

# RESEARCHING MIGRATION DECISION-MAKING

**Tools for policy content analysis,  
interviews, social network mapping,  
video diary collection, and focus  
group discussions**

Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot\*

**AspirE** – Asian prospects in (re)migration to/within the EU – is a 38-month research project (January 2023 - February 2026) that examines the decision making of aspiring (re)migrants from selected Southeast and East Asian countries (China, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) to and within selected EU member countries (Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy and Portugal).

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## Summary

The present collection of several data-gathering tools is part of the AspirE project's commitment to transparency, methodological rigour, and knowledge sharing. The tools presented here are designed for a study of individuals' migration decision-making in selected countries in Asia and the European Union. They are instruments for conducting policy-content analysis, interviews with migrants and experts, social network mapping, video diary collection, and focus group discussions. These tools are the products of discussions and consultations among AspirE's researchers, who implemented context-specific adjustments to the standardised tools developed at the onset of the project to align them with the legal frameworks, socio-cultural expectations, and institutional conditions of their respective countries. Each tool (standardised and context-adjusted) underwent rigorous review by institutional Data Protection Officers (DPOs) or their equivalent evaluators in all the countries involved in the project. They also obtained the approval of the relevant ethical review boards or committees across participating institutions, which indicates that all data collection activities of AspirE adhered to the highest standard of research integrity, participant protection, and confidentiality. By making its data-gathering tools available to the wider scientific community, AspirE aims to support further studies on migration decision-making, encourage methodological reflections, and facilitate responsible data collection practices in the field of migration studies and beyond.

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## Introduction: an overview of AspirE’s methodology and data-gathering tools

To attain its objectives, the research project “AspirE” – Asian prospects in (re)migration to/within the European Union (EU) – embraced a **triangulation** approach that combined complementary data-gathering methods. It employed **qualitative** methods that valued the depth and critical analysis of empirical data: policy content analysis and semi-structured interviews separately with experts and aspiring (re)migrants. It also adopted **participatory** methods that included the active participation of respondents in data collection: social network mapping, video diary collection, and focus group discussions. These data-gathering techniques were selected for their emphasis on respondents’ voices and agency, which allowed AspirE researchers to capture aspiring individuals’ decision dynamics regarding (re)migration and stasis. In line with its overarching themes, AspirE mobilised the above-mentioned methods in the following ways:

**Theme 1. The place of aspiring (re)migrant’s behaviour in spatial mobility policies** (socio-legal context) – AspirE carried out a **content analysis** of six EU mobility policies concerning non-EU nationals: labour migration, tourism, family reunification, student migration, investment migration, and the EU’s freedom of movement. AspirE sought assistance by subcontracting an independent Think Tank – the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) – to take care of this analysis at EU level. CEPS assisted AspirE in its dissemination activities, specifically by publishing policy briefs and organising an innovation policy laboratory. The country researchers (postdoctoral and/or senior researchers) of the project separately analysed the same set of policies in the national and local contexts, focusing notably how they were implemented by the embassies and consulates of the six selected EU countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, and Portugal) of the project in five selected Southeast (Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam) and East (China, Japan) Asian countries. To gain additional information about the place of aspiring (re)migrant’s behaviour in mobility policies, AspirE conducted **expert interviews** with at least ten per country (119 in total) of the following key social actors: policymakers; migration agents working in public institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and recruitment and placement agencies; border control agents; and leaders of migrant associations based in selected Asian and EU countries involved in the study. A standardised interview guide (translated in the language spoken in the 11 selected countries) was used for these interviews. Content analysis and expert interviews comprised AspirE’s Work Package 2.

**Theme 2. The drivers of an individual’s (re)migration aspiration and/or intention** (individual’s decision) – To understand the micro and meso levels of (non-)migration decision-making, AspirE conducted **semi-structured interviews** with aspiring migrants to the EU in five selected Asian countries and with Asian migrants in the six selected EU countries aspiring to migrate to another EU country. These interviews used a standardised guide in the language spoken by the target study groups. AspirE researchers conducted a total of 281 interviews with 286 respondents (25 per country) to capture the intersecting effects of the past, the present, and the imagined future on their (re)migration or non-migration decision-making. In short, the interviews were, at the same time, about retrospection and prospection. They allowed the country researchers to identify different emotions, imaginations, and expectations that came out during each narrative and, most importantly, to determine at what stage of the decision-making process the individuals were situated. After semi-structured interviews, AspirE researchers asked the 286 respondents (target number: at least 11 per country) whether they would be willing to participate in the next stage of the research, i.e., **social network mapping** using Network Canvas – the “free and open access set of software for surveying personal networks, designed around the needs of both researchers and participants” (<https://www.networkcanvas.com/>). This software provided AspirE researchers with the necessary tools to build a research protocol, create a workspace for interviews via an anonymised questionnaire that researchers used for data gathering, and export the data collected for thematic analysis. AspirE used Network Canvas Interviewer to design a standardised questionnaire asking the respondents in the 11 selected countries to identify the

potential resources (individuals, groups, or institutions) that could provide them with assistance to realise their (re)migration aspirations. This data-gathering process also entailed asking the respondents to explain their connection (biological, social, professional) with the persons, groups, or institutions they indicated on the Network Canvas questionnaire. After data collection, AspirE researchers generated, using Network Canvas, each respondent's network of support for visualisation and further analysis. Through this method, AspirE obtained a total of 447 social network maps and determined if the respondents' social networks played a driving role in their (re)migration aspiration and/or intention. Both the semi-structured interviews and the social network mapping constituted AspirE's Work Package 3.

**Theme 3. The time dimension of an individual's decision-making** (temporality) – To capture the temporality of (non-)migration decision-making effectively, AspirE gathered **video diaries** from at least four respondents per country, who gave their informed consent to participate in the social network mapping activity and agreed to participate in this second participatory form of AspirE's data gathering. Humanising data-collection analysis, AspirE allowed these respondents to choose from among the technological tools that they had accessed to for their video diaries: smart phone, video camera, computer, or online video platforms. To avoid face recognition, each respondent was asked to focus their video camera not on their face or body but on a specific "avatar" object that represented their state of self during the moment of video recording. For a period of one year, each respondent produced, from anywhere (e.g., home, workplace, etc.), at least four video diaries of a maximum duration of 10 minutes in mp4 format (i.e., one every three months) to report their thoughts, plans, feelings, or changes of mind with regard to their (re)migration aspiration or intention. The video diary approach allowed AspirE's researchers to observe the evolution of their (re)migration aspiration for one year, specifically the transition from one stage to another and the timing of the respondents' decision-making. It also unveiled the stage(s) during which the spatial mobility policies of the EU and/or target destination country affect or influence the respondents' decision to move or to stay. AspirE collected from its 78 respondents (four per country) a total of 284 video diaries in mp4 format. Another participatory method that AspirE embraced was a **two-step focus group discussion** with the use of standardised discussion guides about possible factors driving the (non-)migration aspiration and intention of Southeast and East Asian respondents. The first step involved a focus group discussion *in situ* or online among at least five per country of the following social actors (76 respondents in total): aspiring (re)migrants in selected Asian countries; policymakers or local government officials; migration agents working in public institutions, NGOs, as well as in recruitment and placement agencies; and leaders of migrant associations. The discussion gathered the points of view of these social actors with regard to the factors affecting the decision making of aspiring (re)migrants in their respective countries. The second step was focus group discussions online using a platform conformed to the General Data Protection Regulation of the EU and involved at least five respondents per country (32 respondents in total) selected from the participants of the first-step focus group discussion and/or expert interviews conducted within the context of AspirE's Work Package 2. This discussion was based on the dynamic migration flows between a selected Asian country and their counterparts in a selected EU country: Philippines-Italy, Vietnam-Czech Republic, Thailand-Finland, Japan-Germany, and China-Portugal. Belgium organised focus group discussions separately, in tandem with each of the five selected EU countries, to discuss intra-EU onward migration (at least five per country, 29 respondents in total): Belgium-Czech Republic, Belgium-Finland, Belgium-Germany, Belgium-Italy, and Belgium-Portugal. The second step focus group discussion facilitated the exchange of ideas and points of view among social actors in two different national contexts with regard to the factors affecting the decision-making of aspiring Southeast and East Asian (re)migrants. Data-gathering through video diaries and focus group discussions constituted AspirE's Work Package 4.

## **1. Tools for policy content analysis**

## Guide for policy content analysis

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

AspirE researchers considered the general themes and dimensions below when they analysed mobility policies at national level. To reach the objective of Work Package 2, they identified State's suppositions behind specific information stated in each policy. These hidden suppositions helped AspirE researchers to determine whether the State takes into account or not individual's changing or unpredictable behaviour when it wrote its mobility policies.

<b>dimensions</b> <b>themes</b> (indicators)	<b>actors</b>	<b>characteristics</b>	<b>temporality</b>
<b>guarantee(s)</b> (conditions of entry/stay)	<p style="color: red;">Who is exempted? Who is not?</p> <p>concerned persons (citizens, non-citizens...)</p>	<p style="color: red;">What are the characteristics of the concerned actors?</p> <p>age gender filiation nationality civil status legal status social class ethnicity language</p>	<p style="color: red;">What temporality/ties are reinforced or produced in the process?</p> <p>Visa duration time requirement</p>
<b>benefits</b> (rights/privileges of entry/stay)			
<b>penalty/ties</b> (penalizing clause/article for IFs)			
<b>forgiveness</b> (forgiving clause/article)			
<b>referrals</b> (connecting with other mobility policies)			

#### **Determining State's hidden suppositions (by themes)\*:**

- 1) Why the State requires a set of conditions for the entry or stay of a Third Country National (TCN) in its territory?
- 2) Why does the State provide specific set of rights/privileges when entry/stay conditions are met?
- 3) Why does the State penalize specific actor(s) when one or more conditions are not met?
- 4) Why does the State provide exemptions? Or why does it give no exemptions?
- 5) Why does the State connect its two or more mobility policies to each other?

#### **Determining State's hidden suppositions (by dimensions)\*:**

- 6) Why does the State focus on one or more actors in its mobility policies?
- 7) Why does the State privilege or prioritize actors with a specific set of characteristics?
- 8) Why does the State favour a specific temporality over the others? Why does it limit to a specific duration a TCN's stay in its territory?

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\* To find answers to these questions, AspirE researchers will take into account the literature on mobility policies.

**Concluding questions (considering the answers to the questions above):**

- 9) What does the State consider as “acceptable” or “unacceptable” human behaviour in the context of a specific mobility policy?
- 10) To what extent the State considers or not human behaviour in its mobility policies?

## WP2 – Common blueprint for policy content analysis

**Objective:** to find out the place of aspiring (re)migrant behaviour in spatial mobility policies

- ➔ Are there specific articles, rules or clauses that deal with the change of mind of a labour migrant under contract, an investor, a tourist or a student who decides to overstay his/her visa rather than to return to his/her country of origin?
- ➔ If there are, how gendered, classed or ethnicised are those (im)mobility laws?
- ➔ Who is exempted and who is not?
- ➔ What temporalities are reinforced or produced in the process?

mobility policies	EU level (Think Tank)	EU national level (AspirE researchers)	Asian country level (AspirE researchers)
labour migration (L)	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>
tourism (T)	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>
family reunification (FR)	<b>FR</b>	<b>FR</b>	<b>FR</b>
student migration (SM)	<b>SM</b>	<b>SM</b>	<b>SM</b>
Investments (I)	<b>I</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>I</b>
freedom of movement	EU's freedom of movement (FM) <hr/> Schengen (S)	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>
<b>To analyse &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	<b>texts of policies</b>	<b>texts of policies</b>	<b>visa requirements</b> (6 EU countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, and Portugal)
<b>Additional task &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>nationality law</b>	<b>national policies regarding overseas mobilities</b> (L, T, FR, SM, I, mobility in several countries)

## **2. Tools for expert interviews**

## Information/Invitation Sheet for expert interviews

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

This three-year study called AspirE (1 Jan. 2023-31 Dec. 2025) has been funded by the European Commission's research and innovation programme under the call HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04 and coordinated by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in Belgium.

It has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences at the ULB. It has three objectives: to map to what extent spatial mobility policies consider aspiring (re)migrants' behaviour; to identify the micro- and meso-level drivers of mobility aspiration and/or intention; and to determine the temporality of (non-)mobility decision-making.

Given your knowledge and work experience on migration-related issues, I would like to invite you to take part in this study by allowing me to interview you at your most convenient time and place. By participating in this study, you will contribute to the advancement of Social Science research and to a better understanding of potential (re)migrants' decision-making process including emotional and cognitive dimensions.

My interview will be conducted in your preferred language. I will digitally record my interview, which will take about one hour and half. During the interview, I will invite you to share with me your opinions and observations regarding the place of aspiring (re)migrant's behaviour in government policies on migration: for example, to what extent these policies take into account the unpredictability of individual's (re)migration decision. I will use an interview guide (see attached document) for our discussion. Your name and other characteristics that may allow people to identify you will be modified during data encoding and analysis as well as in the presentations and publications that will result from this research: for example, your real name will be replaced with a pseudonym unless you explicitly consent to being identified in publications. Only the researcher (me in this case) who interview you will be able to link your identity to your answers.

After the interview, I may request your permission to allow me to take a photograph of you or an object that may represent you. This photograph would be useful for future dissemination of the research results in the form of publications and exhibit. Please take note that the photograph will not be used without your consent. If you wish, I blur your face in the photo to protect your privacy. If you want a copy of the photograph, I will send it to you upon your request via email. Your photo(s) and recorded interviews will not be transmitted to the other members of the research project.

The research results will be available on the project's website: [LINK TO THE WEBSITE](#). If you wish, we can communicate them to you using the email address you provide in the Identification Form attached. In line with the European Commission's Open Science and Open Data principle, your anonymised data will be made open access on the platform ZENODO (<https://zenodo.org/>) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.

\*\*\*

If you have further questions regarding this study, please contact me [\(FULL NAME\)](#) using this email address: [<PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS>](#). If you wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted, please contact [NAME OF THE LOCAL PI](#) (Principal Investigator of the research project in [COUNTRY NAME](#)) by email [\(PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS\)](#) or by post [\(PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS\)](#).

## Privacy policy

The joint Data controllers of the study under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) are:

- **Université libre de Bruxelles**, 50 Avenue Roosevelt, 1050 Brussels
- **Masarykova Univerzita**, Zerotinovo namesti 9, BRNO 60177, Czechia
- **Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universitaet Frankfurt Am Main**, Theodor W Adorno Platz 1, Frankfurt Am Main 60629, Germany
- **Universita Degli Studi Di Milano**, Via Festa Del Perdono 7, Milano 20122, Italy
- **Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa**, Avenida Das Forcas Armadas, Lisboa 1649 026, Portugal
- **Tampereen Korkeakoulusaatio SR**, Kalevantie 4, Tampere 33100, Finland
- **Scalabrini Migration Center Inc.**, Matapat Street – Pinyahan 40, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
- **Mahidol University**, Ratchawithi Road 420/6, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
- **Vien Han Lam Khoa Hoc Xa Hoi Viet Nam Vietnam Academy of Social Science (IS-VASS)**, No. 01 Liu Giai St. Cong V1 Ward BA Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
- **Foundation For Isaan Education and Popular Media**, 49/25 Village No. 16 Nai Mueang Subdistrict, Mueang District, Khon Kaen 40000, Thailand
- **Waseda University**, 1-104 Totsuka Machi, Shinjuku-ku 169-8050, Tokyo, Japan
- **Education University of Hong Kong**, 10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong, Hong Kong China
- **Vietnam Asia Pacific Economic Center**, 176 Thai Ha Street, Dong Da District 10000, Ha Noi, Vietnam

All the data collected will be securely stored on password-protected and encrypted computer and external hard disk as well as in the researcher's account in the server of his/her institution. Your pseudonymised data will also be stored in two secured databases based respectively in the University of Milan in Italy (coordinator of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles (coordinator of the AspirE project). All joint data controllers will have access to these pseudonymised data; when they are located outside of the European Union, the protection of your data will be ensured by the signature of the European Commission Standard Contractual Clauses that regulate the transfer of data to third countries. Additional information, including copies of these SCC's, can be received by writing to **NAME OF THE LOCAL PI** (Principal Investigator of the research project in **COUNTRY NAME**) by email (**PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**) or by post (**PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS**).

Please take note that you have the right to withdraw from the study anytime without justifications. In case you decide to withdraw from the study, only the data that are already published or about to be published will be kept. The rest of the data collected from you will be deleted unless you allow me to keep them or some parts of them.

The collection and use of your personal data (or of the person for whom you are legally responsible) is based on the joint data controllers' task of public interest to carry out scientific research (GDPR, Art. 6.1.e) and, for special categories of data, on the need to process such data for scientific research purposes (GDPR, Art. 9.2.j). By participating in the study, you are informed that the personal data described above be collected and processed for the research purposes outlined.

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You can address your questions regarding the protection of your personal data in the context of this research to **NAME OF THE PARTNER'S Data Protection Officer: POSTAL ADDRESS AND EMAIL OF THE PARTNER INSTITUTION'S DPO**. This address is also the one by which you can exercise your rights (access, rectification, deletion, right to object and limitation of processing). If you are not satisfied with the answer provided by the **NAME OF THE PARTNER INSTITUTION**, you can contact **NAME AND EMAIL OF THE NATIONAL SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY**.

## Expert interview guide for fieldwork in Asia

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

Knowledge/views/observations about migration to Europe, specifically the following aspects:

- 1) specific policies regulating migration from **ASIAN COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>** to Europe, specifically to **EUROPEAN COUNTRY<sup>2</sup>**;
- 2) requirements to obtain a visa or permit for the following types of mobility: labour migration, tourism, family reunification, student migration, investment migration, and movements within the EU;
- 3) public and private infrastructures facilitating migration to Europe;
- 4) mostly taken or chosen path to migrate from **ASIAN COUNTRY** to Europe (labour, tourism family reunification, student, investment...): reasons behind, dynamics, and challenges;
- 5) least taken or chosen path to migrate from **ASIAN COUNTRY** to Europe (labour, tourism family reunification, student, investment...): reasons behind, dynamics, and challenges;
- 6) possibility/ies to extend one's legally allowed duration of stay in the receiving EU country before the expiration of one's visa without going back to one's country of origin: requirements, concerned individuals, and procedure;
- 7) possibility/ies to change one's visa to another form of visa (e.g., from tourist visa to student visa, from student visa to family reunification visa, etc.) in the receiving EU country without going back to one's country of origin: requirements, concerned individuals, and procedure;
- 8) the role of **ASIAN COUNTRY'S** embassy or consulate in the receiving country;
- 9) public and private infrastructures facilitating installation in the receiving European country; and
- 10) perceived future of migration from **ASIAN COUNTRY** to Europe, specifically to **EUROPEAN COUNTRY**.

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<sup>1</sup> China, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, or Vietnam

<sup>2</sup> Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, or Portugal

## Expert interview guide for fieldwork in Europe

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

Knowledge/views/observations about **remigration within Europe**, specifically the following aspects:

- 1) specific policies regulating mobility and installation within Europe: differences and similarities between Europeans and Third Country Nationals' (TCNs);
- 2) requirements for Europeans and TCNs to obtain a visa or permit for the following types of mobility within Europe: labour, tourism, family reunification, students, investments, and other movements within the EU;
- 3) public and private infrastructures facilitating remigration from one European country to another: differences and similarities between Europeans and Third Country Nationals' (TCNs);
- 4) mostly taken or chosen path to remigrate from **EUROPEAN RECEIVING COUNTRY** to another European country (labour, tourism family reunification, student, investment...): reasons behind, dynamics, and challenges;
- 5) least taken or chosen path to remigrate from **EUROPEAN RECEIVING COUNTRY** to another European country (labour, tourism family reunification, student, investment...): reasons behind, dynamics, and challenges;
- 6) possibility/ies for Europeans to move and settle from their country of residence to another European country: requirements, concerned individuals, and procedure;
- 7) possibility/ies for TCNs to remigrate to another EU country from their initial EU receiving country: conditions, concerned individuals, and procedure;
- 8) the role of embassies or consulates;
- 9) public and private infrastructures facilitating remigration and installation in another European country; and
- 10) perceived future of remigration from **EUROPEAN RECEIVING COUNTRY** to another European country.

## Consent Form for expert interview participants

Please tick the box corresponding to your answer to the sentence at the left side of this form:

I have read and understood the contents of the Information/Invitation Sheet.		
I have understood the objectives and importance of the study explained in the Information/Invitation Sheet and explained to me by the researcher.		
I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.		
I was informed about the categories of personal data processed and any onward transfer.		
I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I have the right to change my mind at any moment and withdraw from it without prejudice.		
I understand that the researcher will record the interview using a digital voice recorder.		
I understand that the personal data I provided in the Identification Form securely stored in the server of <b>INSTITUTION'S NAME</b> . I am informed that the filled-up Identification Form will be destroyed five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.		
I understand that all the information I will give will be treated as confidential and that my name and contact information will not be shared to anyone without my permission.		
I give permission to the researcher to include identifiable information about me in all publications and presentations.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I give permission to the researcher to take a photograph as additional information for the study and to use them for academic publications and presentations provided that the face(s) of the person(s) in the photograph is/are blurred.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to receive via email a copy of the photograph taken during the researcher's interview with me.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that the researcher will store the pseudonymised data collected from me in two secured databases based respectively in the University of Milan in Italy (coordinator institution of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles in Belgium (coordinator of the AspirE project).		
I understand that I can access the main findings of the study on the project's website ( <b>LINK TO THE SITE HERE</b> ), and if I wish, I will be informed by email.		
I understand that I may contact the Principal Investigator if I have further questions about the case study or if I wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted.		
I understand that all anonymised data will be made open access on ZENODO ( <a href="https://zenodo.org/">https://zenodo.org/</a> ) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.		

**Consent Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Identification Form for expert interview participants**

**Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU:  
the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth country:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nationality:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Level of education** (primary, secondary, tertiary): \_\_\_\_\_

**email** (to be used to communicate the results of the study):

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*

**Identification Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. Tools for semi-structured interviews**

## Information/Invitation Sheet for semi-structured interviews of aspiring (re)migrants

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

This three-year study called AspirE (1 Jan. 2023-31 Dec. 2025) has been funded by the European Commission's research and innovation programme under the call HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04 and coordinated by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in Belgium. It has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences at the ULB.

This study has three objectives: to map to what extent spatial mobility policies consider aspiring (re)migrants' behaviour; to identify the micro- and meso-level drivers of mobility aspiration and/or intention; and to determine the temporality of (non-)mobility decision-making.

Given your aspiration to (re)migrate to Europe or to another European country, I would like to invite you to take part in this study by allowing me to interview you using your preferred language at your most convenient time and place. With your permission, I will digitally record my interview, which will take about one hour and half to two hours. By participating in this study, you will contribute to the advancement of Social Science research and to a better understanding of potential (re)migrants' decision-making process including emotional and cognitive dimensions.

During the interview, I will invite you to share with me your past and present aspirations to move or stay where you are, the reasons behind them, the feelings involved in them, your target destination country and preferred travel itinerary, your imagined future, your planned projects, as well as your opinions about your country's migration or mobility policies. I will use an interview guide (see attached document), and if you feel that some questions are too personal, please feel free not to reply to them. Your name and other characteristics that may allow people to identify you will be modified during data encoding and analysis as well as in the presentations and publications that will result from this research: for example, your real name will be replaced with a pseudonym unless you explicitly consent to being identified in publications. Only the researcher (me in this case) who interview you will be able to link your identity to your answers.

After the interview, I may request your permission to allow me to take a photograph of you or an object that may represent you. This photograph would be useful for future dissemination of the research results in the form of publications and exhibit. Please take note that the photograph will not be used without your consent. If you wish, I blur your face in the photo to protect your privacy. If you want a copy of the photograph, I will send it to you upon your request via email. Your photo(s) and recorded interviews will not be transmitted to the other members of the research project.

The research results will be available on the project's website: [LINK TO THE WEBSITE](#). If you wish, we can communicate them to you using the email address you provide in the Identification Form attached. In line with the European Commission's Open Science and Open Data principle, your anonymised data will be made open access on the platform ZENODO (<https://zenodo.org/>) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.

\*\*\*

If you have further questions regarding this study, please contact me [\(FULL NAME\)](#) using this email address: [<PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS>](#). If you wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted, please contact [NAME OF THE LOCAL PI](#) (Principal Investigator of the research project in [COUNTRY NAME](#)) by email ([PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS](#)) or by post ([PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS](#)).

## Privacy policy

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- **Université libre de Bruxelles**, 50 Avenue Roosevelt, 1050 Brussels
- **Masarykova Univerzita**, Zerotinovo namesti 9, BRNO 60177, Czechia
- **Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universitaet Frankfurt Am Main**, Theodor W Adorno Platz 1, Frankfurt Am Main 60629, Germany
- **Universita Degli Studi Di Milano**, Via Festa Del Perdono 7, Milano 20122, Italy
- **Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa**, Avenida Das Forcas Armadas, Lisboa 1649 026, Portugal
- **Tampereen Korkeakoulusaatio SR**, Kalevantie 4, Tampere 33100, Finland
- **Scalabrini Migration Center Inc.**, Matapat Street – Pinyahan 40, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
- **Mahidol University**, Ratchawithi Road 420/6, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
- **Vien Han Lam Khoa Hoc Xa Hoi Viet Nam Vietnam Academy of Social Science (IS-VASS)**, No. 01 Liu Giai St. Cong V1 Ward BA Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
- **Foundation For Isaan Education and Popular Media**, 49/25 Village No. 16 Nai Mueang Subdistrict, Mueang District, Khon Kaen 40000, Thailand
- **Waseda University**, 1-104 Totsuka Machi, Shinjuku-ku 169-8050, Tokyo, Japan
- **Education University of Hong Kong**, 10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong, Hong Kong China
- **Vietnam Asia Pacific Economic Center**, 176 Thai Ha Street, Dong Da District 10000, Ha Noi, Vietnam

All the data collected will be securely stored on password-protected and encrypted computer and external hard disk as well as in the researcher's account in the server of his/her institution. Your pseudonymised data will also be stored in the secured MyCloud database of the Université libre de Bruxelles (coordinator of the AspirE project). All joint data controllers will have access to these pseudonymised data; when they are located outside of the European Union, the protection of your data will be ensured by the signature of the European Commission Standard Contractual Clauses that regulate the transfer of data to third countries. Additional information, including copies of these SCC's, can be received by writing to **NAME OF THE LOCAL PI** (Principal Investigator of the research project in **COUNTRY NAME**) by email (**PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**) or by post (**PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS**).

Please take note that you have the right to withdraw from the study anytime without justifications. In case you decide to withdraw from the study, only the data that are already published or about to be published will be kept. The rest of the data collected from you will be deleted unless you allow me to keep them or some parts of them.

The collection and use of your personal data (or of the person for whom you are legally responsible) is based on the joint data controllers' task of public interest to carry out scientific research (GDPR, Art. 6.1.e) and, for special categories of data, on the need to process such data for scientific research purposes (GDPR, Art. 9.2.j). By participating in the study, you are informed that the personal data described above be collected and processed for the research purposes outlined.

You can address your questions regarding the protection of your personal data in the context of this research to **NAME OF THE PARTNER'S Data Protection Officer: POSTAL ADDRESS AND EMAIL OF THE PARTNER INSTITUTION'S DPO**. This address is also the one by which you can exercise your rights (access, rectification, deletion, right to object and limitation of processing). If you are not satisfied with the answer provided by the **NAME OF THE PARTNER INSTITUTION**, you can contact **NAME AND EMAIL OF THE NATIONAL SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY**.

## **Interview guide for aspiring (re)migrants**

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

#### **I. Aspiration to (re)migrate**

- rationality of (re)migration aspiration: when, where, why, and how it takes shape
- feeling(s) about (re)migration aspiration
- the target destination country: what, why, and since when
- expectations, impressions, or fantasies about the target destination country
- persons and institutions influencing one's (re)migration aspiration: when, where, why, how
- past (re)migration and/or travel experiences: when, where, why, and how they took place
- feelings about past (re)migration and/or travel experiences
- present situation and feelings about it: civil status, age, education background, family roles, (non-)engagement in the labour market, family condition (i.e., intact or separated, economically stable or not, etc.), province/village of origin, presence or absence of savings, among others
- ongoing activities or actions directed to realise (re)migration aspiration: what, why, since when, how

#### **II. Imaginaries, perceptions, and feelings about the macro-level contexts**

- the socio-cultural, historical (post-colonial or not), economic, political, and environmental situations of one's country of residence
- the socio-cultural, historical (post-colonial or not), economic, political, and environmental situations of one's target destination country
- the migration policies of one's country of residence and one's target destination country (i.e., requirements, procedures, etc...)
- specific events (e.g., economic crisis, Covid-19 pandemic, political turmoil, natural catastrophes, etc.) influencing people to aspire to (re)migrate or stay
- social expectations (e.g., as citizens, as migrants, or as family members) shaping people's aspiration to (re)migrate or stay

#### **III. Imaginaries, perceptions, and feelings about the meso-level contexts**

- public and private infrastructures facilitating migration from one's country of residence to one's target destination country
- smuggling networks and the role of non-legally allowed intermediary migration actors and agencies
- social media platforms widely used by migrants, aspiring (re)migrants like oneself, and non-migrants in the country of residence
- presence/absence of migrant(s) in one's nuclear and extended families as well as circle of friends
- contacts with relatives and/or friends who are residing abroad: who, since when, why, and how
- contacts with travel or recruitment agencies: who, since when, why, and how
- ongoing active personal networks in the residence country and abroad: who, in what ways, since when, why, how

#### **IV. Views of, plans for, and feelings about the future**

- family-related projects: what, where, why, how, when
- work- or profession-related projects: what, where, why, how, when
- construction/maintenance of social networks "here" and/or "there": in what ways, who, why, how
- retirement plans: when, where, why, how
- further remigration or definite stay in a country
- specific emotions felt and imaginations when thinking about one's future

#### **V. Opinions on (re)migration-related issues**

- the way the country of residence and the target destination country view (im)migration and migrants
- the advantages and disadvantages of (re)migration vs. staying in one's country of residence
- the factors at individual and situational levels that can facilitate or impede one's (re)migration project
- the impact of (re)migration on one's family and professional lives as well as overall well-being

## Consent form for semi-structured interviews of aspiring Asian (re)migrants

Please tick the box corresponding to your answer to the sentence at the left side of this form:

I have read and understood the contents of the Information/Invitation Sheet.		
I have understood the objectives and importance of the study explained in the Information/Invitation Sheet and explained to me by the researcher.		
I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.		
I was informed about the categories of personal data processed and any onward transfer.		
I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I have the right to change my mind at any moment and withdraw from it without prejudice.		
I understand that the researcher will record the interview using a digital voice recorder.		
I understand that the personal data I provided in the Identification Form will be pseudonymised and securely stored in the server of <b>INSTITUTION'S NAME</b> . I am informed that the filled-up Identification Form will be destroyed five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.		
I understand that all the information I will give will be treated as confidential, that they will be modified in all publications and presentations to ensure the protection of my personal data, and that my name and contact information will not be shared to anyone without my permission.		
I give permission to the researcher to include identifiable information about me in all publications and presentations.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I give permission to the researcher to take a photograph as additional information for the study and to use them for academic publications and presentations provided that the face(s) of the person(s) in the photograph is/are blurred.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to receive via email a copy of the photograph taken during the researcher's interview with me.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that the researcher will securely store the pseudonymised data collected from me in the secured database of the Université libre de Bruxelles (coordinator of the AspirE project).		
I understand that I can access the main findings of the study on the project's website ( <b>LINK TO THE SITE HERE</b> ), and if I wish, I will be informed by email.		
I understand that I may contact the Principal Investigator if I have further questions about the case study or if I wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted.		
I understand that all anonymised data will be made open access on ZENODO ( <a href="https://zenodo.org/">https://zenodo.org/</a> ) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.		

**Consent Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Identification Form for semi-structured interviews of aspiring Asian  
(re)migrants**

**Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU:  
the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Birth country:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nationality:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Level of education** (primary, secondary, tertiary): \_\_\_\_\_

**email address** (to be used to communicate the results of the study):

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*

**Identification Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

## **4. Tools for social network mapping**

## Information/Invitation Sheet for social network mapping

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

This three-year study called AspirE (1 Jan. 2023-31 Dec. 2025) has been funded by the European Commission's research and innovation programme under the call HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04 and coordinated by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in Belgium. It has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences at the ULB.

This study has three objectives: to map to what extent spatial mobility policies consider aspiring (re)migrants' behaviour; to identify the micro- and meso-level drivers of mobility aspiration and/or intention; and to determine the temporality of (non-)mobility decision-making.

Having participated in my semi-structured interview about your aspiration(s) to (re)migrate to Europe or to another European country, I would like to invite you to take part in the next phase of my study by filling up an online questionnaire about your networks of support to your (re)migration project. This questionnaire in English is available on the web platform Network Canvas: [LINK TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE](#). If you are not proficient in English, I will assist you by translating all the questions in your preferred language. The completion of the questionnaire will take about an hour. By participating in this study, you will contribute to the advancement of Social Science research and to a better understanding of the role of individuals' social networks on their (re)migration aspiration and/or intention.

The questionnaire will ask you for the names (pseudonyms or initials) of individuals, groups, or institutions that you think could provide you with assistance and resources to realise your (re)migration aspiration. If you are about to (re)migrate, I will ask you to indicate in the questionnaire the names (pseudonyms or initials) of those who are helping you to attain your (re)migration intention. If you had a (re)migration aspiration in the past and you do not aspire or intend anymore to (re)migrate, I will ask you to write the names of persons, groups, or institutions that you were thinking who could help you. Regardless of your situation, I will ask you to explain your connection (biological, social, or professional) with the persons, groups, or institutions you indicated on the questionnaire.

Your name and other characteristics that may allow people to identify you will be modified during data encoding and analysis as well as during presentations and publications of the study findings: for example, your real name will be replaced with a pseudonym unless you explicitly consent to being identified in publications. Only the researcher (me in this case) who assisted you in filling up the questionnaire will be able to link your identity to your answers.

The research results will be available on the project's website: [LINK TO THE WEBSITE](#). If you wish, we can communicate them to you using the email address you provide in the Identification Form attached. In line with the European Commission's Open Science and Open Data principle, your anonymised data will be made open access on the platform ZENODO (<https://zenodo.org/>) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.

\*\*\*

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The collection and use of your personal data (or of the person for whom you are legally responsible) is based on the joint data controllers' task of public interest to carry out scientific research (GDPR, Art. 6.1.e) and, for special categories of data, on the need to process such data for scientific research purposes (GDPR, Art. 9.2.j). By participating in the study, you are informed that the personal data described above be collected and processed for the research purposes outlined.

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## Guide for the preparation of the online questionnaire for the mapping of aspiring (re)migrants' social networks

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

The following would be the structuring themes of the online questionnaire that will be prepared from March to May 2023 before the start of Work Package 4 of the project on June 2023. With the assistance of an AspirE research collaborator at ULB, this questionnaire will be constructed on the open access platform Network Canvas (<https://www.networkcanvas.com/>).

\*\*\*

- 1) Identification of the **actors** (e.g., persons, institutions, agencies, associations, or informal groups) that the participants think or believe were, are, or would be helpful in realising their (re)migration aspiration.
  - The participants will indicate on the online questionnaire the pseudonyms of these actors, the degree of their relational proximity with them, and the degree of probability that they would be helpful to them.
  
- 2) Identification of the **types of links** (biological, social, professional, etc.) between the participants and the actors they indicated as helpful to their (re)migration projects.
  - The participants will specify their relations with the aforementioned actors by choosing from the list of links as follows: grandparent, parent, sibling, relative, in-laws, friend, classmate, co-villager, office worker, boss, teacher/professor, mentor, coach, association co-member, others.
  
- 3) Identification of the **spatial location** of the actors they indicated on the online questionnaire as helpful to their (re)migration projects.
  - The participants will indicate where the aforementioned actors reside and choose from the list of locations as follows: in the participants' country of residence, in their target destination country, in another country in Europe, or in a country outside Europe.
  
- 4) Situating in **time** the actors indicated as helpful to the participants' (re)migration projects.
  - The participants will specify on the questionnaire the time in the past, present, or future when the aforementioned actors were, are, or would be helpful to their (re)migration projects.
  
- 5) Identification of the **forms of assistance** that the indicated actors provided, are giving, or would offer to the participants for their (re)migration projects.
  - The participants will specify on the questionnaire what forms of assistance they receive, are receiving, or would be receiving from the aforementioned actors: financial help, practical information, housing, work opportunity, moral support, all of these forms of assistance, others.

**Questionnaire\* used for social network mapping**  
**through Network Canvas Interviewer**

**Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU:  
the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

**Participant Information**

Here are a few questions to get to know you better:

- (FOR THE INTERVIEWER) If you have already assigned a pseudonym code to the participant to link the different interviews conducted with this individual, please enter it below.

- How many months have passed since you left your origin country?

- How many months have you been living in your [country of residence]?

- In the past year, did you approximately spend the majority of your time, half of your time, or less than half of your time in [country of residence]?

- All the time
- Majority of your time
- Half of your time
- Less than half of your time

**Potential migration aspirations**

Here are some questions about your potential migration aspirations:

- If you had the opportunity, would you like to go abroad to live or work during the next five years?

- Not at all
- Not really
- Moderately
- Somewhat
- Very much

- To what extent do you feel you have the necessary resources to fulfill these aspirations to migrate?

- Not at all
- Not really
- Moderately
- Somewhat
- Very much

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\* In collaboration with AspirE's WP3 researchers, Antoine Roblain (research collaborator based in ULB) prepared this questionnaire on Network Canvas Interviewer. The questionnaire was translated into the national languages (other than English) of the AspirE's local teams: Chinese, Czech, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Thai, Portuguese, and Vietnamese.

- To what extent do you think you will encounter administrative issues (such as obtaining a visa) in fulfilling your aspirations to migrate.

- Not at all
- Not really
- Moderately
- Somewhat
- Very much

- **Who do you believe or think could be helpful** in realising your (re)migration aspirations? Please provide names of persons, institutions, agencies, companies, associations/NGO, or informal group?

- What is the name of this person, institution, agency, company, association/NGO, or informal group?

- Person
- Institution
- Agency
- Company
- Association/NGO
- Informal group

- Could you please specify the current **location** of this actor?

- In your country of residence
- In your target destination country
- In another European country
- In your origin country
- In another Asian country
- Other country

- Could you please specify the **timeframe** or period when this actor you has been, is currently, or would be helpful to your (re)migration projects?

- Has been helpful, in the past
- Is still currently helpful, in the present
- Will be helpful, in the future

- What **types of support**, if any, are you currently receiving or anticipate receiving from this actor in your (re)migration endeavors?

- Financial help
- Administrative support
- Lifestyle information
- Housing support
- Work opportunity

Moral support

- How often are you in contact with this actor?

Less than once per month

Once per month

Once per week

Once per day

Many times per day

You've mentioned that you have individuals around you who have provided or will provide assistance in your (re)migration journey. We're interested in learning more about these individuals.

- Could you specify your **relations** with this person?

Grand parent

Parent

Sibling

Relative in law

Friend

Intimate partner

Classmate

Co-worker

Boss

Teacher/professor

Mentor

Coach

Co-villager/neighbour

Friend of a friend

Roommate

Religion leader

other

**Identification Form for the mapping of aspiring (re)migrants' social networks**

**Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU:  
the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**email address** (to be used to communicate the results of the study):  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*

**Identification Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

## **5. Tools for video diaries**

## Information/Invitation Sheet for video diaries collection

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

This three-year study called AspirE (1 Jan. 2023-31 Dec. 2025) has been funded by the European Commission's research and innovation programme under the call HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04 and coordinated by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in Belgium. It has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences at the ULB.

This study has three objectives: to map to what extent spatial mobility policies consider aspiring (re)migrants' behaviour; to identify the micro- and meso-level drivers of mobility aspiration and/or intention; and to determine the temporality of (non-)mobility decision-making.

Having participated in my social network mapping, I would like to invite you to take part in the final phase of my study by producing four video diaries of a maximum of 10 minutes in mp4 format for a period of one year (i.e., one every three months). There is a guide attached here with a list of questions to answer when you are recording your video diaries. You are free to produce your video diaries from anywhere (home, workplace, or public space) and to report your thoughts, plans, feelings, or changes of mind regarding your (re)migration aspiration. To record your video, you can choose from among the technological tools that you have accessed to: smart phone, video camera, computer, or online video platforms. To avoid face recognition, it would be good to focus your video camera not on your face or body but on a specific "avatar" object that can represent your state of self during the moment of video recording. You can send me via email (**EMAIL ADDRESS**) your video diaries. By participating in this study, you will contribute to the advancement of Social Science research and to a better understanding of the evolution of individuals' (re)migration aspiration, specifically the transition from one stage to another and the timing of their decision-making.

To protect your privacy and anonymity, specific moments in your video diaries that reveal, talk about, or mention your personal data will be cut using the multimedia player VLC. Your voice will also be changed using VLC. Only the researcher (me in this case) who invited you to take part in this study will be able to link your identity to your video diaries. Please take note that your original non-pseudonymised video diaries will not be transmitted to the other members of the research project.

The research results will be available on the project's website: **LINK TO THE WEBSITE**. If you wish, we can communicate them to you using the email address you provide in the Identification Form attached. In line with the European Commission's Open Science and Open Data principle, your anonymised data will be made open access on the platform ZENODO (<https://zenodo.org/>) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study. Please take note that you have the right to withdraw from the study anytime without justifications. In case you decide to withdraw from the study, only the data that are already published or about to be published will be kept. The rest of your video diaries will be deleted unless you allow me to keep them or some parts of them.

\*\*\*

If you have further questions regarding this study, please contact me (**FULL NAME**) using this email address: <**PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**>. If you wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted, please contact **NAME OF THE LOCAL PI** (Principal Investigator of the research project in **COUNTRY NAME**) by email (**PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**) or by post (**PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS**).

## Privacy policy

The joint Data controllers of the study under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) are:

- **Université libre de Bruxelles**, 50 Avenue Roosevelt, 1050 Brussels
- **Masarykova Univerzita**, Zerotinovo namesti 9, BRNO 60177, Czechia
- **Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universitaet Frankfurt Am Main**, Theodor W Adorno Platz 1, Frankfurt Am Main 60629, Germany
- **Universita Degli Studi Di Milano**, Via Festa Del Perdono 7, Milano 20122, Italy
- **Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa**, Avenida Das Forcas Armadas, Lisboa 1649 026, Portugal
- **Tampereen Korkeakoulusaatio SR**, Kalevantie 4, Tampere 33100, Finland
- **Scalabrini Migration Center Inc.**, Matapat Street – Pinyahan 40, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
- **Mahidol University**, Ratchawithi Road 420/6, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
- **Vien Han Lam Khoa Hoc Xa Hoi Viet Nam Vietnam Academy of Social Science (IS-VASS)**, No. 01 Liu Giai St. Cong V1 Ward BA Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
- **Foundation For Isaan Education and Popular Media**, 49/25 Village No. 16 Nai Mueang Subdistrict, Mueang District, Khon Kaen 40000, Thailand
- **Waseda University**, 1-104 Totsuka Machi, Shinjuku-ku 169-8050, Tokyo, Japan
- **Education University of Hong Kong**, 10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong, Hong Kong China
- **Vietnam Asia Pacific Economic Center**, 176 Thai Ha Street, Dong Da District 10000, Ha Noi, Vietnam

All the data collected will be securely stored on password-protected and encrypted computer and external hard disk as well as in the researcher's account in the server of his/her institution. Your pseudonymised data will also be stored in two secured databases based respectively in the University Institute of Lisbon in Portugal (coordinator of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles (coordinator of the AspirE project). All joint data controllers will have access to these pseudonymised data; when they are located outside of the European Union, the protection of your data will be ensured by the signature of the European Commission Standard Contractual Clauses that regulate the transfer of data to third countries. Additional information, including copies of these SCC's, can be received by writing to **NAME OF THE LOCAL PI** (Principal Investigator of the research project in **COUNTRY NAME**) by email (**PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**) or by post (**PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS**).

The collection and use of your personal data (or of the person for whom you are legally responsible) is based on the joint data controllers' task of public interest to carry out scientific research (GDPR, Art. 6.1.e) and, for special categories of data, on the need to process such data for scientific research purposes (GDPR, Art. 9.2.j). By participating in the study, you are informed that the personal data described above be collected and processed for the research purposes outlined.

You can address your questions regarding the protection of your personal data in the context of this research to **NAME OF THE PARTNER'S Data Protection Officer: POSTAL ADDRESS AND EMAIL OF THE PARTNER INSTITUTION'S DPO**. This address is also the one by which you can exercise your rights (access, rectification, deletion, right to object and limitation of processing). If you are not satisfied with the answer provided by the **NAME OF THE PARTNER INSTITUTION**, you can contact **NAME AND EMAIL OF THE NATIONAL SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY**.

## Consent Form for video diaries collection

Please tick the box corresponding to your answer to the sentence at the left side of this form:

I have read and understood the contents of the Information/Invitation Sheet.	
I have understood the objectives and importance of the study explained in the Information/Invitation Sheet and explained to me by the researcher.	
I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.	
I was informed about the categories of personal data processed and any onward transfer.	
I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I have the right to change my mind at any moment and withdraw from it without prejudice.	
I understand that to protect my privacy I focus my video camera not on my face or body but on a specific “avatar” object that can represent my state of self during the moment of video recording.	
I understand that specific moments in my video diaries that reveal, talk about, or mention my personal data will be cut and that my voice will be changed using the multimedia player VLC.	
I understand that the personal data I provided in the Identification Form will be pseudonymised and securely stored in the server of <b>INSTITUTION'S NAME</b> . I am informed that the filled-up Identification Form will be destroyed five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.	
I understand that all the information I will give will be treated as confidential, that they will be modified in all publications and presentations to ensure the protection of my personal data, and that my name and contact information will not be shared to anyone without my permission.	
I give permission to the researcher to include identifiable information about me in all publications and presentations.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that the researcher will store the pseudonymised data collected from me in two secured databases based respectively in the University Institute of Lisbon in Portugal (coordinator of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles in Belgium (coordinator of the AspirE project).	
I understand that I can access the main findings of the study on the project's website ( <b>LINK TO THE SITE HERE</b> ), and if I wish, I will be informed by email.	
I understand that I may contact the Principal Investigator if I have further questions about the case study or if I wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted.	
I understand that all anonymised data will be made open access on ZENODO ( <a href="https://zenodo.org/">https://zenodo.org/</a> ) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.	

**Consent Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Consent Form for video diaries collection**

Please tick the box corresponding to your answer to the sentence at the left side of this form:

I have read and understood the contents of the Information/Invitation Sheet.		
I have understood the objectives and importance of the study explained in the Information/Invitation Sheet and explained to me by the researcher.		
I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.		
I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I have the right to change my mind at any moment and withdraw from it without prejudice.		
I understand that to protect my privacy I focus my video camera not on my face or body but on a specific “avatar” object that can represent my state of self during the moment of video recording.		
I understand that specific moments in my video diaries that reveal, talk about, or mention my personal data will be cut and that my voice will be changed using a software compliant to the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulations.		
I understand that the personal data I provided in the Identification Form will be pseudonymised and securely stored in the server of <b>INSTITUTION’S NAME</b> . I am informed that the filled-up Identification Form will be destroyed five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.		
I understand that all the information I will give will be treated as confidential, that they will be modified in all publications and presentations to ensure the protection of my personal data, and that my name and contact information will not be shared to anyone without my permission.		
I give permission to the researcher to include identifiable information about me in all publications and presentations.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
In case my video diaries are selected for the project’s online/onsite exhibit planned for October 2025, I give permission to the researcher to use my pseudonymised video diaries for this presentation of the project’s findings.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that the researcher will store the pseudonymised data collected from me in two secured databases based respectively in the University Institute of Lisbon in Portugal (coordinator of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles in Belgium (coordinator of the AspirE project).		
I understand that I can access the main findings of the study on the project’s website ( <b>LINK TO THE SITE HERE</b> ), and if I wish, I will be informed by email.		
I understand that I may contact the Principal Investigator if I have further questions about the case study or if I wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted.		
I understand that all anonymised data will be made open access on ZENODO ( <a href="https://zenodo.org/">https://zenodo.org/</a> ) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.		

**Consent Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher’s signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date and place:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Identification Form for video diaries collection**

**Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU:  
the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**email address** (to be used to communicate the results of the study):

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*

**Identification Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

## **6. Tools for focus group discussions**

## **6.1 Local focus group discussions**

## **Information/Invitation Sheet for group discussion (Phase 1)**

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

This three-year study called AspirE (1 Jan. 2023-31 Dec. 2025) has been funded by the European Commission's research and innovation programme under the call HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04 and coordinated by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in Belgium. It has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences at the ULB.

This study has three objectives: to map to what extent spatial mobility policies consider aspiring (re)migrants' behaviour; to identify the micro- and meso-level drivers of mobility aspiration and/or intention; and to determine the temporality of (non-)mobility decision-making.

Given your knowledge and work experience on migration-related issues, I would like to invite you to take part in a group discussion about the factors affecting the decision making of aspiring (re)migrants in your country. This group discussion that will take about **X** hours will be held in **ADDRESS OF THE VENUE (IF ONSITE) OR (IF ONLINE) on XXX (THE LINK TO AN ONLINE PLATFORM)** on **DATE AND TIME**. The discussion will be recorded, and I will be the one to transcribe and pseudonymise this recording to protect your anonymity. I will keep the original recording in a separate folder in my password-protected and encrypted personal computer. This recording will be destroyed five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the project. By participating in this study, you will contribute to the advancement of Social Science research and to a better understanding of the temporality of decision-making process of aspiring (re)migrants.

I will use a discussion guide (see attached document), and if you feel that some questions are too personal, please feel free not to reply to them. Your name and other characteristics that may allow people to identify you will be modified during data encoding and analysis as well as in the presentations and publications that will result from this research: for example, your real name will be replaced with a pseudonym unless you explicitly consent to being identified in publications. Only the researcher (me in this case) who organise the group discussion will be able to link your identity to your answers.

After the group discussion, I may request your permission to allow me to take a photograph of you and other participants. This photograph would be useful for future dissemination of the research results in the form of publications and exhibit. However, please take note that the photograph will not be used without your consent. If you wish, I blur your face in the photo to protect your privacy. If you want a copy of the photograph, it will send it to you upon your request via email. Your photo(s) and the recorded group discussions will not be transmitted to the other members of the research project.

The research results will be available on the project's website: <https://aspire.ulb.be/>. If you wish, we can communicate them to you using the email address you provide in the Identification Form attached. In line with the European Commission's Open Science and Open Data principle, your anonymised data will be made open access on the platform ZENODO (<https://zenodo.org/communities/eu/>) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study. Please take note that you have the right to withdraw from the study anytime without justifications. In case you decide to withdraw from the study, only the data that are already published or about to be published will be kept. The rest of the data concerning you will be deleted unless you allow me to keep them or some parts of them.

\*\*\*

If you have further questions regarding this study, please contact me (FULL NAME) using this email address: <PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS>. If you wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted, please contact NAME OF THE LOCAL PI (Principal Investigator of the research project in COUNTRY NAME) by email (PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS) or by post (PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS).

For Asia-based AspirE teams:

## Privacy policy

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- **Masarykova Univerzita**, Zerotinovo namesti 9, BRNO 60177, Czechia
- **Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universitaet Frankfurt Am Main**, Theodor W Adorno Platz 1, Frankfurt Am Main 60629, Germany
- **Universita Degli Studi Di Milano**, Via Festa Del Perdono 7, Milano 20122, Italy
- **Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa**, Avenida Das Forcas Armadas, Lisboa 1649 026, Portugal
- **Tampereen Korkeakoulusaatio SR**, Kalevantie 4, Tampere 33100, Finland
- **Scalabrini Migration Center Inc.**, Matapat Street – Pinyahan 40, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
- **Mahidol University**, Ratchawithi Road 420/6, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
- **Vien Han Lam Khoa Hoc Xa Hoi Viet Nam Vietnam Academy of Social Science (IS-VASS)**, No. 01 Liu Giai St. Cong V1 Ward BA Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
- **Foundation For Isaan Education and Popular Media**, 49/25 Village No. 16 Nai Mueang Subdistrict, Mueang District, Khon Kaen 40000, Thailand
- **Waseda University**, 1-104 Totsuka Machi, Shinjuku-ku 169-8050, Tokyo, Japan
- **Education University of Hong Kong**, 10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong, Hong Kong China
- **Vietnam Asia Pacific Economic Center**, 176 Thai Ha Street, Dong Da District 10000, Ha Noi, Vietnam

All the data collected will be securely stored on password-protected and encrypted computer and external hard disk as well as in the researcher's account in the server of his/her institution. Your pseudonymised data will also be stored in two secured databases based respectively in the University Institute of Lisbon in Portugal (coordinator of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles (coordinator of the AspirE project). All joint data controllers will have access to these pseudonymised data; when they are located outside of the European Union, the protection of your data will be ensured by the signature of the European Commission Standard Contractual Clauses that regulate the transfer of data to third countries. Additional information, including copies of these SCC's, can be received by writing to **NAME OF THE LOCAL PI** (Principal Investigator of the research project in **COUNTRY NAME**) by email (**PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**) or by post (**PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS**).

The collection and use of your personal data (or of the person for whom you are legally responsible) is based on the joint data controllers' task of public interest to carry out scientific research (GDPR, Art. 6.1.e) and, for special categories of data, on the need to process such data for scientific research purposes (GDPR, Art. 9.2.j). By participating in the study, you are informed that the personal data described above be collected and processed for the research purposes outlined.

You can address your questions regarding the protection of your personal data in the context of this research to the ULB Data Protection Officer: Avenue F. Roosevelt 50, 1050 Brussels, CP 130, [rgpd@ulb.be](mailto:rgpd@ulb.be). This address is also the one by which you can exercise your rights (access, rectification, deletion, right to object and limitation of processing). You can also address complaints to the Belgium Data Protection Authority (DPA – <https://www.autoriteprotectiondonnees.be/citoyen>). In this case, the ULB would like to have the opportunity to respond to your complaint before you submit it to the DPA.

For EU-based AspirE teams:

### Privacy policy

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- **Vietnam Asia Pacific Economic Center**, 176 Thai Ha Street, Dong Da District 10000, Ha Noi, Vietnam

All the data collected will be securely stored on password-protected and encrypted computer and external hard disk as well as in the researcher's account in the server of his/her institution. Your pseudonymised data will also be stored in two secured databases based respectively in the University Institute of Lisbon in Portugal (coordinator of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles (coordinator of the AspirE project). All joint data controllers will have access to these pseudonymised data; when they are located outside of the European Union, the protection of your data will be ensured by the signature of the European Commission Standard Contractual Clauses that regulate the transfer of data to third countries. Additional information, including copies of these SCC's, can be received by writing to **NAME OF THE LOCAL PI** (Principal Investigator of the research project in **COUNTRY NAME**) by email (**PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**) or by post (**PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS**).

The collection and use of your personal data (or of the person for whom you are legally responsible) is based on the joint data controllers' task of public interest to carry out scientific research (GDPR, Art. 6.1.e) and, for special categories of data, on the need to process such data for scientific research purposes (GDPR, Art. 9.2.). By participating in the study, you are informed that the personal data described above be collected and processed for the research purposes outlined.

You can address your questions regarding the protection of your personal data in the context of this research to **NAME OF THE PARTNER'S Data Protection Officer: POSTAL ADDRESS AND EMAIL OF THE PARTNER INSTITUTION'S DPO**. This address is also the one by which you can exercise your rights (access, rectification, deletion, right to object and limitation of processing). If you are not satisfied with the answer provided by the **NAME OF THE PARTNER INSTITUTION**, you can contact **NAME AND EMAIL OF THE NATIONAL SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY**.

## **Guide for group discussion (Phase 1)**

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

#### **Knowledge/views/observations about the following aspects:**

- 1) factors at the societal level that may drive them to decide to (re)migrate;
- 2) factors at the level of social networks that may motivate them to (re)migrate;
- 3) factors at individual level that may influence them to decide to (re)migrate;
- 4) difficulties and hurdles that aspiring (re)migrants may encounter during the preparation process of (re)moving and the during their act of movement;
- 5) most or least possible countries of destination that they may target for their (re)migration;
- 6) most susceptible groups of people who may aspire to (re)migrate;
- 7) most probable routes that aspiring (re)migrants may take to reach their destination country;
- 8) probable risks or challenges present on specific chosen routes to reach their destination country;
- 9) most probable causes of change of decision to (re)migrate; and
- 10) suggestions on how sending and receiving countries can assist aspiring (re)migrants in making decisions concerning the most appropriate public or private institutions/agencies/bodies/websites to consult to, the safest migration routes to take, and the most effective procedure to follow to realise their mobility projects.

### Consent form for group discussion (Phase 1)

Please tick the box corresponding to your answer to the sentence at the left side of this form:

I have read and understood the contents of the Information/Invitation Sheet.		
I have understood the objectives and importance of the study explained in the Information/Invitation Sheet and explained to me by the researcher.		
I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.		
I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I have the right to change my mind at any moment and withdraw from it without prejudice.		
I understand that the researcher will record the group discussion using a digital voice recorder.		
I understand that the personal data I provided in the Identification Form will be pseudonymised and securely stored in the server of <b>INSTITUTION'S NAME</b> . I am informed that the filled-up Identification Form will be destroyed five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.		
I understand that all the information I will give will be treated as confidential and that my name and contact information will not be shared to anyone without my permission.		
I give permission to the researcher to include identifiable information about me in all publications and presentations.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I give permission to the researcher to take a photograph as additional information for the study and to use them for academic publications and presentations provided that the face(s) of the person(s) in the photograph is/are blurred.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to receive via email a copy of the photograph taken during the researcher's interview with me.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that the researcher will store the pseudonymised data collected from me in two secured databases based respectively in the University Institute of Lisbon in Portugal (coordinator of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles in Belgium (coordinator of the AspirE project).		
I understand that I can access the main findings of the study on the project's website ( <a href="https://aspire.ulb.be/">https://aspire.ulb.be/</a> ), and if I wish, I will be informed by email.		
I understand that I may contact the Principal Investigator if I have further questions about the case study or if I wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted.		
I understand that all anonymised data will be made open access on ZENODO ( <a href="https://zenodo.org/communities/eu/">https://zenodo.org/communities/eu/</a> ) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.		

**Consent Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date and place:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Identification Form for the participants of group discussion (Phase 1)**

**Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU:  
the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth country:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nationality:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Level of education** (primary, secondary, tertiary): \_\_\_\_\_

**email** (to be used to communicate the results of the study): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*

**Identification Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

## **6.2 Transnational focus group discussions**

## **Information/Invitation Sheet for group discussion (Phase 2)**

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

This three-year study called AspirE (1 Jan. 2023-31 Dec. 2025) has been funded by the European Commission's research and innovation programme under the call HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04 and coordinated by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in Belgium. It has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences at the ULB.

This study has three objectives: to map to what extent spatial mobility policies consider aspiring (re)migrants' behaviour; to identify the micro- and meso-level drivers of mobility aspiration and/or intention; and to determine the temporality of (non-)mobility decision-making.

I would like to invite you to take part in an online group discussion about the factors affecting the decision making of aspiring (re)migrants in your country. This discussion in English that will take about X hours will be composed of social actors including you who are based in COUNTRY NAME and those based in COUNTRY NAME. It will take place on XX (LINK) on DATE AND TIME. The discussion will be recorded, and this recording will be transcribed and pseudonymised to protect your anonymity. I will keep the original recording in a separate folder in my password-protected and encrypted personal computer. This recording will be destroyed five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the project. By participating in this study, you will contribute to the advancement of Social Science research and to a better understanding of the temporality of decision-making process of aspiring (re)migrants.

I will use a discussion guide (see attached document), and if you feel that some questions are too personal, please feel free not to reply to them. Your name and other characteristics that may allow people to identify you will be modified during data encoding and analysis as well as in the presentations and publications that will result from this research: for example, your real name will be replaced with a pseudonym unless you explicitly consent to being identified in publications. Only the researcher (me in this case) who organise the group discussion will be able to link your identity to your answers.

After the group discussion, I may request your permission to allow me to take a photograph of you and other participants. This photograph would be useful for future dissemination of the research results in the forms of publications and exhibit. However, please take note that the photograph will not be used without your consent. If you wish, I blur your face in the photo to protect your privacy. If you want a copy of the photograph, it will send it to you upon your request via email. Your photo(s) and the recorded group discussions will not be transmitted to the other members of the research project.

The research results will be available on the project's website: <https://aspire.ulb.be/>. If you wish, we can communicate them to you using the email address you provide in the Identification Form attached. In line with the European Commission's Open Science and Open Data principle, your anonymised data will be made open access on the platform ZENODO (<https://zenodo.org/communities/eu/>) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study. Please take note that you have the right to withdraw from the study anytime without justifications. In case you decide to withdraw from the study, only the data that are already published or about to be published will be kept. The rest of the data concerning you will be deleted unless you allow me to keep them or some parts of them.

\*\*\*

If you have further questions regarding this study, please contact me (FULL NAME) using this email address: <PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS>. If you wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted, please contact NAME OF THE LOCAL PI (Principal Investigator of the research project in COUNTRY NAME) by email (PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS) or by post (PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS).

For Asia-based AspirE teams:

### **Privacy policy**

The joint Data controllers of the study under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) are:

- **Université libre de Bruxelles**, 50 Avenue Roosevelt, 1050 Brussels
- **Masarykova Univerzita**, Zerotinovo namesti 9, BRNO 60177, Czechia
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- **Universita Degli Studi Di Milano**, Via Festa Del Perdono 7, Milano 20122, Italy
- **Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa**, Avenida Das Forcas Armadas, Lisboa 1649 026, Portugal
- **Tampereen Korkeakoulusaatio SR**, Kalevantie 4, Tampere 33100, Finland
- **Scalabrini Migration Center Inc.**, Matapat Street – Pinyahan 40, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
- **Mahidol University**, Ratchawithi Road 420/6, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
- **Vien Han Lam Khoa Hoc Xa Hoi Viet Nam Vietnam Academy of Social Science (IS-VASS)**, No. 01 Liu Giai St. Cong V1 Ward BA Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
- **Foundation For Isaan Education and Popular Media**, 49/25 Village No. 16 Nai Mueang Subdistrict, Mueang District, Khon Kaen 40000, Thailand
- **Waseda University**, 1-104 Totsuka Machi, Shinjuku-ku 169-8050, Tokyo, Japan
- **Education University of Hong Kong**, 10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong, Hong Kong China
- **Vietnam Asia Pacific Economic Center**, 176 Thai Ha Street, Dong Da District 10000, Ha Noi, Vietnam

All the data collected will be securely stored on password-protected and encrypted computer and external hard disk as well as in the researcher's account in the server of his/her institution. Your pseudonymised data will also be stored in two secured databases based respectively in the University Institute of Lisbon in Portugal (coordinator of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles (coordinator of the AspirE project). All joint data controllers will have access to these pseudonymised data; when they are located outside of the European Union, the protection of your data will be ensured by the signature of the European Commission Standard Contractual Clauses that regulate the transfer of data to third countries. Additional information, including copies of these SCC's, can be received by writing to **NAME OF THE LOCAL PI** (Principal Investigator of the research project in **COUNTRY NAME**) by email (**PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**) or by post (**PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS**).

The collection and use of your personal data (or of the person for whom you are legally responsible) is based on the joint data controllers' task of public interest to carry out scientific research (GDPR, Art. 6.1.e) and, for special categories of data, on the need to process such data for scientific research purposes (GDPR, Art. 9.2.i). By participating in the study, you are informed that the personal data described above be collected and processed for the research purposes outlined.

You can address your questions regarding the protection of your personal data in the context of this research to the ULB Data Protection Officer: Avenue F. Roosevelt 50, 1050 Brussels, CP 130, [rgpd@ulb.be](mailto:rgpd@ulb.be). This address is also the one by which you can exercise your rights (access, rectification, deletion, right to object and limitation of processing). You can also address complaints to the Belgium Data Protection Authority (DPA – <https://www.autoriteprotectiondonnees.be/citoyen>). In this case, the ULB would like to have the opportunity to respond to your complaint before you submit it to the DPA.

For EU-based AspirE teams:

## Privacy policy

The joint Data controllers of the study under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) are:

- **Université libre de Bruxelles**, 50 Avenue Roosevelt, 1050 Brussels
- **Masarykova Univerzita**, Zerotinovo namesti 9, BRNO 60177, Czechia
- **Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universitaet Frankfurt Am Main**, Theodor W Adorno Platz 1, Frankfurt Am Main 60629, Germany
- **Universita Degli Studi Di Milano**, Via Festa Del Perdono 7, Milano 20122, Italy
- **Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa**, Avenida Das Forcas Armadas, Lisboa 1649 026, Portugal
- **Tampereen Korkeakoulusaatio SR**, Kalevantie 4, Tampere 33100, Finland
- **Scalabrini Migration Center Inc.**, Matapat Street – Pinyahan 40, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
- **Mahidol University**, Ratchawithi Road 420/6, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
- **Vien Han Lam Khoa Hoc Xa Hoi Viet Nam Vietnam Academy of Social Science (IS-VASS)**, No. 01 Liu Giai St. Cong V1 Ward BA Dinh District, Hanoi, Vietnam
- **Foundation For Isaan Education and Popular Media**, 49/25 Village No. 16 Nai Mueang Subdistrict, Mueang District, Khon Kaen 40000, Thailand
- **Waseda University**, 1-104 Totsuka Machi, Shinjuku-ku 169-8050, Tokyo, Japan
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All the data collected will be securely stored on password-protected and encrypted computer and external hard disk as well as in the researcher's account in the server of his/her institution. Your pseudonymised data will also be stored in two secured databases based respectively in the University Institute of Lisbon in Portugal (coordinator of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles (coordinator of the AspirE project). All joint data controllers will have access to these pseudonymised data; when they are located outside of the European Union, the protection of your data will be ensured by the signature of the European Commission Standard Contractual Clauses that regulate the transfer of data to third countries. Additional information, including copies of these SCC's, can be received by writing to **NAME OF THE LOCAL PI** (Principal Investigator of the research project in **COUNTRY NAME**) by email (**PROFESSIONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**) or by post (**PROFESSIONAL POSTAL ADDRESS**).

The collection and use of your personal data (or of the person for whom you are legally responsible) is based on the joint data controllers' task of public interest to carry out scientific research (GDPR, Art. 6.1.e) and, for special categories of data, on the need to process such data for scientific research purposes (GDPR, Art. 9.2.j). By participating in the study, you are informed that the personal data described above be collected and processed for the research purposes outlined.

You can address your questions regarding the protection of your personal data in the context of this research to **NAME OF THE PARTNER'S Data Protection Officer: POSTAL ADDRESS AND EMAIL OF THE PARTNER INSTITUTION'S DPO**. This address is also the one by which you can exercise your rights (access, rectification, deletion, right to object and limitation of processing). If you are not satisfied with the answer provided by the **NAME OF THE PARTNER INSTITUTION**, you can contact **NAME AND EMAIL OF THE NATIONAL SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY**.

## Guide for group discussion (Phase 2)

### **Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

#### **Knowledge/views/observations about the following aspects:**

- 1) factors at the societal level in the participants' respective countries that may drive **SPECIFIC ASIAN GROUP<sup>1</sup>** to decide to (re)migrate;
- 2) factors at the level of social networks of **SPECIFIC ASIAN GROUP** that may motivate them to (re)migrate;
- 3) factors at individual level that may influence them to decide to (re)migrate;
- 4) difficulties and hurdles that aspiring Asian (re)migrants may encounter during the preparation process of (re)moving and the during their act of movement;
- 5) most or least possible countries of destination that they may target for their (re)migration;
- 6) most susceptible groups of **ASIAN GROUP** who may aspire to (re)migrate;
- 7) most probable routes that aspiring (re)migrants may take to reach their target destination European country;
- 8) probable risks or challenges present on specific chosen routes to reach their target destination European country;
- 9) most probable causes of change of decision to (re)migrate; and
- 10) suggestions on how **ASIAN COUNTRY<sup>2</sup>** and **EUROPEAN COUNTRY<sup>3</sup>** can assist aspiring (re)migrants in making decisions concerning the most appropriate public or private institutions/agencies/bodies/websites to consult to, the safest migration routes to take, and the most effective procedure to follow to realise their mobility projects.

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<sup>1</sup> Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Thais, or Vietnamese

<sup>2</sup> China, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, or Vietnam

<sup>3</sup> Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, or Portugal

## Consent form for group discussion (Phase 2)

Please tick the box corresponding to your answer to the sentence at the left side of this form:

I have read and understood the contents of the Information/Invitation Sheet.		
I have understood the objectives and importance of the study explained in the Information/Invitation Sheet and explained to me by the researcher.		
I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.		
I was informed about the categories of personal data processed and any onward transfer.		
I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I have the right to change my mind at any moment and withdraw from it without prejudice.		
I understand that the researcher will record the group discussion through the GDPR-compliant platform they used.		
I understand that the personal data I provided in the Identification Form will be pseudonymised and securely stored in the server of <b>INSTITUTION'S NAME</b> . I am informed that the filled-up Identification Form will be destroyed five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.		
I understand that all the information I will give will be treated as confidential and that my name and contact information will not be shared to anyone without my permission.		
I give permission to the researcher to include identifiable information about me in all publications and presentations.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I give permission to the researcher to take a photograph as additional information for the study and to use them for academic publications and presentations provided that the face(s) of the person(s) in the photograph is/are blurred.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to receive via email a copy of the photograph taken during the researcher's interview with me.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that the researcher will store the pseudonymised data collected from me in two secured databases based respectively in the University Institute of Lisbon in Portugal (coordinator of the Work Package in which this study is part of) and in the Université libre de Bruxelles in Belgium (coordinator of the AspirE project).		
I understand that I can access the main findings of the study on the project's website ( <a href="https://aspire.ulb.be/">https://aspire.ulb.be/</a> ), and if I wish, I will be informed by email.		
I understand that I may contact the Principal Investigator if I have further questions about the case study or if I wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted.		
I understand that all anonymised data will be made open access on ZENODO ( <a href="https://zenodo.org/communities/eu/">https://zenodo.org/communities/eu/</a> ) five years (31 Dec. 2030) after the end of the study.		

**Consent Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

**Researcher's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date and place:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Participant's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Identification Form for the participants of group discussion (Phase 2)**

**Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU:  
the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**email address** (to be used to communicate the results of the study): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*

**Identification Form no.** (to be filled up by the researcher): \_\_\_\_\_

## **7. General confidentiality agreement form**

## Confidentiality agreement

I, the undersigned ..... agree to strictly respect the confidentiality of personal data of which I would be aware within the European Commission’s H2020 (HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04) research project *Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia*.

Under the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR), “‘personal data’ means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (‘data subject’); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person”.

In compliance with this legislation, I agree to:

- **not to access or seek to access data which is not strictly necessary for the execution of my work or mission;**
- **not to disclose, both during the employment relationship and after the end of it, any personal data of which I would have been aware during the exercise of my function, in addition to what would be necessary for the exercise thereof;**
- **not to keep any copy of the data processed after my work or mission.**

Access to information is only authorised within the framework of professional services, only during the time of these services.

**Signed in** ..... **on (date)**.....

**Signature** .....

## **ANNEXES**

**Annex 1.**  
**Approval of the Data Protection Officer**  
**of the coordinator institution (ULB)**

Destinataire : Comité d'éthique  
Faculté Philosophie et Sciences  
sociales

Date : 8 décembre 2022  
Caractère du document :  
public   
interne   
confidentiel

ne pas diffuser sans autorisation   
autre

**Research project *AspirE: Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia***

**AspirE - Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia: compliance of the methodology with the General Data Protection Regulations**

The University's Data Protection Unit, and in particular its Data Protection Officer, was consulted by Ms. Asuncion FRESNOZA-FLOT regarding the AspirE research project.

The methodology as described in the FRS-FNRS human ethics questionnaire for the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences meets the requirements of the RGPD. Personal data – of a sensitive nature – will be collected and secured in accordance with ULB institutional recommendations. The information and consent documents contain the necessary legal mentions. If necessary, a data protection agreement will be concluded between the partner institutions of the project.

Opinion: positive on the proposed methodology

**Date: 8 December 2022**  
**Virginie Grégoire**  
**Data Protection Officer**

Destinataire : Comité d'éthique  
Faculté Philosophie et Sciences  
sociales

Date : 20 March 2023  
Caractère du document :  
public   
interne   
confidentiel

ne pas diffuser sans autorisation   
autre

**Research project *AspirE: Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia***

**AspirE - Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia: compliance of the methodology with the General Data Protection Regulations**

The University's Data Protection Unit, and in particular its Data Protection Officer, was consulted in 2022 by Ms. Asuncion FRESNOZA-FLOT regarding the AspirE research project.

The DPO's opinion was positive on the proposed methodology.

Considering the project in a partnership of several institutions, all acting as Data controller, the documents were reviewed by these partner institutions.

In March 2023, the information sheets and consent forms were amended, mostly in order to clarify the information given to the participants about the protection of their personal data. Research information and privacy notices are now clearly separated.

These changes have no bearing on the methodology/protocol of the research.

Also, considering the characteristics of the research project, a data protection impact assessment (DPIA) was conducted. It will be validated by the DPOs of all partner institutions involved in the project.

Opinion: positive on the proposed amended information sheets and consent forms.

**Date: 20 March 2023**  
**Virginie Grégoire**  
**Data Protection Officer**

Destinataire : Aspire coordinators

Date : 26 February 2024

Caractère du document :

public

interne

confidentiel

ne pas diffuser sans autorisation

autre

**Research project *AspirE: Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia***

**AspirE - Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia: compliance of the methodology with the General Data Protection Regulations**

The University's Data Protection Unit, and in particular its Data Protection Officer, was consulted in 2022 by Ms. Asuncion FRESNOZA-FLOT regarding the AspirE research project.

The DPO's opinion was positive on the proposed methodology.

In order to improve the information and consent gathering of participants relating to the use of their video diaries, particularly for the project's online and onsite exhibition in October 2025, the following documents were revised.

- Improved-information-invitation-sheet\_videodiaries-2023
- Updated2-consent-form-video-diaries

**Opinion:** positive on the information and consent documents for video diaries collection.

**Date: 26 February 2024**  
**Virginie Grégoire**  
**Data Protection Officer**

Destinataire : Aspire coordinators

Date : 26 August 2024

Caractère du document :

public

interne

confidentiel

ne pas diffuser sans autorisation

autre

**Research project *AspirE: Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia***

**AspirE - Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU: the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia: compliance of the methodology with the General Data Protection Regulations**

The ULB's Data Protection Unit, and in particular its Data Protection Officer, was consulted in 2022 by Ms. Asuncion FRESNOZA-FLOT regarding the AspirE research project.

The DPO's opinion was positive on the proposed methodology.

The DPO also reviewed the documents relating to the organisation of Focus group discussions.

- Guide for First-Step Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
- Guide for Second-Step Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
- Information/Invitation Sheet for Group Discussion (Phase 1)
- Information/Invitation Sheet for Group Discussion (Phase 2)
- Consent Form for Group Discussion (Phase 1)
- Consent Form for Group Discussion (Phase 2)

All these documents were deemed to be clear and transparent for (participants) data subjects and to set up a solid methodology ensuring proper data protection via pseudonymisation.

**Opinion:** positive on the listed documents regarding the AspirE Focus group discussions.

**Date: 26 August 2024**

**Virginie Grégoire**

**Data Protection Officer**

**Annex 2.**  
**Approval of the Ethics Committee**  
**of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences**  
**of the coordinator institution (ULB)**

Comité d'éthique de  
la Faculté de  
Philosophie et  
Sciences sociales



Campus du Solbosch  
Adresse postale :  
Av. F. Roosevelt 50, CP 133/02  
B-1050 Bruxelles  
Présidence  
Pinsart Marie-Geneviève  
gpinsart@ulb.ac.be  
Vice-présidence :  
Asuncion Fresnoza  
Asuncion.Fresnoza@ulb.ac.be

Brussels, 13th February 2023

Dear Ms Fresnoza-Flot,

In an email sent on 24 January 2023, you asked the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences to evaluate your Horizon-RIA research project funded by the European Commission and entitled "Decision making of aspiring (re)migrants to and within the EU : the case of labour market-leading migrations from Asia". Your email was attached with 6 documents :

- 1) Positive response to the methodology of the Data Protection Officer
- 2) clause\_confidentiality\_AspirEproject
- 3) consent-identification-forms\_AspirEproject
- 4) datacollectionguides\_AspirEproject
- 5) ethics-form-FNRS\_AspirEproject
- 6) information-invitation-sheets\_AspirEproject

The Committee considered your application at its February 13 meeting. First of all, it salutes the attention you have devoted to the various ethical dimensions of your project.

**The ethics Committee gives a positive opinion on your research project.**

The Committee highlights the need to respect the new EU directives: the General Data Protection Regulation, which came into force on 25 May 2018.

The Committee reminds researchers of their personal responsibility in the conduct of a research project.

Marie-Geneviève Pinsart, Chairperson