



Bulgarian-Swiss Research Programme Midterm Meeting
co-organised by the SD/MES and the SNSF
22 May 2014, Sofia

Research project

**Migration and Transnationalism between
Switzerland and Bulgaria:**
*assessing social inequalities and regional disparities in the
context of changing policies*

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Team: „Migration and Transnationalism Between Switzerland and Bulgaria”

ERI at the BAS and ASA

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- Michael Nollert
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Project rationale and conceptual framework

- The **freedom of movement, acquired by the CEE citizens** during the transition processes has sparked migration flows of varied characteristics and changing dynamics.
- The **interactions of migration, regional disparities and social inequalities in a context of changing policies** require a complex approach.
- While the number of **Bulgarians in Switzerland** is small, the migration flows between the two countries are understudied.
- **Transnationalism** provides a good theoretical framework for addressing various migration types and also various types of cross-country linkages and networks.
- **Social inequality** as a driver of migration, and also in terms of social inclusion or social exclusion of migrants.
- **Regional disparities** which raises the issues of transnational networking, remittance payments, and the overall negative or positive impacts of migration on regional development.
- **Migration policies** at national and supranational level.

Four empirical approaches

Empirical approach	Quantitative /Qualitative	Country	Number
1. Main Surveys	Quantitative	Bulgaria Switzerland	3'900 4'300 (total), 860 (expected return)
2. Bus survey	Quantitative	Bulgaria	100 bus trips (min. 1'000 interviews expected)
3. Semi-structured interviews	Qualitative	Bulgaria Switzerland	20 20
4. Desk research	Qualitative /quantitative	Bulgaria, Switzerland, EU	

Overview over the research activities 2013

Phase	Activity	Milestone	Responsibility
I	Desk research	Data desk research	BG/CH
	Kick-off	Workshop in Zurich	CH
II	Development of instruments	Instruments	BG/CH
	Discussion of instruments	Workshop in Sofia	BG
III	Data collection, survey BG	Data in Database	BG
	Data collection, survey CH	Data collected	CH
	Data collection, interviews CH	4 interviews completed	CH

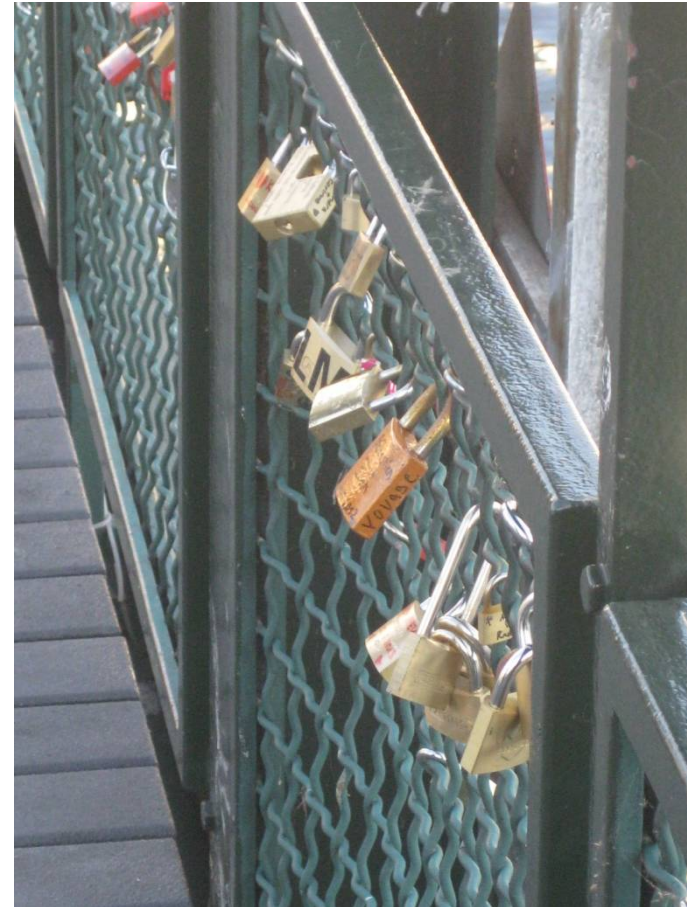
Main phases of the research work conducted

- Phase I
 - We began the project in January 2013
 - Desk research
 - Drop box
 - Kick-off meeting in Zurich (April 2013)

Kick-off meeting in Zurich - April 2013



Kick-off meeting



Main phases of the research work conducted

- Phase II
 - Development of Instruments (Quantitative and Qualitative)
 - In a second meeting in Sofia, in July 2013, the questionnaires were discussed in detail
 - Contacts

Main phases of the research work conducted

- Phase III

Data collection

- Survey in Bulgaria, comprising 3'907 face-to-face interviews, covering the 6 planning regions
- In Switzerland - a mail-back survey targeted at the whole Bulgarian population living in Switzerland.
- The qualitative interviews. (Until the end of the year we conducted 4 interviews out of the planned 20.)

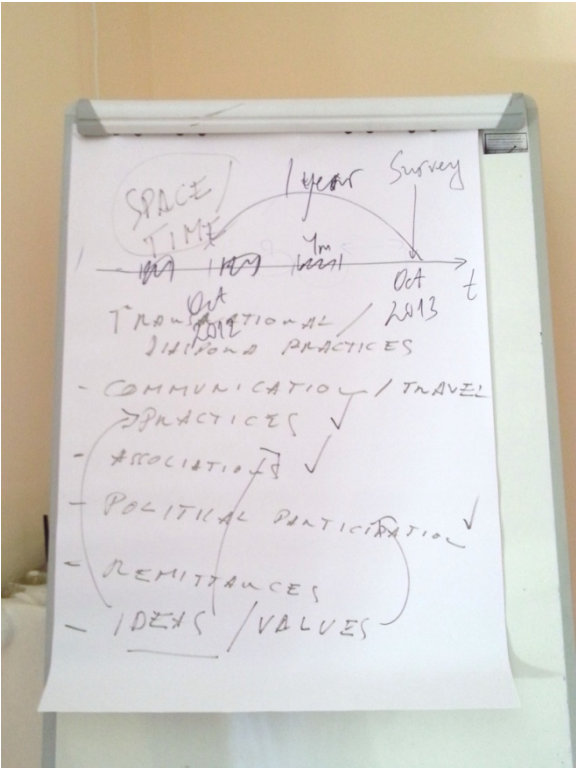
Intermediary Report (January 2014)

Book Proposal to Springer (Contact with Ms. Katie Chabalko, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Third meeting in Sofia -February 2014)

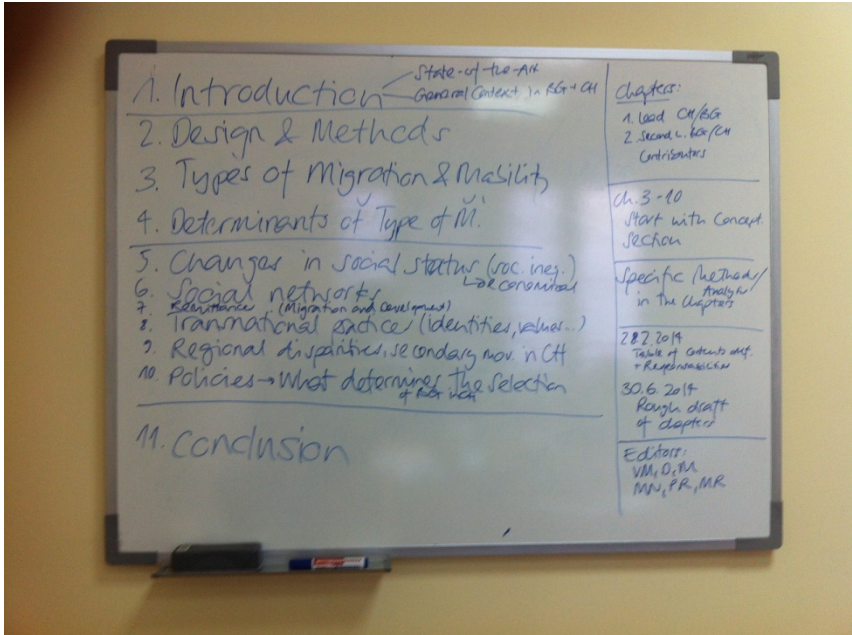
Overview over the data gathered

Instrument	Type	N	Completed (degree)
Desk research	Statistics, articles, publications, grey literature, etc.		Yes (on-going)
National survey (BG)	Quantitative data	3'907	Yes
National survey (CH)	Quantitative data	1'009 (22%)	Yes
Semi-structured interviews (CH)	Qualitative data	4	No (25%)

Discussion on migration concepts in Sofia, 13 July 2013



Discussion on Book proposal in Sofia, 15 February 2014



Dissemination

Book Proposal to Springer

*Contact with Ms. Katie Chabalko,
Social and Behavioral Sciences*

**86 619 души от Североизтока
гледат към чужбина**

*Безработицата у нас през
януари 2014 г. е 12,2%, с
0,4% по-висока от декември
2013 г., съобщиха от
Агенцията по заетостта. В
бюрата по труда са
регистрирани 401 233 души
без препитание. Те се
увеличават с 15 056 спрямо
декември 2013 г.*

<http://pressadaily.bg/publication/35899-86-619-души-от-Североизтока-гледат-към-чужбина>

Collaboration between the Swiss and the Bulgarian teams

All three meetings, in Zurich and in Sofia, have proven to be essential for the collaboration but also very fruitful for the development of the project.

Both sides are able and willing to explain their ideas not only in another language but also to colleagues from different disciplines.

In Sofia (13-15 of July 2013), the team took particular advantage from the gathering of a wide group of experts to discuss the quantitative instruments.

Apart from the opportunities to meet in person provided by the workshops, we also conducted regular Skype meetings and have a continuous email exchange.

Thank you for your attention!

Further information about the project at:

<http://bulgarianmigration.ch/>