



Project Paper 14: Eumagine final report with policy considerations

Responsible
institution:

UA

Authors:

Hemmerechts, Kenneth

De Clerck, Helene Marie-Lou

Willems, Roos

Timmerman, Christiane



University
of Antwerp
Belgium



International
Migration
Institute,
University
of Oxford
United
Kingdom



Centre on
Migration, Policy
and Society,
University
of Oxford
United
Kingdom



Peace Research
Institute Oslo
Norway



Koç University
Turkey



Université
Mohammed V
Agdal
Morocco



Centre of
Sociological
Research
Ukraine



Université
Cheikh Anta
Diop de Dakar
Senegal



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Introduction

The development and creation of migration policies while maintaining and reinforcing a competitive economy has become an important political issue for governments in Europe (Project Paper 1, 2).

Attempts to migrate to Europe are preceded by migration aspirations. Migration aspirations may be linked with specific perceptions on democracy related issues & human rights in Europe and in the own country (Carling, 2002). With this, we mean corruption, safety and security, freedom of expression, cultural freedom, job opportunities, social security and quality of health care/schools (Project Paper 6A: 5-6). Knowledge on these perceptions and aspirations, their possible link and determinants may therefore be a necessary condition for an informed migration policy in Europe. Although the study of these perceptions and aspirations to migrate of persons in migration areas are emphasized in the literature as desiderata for research, it remains understudied (see Pang, 2007; Theo, 2003). The EU funded FP7 project 'Eumagine: Imagining Europe from the outside' contributes to the study of perceptions of non-European migrants and non-migrants on human rights and democracy in the own country and Europe and migration aspirations and decisions on the other hand. How persons from outside Europe perceive their own country and Europe and how these perceptions are possibly related to migration aspirations and decisions were addressed in this project.

We contextualized the aspiration and decision to migrate. Three levels of explanation were distinguished in this project: the macro, meso and micro level (see figure one). On the macro level, there is the social, political and economic context of a country. On the meso level, local and transnational networks, organizations, local cultures are relevant to investigate (Liang 2006: 490). The emigration environment as such is also important to research. Persons in an emigration environment have specific perceptions of human rights and democracy related issues. On the micro level, we may emphasize characteristics such as gender, age, marital status and educational attainment. Feedback mechanisms of migration and / or migration attempts between the country of destination and country of origin may impact on migration perceptions and/or aspirations (for example negative information on Europe by migrants in the family may have a negative effect on future migration). Elements on the macro level, meso level and micro level interact to form perceptions and migration aspirations.

Perceptions of the own country and Europe and migration aspirations and decisions are formed in the country of residence from a multitude of national and/or international information sources (Anderson, Regan, & Ostergard, 2002). Two types of perceptions of Europe are studied in this project: "*migratory imaginations*" and "*geographical imaginations*". The first concept refers to what Mai called a "migratory project" or migration perceived as a life project by the possible migrant (Mai 2004, 4). This viewpoint of the possible migrant is ultimately related to a multitude of information sources which are available to him/her. It is therefore embedded in a specific social and cultural context: the so called "emigration environment". These imaginations include for example ideas on the life of persons in Europe. "Geographical imaginations" refer to ideas of persons about geographical locations and their inhabitants (for example about Europe) (Saïd 1978; Gregory 1994; Timmerman 2000, 2006a, 2006b, 2008).

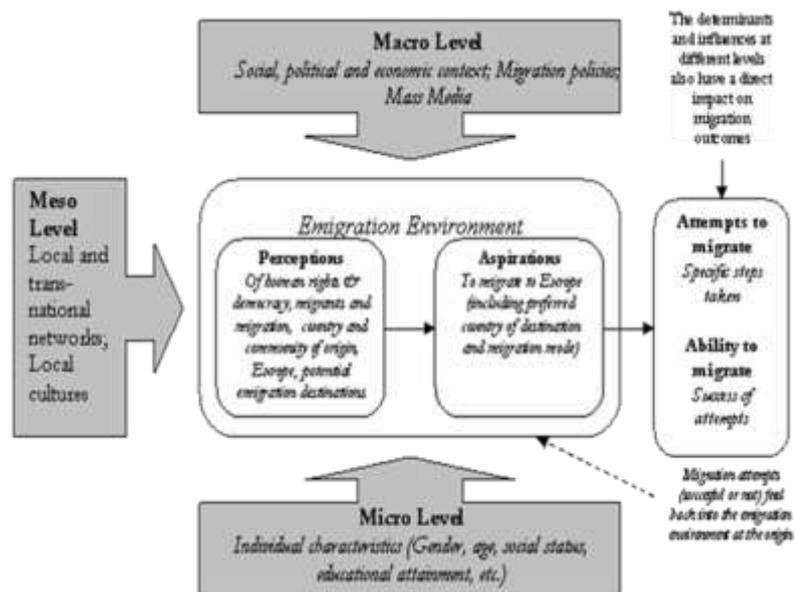


Figure one: Conceptual framework of the EUMAGINE project

In this project, we define human rights in a broad way. This broad definition of human rights can be linked to Berlin’s concept of positive liberty: the possibility or the fact of acting in such a way as to take control on one’s life and realize one’s fundamental purposes (De Haas & Ersanilli, 2010: 9-10). This concept focuses on the agency of individuals and groups to change their life circumstances and to escape from disadvantaged positions. The concept embodies the notion that the absence of external constraint (negative liberty) is not a sufficient condition for people to improve their wellbeing. For instance, a given state might be formally democratic and there might be an absence of political persecutions, but illiterate and poor people generally lack the capabilities and resources to make use of such liberties. This concept of human rights comes closer to the universal declaration of human rights and notions of “empowerment” in development theory.

We argue in this project that it may be important for an informed migration policy in Europe to have knowledge on (determinants of) migration aspirations, perceptions of human rights & democracy related issues in Europe and the own country. Consequently, the project has four research questions (see Project Paper 1, 14):

- 1) *How are human rights and democracy related perceptions in migrant sending countries constructed?*
- 2) *How are perceptions on human rights, democracy, migration and possible destination countries affected by various factors?*
- 3) *How do perceptions on human rights and democracy and ‘geographical imaginations’ relate to migration aspirations and migration?*
- 4) *How to develop a better informed migration policy, taking into account human rights and democracy as important migration determinants?”*

The research was organized in a consortium with the following partners:

- University of Antwerp (UA), Belgium - Coordinator

- Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- International Migration Institute (IMI), University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Norway
- Koc University, Turkey
- Université Mohamed V – Agdal (UMVA), Morocco
- Centre of Sociological research (CSR), Ukraine
- Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), Senegal

Methodology

In order to answer our research questions, the project included a case study approach with a quantitative and qualitative subpart (Project Paper 1, 18). The goal is threefold: firstly, we wanted to compare different local contexts. Secondly, we wanted to study how perceptions of the own country and Europe are created and thirdly to investigate their possible relation with migration aspirations and decisions more closely.

The project included four countries that are known to be important emigration countries to European countries: Morocco, Turkey, Senegal and Ukraine (Project Paper 1, 18). These countries are also known to have a specific human rights and democracy situation. The selected countries are different but also similar on certain social, political, migratory and economic issues.¹ Geographically, all countries border on the European Union with the exception of Senegal which is nonetheless a transit route from West Africa to Europe. Regarding the population size and surface area, Senegal is the smallest country with nearly 12 million persons dispersed around nearly 200,000 kilometers square. Turkey is the most populated and the most urbanized country followed by Ukraine, Morocco and Senegal. Based on the latest population growth rates pertaining to 2009 and 2010, Senegal is the country with the highest population growth rate with 2.7% while the population of Ukraine has decreased by -4.2%. The most densely populated country is Turkey followed by Ukraine, Senegal and Morocco. A closer glance at the available socio-economic variables of the countries reveals the discrepancy among the income levels of the countries. GDI per capita is highest in Turkey whereas it is lowest in Senegal. Based on the country classifications of the World Bank, Turkey and Ukraine are upper middle income countries; Morocco is a lower middle income country and Senegal is a low income country. Unemployment rates are high for all these countries (above 9% in Morocco and Ukraine, 11% in Senegal and 14% in Turkey). A high degree of informal employment is very common in Senegal and Morocco and to a lesser extent in Turkey. As regard to human development, Turkey is a high human development country, whereas Ukraine and Morocco are medium human development countries and Senegal is a low human development country. Parallel with this, infant mortality rate and total illiteracy rate are highest in Senegal, followed by Morocco, Turkey and Ukraine. The discrepancy between male/female literacy rates is a common characteristic of Senegal, Morocco and Turkey while Ukraine has close to full literacy for both men and women. The four countries reflect similar trends concerning international migration in the sense that they are becoming hubs for immigration and transit migration, while emigration continues. Europe has

¹ The following information on the selected countries was taken from the executive summary of our country and research area project papers (see Eumagine Working Package 2: 4-13).

been a major destination for emigrants from Turkey and Morocco, whereas Senegalese emigration is more dispersed and the major destinations are African, European, North and South African countries. Emigration from Ukraine is directed primarily to Russia followed by Germany, Czech Republic and Southern European countries such as Italy, Spain and Portugal. Except Turkey, where the data are not available, all three countries have negative net migration rates, and remittances constitute a significant share of the GDP. Remittances are most prominent in Senegal, followed by Morocco and Ukraine. In Turkey, the share of remittances to GDP is only 0.15%.

In order to guarantee insight into the diversity of perceptions, aspirations and motivations within each country, four research locations were located: 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. These 16 “cases-within-cases” were carefully selected, based on the information provided by our partners from Morocco, Senegal, Turkey and Ukraine. The following research areas were selected: in Morocco: Todgha Valley, Central Plateau, Tanger and Tounfite. In Turkey: Emirdag, Dinar, Fatih and Van Merkez. In Senegal: Darou Mousty, Lambaye, Golf Sud and Orkadiere. In Ukraine: Zbarazh Rayon, Znamyanska Rayon, Solomyanska Rayon and Novovodolaz’ka Rayon (see table one) (see Project Paper 4, 31-47; Project Paper 5, 40-54; Project Paper 2, 34-47; Project Paper 3, 37-55). Todgha Valley, Emirdag, Darou Mousty and Zbarazh Rayon are the high emigration areas. Central Plateau, Dinar, Lambaye and Znamyanska Rayon are low emigration areas in their country. Tanger, Fatih, Golf Sud and Solomyanska Rayon are areas with extensive immigration history. Tounfite, Van Merkez, Orkadiere, Novovodolaz’ka Rayon are areas with specific human rights issues such as human rights violations, corruption and crime (Project Paper 6A, 36).

Table one: selected areas for each selected country according to region type

	Morocco	Turkey	Senegal	Ukraine
High emigration	11 (Todgha Valley)	21 (Emirdağ)	31 (Darou Mousty)	41 (Zbarazh Rayon)
Low emigration	12 (Central Plateau)	22 (Dinar)	32 (Lambaye)	42 (Znamyanska Rayon)
Immigration	13 (Tanger)	23 (Fatih)	33 (Golf Sud)	43 (Solomyansky Rayon)
Human rights	14 (Tounfite)	24 (Van Merkez)	34 (Orkadiere)	44 (Novovodolaz’ka Rayon)

Source: Project Paper 6A, 36.

Our research population was delimited to the population between 18-39 years old (Project Paper 1, 18). This population has the highest probability to see emigration as a possibility. We sampled twice in this population: first quantitatively, second qualitatively. Quantitatively, we aimed to draw a representative sample of 500 respondents aged 18-39 within each of the 16 research areas (8000 respondents in total). We used a stratified cluster sample with random walks (Project Paper 7, 3, 11). Our qualitative data collection research strategy included non-participant observations and 320 (80 for each of the four countries) in-depth semi-structured interviews. The fieldwork was done in the same areas as the quantitative data collection. There was a purposeful selection of respondents according to gender, age, occupational status, migration experience and migration aspirations (see for more information Project Paper 6B; Project Paper 8).

Research findings

The results of the EUMAGINE project demonstrate the relevance of perceptions of human rights and democracy related elements in explaining migration aspirations (see Project Paper 13 for an in depth discussion of the empirical results). We used a qualitative and quantitative research strategy: we executed bivariate quantitative analyses, multivariate quantitative analyses and qualitative cross country analyses.

Notwithstanding the descriptive character, the bivariate analyses shed light on some trends. The following empirical characteristics were found. Regarding the socio-demographic characteristics, the bivariate analyses suggest the influence of age, marital status, having children and having a family member abroad on migration aspirations. For perceptions on human rights and democracy in Europe and the own country, the bivariate analysis suggested that in the four countries people tend to perceive the economic situation and corruption in Europe in a more positive way than in their own country. An interesting finding suggested by the bivariate analyses regarding migration perceptions and discourses in the four research countries is the perception of migration to Europe as a good experience for both men and women. Regarding life satisfaction, the bivariate analyses suggest a negative life satisfaction among the respondents in Ukraine, Morocco and Senegal, and an overall positive life satisfaction among the respondents in Turkey. These results were suggestive and were further developed with in depth cross country qualitative and multivariate analyses.

The multivariate logistic regression analyses showed that for example negative perceptions on job opportunities and gender may be important elements for investigating migration aspirations. The qualitative cross-country analyses showed us that, besides job opportunities and corruption, there is evidence for other specific human rights and democracy related determinants of migration aspirations: educational opportunities and equal gender opportunities influence migration aspirations in a positive way. Secondly, gender specific family related determinants were found in the qualitative study. More specifically, we found that being married and having children are relatively more important elements in considering migration for women (compared to women with no aspirations) than for men (compared to men with no aspirations). Both elements have a negative influence on migration aspirations. We also found in our qualitative study that having migrant family members is a relatively more important motivation to migrate for women than for men. Thirdly, we also found in the qualitative study that especially in Senegal and Morocco people were more outspoken in considering migration to Europe. These relations were then further corroborated in additional multivariate quantitative analyses (using logistic regression).

To conclude then, the results show that persons are not only motivated by economic opportunities that may come with migration, also perceptions on educational opportunities and gender equality in Europe impact on migration aspiration. At the same time, it was found that factors situated at different social levels also have an influence on migration aspirations. At the macro level, the overall socio-economic situation of the country proves to impact on migration aspiration; at the meso level we identified the relevance of living in a migration impacted region, belonging to transnational family networks - which are arguably forceful instruments of feedback; and at the micro level, the material wealth of the household, age, gender, marital status, having

children, previous migration experience and educational level are proven to have an impact on migration aspirations. Regarding gender as well, there are indications that it affects perceptions differently, for example when considering the relevance of transnational family networks for women.

All in all, we may conclude that the initial theoretical framework that we put forward for analyzing our hypotheses (see figure 1) on the impact of democracy and human rights related factors on migration aspirations proves to be a valuable model for understanding and predicting migration aspirations. In the next chapter we will describe policy considerations that flow from our research.

Policy considerations

In Project Paper 13, we investigated persons with aspirations to migrate without distinction. Persons with migration aspirations view migration as something desirable and/or ideal. However, people with aspirations do not always have *concrete plans to migrate*. They may dream about migration to Europe but have no concrete plans to go to Europe. In order to get closer to the investigation of the actual decision of migration and to increase policy relevance, we especially have to focus on the group of people who, besides having aspirations to migrate, also have plans to migrate to a certain destination. Persons with concrete migration plans see migration as desirable and/or ideal *and* plan to migrate in the future.

Distinguishing between respondents with only migration aspirations and those who also have migration plans to a certain destination

The *aspiration to migrate* of respondents is measured by question *a1* in the survey (“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 to stay”). After asking to which country they would like to go (*a2*), *having concrete migration plans or not* was measured in follow up question *a3* (“will you try to go to that country within the next five years?”). Respondents with no aspirations have a negative answer on question *a1*. Respondents with only aspirations have a positive answer on question *a1* and a negative answer on question *a3*. Respondents in category three have a positive answer on both variables. They have concrete plans to move to Europe within the next five years.²

² We checked for construct validity. Respondents with only aspirations (category two) and respondents with concrete plans to move (category three) within the next five years have more migration ambitions than respondents with no aspirations (category one). Respondents with concrete migration plans have relatively more migration ambitions than respondents with only aspirations. We strengthen this assertion by plotting these categories of respondents with question *A29*: If somebody would give you the necessary papers for going to live or work in Europe, what would you do? (stay here, go to Europe). This question confronts the respondent with an ideal possibility to go to Europe: they would have the necessary papers to do so. We expect that percentages of respondents who answer “go to Europe” increase with stronger migration ambitions (going from category 1 to 3). Persons with no aspirations may also answer “go to Europe” but we expect that this will be considerably lower than the other two categories of respondents. Our expectations were met: of the persons who would go to Europe if somebody would give them the necessary papers 16% of the respondents have no aspirations, 27,2% of the respondents have aspirations (and no plans) and 56,8% of the respondents had already concrete plans to go to Europe. This seems to indicate that our typology of respondents is valid.

According to our data of respondents in the *selected research areas of Morocco, Turkey, Senegal and Ukraine*, we found that the majority of the persons who perceive migration as something desirable (have an aspiration to migrate) also have concrete plans to migrate. Of the 3529 persons in the total sample who had aspirations to migrate to Europe in the next five years,³ 65% of the respondents (2307) also had plans to migrate in the next five years to a certain destination. There are differences according to country: in the Moroccan research areas almost everyone with migration aspirations had concrete plans to migrate (93% of 1103 respondents with aspirations to migrate). In the other countries more than half of the respondents with migration aspirations also had plans to migrate (51% of 635 respondents in Turkey, 55% of 1155 in Senegal and 49% of 636 respondents in Ukraine). This indicates that there exists a gap between aspirations to migrate and plans to migrate. This needs to be fully acknowledged and this might be interesting for migration policy considerations. How can we account for this gap?

Gap between aspirations and concrete plans to migrate

In this section, we explore the gap between aspirations and concrete plans to migrate. In order to explain the gap between persons with aspirations to migrate (but no concrete plans to move to Europe) and persons who also have concrete migration plans, we constructed a profile of persons with migration aspirations who are also likely to have concrete migration plans. The availability of such a profile allows us to better understand migration.

We constructed a statistical model to compare persons with only migration aspirations (and no concrete migration plans) with persons who additionally have concrete migration plans within five years.⁴ We see that when respondents are male, are relatively young, have positive perceptions of European job opportunities, have positive perceptions on human rights in Europe, have negative perceptions on human rights in the own country, have family approval of migration to Europe and have transnational family networks, the *more likely* that respondents with

³ “Europe” means here: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Belarus, Europe, Western-Europe, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Lithuania (based on *a2*)

⁴ The following variables were used (see table two). *Age (bb4)* is a continuous variable measuring the age of respondents. This variable is mean centered. The variable *marital status (bb9)* is coded 1 when respondents were unmarried, divorced, widowed or separated and coded 0 when respondents were married/monogamous, married/polygamous or living with partner/not married. *Children (cf6 & cf7)* is a dichotomous variable measuring whether respondents have at least one child. In order to measure *family migration experience (mg1)* respondents were allowed to indicate whether they “have any family members above 16 years old who are currently living in another country.” This variable was coded dichotomous. The variable of *gender (bb3)*: male is category 0 and female is category 1. *Years of education (bb7)* goes from 0 (no education, only Coranic school, only basic literacy or national language), 1 (pre-school), primary school-old system (1-5), Primary school (2-9). Lower secondary school-old system (6-8), Higher vocational school (9-11), Upper secondary school-old system (10-12), Upper secondary school-old system (10-13), University or polytechnic (14-17) to Doctorate (18-23). The *perception of human rights in Europe and the own country* (we mean here perceptions of schools, life of men and women, poverty reduction by the government and health care) (*p1-p5; peu1-peu5*). The scale goes from 0 (very bad) to 4 (very good) for the Europe variable and from very good (0) to very bad (4) for the own country variable. We made an index measuring the material wealth of respondents as a variable with principal component analysis (see Project Paper 13). It goes from high to low material wealth. *Family (dis)approval of migration to Europe (a9)* goes from high disapproval to high approval. Respondents were asked to respond to “it is easy to find a good job” for the own country and Europe. These two variables were polytomous going from 1 to 5 (strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree). The variable *perception of job opportunities in Europe (peu8)* goes from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The variable *perception of job opportunities in the own country (p8)* goes from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

migration aspirations will also have plans to migrate (see model one in table two). The absence or presence of these elements may therefore be considered to increase or decrease the probability to have migration plans when persons already have migration aspirations. We define “human rights” in a broad way and mean *the quality of schools, life of men and women, poverty reduction by the government and health care*.⁵ We measure these human rights on the individual level as perceptions.

The comparison between persons with only migration aspirations and persons with additional plans to move to Europe within five years shows that we can distinguish both groups statistically. Noteworthy is that human rights perceptions in the own country and Europe are strongly related to having migration plans. More so, this relation seems stronger than the relation between having migration plans and perception of economic opportunities. The odds ratios of human rights perceptions are higher than the odds ratio of perception of job opportunities in Europe (these three variables are on the same scale). The human rights situation in Europe and the own country seem more important than economic elements in Europe and the own country for persons with concrete migration plans.

Table two: Binary logistic regression with significantly influencing variables on migration aspirations/plans to Europe | Model 1 (n: 3336): people with only aspirations versus those who also have concrete migration plans

Material wealth	,913
Perception of human rights in Europe	1,186**
Perception of human rights in the own country	1,463**
No children	1,083
Unmarried	1,043
Male	1,510**
Years of education	,993
Years of education ²	1,002
Transnational family networks	1,455**
Age (mean centered)	,977**
Family (dis)approval of migration to Europe	1,395**
Perception of job opportunities in Europe	1,108*
Perception of job opportunities in the own country	1,042
Nagelkerke R square	0,323
Area under curve	0,79

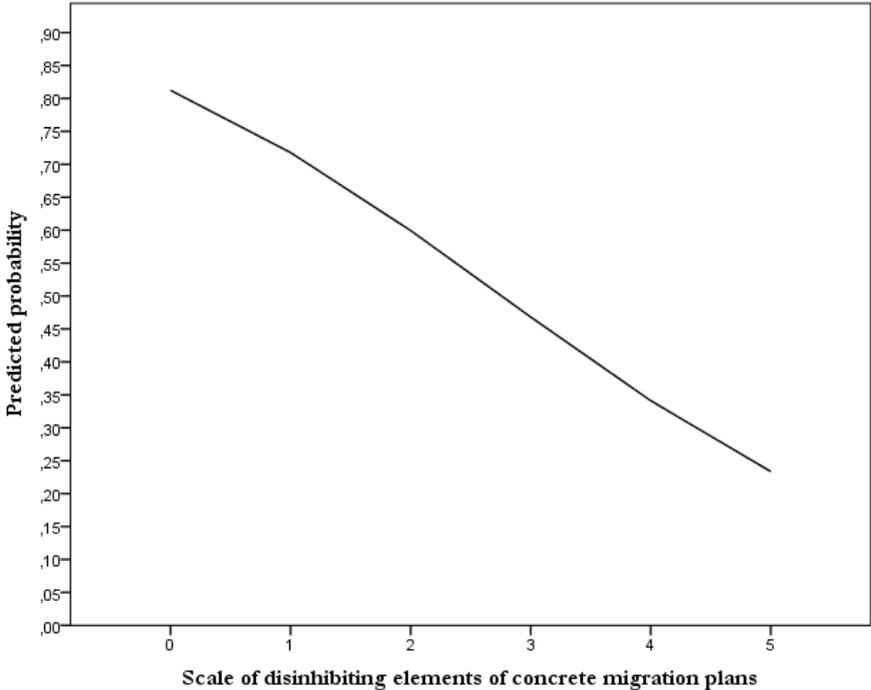
** : significant < 0.05, * : significant < 0.10; weighed data; individual questionnaire - stum20121001; controlled for country

⁵ These five variables of the survey were strongly correlated with each other. This is for the variables measuring the perception of Europe (*peu1-peu5*) and the variables measuring the perception in the own country (*p1-p5*).

Key elements in disinhibiting or facilitating concrete plans to migrate within five years

In the previous section, we identified a number of elements that increase or decrease the probability to have concrete plans to migrate within five years. These elements are at the individual level (gender, age, perceptions of human rights in Europe and the own country), household level (family (dis)approval of migration) or meso level (transnational family networks). In this section, we construct an index with elements that have an influence on having concrete plans to migrate. This index will have a specific policy oriented meaning as it identifies elements which have an impact on migration.

Compared to the other elements on the individual, household or meso level, perceptions of human rights in Europe and the own country, transnational family networks, family (dis)approval of migration to Europe and perceptions of job opportunities in Europe are less fixed in time and more dynamic. If European policy makers want to have an influence on migration, they have to be sensitive of these five elements and their determinants.



Weighted data; individual questionnaire - stum20121001; whole sample, logistic regression with only the scale of disinhibiting elements

Figure two – probability to have concrete migration plans when one already has migration aspirations according to the scale of disinhibiting elements of concrete migration plans (all countries)

In the above figure (figure two), we combined the afore mentioned five elements which, according to our statistical analyses, have a negative effect on having concrete plans to move to Europe when one already has migration aspirations into one index (see table two): family disapproval of migration to Europe, having negative perceptions of human rights in Europe and having positive perceptions of human rights in the own country, absence of transnational family

networks and negative perceptions of job opportunities in Europe.⁶ The X axis of figure two goes from zero to eight indicating the presence of no disinhibiting to five disinhibiting elements. The Y axis shows the predicted probabilities. When we combine these five elements into an index⁷ and plot the values of this new variable with the probability to have concrete plans to move to Europe within five years, we notice that the predicted probability decreases for each additional element that is present.

What we can see from this graph is that the *predicted probability* of having concrete plans to migrate to Europe when one already has aspirations to migrate is less than 50% when *at least three of the mentioned elements* are present. This indicates that changing three of five elements (such as the perception of human rights in the own country) may decrease the probability that people in our research areas plan to migrate when they already have migration aspirations.

Reflections on policy

Based on our analyses within this project, we will make three policy reflections. We reflect on the promotion of respect for human rights and democracy in emigration areas, using informational campaigns on Europe and developing job creation policies in emigration areas. These three elements influence perceptions of human rights & democracy and therefore migration aspirations.

- i) *Promoting respect for human rights in third countries (health care, education, poverty reduction, the life of men and women)*

On the one hand, negative perceptions on health care, education, poverty reduction by the government and the life of men and women in the own country have a positive effect on having migration plans. On the other hand, positive perceptions on the life in Europe (including health care, education, life of men and women and poverty reduction by the government) have a positive effect on having migration plans to Europe.

Improvements in the social sectors, such as education, healthcare and poverty reduction, in emigration areas will therefore most likely reduce migration plans. The perception of Europe as a region with social opportunities in addition to its economic advantages plays a key role in migration aspirations to Europe. Although this is not the most surprising finding, our research has shown the relevance of these elements with greater clarity.

- ii) *Informational campaigns on the situation in Europe*

According to Vertovec: “many migrants today intensively conduct activities and maintain substantial commitments that link them with significant others (...) who dwell in nation-states other than those in which the migrants themselves reside. Migrants now maintain such

⁶ To demarcate respondents with negative perceptions on human rights in Europe, positive perceptions on human rights in the own country, we used the lowest quartile of data of each variable. We used categories 4 and 5 of the variable measuring job opportunities in Europe (*peu8*) and categories 1 and 2 of the variable measuring family (dis)approval of migration to Europe (*a9*). We used category 0 of the variable measuring transnational family networks (*mg1*).

⁷ The variable goes from 0 to 5 indicating increasing the presence of indicators inhibiting migration intentions/aspirations.

connections through uses of technology, travel and financial mechanisms more intensively than ever before” (2007: 149-150). We further explore the use of technology (in this case internet) in this paragraph. The hypothesis is that informational campaigns on the situation in Europe may lower the probability of planning migration. Our research shows, however, that people who have access to information through internet have a higher probability to have migration plans than people without internet use.

As we have shown, there exists a gap between aspiring and planning to move to Europe. We have also shown that perceptions on human rights in Europe have strong effects on persons with migration aspirations to consider plans to migrate. We also found a strong positive effect of transnational family networks and family approval and disapproval of migration to Europe on having concrete migration plans. In table three, we add an extra variable to the statistical model in table two: internet use.⁸ We notice that the effect of internet use on migration plans is positive. Persons with aspirations to migrate and internet use are also more likely to have migration plans compared to aspiring persons without internet use. Access of information on the internet does not seem to negatively influence having migration plans. On the contrary, it seems to have a positive influence on it. We might conclude that it is quite doubtful that *a general informational campaign on the situation in Europe* could influence migration aspirations in a negative way.

Table three: Binary logistic regression with significantly influencing variables on migration aspirations/plans to Europe (model 1 as baseline model with the inclusion of the variable internet use during past 12 months)

Model 2 (n: 3335): people with only aspirations versus those who also have concrete migration plans

Transnational family networks	1,547**
Internet use during past 12 months	1,235*

****:** significant < 0.05, *****: significant < 0.10; weighted data; individual questionnaire - stum20121001; controlled for country

iii) *Promoting job-creation policies in third countries*

Although Europe is undergoing an economic crisis, the perception of job opportunities in Europe still has an influence on migration planning. Improving job opportunities in emigration areas outside Europe should therefore be an important policy consideration.⁹ In table four, we report the statistical model of table one with an emphasis on the variables measuring perceptions of job opportunities.

⁸ Question *t1*: “have you used internet during the past 12 months?” This question was asked in 2011.

⁹ Respondents were asked to respond to “it is easy to find a good job” for the own country and Europe. These two variables were polytomous going from 0 to 4 (strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree). The variable “perception of job opportunities in Europe” goes from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The effect of the perception of the lack of job opportunities in the own country was also found in other countries, with exception of Ukraine.

Table four: Binary logistic regression with significantly influencing variables on migration aspirations/plans to Europe (model 1 with emphasis on perception of job opportunities in the own country and Europe)

Model 3 (n: 3336): people with only aspirations versus those who also have concrete migration plans

Perception of job opportunities in Europe	1,108*
Perception of job opportunities in the own country	1,042

Conclusion

In this project paper, we synthesized our research and reflected on policy considerations. We described the theoretical perspective and empirical approach of our project. Research findings confirmed our theoretical perspective and hypothesis concerning the relation between perceptions of human rights & democracy related elements and migration aspirations. Our data also allowed us to zoom in on specific types of respondents: people with migration aspirations and people with concrete plans to migrate to a certain destination. We identified a number of elements that increase or decrease the probability to have concrete plans to migrate within five years. These elements are on the individual level (gender, age, perceptions of human rights in Europe and the own country), household level (family (dis)approval of migration) or meso level (transnational family networks). The project paper ended with three reflections on policy. We were positive about increasing the respect for human rights (health care, education, poverty reduction, the life of men and women) and promoting job-creation policies in third countries. We were skeptical about using informational campaigns on the situation in Europe to lower the likelihood to have migration plans.

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