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Growth, Equal Opportunities, Migration and Markets (GEMM)

Deliverable 4.6 Data set qualitative fieldwork

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The unified data collection *The lived experiences of migration* is deposited at Colchester, Essex: UK Data Service. [10.5255/UKDA-SN-853333](https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/10.5255/UKDA-SN-853333)

<http://reshare.ukdataservice.ac.uk/853333/>

1. Overview of the collection

WP4 of the research project GEMM focuses on the 'lived' experiences of migration. It builds upon the understanding that mobility is a complex and dynamic process starting with the decisions that are made before and along the journey and proceeding with examination of the challenges to migrants' early adaptation, work and social integration, and the changes in their feelings of belonging and citizenship status. The research examines the impact of crosscutting factors such as gender, nationality, skill level and occupational sector. Using qualitative methodology of in-depth interviews, the study looks into the motivations, mobility channels and assessments that migrants make of the sending context, as well as of the receiving context – in terms of the climate of reception and levels of discrimination by employers, of the transferability of their own human capital and the success with which they will be admitted and encouraged to stay. The fieldwork of six country teams from Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, Spain, Germany and the UK resulted in 236 interviews in total.

The data collection consists of the full transcripts of the 236 in-depth interviews conducted in Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, Spain, Germany and the UK in the respective national languages. Of these 154 were conducted with 'actual migrants' – people who had migrated from four sending countries Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, and Spain and who lived in four receiving EU countries: UK, Germany, Spain and Italy. In the group of actual migrants there are 16 interviews conducted with non-EU migrants from China and the USA in Germany and the UK. Additionally, 42 'prospective' migrants were interviewed at home in Bulgaria, Romania, Italy, and Spain about their plans to migrate in less than 12 months to an EU country. Further, the collection contains 40 interviews with experts from public and private recruiting agencies. Besides the full transcripts in six languages, three-page summaries of all interviews in English are included in the collection.

2. The sampling design

The interviewees belonged to three groups and were selected following a quota sampling meeting the following criteria:

- A. Experts from recruiting agencies** were owners or employees of organizations, both state and private, and working on different levels of the organizational hierarchy.
- B. The prospective migrants** were those who had migration intentions, had made some preparatory steps and planned to leave the country of origin in less than 12 months.
- C. The actual migrants** were defined as people who had lived in the country of reception for at least two years. The group had to meet the following criteria:
 - Gender (equal distribution between men and women)
 - Skill level (two thirds higher skilled, one third lower skilled)
 - Occupational sector (finance, ITC and health for the higher skilled and construction and domestic services for the lower skilled)
 - Maximum diversity in terms of age, family situation and length of migration experience.

3. Distribution of interviews conducted by the six country teams

The Bulgarian interviews:

- 10 experts from recruiting agencies
- 13 prospective migrants
- 15 Bulgarian migrants living in the UK
- 10 Bulgarian migrants living in Germany
- 10 Bulgarian migrants living in Spain
- 7 Bulgarian migrants living in Italy

The Romanian interviews:

- 10 experts from recruiting agencies
- 10 prospective migrants
- 7 Romanian migrants living in the UK
- 8 Romanian migrants living in Germany
- 6 Romanian migrants living in Spain
- 6 Romanian migrants living in Italy

The Spanish interviews:

- 10 experts from recruiting agencies
- 9 prospective migrants
- 13 Spanish migrants living in the UK
- 14 Spanish migrants living in Germany

The Italian interviews:

- 10 experts from recruiting agencies
- 10 prospective migrants
- 13 Italian migrants living in the UK
- 13 Italian migrants living in Germany

The English interviews:

- 8 non-EU migrants from the US and China living in the UK

The German interviews:

- 8 non-EU migrants from the US and China living in the UK

4. Coding style

The coding appearing in the file names was done in the following way:

- *Country of origin:* BG/RO/SP/IT/US/CH
- *Country of destination:* SP/IT/UK/DE
- *Category of interviewee:* AC¹/PR²/AG³
- *Number:* order according to number of interviews conducted in each country per category of interviewee
- *Gender:* M/F
- *Age:* in years

5. Contents of the collection

The collection includes the three interview guides for the three groups: experts from recruiting agencies, prospective migrants and actual migrants and the ethics guidelines adopted by the WP4 teams. In addition, the unified database contains an Excel file with the list of the transcripts and summaries of each case and the values/categories of 12 indicators presenting the main characteristics of the case. The transcripts follow the text of the audio files in full and their total length is **12731702** characters with spaces or about 5000 pages. The summaries in English are about 3 pages each (for the 236 transcripts) and have the form of a table extracting the main points under the themes in the respective interview guides (See for example Table 1).

¹ AC: Actual migrant.

² PR: Prospective migrant.

³ AG: Agency representative.

Table 1. ACTUAL MIGRANT SUMMARY

INDIVIDUAL CODE	
FAMILY STATUS (single, married, divorced)	
CHILDREN (number of children 0-...)	
FAMILY SITUATION (family with him/her; own family left behind, mixed)	
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL (ISCED 0-9)	
LENGTH OF MIGRATION EXPERIENCE	
EMPLOYMENT STATUS (employed, employer, self-employed, unemployed and inactive)	
OCCUPATION (name of job)	
TYPE OF CONTRACT (permanent, fixed term, other)	
WORKING HOURS (full-time, part-time, other)	
SECTOR (finance, ICT, health, architecture, other highly skilled; construction, service workers, transport, domestic care, other low skilled)	
EDUCATION-to-JOB CAREER (high-high; high-low, low-high, low-low)	
CITIZENSHIP DEST. COUNTRY (yes or no)	
CITIZENSHIP	
TOWN AND PLACE OF THE INTERVIEW	
DATE AND DURATION OF THE INTERVIEW	
SUMMARY OF THE INTERVIEW	
A. <u>PERSONAL BACKGROUND</u>	
B. <u>PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES OF MOBILITY</u>	

C. DECISION TO MIGRATE

D. PREPARING THE DEPARTURE

E. ARRIVAL IN COUNTRY X

F. LIFE AND WORK NOW

G. NEIGHBOURHOOD, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL LIFE

H. IDENTITY

I. FUTURE