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## **Developing Europe's Rural Regions in the Era of Globalization**

An interpretative model for better anticipating and responding to challenges for regional development in an evolving international context

### **WP2**

**International mobility and migration of rural population**

### **Deliverable D 2.4**

### **Work Package Summary Report**

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# 1. Introduction and context

The main purpose of **Work Package 2 (WP2) “International mobility and migration of rural populations”** is to explore the enrolment of Europe’s rural regions in international flows of mobility. Research focuses on migration flows and the associated social challenges with regard to increasing globalization.

**Globalization** increasingly shapes the challenges for European regional development. It affects every single area of life, representing both threats and opportunities, especially for rural regions – which constitute 91% of the EU land area and house over 56% of its population (European Commission 2008). Global markets and their competition have an influence on traditional industries, transnational migration does not only occur in the big cities, but it also affects people in rural areas, increasingly internationalised property markets, large international enterprises and global actors represent new challenges for traditional environmental management. At the same time, however, globalization has reordered notions of ‘core’ and ‘periphery’ that have historically marginalized rural regions (McDonagh 2002, Copus 2001, Dühr 2009, Eriksson 2008, Labrianidis 2004, Wild/Jones1993), and which now assign a whole new importance to rural areas, particularly for economic purposes. The adoption of appropriate responses to both the challenges and opportunities of globalization is critical to the future development of rural regions, yet the evidence base on which such strategies can be founded is currently limited (DERREG Consortium 2008: 7).

**Globalization** is one of the key challenges facing **rural regions in Europe**, bringing significant social, economic, cultural, environmental and political changes.

Globalization leads to **a worldwide fundamental change of territorial organisation of economic, cultural and social activities** and to **a shift in the political-economic balance of power**.

The effects of globalization on migration processes are particularly evident in the following **changes**:

- **Lifting of the emigration ban** due to the cessation of the East-West conflict following the implosion of the real socialist states (the political transformation processes of the Eastern European states)
- **More freedom of action for migrants** due to the technological progress of communication (Internet, phones) and transport (especially the reduction in price of plane travels)
- **Further development of transnational households** due to the deregulation of financial markets since 1990 which facilitated the migrants’ international financial transactions (Hillmann 2007: 31-32).

Due to the diverse impacts of globalization, the potential for individual mobility increases considerably. **Faster and cheaper travelling** favours international migration movements. The **internationalisation of home ownership, labour migration and commuter movements**, as well as increasing **return migration** in rural regions are signs of globalization.

Current studies on the impact of globalization on rural regions tend to focus on specific sectors or processes or localities. The absence of an overarching integrative analysis has been an obstacle limiting effective regional development strategies to cope with these challenges. Thus, there is **a great need for research concerning migration flows in rural regions with regard to globalization processes**.

Due to the main impacts of globalization presented above – which have been reinforced by the Schengen Agreement – pattern and types of migration, which had been applicable until the 1990s, have changed fundamentally. Thus, newer literature puts an emphasis on the creation of transnational migration spaces and point to the agreement of the integration process of migrants in the different target countries. Simultaneously, the annual migration report of the OECD points to the integration problems which have developed in the cities: particularly exclusion of migrants in states with high unemployment rates and weak economic growth. Thus, first measures follow which only refer to urban areas, such as in:

- France: for the economic, social and cultural reinforcement of integration in disadvantaged urban areas,
- Germany and Sweden: to a deconcentration of the foreign population in the strongly segregated cities (Hillmann 2007: 63-64).

Even though a common European migration policy does exist, it is on a very modest level and has little transparency. Clear definitions are missing, about how many migrants are welcome in what period of time and for what demographical, economic, humanitarian or social reasons in which area, as well as the integration measures coordinated according to this (Hillmann 2007: 64). **In order to put right the existing shortcomings, it is necessary to conduct overall examinations which include the rural regions of Europe. The analyses within the framework of WP2 of the DERREG project should contribute to fill this gap concerning Europe's rural areas. In doing so, particularly the actors of regional development in the participating rural regions should benefit from the specifically social consideration of migrants.**

**The main objective of WP2** consists in exploring the enrolment of rural regions in international flows of mobility as globalization increases the potential for individual mobility through the ability to travel greater distances more freely and more quickly. The focus is on **three aspects of internationalized mobility** which are becoming more and more important for rural areas in the age of globalization: **transnational mobility of migrant labour, the internationalization of rural property ownership; and return migration to rural localities**. The aim is to investigate the role of migrants for the regional development of rural areas in Europe (e.g. migrant workers servicing economic growth; in-migrants and return migrants contributing skills and knowledge), *and to evaluate the* tasks and problems of social development that result from the transition of these areas (e.g. impacts on property markets and service provision; issues of cultural conflicts and integration; demographic concentration resulting from outmigration) – including factors such as *gender and age* in shaping these impacts and experiences (DERREG Consortium 2008: 22-23).

Data collection and analysis for WP2 are structured around the **three types of migrants** highlighted for specific study (DERREG Consortium 2008: 22-23):

- Research on **migrant workers** involved interviews with mayors or municipal leaders in two of the case study regions (for migrant workers research e.g. in Alytus, Lithuania) in order to collect data for the out-migration of migrant workers from rural communities in these countries (compensating for the absence of accurate and up-to-date official statistics on this), and information on destinations, experiences and the resulting challenges for the home communities. Then followed semi-structured interviews with migrant workers in Germany and Sweden, and with migrant workers in Lithuania, talking about their migratory history and exploring their motivations, experiences and intentions with regard to their life at home and abroad. This study does not only focus on migrant workers from within the EU, but also on workers from outside the EU, including Turkish and Asian workers in Germany and Australian and South African workers in Sweden.

- Biographical interviews were also conducted with **foreign home owners** (both as second homes and as permanent residences) in Slovenia, Germany and Sweden. These depict the motivations, experiences and intentions of foreign property owners, and combined with documentary analysis, were used to examine the effects of foreign home ownership in its different forms on the case study regions.
- Return migration to rural regions was examined through interviews with **return migrants** in Ireland's West Region and Alytus, Lithuania. In principle, these interviews were also biographical like the others. They inform about the problems, challenges and chances which result from the re-insertion of return migrants into rural communities, and the potential contribution of return migrants to regional development drawing on skills and competences developed elsewhere.

At first, data were collected and analysed from existing sources of migration statistics to establish key migration trends and the demographic impact of migration in seven case study regions (Alytus, Lithuania; Pomurska region, Slovenia; Oevre Norrland, Sweden; Regierungsbezirk Dresden and Saarland, Germany and Roscommon in the West Region of Ireland). The results of the three different research strands – concerning migrant workers, foreign home owners and return migrants – were put together in order to create **overarching network analysis of migration flows and the challenges resulting for regional development**.

A distinctive feature of the research is the **potential for close collaboration between the partners** in examining both ends of specific migration flows, e.g. flows of migrant workers between Lithuania and Ireland, and networks of English, Australian, American, and German property-owners in Slovenia and Sweden. WP2 also involves an analysis of the role of regional development strategies in shaping and responding to these migration trends, including interviews with regional development actors, and identifies and records **examples of good practice** (DERREG Consortium 2008: 22-23).

The following 'Work Package 2 Report' presents the results of the whole survey within the WP 2 which helps to meet the objectives of the whole DERREG project.

The WP2 report basically consists of five parts. After context for the WP2 research (chapter 1), conceptual approach (chapter 2) and methodology (chapter 3), the main results as well as conclusions and recommendations compose the chapter 4 and 5. Furthermore all partners of WP2 have their contribution in the following.

By the reporting the results for international work migration, international home migration and international return migration will be presented. The use of the multidimensional research approach and the theoretical foundations for each group of migrants will be considered too. The survey is completed by a summary of the most important results and recommendations of all partners of WP2.

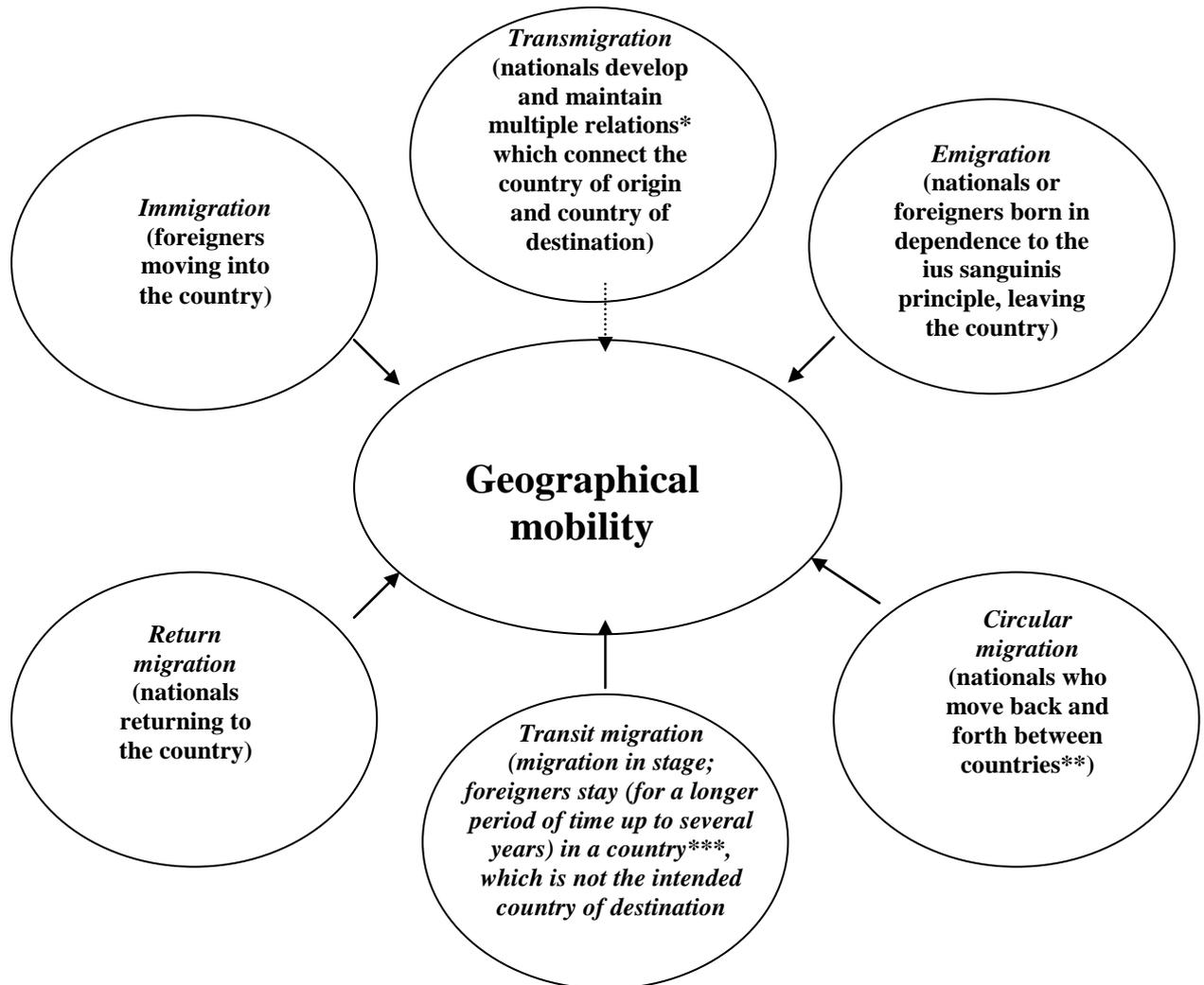
## 2. Conceptual approach

### 2.1. *Definitional dissociation for WP2*

“The term ‘migration’ refers to spatial population movements across national borders (cross-border and transnational migration), as well as inside a political-territorial, social or cultural space (internal migration)” (translated according to Bade et al. 2008: 36). From a social science perspective, “the term of migration generally covers spatial movements of individuals and groups of people [...] which cause a permanent change of residence” (translated according to Han 2000: 7). Migration as a movement of people especially over large distances in geographical space is considered to be a special case of geographical mobility

(Düvell 2006: 25). On the other hand geographical mobility is the result of various flows of migration. The Figure 1 shows various flows which cause the geographical mobility (Vandenbrande et al. 2006: 9):

**Figure 1: Flows which cause geographical mobility**



\* Multiple relations can be of family, economic, social, religious, political and organisational nature.

\*\* The movement, which implies repeated overnight stays outside the residence, is often limited by researchers to happen within a period of 30 days (e.g. Bilsborrow 1998: 5).

\*\*\* Financial resources are gained and networks, which are important for the onward journey, are established in the transit country.

Source: Frys/Nienaber 2010: 14 according to Vandenbrande et al. 2006: 9, Glick Schiller et al. 1992: 1-2, 5, Han 2006: 151, Düvell 2006: 26-27 und Bilsborrow 1998: 5.

Heineberg (2003: 78) points out the differences between "migration" and "spatial mobility", because there are spatial mobilities without a shift of residence (so-called circulations). Contrary to the circular migration first mentioned above, which consists of "repeated successive overnight stays" (Bilsborrow 1998:5), circulations are formed by movements that usually begin and end at ones own dwelling. Thus, circulations include the traffic of commuters, who travel to their work place or their educational institution, as well as shopping, holiday and visiting traffic (Heineberg 2003: 78).

Until today, there is no consistent use of the term migration in literature (OECD 2003: 283, Düvell 2006: 5 and Hillmann 2007: 24). The large variety of definitions is summarised by Erf et al. (2005, cited in Düvell 2006: 5) as follows: “Concepts and definitions of legal international migration are a dime a dozen“. Defining migration, different characteristics are considered to be decisive, often for pragmatic reasons in order to measure migration movements based on standardised data records (Düvell 2006: 5). Thus, migrations can be classified like the following example shows (Table 1):

**Table 1: Typology of migrations**

<b>Motive</b>	forced (e.g. environmental constraints due to human or natural destruction of the environment)	escape/expulsion (mainly ideologically oriented and caused by war)	economically (also called ‚improvement migration‘)	culturally (e.g. educational tours, resettlement during retirement)	
<b>Distance</b>	Shorter (local)	medium (mostly regional)	larger distance (mostly international, including colonial or transoceanic migration)		
<b>Direction</b>	immigration	circular	multiple: in different directions or repeatedly at the same place	return migration	
<b>Duration of stay</b>	temporary	seasonal	of several years	for work life	for life
<b>Socio-economic space</b>	rural-rural	rural-urban	urban-urban	urban-rural	colonial
<b>Economic sector</b>	agrarian (settlers or farmers)	commercial-industrial (work, including tours of journeymen)	service sector (service providers, nursing staff, housekeeping staff, soldiers, sailors, tradesmen and administration employees)	elite (civil servants, liberal professions and business people)	

Source: Translated according to Bade et al. 2008: 37 (revised and supplemented)

Although it seems problematic to use a standard definition for all case study regions, it is indispensable to take a consistent decision on the term so that a compatible study of all participating regions is possible. Following the UN definition, the following pragmatic approach is used for WP2 of the EU project DERREG in order to analyse and to interpret the statistical and non-statistical data (cf. Table 2):

**Table 2: Definitional dissociation**

**Migration** → Shift of the regular residence to live in another country or region, so that the country or region of destination effectively becomes new country or region of usual residence (migrant workers belong to this group).

**Short-term migration** refers to a period of at least 1 month but less than a year.

**Long-term migration** refers to a period of at least 12 months.

Thus, migration does not include the movements for recreational purposes, holidays, visiting friends and relatives or religious pilgrimages.

**Labour mobility** → moving to a work place, outside the home residence (commuters also belong to this group).

**International mobility/migration** takes place if at least one national border is crossed during mobility/migration.

Source: DERREG Consortium 2009 as cited in Frys/Nienaber 2010: 17

\* Regular country of residence is the country in which a person lives, i.e. the country in which he or she has a place to live where he or she usually retires at the end of the day (freely translated according to UN definition in: UN, 1998: 18).

The **term of international migration** is particularly important for the research within the framework of the DERREG project. For international and cross-border migration “the permanent or temporary shifting of the migrant’s residence is taking place among national states” (translated according to Han 2000: 9). For this, research refers to the internal borders of the EU as well as to its external borders. Some authors (Han 2000: 10) relativise the formal distinction between national and international migration because it has been revised due to possible shifts or removal of national borders (as it was the case for the collapse of the former Yugoslav republic of Serbia-Montenegro and the emergence of Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo). However, the differentiation is indispensable for statistical, formal law and finally for theoretical purposes (Han 2000: 9-10).

Since migrants often exhibit so-called “multiple identities” (Bade 2002: 24, Castles/Miller 1998: 297) or migrate in the course of complex decision processes – whereby several motives and reasons for migration exist – all typologies are not sufficient to classify migrants for one of the types of migration (Düvell 2006: 32). Bade (2002: 24, cited in Düvell 2006: 32) gives an example for different reasons for the migration decision which is often found in biographical interviews: “I had political problems”, “I didn’t have a job anymore”, “But I’ve got an uncle here”, “I always wanted to learn English”. Thus, asylum migration, labour migration, family reunions and educational migration have to be included as well (ibid.).

A multi-dimensional procedure is rather needed which simultaneously takes different human decision processes into consideration. The following chapter 2.2 deals with such socio-geographical procedures.

## **2.2. Interpretative model for analysing and interpreting the data**

In order to carry out research within the framework of DERREG, **an interpretative model for analysing and interpreting the qualitative data** was developed. Thus, the **non-statistical data of all regions involved were examined according to four levels and six dimensions**.

In particular, the analysis of literature referred to the following **spatial levels**:

1. Local level
2. Regional level
3. National level
4. International level

Furthermore, these **dimensions of migration**, which have been further developed based on the theory of Düvell (2006: 7-10), should be taken into consideration:

1. Dimension of kinds of migration
2. Time-related dimension
3. Distance-related dimension
4. Political dimension
5. Purpose-related dimension
6. Sociologically related dimension

Whereas data research for the levels took place in the spatial context (migration on the local, regional, national and international scale), the following **characteristics with regard to the dimensions** were examined for the dimensions:

### **1. Dimension of kinds of migration**

- Rural-urban migration
- Urban-rural migration
- Rural-rural migration
- Region of origin for immigration
- Destination area for outmigration
- Migration to EU-countries
- Migration from EU-countries
- Migration to non-EU-countries
- Migration from non-EU-countries
- Individual migration
- Chain migration
- Group or collective migration
- Migration of nations

### **2. Time-related dimension**

- The shortest stays that are generally defined as migration in the CS region
- Short-term migration (for a period of at least 1 month but less than a year)
- Long-term migration (for a period of at least 12 months)

### **3. Distance-related dimension**

- Spatially-limited migration in border areas/cross-border migration
- Spacious migration
- Geographical distance (physical)
- Cultural nearness (e.g. Great Britain-Australia or Austria-Germany)
- Cultural distance (e.g. Morocco-Spain, Germany-Turkey or Thailand-Sweden)

#### 4. Political dimension

- Labour-market policy
- Social rules
- Specificities for each CS area

#### 5. Purpose-related dimension

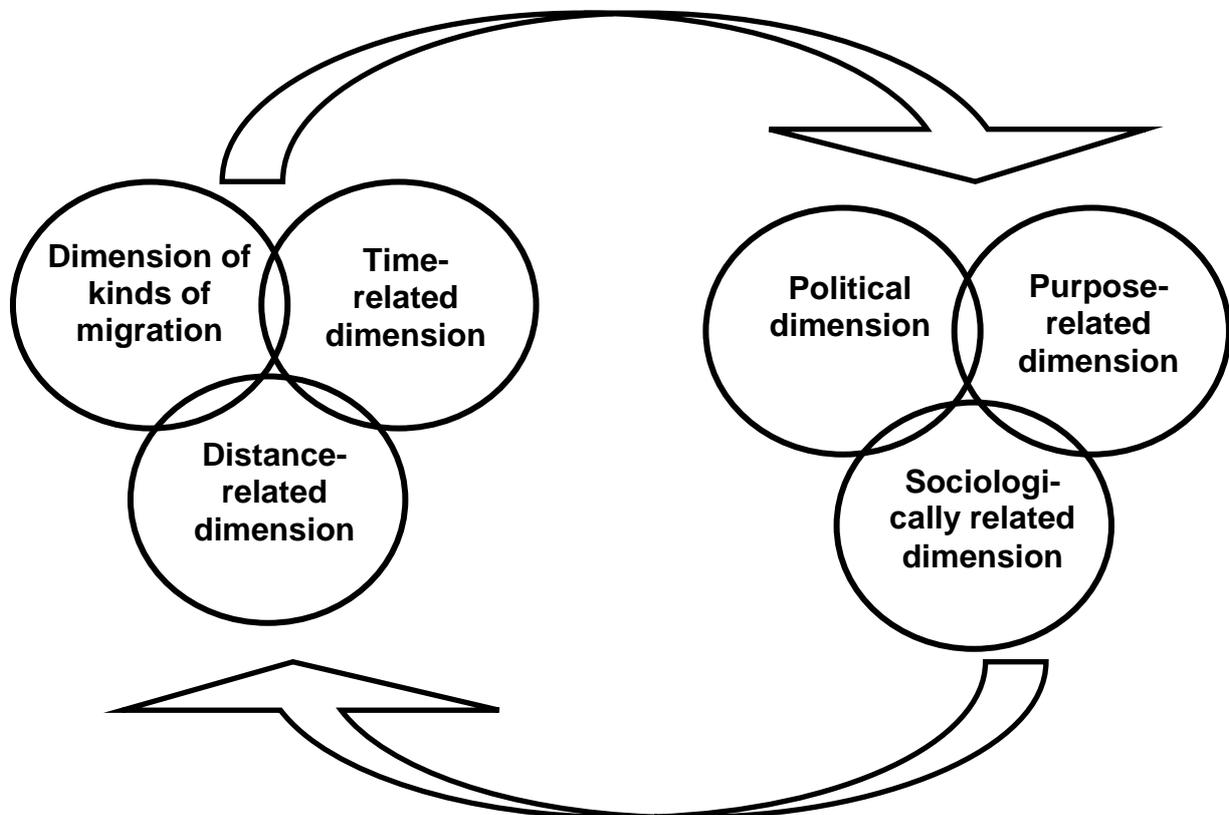
- Reasons to leave the case study area/country
- Reasons to leave rural areas
- Reasons to move to the case study area/country
- Reasons to move to rural areas
- Reasons for return migration
- Main employment sectors for migrant workers (housekeepers, health care professionals, IT-experts, agriculture...)
- Reasons for migrants to buy property in case study area
- Foreign pupils

#### 6. Sociologically-related dimension

- Integration of foreigners into local everyday life
- Integration of foreigners into local/regional organizations, associations and clubs
- Legal migration
- Illegal migration
- Forced migration (refugees, asylum migration, human trafficking, deportation)

While analysing the individual characteristics of migration, certain overlaps – which are mutually influential - of some factors became significant (cf. Figure 2).

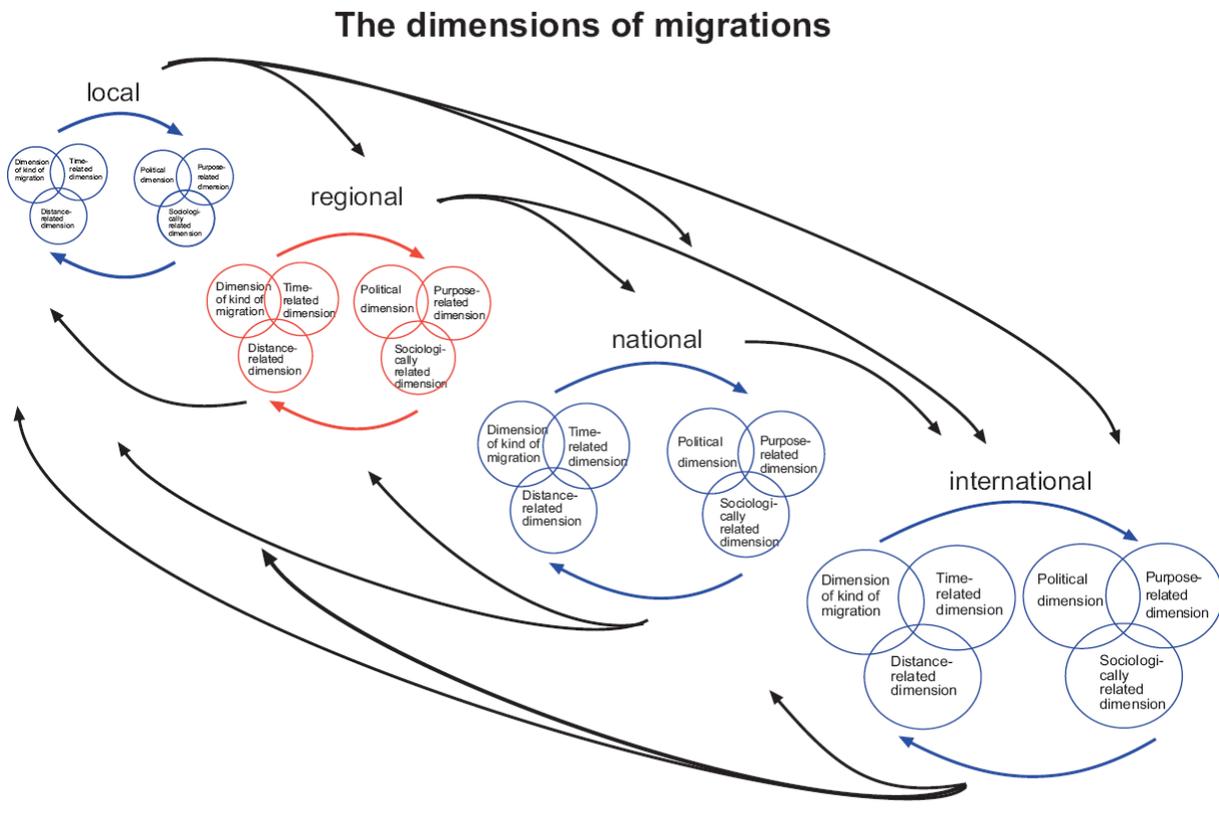
**Figure 2: The dimensions of migrations**



Source: Frys/Nienaber 2009 as cited in Frys/Nienaber 2010: 20

The corresponding characteristics of the individual dimensions refer to the four spatial levels of migration. The connections are represented by Figure 3.

**Figure 3: The connection of levels and dimensions of migration**



Source: Nienaber/Frys 2009 as cited in Frys/Nienaber 2010: 21

The development of an interpretative model helps to compare the data of all case study regions. **Using such an interpretative model** has the following **advantages**:

- Compatible analysing and interpreting the non-statistical data from literature in all CS regions;
- Compatible recording of comments and remarks to the statistical data;
- Generating of data for the descriptive reports of WP2-CS regions;
- Multidimensional frame of reference for preparing, conducting and analysing biographical interviews (consideration of multiple decision processes of the respondents);
- Compatibility of the analysis of qualitative data for all regions involved;
- Comparability of the results of the qualitative examination of the regions involved.

## **2.3. Conceptual approach concerning migrant workers**

This chapter contains a synopsis on traditional approaches and their limitations as well as an overview of new approaches in migration studies. Both groups of approaches help to understand work migration as studied in this subtask of WP2.

### **2.3.1. Traditional approaches in migration studies and their problems**

Traditional approaches in migration studies mostly start from the macro-level perspective and stress economic disparities and adverse conditions in different regions, which cause a unidirectional and long-term or even permanent migration of people from disadvantaged regions into more prosperous regions.

A well-known example of such a perspective is the '**push-pull-model**' according to Everett Lee (1972). His model consists of push-factors in the region of origin of the migrants, which make people leave (e.g. unemployment, war, famine, political persecution, environmental disasters), and pull-factors in the region of destination, which attract people on the move (e.g. strong labour markets, higher wage levels, social security schemes, but also family reunion). Lee did not only focus on economic explanations. He also included social factors and developed a conceptualization of restrictive elements (such as spatial distance, migrations legislation, etc.) in international migration (Bürkner/Heller 2008: 38, Haug 2000: 8, Kneer 1996).

Based on the 'push-pull-model', the **neoclassical approach** (Todaro 1976) suggests that labour markets act as the main factors for migration processes. Regionally different levels of labour demand/supply and regionally different wage levels lead to migration from the high labour supply/low wage regions to the high labour demand/high wage regions. This process leads to an inter-regional balance in wage levels. Once equilibrium is reached between regions of out- and in-migration, migration flows come to an end. On a micro-economic level, this neoclassical approach is conceptualized as an individual migrant's calculation of expected migration benefits and costs.

Several approaches originated as a reaction to the shortcomings of the neoclassical approach. First, the **new migration economy** shifted the focus from the individual actor to families and households as collective actors. Understanding income as the major incentive for migration, this approach argues that migration is a household's/family's strategy to lower the risk of uncertain local household/family income. The equilibrium between regional labour markets is no longer so important in this approach. Rather migration is a strategy of risk reduction by risk distribution. If the household gains its income in different regions, an economic collapse in one of the regions does not have such a drastic impact on the household's wealth (Haug 2000).

The **dual labour market approach** suggests that migration is an effect of political and socioeconomic constellations. In advanced economies the labour market becomes split into two different sub-segments, a capital-intensive segment with high wage jobs and a labour-intensive segment with low wage jobs. Due to the fact that native workers in these sectors opt for the high paid segment, there is a large labour demand in the labour-intensive low-paid segment ('secondary labour market'). The latter then attracts low-skilled immigrants (Piore 1979, Massey et al. 1993).

Finally, there is the **world system theory** which argues that the origin of migration lies in institutional and sectoral disparities which are evoked by the integration of nations into the worldwide capitalist system (see Lebhart 2002). The disparities are most evident between the industrial countries and the developing countries. It is presumed that international labour migration follows the international flows of capital and goods in the opposite direction. While

capital is more and more invested in the developing countries by foreign companies, the labour force leaves the developing countries in order to find decent employment in the industrialized countries. Historic linkages between colonial powers and the former colonies are of importance here, because there are traditional cultural, economic and political relations.

The traditional approaches presented above all share an idea of migration in which the actual move is simplified as a unidirectional and permanent move from A to B. Furthermore, both on the individual micro-economic as well as on the macro-economic level, the reasons which cause migration are predominantly of economic character. With the ongoing global integration of (labour) markets, national political systems and cultural spaces, new forms of migration patterns have emerged, which could not be explained with the traditional approaches. They fail mostly because they underestimate the role of the 'social' in migration processes. There is a strong need to integrate the interaction between society and the individual when searching for explanations for contemporary migration fluxes. Furthermore, the traditional geographic patterns of migration have changed rapidly. Today migration is not only unidirectional. It is becoming more and more a constant moving, which might result in specific migration trajectories or also return migration. Thus, the assumption of a migration-induced inter-regional balance is contested as well.

### 2.3.2. New approaches in migration studies

For the reasons mentioned above, a large body of theoretical literature has evolved around the re-conceptualization of migration phenomena. The most important change is that social networks and social capital are more consequently integrated, and an analytical meso-level is established between macro-level systemic and micro-level perspectives (Haug 2000).

In the theory of migrations systems, global integration and exchange is one of the major reference frames for explaining migration (see Fawcett 1989). Migration flows are one of several global sub-systems of exchange – here of people. A migration system consists of the individual (potential) migrants, of migrants' networks, of multinational firms, of governments, of global markets etc. It is the prototype of an approach which combines all the three levels – micro, meso, and macro – into a systemic perspective. Within such a migration system interdependencies and disparities between the involved components (migrants, legal systems, economic frameworks and cultural settings) are stressed as character shaping elements. The migration systems are considered to be dynamic, with possibilities of entry and exit of single constituting components. Spatial proximity is rather secondary; economic and political ties as well as communication channels are stressed as the relevant adhesive component of a migration system.

Theories of **migrant or ethnic networks** stress the importance of the meso-level for migration even more strongly. Migration networks shape social and spatial paths of migration, provide new migrants with information, and resources (such as residences, money, jobs), and therefore facilitate their migration. In short, they lower the costs and risks of migration. On the other hand they smooth the process of keeping in touch with the home region and influence the integration process of the new migrants into the host societies. It is assumed that the accumulation of such network ties might lead to cumulative migration chains, in which the information flow from host regions to home regions stimulates further migration waves from the home regions (Rainer/Siedler 2008, Haug 2000: 20, Lebhart 2002: 20, Bürkner/Heller 2008: 42).

Finally, there is broad acceptance of the **transnational migration** approach (Pries 2008; Glick-Schiller et al. 1992). The main assumption of this approach is that migration takes part in a circular way, with individual migrants using ethnic networks and their social capital to be constantly on the move. New forms of communities emerge, producing specific social spaces by the socio-cultural practice of linking two localities/nations in the individual everyday life. These spaces are neither bounded in the home country of the migrants nor in the host society but in-between and therefore are interpreted as trans-national social spaces:

'[...] trans-national social spaces are pluri-local frames of reference which structure everyday practices, social positions, employment trajectories and biographies, and human identities, and simultaneously exist above and beyond the social contexts of national societies' (translated according to Pries 2001: 65).

Transnationalism is explained by globalization and the modern communication, transport and labour forms (Bürkner/Heller 2008: 46-47, Bürkner 2005: 113-122; Haug 2000: 16ff, Pries 2008).

However, also these new approaches have shortcomings. The development of certain transnational social spaces depends on a large set of yet unclear variables (political regulations, technological infrastructure, traditional travel routes, cultural links or distance, etc.) which change rapidly. So the predictive power of current transnational social space studies is limited. The theory of migration systems is accused for being not a real theory. Rather it is considered to be a heuristic frame for deriving working hypotheses. Also the migration systems approach does not make an issue of the original migration causes (Haug 2000). The social capital and network approaches are mostly derived from case studies and there are no quantitative data for testing the underlying assumptions.

Following these descriptions of the migration studies approaches, we suggest that their application to work migration studies in rural regions might face problems. Additionally to the critical points above, problems might result from the underlying focus on urban metropolitan areas. Both migration studies' families, the sociologically oriented as well as the economically oriented ones, more or less are analysing migration situated in central urban contexts.

Therefore the following hypothesis could be formulated:

'Peripheral rural regions are not equipped with technical infrastructures, social diversity, and economically attractive labour markets as it is the case in central urban areas. Common migration theories, with their underlying assumption of sufficient supply with these assets, could not capture work migration to rural regions. For analysing and explaining rural regions' work migration a different framework is needed, which accounts for the specific situation in rural regions (e.g. homogeneous population, lack of industrial and service jobs, low accessibility of rural areas).'

## **2.4. Conceptual approach concerning foreign home owners**

Foreign home ownership – both as second homes and as permanent residences – can be considered as a positive development as it may have a stimulating impact on the development of local economy. The two forms of the foreign home ownership were considered in the survey. The following conceptual approach bears on second homes as this form of ownership is very common by foreign home owners.

The concept or definition of second homes is rather difficult to formulate, because the various studies in the literature do not associate it with any particular kind of type of housing. The term shifts between various kinds of housing forms and is used in a different ways in different countries. Thus we may include summer homes or cottages, vacation homes, lodges, cabins, apartments, mobile homes, and so on (McIntyre 2006). However, we may argue that the essential, defining, characteristics of a second home are that it is owned by an individual person, occupied by the owner for some portion of the year, and not the subject of a timesharing ownership arrangement.

Naturally wide-ranging definitions make it difficult to find ways to compare different studies. However, normally researchers apply a pragmatic approach, in which the focus is primarily on non-mobile second homes. We may say that although definitions are diverse there is a certain similarity between the concepts, and second home is generally characterised as a

dwelling which is temporarily utilised by owner or someone else and it is not owner's permanent place of residence (Marjavaara 2008).

One traditional core definition of second homes is formed on the basis of time the owner spends in the second home. The basic approach is that the owners have to have their permanent residence in another place, where they also spend most of their time (Ragatz 1977 cit. Marjavaara 2008). However, this definition of second homes has become vaguer due to round-the-year usage of the second homes. The average duration of second home occupation is getting longer, and the homes are often converted to make possible round-the-year usage. People have an option to reside in two places, neither of which are considered to be the primary place of residence. The second home is furnished in order to allow occupation at any time of the year.

Furthermore, second homes do not serve a single function for their owners. Instead they offer opportunities to combine several activities, and different kinds of purposes, including recreational use and leisure, but also income generation and speculation. Therefore, it can also be argued that the second home is not always used as secondary place of residence (Timothy 2004). The second home is therefore valued by its owner for various reasons, and it is wrong to treat them all as a homogeneous group. We should pay attention to the different needs and preferences of the owners when assessing the role and importance of second homes in specific regions.

Much of the research and conceptualisation of second homes in recreation assumes that *what* and *where* people call 'home' is an uncomplicated issue. We may argue that our sense of both home and identity are singularly centred in a local place. This approach has extensively been rooted and reinforced in research fields such as demography, geography and anthropology. The fundamental point is that the movement of people is an essential aspect of contemporary social life. Thus contemporary forms of dwelling, working and moving involve flows through geographical networks of social life and multiplicity of broadly dispersed locations. These changing implications of identity and place have important consequences to how we weigh up recreation and second housing. We can no longer take for granted that the conventional indicators of work and home or time spent in particular place indicate the traditional meaning of 'home'.

Kaltenbron (1998) uses the term "alternate home" to describe the emotional meaning of the second home. He questions if the second home is really a 'second' home for the owner, or is it (or going to be) a *first* home, where permanent residence functions as a place to spend time during the working week. Thus mobility and several places of residence and leisure represent a structure of many possibilities and options. Living between two places stresses the continuity of time and place and convergence of free time and work. It necessarily creates a separation of personal identity, associated with two places, the first and the second home. It narrows out the meaning of the first and second home by directing the meaning of each to a specific time of life. The diversity of available lifestyles may be an opportunity to form a new way of life, in which all various elements can be incorporated into an integrated feeling of home in two places. According to Giddens (1991) we may then talk about a cosmopolitan person who has the capability to be 'at home' in different contexts and places.

Modern life is more and more based on circulation that, on the one hand, displaces personal identity in particular places and, on the other, points to new ways of constructing the traditional meaning of home and place. This new kind of mobility and 'sense of place' offer possibilities for recreation-based migration and more flexible links between different lifestyles. New forms of mobility, dwelling and working require new approaches in research and policy making; emphasising concepts such as centrality, periphery, roots, representations, values and identities, and also social relations. Each of these aspects requires attention individually and separately in order to grasp the new meanings of lifestyles. Whilst the concept of second homes is complex, rationales for their development present substantial challenges for local development. The appearance of growing economic prosperity in Western economies has generated higher consuming power and more time for leisure that in turn has led to growing numbers of second homes (Paniagua 2002). This development contributes to the local economy in many ways. The importance of second homes is not necessarily remarkable at a regional scale, but at local level it has the potential

to act as an important input for economic development. It can broaden the economic base of the local community. In some cases the local community may become increasingly dependent on the incomes generated by the second home owners and tourism. The latter may, in some regions substantially complement or even replace traditional sectors of economy that no longer are able to sustain local incomes. They may also help to sustain the provision of services in remote communities. Nevertheless, it is unlikely that the spending power of second home owners will substantially substitute those of the permanent residents in such communities.

Foreign home owners are a particular group of people who intentionally look for a place of residence in different distant places. Normally the decision-making process to purchase a second home is based on longer time considerations. Foreign second home owners might have visited the region over longer period. Alternatively they may have family connections to the region.

In relation to native second home owners, foreign second home owners have more place attached feelings. Native second home owners may also have some connections to the region but they also base their decision-making process on place attachment. Foreign second home owners have in many cases repeatedly visited the regions as tourists which is not the case with native second home owners. Foreign second home owners have rather often also pre-planned to settle down permanently in the region where they purchase their premises. Residential choices are thereby not only based on natural beauty or attractiveness of the region in question. Rather it is a rational choice. This process will make foreign second home owners to foreign home owners. Especially in peripheral regions this process is quite usual in comparison to residential choices for instance in Central Europe.

Foreign home owners (those who reside permanently, rather than visiting second homes), are a rather different group of migrants. In many ways they have more in common with the labour migrants described in the previous section. In reality the presence of foreign home owners in the case study regions is largely a consequence of EU labour market integration and relaxation of border controls. This allows daily or weekly cross-border migration for employment. Movement across a border into an adjacent EU Member State may be motivated by property or living cost differentials, or by environmental attractions. A smaller proportion of foreign home owners are in fact second home owners who have abandoned their "first home" and relocated permanently in their second home. Such a move is often associated with retirement, and this group thus differs from that previously described in terms of economic activity.

Foreign home owners (as defined here) are therefore a rather heterogeneous group, suggesting that comparisons between case study areas should be cautious.

## **2.5. Conceptual approach concerning return migrants**

The phenomenon of return migration to rural areas represents an evolving field of research which must be contextualised within wider processes of societal change. Fundamental influences include the increased mobility of populations, the shrinking of distance with improved transport and communications systems, and the creation of new social networks that increasingly overcome geographical boundaries. Such developmental progression and societal change is embedded in the process of globalization. Globalization can be conceptualised as a discourse that presents the existence of a smaller world which can be connected and travelled in less time and with increasing frequency. One process of society increasingly affected by patterns of globalization is return migration. Individuals, families and whole communities are increasingly participating in a circular flow of migration simply

because processes of globalization allow it to occur. The practice of return migration however is far from simple. It is a complex and multilayered process which has been the focus of academic deliberation since the 1960s, even though it was not until the 1980s that extensive, thought-provoking debates among international scholars took place (Kubat 1984). These debates resulted in the development of an extensive body of return migration literature, producing various theoretical approaches in efforts to better understanding of the significance of return migrants to origin countries (Cassarino 2004). A further dimension to the question of return migration is the issue of situating 'returnees' in a rural context. Literature addressing issues of return migration, and narrative on the rural is commonplace, but the phenomenon of return migration to rural areas has not been well documented, some notable exceptions include the work of Wilborg (2004); Stockdale (2006) and Ní Laoire (2007) particularly as it relates to the European context. In the Irish context, Ní Laoire (2007) explores the complexities associated with Irish return migrants to rural areas since the mid 1990s, with elements of her work focusing on the narratives of return migrants in terms of discourses of rurality, notions of a rural idyll and 'insider-outsider' dualisms.

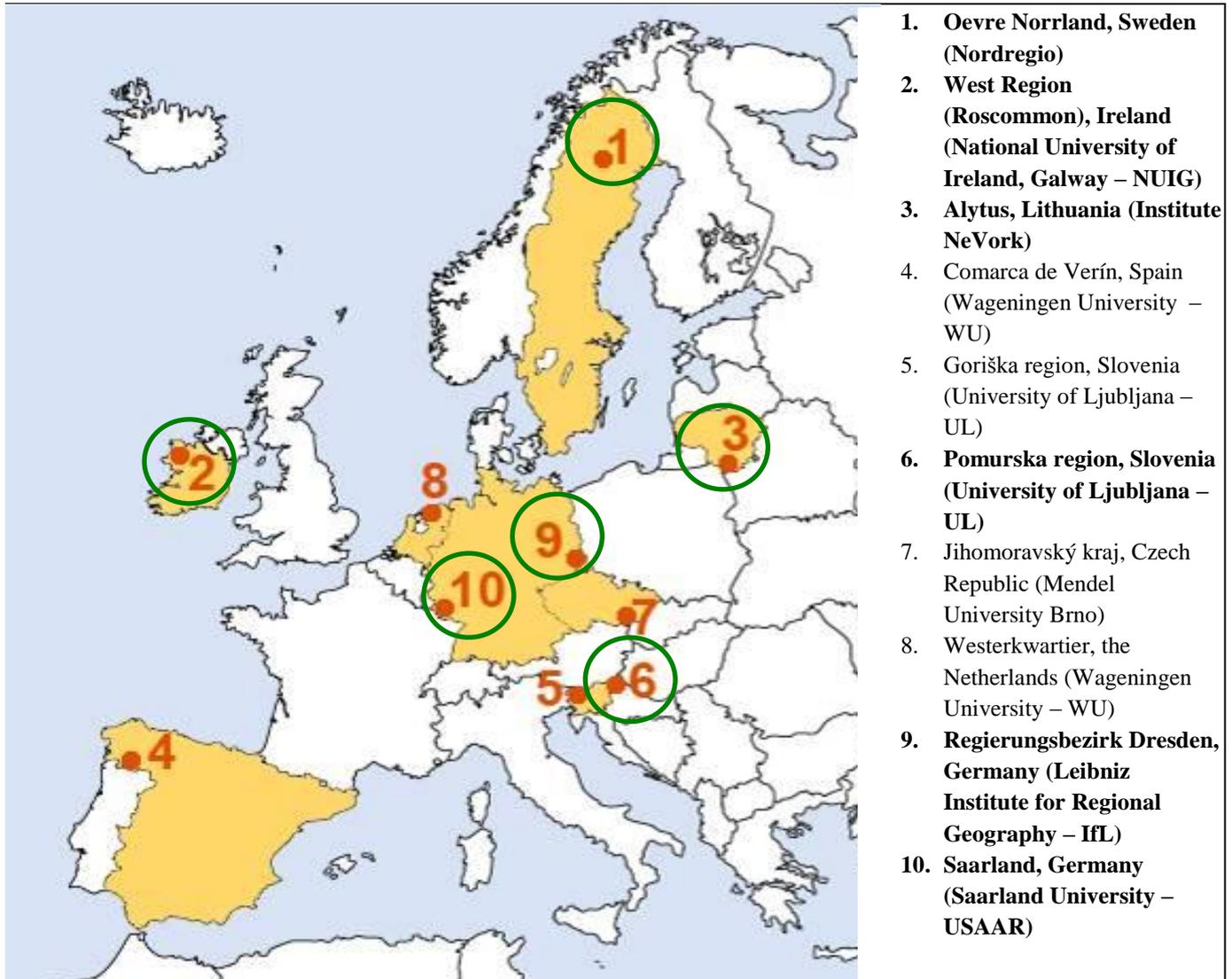
An extensive proportion of the theoretical and empirical literature on migration views the phenomenon as permanent. In contradicting this assumption Dustmann and Weiss (2007) argue that the majority of migrations are temporary rather than undeviating and the 'permanent' hypothesis is convenient as it facilitates analysis in many ways, such as immigrant behaviour and the impact of migration on residents' outcomes. Non-permanent migration or return migration therefore is commonplace but still a relatively new area of migration that does not have a standard meaning in national or international policy or law. The theoretical approaches used to explore return migration focus largely on the economic aspects of return migration (neoclassical economics and NELM) and the macro and micro extent of return migration (structuralism, transnationalism and social network theory). Because of new emerging theories (transnationalism and social network theory), return migration, according to Cassarino (2004), is no longer viewed as the conclusion of the migration cycle, instead it represents a process that can be analysed in stages.

### **3. Methodology**

#### **3.1. *Research outline of WP2***

Six of the ten DERREG partners participate in WP2 (marked in the Figure 4). The following regions (and partners) are involved into the analyses of DERREG:

**Figure 4: Case study regions on migration (marked) and other case study regions**



Source: DERREG Consortium 2009 (revised)

**Research within the framework of WP2** consists of several tasks which have been divided up into five progressive tasks. Thus, **Task 1** included the collection, analysis and interpretation of data and information in all participating case study regions based on developed evaluation criteria.

Due to the fact that in two case study regions only a very small amount of statistical data could be gathered, additional interviews with mayors of involved regions were carried out in Lithuania (Alytus) and Slovenia (Pomurska) (**Task 2**).

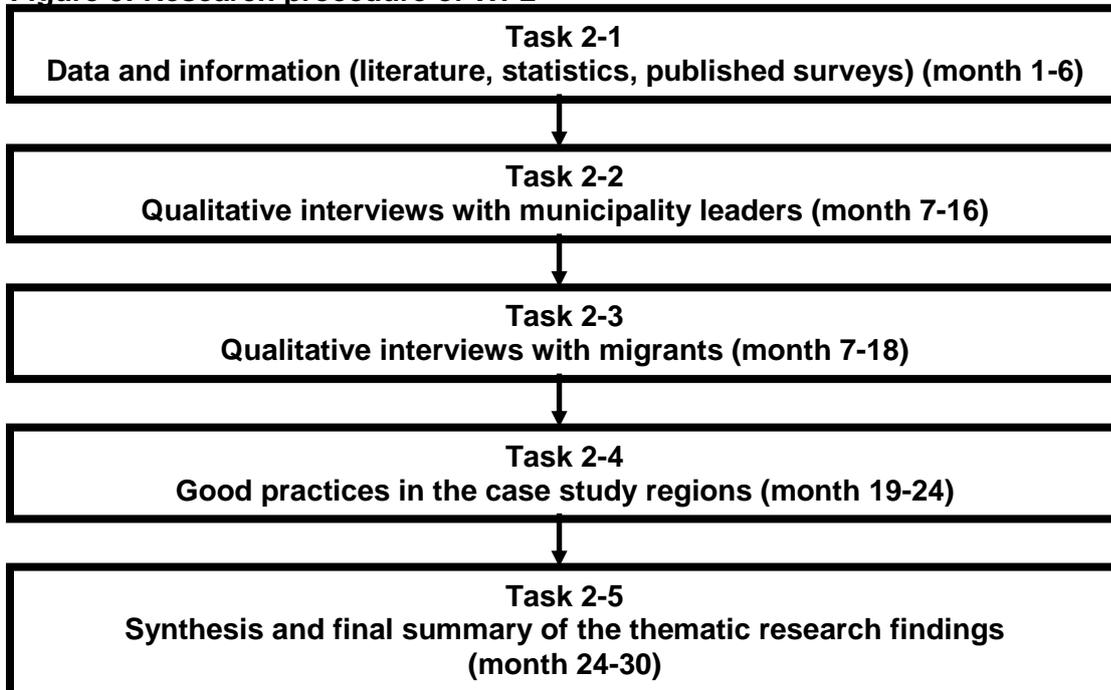
The next phase (**Task 3**) represented qualitative interviews with migrant workers, foreign home owners and return migrants, which – according to the region’s specificity – have been carried out in the respective case study regions. All in all, each of the regions involved has taken part in the interviews.

In **Task 4**, proven ways of proceeding in the participating regions were being established. To this effect, initiatives of regional development in the survey areas were identified and qualitative interviews with representatives of these development initiatives were carried out. Based on the analysis and interpretation of the interviews, the “good practices” were being presented.

The synthesis and the concluding summary of the survey results regarding the subject matter represent **Task 5**.

Figure 5 shows the chronological research procedure of WP2.

**Figure 5: Research procedure of WP2**



Source: USAAR 2009 as cited in Frys/Nienaber 2010: 24

### **3.2. *Methodological approach and data collection process***

#### **3.2.1. Data and information (literature, statistics, published surveys)**

Data collection and analysis for WP2 was structured around the three types of migrants highlighted for specific study. The data was collected and analysed from existing sources for migration statistics to establish key migration trends and the demographic impact of migration in six case study regions (Alytus, Övre Norrland, Pomurska, Regierungsbezirk Dresden, Saarland and the West of Ireland). The criteria for assessing the data and information was defined by USAAR; analysing and interpreting the data and information were carried out by all WP2 partners.

#### **3.2.2. Qualitative interviews with municipality leaders**

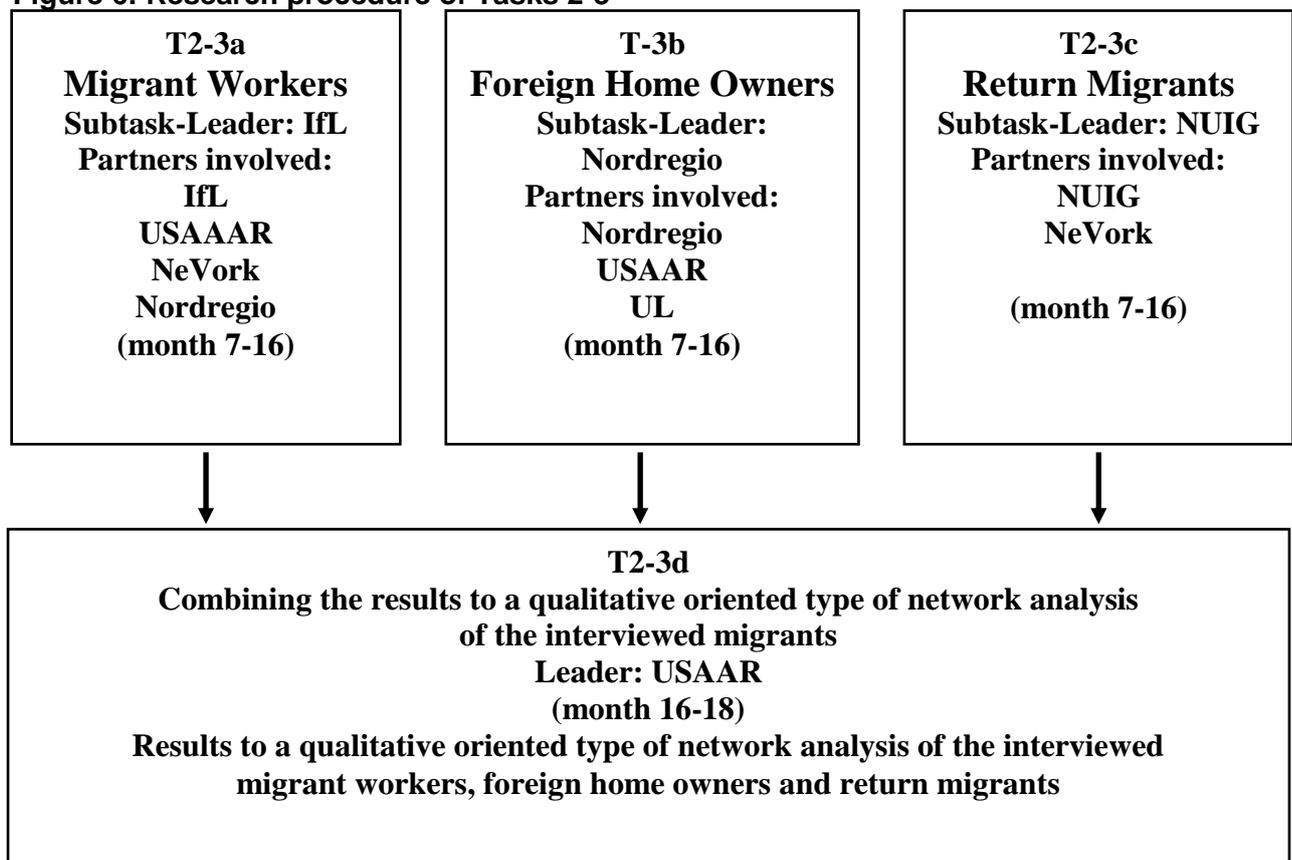
UL and NeVork carried out qualitative interviews with municipality leaders in Alytus (Lithuania) and Pomurska (Slovenia) to generate knowledge on migrations flows and establish volume and consequences of migration. This methodological approach was used

as statistics were hardly available in the both case study regions and thereby gain data based on local knowledge on the number of migrants from the locality and the proportion that have moved to other countries and problems which resulted from this. *UL* and *NeVork* defined criteria for assessing the data and information and analysed and interpreted the interviews carried out.

### 3.2.3. Qualitative interviews with migrants

Task 2-3 consisted of the study of three types of migrants: migrant workers, foreign home owners and return migrant. Due to the fact that the participating regions have significant types of migrants, the particular groups of migrants were analysed in the respective regions. According to this, the following model of task sharing was made up (cf. Figure 6):

**Figure 6: Research procedure of Tasks 2-3**



Source: USAAR 2010 as cited in Fry/Nienaber 2010: 25

**Qualitative interviews**, being compatible and geared to the respective target group, were carried out with the three types of migrants. These served for the creation of individual migrants' biographies in order to find out about the significant characteristics of the respective types of migrants. Besides the socio-demographical data of the migrants, their respective experiences in the home country and abroad as well as their motivations and their plans for the future with regard to the survey area constitute the focus. A fair distribution regarding the respondents' sex and age was paid attention to for the interviews.

Altogether, the study was supposed to inform about the following **aspects**:

- Connections between forms and courses of migrations and earlier experiences.
- Connections between courses of migration of migrant workers and their professional career.
- Connections between courses of migration of foreign home owners and their socio-economic position in society.

- Connections between courses of migration of return migrants and their experiences at home and abroad.
- Courses of education and occupation of the respondents as well as strategies of existence of migrants and return migrants.
- Influence of social and family networks
- Subjective assessment of the migrant's own living situation.
- Socio-demographical backgrounds.

At first, comparable **questionnaires** were developed in all case study regions and the migrants, to whom questions were asked, were identified. Thus, guidelines resulted, which all the participating partners had to follow in order to be able to ensure a compatible study. After a pre-test, the qualitative interviews were carried out in the survey areas and the analysis of the results was made according to mutually consented criteria for the evaluation of data and information. The respective analyses and interpretations of the interviews lead into subtask reports.

The **qualitative survey and analysis** of altogether 113 interviews with migrants took place during the period of November 2009 till April 2010. The random samples referred to the respective target groups (see Table 3) and were supposed to represent them at the best in the categories of origin of migrants, professional and family status, duration of stay and gender. For foreign home owners, the random samples were additionally adapted with regard to the different subtypes (cross-border migrants, foreign second home owners, foreign second home settlers and foreign first home settlers). For return migrants, the categories of destination country of return migrants and kind of return (voluntary without compulsion, voluntary under compulsion and involuntary) were also taken into consideration for the random samples.

**Carrying out the interviews**, the technique of *face-to-face guideline* interviews was used. The interviewers came to the respective target areas of the respondents so that the interviews took place in the respondent's familiar environment. Most of the interviews were carried out at the respondents' home or at their work place.

In a preliminary talk, the project DERREG was presented and the anonymity of the interviews was guaranteed. The following interview, carried out based on the guidelines, should be recorded on a sound storage medium (according to the advice and insofar as the interviewee has agreed). In some cases, the recording of the interviews was not possible due to data protection. All of the recordings available were transcribed entirely.

For the **analysis of the interviews**, tabular biographies were drawn up at first. These were made with the help of a matrix with those aspects of the respondent's life, which had to be taken into consideration. Another matrix with those dimensions of migration, which are relevant for the target group served for the characterisation of the features of migration with regard to the respective survey area and the three types of migrants, which were analysed for each case study region. The evaluation reports were made subsequently. Then, each of the participating partners drew up a report. This was created based on a catalogue of criteria and categories, which served for the compatibility of the reports. Afterwards, the reports were written in form of a summarising and structured content analysis. Thereby, the focus was, on the one hand, on the interpretation of individual quotes and on the other hand on the consideration of the biographical context which was presented in the interviews. For each topic, those cases should have been taken into consideration, which presented the different aspects, patterns and dimensions of research particularly clearly. For quoting, the respective spoken language should have been transformed into written text and not into grammatically correct written language, in order to ensure the traceability of the primary data material and not to falsify the statements by subjective interpretation. All quotations are rendered in

English. For the guarantee of the promised anonymisation, the reports and biographies of the respondents were encoded with numbers and no names were used.

**Table 3: Participating regions for the respective types of migrants**

Type of migrant	Case study region	Random sample	Random sample type migrant per of	Total sample
Migrant workers	Regierungsbezirk Dresden	15	50	113
	Oevre Norrland	13		
	Saarland	11		
	Alytus	11		
Foreign owners home	Pomurska region	13	39	
	Saarland	14		
	Oevre Norrland	12*		
Return migrants	West Region	15*	24	
	Alytus	9		

\* For interviews with several persons per household only the number of questioned cases has been indicated.

Source: USAAR 2010 as cited in Frys/Nienaber 2010: 27

### 3.2.4. Good practices in the case study regions

Within Task 2-4 several regional development initiatives both in promoting and facilitating regional engagement with internationalised migration flows, and in responding to key social challenges, were identified and characterised as examples of good practice in all case study regions, which are involved in the WP2.

For this survey initiatives with different topics, different target groups, different financing systems and different founding years as well as of different regional levels inside the case study regions (from local, to regional and also state level) have been included.

The research has been carried out by deep and intensive internet and literature review combined with e-mail and telephone inquiries with the responsible persons of the initiatives. Regional stakeholders were included as qualitative expert interviews were carried out with representatives of different initiatives identified as 'good practices'. The interviewees hold leading positions in fields, which affect the WP2, and who therefore represent important sources for the acquisition of information within the context of research. The interviews were recorded, if there was respondents' consent. In order to protect the intended anonymity of the information, the statement was given in the general sense and without citation in the survey of good practices.

The identifying and comparison of all good practices in all case study regions implicated some difficulties as there are different level of regional development initiatives in promoting and facilitating regional engagement with internationalised migration. The migration flows in several case study regions have a different nature. Furthermore three different types of migrants were examined in the CS regions before: migrant workers, foreign home owners and return migrants. In view of different key social challenges concerning migration in all case study regions involved, the good practices were examined concerning each regional or national level in the partners' regions.

The **good practice initiatives had to meet the most of criteria of each dimension of migration** (cf. chapter 2.2). The topic or aim of the initiative characterised as good practice

should concern the most criteria of the six dimensions. Thereby some examples to explain how important it is to meet the criteria of dimensions, which are **indicators for good practices**:

- **Dimension of kind of migration:** a good initiative focuses their activities not only on migrants from EU-countries or individual migrants but on migrants from all countries and also on families, relatives and friends of migrants. As the research takes place in the rural areas of the case study regions the good practices had to concern migration/return migration from rural or urban areas but only to rural areas.
- **Time-related dimension:** a good initiative focuses their activities not only on long-term migrants, but also on migrants who stay short time in the case study region.
- **Distance-related dimension:** a good initiative focuses their activities both on cross-border migrants and long-distance migrants. The good practices had to concern not only the geographical distance but also cultural nearness and distance.
- **Political dimension:** This dimension was very important in the research: it was to search for good practice initiatives, which follow political aspects to make the case study regions appealing as destination areas for migrants. There are in particular labour-market policies, social rules, education policies, residential market, or other specificities of CS area that makes it attractive. Good practices should endeavour to admit migrants to these policies, rules and specificities. Sometimes they could be only information activities concerning these topics.
- **Purpose-related dimension:** a good initiative focuses their activities on all migrants, independent from reasons of migration into the case study region. Although some of the partners focus their research only on one of the three groups of migrants (migrant workers, foreign home owners, return migrants), it had to be investigated, whether the good practices concern all groups of migrants and furthermore i.e. foreign pupils at school, foreign students, mixed marriages etc.
- **Sociologically related dimension:** a good initiative focuses their activities on sociological aspects as integration of migrants/re-migrants into local everyday life as well as into local and regional organisations and associations. Certainly the good practices support only legal migration but also forced migration (refugees, asylum migration, human trafficking, deportation etc.). The illegal migration had to be included in the activities of the initiatives due to working against this form of migration or helping the illegal migrants to become legal.

### 3.2.5. Synthesis and final summary of the thematic research findings

Within the Task 2-5 the 'Work Package 2 Report' presents the results of the whole survey, whose structure was presented above (cf. Figure 5) and which helps to meet the objectives of the whole DERREG project.

It was very important to compare all findings and to synthesise them. For this task all surveys of data analysis, qualitative interviews and good practices were accounted. The following chapter 4 and 5 compose main results as well as conclusions and recommendations of all partners of WP2.

## 4. Results

In the following chapter the main results of the DERREG WP2 research will be presented. As several partners analysed specific target groups within migration research the results are broken down into sections with results of each WP2 partner.

## **4.1. IfL: Case Study Region ‘Direktionsbezirk Dresden’**

### **4.1.1. Direktionsbezirk Dresden as destination for international rural immigration: The perspective of the international migrant workers**

The Direktionsbezirk Dresden and especially the sub-region around the rural town of Zittau could not be considered a current labour market hot-spot on the global map. The post-GDR restructuring of the economy was combined with the loss of thousands of jobs in the region. Furthermore, the globalization superimposed the post-socialist transition with a concentration of post-industrial jobs in the bigger urban centres of Eastern Germany (such as Leipzig, Dresden, Rostock, Potsdam, or the bigger cities in Thuringia). The Eastern Saxon rural counties had to struggle with the disappearance of the state-owned industrial complexes and the big agriculture cooperatives (LPGs) as well as the restructuring of the coal mining facilities.

Today the regional labour market is characterized by above average unemployment, a low internationalisation in terms of registered foreigners, and below average income levels. Hence, compared to other (rural) regions in Europe the region might not be attractive for international migrant workers. However, some niche sectors of the labour market could be considered attractive against the background of the regional demographic development. Given the ageing of the population and the out-migration of young skilled Germans, the health care service sector is a good example for such a niche. Also the care of elderly and domestic services might be a growing sector in the future.

All the problems mentioned the few migrant workers in the region feel at ease with their (work) lives. This is partly due to the fact that the migrant workers already arrived many years ago (during socialist times) and feel at home in the region, having found friends, having founded families or/and established businesses. They have managed to deal with the uncertainties about income in the regional context. Furthermore they are integrated into the local public life. They participate in volunteer and community work and regional policy making.

Yet, the migrant workers also face specific problems. First, the local population is considered as rather narrow-minded, uninterested in their foreign companions, even afraid of the cultural diversity which is brought in by the migrant workers. The migrant workers know about the GDR-background and the cultural homogeneity due to the restricted mobility of people during the socialist times. But - 20 years after reunification - they perceive this as a threat to the regional development of the region.

On a personal level they deal with it by trying to learn German, trying to improve their regional and local knowledge, trying to engage in intercultural exchange. Also most migrant workers have made the experience that the narrow-minded and distant attitude of the local population vanishes over the time. Once the contact and communication to the locals is established the relations rapidly become better.

Nonetheless it has to be said that the region is not very easy to access for foreigners. There is a mixture of very different factors for this. The local public institutions but also private service companies are not used to deal with greater foreign populations. Thus, the service mentality towards the specific needs (e.g. language difficulties, cultural differences) of international migrants is underdeveloped. Furthermore, there is no infrastructure (ex-ante information, standardized and furnished housing, international highway, high-speed train, or air connections, etc.) which facilitates access to, and the initial moment in the region.

The overall motto of the migrant workers' lives in the region might be assumed by the notion of ‘Nullpunkterfahrung’ – a zero-point experience – as mentioned by one of the interviewees, describing the arrival in the rural town of Zittau in the Direktionsbezirk Dresden:

“Zittau as zero-point experience: this means, everything what you have learnt so far you have to give up more and more, you have to distance yourself from the structures of the developed understanding. Then you could experience this absolute zero-point experience. Only then you could learn and develop totally new structures, and only then you can feel at ease here” (translated according to interviewee 3).

Working migrants who move into such a particular post-socialist, economically weak and culturally homogeneous rural region within the European Union must somehow set back their points of referential experience in order to manage their life in this context. But they have learned to do so. Even more, they also teach the region interesting things about it by providing a perspective from outside on what is happening inside the region. Thus, the migrant workers could be considered a very important human resource for the regional development in the region. They give useful comments about what is missing according to their foreign opinions and they make helpful suggestions for how to foster a more dynamic development in the region.

In Direktionsbezirk Dresden, basically two types of international migrant workers occurred in the rural areas: 1) career-oriented migrants and 2) private life-oriented migrants. The first are strongly oriented to success and achievement in their professional life. Often they had come to the region for a certain job which was offered to them. They evaluate the rural area rather negatively and consider it a step in their career ladder. This includes that they are less rooted in the region and tend to leave it again for other jobs or bigger urban agglomerations. Although they are often highly-skilled (import of human capital) and revitalize the rural intelligentsia, it is difficult for the region to make use of them. They are less oriented to engage for the region with passion and private interest. For regional development, it is therefore of primary interest how these people could be rooted in the region or how their continuous attachment to the region could be maintained after they emigrated again from the Direktionsbezirk Dresden.

Contrariwise, private life-oriented migrant workers are focused on family and friends in the region. They are more strongly rooted in the social fabric, and thus they engage for regional development in a more voluntary way. However, the difficult labour market situation in the Direktionsbezirk Dresden forces them to find creative ways of achieving sustainable income. Often they work in jobs different from their professional education. Therefore, one could consider their employment as ‘wasted brains’. The central question for regional development for this type of migrant is: how could these migrant workers be employed in a way that their skills are best used?

Critically one should keep in mind, that the number of interviewees (N=15) in this sample is too small to derive more general statements about the opinions of all migrant workers in the Direktionsbezirk Dresden. The findings have to be considered an exemplary and exploratory result, which has to be studied more broadly with larger samples.

#### **4.1.2. Direktionsbezirk Dresden as destination for international rural immigration: The perspective of the social initiatives dealing with migrants’ integration**

In this section, the key results of a series of expert interviews and a workshop with representatives of 10 social initiatives dealing with the integration of international migrants in the Direktionsbezirk Dresden will be presented. These initiatives were interviewed about the situation of migrants in the region, about the integration of foreigners into the regional community, about policies supporting the integration in general and the initiatives’ work in particular, and about the co-operation between regional knowledge institutions and the initiatives (education as a means to make people more tolerant, open-minded and integrative).

First it could be observed that many initiatives focus on preventive measures against right-wing extremism but not so much directly on integration measures with migrants. As the regional shares of population with migrant background alternate somewhat between 1.5 and 3.5 per cent, the issue immigration is not very urgent in the case study region. Furthermore, the recent development indicates a contemporary decrease in the immigration dynamics as the region is rather shrinking than prospering. The social tensions that evolve from immigration into more prosperous regions could not be found within the case study region Direktionsbezirk Dresden.

The only social conflicts that arise stem from involuntary immigration into the region. Two forms of this 'forced' immigration have to be mentioned here: first, the asylums seekers; and second, the ethnic German resettlers from former Soviet territories. These two groups, when arriving in Germany, have to register in a national immigration agency. This agency redistributes them across all German communities, in proportion to the native populations. Asylum seekers are mostly accommodated in prison-like facilities, without work permit and a very limited permission to move freely beyond the county's border. Also the resettlers – in case they are not self-employed – have to move where the national government sends them. These only larger homogeneous immigrant groups within the case study region are mostly leaving the region again, once their residence permit is issued. Resettler associations explain that this is their largest problem, as they continuously lose members.

Thus, the central societal task in the region is seen as being the development of a general atmosphere of open-mindedness and tolerance, with respect to democratic values and otherness (opinions, values, culture). This means that the initiatives work only partially in the field of integration, and they spend a large share of their resources on working with the native population in order to counteract xenophobia and right-wing extremism.

The interviewees mention that it is contradictory that the Saxon Government initiates new programmes for the prevention of right-wing extremism and xenophobic violence while there is a broad range of volunteer initiatives that are active in this field since years, and who bemoan a missing support by the Saxon Government. For example, as a consequence of the 'ignorant' (as perceived by the initiatives) position of the Saxon Government, the national volunteer initiative EXIT, which assists neonazi activists to quit the right-wing groups, closed its Saxon branch in Dresden. The initiatives thus struggle with cut-backs of public spending on social work by mostly all levels of jurisdictions. For the rural areas in the Direktionsbezirk Dresden, this process endangers the achievements of the past years (e.g. decrease of post-reunification street violence, establishment of social education programmes, securing of leisure offers for rural youth). In future, the work of the initiatives might suffer from less financial support by public policies. Social initiatives are important stakeholders in establishing and controlling social cohesion and solidarity in rural areas where public bodies have withdrawn from their direct engagement. These voluntary organizations, which take over tasks in the field of social work from public bodies, could not solely be based on civic engagement. Certain managerial tasks have to be done professionally, and people have to be employed and paid for such work. However, public bodies in the Direktionsbezirk Dresden tend to favour exactly the contrary direction: fewer tasks are supported financially. Public money (e.g. from LEADER programme) is supposed to be spend more and more for hard assets such as physical infrastructure as it produces visible and accountable outputs. Social infrastructure, in terms of paid staff to secure the quality of life in the rural areas, does not fit into that logic of reporting visible returns on investment. The interviewed initiatives therefore worry that social cohesion in rural communities might suffer from the withdrawal of public engagement, and that extremist groups might become more powerful again. The result would be a lower attractiveness of the Direktionsbezirk Dresden.

Second, one could observe that most of the integrative social initiatives identify young people and the regional youth as its main target group. The middle-aged and elder population is only marginally involved into the social work of the studied initiatives. However, in a region which is ageing and in which it is in particular the elder people who have lived through up to three different government systems, the integration of elderly into the development of intercultural competencies might be an important issue. This is so far not much pronounced.

Third, next to the focus on democratic values and the counteraction against right-wing extremism, a second thematic pillar of integrative initiatives in the Direktionsbezirk Dresden is the intercultural and cross-border exchange with the Polish and Czech neighbouring regions. In the border region, initiatives are actively bringing people together. The topic of cross-border relations might be one of the future opportunities for the case study region. The interviewees mention, that cross-border relations have to be intensified and Germans have to be motivated to learn the Czech and Polish language. Also it was mentioned that the Sorbian cultural heritage in the case study region is an influential asset for attracting Eastern Europeans to the region. The Sorbian language and culture is part of the wider Slavic culture, and Polish, Czechs or even Russians might feel it easier to immigrate to this region than other regions in Germany. However, the economic decline of the region outweighs this advantage as attractive jobs are not available.

In the border city of Görlitz-Zgorzelec, recently Polish inhabitants settle within the German part of the city, as real estate is in better physical condition and relatively cheaper than in the Polish part. Also from the Czech border region, it was reported that wealthy Czechs appreciate the German gastronomy. It is a fashion to celebrate the own wealth by cruising across the border to go out for dinner in the German border regions. These two examples show that the Polish and Czech neighbours have already developed sensitivity towards the opportunities of living in the border region. However, Germans still lack an appropriate awareness of how they could profit from this cross-border situation. The public interest in the Eastern European neighbours is still very limited (e.g. willingness to learn languages, interest in starting cross-border business activities, interest in changing residence). Also prejudice and negative clichés are wide-spread among the Germans in the case study region.

## **4.2. NeVork: Case Study Region ‘Alytus County’**

The migration study in Alytus County referred to two groups of migrants: migrant workers and foreign home owners. It also included additional interviews with regional migration experts in order to add missing information on return migration and immigration in the region and interviews with national minority/migrant initiative leaders to see the role of the initiatives in migrants’ integration/reintegration process. Below the basic findings related to labour immigration, return migration and migrant social initiatives are summarised and conclusions concerning migration situation in Alytus County presented.

### **4.2.1. Insignificant and shrunken labour immigration**

According to official statistics in 2001–2007, on average, 9 % of 3000 who arrived in the county were immigrants, i.e. persons who arrived in or returned to Alytus County from abroad, while 14 % of 4000 who left it – emigrants, i.e. persons who left Alytus County to live abroad (the rest were Lithuanian residents from other regions). At the beginning of 2008 according to GDP per capita Alytus County compared to Lithuanian average was 8th between the 10 municipalities. GDP per capita in Alytus County made LTL 16.2 thousand or 66.6 % of Lithuanian average. During 2009 GDP continued to fall.

According to the leader of “Malachit”, Nadiezda Krakovskaja, there are living people of the following nationalities in Alytus region: Russians, Armenians, Jews, Tartars, Germans, Azerbaijani, Polish, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Udmurds, Komi, Basques and Georgians. Majority of immigrants are Russians, Russian speakers and Tartars, the others are solitary instances.

All of the interviewed labour immigrants were from non EU countries and Russian speakers. Six interviewees were from Russia, three from Ukraine, one from Belarus and one from Estonia. Most respondents arrived during 1946 – 1987, but two of them came later, during 2001 – 2008. The age of respondents varied from 66 to 81, thus all of them are pensioners at

the moment. There were historical similarities between migrant countries and Lithuania (Soviet Union) and one important factor facilitating immigration – Russian language known by Lithuanians.

The majority of respondents were widows and had Lithuanian husbands or relatives in Lithuania. This is where they first heard about the region from. The main reason to come to Alytus region for the respondents was to follow the partner or other family member. The partners (or migrant women themselves) often got assignments for job in Alytus according to the former Soviet Union labour market system. Almost all respondents had children. Usually the children, who were growing up in Alytus, spoke Lithuanian, so there were no children integration problems. When the immigration was bigger, there was Alytus Russian Secondary School available for Russian speaking children.

The incomes of migrants were very low and this best answers the question of low immigration in the region. Seven respondents have income from 200 to 400 euro and four respondents have even less than 200 euro. It is low partly as a pension. There was not much career making or vocational training during the working period, jobs were not high paid, but stable. Several respondents long for this stability in current times.

Actual living situation of immigrants was assessed both by positive and negative factors. Almost all interviewees mentioned the natural resources as biggest advantage of the region – beautiful nature and landscape. The second positive factor was leisure and cultural activities, third tolerant and hospitable people, fourth accommodation possibilities. Among the mentioned advantages there also were cleanliness of Alytus town, good shops, proximity of family and relatives living in the region. The major negative factor mentioned by respondents was low income, not sufficient means for the living and limited possibilities to improve standards of living in the region:

“Too small pension for treatments and accommodation payments (heating, etc.)... Otherwise it’s nice” (translated according to interviewee 1, MW<sup>1</sup>).

“I don’t have sufficient means for the living. The pension is not sufficient for the medicine and other things” (translated according to interviewee 8, MW).

Majority of migrants feel well accepted and tolerated by the local inhabitants:

“Local residents accepted well, they were hospitable, so did service personnel at hospital, stores and so on” (translated according to interviewee 5, MW).

“Lithuanians accepted Russian very well, I did not feel any difference” (translated according to interviewee 6, MW).

“I feel good among the locals, made friends” (translated according to interviewee 7, MW).

All respondents have their circle of friends, consisting of neighbours, work colleagues, club members; also communicate between themselves – immigrants in Alytus Cultural Centre of National Minorities. Majority of respondents are members of two clubs Alytus Cultural Centre of National Minorities and club of elderly people “Bociai”. The respondents live active social and cultural life in the region.

The majority of immigrants received first help in the region from their relatives and friends – stayed at their place at the beginning, with their help found accommodation or job. Some of the respondents received accommodation from public administration, one respondent received help from employer sewing fabric “Dainava” in finding accommodation for rent. Few respondents mentioned that they did not use any help, did all by themselves. Normally it was not difficult to manage documentation questions, those who had difficulties because of language or knowledge received help. Two respondents mentioned that they missed help and attention from local administration.

Majority of respondents are satisfied with their overall situation in the region. Two of eleven respondents are not satisfied, but only one of eleven plans to leave. There was only one major suggestion for improvement of migrant situation by the respondents – more information in Russian language in the region.

It can be concluded, that the region is not a typical immigration region and the main factor determining low immigration is little income possibilities. As a result it is a typical emigration region instead. Nevertheless Alytus Count is relatively attractive and tolerant place for those who came to the region. The survey presents an interesting case of mixed family histories,

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<sup>1</sup> MW – Migrant Worker

when labour migration was regulated by the planned economy principles. It also connects the labour migration process with deportation to Siberia and return of deportees to their homeland. Sometimes people from different countries who experienced similar repressions (for example, Lithuania, Estonia) created families there and stayed together after return. Thus this survey allows longer term insights of labour migration. The border region situation - proximity to Belarus, Poland and Russia is providing future labour immigration possibilities, if labour demand appears.

## 4.2.2. Patriotic, forced return migrants and repeated emigrants

The main motivation to leave Lithuania for the majority of respondents was economic reason – to make some earnings. Second reason was to gain new experience, to face a challenge, as well as curiosity and interest to see more and better quality of life.

The reasons for return to home country according to importance (in this survey):

### 1) Family and health reasons (forced):

“First factor – earthquake in Armenia, second war started in Karabah, third hunger started, there were very difficult conditions to live and finally last factor was my illness – skin cancer. Doctors recommended to change climate and I decided to return to Lithuania. At the beginning I thought to go alone to get better and go back, but family did not leave me and went to Lithuania together. But if not illness, I probably would have stayed in Armenia” (translated according to interviewee 2, RM<sup>2</sup>).

“Health problems of mother in law, returned to take care of her” (translated according to interviewee 3, RM).

“Returned due to the worse mother’s health” (translated according to interviewee 4, RM).

### 2) Priority giving to home country (patriotic):

“I was born in Lithuanian family (in USA), to which it was very important to save Lithuanian culture - language, traditions, etc. since Lithuania was under occupation. Parents were communicating mainly with Lithuanian society, were dreaming of Lithuania as homeland. So I was practically “programmed” to return and to be Lithuanian” (translated according to interviewee 1, RM).

“Being Lithuanian. I never felt myself a citizen of any other country except Lithuania, and to my opinion, citizens have to live in their country” (translated according to interviewee 6, RM).

### 3) Achievement of set goals:

“I wanted to continue my studies in Lithuania. After working some time in the pub I got tired of the routine, the owners were very demanding. I didn’t see myself doing this job permanently” (translated according to interviewee 5, RM).

Professional experience was not always helpful for return migrants in getting job in the home country, because professional qualifications of the emigrants were often higher than the available jobs in the destination country need. As such, there was little chance for professional growth. The emigrants, who got jobs according to their specialization, got professional experience and learned new things. However their skills were not easy to transfer due to different ‘rules of the game’:

“The knowledge that emigrants accumulate abroad (USA) about business and similar is not always applicable in Lithuania - return migrants don’t know many peculiarities and circumstances, related to the situation in Lithuania. In general if you start a new business you need to read about everything yourself. The level of private business consultation centres is not sufficient; they are suitable only for people without basic business knowledge. There should be some solution found for this. Other thing there is no clarity about reality. People ask each other if it got cheaper or more expensive, how it will be in future. Not clear what to do and when to do better. There should be more information provided about that. There is no centralized institution to which return migrant could turn

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<sup>2</sup> RM – Return Migrant

to get answers to all his questions. Those institutions that exist do not provide sufficient information" (translated according to interviewee 6, RM).

The more active emigrants took some training abroad to diversify/change their activities – computer, barman, house salesman, loan provider, truck driver, etc.

Five respondents of this survey are satisfied with their actual living situation, four are not satisfied. The mentioned positive factors of living in the region were proximity to family (relatives) and friends, nice nature and landscape, Lithuanian language, quite good accommodation possibilities, less expensive to live and run business compared to cities. The main mentioned negative factors were low wages, unemployment, bureaucracy, not proper behaviour of state officials, inefficiency of public, bank servants, negative competition, bad salesmen behaviour in the stores (not polite and angry), selfishness of politicians, lower quality of life, peripherality of the region.

Similarly like with actual living situation, five respondents are quite satisfied and four not satisfied with overall situation in the region. The unsatisfied are considering repeated emigration.

First return migrant experiences in the region are related to negative factors: bureaucracy, inappropriate public official behaviour, coldness (psychological), bad mood, Alytus looks small and peripheral after return. Those emigrants who left for shorter period did not feel big changes.

Five respondents planned to stay in the region, three persons plan to go abroad again and one is not sure yet what he will do. Two respondents would consider going, but are restricted by certain circumstances: one by age, the other one has a little child.

According to the head of International Organization for Migration Vilnius Office Audra Sipavičienė et al. (2009) the return migration is possible only in the case if political, economic and social situation in home country is stable and attractive, it also depends on how much the state is interested to return it's citizens. This suggests that even planned returns might be delayed for some time due to economic recession.

### **4.2.3. Regional integration through cultural and educational activities**

In 2010 Institute NeVork identified 10 grassroots initiatives available for national minorities and immigrants/return migrants in Alytus County. Majority of them were cultural organizations the members in which are rarely immigrants due to low immigration rate in the region. In most cases the members are citizens of Lithuania with roots of other nationalities or Lithuanians interested in other cultures. The grassroots initiatives and projects identified in Alytus County were these: Alytus Cultural Centre of Ethnic Minorities, Russian Saturday School, Alytus Russian Culture Association "Malachit", project "Entrepreneurship Development and Integration into Business Market of Foreigners who Received Asylum in the Republic of Lithuania", implemented by public organization Alytus Business Incubator, Belorussian Cultural Fellowship "Spadčyna", Varėna district Belorussian Community "Nadzeja", Druskininkai Subdivision of Lithuanian Polish Union, Alytus County Tartar Community, Varėna district Lithuanian Tartar Community, Druskininkai Jewish Community. Thus there is a big number and variety of organizations, but in many of them there is lack of active members. The first four initiatives were the most active ethnic minorities' support practices in Alytus County. All identified initiatives (except the project) are culture oriented and provide conditions for cultural and social integration, including integration of youth, women and elderly people, dialogue with local society. The aim of the project "Entrepreneurship Development and Integration into Business Market of Foreigners who Received Asylum in the Republic of Lithuania" was economic integration of asylum migrants through the organized business trainings. Majority of immigrants were identified in Alytus Cultural Centre of Ethnic Minorities. The main problem perceived by grassroots initiatives is

little funding. Most organizations have entrance and/or membership fees, some have purposive contributions. Three identified good practices pointed out public funding, two - additional private sector sponsors as financial sources for their activities. Cooperation project funding is targeted as additional to municipality funding. Project “Entrepreneurship Development and Integration into Business Market of Foreigners who Received Asylum in the Republic of Lithuania” was launched by knowledge infrastructure organization Alytus Business Incubator. The topics of the activities of the good practice initiatives are Russian language, literature, culture, folk art, music and history. Russian language and literature is taught, events, seminars, concerts are organized, Russian writers’ performances, readings and exhibitions are prepared by these organizations, this way creating dialogue with the local society. The initiative members participate in regional and national cultural events, prepare joint projects with similar organizations, celebrate Russian festivals and mention memorable dates. Female vocal ensemble performs folk songs and dances. The project activities were related to start and creation of business in Lithuania, employment possibilities. There is a progress of initiative activities – they become more diverse and have broader geographical coverage. In the future, the initiators anticipate international cooperation and exchange (Karelia, Saint Petersburg, Latvia and other), new cultural events and performances.

### **4.3. Nordregio: Case Study Region ‘Övre Norrland’**

Övre Norrland has one of the lowest average population densities in Europe. It is also one of the most peripheral, northern regions with the Arctic Circle cutting through the area. There are substantial variations in land use and settlement patterns within the region. The coastal fringe has most of the agricultural land and most of the population while the inland areas are predominantly forested with widely spaced small towns.

Since the mid twentieth century the region has experienced both sustained out-migration and internal polarisation. In addition immigration is small scale. This has resulted in age and gender imbalance, especially in the rural parts. Living standards are however generally high, largely due to the strong traditions of regional development policy and the Welfare State. The ‘traditional’ economy of the region is dominated by mining and forestry. In recent years the mining industry, and in parts also the forestry industry, has generated a range of high technology ‘spin-off’ activities operating in a global context. Within the larger towns service activities, not least within the public sector, increase, while tourism and leisure (based upon the unspoiled landscape and wildlife resources) are an increasingly important (although still relatively minor) source of employment outside the main settlements.

#### **4.3.1. Characterisation of case study samples**

Two rounds of interviews have been carried out, one with 13 international migrant workers and one with 15 foreign second<sup>3</sup> home owners. The majority of interviewees came from urban or suburban regions in countries within the EU. They were chosen after contacts with local authorities, organisations, businesses and by using the snowball method.

Regarding migrant workers more men than women participated in the interviews. This reflects, perhaps the dominance within the region of activities which are perceived as masculine jobs. It is also associated with the fact that the region is not a destination for mass labour migration from lower wage economies. Övre Norrland’s migrant workers hold a variety of occupations, some low-skilled, but others skilled or highly skilled. Five of the respondents

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<sup>3</sup> Foreign home ownership – both as second homes and as permanent residences – can be considered as a positive development as it may have a stimulating impact on the development of local economy. The two forms of the foreign home ownership were considered in the survey.

also had other employments in the region, prior to their current employment. The majority, nine out of 13, have had an international career, and are therefore familiar with the situation of moving to a new country. Only two of the 13 respondents are self-employed.

As regards second home owners five of fifteen interviewees had, at the time of the interview, moved permanently to Övre Norrland, while some spend only a few weeks a year in their second home. Nine of the respondents are women and six men and all of them were between 41 and 58 years old. Most originate from central Europe; two are from Norway and one from USA. Correspondingly most of the foreign tourists in Northern Sweden originate from Germany and Norway. Six out of 15 are self employed.

### **4.3.2. Comments on migrants' life environments in Övre Norrland**

#### *Migrants' knowledge of country and region prior to arrival*

Among the migrant workers almost all had some knowledge of Sweden and Övre Norrland prior to arrival while the answers were more diverse among the second home owners; most of them were familiar with the region but two had no previous knowledge at all. Within the group of second home owners many had visited Scandinavia as tourists before buying a second home. The knowledge that both groups possessed related mainly to the quality of life, natural environment, climate, sparsity, welfare system and the good language skills of local people.

#### *Motivation of international migrants to come to the region*

The main motivation for the migrant workers to come to Övre Norrland was (as might be expected) to find or take up employment. However other attractions, such as the high quality of life, the cold climate and the unspoiled natural environment, which provides possibilities for hiking, snowboarding, skiing and so on, were also very important. For some, both migrant workers and second home owners, a motivation was to get closer to family or relatives. To others, Sweden was very different from the home country and therefore interesting and exciting:

“It was interesting to come to the other side of the world, how everything is and how people think” (interviewee 8, MW).

Among the foreign second home owners almost all respondents emphasised the natural environment and open space as main motivations. Two of the respondents were Norwegians and their reasons for buying a home in Sweden were more practical, they mentioned, for example, the possibility for less regulated snow-scootering in Sweden.

#### *Working situation of international migrants in the region*

In general, the migrant workers were satisfied or very satisfied with their working situation. They found their employment to be varying and interesting. On the other hand for many their colleagues and their salary were perceived as negative aspects. Some of the respondents also experience language problems. Generally the second home owners were also satisfied, some work in the region, others in their permanent place of residence, some in both and some not at all. One would like to work in Övre Norrland but had experienced difficulty with finding a job. The permanent residents among the second home owners were both employed and self-employed; the later mainly within tourism. Some organised their life in the case study region around their hobbies, - sleigh dogs for example, - while others organised their work so that they could work part time in Övre Norrland and part time in their region of permanent residence.

#### *First experience of international migrants in the region*

In general the local public administration played a minor role when both the migrant workers and second home owners first came to the region. Many of the migrant workers were supported by their company on arrival in Övre Norrland. None of them got support from

public administration, but none missed any. The second home owners received help from real estate agencies, but also from locals, in organising the purchase and all necessary papers.

“It was easy to acclimatize, people are very friendly. A real estate agency helped us to buy the house only, after that the neighbours have helped. The municipality has not contacted us in any way” (translated according to interviewee 3, FHO<sup>4</sup>).

### **4.3.3. Comments on the actual living situation**

#### *Positive factors and opportunities*

The interviewees were in general satisfied with their living situation. The emphasis in the interviews was conspicuously upon quality of life issues, such as the welfare system, the nature, large space and spare time activities, rather than basic economic needs. Among second home owners the welcoming atmosphere among locals was also stressed. As one of the interviewed labour migrants stated:

“The nature is a big part of life in Övre Norrland... It is good for the soul to live here, so close to the nature” (translated according to interviewee 9, MW).

Some respondents saw opportunities for regional development in Övre Norrland, pointing out, that more could be done to improve the reputation of the region and to market it among tourists. A change in attitudes of the community towards development was pointed out as important for growth by one of the second home owners. Among the migrant workers some suggested that the potential of the mining industry should be further developed.

#### *Negative factors and problems*

For the migrant workers interviewed negative factors included difficulties getting to know local inhabitants, municipalities making cut backs in public services, the climate, long distances and bad communications limiting travel and shopping, and few social events and places to go out. For the second home owners on the other hand the lack of information about the administrative procedures and various regulations to take into account when buying a house was problematic.

According to both groups the major problem for Övre Norrland is the depopulation process. However many persons of the second group saw great potential for development of tourism in the region.

### **4.3.4. Family background and social networks of international migrants**

The majority of the respondents had a partner and some of them had children. Most of these partners and some of the children lived in Övre Norrland with the interviewees. However, most of the second home owners spend their time in the region without their children. In one case the respondent moved to Övre Norrland because their daughter already lived in the region. While most of the migrant workers did not know anyone in the region prior to arrival almost all of the second home owners found their second home through friends already living in the region.

Today all of the migrants have a circle of friends in the region and the majority of the interviewees are members of local clubs or associations.

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<sup>4</sup> FHO – Foreign Home Owner

### **4.3.5. Future plans of international migrants**

Regarding plans for the future some differences can be seen between two groups interviewed. Among migrant workers five out of thirteen had no plans to move, and wanted to stay in Övre Norrland. Seven were planning to move back to their home country or elsewhere within a few years and one had already left but was planning to return. Five of those planning to leave worked in the mining industry. For people employed in the mining industry, the choice of places to work is very limited which is why they moved to Övre Norrland initially. Most of the migrants who are planning to move are satisfied with their situation in Övre Norrland but they are still considering moving.

Among second home owners all respondents were intending to stay in Övre Norrland and had no plans to move from the region. The part time residents in general considered spending more time in their second homes, and some pointed out that purchasing a second home could be the first step towards moving permanently to the region. Those who were already permanent residents had no explicit plans to leave Övre Norrland. Some mentioned that they would not sell the second home but rather pass it on to the next generation.

### **4.3.6. Satisfaction of migrants with overall situation in the region and their suggestions for the region**

All of the respondents, both migrant workers and second home owners stated that they are quite satisfied, satisfied or very satisfied with their current situation. Although there are some negative factors, the positive factors about the overall situation outweighed the negative. One of the migrant workers believed that she shared the dissatisfaction of certain situations with other foreigners. When moving abroad you become a stranger – both in the home country and in the country of destination.

The interviewees had many suggestions for improving the situation for immigrants in Övre Norrland, most focused on increased information. One example is the creation of a 'to do list' containing information regarding what to remember to do when you move to the region, covering everything from contacts with the authorities to TV and telephone. Another example is more information in English or other languages and improvement of opportunities to learn Swedish.

## **4.4. *NUIG: Case Study Region 'West of Ireland'***

The prospect of emigration has for many decades affected the rhythm of life in Ireland. Poor employment prospects and sub-standard living conditions ensured that many Irish people sought improvements in foreign countries such as; the United Kingdom and the United States of America, to name but a few. In the late 1990s, however, the arrival of the 'Celtic Tiger' enticed many Irish emigrants to return home to seek employment and live amongst family. International literature has revealed that many migrants return to their home nation after spending a number of years in the host country. These new arrivals can play a pivotal role in the economic, social and cultural vibrancy of local rural communities. DERREG probes issues concerned with the re-insertion of return migrants into rural communities, and the potential contribution of return migrants to regional development, drawing on skills and competences developed elsewhere. In defining a 'return migrant' he/she can be seen as one who has returned to his/her place of birth following a period of time in another country. For the purpose of this project a 'return migration' is also considered: voluntary without compulsion, when migrants decide at any time during their sojourn to return home at their own volition and cost.

Throughout the 1980s, Ireland experienced persistent emigration with figures peaking in 1989 when over 70,000 individuals left the country (Courtney 2000). An unprecedented economic recovery in the 1990s resulted in Ireland becoming a country attracting not only the return of its own citizens, but also unprecedented positive net migration. In total, roughly 221,000 Irish-born migrants returned to the Republic of Ireland between 1996 and 2005. Regional distribution patterns suggest that many migrants returned to their county of origin, which in turn implies a rural dimension to the international return migration flows (Ní Laoire 2007). Such rural repopulation is highly desirable bringing social, economic and cultural advantages to many small rural areas in the West of Ireland. The 'reinsertion' of return migrants into local rural communities has proved uncomplicated as returnees largely belong to two distinct categories; individuals who once resided in the area and those who have not.

#### **4.4.1. Marital Status, Family Situation and Career**

All but three interviewees left the West of Ireland in the 1980s as a result of the national recession. One couple left in 2000 while one female left in 1998. Three of the four couples interviewed married while abroad, and all but two interviewees left rural villages in the West of Ireland and returned to their country of origin. Although all interviewees felt that urban Ireland offered superior employment opportunities they all elected to return to rural areas.

Throughout the 1980s significant numbers of male and female, skilled and unskilled individuals left Ireland to seek employment and a higher standard of living abroad. In relation to this study fifteen out of the seventeen return migrants were unemployed prior to leaving Ireland. As such, their decision to leave was directly connected to their employment situation. Although two individuals were employed in Ireland prior to leaving they still felt that the advancement of their career, possibility of higher income and improved work conditions motivated them to emigrate. Most interviewees were in contact with friends or family abroad and confident of job offers in addition to higher incomes and better working conditions.

#### **4.4.2. Social and Quality of Life**

Unemployed prior to emigrating appeared to be a deciding factor in the emigration process for many interviewees, in addition to issues surrounding quality of life. Although experiencing a good quality of life prior to emigration many were disillusioned about the recession and the unemployment situation of the 1980s. It would appear from the interviews carried out that many interviewees needed little or no stimulus to return to Ireland as they always intended to return. A support system, especially once children were born, appeared to be a significant factor in the interviewee's decision to return to Ireland. Some interviewees were encouraged to return in the late 1990s as a direct result of the improved economic situation in Ireland. In contact with family and friends on a regular basis, returnees were persuaded to return and experience the 'Celtic Tiger'

#### **4.4.3. Current Employment Situation, Skills and Academic Qualifications**

All those interviewed obtained immediate employment once abroad. On their return a significant number of interviewees started their own business, such as; photography, recording studio, mechanic, turf cutting, restaurant, farmer/plumber and painter. All interviewees felt that the experience, skills and abilities they obtained abroad were invaluable once they returned to Ireland. Two interviewees returned to Ireland but maintained their employment position abroad. One male is employed by the BBC and commutes to London

on a weekly basis, while an international company employs a second interviewee and commutes from Ireland to Asia regularly, which appears suitable due to time zones. To maintain this situation high level broadband was suggested to be imperative. These work situations exemplify the global possibilities available to individuals living in rural Ireland. All self-employed individuals were anxious about their businesses due to the current recession and some (5) felt they might have a better chance at 'growing' their business if they resided in an urban area, but none were willing to trade the benefits of rural life for their businesses. All interviewees felt they gained skills and abilities abroad that assisted them in their current occupation. Eight of the seventeen interviewees obtained further education while abroad such as, obtaining a haulage license, Human Resources Degree, photography course, plumbing qualification, I.T. and Hotel and Catering qualification. Others suggested that they gained substantial experience, strength of character and ability to deal with diverse populations and situations. One individual who established his business once he returned to Ireland stated that:

"I returned to Ireland as a qualified plumber and set up my own business in addition to running the farm. I trained and obtained all my skills in Boston and without a doubt the training helped me gain employment contracts once I came home".

Most interviewees completed second level schooling prior to emigrating with over half obtaining a third level qualification. Once settled abroad nearly half of the returnees received further education and training, ranging from a photography course to Degree Level courses. This was considered an advantage in seeking employment once they returned as was the experiences and skills they gained abroad. Self-employed individuals felt that their experiences abroad were central to establishing their own business once they returned.

#### **4.4.4. Family, Home Situation, Friends and Local Networks**

Many returnees sourced their accommodation prior to returning to Ireland, via the internet or family and friends. Eleven of the seventeen interviewees currently live in close proximity to family members. Although the remaining six live various distances from their families, they still appear to be in regular contact. This close proximity to family did pose a problem for some returnees who spoke of feelings of 'claustrophobia' and equated their return experience to living in a 'gold fish bowl', an understandable analysis for individuals who spent several years abroad, away from a family situation that is built on familiarity and proximity. Other individuals however, felt somewhat 'let-down' by the lack of family support once they returned. All returnees expressed a level of satisfaction and contentment raising their children in Ireland and in rural Ireland in particular. Children's facilities as well as the educational system were of high quality and equivalence if not more advanced than what awaited them on their return to rural Ireland. Nevertheless, these returnees returned irrespective of facilities and educational systems abroad, and are currently content in their decision to raise their children in rural Ireland.

An examination of friendships and local networks is important in discovering the level of reintegration of returnees. The majority of returnees maintained friendships at home while they lived abroad, largely because of the frequency of their visiting patterns to Ireland. Nonetheless, the general opinion was that experiences they had while away changed them as people and they had very little in common with old friends once they returned. Becoming involved in local organisations, clubs and societies on return was felt to be very important as many felt that living in rural Ireland can be isolating even without the added complication of being considered the 'returnee' or the 'outsider'.

#### **4.4.5. Liked and Disliked about Returning to Ireland**

The majority of interviewees enjoyed returning to rural Ireland. They currently take great pleasure in the peace and tranquillity of rural life in comparison to the urban centre that most of them resided in while abroad. Some suggested that they love the peace and relaxed atmosphere of rural Ireland and the openness and community spirit that prevails in small, local rural communities. Nonetheless, some suggested that rural isolation is still an issue and to access 'social networks' you needed to make a considerable effort to involve yourself in local clubs and organisations. The educational system is an aspect of rural Ireland that appealed to some returnees, particularly the familiarity of the system as well as the preconceived notion that the system was superior to what they encountered abroad ensured a degree of contentment educating their children in rural Ireland. Several interviewees liked the safety and security aspects of rural Ireland yet there were several aspects of returning to rural Ireland that the interviewees disliked. A distinct lack of services, information regarding services and the level of professionalism within available services was a preoccupation with many interviewees. In particular, the availability of rural transport was an issue, with many deeming it impossible to carry on any 'normal' existence in rural Ireland without owning one if not two cars. Some interviewees had problems dealing with the bureaucratic aspects of living in Ireland such as, the tax system and getting an English car registered, but in general, most returnees did not encounter any major difficulties. School enrolment was not an issue for any parent interviewed, which can be attributed to the fact that rural schools have fewer numbers and are often pleased with the arrival of unexpected pupils. Other interviewees also alluded to the cost of living in Ireland in comparison to where they lived abroad - buying a house, in particular, caused concern. Feelings of acceptance or considerations of 'localism' were a contentious issue among interviewees. Many interviewees returned to their areas of origin, however not all felt accepted as 'local'. Except for those who started a business and depended on the support of local people most interviewees were unconcerned if they were considered 'local' or not. Nonetheless, most returnees felt that individuals returning to an area where they were not originally from might experience some difficulty integrating and accessing local networks.

#### **4.4.6. Professional Experiences and Sourcing Employment**

On their return, nearly half of the nineteen individuals interviewed established a business in their rural area. Two males looked for help from a variety of organisations and one was successful, one female and two couples also sought help, but failed in their attempt. One male received funding from Roscommon LEADER Company in establishing his recording company in Roscommon, and after a period, he received mentoring from Roscommon Enterprise Board. The majority of self-employed interviewees were unsure of available funding schemes for start-up business and uninformed about possible opportunities or mentoring services. The general opinion among this group of interviewees was the uncertainty of where to access services if they were available and if they were entitled to funding or mentoring services. Most returnees were astonished at the level of change in Ireland once they returned even though many had returned to visit frequently since they emigrated. Nonetheless, many felt that Ireland, and its service industry in particular, still lack a culture of professionalism which they experienced abroad. Some returnees were of the opinion that because of their experiences abroad they have a greater sense of expectation about standards. They witnessed first hand the level of standard that can be reached and as such, they expect the same in Ireland, especially in light of the economic and social advances that have been made in Ireland in recent years.

Sourcing employment once they returned was largely left up to the return migrants themselves with some assistance from family and friends. Less than half the interviewees

sought guidance from government agencies (LEADER in Roscommon, Roscommon County Enterprise, IDA and Roscommon Enterprise Board). One individual setting up a recording studio in Roscommon received monetary and 'start-up' business assistance, but the others failed to receive any form of support.

#### **4.4.7. Experiences of a Rural Location and Satisfaction with Overall Situation in the Region**

All returnees, except one female, loved returning to rural Ireland and most felt it presented little or no barriers to their lifestyle. Although most interviewees felt that rural areas present challenges in relation to rural transport, services and facilities they are all still content to attempt to overcome such challenges rather than move to an urban setting. One interviewee suggested that:

"The quality of life is considerably better in Ireland than in England, my family have a wide circle of family and friends that help out enormously with children and work difficulties. Family was a great help with proving information regarding PPS numbers; getting the children enrolled in school and finding accommodation and building our house. I didn't find services any better or worse than in England just what we expected".

Most of the self-employed individuals felt it was an advantage to have their business in a rural setting, particularly in the area where they were originally located. Most felt that knowledge of local environments and individuals and families living within same placed them at a business advantage rather than a disadvantage. Nonetheless, some individuals did feel that there were disadvantages to having small business located in rural areas. Sourcing supplies appears to a problem for some self-employed returnees, who suggested that the quality and quantity of products available is limited in rural areas. In asking self employed returnees about sourcing help and assistance in starting up their businesses, only one of the ten individuals who set up a business received support from a government body. Most people sought support from family and friends if any at all and of the five who looked for help from outside organisations only one received this help. Most self-employed individuals felt that support is misdirected and there is no support for small businesses or businesses which provide a service. All self-employed returnees felt that rural government agencies do not pool resources to exchange experience and information which could assist the self-employed and ultimately benefit the locality in the wider sense. Even though some of the self-employed individuals were concerned about their businesses since the recession they were still not willing to consider moving either to an urban area or abroad. Work was the main concern of two couples, who suggested that if things deteriorated they would definitely leave Ireland. If they were all to remain none of the four couples wished to move to an urban area, although similar to one female, one couple would like to move to a larger town as they contemplate retirement.

Nearly all migrants were satisfied with their current situation, although some had concerns regarding accommodation, and apprehensions in relation to the current recession, but in general all returnees were satisfied with their decision to return to Ireland. Having worked and lived with many diverse nationalities abroad, interviewees returned to Ireland with a greater awareness and acceptance of different cultures and ethnic groups. Many felt that the 'Celtic Tiger' and its associated wealth and prosperity had advantages and disadvantages for rural Ireland. Services and facilities definitely improved in rural Ireland, but many felt they would have witnessed a greater improvement, especially in health services and rural transport. Those who had a good support network appeared to 'settle' quicker as they had immediate help and assistance. Adjusting to a slower pace of life in rural Ireland was a challenge for many who had acclimatized to urban living and a much faster pace of work and socializing. In general however, returnees expected challenges on their return, but felt that nothing was insurmountable and all were content with their ultimate decision to return. One interviewee stated that:

"I am very satisfied with our move back to Ireland. I am much happier raising our children in Ireland. Although we do have problems finding continuous work in recent months this is the only problem we experienced since returning to Ireland. Living in a rural area was what we wanted and we wouldn't change this".

## **4.5. UL: Case Study Region 'Pomurska'**

With the population of 121,824 Pomurska represents 6% of entire population of Slovenia (SORS 2010). The region is predominantly rural with Murska Sobota being the regional centre as well as the most urbanized area within Pomurska region. Traditionally the area suffered outmigration and only in past decade the trend of immigration started, namely the real estate purchases by foreigners mostly from other EU countries became a phenomena that the region has never experienced before.

### **4.5.1. The historical overview of migration processes in the case study region**

Pomurska region belonged to Hungary till the end of WW I. From the historical point of view as well as today the region has always been peripheral, politically and ethnically as well as economically isolated. Inhabitants depended on the agriculture and seasonal work but the agriculture was and still is limited and affected by the remains of the Hungarian feudal social regime, land division and inheritance system.

People from Pomurska region migrated for centuries mostly due to better economic opportunities abroad. The overall conditions in the home region influenced people to migrate and the seasonal migration as well as long term migrations became acceptable and completely "normal" way of life. After one year of working abroad many workers found out that they will not be able to solve their materialistic issues which forced them to migrate. The result of the latest is that they extend their living and working abroad, hoping to be able to return within few years. In the mean time they tried to save as much money as they can, usually on the account of the quality of living. Migrations have various consequences in the Pomurska region. Most fatal is the fact that emigrants were and are always young people and when they return they are old. The results of this dynamics are shown on the demographic and economic field. Before the WW I mostly young population migrated to North America, in some settlements about 20% of the active population. After the WW I Prekmurje was attached to Yugoslavia and the employment agency in Murska Sobota organized seasonal employment in Vojvodina, France and Germany. At the same time Murska Sobota became a vital young urban settlement attracting work force from the entire Pomurska region. The rural population migrated to Murska Sobota mostly from Goričko area. The demographic trends in the 20<sup>th</sup> century were highly influenced by political changes. The Goričko area borders on the north to Austria and on the east to Hungary. Both borders were in history more or less closed and that significantly impacted the population growth. Before the World War I (WW I) Goričko was the mostly overpopulated area in Pomurska region. The highest population number was in the census 1900; from that year on the depopulation is the prevailing process. Before the WW I young population migrated to North America; the numbers were the highest in Goričko area, although emigration was typical for the entire region. After WW II the population decline was enforced by the new border between Yugoslavia and Hungary which cut the most important traffic connections and closed all already rare employment possibilities. The consequences of the "iron curtain" were still present after the Slovenian independency. The depopulation was a bit slower in the western Goričko where people were migrating to work in Austria on the week and season basis, legally and illegally. The element that also highly affected the region are major political and

strategic changes – from the “iron curtain” situation to the reopening of state borders after the decline of socialist regimes and to the renewed uniform space within united Europe.

#### **4.5.2. Migrations and real estate market in Slovenia and the case study region after entering the EU**

Entering of Slovenia to European Union in 2004 enabled the opening of the real estate market to other EU and non EU citizens as well as it increased international mobility. Therefore also some Slovenian rural regions started to face the new phenomena of foreign home ownership. Slovenia is characterized as predominantly rural country. With only 20.000 km<sup>2</sup> and two millions of population it is sparsely inhabited (100 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>) and due its natural features over half of population live in villages and small towns.

Since Slovenia became independent in 1991 the presence of transnational mobility of migrant labour from former Yugoslav republics was strongly present, mostly to regional and industrial centres of the country. But entrance to EU brought the internationalization of permanent and second home ownership and also transnational counter urbanization.

More detailed analysis on national level shows, that the majority of new real estate owners are second home owners but in some regions they also settled down as permanent resident population. The spatial pattern of foreign purchases proves the dominance of “rural amenity migrants” - a greater concentration in scenically attractive areas. The highest number of foreign real estate purchases prevail in four border regions; Obalno-Kraška, Goriška, Gorenjska and Pomurska region. Considering the country of origin foreigners from Great Britain (33.9%), Italy (28.4%) and Austria (10.9%) dominate. In the period from May 2004 to the end of 2010 in Slovenia 3576 foreign purchases of real estate were completed (Ministry of Finance 2010). But also differences within the regions should be emphasized; in western Slovenia the cross border migrants from Italy are prevailing while in Gorenjska and mostly Pomurska region the amenity migrants from Great Britain, Austria and Germany are predominating. Together with the economic crisis in past few years, the interest in real estate purchasing is diminished.

As already mentioned Pomurska region is a “transit region” in migration`s sense but after joining of Slovenia to EU the region experienced an important change of its geographical and traffic position. With highway construction it became an important transit region and a part of European traffic corridor between northern part of Italy and Eastern Europe. Influenced by “peripheral character” also its property market is specific and the prices of real estate are the lowest in the country. When the migrants from EU first arrived in the region they found a great availability of housing, due to the internal outmigration of local inhabitants who had moved to the more developed areas in Slovenia or abroad.

From May 2004 till the end of the year 2010 651 (out of 3576 in the whole Slovenia) foreigners bought real estate in Pomurska region. From the aspect of other countries this is maybe not so much but for Slovenia and especially for the rural region, this new process marked the whole area and its population significantly. The low prices of real estate were characteristic for the region in the time of accession to EU. In the period from 2004 to 2008 the average price of m<sup>2</sup> (in private house) in Pomurska region reached just 56% of the prices of average Slovenian house but in the field extremely low prices were also recorded. The property market in Pomurska region was very poor before 2005 but afterwards it became much more active and close to the activity of Slovenian property market level. The interest of foreigners was the highest in 2006 and 2007 and then nearly stopped due to economic crisis in all European countries in 2008. The highest number of foreign purchases was registered in 2007, when as much as 142 real estates were sold. The recent data shows that the process of revived property market is reflected also in Pomurska region, where the transactions of family houses are slowly increasing again since 2008.

### 4.5.3. Foreign home owners in Pomurska region: motives, experiences, future plans

According to our survey, conducted among the foreign home owners in the region, the main motives to come some hard factors need to be exposed: very low price of housing and low costs of living (for foreigners) and secondly flourishing of low cost airline connections. This is also reflected in some interviewees answers:

“Beside the prices of old houses accessibility is the mayor factor to move here. At the same time, from Goričko hilly area you can reach three countries (Austria, Hungary and Croatia) in a very short time. To reach the neighborhood country you need less time than from home to the first city in Britain” (Interviewee 11).

Additionally we have to mention a British citizen, who started to advertise and sell the idyllic countryside in Goričko from 2004 on. He systematically bought and renovated a number of dilapidated houses in the region. Among the most important soft factors aspects of local culture; slow and peaceful life; recreational and leisure opportunities; quality of environment/climate; friends and other relations; schooling opportunities were exposed.

The foreign home owners in Pomurska region mostly arrived from the UK. The prevailing type of areas the respondents are coming from is “rural” and they like the region especially because of its rural characteristics. The common statement of respondents was that the working opportunities in the region are sparse which reflects the overall economic situation in the region. The biggest obstacle in the way of finding the job as well as to legalize it is the Slovene bureaucracy which is extremely tough and especially unfriendly towards foreigners.

“I really hate the bureaucracy here as well as the interference of the police – we need to check at the police anytime we arrive here and with the UK number plates we are stopped by the police constantly...” (Interviewee 9).

The retired respondents as well as the second home owners are simply enjoying the low pace life in the region and usually have no plan to work in the area for money. It seems that being native English speakers is an advantage in finding the job, usually at public schools or at language schools. Foreign home owners have great experience with the local population who accepted them and included them to the every day life therefore the most often mentioned positive aspect of living (or staying at the second home) is the great landscape and very nice and kind local population. More problematic were the first steps in the region, especially dealing with the paper work regarding their stay in the region and the purchase and/or renovation of the houses. They would usually get some help from their friends or previous house owners. Almost all of them pointed out the big problem with bureaucracy and very poor language (English) knowledge of officials.

In general they came to the area without knowing anybody, nor their other family members would have home in the region prior to their arrival but they managed to establish a circle of friends really fast, usually with the local population as well as later on with other foreign home owners of same nationality. Those respondents with children have signed them into local schools and they have good experience with the school staff. The spoken language at home is their native language. The interviewed foreign home owners mostly plan to continue living or having a second home, few of them plan on coming to live in the region permanently after selling their property in the country of origin or after retirement. Very common statement was:

“I am very happy because I know that I will stay here till the end of my life. I am different person here, happy and nice and because of that, people are so nice to us” (Interviewee 13).

The final step of our research work was to identify the level of promoting and facilitating regional engagement of international migrants (just the group of foreign home owners) together with identification of responsible and crucial initiatives in Pomurska region. The crucial problem was already pointed out during our interviews with foreign home owners; the majority of interviewed foreigners expressed the “problems with formal part of integration”. Difficulties, ignorance, unfriendly experiences etc. from the side of official bodies – public authorities, social working and other institutions were mostly exposed. The problem of integration (of foreigners) into the region and the society is “technical”, bureaucratic and mostly connected with legal procedures etc. On the other hand their integration in the local

environment was mostly a very positive experience due to the nature of local population which is very open and willing to help the foreigners as well as to integrate them into their social activities.

#### **4.6. USAAR: Case Study Region 'Saarland'**

The migration research in Saarland referred to two groups of migrants: migrant workers and foreign home owners.

As one of the 16 federal states of Germany, Saarland has an area of 2 570 square kilometres, and is the smallest of the German states, besides the city-states. The unique history results from its location between French and German influence. Saarland was economically affiliated with France from 1920 to 1935 and from 1947 to 1956. Between the formation of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949 and the German reunification in 1990, Saarland was the only state to join Germany. Saarland consists of six administrative districts: Merzig-Wadern, Sankt-Wendel, Saarlouis, Neunkirchen, Saarpfalz and Saarbrücken.

Originally it was created of the communities, where the steelworks and coal mines were located and the workers lived, who were employed in these industries. The decline of the coal mines becomes obvious by the fact that in 1957, 65 000 persons were employed in 18 coal mines, whereas in 2006 only 6 300 were left in one single mine. Not only the coal mines but also the steelworks were affected by this process. In the sixties and seventies a lot of people from Italy and Turkey came to the Saarland and worked there as 'Gastarbeiter' (guest-workers). This was possible due to the 'Gastarbeiter Agreement' in Germany. Many people who live today in Saarland have this migration background and there are mostly the following generations of the first 'Gastarbeiter' in Saarland.

In 2008 Saarland has 1 036 million inhabitants altogether and 403 inhabitants per square kilometre (Statistische Ämter der Großregion 2009); national average: 230. The biggest section of population lives in the south of the state which comprises the city of Saarbrücken and the traditional big industrial locations on the Saar River. With its capital Saarbrücken, Saarland possesses a high-order central place which has a great appeal that goes beyond its frontiers. The agglomeration areas of the federal state spread from Neunkirchen in the East to Völklingen in the West and from Saarbrücken to Saarlouis and Merzig in the Northwest. The region of Saarbrücken forms together with the Lorraine towns of Forbach, St. Avold and Sarreguemines a cross-border agglomeration area (Geppert 2007: 9).

The north of Saarland (Merzig-Wadern and Sankt-Wendel), as well as the southern part of Saarpfalz (Bliesgau) both have a lower population density as there are no congested areas. They have a rural character and no industry. The north-western district of Merzig-Wadern has the lowest population density in Saarland. This district represents the rural CS area for the migration research by USAAR.

For decades, Saarland has been facing new challenges which represent the background of the DERREG research. The initial situation can be summarised as follows:

"The decline in the birth rate and the migration deficit are [...] the determining tendencies for the population development and they shape the process of ageing and the decline in the population of Saarland" (translated according to Ertl 2007: 21).

"Declining population figures and an ageing society represent an enormous challenge for Saarland. For politics and economy, this means that they have to respond to these demographical processes and to form them" (translated according to Ertl 2007: 29).

Besides the high population density, Saarland registers a high deficit of births. Thereby, the deficit of births declines together with the population density which means that the lower the population density, the lower the deficit of births is. The result could verify the estimation that rural regions register higher birth rates than urban areas.

The balance of migration in Saarland results from the movements over municipal borders. Only the urban area of regional district of Saarbrücken with the state capital Saarbrücken and the rural district of Merzig-Wadern register a positive balance. Whereas regional district of Saarbrücken functions as the main employer of the state and which hence attracts many people from the rest of Saarland, the district of Merzig-Wadern owes its positive development to the influx of Luxembourgers.

A large amount of migrations in Saarland falls upon cross-border migrations. They result from the neighbourhood to France and Luxemburg. There are two forms of cross-border migrations in Saarland: in-migration from Luxemburg (mostly employees who work in highly developed south of Luxemburg) and out-migration to France (especially to rural spaces of Lorraine). In a survey, conducted in 2003 (Cavet/Fehlen/Gengler 2006: 129), 67.8% of Saarlanders and 43.6% of Luxemburgers declared that they could imagine living in the neighbouring country.

Most of the Saarlanders, who live in Lorraine, work continuously in Saarland. The Luxemburgers who live in Saarland still work in Luxemburg. Because they are in fact out-migrants from Saarland or Luxemburg and come every day back into Saarland and Luxemburg for work they are called atypical cross-border commuters (IBA 2007: 49).

The atypical cross-border commuters in Luxemburg have an impact on rural areas of Saarland around the border with Luxemburg (district of Merzig-Wadern). An increasing number of atypical cross-border commuters in Luxemburg positively influence the balance of migration in the rurally characterized administrative district of Merzig-Wadern. Perl, the German rural municipality in district of Merzig-Wadern itself has 7583 inhabitants and is located in the border triangle. Perl borders the French department Moselle (Apach in the south) and Luxembourg (Schengen in the west). The municipality of Perl has 101 persons per square kilometre and therefore the lowest population density of Saarland (Statistisches Amt Saarland 2010).

The following results arose in research within the rural district of Merzig-Wadern.

#### **4.6.1. Motivation of migrants to come to the region**

The main motivation of migrant workers to leave their home country and to move to the district of Merzig-Wadern was the improvement of respondent's own economic situation. This was often connected with a bad political or economical situation of the home country. Furthermore the respondents appreciate the social security and the very good educational opportunities in Germany:

“In Germany, you have more social security, for example, if you are out of work and as a foreigner, you can learn here more and you can get to know the culture. If you work and pay taxes, you are secured” (translated according to interviewee 7, MW).

The main motivation of the foreign home owners in Saarland was the purchase of property, of a proper home. Very often, this is considered to be a provision for retirement and/or an inheritance for the offspring. The respondents in the case study region either bought a house or had it built. This is connected to the fact that the real estate prices and the prices for building plots in the rural district of Merzig-Wadern are much lower than in Luxembourg regardless of whether it is the situation in the Luxembourgian capital or in remote rural regions that is taken into consideration. Furthermore, some Luxembourgers do not feel at ease in their home country because of the high number of migrants<sup>5</sup>. Personal circumstances, such as divorce, often become reasons to start again in Germany.

Other respondents move to the case study region in order to enjoy the landscape and the calm of the rural environment.

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<sup>5</sup> The percentage of foreign nationals in Luxembourg adds up to 44.5%, whereas 16.5% of the inhabitants are Portuguese, 5.8% are French, 4,1% are Italian, 3,5% are Belgian, 2,5% are German and 1,6% are Serbian.

Finally, the proximity to the workplace in Luxembourg was also a crucial reason to move to the district of Merzig-Wadern.

#### **4.6.2. Satisfaction of migrants with overall situation in the region**

In general, the self-employed migrant workers are very satisfied with the situation in the region. Only one of the interviewees complained about the political situation in Saarland and – according to him - the problems, which are connected to that, namely to receive citizenship he applied for years ago. One of the self-employed restaurateurs would find an urban environment more pleasant than the rural one of the district of Merzig-Wadern, because then distances would not be that great. Moreover, he thinks that the administration of foreign nationals in Saarland is impersonal and complicated. Another respondent appreciates his life in a rural environment, although he criticises the poor public transport connection, which makes the possession of a car indispensable.

Whereas the majority of employees describe their satisfaction as average (two of three persons), all of the unemployed respondents express their general satisfaction with their situation in the region. One reason for this could be the certainty that there is no better situation in the home country they left.

Thereby, one of the respondents needs to get used to this rural life, because he is from a large city. Nevertheless, he likes the landscape as well as the living quality. The location of the district of Merzig-Wadern at the border triangle is very pleasant to him, as he has a lot of possibilities for trips with his family. Furthermore, he feels accepted by the locals and he is glad that there is no nationalism in the region. However, he regrets that there is no large city near by. Another female migrant appreciates the fresh air in her rural environment.

In general, the foreign home owners are very satisfied or content with the situation in Saarland. The satisfaction of the respondents can be partly put down to the foreign home owner's fear of cultural and social domination by foreign influences in their home country because of the high percentage of foreign nationals. To that effect, the interviewees expressed themselves very positively with regard to their living situation in the case study region and rather critically about the situation in their home country:

"The people here are really very nice. That's not the case in Luxembourg, I'm abroad here as well and for heaven's sake, I'm not a racist, but in our country [Luxembourg] that's too multicultural. It's getting out of hand. There were Cubans, my husband couldn't talk to them at all; my husband is Portuguese. There was a Belgian, there were Germans, there were Portuguese. (...) [In Luxembourg], everything is multicultural, that's too much. You can't [speak] your own language in your own country anymore. And here, I can still speak it" (translated according to interviewee 11, FHO).

#### **4.6.3. Suggestions for improvements regarding the situation of migrants in the region**

Both migrant workers and foreign home owners made suggestions for improvement of their situation in the district of Merzig-Wadern.

Accordingly some respondents uttered the wish that the wages of migrant workers should be brought into line with the wages of the locals:

"Sometimes in Germany, migrants, who come here, directly get a job and people, who were born in Germany, can't get a job, because the migrants are paid worse and of course, that's better for the business manager. That is definitely a big disadvantage. For migrants, the working situation isn't good in general" (translated according to interviewee 10, MW).

Other migrant workers wish for better working conditions and a larger spectrum of job offers or better language assistance. Also bureaucracy should be made easier and the waiting period of the migrants concerning the naturalisation should be shortened; the authority for foreign nationals was criticised too. Finally founding of a country-specific culture association which would organise events and celebrations for everybody who is interested was suggested.

The foreign home owners in the district of Merzig-Wadern presented themselves to be predominantly satisfied with their situation and accordingly, did not make any suggestions for improvement. One migrant even stated that the situation of Luxembourgers, who move to the region, can only be improved by their own willingness to adapt themselves better. Another person has no expectations for the case study region and points out that some proper initiatives of the foreign home owners would be helpful.

Another migrant expresses great satisfaction and does not see any necessity for improvement for foreign home owners. Then however, he states that his village needs a meeting place, for example, a restaurant, a pub or a beer garden, where everyone (locals, migrants and visitors) could meet and exchange opinions. He misses such a locality with an integrative function for the whole municipality of Perl.

Whereas one respondent suggests to generally reduce taxes in Germany, another one, who lives in a rented accommodation, wishes for landlords in the case study region to be more willing to help. Other interviewees miss information about the conditions and the legal situation in Germany. Such a support could be published as a freely available brochure for migrants. This should include relevant laws and regulations, for example, the procedure of how to register one's car in Germany. Such a brochure would make the start a lot easier for many foreign home owners and other migrants in the district of Merzig-Wadern.

These suggestions for improvements regarding the situation of migrants in the case study region were helpful for investigation of the recommendations for policy-makers presented in the following chapter 5.

## **5. Conclusions and recommendations**

In the coming final chapter conclusions for all case study regions in view of the multidimensional research approach and of 'good practices' identified will be introduced. Then some remarks and recommendations for the specific rural areas investigated by several WP2 partners follow. Finally a summary in regard to the research in all European regions involved as well as the current age of globalization will be presented.

### **5.1. *Conclusions in view of the multidimensional research approach***

The multidimensional analysis shows that the majority of foreign home owners, migrant workers and return migrants **came from urban areas to the rural case study regions**. In doing so, migrants from EU countries predominate, whereas concerning migrant workers; the sample mainly consists of non-EU citizens. Relating to individual, chain or group or collective migration, the samples are very heterogeneous and do not show any clear trend (cf. dimension of kind of migration).

Except for the region Oevre Norrland, where half of the respondents only stayed on short term (and therefore for a period of at least 1 month, but less than a year) in the region, the biographies in the other case study regions refer to **long-term migration, for a period of at least 12 months** (cf. time-related dimension). It should be noted that the foreign home

owners in Sweden, who lived there on short term, only had a second home in the survey area and therefore returned to their home country on a regular basis.

With regard to the distance-related dimension, the case studies **predominantly** refer to **long-distance migration**. Only in Saarland, a kind of behaviour typical for the target group of the neighbouring Luxembourgers has been observed, who use the proximity to cheaper, rural Saarland in order to shift their residence there. Apart from that, the mainly spatially-limited migration has only been determined for the migrant workers in Alytus. However, the migrants interviewed showed mostly a cultural proximity between migrants and locals (cf. distance-related dimension).

The results for the political dimension are closely connected to the kind of migration. Thus, **labour market policy** is in most cases the reasons for the questioned migrant workers to move to the case study regions. However, there are other factors, such as residential market, social and public rules, as well as environmental specificities and historical relations between certain countries which encouraged the migrant workers to come to the survey areas. As expected, foreign home owners appreciate the **residential market** in the case study regions, whereas again the relations between certain countries and environmental advantages do play a role. For return migrants, all of the conditions mentioned above – except for the environmental advantages – were decisive for migration (cf. political dimension).

Since, according to research parameters, only those who migrated for **work**, to **acquire property** or to **return to their country of origin** were included in the samples, the purpose-related dimension is both easily comprehensible and can be found in these conditions.

Except for one case, the interviewees **migrated legally**. The majority of the respondents were very well **integrated into local everyday life**; many were **involved into local or regional organizations, associations and clubs**. The latter group was especially represented by foreign home owners and predominantly by migrant workers (cf. sociologically related dimension).

## **5.2. Conclusions of the ‘good practice’ research**

Within this research the following initiatives were identified as examples of the ‘good practice’:

### **In the Case Study Region ‘Direktionsbezirk Dresden’:**

- Voluntary group: *Open your Eyes Association Oberlausitz - Augen auf e.V. Oberlausitz*
- Voluntary group, business and training scheme: *International Meeting Centre St. Marienthal - Internationales Begegnungszentrum St. Marienthal (IBZ)*
- Voluntary group, funding scheme, project and policy: *Local action plan for Diversity, Democracy and Tolerance - Lokaler Aktionsplan für Vielfalt, Demokratie und Toleranz (LAP) Landkreis Bautzen*
- Voluntary group and policy: *Oberlausitz – new home country association - Oberlausitz - neue Heimat e. V. (OL-NH)*

### **In the Case Study Region ‘Alytus County’:**

- Voluntary group, NGO and Association: *Alytus Cultural Centre of National Minorities*
- Voluntary group, Partnership, NGO and Association: *Alytus Russian Culture Association “Malachit“*
- Project and training scheme: *“Entrepreneurship Development and Integration into Business Market of Foreigners who Received Asylum in the Republic of Lithuania”*

- Training scheme and governmental budget organization: *Russian Saturday School*

#### **In the Case Study Region 'Övre Norrland':**

- Project: *Equality in the Forestry Sector*
- Project: *Platform form meetings in the green sector*
- Project: *Support to immigrant entrepreneurs*
- Municipal cooperation: *Regional cooperation, refugee resettlement*

#### **In the Case Study Region 'West of Ireland':**

- Voluntary group, advice service and project: *Mayo Intercultural Action*
- Project: *Roscommon Integration and Diversity*
- Advice service and project: *Roscommon Women's Network - Roscommon Intercultural Women's Group*
- Advice service and policy: *The Integration Centre*

#### **In the Case Study Region 'Pomurska':**

- Voluntary group and meeting point for migrants from Great Britain (mostly) and locals: *Bar "Na Kujkli" Murska Sobota*
- Governmental training scheme: *Institute for adult education of Murska Sobota*
- Governmental school: *Primary school – Fokovci*

#### **In the Case Study Region 'Saarland':**

- Initiative: *Dynamo Merzig*
- Advice service: *Integration Guides - Integrationslotse/in (ILO)*
- Registered association: *Living Together Association - Miteinander Leben e.V.*
- Registered association: *Ramesch Forum for Intercultural Encounter - Ramesch Forum für Interkulturelle Begegnung e.V.*
- Federal program: *Diversity is good. Youths for Diversity, Tolerance and Democracy - Vielfalt tut gut. Jugend für Vielfalt, Toleranz und Demokratie*

The description, durations, main activities, funding sources, contact details and impressions of the 'good practices' identified are the statement of the 'Survey of best practices' (D2.3), which is the finding summary of this research submitted within the WP2. The following synthesis is the conclusion concerning the 'good practices' identified in all case study regions involved.

In the **Case Study Region 'Direktionsbezirk Dresden'** it could be observed that many initiatives focus on preventive measures against right-wing extremism but not so much directly on integration measures with migrants. As the regional shares of population with migrant background alternate somewhat between 1.5 and 3.5 per cent, the issue immigration is not very urgent in the case study region. The social tensions that evolve from immigration into more prosperous regions could not be found within the case study region Direktionsbezirk Dresden. Thus, the central societal task in the region is seen as being the development of a general atmosphere of open-mindedness and tolerance, with respect to democratic values and otherness (opinions, values, culture). This means that the initiatives work only partially in the field of integration, and they spend a large share of their resources on working with the native population in order to counteract xenophobia and right-wing extremism.

The interviewees mention that it is contradictory that the Saxon Government initiates new programmes for the prevention of right-wing extremism and xenophobic violence while there is a broad range of volunteer initiatives that are active in this field since years, and who bemoan a missing support by the Saxon Government. The initiatives thus struggle with cut-backs of public spending on social work by mostly all levels of jurisdictions. For the rural areas in the Direktionsbezirk Dresden, this process endangers the achievements of the past years (e.g. decrease of post-reunification street violence, establishment of social education

programmes, securing of leisure offers for rural youth). In future, the work of the initiatives might suffer from less financial support by public policies. The interviewed initiatives therefore worry that social cohesion in rural communities might suffer from the withdrawal of public engagement, and that extremist groups might become more powerful again. The result would be a lower attractiveness of the Direktionsbezirk Dresden.

Furthermore, one could observe that most of the integrative social initiatives identify young people and the regional youth as its main target group. The middle-aged and elder population is only marginally involved into the social work of the studied initiatives. However, in a region which is ageing and in which it is in particular the elder people who have lived through up to three different government systems, the integration of elderly into the development of intercultural competencies might be an important issue. This is so far not much pronounced.

Moreover, next to the focus on democratic values and the counteraction against right-wing extremism, a second thematic pillar of integrative initiatives in the Direktionsbezirk Dresden is the intercultural and cross-border exchange with the Polish and Czech neighbouring regions. In the border region, initiatives are actively bringing people together. The topic of cross-border relations might be one of the future opportunities for the case study region. The interviewees mention, that cross-border relations have to be intensified and Germans have to be motivated to learn the Czech and Polish language. Also it was mentioned that the Sorbian cultural heritage in the case study region is an influential asset for attracting Eastern Europeans to the region. The Sorbian language and culture is part of the wider Slavic culture, and Polish, Czechs or even Russians might feel it easier to immigrate to this region than other regions in Germany. However, the economic decline of the region outweighs this advantage as attractive jobs are not available.

In 2010 ten grassroots initiatives available for national minorities and immigrants/return migrants in the **Case Study Region 'Alytus County'** were identified. Majority of them were cultural organizations the members in which are rarely immigrants due to low immigration rate in the region. In most cases the members are citizens of Lithuania with roots of other nationalities or Lithuanians interested in other cultures. The grassroots initiatives and projects identified in Alytus County were these: Alytus Cultural Centre of Ethnic Minorities, Russian Saturday School, Alytus Russian Culture Association "Malachit", project "Entrepreneurship Development and Integration into Business Market of Foreigners who Received Asylum in the Republic of Lithuania", implemented by public organization Alytus Business Incubator, Belorussian Cultural Fellowship, "Spadčyna", Varėna district Belorussian Community, "Nadzeja", Druskininkai Subdivision of Lithuanian Polish Union, Alytus County Tartar Community, Varėna district Lithuanian Tartar Community, Druskininkai Jewish Community. Thus there is a big number and variety of organizations, but in many of them lack active members. The first four initiatives were the most active ethnic minorities' support practices in Alytus County. All identified initiatives (except the project) are culture oriented and provide conditions for cultural and social integration, including integration of youth, women and elderly people, dialogue with local society. The aim of the project "Entrepreneurship Development and Integration into Business Market of Foreigners who Received Asylum in the Republic of Lithuania" was economic integration of asylum migrants through the organized business trainings. Majority of immigrants were identified in Alytus Cultural Centre of Ethnic Minorities. The main problem perceived by grassroots initiatives is little funding. Most organizations have entrance and/or membership fees, some have purposive contributions. Three identified good practices pointed out public funding, two - additional private sector sponsors. Cooperation project funding is targeted for cultural activities as additional to municipality funding. Project "Entrepreneurship Development and Integration into Business Market of Foreigners who Received Asylum in the Republic of Lithuania" was launched by knowledge infrastructure organization Alytus Business Incubator. The topics of the activities of the good practice initiatives are Russian language, literature, culture, folk art, music and history. Russian language and literature is taught, events, seminars, concerts are organized, Russian writers' performances, readings and exhibitions are prepared by these organizations, this way creating dialogue with the local society. The

initiative members participate in regional and national cultural events, prepare joint projects with similar organizations, celebrate Russian festivals and mention memorable dates. Female vocal ensemble performs folk songs and dances. The project activities were related to start of business, creation of business in Lithuania, employment possibilities.

There is a progress of initiative activities – they become more diverse and have broader geographical coverage. In the future, the initiators anticipate international cooperation and exchange (Karelia, Saint Petersburg, Latvia, other), new cultural events and performances.

Within the **Case Study Region “Övre Norrland”** depopulation is seen as a major problem and there is a number of development initiatives carried out connecting international immigration to the regional demography. Immigration is however also connected to regional development in more ways and in the last years international migrants have more and more come to be depicted as assets by regional and local politicians and officials in northern Sweden. Work is now being carried out to enable for immigrants to contribute to the local societies and regional economy further.

In this study both the initial 16 initiatives studied, and the five singled out as good practices, can be sorted into three groups. The first group focuses on improving the opportunities for welcoming international immigrants into local societies. Here attention is mainly paid to public institutes and not least municipalities' possibilities of receiving refugees. The second group of initiatives focuses on social inclusion and integration by for example providing meeting points and working towards changed attitudes. Here the voluntary sector is important and some of the initiatives are developed by persons with experience in immigrating to Övre Norrland. The third group of initiatives is focusing on development of the labour market and regional economy by increased involvement of international migrants. Some of the initiatives do for example aim at increasing the share of immigrants among entrepreneurs, business owners and within the green sector.

Thus there are initiatives to improve the understanding, acceptance and interaction between locals and immigrants, and not least to create positive effects in the regional demography as well as economy. The initiatives also demonstrate that locally targeted actions to integrate international immigrants are most effective. We may say that in order to reach real regional influence in general regionally targeted actions are not adequate. Efficient and successful initiatives offer recommendations and best practices for decision makers and policy makers at regional level.

International migration is a relatively new phenomenon in Ireland in general and in the **Case Study Region 'West of Ireland'**, in particular. Nonetheless, there are several initiatives in the West of Ireland which were established to promote a greater understanding and acceptance of the diversity of migrants living in rural areas. Projects such as the Roscommon Integration and Diversity project help to build capacity among ethnic minority communities by empowering them through the provision of support and training so that they can contribute positively to rural societies. Most migrant initiatives in the west aim to promote the positive effects of interculturalism in Irish society and want to see an open, just and equal Ireland where human rights and cultural differences are respected and where new Irish communities are afforded equal rights and opportunities. All migrant organizations offer a variety of training opportunities which not only assist in up skilling migrants, but which also promote community involvement and integration. Most organizations work with asylum seekers in addition to migrants living and working in the region. The migrant initiatives offer a safe and welcoming space where people seeking a new life in Ireland can take part in social activities, meet people in a similar situation and are informed about their rights and entitlements. Most migrant initiatives are run on a voluntary capacity with funding and support via intermittent government funds, however most initiatives do not have core funding and as such are exposed to possible failure and closure. For example, in 2010, Mayo Intercultural Action seen its funding entirely cut and is currently surviving on volunteer effort, fundraising and contributions. The lack of funding appears to have intensified as a result of the recession. One very positive aspect of migrant initiatives in the West of Ireland is the cooperation that exists between agencies dealing directly and indirectly with migrants. This collaboration

between agencies assists in the promotion of different cultures and minority groups living in the west region.

The process of identifying good practices was a demanding work in the **Case Study Region 'Pomurska'**. The results show, that from the aspect of better integration of foreign home owners in the rural society the best practice is the local population. The three good practices outlined indicate this statement:

- *Bar "Na Kujkli"* where local and foreign population meet - a "meeting point" for a large number of foreigners with permanent stay and also for second home owners. For majority of migrants these informal meetings are the most important source of information and help in their everyday life. The interaction and cooperation between foreigners (migrants) and local people is getting more and more important.
- *Primary school Fokovci*; a small rural school but it was recognized as a good practice because of very open and "friendly" approach to all foreign children/parents in the area. With a strong engagement of school manager (headmistress) and good organization of teachers, the integration of children in foreign country/region was facilitating.
- *Institute for adult education of Murska Sobota*; the institution has mainly educational function for the region. Organizing additional educational programs for foreign home owners was a reaction on a high number of newcomers in 2004 in 2005.

In the **Case Study Region 'Saarland'** thirteen grassroots initiatives were identified, from which five exemplify the 'good practices'.

Right-wing extremism, hostility against foreigners, and anti-Semitism are to be fought sustainably and the educational and pedagogical work in this field is to be strengthened. In the administrative district of Merzig-Wadern, the analysed rural area of the Saarland, this means to promote democratic behaviour in children and youths and to strengthen sensibility citizens in the conflict with extremism. With the following focal points, the implementation is to be carried out: Information and education measures, public relations and networks. For this reason there are initiatives, which deal with these topics, e.g. *Diversity is good. Youths for Diversity, Tolerance and Democracy*.

Support and integration of late ethnic German repatriates (mostly from the former Soviet Union) are the other focal point of initiatives identified as 'good practices' in Saarland. Social, educational, sporting and cultural activities are offered for support. Simultaneously, the eastern European cultural heritage is to be preserved. With these topics work especially the association *Living Together* and the initiative *Dynamo Merzig*. This target group within migrants is naturally considered by other 'good practices', e.g. by *Integration Guides*, which responsibilities are counselling migrants, help with familiarisation (assisting with bureaucratic affairs, preparation for language courses, placing of childcare, interpreters etc.).

### **5.3. Recommendations from Case Study Region 'Direktionsbezirk Dresden'**

Post-socialist transition, globalization and Europeanization so far have led to massive outmigration from the Direktionsbezirk Dresden. The social fabric of the rural communities became disrupted and fragmented. The population is rapidly ageing and unemployment is high. Thus, Direktionsbezirk Dresden is rather the opposite of an attractive destination for international migrants. As a consequence, regional shares of foreign population are amongst the lowest in Germany.

Yet, specific niches in the rural labour markets as well as family ties make some international migrant workers live in the region. These migrants appreciate the region and the quality of life it offers. They also learnt to get along with a regional population which has few experience with foreigners, after decades being isolated in the GDR.

Currently, the demographic problems in the region, ageing and brain drain, lead to an intensification of the lack of skilled labour. For a prosperous future of the Direktionsbezirk Dresden – as well as for other rural regions in the EU – it might become very relevant how welcoming and integrative the region is for foreign workers.

The social initiatives in the region, which deal with the integration of immigrants, also aim at reducing prejudice among the native population, and at fostering their open-mindedness and tolerance. The post-reunification crisis on the labour market had led to an increase in xenophobia and right-wing extremism, which had been successfully counteracted in the last decade. However, regional cut-backs for public programmes in the field of social work threaten the engagement of such initiatives.

Given the current situation in the rural areas of Direktionsbezirk Dresden the following recommendations could have been made:

- Public programmes for rural development should put emphasis on the funding of social work instead of infrastructure investment. In the shrinking rural areas of the Direktionsbezirk Dresden, social work which secures social cohesion and the social atmosphere becomes more important for quality of life than the condition of roads and buildings. But social work cannot rely solely on civic engagement and voluntary work. It has to be done professionally, thus it has to be paid for. Finally the funding programmes must become more manageable for small initiatives (less bureaucracy, less public control & reporting effort, more spending flexibility).
- Local and regional public administration, as well as private companies, in the region should be trained for developing a 'welcoming culture'. Therefore, intercultural competencies as well as language skills (at least profound knowledge of English language) are very important assets in order to attract new inhabitants to the shrinking villages and new labour force to regional companies.
- The exchange with the Czech and Polish neighbours should be fostered. In Germany, the Direktionsbezirk Dresden is situated in the periphery. But it could develop a more central position from a European perspective, if regional population would be interested in cross-border exchange. It is still unclear to what extent the economically weak Direktionsbezirk Dresden could profit from exchange and if it would lead to profits for the Czech and Polish neighbouring regions. Nonetheless, the interest of Germans in the cross-border exchange in the Euroregion Neisse-Nisa-Nysa should be supported (e.g. language training, cultural competencies and cross-border businesses).
- Bureaucracy should be lessened. For immigrants administrative processes are rather difficult. On the one hand, paper work is often only processable in German language. On the other hand, the involved staff is reported as less service oriented. It could be suggested that the philosophy of involved public authorities should be redefined from being a prohibitive agent of public order into being an enabling welcome agency. Therefore, the staff as well as the paper work should be bi-lingual (English/German) at least. Also several bureaucratic steps should be manageable in one office, instead of being spread across different departments. Finally, also the acknowledgement of foreign educational degrees should be facilitated.

## **5.4. Recommendations from Case Study Region 'Alytus County'**

The migration research results in Alytus County suggest the following recommendations:

- According to regional migration experts, the main problem of migration data collection was that emigrants did not declare their departure and therefore, characteristics of significant part of emigrants and as a consequence return migrants are not known. Compulsory registration system is needed.
- Since 2007 declaration of change of residence place function belongs to seniūnija (NUTS 5). This means that the data collected in previous years is not there. According to the representatives of seniūnijos, recorded data includes country of destination/origin, date of birth, gender, citizenship and nationality. Education and profession are not recorded. The database is accessed only by particular persons who signed commitment for personal data protection. It was not accessible and is at too detail level for regional migration analysis. More data about migrants should be collected including education and profession as important labour migration indicators. Migration data should be gathered also at higher regional levels (NUTS4 and NUTS3) and be accessible for regional analysis and monitoring.
- Quality information concerning establishing and developing business for immigrants/return migrants is missing. The support to return migrants should be more practical and targeted, according to the issues raised. Good advice on investment might be of service both to the return migrant and to the region. The experiences of return migrants should be noticed and used as valuable inspiration sources for regional development, discussions and round tables should be organized.
- Alytus County was positively evaluated by immigrants for its beautiful nature and landscape. The migrants could use their international contacts for stimulation of tourism and other cooperation between the home and destination country regions.
- Professional qualifications of the emigrants were often higher than the available jobs in the destination country need, emigrants often work jobs not connected with their profession. However, migrant biographies show that the successful cases both in emigration, return migration and reintegration are related to following own profession and getting international professional expertise. Following own profession should be stimulated and facilitated in the region as a long term perspective of successful migration. Professional cooperation and exchange between the specialists in various countries should be promoted and supported by EU as investment to general EU competitiveness.

## **5.5. Recommendations from Case Study Region 'Övre Norrland'**

The first point to note about labour and second-home migration in Övre Norrland is that these flows are relatively small in comparison with the much larger movement of people out of the region. The Övre Norrland case study is thus unusual in that it focuses upon those small numbers of people who migrate 'against the flow' of out-migration.

Furthermore, just as the out-migration is selective, and tends to cause demographic ageing and depletion of human capital, the 'trickle' of in-migration is characterised by specific characteristics, which over an extended period may have an impact upon local population characteristics. Most of the 'in-comers', whether migrant workers or second home owners, may be loosely termed 'lifestylers', in that they are at least partly motivated by non-economic

characteristics of the region (natural environment, a quiet life, opportunities for outdoor sports and activities etc).

A few of the migrant workers are brought to the region by career progression (within the mining or forestry industries, or within the public sector, especially health care). These in particular have a positive impact on regional social capital, although unlike that associated with 'lifestylers', this may be temporary.

Secondly, it is worth underlining that although numbers are small the nature of the individuals involved probably means that in-migration has a disproportionate effect in terms of exposing the receiving population to globalization of culture. Even in an era of mass media, personal contact with in-migrants has an impact upon local attitudes, ideas and social mores. This can be perceived as both positive and negative, stimulating innovation, reviving social capital, or introducing divisive heterogeneity of outlook and household resources.

The Övre Norrland pattern of labour migration is quite obviously not very much like the stereotype of mass movements of low-skilled workers from regions with high unemployment to expanding urban labour markets. However it is nonetheless a fascinating 'backwater' in the global division of labour process.

Furthermore the challenges (for the migrants) are in many senses of a lower order of magnitude. The migrants themselves tend to be well equipped to deal with the bureaucratic, practical and social demands of the move, and the adjustments associated with 'settling down'. Consequently the interviewees raised very few issues, and made few recommendations for improving the reception of migrants and making their adaptation easier.

- The main points related to simplification of administrative paperwork, and guidance through the variety of uncoordinated bureaucratic paths, and language issues (more translation into English, and more opportunities to learn Swedish).

This leads to the rather simple recommendation that:

- Public policy in remote, sparsely populated and depopulating regions such as the Swedish case study area should not be solely concerned with trying to stem the flow of out-migration, but should seek to understand better and facilitate the small and distinctive flows in the opposite direction. There may, for example be new opportunities for 'distance working' by people who place a premium upon the natural environment and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- There are also (as examples from some Finnish municipalities illustrate) opportunities to develop service industries associated with retirement migration. In this way it may be possible to cooperate with, and maximise the benefits associated with, an inevitable rural restructuring and adjustment process. In the longer term this seems a more rational response than trying to fight change, or to in some way restore a distribution of population which was generated by a very different period of economic history, with different technological and market conditions.

## **5.6. *Recommendations from Case Study Region 'West of Ireland'***

Return migrants interviewed within the case study region appear to be satisfied with their current situation. They were motivated to leave Ireland during the recession of the 1980s and returned to a prosperous country that had changed dramatically. Many left to seek employment, excitement and a better quality of life abroad and returned with a new set of skills and abilities and a sense of confidence and self-assurance. Eight interviewees put these new found skills into action when they established new businesses on their return.

Although returnees felt significantly challenged with these new business enterprises, they felt equal to the task, largely as a result of the confidence and strength they gained while abroad. In addition to gaining employment experience while abroad interviewees also returned with new forms of cultural capital. Nine returnees added to their original academic qualifications by completing some formal qualification while abroad. Once home, returnees embodied this cultural capital and established various businesses. One area of concern however, was the lack of services, financial or mentoring available to return migrants once they return to rural area. It would appear from this research that return migrants are a valuable resource for rural Ireland and as such, they should receive assistance that will allow them establish their business and in turn developed that business further so that it can assist in the continued sustainability of rural areas. Returning to rural Ireland posed some problems for return migrants, but none that they considered overwhelming. All returnees wished to remain in Ireland and in rural Ireland in particular, but the current recession was posing a challenge for many, and in particular, for those who established small rural businesses. Some had not ruled out the option of leaving Ireland once more for employment abroad.

The following recommendations could have been made:

- Information:

Ireland and rural Ireland in particular, lacks any form of easy accessible information booklet, website or information centre dedicated to the smooth reintegration of Irish return migrants. As such, information in any forms, preferably in a central location would be extremely useful as a reference guide to returnees. Return migrants require information regarding services, facilities and essential information and they need to be able to access this information without feeling reliant on family and friends.

- Increased Assistance for Self-Employed:

In considering self-employment as an option, return migrants require both financial and mentoring assistance. Ideally this service could be supplied by local public bodies already in existence. Although these services are already in existence it has been the experience of return migrants in the Roscommon area that they did not meet the existing criteria, there were no services in their rural area or the service did not exist for self-employed individuals in the retail industry. Return migrants return to rural areas with a considerable amount experience and skills, but often require assistance before they can become truly successful. Their ultimate success can be hugely beneficial to rural regions and as such may be worth investing in.

- Encourage participation and involvement:

It is hugely beneficial for both the return migrants and the rural inhabitants to invest time and effort into building social networks. A certain level of responsibility lies with local rural clubs and organisations to welcome returnees and to seek them out through advertisements and open day events.

## **5.7. Recommendations from Case Study Region 'Pomurska'**

The foreign home owners in Pomurska region from EU countries (permanent and non-permanent) are a new phenomenon and public institutions were not prepared to face with new challenges. The issue was not recognized and identified on the national and regional institutional level in terms of their integration as well as their potential impacts in the rural area. The fact is that foreign home owners are not present all over Slovenia but are particularly present in four statistical regions (Pomurska region, Obalno-Kraška region, Goriška region and Gorenjska region) and that is the main reason why they are still not recognized as a national issue (i.e. at the level of national institutions).

The mentioned gap is therefore reflected on regional level. During our identifications of regional initiatives we realised that also individuals from responsible institutions are often aware of this problem. They are facing with different experiences and difficulties, but there is no legal mechanism how to bridge the gap between the new needs in rural space and present functions of legal and other institutions.

So in the case of our research region the “good practice” is the local population and their acceptance of foreign home owners into their social activities and every day life. This reflects the overall kindness and acceptability of the inhabitants of Pomurska region.

The following recommendations could have been made for case study of Pomurska region:

- The national as well as regional institutions should follow the migration processes in the country as well as in the regions in order to be able to identify problems. Only on this basis they would be able to react on the process and facilitate the integration.
- Professional and financial support and encourage other institutions (i.e. schools, NGOs) and social networks to facilitate better integration of foreign migrants in local society and environment.

## **5.8. Recommendations from Case Study Region 'Saarland'**

Summing up, it can be stated that the migration stream to Saarland, particularly concerning foreign home owners, are heavily coined by the phenomenon of cross-border workers. Typical conditions of the border regions (border proximity, tax benefits) favour movements but at the same time they hinder them (language barrier, differences in mentality). Finally the less favourable socio-economic conditions in rural areas, but also in former industrial areas, lead to migrations within the case study region. Although the outskirts of Saarland in Germany indeed lead to the low economic development in the case study region, it is economically attractive for migrant workers coming especially from Far East, South-Eastern Europe and Turkey. It should be pointed out that in the sixties and seventies Saarland was a typical immigration region for migrant workers, especially from Italy and Turkey. Due to the development of industry in Saarland at that time (cf. chapter 4.6) the ‘Gastarbeiter Agreement’ was drawn up. Many people who live today in Saarland (e.g. people from Turkey, Italy but also from other countries have a migration background and there are mostly the following generations of the first ‘Gastarbeiter’ in Saarland. Besides that, some foreigners come to Saarland because their relatives are living there already.

The migrant workers in the case study region are generally satisfied with their life. Even those, who were unemployed at the time of the survey, do not plan to move away. The difficult situation on the job market is regretted, however, it is considered to be a circumstance which affects everyone and, to some extent, as a consequence of the current economic crisis. Therefore, other regions or home country are not regarded to offer better chances. The migrant workers do not even see opportunities for a better work life in an urban area. They appreciate rural regions for the fresh air and the easier integration into the local population.

The housing and living costs are the main motivations of the foreign home owners to come to the district of Merzig-Wadern. Furthermore, the fact that many Luxembourgers do not feel at ease in their own country because they feel culturally and socially dominated by foreign influences – which hints at a social crisis of the respondents – contributes to their decision-making process to move to Germany. Moreover, they also appreciate the quality of the rural environment of the case study region, particularly the landscape and the calm.

The decision process to immigrate to the case study region does not seem to be influenced by the economic crisis as well. All of the Luxembourgian respondents said that the real

estate prices in Luxembourg induced them to move to Germany, however, none of them named the economic crisis, which was still prevailing at the time of the survey, as an immediate reason for the decision.

However, some of the foreign home owners in Saarland plan to spend their retirement not in Germany but either in their region of origin or in another country which is climatically more favourably. Due to the fact that the number of the interviewees, who want “to move south” predominates, it can be concluded that it is not the region's conditions, which induce the foreign home owners to move, but their personal disposition to gain new experiences.

Nevertheless, some of the respondents did not make big efforts to become integrated in Germany as a result of professional integration and social rootedness in Luxembourg. Furthermore, the Luxembourgian migrants do not intend to change their jobs because they feel more secure with the more favourable tax policy and the well-balanced health care system of their home country.

Due to the results of analysing and interpreting the data and information as well as the good practices identified in Saarland, but first of all because of the qualitative interviews with migrants and their suggestions for the case study region, the following recommendations could have been made:

- In view of integration problems of migrants in the Saarland there is still a large need of localities with an integrative function on a private level. The public authorities should carry meeting places, e.g. sports clubs, club houses, pubs, beer gardens, where locals and migrants could meet and exchange opinions. Finally the founding of country-specific culture associations which would organise events and celebrations for everybody who is interested for migrants' home culture would be very important.
- Minimum wages should be introduced in order to avoid disadvantages for migrant workers in Germany. If the wages of migrant workers will be brought into line with the wages of the locals there will be a win-win-situation for both migrants and natives. Migrants are no more disadvantaged and natives have not to fear unemployment due to 'cheaper concurrence'. Furthermore working conditions must not be designed differently than the conditions of the natives.
- In Saarland there are organisations and associations, which facilitate migrants in the case study regions. The migrant workers and foreign home owners are supported by providing information by these institutions and language courses. This support should be indeed introduced into broad public, so that the migrants always know, where they can find help and how they could be supported.
- There is still lack of information for everyday life for migrants in Germany. Public authorities in rural regions should promote publishing of freely available brochures for migrants. These multilingual brochures have to display the conditions and the legal situation in Germany and include relevant laws and regulations, e.g. the procedure of car registration or purchasing a real estate property in Germany. The brochures should make the start easier for migrants.
- The cross-border migration between the neighbours Luxembourg, France and Germany should be more aided. The Saarland is located in the periphery of Germany, but it has a large potential to reach a better position in Europe, if regional development would grow due to cross-border exchange. For that reason the cross-border migration in Saarland should be supported by more information, facilitations and less bureaucracy. Furthermore the cross-border exchange supports the European regional development.

## 5.9. Summary

The recommendations from all Case Study Regions involved in the Work Package 2 Research are transferable into other rural European regions and therefore also adaptable in most of the WP2-Case Study Regions. Especially following recommendation are thereby significant:

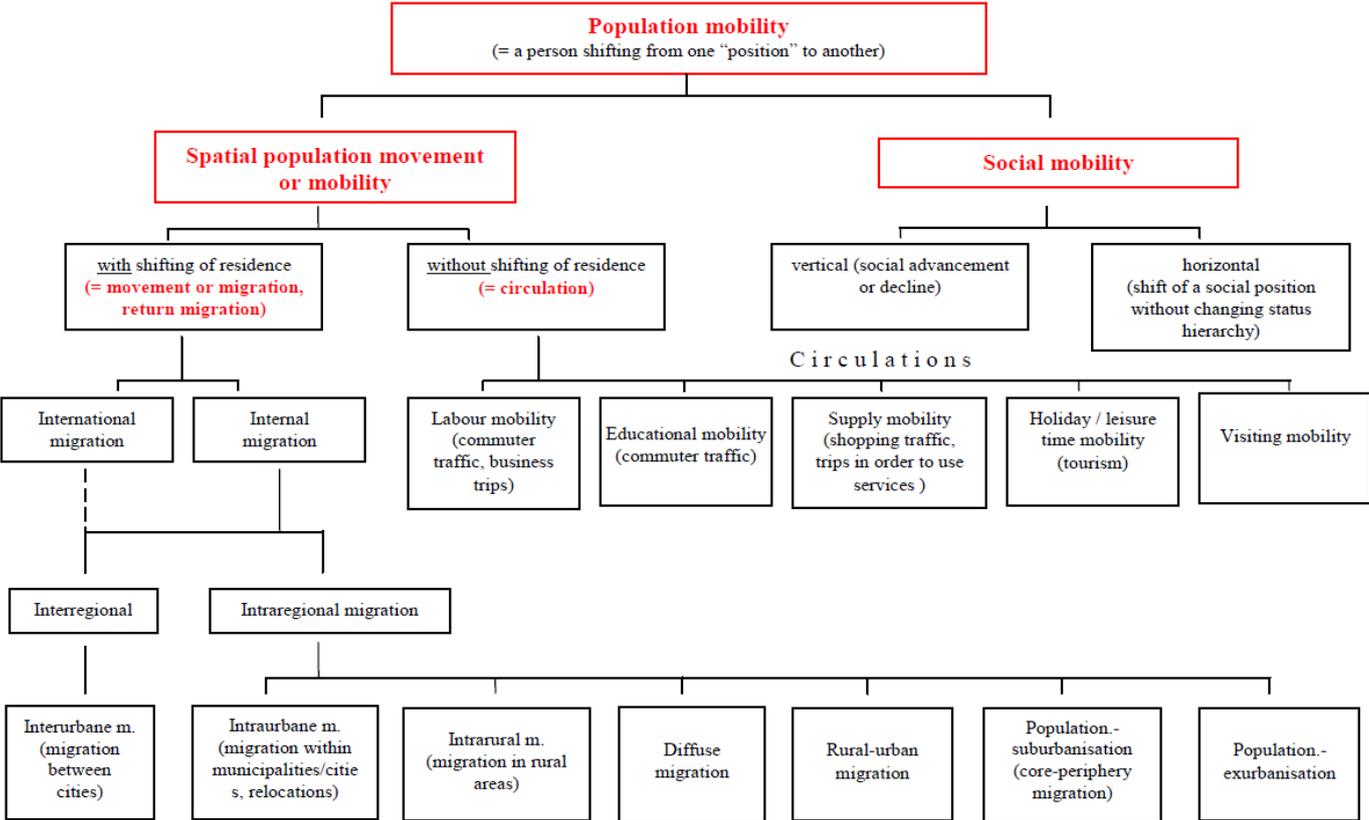
- **Decrease of bureaucracy** because administrative processes are rather difficult for immigrants. Paper work is seldom processable in native language of migrants and the involved staff is reported as less service oriented. The staff as well as the paper work should be bi-lingual at least. Also several bureaucratic steps should be manageable in one office, instead of being spread across different departments.
- Local and regional public administration, as well as private companies, in the rural regions should be trained for **developing a 'welcoming culture'**. Therefore, intercultural competencies as well as language skills are very important assets in order to attract new inhabitants to the shrinking villages and new labour force to regional companies.
- Moreover an increased **assistance for self-employed migrants** is needed in rural European regions. In considering self-employment as an option, mainly return migrants require both financial and mentoring assistance. Ideally this service could be supplied by local public bodies already in existence. Return migrants return to rural areas with a considerable amount experience and skills, but often require assistance before they can become truly successful. Their ultimate success can be hugely beneficial to rural regions and as such may be worth investing in.
- Quality **information concerning the rural regions** for the migrants. There is often lack of any form of easy accessible information in rural regions as booklet, website or information centre dedicated to the smooth integration of migrants. As such, information in any forms, preferably in a central location would be extremely useful as a reference guide to migrants. Migrants require information regarding services, facilities and essential information and they need to be able to access this information without feeling reliant on family and friends.
- Every brochure or website has to be **multilingual**. Public authorities in rural regions should promote **language trainings**. The support in form of language courses should be indeed introduced into broad public, so that the migrants always know, where they can learn the language spoken in the respective case study region. In sparsely populated areas with a shrinking population and consequently declining infrastructure especially modern forms of mobile education e.g. via TV or internet are useful to facilitate language learning.
- Professional and financial support of **older migrants** and social networks to facilitate better integration of older migrants in local society and environment in rural European regions.

Population mobility affects the migration and it results from **globalization**. Especially the complex systems of mass air travel influence the mobility. "Air travel, although still the practice of a small minority of the world's population in any one year, is thus shown to be implicated in the global remaking of places in their current re-ordering and the contingent securing of mobile population in a world of global riskiness" (Urry 2007: 136). Urry (2007: 155) analysed how flights, aeroplanes, airports etc. are central to contemporary global ordering and declared that "without the complex systems of mass air travel, there would not

be 'globalization' as currently conceived. Airspaces involve some interdependent systems of immobile fixed moorings that make rapid and far-flung global mobilities contingently possible” (ibid., cf. also Adey 2006: 87). Even if rural areas are mostly separate from the complex systems of mass air travel, especially spacious migration are depending on them.

Population mobility is not only one of the main challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century but strikes also rural areas. The general classification of population mobility (spatial and social mobility) is represented by the following Figure 7.

**Figure 7: The differentiation of population mobility**



Source: Translated according to Heineberg 2003: 77 (slightly revised)

Moreover **cultural globalization** has an impact on migration. In the era of globalization a large exchange of ideas and cultural services takes place due to social contacts, which are easier now. The results of this cultural exchange are different and were identified between standardisation, cultural innovation, segmentation of specific local areas (cf. Brock 2008: 131). The return migrants in Alytus County and West of Ireland, for example, try to use their experiences that they gained abroad, which are often seen as innovation but there is any standardisation of the ways of work in between the region of origin and region of migration. Based on the research in all case study regions we can even speak about segmentation of specific local areas as there are still regional distinctions between the analysed case study regions. Thereby the biggest challenge is the language problem of migrant workers that brings trouble with a desired job and even with the integration in the foreign country. Furthermore **social distinctions** between locals and all three types of migrants (migrant workers, foreign home owners and return migrants) downgrade relationships between the both groups of people (locals and migrants). Many migrants rely on social welfare programs, if they are not able to practice their learnt job abroad. For this reason the acknowledgement of foreign educational degrees should be facilitated. Finally, due to the unification of laws in

the European Union (even if we have the subsidiarity principle in some cases) it is easier for European internal migrants to integrate themselves. International migrants which come from outside the EU are often adversely affected by social hostility.

The empirical results show that the traditional approaches in migration research of **migrant workers** have to be redefined for rural regions' studies. The approaches for ethnic communities do not take effect in the rural context. Theoretical approaches based on 'transnational social spaces' seem to be unsuitable because rural regions are – in comparison to urban centres – more and more isolated, e.g. insufficient public transport, poor information and communication technology, as well as long distances to airports and train stations for high speed trains. For the same reasons, approaches, which put an emphasis on highly qualified migrants, only have limited significance for rural regions. An innovative theoretical framework for rural work migration has to take into consideration the mentioned particularities in rural areas: labour markets which reflect the specific environment, rural migration as a lifestyle or adventure and the social structure of rural population with one single dominant community.

The **foreign home owners** in all case study regions are generally satisfied with their life. Most of the respondents in Oevre Norrland and in Pomurska do not plan to leave their regions. In Oevre Norrland, some of the owners of second homes even plan to shift their permanent residence to the region. All of the interviewed owners of second homes in Pomurska want to keep their residence in the region. In Saarland, however, half of the respondents do not plan to spend their retirement in Germany but either in their home country (three persons) or in another country with a more favourable climate (four persons). This surely results from the professional integration and the social rootedness of these foreign home owners in their home country.

Especially the **return migrants** in rural regions offer enormous resources which result from their stay abroad. These resources consist of human, social, cultural and financial capital. Thereby, particularly rural areas lack the necessary support for return migrants in order to use the resources wisely, in the sense of a sustainable rural development. Therefore, it is very important to offer more opportunities to return migrants on the part of the administrative level, such as networks, for example, in which they would be able to exchange information and to offer their "capital".

In the age of globalization, the term of home country receives a whole new significance. Hence, the home country is not necessarily the place where people reside physically. Ongoing globalization and the development of modern society increased the people's mobility and reduced their rootedness in their home country at the same time. Modern life is more and more based on traffic, as well as on the liberalisation of laws which, on the one hand, reduces the personal connectedness to certain places and, on the other hand, opens up possibilities to establish a new "home country" somewhere else.

In this connection, new kinds of mobility develop which evoke different life styles. New forms of mobility, of living and working require new approaches in research as well as in politics. This qualitative analysis, which arose from the previous lack of surveys on the topics of globalization and migration in rural regions, is supposed to contribute with its multidimensional research approach, its 113 individual migrant biographies, 24 'good practices' identified and recommendations for policy makers to a better understanding of increasing international mobility and migration of the population within and into rural regions and to anticipate the needs of those affected.

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