



EUMAGINE

*Imagining Europe
from the Outside*

Introducing EUMAGINE

EUMAGINE is a collaborative European research project aimed at investigating the impact of *perceptions of human rights and democracy on migration aspirations and decisions*. It aims to study how Europe is perceived from outside the EU, and how these perceptions affect migration aspirations and decisions.

The project focuses on 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. We are also interested in investigating 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.

EUMAGINE studies migration-related perceptions among people aged 18-39 in four countries of origin and transit: Morocco, Senegal, Turkey and Ukraine.

Five overarching research questions

1. *How are human rights and democracy related to imaginations 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?*
5. *How to contribute to local capacity building in source countries, in order to prepare the ground for locally based research initiatives?*

Further in this newsletter

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Consortium meetings in Antwerp (Belgium) and Istanbul (Turkey)

At EUMAGINE's 1st consortium meeting (March 2010), the Project Coordinator Christiane Timmerman of the University of Antwerp welcomed all the EUMAGINE partners, the Scientific and Policy Committee members and the EU Project Officer present. During this first meeting, the theoretical and conceptual framework of the project was fine tuned and validated. At the 2nd meeting in Istanbul (July 2010), the focus was on the finalization of the 4 country background papers, the validation of a common sampling strategy and questionnaire as well as the planning of the quantitative data collection process.



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EUMAGINE Partners

Under the overall coordination of the University of Antwerp (CEMIS), the research is undertaken by **'geographical duo teams'** consisting of one European and one non-European partner who are responsible for the research activities in each of the four countries:

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

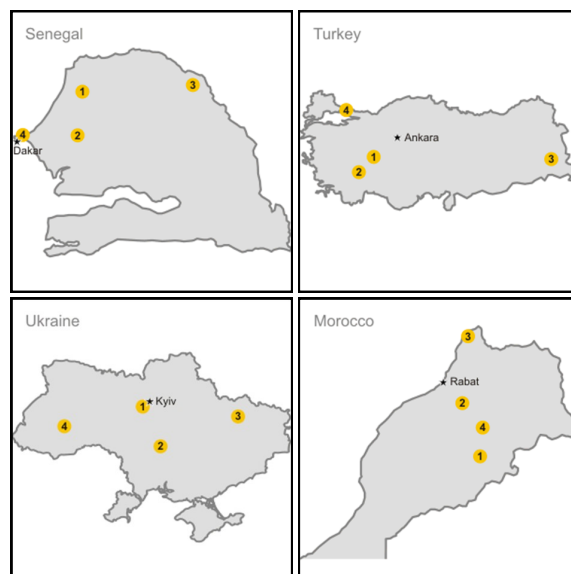
Capturing diversity : the research design

Between-country comparisons

The project encompasses four countries that are important as areas of origin: Morocco, Senegal, Turkey and Ukraine. All four countries are sources of substantial migrant populations in Europe. The four selected countries are also attraction poles outside Europe's external borders for migrants coming from further afield. Migration flows to Europe from and through these four case study countries include regular migration based on family formation/reunification, asylum or employment, as well as irregular migration.

Within-country comparisons

In order to guarantee insight into the diversity of perceptions, aspirations and motivations within each country, four research locations will be 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.



Diversity within potential migrant population

The target population of the study is the general population in the 18-40 age groups of the four countries and sixteen localities (4 localities x 4 countries), that is, those who are most likely to consider emigration as a possibility. Besides other relevant individual level variables such as age, gender, socio-economic and political-juridical status within the target population, we will compare perceptions on human rights and democracy, and migration aspirations and decisions of three conceptual categories of persons: voluntary non-migrants, involuntary non-migrants and migrants.



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Countries and Research Areas

The four country and research areas report provide extensive background information on the respective migration histories and evolutions in the countries and research areas, their democracy and human rights situations, yet also the local discourses regarding migration which appear to be quite diversified.

Senegalese popular culture, for example :

« portrays migrants as “gold mines;” preferred by women and mothers as potential husbands and admired by the young as role models. »

Senegal report, p. 31

In Ukraine, emigration is often seen:

« as an inevitable sacrifice that one can do for others such as family members. In contemporary migration cultures and narratives of migration emigration stands as a heroic act. »

Ukraine report, p. 32

The Moroccan migration discourse appears:

« more geared towards denouncing the European attitudes: abuse accompanying the fight against illegal immigration, double standards criteria, use of the topic for election purposes and domestic policy, etc. »

Morocco report, p. 26

In Turkey, on the other hand, discourses have

« started to display positive attitudes towards the integration of its citizens abroad in their host countries in terms of their socialization and enjoyment of their political rights. »

Turkey report, p. 33

The complete version of the four Country and Research Areas reports are accessible on the website: www.eumagine.org

Quantitative data collection: pilot surveys

During the months of September and November 2010, 2 pilot surveys took place in each of the countries in all 4 research areas, totalling 480 interviews. The results and experiences served to fine-tune not only the questionnaire but also the sampling strategies and training of surveyors. The questionnaire was also translated in to (and back-translated from) a variety of local languages: Turkish, Kurdish, Russian, Ukrainian, Wolof, Peul, Arabic and of course French. The biggest challenge proved to be the developing of a common sampling strategy applicable in 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 persons households in Orkadiéré and Darou Mousty in Senegal). The actual survey will cover 8,000 persons (500 in each of the 16 research areas) and taken place simultaneously in the 4 countries during the first half of 2011.



Training of surveyors by the Turkish EUMAGINE team, led by Prof. Ahmet Icduygu, in Istanbul in August 2010.

Upcoming events

Feb– May 2011 Quantitative data collection among 8,000 respondents (500 in each of the 16 research areas)

23-24 June 2011 3rd Consortium meeting at Oxford University (UK)

June 2011 Project Paper 6B « Instruments and guidelines for qualitative data collection »

July 2011 Project Paper 7 « Analysis of the survey results, including descriptive statistics »

During the latter half of 2011, the qualitative data collection will start in each of the four countries.

EUMAGINE Project papers (by February 2011)

PP1	<i>Conceptual and Theoretical Framework EUMAGINE rResearch Project</i>	Christiane Timmerman (UA), Petra Heyse (UA), Christoph Van Mol (UA)
PP2	<i>Country and Research Areas Report Senegal</i>	Papa Demba Fall (UCAD), Maria Hernandez Carretero (PRIO), Mame Yassine Sarr (UCAD)
PP3	<i>Country and Research Areas Report Ukraine</i>	Bastian Vollmer (COMPAS), Yuriy Bilan (CSR), Iryna Lapshyna (CSR), Svitlana Vdovtsona (CSR)
PP4	<i>Country and Research Areas Report Morocco</i>	Mohamed Berriane (UMVA), Mohammed Aderghal (UMVA), Lahoucine Amzil (UMVA), Abdellah Oussi (UMVA)
PP5	<i>Country and Research Areas Report Turkey</i>	Deniz Karci Korfali (KU), Aysen Ustubici (KU), Helene De Clerck (UA)
PP6	<i>Methodology for quantitative data collection</i>	Evelyn Ersanili (IMI), Jorgen Carling (PRIO), Hein de Haas (IMI)

All EUMAGINE Project Papers are accessible on our website : www.eumagine.org



The EUMAGINE coordination team and the Senegalese team, led by Prof. Papa Demba Fall, visiting one of the villages in the Research Area Orkadiéré in North East Senegal in October 2010.



Scientific and Policy Committee members

- ◆ Michael Collyer, Lecturer in Geography at the University of Sussex (UK)
- ◆ Than-Dam Truong, Associate Professor of Women, Gender and Development at the Erasmus University Rotterdam (NL)
- ◆ Marie-Claire Foblets, Professor of Law and Anthropology at the Catholic University Leuven (BE)
- ◆ Kemal Kirisci, Professor in Political Sciences at the Bogazici University in Istanbul (TU)
- ◆ Koen De Feyter, Professor of Law at the University of Antwerp (BE)

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