

THEMIS – Theorizing the Evolution of European Migration Systems

Metadata Phase 3

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Authors: Dominique Jolivet in collaboration with THEMIS project team members from each partner institute



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Note on availability of data collected during Phase 3:

Data collected during Phase 3 can be made available upon request. Any researcher or institution interested in any transcription of the qualitative interviews collected during Phase 3 is kindly asked to submit a request to the Co-Applicant of the relevant countries (cf. Table below). Please provide a title, abstract, and plan for analysis (not longer than one page). The request detail mention the aims, research questions and methods of analysis.

Qualitative dataset in (country)	Co-Applicant	Email address	Phone no.
Ukraine	Dr. Oliver Bakewell	oliver.bakewell@qeh.ox.ac.uk	+441865271902
Morocco	Prof. Godfried Engbersen	engbersen@fsw.eur.nl	+31104082084
Brazil	Prof. Maria Lucinda Fonseca	fonseca-maria@campus.ul.pt	+351919205546

I Research outline

1 Introduction to the research

To fill the theoretical and empirical gaps in scientific knowledge on migration, the THEMIS project explores the conditions under which initial moves by pioneer migrants to Europe result in the formation of migration systems, when this does not happen, or migration systems are in decline. This is achieved through a substantially improved theorization of migration system dynamics by integrating theories on the initiation and continuation of migration; and a comparative, multi-sited, and longitudinal study of the evolution of heterogeneous migrant groups following different settlement trajectories from three origin countries (Brazil, Morocco and Ukraine) to eight European cities in the UK, Norway, the Netherlands and Portugal.

The THEMIS project began in January 2010 and is funded through to 2013 by the NORFACE Migration Research Programme. There are four project partners: the Department of Sociology of the Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), the Netherlands; the International Migration Institute (IMI) at the University of Oxford, UK; the International Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Norway; and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon (IGOT-UL), Portugal.

2 Research questions

The three main research questions of THEMIS are:

1. Under what conditions does initial (pioneer) migration establish precedents for the establishment of migration systems?

In other words, when does migration of pioneers lead to a system that generates more migration?

2. Which factors explain why many initial migration movements might be followed by limited chain migration of immediate family and friends but do *not* start processes of expanding network migration leading to network formation and the establishment of migration systems?

In some cases pioneer migration might lead to some migration of family members and close acquaintances but not to migration of others. We cannot speak of a migration system in such a case. What factors determine the start of a migration system?

3. Under what conditions do migrant networks and migration systems weaken or decline, or does 'spontaneous' (pioneer) migration to *new* destinations occur?

Migration systems can start, grow and stabilise, but they can also decline. How does such a decline come about? Does this have to do with the fact that people migrate elsewhere (new pioneers have migrated to new destinations and this had led to a system).

These questions are concerned with the conditions under which initial moves of pioneer migrants to Europe result in rapidly expanding network migration and the formation of migration systems, and the conditions under which this does not happen.

3 Central concepts

Migration system and migration system dynamics

By framing our research questions around the concept of migration systems, we take existing migration systems theory – with all its shortcomings – as our starting point. A fundamental aim of

THEMIS is to refine and reshape migration systems theory, which has hardly moved forward since Mabogunje's work in the 1970s. Mabogunje saw migration systems (1970) as a 'set of places linked by flows and counter flows of people, goods, services, and information, which tend to facilitate further exchange, including migration, between the places'. This definition remains quite open and general. It focuses on the ways in which systems run (either expanding or declining, or simply self-sustaining) and makes no claim to explain the genesis and decline of migration systems. Mabogunje's approach assumes that the system is already in place: it cannot explain why a system comes into being in the first place.

It is precisely such an existential question that THEMIS aims to address: under what conditions does the initial movement of pioneers result in an establishment of a migration system? Unfortunately, since Mabogunje, no systematic attempts have been made to further advance and refine migration systems theory drawing on later advances in general social theory. Migration systems theory remains unable to explain the **heterogeneity** of migration system formation (the existence of different trajectories), **change** (growth, decline, stagnation) within existing migration systems, or **the role of agency¹ (vis-à-vis structure)** in explaining such change. It is the ambition of THEMIS to address these gaps.

Migration systems are not steady phenomena, but flexible. Different migration flows develop, then change, and destinations and places of origin also change. In short, dynamics are at work within migration systems. We conceptualise migration system dynamics as *the ways in which the migration system changes in relation to: i) external (to the system) factors, which in turn re-shape the initial conditions under which migration takes place, ii) feedback mechanisms (within the system), and iii) the exercise of the agency of social actors within the system.*

These dynamics occur in different ways. Firstly, changes occur in relation to factors outside the system. One could think of climate change or a natural disaster that pushes people to move, but also an improvement in living conditions in the origin country. Secondly, feedback mechanisms encompass feedback that is given through the system, it can be both negative and positive. One can think of stories that encourage people to move to a certain place as apparently life is better there, or migrants may also communicate to non-migrants their discontent with their situation. Lastly, the agency of social actors refers to the capacity of people to act independently and to make their own free choices (within the system).

Pioneers

THEMIS address pioneer migrants in establishing precedents for further migration to follow (and the possible establishment of a migration system), and the conditions under which it would not happen. The question here is the role of the pioneer migrants in influencing who from the origin community, and to what extent, might follow their footsteps, and who would not?

Pioneers are not necessarily the first migrants who arrive in a certain country. Migration from A to B can be divided in different waves, for instance, Moroccan migration to the Netherland could be distinguished between labour migrants and family (reunification or formation) migrants. Pioneer labour migrants are interesting, but we also focus on the first female migrants who arrived after 1974 for family reunification. The term pioneer should not be understood too strictly.

¹ Agency refers to the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices. Structure, by contrast, refers to the recurrent patterned arrangements which seem to influence or limit the choices and opportunities that individuals possess.

Migration threshold

A migration threshold is a hypothesised critical level beyond which migration becomes partly self-sustaining – in other words, it gains its own momentum. Today, this concept is rather unexplored. It is based on the idea that a ‘critical mass’ of migrants is needed to generate certain effects that create more migration. For example, the creation of associations, religious institutions, or special businesses that make the country in question a more attractive destination for migrants from a certain country. It is unclear whether such a threshold level really exists and it is one of the central aims of THEMIS to further theorise and investigate this matter.

Migration systems decline

The focus on migration dynamics in contemporary migration literature evolved around the assumption that once started, migrations would continue and self-perpetuate. New conditions arising in the course of migration would in turn make additional migration more likely. This implies theoretically limitless new flows, further growth and expansion ad infinitum. Clearly, this circular logic is a naïve assumption.

Studies of network migration usually ignore counterfactual cases in which initial moves by pioneer migrants do not set in motion self-reinforcing migration dynamics. A second weakness of these theories is their largely circular nature, according to which migration goes on forever. Little account is taken of factors that may weaken migration systems over time.

THEMIS pays special attention to the possible decline of migration systems or waves. People might stop offering help to new migrants, negative rumours could spread within the system discouraging people to move or the changing conditions on the labour market could influence a possible decline.

Factors

We also focus on macro-, meso- and micro-level indicators of structural conditions facing migrants. Examples of these are visualised in the following table.

Macro-level	Meso-level (partly affected by migration processes)	Micro-level
<i>Socio-economic indicators e.g.</i>	<i>Socio-economic indicators e.g.</i>	<i>Personal characteristics e.g.</i>
Income levels per head	Remittances	Household structure
Income stability	Community income inequality	Civil status
Employment levels	Socio-ethnic hierarchies	Gender
Labour market structure	Labour market segmentation	Age
Literacy / School enrolment	Economic growth	
Access to health care / health status of family members	Migration culture (migration-proneness)	<i>Micro-level socio-economic, e.g.,</i>
Access to social rights (social security)		Household income
	<i>Political indicators, e.g.</i>	Ownership of land and other productive assets
<i>Political indicators e.g.</i>	Local implementation of migration policies	Ownership of residential property
Political freedoms and rights (voting, citizenship)		Education and skills
Migration policies	<i>Mobility indicators, e.g.</i>	Employment status
	Labour recruitment	
		<i>Socio-cultural</i>

Macro-level	Meso-level (partly affected by migration processes)	Micro-level
Access to human rights	Access to migrant networks	Social status
Economic rights (property rights, shareholding)	'Migration industry': Travel agents, smugglers, document forgers, traffickers, etc.	Ethnicity, religion
Conflict	Access to migration-relevant information	Social networks
<i>Demographic indicators e.g.</i>	Labour demand in 'ethnic' niches	Access to information
Dependency ratios	<i>Environmental indicators e.g.</i>	<i>Mobility indicators</i>
Life expectancy	Agro-ecological risks (droughts, floods, etc)	Spatial distribution of family members
Fertility	Land degradation	Personal migration history
Gender ratio		Transnational activities
<i>Environmental indicators, e.g.</i>		
Climate		

Figure 1. Macro, meso and micro level indicators of structural conditions facing migrants

4 Target groups

The semi-structured interviews in the European research areas targeted people aged 18 or more born in Brazil, Morocco and Ukraine or with at least one of their parents born there, and living in the areas under study. In the areas of origin, the semi-structured interviews were conducted with return migrants and migrant's family members (up to the third degree of kinship), with links to the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal or UK, and mainly born in their country of residence. The research team aimed for diverse target groups in terms of gender, age, social class, motive of migration, and duration of stay in the case of migrants in Europe.

Quantitative data in the European cities was collected among migrants aged 18 or more born in Brazil, Morocco and Ukraine or with at least one of their parents born there, and living in the areas under study. The surveys in the research areas in Brazil, Morocco and Ukraine were collected among people aged 18 or more and living in the surveyed households.

II General guidelines for the semi-structured interviews

1 Recruiting respondents

1.1 Sampling

The eligibility criteria for the Phase 3 sample included factors related to the place of birth, and the current and past places of residence. Informants and at least one of their parents had to be born in Brazil, Morocco or Ukraine, although some exceptions were allowed. Another main eligibility criterion was the migration experience in the destination countries. To ensure diversity of destinations among informants, a flexible quota of a minimum of eight interviews per destination country (Portugal, Norway, Netherlands, and the UK) was established.

Phase 3 targeted two groups of informants defined as follows:

Return migrants: They must have lived abroad in one of our destination countries for a period of at least three months. In addition, the definition was also based on what the respondent considered his or her country of residence during that period.

Family members of migrants: The definition of migrant's family members could be very broad. In some origin countries, for example, respondents could apply the concept of cousin to their whole hometown community. It was therefore suggested to limit the definition of family members to the third degree of kinship defined as follows:

- First degree – Wife/Husband/ Long-term Partner, Parents and Children (above 18 years old)
- Second degree – Siblings, Grandparents, Grandchildren
- Third degree– Aunts/Uncles, Nieces/Nephews, Cousins, Partners of Siblings

Generally second and third degrees were considered backup options, and interviewers focused on first degree kinships. As a general rule, the interviewers targeted first and second degree kinship as much as possible, and third degree only marginally as the actual connections could be rather fuzzy and uncertain.

In specific situations (when it was difficult to find respondents) it was possible to interview a return migrant and a family of migrant of 'one kinship' (e.g. when two brothers went to Portugal, one had returned, and another stayed abroad – both the family member who stayed and the return migrant available from the same household or neighbouring households could be interviewed). However, it was preferred to opt for one or the other. This choice had to be made on the basis of what would fit the sample best and taking into account practical arrangements.

If a return migrant resided in a different locality prior to migration and returned to a different locality, the former locality before international migration would be the one used for the records.

Within each origin country the THEMIS partners agreed on 2 or 3 localities to recruit the informants and conduct the interviews (cf. table 1).

Country of origin	Research areas Phase 3
Brazil	Governador Valadares (Minas Gerais)
	Rio de Janeiro (Rio de Janeiro)
	Campinas (São Paulo)
Morocco ²	Nador region
	Rabat greater urban area
Ukraine	Lviv oblast
	Kiev

Table 1: Research areas Phase 3

In each locality (cf. Figure 2), the interviewers were asked to gather a minimum of four respondents with links to a particular destination country in each location: two return migrants and two migrants' family members. If this could not be achieved (the equal distribution between localities and between return and family migrants) the partners would compensate for this either by interviewing more return migrants & family migrants in **one specific locality**. Finally, no single destination would make up more than 50% of interviews in each locality.

² When the quotas of informants with migration experience to some countries of destinations could not be met, Larache was planned as alternative third locality in Morocco.

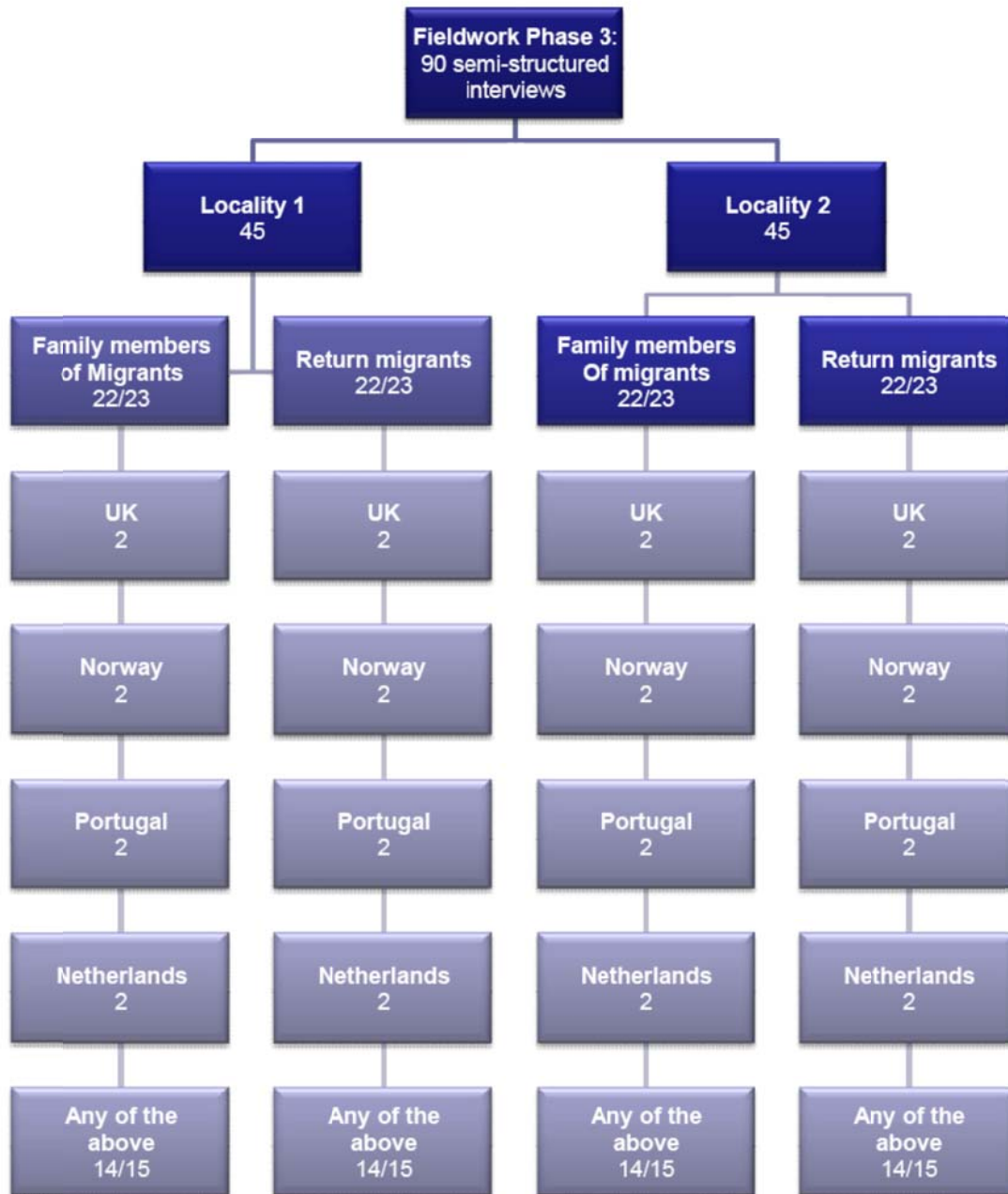


Figure 2: Phase 3 informants' profile suggested distribution in each country of origin

1.2 Recruitment strategies

Interviewers were asked to combine different recruitment strategies to achieve the desired quotas per group. These included snowballing and drafting up contact lists (through friends, colleagues, neighbors, etc.), using social networks and resume banks, and visiting different places in order to recruit a diversity of profiles (agencies, universities, migrant's organizations).

1.3 Contacting respondents

Interviewers were asked to start the conversation with potential informants by introducing the research and the research institution. Interviewers were told to stress the importance of the informant's personal views and experiences for the research project. The interviewers had to inform respondents about the importance of anonymity and confidentiality.

1.4 Interview location

A list possible times and places for the interview to take place were suggested in order to establish the most convenient time and place for both the informant and the interviewer.

2 The interview

2.1 Preparations

Interviewers were asked to be punctual and bring the interview guide, pen and paper to take notes, a voice recorder with sufficient batteries, and a gratitude gift.

2.2 Conducting the interview

Interviewers were asked to begin with a general, open-ended question, and let the respondent do most of the talking throughout the interview.

Making reference (anonymously) to statements made in other interviews or findings based on other data sources was recommended as a way to encourage respondents to express themselves and for validating information already gathered.

In some situations, giving an example about one's own life was suggested as a tip to encourage the respondent to talk. For instance, interviewers could tell about their own experience as a migrant (if this was the case). However, interviewers had to make sure they were not leading the respondent's answers and taking his/her role.

Interviewers were asked to respect the respondent's pace and pauses or silences because the respondent could be thinking about elaborations on his/her answers. They were asked to avoid making any judgments on what respondents said, and leave their own standpoints and opinions aside. They were asked to be neutral and listen to the respondent's story.

Finally, interviewers were asked to keep the interview focused on the topics of the interview guide.

3 Transcription guidelines

Interviewers were asked to transcribe the interview while translating it in English after it was completed.³ It was important to have a standardised form of transcribing to facilitate the usage of the interviews by all research partners. The transcription had to follow the following rules:

- The title must involve the research team, origin country and respondent number.
- On the first page provide information about the interview, background information on the respondent and his/her answers to the questions on RDS. These questions need not be transcribed ad verbatim. It should look as below:

³ In the case of interviews collected in Morocco and Ukraine but not in Brazil where interviews were transcribed directly in Portuguese.

CODE (copy this code and use it as a file name)

<i>General information</i>	
Respondent N°:	[to be filled in by research coordinators]
Interviewer:	[your initials]
Description of contact:	[how did you find the respondent, mention code if applicable]
Date interview:	[date of the interview]
Time:	[at what time the interview took place]
Location:	[where the interview took place, location and city]
<i>Background information</i>	
Family Member	
Name (optional):	[Invent fake name but remember who it was!!!]
Age:	[if unknown, fill in your estimate and add (estimate)]
Gender:	[gender]
Mother tongue:	[mother tongue]
Religion:	[religion]
Ethnic Group	(when relevant): [ethnic group]
Citizenship:	[Moroccan and/or other]
Marital Status	(and nationality of spouse; when relevant): [Single, Married, Divorced, Widowed]
Family relation	to person(s) who migrated: [Type of migrant family member e.g. wife, husband, sibling, adult child etc.]
Place, region of birth:	[place and region of birth]
Place, region of residence:	[place and region of current residence]
Occupation:	[occupation, specify such that everyone understands what this respondent does, not just the sector/company in which one works]
Migrant	
Country of current residence	and Emigration [NL, UK, PT, NO + city where the migrant resides]
Year of Arrival in Destination	[N° of years, if unknown time period family member spent abroad as proxy when the first is unknown]
Legal status in country of destination:	[European passport (which?), which kind of residence permit, no permits]

On the second page, the actual transcription commences. Transcribe the interview according to the following rules:

- Clearly indicate who is speaking each time the respondent or interviewer begins. Can be noted by the person's initials underlined, followed by a tab;
- Indicate the time on your voice recorder every 10 lines, or when a new part of the interview starts. Times should be recorded in an exact way e.g. 00.15.42;
- Indicate the questions asked in **bold**;
- Use Arial, font size 11, align the full text, and set the line spacing at 1.5;
- Sometimes it is not as relevant to transcribe a part of the conversation when a respondent continues elaborating on an irrelevant subject for the research. This part can be skipped while transcribing and briefly summarised. Indicate by putting the summary in *italics* within brackets and mentioning the start and ending time of the skipped part.

- Whenever the respondent is talking about concepts particularly relevant to the research (**pioneers, threshold, decline of migration system, migration dynamics, history of the community, waves of migration**) indicate this by placing time counter in the transcription.
- The transcription will result in the following:

1. Impressions after the Interview:

1/ Roman is a typical Western Ukrainian. Though he speaks Russian a lot, he was born and lived most of his life in Ukraine, Like a typical Western Ukrainian Roman is cheerful, responsive, helpful and easy to move person. His dream was to travel across the USSR, and now he is in the UK.

Roman travelled and lived across the Europe, and almost moved to Canada. He was moving legally, and searching for the legal options. Roman has his small business in Ukraine, a tourist agency which he runs with his brother. Thus, all his movements were tightly related to the curiosity, presence of fellow Ukrainians in a new place, knowledge of the relevant language, and the well-being opportunities rather than common survival. Roman's language is very simple, that's why there are a lot of small extra-questions, and half-answers. But his communications and understanding Ukrainian migration history was surprisingly useful!

Roman quite easily answered the RDS questions but found it hard to give the names of other people, he said there may be around 15 but he is not sure 100% in any. This corresponds the general Ukrainian incredulity to another people and all sorts of surveys.

The interview went well. We initially were going to a coffee-shop in the area where Roman lives. Instead, we talked at his place which appeared more comfortable, warm and quiet. We only were present there.

OR

2/ Halyna is a 29 year old petite blond woman. Yet she looks very tired. She lives in a beautiful house in South London. The house belongs to a mother-in-law of her friend, Irina. Irina is married to an English man, and they have two children. They let Halyna, her husband and 2 year old son, Artur, to stay with them. She often gets depressed; she looks numb and generally tired. She is exhausted by living undocumented, by waking up and crying at nights. It was quite a depressing interview. She has been through a lot of bad things – from hunger, to witnessing her brother being deported, visiting her brother in detention centre whilst she was heavily pregnant, loosing many good jobs due to uncertainty with documents, lying to her longest employers that she was Polish so that they would not request her documents.

2. Transcription of the interview:

00.03.18

AM: When did you move to the Netherlands?

LK: Well, I moved to the Netherlands in 1986 [etc.]

00.20.50

AM: What kind of work did you do in Ukraine?

LK: Well, I worked in a factory for clothing. It was very heavy and difficult. We needed to wake up very early and go to the factory. I did not have any transportation and it was a long walk to get there. This one time I got lost and

[00.05.10 The respondent used to work in a factory under harsh conditions, she elaborated 00.07.50]

AM: How did you become a nurse in the Netherlands?

LK: The first years I worked as a cleaning lady in several households in Amsterdam. This job was oke for then but after a few years I wanted to do something else. A friend of mine was studying to become a nurse and often told me stories about her internships. Then I thought: I would like to become a nurse too. [etc.]

III Fieldwork report

1 Interviews in the origin countries

The fieldwork during Phase 3 was solicited by three of the THEMIS project partners, but it was organised and carried out by the research institutes in the countries of origin that were responsible for the fieldwork, recruitment of the informants, conducting the interviews, transcribing and translating the transcripts. Each of the three THEMIS project partners was teamed with one partner in the origin country (Portugal– Brazil, Netherlands–Morocco, UK–Ukraine), supervised the fieldwork, and gave training to the research assistants recruited by the origin country institution.

A total of 271 semi-structured interviews were conducted during Phase 3. The fieldwork was completed between July 2011 and January 2012. About 90 interviews were collected in each country. Informants were selected according to their personal or family migration experience to Portugal, the Netherlands, UK and/or Norway.

While more than 90 of the informants had direct or indirect links to the UK (they migrated personally to the UK or had family members there), it was more difficult to find informants with links to Norway. This was especially the case in Brazil. Despite these difficulties, 30 interviews were successfully gathered among informants with links to Norway (cf. table 2).

Country of destination	Country of residence			
	Brazil	Morocco	Ukraine	Total
Netherlands	15	44	19	78
Norway	3	12	15	30
Portugal	38	9	25	72
UK	34	25	32	91
Total	90	90	91	271

Table 2: Number of interviews in each country of origin

The final qualitative dataset of Phase 3 gathers 163 interviews to return migrants and 108 to migrant's family members (cf. table 3).

Country of origin	Groups of informants		
	Family members	Return migrants	Total
Brazil	26	64	90
Morocco ⁴	45	45	90
Ukraine	37	54	91
Total	108	163	271

Table 3: Informant's profiles Phase 3

2 Preparing the fieldwork

2.1 Recruitment and training of interviewers

The criteria considered for the selection of interviewers differed in each locality, and can be summarised as follows:

- Having large social networks
- Previous experiences in other qualitative research projects
- Language knowledge
- Background knowledge in social sciences
- Previous experience conducting interviews
- Good communication skills
- Migration experience

Interviewers were trained in the countries of origin by members of the THEMIS partner institutions. The trips to train interviewers were also used to establish local contacts and to conduct pilot interviews. Besides explanations on the interview guidelines, various technical tips on the use of role-play, and on timing and location were provided during the trainings.

2.2 Recruitment of informants

The most commonly used strategies to recruit informants were personal contacts and acquaintances, and strategic snowballing. The use of social media such as Facebook or specific migrants' forums was also an effective recruitment method in Ukraine. In some villages in Lviv Oblast there was a considerable number of return migrants and migrant's relatives among the locals. This allowed to experiment with techniques used in systematic random sampling. In those cases the interviewer randomly picked up households starting from the first house on the main street (which was usually the closest to the local administration) and knocking each third door until he could find an informant. This method was combined with snowball sampling.

⁴ One return migrant interviewed in Morocco could also be classified as a family member.

3 Fieldwork

3.1 Language and translation issues

Interviews were conducted in Berber, Arabic, English and French in the case of Morocco, Portuguese in Brazil, and Russian and Ukrainian in Ukraine. The interviews in origin countries were conducted by local interviewers and therefore they did not experience any language issue with the informants.

3.2 Collection of interviews

Phase 3 was hard to conduct in some places due to the nature of the target population (return migrants) and the intimacy of the questions, as was especially the case in Morocco.

Some questions were considered too personal to answer by some informants. As expected, this was especially the case with income, remittances, gifts or investments related questions.

In Ukraine interviewers used a specific strategy to make the informant feel comfortable during the interview. The interview began talking freely about the informant's migration experience. This was used as a method to let the person get into the talking process and then ask the questions from the guidelines. The strategy worked well.

As expected, it was particularly difficult to find migratory links to Norway.

In Rio de Janeiro, due to the dimension of the city and the difficulty to identify persons with migratory experience in the countries of the project, and despite the efforts to diversify the sample, the interviewer ended up relying too much on social networks available within the University. For this reason there is a slight overrepresentation of students with experiences in countries of the project.

Generally, the recruitment of informants in Ukraine went smoother and faster in the Lviv region with a higher proportion of people with migration experience than in Kyiv. Nevertheless, return migrants and relatives of migrants from UK were much easier to be found in Kyiv, whereas in the Lviv region Portugal was the most popular destination. These overrepresentations illustrate most common migration routes across the country.

Interviews took place in public and private places considering the preferences and constraints of informants and interviewers. Interviews were recorded in devices with memory that could be sent digitally to the THEMIS team members located in Europe.

4 Transcription and coding

Interviews were translated into English and transcribed in Ukraine and Morocco. In Brazil they were directly transcribed in Portuguese. In Morocco and Brazil the interviews were transcribed by the interviewers themselves and checked by the local supervisor. For the interviews conducted in Kyiv, most transcripts were done by the interviewers themselves, whereas for those in the Lviv region interpreters with experience in transcription were hired. In these latter cases, English-speaking interviewers checked the final texts for consistency and equivalence to the Ukrainian/Russian originals.

As commonly experienced in qualitative research, some cultural language constructions were difficult to translate. Interviews in public places were experienced as difficult due to the noisy environment and to the required additional efforts when preparing the transcripts (this was taken into account in Ukraine when making some interview arrangements).

In order to standardise the coding of the interviews and to facilitate the analysis, the international research team developed a common coding scheme and cooperated to code the interviews using Nvivo 9. The codebook to be used during the coding process contained detailed description of each node and some examples. The coders were mainly members of the research team, interviewers or transcribers, and were familiar with the project and the interview themes. Before starting with the systematic coding three members of the team tested the codebook and checked if there were major inconsistency issues in the coding that could be improved.

IV THEMIS Interview guides - Phase 3

1 Interview guide to return migrants - English master version (August 2011)

1.1 Personal Migration History

We would first like to hear about the history of your migration to [destination country] and the reasons for your return.

- 1.1.1 If we look at the migration moves that you made during your life (in country of origin and abroad), could you please tell us about the decision making process involved in these moves?
- What route did you follow?
- 1.1.2 How did [country of destination] emerge as a destination?
- When did you first think of it? How?
 - What information did you have about it? (through for e.g. public media, labour agencies, neighbourhoods, marriage agencies, internet networking side, churches, friends/family/neighbours)
 - Was this move your personal decision or have you made it together with your family?
- 1.1.3 Did you rely on help to move?
- Who helped you to move? (Friends/ family or institutional help?)
 - Who helped you upon arrival? (Friends/ family or institutional help?)
- 1.1.4 Did your family migrate as well? (Before or after you?)
- 1.1.5 How did your life look like in destination? Tell me about your typical day, flat, work, people you hanged around with.
- 1.1.6 Why you decided to return?
- What do you think now of your return? Has it matched your expectations?
 - Did you return to the same place where lived before you emigrated? Why, or why not?
 - Do you know fellow nationals in [country of destination] who returned as well? Did your return happen at the same time? [*try to understand whether something prompted the return*]
- 1.1.7 Are you in touch with [country of destination]? How?
- 1.1.8 If you had a chance would you go back to (city in destination), or move elsewhere? (If yes, ask for more details, where to, contacts, concrete plans.)

1.2 Pioneers/ Pioneering

We are interested in tracing the history of movements of people from here in (origin) to (city in destination). Would you be able to tell us who were the people who earlier left this region and moved to (destination)? In what circumstances did it happen – why did they move?

- When did they move?
- From what families were they?
- Did they return?
- Did they keep in touch with their families? (How?)

1.2.2 Did they offer help to those who wanted to join them? How did they help?

- Has the amount of assistance changed over time?
- Did the assistance of others who migrated influence your migration decision(s)? If yes, how?

OR If the person does not know who was ‘the first’ – ask instead:

1.1.2a When did you first hear of someone migrating to (country of destination)?

- When did they move?
- From what families were they?
- Did they return?
- Did they keep in touch with their families? (How?)

1.1.2.a Did they offer help to those who wanted to join them? How did the help look like?

- Has the amount of assistance changed over time?
- Did the assistance of others who migrated influence your migration decision(s)? If yes, how?

1.3 Feedback

We would be interested in the communication links and exchanges between the (city in destination) and here.

1.3.1 How did you find the life in (destination country)? Did it match the information you had about it? Why or Why not?

1.3.2 Whilst living in (city at destination) did you keep in touch with persons in (country of origin) at home? How and how often?

- Did you share information about lifestyle, work availability, educational opportunities?
- Did you make any investments here while abroad?
- Did you send money or gifts?

1.3.3 Whilst living in (city at destination), what did the image of (country of destination) you portrayed to fellow Moroccans look like? Why did you portray this image?

1.3.4 Whilst you were staying abroad did people in your [country of origin] ever ask your assistance on migration?

- What kinds of assistance?
- Who asked you?
- Did the amount of requests for assistance change over time?

1.3.5 Which kinds of assistance did you provide to others while you were in [country of destination]?

- Prompt: Advice, information, money, jobs, visa, practical help? How? To whom?
- Has the amount of assistance you provided change over time?
- If no, why not?

1.3.6 Have you ever refused to provide assistance to fellow Moroccans while you were in (country of destination)?

- Why or why not?
- What kind of assistance?
- Who asked you?

- Has this changed over time? Why?

- 1.3.7 Under what conditions did you provide or refuse to assist fellow Moroccans to migrate? How do you decide to provide or to refuse assistance? Has this changed over time?
- 1.3.8 If you would like to show me the impact of migration on (locality in origin) where would you take me? If not in (location of interview), where else would you take me?

1.4 Threshold

Now we would like to talk about the institutions.

- 1.4.1 Would you be able to tell us about any institutions established by earlier migrants which operate in (destination)? (eg: associations, mosques/churches, agencies, media)
- 1.4.2 Did/Would you turn to them for help to move or settle?
- 1.4.3 Have earlier migrants established businesses (in destination) for which they needed workers? Has anybody from the region left to join them? (shops, cafes, taxi company, catering businesses, construction firms, other)?
- 1.4.4 Would you be able to tell me about migration-related institutions in this locality? (Both formal and informal institutions. E.g. Cultural or religious organisations, employment agencies, human smugglers, people who arrange false papers, popular images of destination countries, websites, television shows, informal gatherings, individuals who are known to help people).
- Are there any to which one could turn to ask for help in going abroad?
 - Are there any institutions financed from money sent by migrants?
 - Do you know of any institutions that assist migrants that return? Have you sought their assistance? Do you think this is (or would be, in case they are not available or unknown) important?

1.5 Change/Evolution of Migration

Finally we would like to talk about the changes in the movements of people and their decisions.

- 1.5.1 Would you be able to tell us when most people left (locality in origin) for (locality in destination)? Who Went?
- 1.5.2 Are people still interested in going abroad? Where to? What for? What do you think prevents others from doing so? How has this changed over time?
- 1.5.3 When did you last hear of persons going to (the same country of destination)? And how did it change over time (how many at the time of returning)? How many were still leaving when you came back?

2 Interview guide to migrants' family members: English master version (July 2011)

2.1 Personal Migration History

At the beginning we would like to hear about how did it happen that your family member(s) – relation known from the Personal Characteristics table] went abroad to [destination country]?

- 2.1.1 Which of your family members are living abroad? (Note: in some families more than one person may be living abroad and in different destinations, we want to obtain an overview of all transnational bonds, but will only focus further questions on the family members in destination countries that are part of our research project.)
- 2.1.2 Why did s/he/they moved there?
- How did [destination country] emerge as destination?

- Was it a personal decision or made together with family?

- 2.1.3 How has your life changed since s/he/they been away? [Personal History of the Interviewee.]
- 2.1.4 Would you like to join your [family member]? Do you have plans for doing so?
- 2.1.5 Would you like them to come back?
- 2.1.6 Do you know other persons here whose family has emigrated? Where to?

2.2 Pioneers/ Pioneering

We are interested in tracing the history of movements of people from here in (origin) to (city in destination).

- 2.2.1 Would you be able to tell us who were the people who earlier left this region and moved to (destination)? In what circumstances did it happen – why did they move?
- When did they move?
 - From what families were they?
 - Did they return?
 - Did they keep in touch with their families? (How?)
- 2.2.2 Did they offer help to those who wanted to join them? What did this help look like?
- Has the amount of assistance changed over time?
 - Did the assistance of others who migrated influence your migration decision(s)? If yes, how?

OR If the person does not know who was ‘the first’ – ask instead:

- 2.2.2a When did you first hear of someone migrating to (country of destination)?
- When did they move?
 - From what families were they?
 - Did they return?
 - Did they keep in touch with their families? (How?)
- 2.2.2b Did they offer help to those who wanted to join them? How did the help look like?
- Has the amount of assistance changed over time?
 - Did the assistance of others who migrated influence your migration decision(s)? If yes, how?

2.3 Feedback

We would be interested in the communication links and exchanges between you here and [your family member] abroad.

- 2.3.1 What do you know about the place where your [family member] now lives?
- 2.3.2 Have you visited your family member abroad? Did it influence your decision on wanting to join them?
- 2.3.3 Do you keep in touch with your [family member] abroad? How and how often? (Internet?)
- Did you know about lifestyle, work availability, educational (schooling) opportunities there?
- 2.3.4 If you allow us to ask, do you receive money, gifts from your [family member] abroad?
- How do you use this money (e.g. investment in business, land, housing, day-to-day consumption (e.g. house repairs), savings, education of children)?

- 2.3.5 How else do you find out about the life and opportunities in (city in destination)? (E.g.: public media, labour agencies, neighbourhoods, marriage agencies, internet networking side, churches, friends/family/acquaintances)?
- 2.3.6 If you were to move abroad would you seek assistance from your family member?
- 2.3.7 Did your [family member] assist others from [country of origin] to migrate?
- Whom? How?
 - Has this changed over time?
- 2.3.8 If you would like to show me the impact of migration on (locality in origin) where would you take me? If not in Kiev, where in Ukraine may such impacts be visible?

2.4 Threshold

Now we would like to talk about the institutions.

- 2.4.1 Would you be able to tell me about migration-related institutions in this locality?
- Are there any to which one could turn to ask for help in going abroad? (e.g. labour agencies, agencies facilitating visa applications, au pair agencies)
 - Are there any institutions financed from money sent by migrants?
 - Do you know of any institutions that assist migrants that return? Have you sought their assistance? Do you think this is (or would be, in case they are not available or unknown) important?
- 2.4.2 Would you be able to tell us about any institutions/ agencies established by *earlier migrants*, which you could turn to for help to move abroad?
- What institutions are these?
 - Who runs them?
- 2.4.3 Are there any institutions financed from money sent by migrants?
- What is their role?

2.5 Change and Evolution of Migration

Finally we would like to talk about the changes in the movements of people and their decisions.

- 2.5.1 5.1 Would you be able to tell us when most people left (locality in origin) for (locality in destination)?
- 2.5.2 5.2 Are people still interested in going abroad? Where to? What for? What do you think prevents others from doing so? How has this changed over time?
- 2.5.3 5.3 When did you last hear of persons going to (the same country of destination)? And how did it changed over time (how many at the time are returning)?