding European country means nothing else but the EU member state. To prove his point, this person who presented the university projected the map in such a way that Ukraine appeared part of the EU. He stressed



*the tiny geographical distance between Ukraine and Germany. On the map they used, the distance was really insignificant, as far as I recall. That's why I had no doubt whatsoever that I was coming to the EU.”* Unsurprisingly, these students seek opportunities to get out of Ukraine and continue their education (using their own words) in the “real” EU. So far however, only one student from Tunis was lucky enough to enroll at a university in Japan and will be leaving next summer.

*Yulia Borshchevska (CSR, Ukraine)*

### From Senegal: the unforeseen pleasures of sampling



Mame Yassine Sarr (UCAD, Senegal), explaining the « random walk » sampling strategy in the sand to one of the village elders in Darou Mousty.

Over the years, the Senegal river valley has acquired a notoriety for being the most over-researched area in the country on the topic of international migration. The result of years of survey upon survey by national and international researchers is that the “Valley people” have suffered an overdose of attention and have become less and less eager to be submitted to yet another batch of indiscreet questions in spite of their widely known reputation of hospitality towards visitors from anywhere in the world. And yet, the EUMAGINE team shouldn't have worried about finding 500 respondents willing to undergo their list of questions. Why ? It appeared that some weeks before our arrival, a research team studying maternal health problems in the area had come up with the idea of handing out no less than 25,000 FCFA every three months to each household that had accepted to be included in their survey. Thus, it was quite a sight to see entire families throw themselves at the feet of the

EUMAGINE research team in the hope of being surveyed. Little did they know that our project has a very strict sampling strategy designed to select households as randomly as possible. And so when passing by yet another compound, we were quite touched to see people at their front door, virtually begging us: “Why did you skip our house?”, “Please, here you are welcomed with open arms and we will offer you food”, and “Have mercy, please come to our house!”

*Papa Demba Fall (UCAD, Senegal)*



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## Dissemination activities 2011

- 21-22 July 2010, Helene De Clerck (UA), "*Imagining Europe from the outside*": A presentation of the EUMAGINE project , International Summer School, Erasmus Intensive Programme, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- 21-22 October 2010, Christiane Timmerman (UA), "*Europe seen from the outside: Theoretical and conceptual framework*", Strangeness and Familiarity; Global Unity and Diversity in Human Rights and Democracy conference organized by University of Groningen, Netherlands.
- 13-15 April 2011, Helene De Clerck (UA), "*Sub-Saharan African 'transit' migration in the Mediterranean*", The Euro-Mediterranean Forum for Young Researchers , Istanbul, Turkey.
- 16 May 2011, Hein de Haas (IMI), "*Global Values in a Changing World – Synergy of State and Society within a Globalized World*", Society for International Development, Amsterdam.
- 1 June 2011, Roos Willems (UA), "*Europe seen from the outside: the EUMAGINE project*", Workshop in International Migration co-organized by Rotterdam University and Antwerp University, Antwerp, Belgium.
- 8-10 June 2011, Hein de Haas (IMI), "*The migration and development pendulum: A critical view on research and policy*", Migration and Development: State of the art and ways ahead, University of Trento, Italy, SMMS Centre (Migration scenarios and social change) and Training Centre for International Co-operation, Trento, Italy.
- 17-22 July 2011, Evelyn Ersanilli (IMI), "*Survey translation in countries with multiple and non-standardised languages*", 4th European Survey Research Association Conference, Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 31 August - 2 September 2011, Jørgen Carling (PRIO), Hein de Haas & Evelyn Ersanilli (IMI), "*Imagining a better life in Europe? The relation between migration aspirations and perceptions of life at home and abroad*", Royal Geographical Society – IBG Annual International Conference, London.
- 9 September 2011, Bastian Vollmer (COMPAS), "*The EUMAGINE project and the case of Ukraine*", IMISCOE Eight Annual Conference: Dynamics of European Migration Space: Economy, Politics and Development, Warschau.
- 14 September 2011, Hein de Haas (IMI), "*The Effects of Large-Scale Emigration on Homelands*", International Metropolis Conference, Ponta Delgada, Azores.
- 23 September 2011, Helene De Clerck (UA), "*Perceptions, aspirations and decisions on the borders of Europe. The case of Senegalese immigrants in Istanbul*", Workshop African migrants in Istanbul, Galatasaray University Social Research Ctr, Istanbul.
- 29-30 September 2011, Hein de Haas (IMI), "*Strategic Workshop 'New approaches for researching the determinants of migration processes*", European Science Foundation (ESF) and Oxford Martin School, Oxford.
- 29-30 September, 2011, Evelyn Ersanilli (IMI), "*Methodological issues and empirical research design for multimethod migration research*", European Science Foundation (ESF) and Oxford Martin School, Oxford.
- 16-20 November 2011, Christiane Timmerman and Roos Willems (UA), "*Capturing Diversity : Migration perceptions and aspirations among migrants, non-migrants and potential migrants in Turkey, Ukraine, Senegal and Morocco*", Annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association , Montreal.

## Upcoming events 2012-13

**April** 4th Consortium meeting in Rabat, Morocco focusing on analysis strategies and methods

**June** Project Papers 7 "Survey results and descriptive statistics" & 8 "First qualitative data analysis"

**July** Within Country Reports Morocco, Senegal, Ukraine and Turkey (Project Papers 9-12)

**Aug -Jan** EUMAGINE Policy briefs (incl. Sept/Turkey; Oct/Ukraine; Nov/Morocco; Dec/Senegal)

**September** Project Paper 13 "Cross country analysis results and theoretical conclusions"

**October** 5th Consortium meeting in Antwerp, Belgium focusing on policy reflections and observations

**November** Project Paper 14 "Policy Recommendations"

**January 2013** EUMAGINE Round up meeting in Antwerp and Brussels

The project's website address is: [www.eumagine.org](http://www.eumagine.org). General enquiries about the project may be directed to the project manager Roos Willems at the University of Antwerp (Belgium), Email : [roos.willems@ua.ac.be](mailto:roos.willems@ua.ac.be)