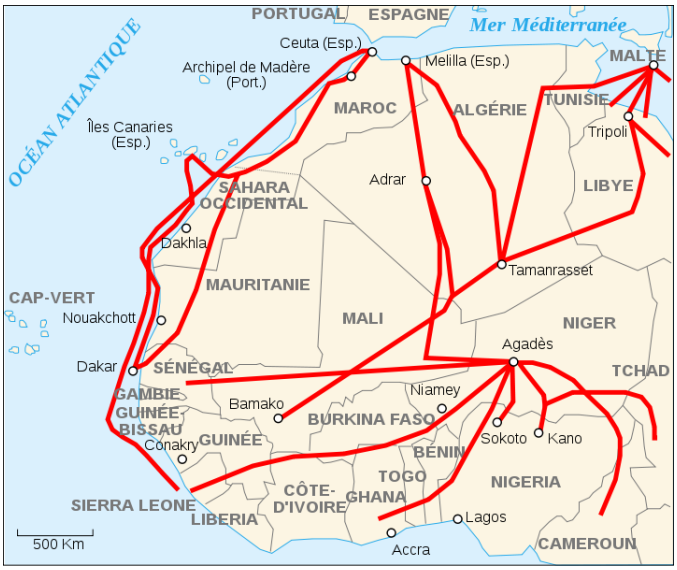
EuroBroadMap

VISIONS OF EUROPE IN THE WORLD

Work Package 3
Migrants and Borders - Guideline

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Interviews' guidelines

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SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Abstract

This paper presents the methodological guidelines of the interviews performed in the framework of the EuroBroadMap project. Three types of migrants were targeted by the different surveys: future migrants, 'transit' migrants, and migrants already living in Europe. Among the topics investigated, two were of particular interest in this program: representations of Europe and/or of European Union, and the way it evolves as the migration project is realised.

Key-words: Migrations, Europe, representations, methodology, interviews guideline

Résumé : Ce *working paper* présente les guides d'entretien utilisés dans le cadre du projet EuroBroadMap. Trois catégories de migrants ont été enquêtées : les migrants potentiels, les migrants en transit et les migrants vivants en Europe. Parmi les sujets abordés, deux étaient centraux pour le projet : les représentations de l'Europe et/ou de l'Union européenne, et la façon dont elles évoluaient quand le projet migratoire se réalisait.

Mots clés : Migrations, Europe, représentations, méthodologie, guide d'entretien

Cover: African migrations toward Europe (http://commons.wikimedia.org/).

Common methodology

The methodology is based on a qualitative socio-anthropological approach of the representation of Europe and of the World of potential migrants, 'en route' migrants, successful and unsuccessful migrants toward Europe.

The team involved in this Work Package has a great experience in the field of socio-anthropological approach related to migrants mainly between Africa and France, Argentine and France, and are very familiar of the analyse of migratory journey.

In the framework of a research effort that focuses on the representations that migrants have constructed and will further diffuse about Europe, researchers will rely on informal discussions, non-directive talk, and the compilation of narratives about migrant trajectories, linked with the objectives in which migrants are engaged. The research teams will also take the benefit of *in situ* observation of places and networks of sociability, and the exchange of information about migratory spaces. The data collected will make possible an evaluation of the changing representations of Europe as a territory of destination, circulation, installation and/or expulsion, for the different situations of origin, transit and destination. The protocol of the survey has been established in order to capture these different representations according to social characteristic, cultural background, age or gender. For this reason, the panel will be carefully established with equal proportions, when it is possible, according to gender, age and social groups. To fulfil these objectives and obtain a sufficiently diversified and representative sample, the teams responsible for the surveys will rely on existing contact with migrants, NGOs, associations and with the actors from the 'sociability' places (cultural centres, meeting places churches, 'confreries', internet cafes, squats, etc.).

In each case, the rules of deontology will be strictly followed: non-implication and scientific distance, anonymity of the survey for both peoples and places, non-divulge of information that could provoke prejudice against the people investigated.

Main research questions

Three situations/moments of the migratory process will be taken into consideration in order to understand how migrants and potential migrants' visions of Europe change along the temporality of their trajectories. Such situations/moments are potential migration, transit migration and settlement in Europe.

Our hypothesis is that the collected visions of Europe will necessarily be ambiguous and ambivalent. Both the image of the European Union as an Eldorado and the image of the EU as a place of suffering and exclusion will probably coexist within peoples' narratives. Such contradictory visions

are coherent with what anthropologist Marc Augé calls 'the condition of supermodernity' of the contemporary world[1].

Different difficulties may arise through the research process. The first one regards the ordinary confusion between Europe as a geographical space with its more ore less blurred borders, and the European Union as a political space in construction with its evolving borders. In each interview we will have to understand how this twofold vision is constructed and how to interpret it in relation to each person's trajectory.

Another difficulty is that one should not take for granted that the EU is necessarily a meaningful concept for immigrants. Most probably, their vision and knowledge are limited to a country or a city. This question is particularly relevant for non-EU citizens as the EU is not yet a free settlement space for them (but only, within the Schengen borders at least, a free movement area).

It is also important to take into account the long history of relations between sending and settling countries (slave trade, colonization, world wars, colonial wars, Russian domination...). Such a long history, together with contemporary international relations, has produced in people's imagination a memory of Europe and Europeans as well as a memory of European languages. The analysis of such a memory is particularly heuristic for approaching immigrant's visions of Europe and the Europeans as well as their visions of Europe's cultural productions.

Vernacular categories that have been used in the past to qualify Europeans and their countries, the Europeanized autochthons ('evolved', 'civilized', 'assimilated') as well as different categories of immigrants and their descendants in Europe (students, workers, different kinds of elites: political, intellectual, sport, technical, artistic...) will be analysed. Such evolving categories, because they reveal the evolutions and changes that occurred in the relationships between sending countries and Europe/the European countries, are useful for a better understanding of the origins and the vehicles of visions of Europe. The analysis of such categories indeed contributes to highlight evolving forms of circulation between spaces, the nature of groups and individuals, as well as the kind of projects that contribute to the framing of people's movements.

Such categories, by showing the evolutions and changes within mentalities, contribute also to reveal and construct a living history of Europe and the Europeans. They contribute to highlight collective memories or sporadic memories, representations of Europe, of Europeans and European countries. They introduce us to the 'contemporaneity' and intimacy of everyday experiences of both the working classes and the elites.

Europe and Europeans are also defined through a 'cultural baggage' made

[1] 'Supermodernity' - he writes - 'is driven by a process of acceleration of history, a contraction of space and an individualization of people's references', M. Augé, 1994, p.157.

of languages, religions, ways of living... The attitude of immigrants, of immigrants returning home for holidays, and of potential immigrants towards such a 'cultural baggage', may reveal many aspects of their vision of Europe.

Our investigation will cover three main directions: the vehicles of the representation of Europe, Europe as a political space, Europe as a socio-economic space. Three main directions concerning four situations. We have elaborated three guidelines corresponding at those situations (see Appendix) These guidelines are more than we said in French 'pense bête' than a list of obligatory questions.

Research topics

What follow are not properly guidelines for the interviews, but rather a selection of indicators that can be useful in order to understand immigrants' representations, knowledge and practices of Europe and the EU.

Europe (and the EU) will be considered as a political space, as a working space, as a transit space, as a settlement space... Topics such as social networks, the knowledge and the use of borders, the given and the circulating images of Europe will be further elaborated.

We organize our investigation from three major clusters congruent with our objective: the vectors of representations, the Europe as a political space, Europe as a socio-economic space.

Vectors of representations

What is the image and the information that is given about Europe in the home country / transit country / settlement country? By whom: the media / the institutions (embassies, universities, cultural centres, etc.) / ex-immigrants / migrants returning for holiday / deported people / dismissed asylum seekers, etc.?

Europe as a political space

Europe as a political space: the European migration policy /policies (how is it/they are perceived, constructed, looked at). What is the knowledge of the European migration policy and what are the strategies of immigrants regarding specific features such as visas, the entrance policy, the police, the European social policy for immigrants, contracts (seasonal or others), political opportunities, the idea of Europe as a fortress, asylum and humanitarian aspects, family reunion opportunities, EU third country migration policies, residence permit and possible circulation within the EU space of democracy?

Europe as a social and economic space

Europe as a social and economic space: social rights, employment opportunities, internal and international mobility opportunities, host country policies, living conditions, knowledge of Europe as a working and a living space, racism, ethnic relations, women status. The issue of borders and detention camps (which knowledge and which experience) will also be tackled.

Some methodological precisions

During the survey, particularly during the interviews, the relevance of Europe as a category will be questioned and confronted to other categories such as Occident, nation, city, working places, economic areas, etc. Interviewees will be chosen in order to diversify destination and settlement countries in Europe. Interviewers will have to collect an as much as possible diverse sample of interviewees regarding their age, sex and education level.

At the beginning of the interviews, the concept of Europe will not be mentioned (neither notions referring to specific countries such as France, Italy and so on) in order to understand whether it is a meaningful / operational category for the interviewees. The interviews will try to grasp what is the reality of Europe and the EU within migration strategies as well as when and under which conditions it is evoked. Then, in a second part of the interviewing process, questions will be more specifically focused on Europe (knowledge, perception, practices, etc.).

The following questions will be addressed: how does Europe become a destination choice for future immigrants? How do immigrants perceive migration constraints and opportunities? How do contradictory and ambiguous imaginaries merge within the decision to engage in a migration path towards Europe? As regards migrants staying in the transit areas, we will try to understand whether the interruption of their migratory journey, as well as their detention condition, have changed their visions of Europe. For immigrants who already settled in Europe, we will try to understand the meaning of Europe and the European Union from the perspective of their integration or exclusion situation.

How is Europe divided by immigrants between transit / circulation / installation / residence spaces and into specific economic spaces in order to answer to their specific strategies?

Which knowledge of European languages?

Europe as compared to other places (possible competitors of similar places): USA, Canada, etc.

Which knowledge of the European geography?

Europe seen as a freedom space, as an entertainment space?

The perception of Europe as a space of racism

The perception of Europe's inhabitants, of Europeans, of Europe's national / ethnic / regional groups...

Categories and notions that are used to refer to Europe, Europeans, immigrants working in Europe, returnees.

Memory of a common history with Europe: slavery, colonization, wars, Russian domination...

Agenda

Analysis of Europe as a category that evolves along the migration trajectory (places, projects, networks, social profile of immigrants...). The research will focus on the specific places in which migrants trajectories take place (home country, transit country, borders, settlement places, etc.). This will allow possible comparisons between the different fields.

Four types of populations will be investigated:

- Migration candidates in the home country: Cameroon (J.-Y. Blum Le Coat with A. Bopta and M. Tchindjang, January 2010), Mali (C. Quiminal, September 2009), Argentina (P. Gonzalez, F. Jedlicki) and India (M. Thapan).
- Deported migrants: Congo-Brazzaville (J.-Y. Blum Le Coat, February 2010).
- Transit migrants: Morocco (A. Pian, September 2009), Senegal (M. Timera), Malta (IRMCo team and C. Schmoll, October 2009), and Romania (Tigris team).
- Migrants in Europe : Italy, Malta (C. Quiminal, M. Timera, C. Schmoll, and M. Thapan, 2010).

Appendices

Transit situations

Guidelines for the interviews

Please note that this is a draft. It has to be discussed with the IRMCo team, and it has to be tested.

The researcher introduces him/herself and makes a brief presentation of the research project without referring directly to Europe. For example, s/he can say that s/he is interested in people's migratory projects and trajectories. The researcher makes clear to the interviewee that what s/he will say will be strictly confidential and that his/her anonymity will be preserved. If necessary, the name of places will also be changed.

1. General information about the interviewee's origins and family

Before asking you about your migratory path, we would like to know more about your life in you country of origin, your family of origin, and your own family.

Family of origin

Could you describe me your family of origin: how many members? Do you have brothers and sisters? Are you the younger / the older one / in between? What kind of job do they do? How would you define the economic and social situation of your family of origin (in comparison to the average situation in your country of origin)? Did your parents ever change their home or their job? Which language did you speak at home?
(If the parents are still alive) Where do they live: in your country? abroad? where?
What kind of education did they receive?
What kind of education did your brothers and sisters receive (level, religious / not religious, specialization, private / public...)? What kind of job do they do now?
The mobility path of the parents / brothers and sisters: did they ever move to another country / to another place in the country? If yes, where to?
Does anybody have a foreign citizenship in your family of origin? In case someone has a foreign citizenship, what kind of use do they make of their citizenship (vote, travel...)?

Family

Are you single / married / else? Do you have children? How many members are there in your family? How would you describe your socio-economic situation in your country of origin (in comparison to the average situation)?
Did you rent / own an apartment / house?
Did you have a car? Did you have television? Telephone? Internet?
Who was managing the family budget?
Which language did you speak at home?
Children: if you have children, where do they live now? Who takes care of them?
Does anybody have a foreign citizenship in your family? In case someone has a foreign citizenship, what kind of use do their do of their citizenship (vote, travel...)?

2. Life in the home country

Education and work

Did you go to school / did you study in your country of origin (how long and where?)? Which language did you speak at school?
Did you go to university? What did you study?
Were you employed/unemployed? If employed, what kind of job? If unemployed, for how long?

Free time

What did you do when you had free time? Did you spend more time with you family/your friends?
What kind of hobby did you have?
Television: which kind of programs did you watch? In which language? Did you watch cable television?
Readings: did you read newspapers / foreign newspapers? Literature? In which language?
Were you involved in associations or NGOs activities? Were you interested in politics? Were you religious (did you pray, were you involved in collective religious activities)?

3. The building of the migratory project in the country of origin

Now I will ask you a few questions about the reasons why you decided to leave your country.

The decision

For which reason did you decide to leave your country (find job opportunities, political reasons, holiday, study, love...)? How long did you prepare your journey? With whom (people that are involved in the journey or in the project, people that helped to organize the journey)? How did you get the information to prepare your journey? When did you eventually decide to leave?

Socialization to Europe and socialization to migration

Did you ever go abroad before this journey? Where? For which purpose?
Did anybody from your family moved abroad before you? If yes, who? Where? Why? What did they tell you about the place? What did they tell you about the country? What did they tell you about Europe (if the place is in Europe)?

Did anybody from your friends moved abroad before you? Who / where / why? What did they tell you about the place / country / Europe (if in Europe)? Did you tell anybody about your project? How did your family react to your project? How did you friends react to your project?
When you planned to go abroad, where did you want to go (country, region, city...)? Why? How and where (cultural centres, embassies, media, associations...) did you get information about this place? How did you think you would reach this place (perceptions of borders)?
Do you know anybody in this place? What do you expect from this place? How do you imagine people in this place?
More broadly, what do you expect from Europe? From Europeans? What are the image and the information that are given about Europe in your home country? By whom (cultural centres, embassies, media, associations...)?
Did you consider going to other places (North America for instance) than Europe? Why? Why didn't you choose this place?

Malta

If the place you planned to reach is not Malta: did you plan to go through Malta during your journey? If not, how did you happen in Malta? Did you have any contact here? Did anybody wait for you here? Did you ever hear about Malta before coming here? How did you figure out life here? What did you know about migration regulation and immigrants' situation here?

4. The migratory path

Now I will ask you about your journey from your homeland to Malta.

Could you please describe your journey, from your homeland to Malta? Was it dangerous? Did you move alone or with other persons? Which borders did you cross?
What kind of papers did you have when you left your home country? Did you have to pay someone to get some papers / to pass the borders / to cross a country? How much money did you need for your trip? Did anybody help you to get this money (friends, intermediaries, family...)?
During the journey did you have to change your itinerary? Did you have to change your plans about the destination place? Why? Who helped you to reach Malta? During your migratory path, did you change your mind about your projects? When? How did you feel about it?
How many languages do you know (read/talk/write)? How many of them did you know before leaving your country? Do you think this knowledge has been helpful / unhelpful during your migratory path? Do you think it will be helpful in the future? How?

5. Life in Malta

Now let me ask you a few questions about your current situation in Malta.

Your current situation and everyday life

What is your current legal situation? Do you expect and how to you expect it to change?
How would you describe your everyday life in Malta? Do you have any friends? Do you have any family here? Do you have any connections with co-ethnics? Do you have any connection with your homeland (TV, mail, internet, telephone, send / receive money...)? Do you have any connection with your place of destination (TV, mail, internet, telephone, send / receive money...)?
During your free time: Do you see friends / family? Do you read? What do you read? Do you watch TV? What do you watch on TV? Are you involved in associations or NGO activities? Do you participate to collective religious activities? Do you pray?

Malta and the Maltese

Do you know some people from Malta? Do you have friends here? How would you describe Maltese people?
Would you describe Malta as a welcoming / non welcoming place? Why? What do you like/unlike here? Do you consider Malta as a European country?
Could you compare Malta to other places you know / to the place you planned to go (if not Malta)? Could you compare Malta to Europe as a whole: would you say the situation in Malta reflects the situation of Europe or not, why?
Do you know / have you heard of any similar place as Malta in Europe or elsewhere? Could you compare Malta to other places in Europe?
Do you think it makes a difference to be in Malta or to be in another place in Europe (as regards job opportunities, migration regulation, people's behaviour towards immigrants...)?
What do you think about immigration policy (do not specify Malta or Europe)?

If the person is in a detention centre

How long have you been staying here? How long do you think you will stay? Do you have connections with outside? Did you have any other experience in detention camps? What is your position towards detention camps? Who do you think is to be blamed about the situation in detention camps?

If the person is working in Malta

Could you describe your job here? How did you find it? Who are you working for? Who is working with you? Do you think that there is a fair balance between you qualification and your job? What are your professional projects?

6. Current Migratory Project

Now that you are in Malta, did your migratory project change compared to what was planned in your homeland?
Where do you not want to go? Why?
Where do you want to go (place, region, city)? Why?

If the place is different from the one described in 3 (migratory project)

How did you get information about this place? Do you know anybody there? What do you expect from this place? How do you imagine people in this place? How do you think you will reach this place (perceptions of borders, perception of the implementation of migration policies...)? How did you change your mind about your destination place?

If the place is the same than the one described in 3

Did you get new information about this place during your journey? Did you get new information about this place here in Malta?
Do you think there are good opportunities for regularization in this place?
Do you think there are good working opportunities? Do you think there would be opportunities for your family to join you? Do you think there are good opportunities for finding friends / finding a partner?
What kind of professional project do you have in this place? Do you think your life there will be much more different from you life here? If yes, how?
Do you think about other places where there could be good opportunities? Where? Why? What kind of opportunities?
What do you think about European policy on immigration? Do you think it may impede you to realize your migratory project?

7. Visions of Europe

This is the last part of the interview. Let me ask you a bit more about your projects and your vision of Europe.

Could you compare the place you want to go to other places in Europe?
Do you think there are important differences between those places (as regards job opportunities, migration policy and policy implementation, people's behaviour towards immigrants...)?
Would you describe Europe as a welcoming place? Why? What are, according to you, the good and the bad sides of Europe as a destination?

Do you think that the situation of immigrants here in Malta reflects their situation in Europe? Why?
Could you compare Europe to other possible destination countries (USA, Canada)?
Do you think of Europe as a place where people can be freer than elsewhere?
Do you think of Europe as a place where people can have more opportunities?
Do you think of Europe as a place of racism? Why? Do you think racism and xenophobia are everywhere the same in Europe?
Did you ever think about returning to your homeland? What do you think of people that decided to return?

Argentina situation

Guidelines for the interviews (exists in French, Spanish and Italian)

Questions d'État civil

Sexe, date de naissance, lieu de naissance
Nationalité
Situation familiale
Niveau d'études
Expériences professionnelles
Résidence (domicile personnel, familial, autres)

Veux-tu que nous parlions d'abord de la migration ou de l'Argentine, avant le départ ?

En Argentine

Origines familiales

Généalogie et mémoire familiale : dresser un arbre généalogique familial (nationalité, âge approximatif, ville / pays de résidence, qualification, métier) le nom de leurs parents, grands-parents jusqu'au primo arrivant dans la République Argentine.
D'où (comment? quand?) sont venus les migrants en Argentine de la famille ? Autres mobilités inter-Argentine ?

Nationalité

Nationalité des parents / grands-parents (quel est le premier à être devenu argentin, comment ?)
Usages de la nationalité : vote ? Recours à des services sociaux ? À des programmes pour les émigrants ?

Relation avec le lieu d'origine migratoire familial, ou des lieux d'origine migratoire

Tienen familia en los paises dont vient ta famille ? Avez-vous déjà fait des voyages là-bas ? Accueillez-vous ou votre famille des "parents" ou amis de ce pays en Argentine ? Avez-vous des liens autres avec ce pays (pratiques sportives, actualité, littérature, cinéma, amitiés virtuelles, projets. . .)?

Pratiques socioculturelles / mémoire migratoire familiale (enfance - adolescence)

Langues parlées à la maison ?
Pratiques socioculturelles familiales : on mange quoi chez vous ? On fête quoi ? Comment ?
Scolarisation : école bilingue ? école communautaire ?
Tes parents (grands-parents / oncles, tantes) ont-ils des amis originaires du même pays ? D'autres lieux migratoires ? Que font–ils ?
Comment était ta vie là-bas ?

Vers la migration

Que connaissais-tu de l'Europe là-bas ? Comment (quel biais) ? Par rapport aux États-Unis ?
Que connaissais-tu de la législation européenne par rapport à l'immigration ?
Et que connaissais-tu des migrants en Europe ?
Avais-tu des amis, de la famille en Europe ou qui ont déjà été en Europe ? Si oui, où ?

On the road

Projet migratoire

Pourquoi es-tu parti ?
Quand as-tu songé à partir la première fois ?
Comment as-tu préparé le voyage ? Quelles infos ? Quelle aide ?
Quelle a été la réaction des parents et de la famille ? Réactions des amis ?
Quelles étaient tes attentes de ce voyage ?
Pensais-tu qu'il te serait plus facile de travailler ? Mieux gagner ta vie ? Meilleures études ? Rencontrer plus facilement des femmes / hommes ? Pouvoir être plus libre ? etc.

Réalité migratoire

Comment ça s'est passé depuis ton arrivée ?
As-tu eu des difficultés, des problèmes, des moments durs durant cette migration ?

La question administrative
Trajectoire professionnelle depuis le départ : attentes et satisfactions
Quelles professions exercées jusqu'à présent ?
Es-tu satisfait de tes conditions d'études / professionnelles ?
Réseaux et sociabilités
Est-ce que tu vois d'autres Argentins ? (fréquence, pour faire quoi ?) Est-ce que c'est important pour toi ?
As-tu déjà participé à des associations ? Lesquelles ?
apports à l'Argentine
Voyages-tu en Argentine ? Fréquence ?
Ta famille vient-elle ici ? Des amis ?
Quels sont tes liens avec l'Argentine aujourd'hui ?
Actualité : lis-tu les journaux ? Liens aux amis? Internet ?
Evénements politiques - culturels - sportifs (en énumérer)
À la maison
Quelle langue parles-tu le plus ?
Dans quelle langue tu rêves ? Dans quelle langue tu comptes / tu jures ?
Musique / Film / Littérature / Autres activités ?
Pratiques culinaires : quel type de nourriture ?
Où souhaiterais-tu voir naître tes enfants ?
Où souhaiterais-tu élever tes enfants ?
Où souhaiterais-tu être enterré ?
Quels sont tes projets actuels ?
Projet de nouvelles migrations ?
Un pays de vie idéal ?
Des choses à ajouter / sur lesquelles revenir / conclure ?