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# TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES FROM ROMANIA, UKRAINE AND REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

## Training Manual for Local Service Providers in Countries of Destination

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# CUPRINS



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# PREAMBLE

International migration motivated by economic needs had reached important levels in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The most recent statistical data on international migration show that the number of Ukrainians who had left the country in search of a job exceeded in 2020 the number of 6 million people (13.7% of the total population) (UNDESA, 2020a:48). In the same year, the number of Moldovan international migrants was over 1 million people (UNDESA, 2020/ Migrationdataportal.org 2022).

February 24, 2022 marked for Ukraine the beginning of a war that generated a strong flow of international migration, which this time was generated by the need to survive. The number of Ukrainian refugees who entered the European space was estimated, at the time of drafting this manual, as 7,867,219 refugees (UNCHR, 2022).

This paper addresses the issue of transnational families in the general context of international migration, but it refers, in particular, to families that have migrated in search of a job. To a lesser extent, the paper will also touch on aspects of how the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have affected the context in which transnational families have functioned (and are still functioning) in the Southeastern European space. The project, in the context of which this handbook was designed, was developed before the emergence of these two major crises, which is why certain aspects related to the impact of the pandemic and the war at the level of transnational families were not among the project's objectives.

Initiated by the desire to diversify and improve the types of services offered to members of the transnational families, the handbook aims to provide an adequate perspective on the issue of international migration and transnational families in Ukraine and in the Republic

of Moldova. The target audience of this handbook is represented by the service providers in the countries of destination (national and local authorities, non-governmental organizations), the countries where there are migrant communities from the above-mentioned states. The purpose of our approach is to facilitate the initiation of an adequate response, from the service providers located in the countries of destination, for the problems and needs of the Ukrainian and Moldovan migrants. In this sense, the manual aims to inform service providers on: the particularities of transnational families, the consequences of international migration on the members of transnational families, the needs and best practice models regarding data collection and the services offered to migrant families in the countries where there is experience in the field of migration (destination countries for migratory flows).

This manual is addressed to service providers in destination countries for economic migrants from Ukraine and from the Republic of Moldova. Aware of the fact that there have been important changes in the motivations and forms of migration from Ukraine (as a country of origin), we tried to include in the handbook general aspects that remain valid even in the context of the war, and to also touch on aspects that were identified in studies done on transnational families in Ukraine. We did not address the issue of transnational families in the context of the war, as the analysis of the consequences for this type of a crisis was not included in the project's objectives (it was not anticipated at the time when the project was developed), nor did we have the time necessary to gather sufficient information on how the war affected transnational families from Ukraine and from the Republic of Moldova. It remains for other projects, studies and researches to address in depth and adequately the issue of transnational families in the context of a war.

The issue of transnational families is a topic of interest increasingly addressed by non-governmental organizations, the academic environment, local and regional authorities and international organizations.

In the space of the European Union, discussions on transnational families have multiplied and diversified in the context in which intra-community migration and international migration have become increasingly visible as a result of the registration of large migratory flows generated by economic needs or by other contextual factors that manifested themselves at local, national or regional level. Beyond this type of migration motivated by economic needs, the European space has also been touched by other types of migration generated by the social and political conditions in the migrants' areas of origin.

**This manual was designed as part of a project that was intended to solve some problems that the initiators of the project identified at the level of communities in Romania, Moldova and Ukraine. The initiators of the project aimed to contribute to the improvement of services in the countries of destination of the transnational families by: informing service providers about the particularities of transnational families, the needs and the best practice models taken from countries where there is experience in the field of migration (countries of origin or countries of destination for migratory flows).**

The paper addresses the issue of transnational families in the general context of international migration, but refers, in particular, to families that have migrated in search of a job. To a lesser extent, the paper will also touch on aspects of how the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have affected the context in which transnational families have functioned (and still function) in the Southeast European space. The project was conceived before the emergence of these two major crises and identifying the changes generated by them at the level of the functionality of transnational families were not among the project's objectives.

One year after the beginning of the project, after some project activities were carried out, the regional context in which the project was carried out changed. On February 24, 2022, the war started in Ukraine, a fact that determined the modification of the motivation for the movement of a large volume of people. In this context, international labor migration has been replaced by war-generated migration, Ukrainian families being faced

with a different situation motivated by the need for survival, safety of family members. Before the outbreak of war, anyone who wanted to migrate could do so. After the start of the war, travel restrictions came into force for Ukrainian men aged 18-65 within Ukraine. Due to this fact, the migration flow from Ukraine was mainly made up of women, elderly and children.

This manual is addressed to the authorities and service providers in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova and was designed to address the issue of transnational families who have migrated for economic reasons. Aware of the fact that there have been important changes in the motivations and forms of migration from Ukraine (as a country of origin), we tried to include in the handbook general aspects that remain valid even in the context of the war, and to also touch on aspects that were identified in studies on transnational families in Ukraine. We did not address the issue of transnational families in the context of this war because the initial project did not anticipate the outbreak of this crisis, nor did we have the time necessary to gather enough information on how the war affected transnational families in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. It remains for other projects, studies and research to address in depth and adequately the issue of transnational families in the context of a war.



# 1.

## STATISTICS ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION



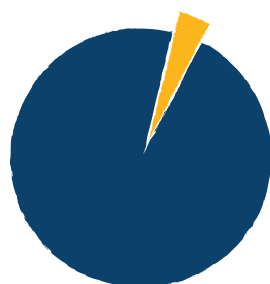
The most recent data on international migration is limited to the year 2020 and it was published in the report of the International Organization for Migration (2021)

(see Table 1).



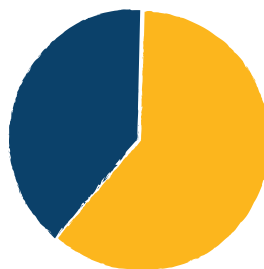
## INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

About two-thirds of international migrants were labor migrants.



**281** million  
**3,6%**  
of the world's population

(McAuliffe&Triandafyllidou, 2021:10)



**169** million  
**60%**  
of all migrants

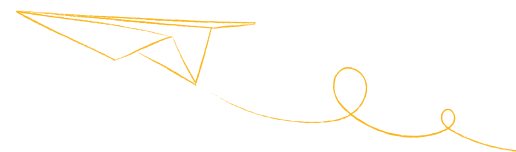
(McAuliffe et al, 2021: 40)

### WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2022

Estimated number of international migrants	<b>281 millions</b>
Estimated share of migrants in the total population	<b>3.6%</b>
Estimated share of female migrants in total international migrants	<b>48%</b>
Estimated share of international migrant children	<b>14.6%</b>
Number of labor migrants	<b>169 millions</b>
Value of international remittances (dollars)	<b>702 millions</b>
Number of refugees	<b>26.4 millions</b>

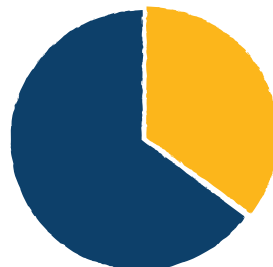
**Table 1.** Data on international migration – World Migration Report 2022

# COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS



## European countries

represent the destination to which a third of international migrants



**87** millions

**30,9%**

of all international migrants

(McAuliffe et al, 2021: 24)

Europe is the continent with the largest number of intra-regional migrants, European citizens moving from their European country of origin to another European country.

In 2020, 70% of migrants from the European space were intra-regional migrants

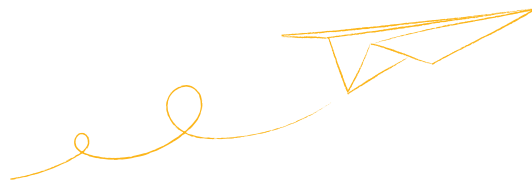
(UNDESA, 2020a: 2)

Most international migrants who headed to Europe chose as destination countries:



(UNDESA, 2020a:10)

# COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION



In the last 20 years, international migrants have left mainly from

**10** countries of the world

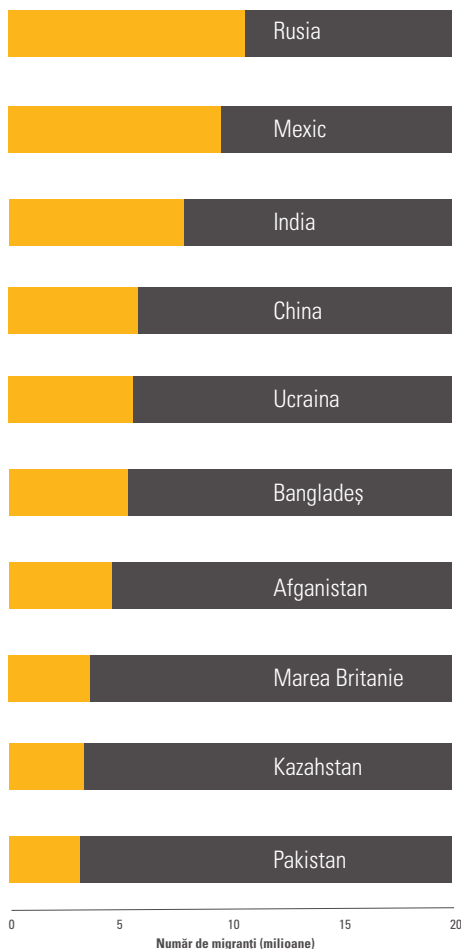
(see Figure 1)

Since 2000, **Ukraine** is one of the 10 countries of origin with the most international migrants leaving in search of a job. In 2020, approximately **6 million migrants from Ukraine went abroad**

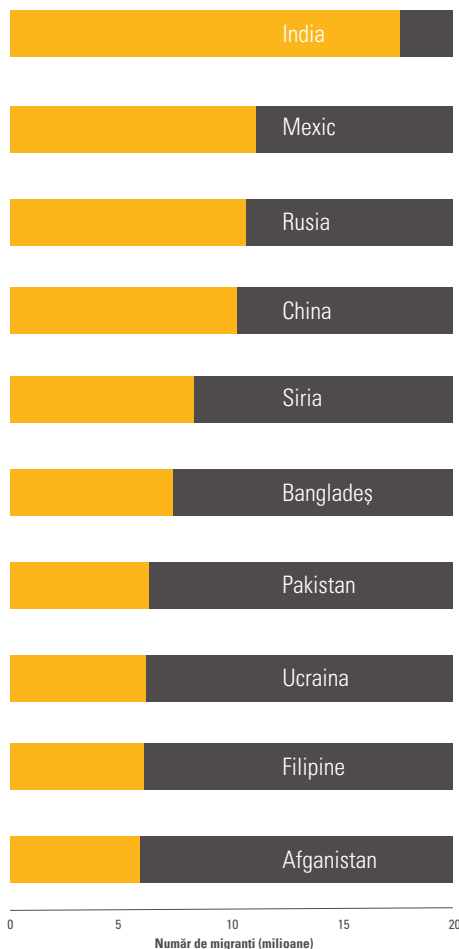
(Kitimbo et al, 2021:88).



## 2000



## 2020



Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2020a: 17



# REGIONAL MIGRATION CORRIDORS



## Year 2020

### 44 million de migrants

The largest migratory flow recorded worldwide, 'left from Europe to Europe'

(UNDESA 2020a: 22)

## UKRAINE

In 2020, the number of Ukrainians going to work abroad was **6,139,144** people, while the number of migrants arriving in Ukraine was **4,997,387** (UNDESA, 2020a:48)

### COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION FOR UKRAINIAN MIGRANTS

 **RUSSIAN FEDERATION** 53%

 **USA** 6%

 **KAZAKHSTAN** 5,8%

 **GERMANY** 4,7%

 **POLAND** 4,4%

 **ITALY** 4%

 **BELARUS** 3,6%

 **CZECH REPUBLIC** 2,1%

 **ISRAEL** 2,1%

 **UZBEKISTAN** 2%

(UNDESA, 2020/Migrationdataportal.org 2022)

## REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

In 2020, **1,159,443** Moldovans were gone abroad (**52% women**), and only **104,438** migrants arrived in the Republic of Moldova (UNDESA, 2020a:48).



## ȚĂRILE DE DESTINAȚIE PENTRU MIGRANȚII MOLDOVENI:

 **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**  
294 200

 **ROMANIA**  
285 400

 **ITALY**  
194 500

 **UKRAINE**  
152 200

 **USA**  
45 700

(UNDESA, 2021)

## THE PROFILE OF INTERNATIONAL

**Worldwide, in 2020, the average age of international migrants was 39.1 years.**

In Europe, the average age was 43.4 years (UNDESA, 2020a: 22).

73% of international migrants were between the ages of 20-64, less than 15% were under 20, and seniors (over 65) accounted for 12% of all international migrants (UNDESA, 2020a: 28).

Women over the age of 65 represented 14% of all migrant women (UNDESA, 2020a: 28).

In the countries of destination, the age of international migrants falls within the age range which is specific to people who are active on the labor market (UNDESA, 2020a: 28).

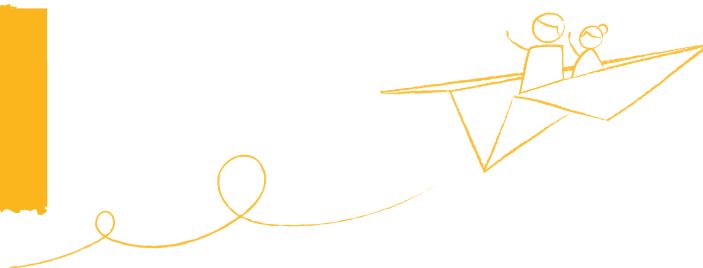
## Migrant women

Worldwide, the percentage of international migrant women and girls was, in 2020, **almost equal to that of migrant men (48%)** (UNDESA, 2020a:26-27).

**In Europe, the number of women and elderly migrants is higher than in other regions of the world (UNDESA, 2020a: 26-27).**

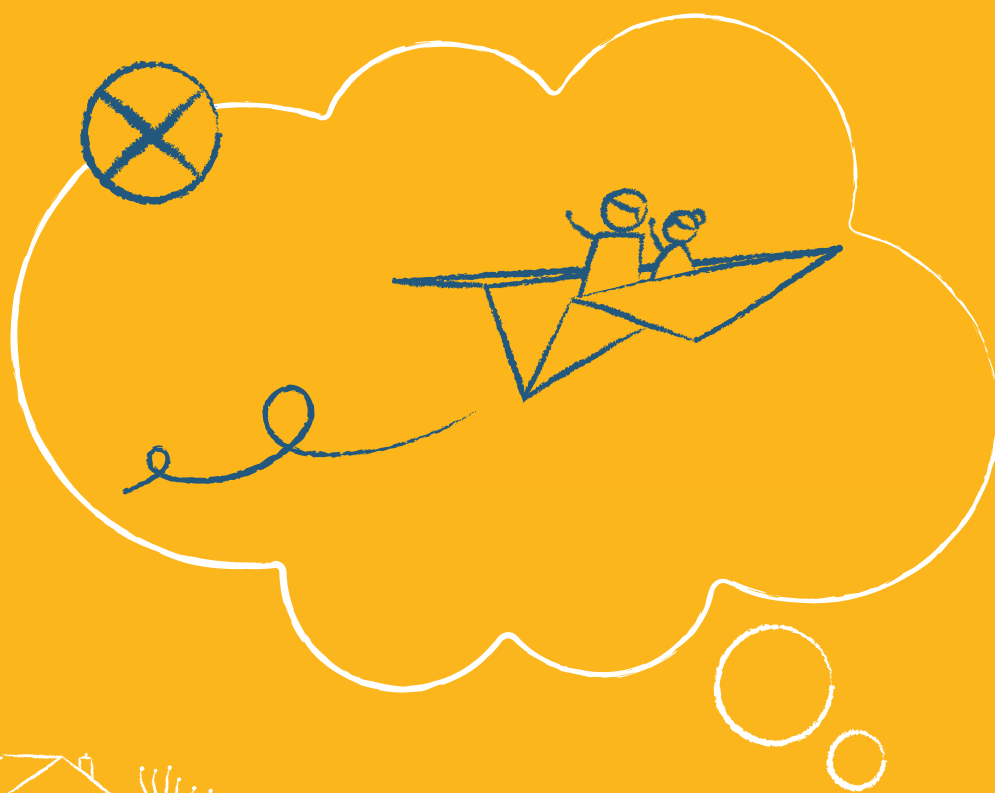
In Europe, the number of female migrants is higher than that of male migrants (UNDESA, 2020a:26).

Europe has a large number of female labor migrants (higher than their male migrant counterparts) (UNDESA, 2020a: 26).



# 2.

## MYTHS ABOUT TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES



**International studies have identified a number of myths regarding the children of migrants:**



**Problematic youth, potential alcohol and drug users or precocious mothers** (Pedone, 2005). In other words, the children of those who went abroad go down the wrong path (Toth et al 2008).



**Children whose parents are away working abroad are abandoned children.**

(Turčină, pag 6)



**Parents sacrifice their lives for their children, going to work abroad, and they do not show any respect.**

(Turčină, pag 7)



**Children without childhood, skipping adolescence, and going directly into the adult life.** (Turčină, pag 8)



**Children who live and seek the pleasure of the moment** (Turčină: pag 9);



**Children raised without parents cannot become normal adults** (Turčină, pag 10).



**Studies carried out in Romania showed that migrant mothers were associated by community members from their countries of origin with labels such as:**



**“Mothers who sacrifice their children for money”** (Ducu, 2014:124)

**“Mothers were “accused” of abandoning their children”** (Ducu, 2013:123)



## The analysis of data from recent researches and more, disproved the myths associated with migrant mothers and children.

In reality, studies have shown that **migrant mothers** have difficulty coping with the time during which they are away from their children, they have low levels of well-being (Dito et al 2017; Haagsman et al 2015) and they are exposed to the risk of developing psychological and mental disorders (Huffman et al., 2012). Migrant mothers experience feelings of loneliness, regret and guilt generated by the way they fulfill their role as mothers towards their children who they left in their country of origin (Parreñas, 2001; Herrero-Arias et al, 2021). In addition, migrant mothers from South-Eastern Europe have contradictory feelings generated by the comparison they make between the way they take care of their children remaining in the country and the way they see resident mothers in the countries of destination doing this (Herrero-Arias et al, 2021:1240).



Regarding the **children of migrants**, studies have already dismantled many of the myths identified (see Turchină). Moreover, there were studies showing that, beyond the increase in the family's standard of living and the children's access to financial resources necessary for their development, the children strongly feel the lack of their parents and they try to find coping strategies in order not to create more problems for their migrant parents. Sometimes children of migrants even take on adult roles (Telegdi-Csetri et al, 2022: 91). In addition, some of them experience loneliness, sadness and frustration (Zhao et al 2018:5), low life satisfaction and depression (Graham et al 2012; Derby 2007) and they have low self-esteem (Luo et al 2012).

# 3.

## THE TRANSNATIONAL FAMILY: DEFINITION, TYPES AND PARTICULARITIES



**Transnational families “are families that live apart for a period of time or for most of the time, but who are together and who create a sense of collective well-being and unity, otherwise known as ‘family’, even across national borders”**

(Bryceson and Vuorela, 2002: 3)



## TYPES OF TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES

- The father is a migrant, while the wife and children remain in the country of origin (International Organization for Migration, 2012: 7)
- Children and young people studying abroad migrate together with their mothers, while their fathers stay in the countries of origin with the other children (Huang & Yeoh, 2005)
- One parent migrates with the children, while the other parent remains in the country of origin (“astronaut family” - Chiang 2008)
- Single mothers who work abroad and leave their children at home (International Organization for Migration, 2012: 7)
- A family member returning to care for the elderly (International Organization for Migration, 2012: 7)
- Un copil trimis în străinătate ca să locuiască cu membri ai familiei extinse (Orellana et al, 2001; International Organization for Migration, 2012)
- Cupluri transnaționale (un partener migrează altul rămâne acasă)(Fesenmyer 2014)
- Un membru al familiei care migrează și ceilalți rămân în țara de origine (părinți și frați/surori) (Fesenmyer 2014)

## THE PARTICULARITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES

- Geographical/physical/emotional distancing between the migrant members and the family members remaining in their countries of origin
- Members of transnational families live in two or more households located in countries with different policies and cultures (Bryceson 2019:3048)
- Migrants keep in touch with the countries of origin through “family, social, economic and political relations” and they are, at the same time, well connected to the countries of destination (Glick Schiller et al., 1992; Wimmer & Glick Schiller, 2002)
- The distribution of roles within the family change as a result of the emigration of some members
- Transnational maternity (separation of the mother from her child) frequent (UNDESA 2022:5)
- Children, women and elderly people can be, in certain contexts, vulnerable groups



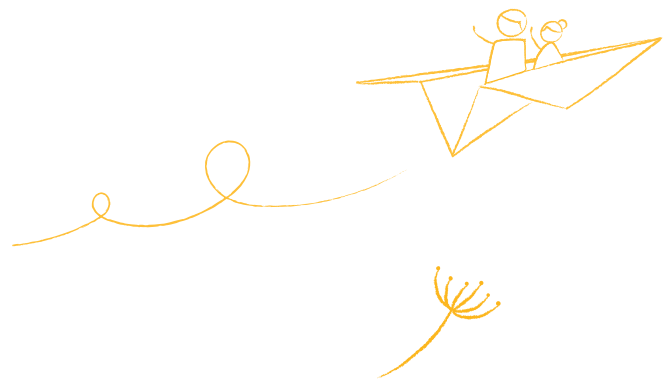
# 4.

## **EFFECTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION ON MEMBERS OF TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES**





# THE CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION FOR MIGRANTS WHO ARE IN THE COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION



Migrants contribute to the development of their countries of origin through: remittances brought into the country, the transfer of skills, the taxes they pay (Rudiger&Spencer 2003; Simon et al, 2015)

Labour migrants (legal and illegal) have difficulties accessing the medical system in the countries of destination in the European space (Simon et al, 2015; Hacker et al, 2015).

The main health problems of labor migrants are “muscle-skeletal problems, respiratory problems and mental health problems” (Simon et al, 2015:6).

Migrants are discriminated against (Cela& Belgiojoso, 2021), they experience loneliness (Cela& Belgiojoso, 2021), they are isolated, they have poorly paid jobs and they face poverty (Mazucatto 2013; Miranda et al, 2005).

Migrants from Ukraine and Moldova have a strong feeling of loneliness (Cela&Belgiojoso, 2021: 4).

Migrants tend to feel “obliged to send money home” (Melde and Schicklinski, 2011: 6).

Under certain conditions, the migration of some family members can generate difficulties accompanied by separation, abandonment and divorce (International Organization for Migration, 2012: 13).

Migrants who have their children in another country have a low level of life satisfaction (Paparusso 2018).

Migrant parents living in a different country than their children (especially mothers) have a low level of well-being (Dito et al 2017; Haagsman et al 2015).

Migrant women have a higher unemployment rate than the rest of the women and men in the countries of destination (OECD 2019).

Migrant women’s wages are lower than those of the rest of the women in the countries of destination (OECD 2019).

There is a risk for women to become victims of human trafficking, or to be exploited or abused (UNDOC 2018).

Migrant women are at risk of developing psychiatric and mental health conditions to a greater extent than migrant men (Huffman et al, 2012).

In some destination countries, the number of female migrants with suicide attempts and admissions to psychiatric hospitals was significant (Lurie 2009).




## MIGRANT MOTHERS



Migrant mothers have the possibility for educational and professional self-development during the period in which they are abroad (Ducu, 2014:128)

There are situations in which “migrant women partner up with their migrant husbands: they contribute to the family income, they participate in the decision-making process and they even become family leaders” (Ducu, 2014:127).



Migrant mothers who have their children in their countries of origin experience feelings of loneliness, regret and guilt generated by the way in which they fulfill their role as mothers towards children who remain in their country of origin (Parreñas, 2001; Herrero-Arias et al, 2021).

Depression occurs frequently in the case of mothers from transnational families (Pineros-Leano et al, 2021).

Migrant mothers from South-Eastern Europe face contradictory feelings generated by the fact that the way in which they take care of their children remaining in the countries of origin is dysfunctional compared to the model they see in the destination countries in the case of resident mothers (Herrero-Arias et al, 2021:1240).

## MIGRANT FATHERS



Their absence from the family space can be compensated by the presence of the mother. There is a risk that migrant fathers become only providers of financial resources: “nominal father” (Castaneda & Buck, 2011) or “father by the cheque” (Hondagneu-Sotelo, 1994, p. 67).

The lack of emotional connections between father and children, between husband and wife can result in the installation of a physical and emotional distance that can lead to defamiliarisation (Fialkowska 2019:14).


## GRANDPARENTS



Grandparents were put in the situation of commuting between two countries to take care of their grandchildren in the countries of destination where the children migrated with their parents (Nedelcu 2017: 375).

The use of new communication technologies allows grandparents to be in contact with the migrant family, but it can also be a source of conflict or stress when the grandparents are directly connected to the daily difficulties of the migrant family (Nedelcu 2017: 381).

The new communication technologies allowed the cultural transfer between grandparents and grandchildren from the countries of destination (norms/traditions from the countries of origin) (Nedelcu 2017: 381).




## CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION ON THE CHILDREN OF MIGRANTS (COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION)



In the countries of destination, effects are directly influenced by legal or illegal migrant status. Children of illegal migrants suffer negative consequences such as: limited access to education and services (Green, 2003).

Children may be discriminated against in the countries of destination due to their origin (Kang, 2010; Crush and Tawodzera, 2014).

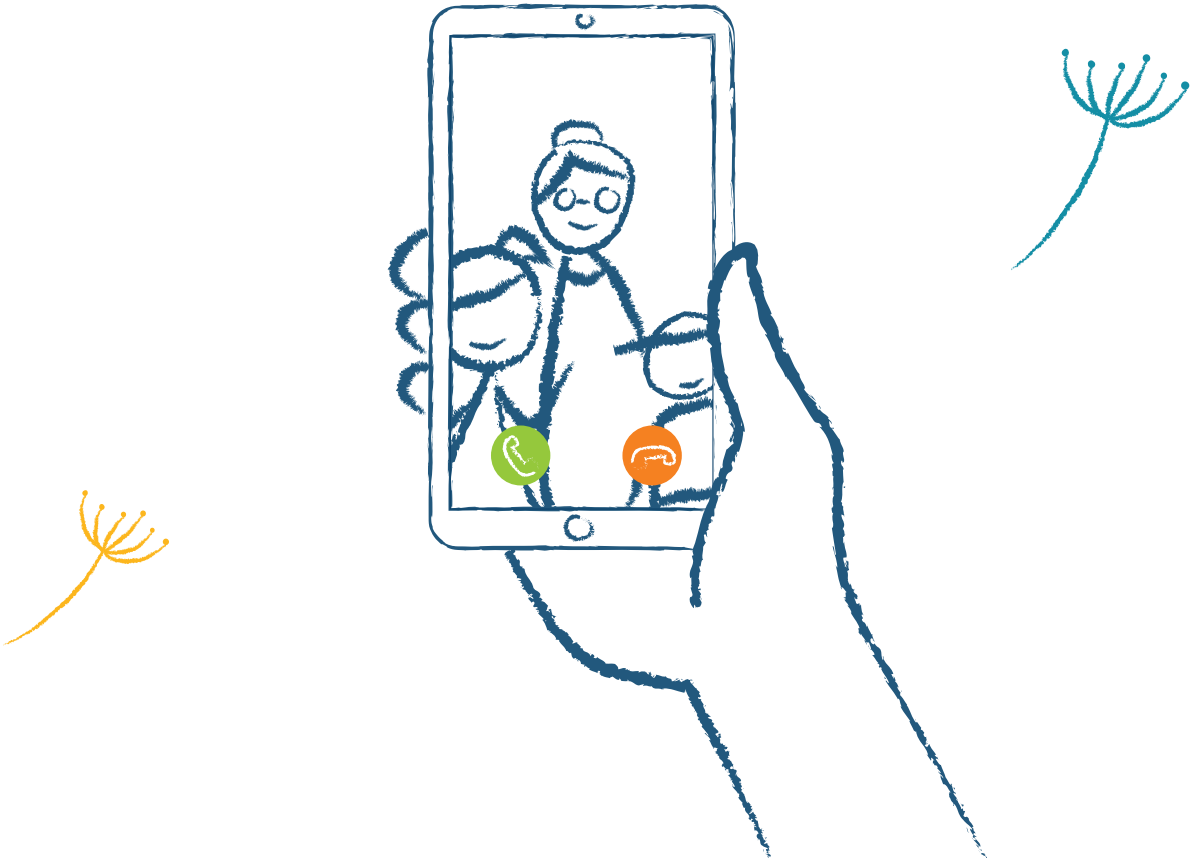
The children of migrants reject some cultural norms and values of their parents (regarding the role of women in the household, or the importance of marriage) due to the assimilation of the norms of the destination countries, but at the same time they keep certain norms and values of the migrant parents (regarding intergenerational relations) specific to the communities of their countries of origin where they come from (Zontini 2006: 342).





# TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- » Transnational families with children and transnational couples had high resilience during the crisis generated by the pandemic – insignificant decreases in life satisfaction (Gerber&Ravazzini 2021:12).
- » The decrease in the level of life satisfaction in the case of transnational families with children in another country generated by the impossibility of moving during quarantine periods (Gerber&Ravazzini 2021:8).
- » Significant drop in the level of satisfaction with life in the case of migrant women in transnational couples (partners located in different countries) (Gerber&Ravazzini 2021:11).



# 5.

## CASE STUDY: UKRAINE <sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> To create the subchapter Case study: Ukraine, information from the research report was used: Tetiana Bondar, Oleksii Haniukov, Daryna Pavlova, 2022, "Country report - Ukraine", in: Telegdi-Csetri Á., Birou M., Bărbuță A (coord.), 2022, Children left behind by labor migration: supporting transnational families from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the EU (CASTLE)ICMPD / 2021 / MPF-357-004, Opening Report, August 2022, pp. 79-120.ICMPD / 2021 / MPF-357-004, Raport de deschidere, august 2022, pp. 79-120.1

According to the latest data on international migration, at the end of 2020, Ukraine was in the top 10 countries in the world from which a large number of people left in search of a job (UN DESA, 2020). The war that began on February 24, 2022 amplified the migratory flow from Ukraine, this time the motivation for migration was no longer an economic one. Since the beginning of the war,

**7 867 219**



**4.8 millions**

Ukrainian refugees have entered the European space (UNCHR, 22 noiembrie 2022a).

Ukrainians were registered in the temporary protection system (UNCHR, 22 noiembrie 2022a).

In this context, Babeş-Bolyai University from Romania, in partnership with the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research after Oleksandr Yaremenko, the Academy of Economic Studies from the Republic of Moldova, Terre des hommes Romania, Terre des hommes Ukraine and Terre des hommes Moldova initiated the "CASTLE – Children left behind by labor migration: supporting Moldovan and Ukrainian transnational families in the EU –ICMPD/2021/MPF-357-004" (June 15, 2021 – December 15, 2023).

Babeş-Bolyai University in Romania, in partnership with the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research after Oleksandr Yaremenko and the Academy of Economic Studies from the Republic of Moldova, conducted a study on labor migration and the respect of children's rights in Ukraine. The study was started before the onset of the war in Ukraine, with only a small part of the investigations being carried out after the start of the armed conflict.



## THE EFFECTS OF PARENTAL MIGRATION ON CHILDREN

The analysis of the research results, carried out by the previously mentioned institutions, highlighted some effects of migration upon the members of Ukrainian transnational families.

» The departure of the mother abroad can lead other family members to initiating legal actions to withdraw the parental rights of the parents and to admit the children to foster care centers (Bondar et al, 2022, p.94)

» When the father is the one who is away, there is a possibility that he is perceived only as a source of income (Bondar et al, 2022, p.95)

» The absence of the parent can lead to "perceiving the absent parent as almost a stranger to them." (Bondar et al, 2022, p.95)

» "Visible alienation of children from their parents, the destruction of trusting relationships and the strengthening of mutual distancing" occur (Bondar et al, 2022, p.102)

» Relationship difficulties arise due to the rare direct contact between the parents who are away and the children who remain at home. Sometimes they are limited only to short visits during holidays (Bondar et al, 2022, p.95).

» Children with migrant parents are described as "orphans with living parents" (Bondar et al, 2022, p.96).

» Children are forced by the situation to become independent, to solve problems specific to adult roles, including caring for younger siblings (Bondar et al, 2022, p.96)

» They receive little attention from the parent remaining in the country, the parent is overburdened by the tasks taken over from the other parent who left (Bondar et al, 2022, p.98)

» Children feel the lack of their parents who are away, they are sad (Bondar et al, 2022, p.96)

» Learning difficulties occur (Bondar et al, 2022, p.96)

» Greater difficulties in the case of teenagers, some of them have low self-esteem (Bondar et al, 2022, p.96)

» Sometimes children of migrants are insulted by their peers (Bondar et al, 2022, p.101)

## THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN

Among the needs identified there were needs specific to the period of adolescence listed, as this period requires more attention from adults. Interview participants mentioned the need of adolescents to receive: "advice from adults" (Bondar et al, 2022, p. 96) and "the need for trust, communication and control from family members" (Bondar et al, 2022, p. 98).

## THE NEEDS OF THE MIGRANTS

A better level of information could solve the basic needs of Ukrainian migrants in countries of destination. Interviews with Ukrainian participants showed that they need:

» information about daily life in the countries of destination

» information about working conditions

» information on legislation

» information about the particularities of the medical system

» information on migrant status

» the language in the country of destination

» improving the working conditions and the working time

» more free time needed to recover from the effort put into the working activity

» re-adaptation to the living conditions in Ukraine (Bondar et al, 2022, 98)

The authors synthesized the results of the research carried out in Ukraine, highlighting the following **directions of intervention** to support the families of Ukrainian migrants:

✓ "psychological - help in solving emotional problems caused by stressful situations;

✓ legally the possibility to obtain information about the legal aspects of staying abroad;

✓ legislative support for migrant workers by adopting legislation that protects their rights;

✓ tax - rejection of state intentions to tax the money earned abroad;

✓ pedagogical-professional support for the education of children whose parents are abroad." (Bondar et al, 2022, p. 105)

# 6.

## CASE STUDY: THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA <sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> For the realization of the module: Case study: Republic of Moldova, information was used from: Vaculovschi Dorin, Țurcanu Galina, Cheianu Diana, 2022, "Country report - Republic of Moldova", in: Telegdi-Csetri Á., Birou M., Bărbuță A (coord.), 2022, Children left behind by labor migration: supporting transnational families from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the EU (CASTLE)ICMPD / 2021 / MPF-357-004, Opening Report, August 2022, pp. 53-79.

The Republic of Moldova was, until the beginning of the war in Ukraine, a country of origin for international migration. According to the data published for the middle of 2020, there were

**1.159.443**



**34.107**

**Moldovans who migrated to other countries**

(UNDESA 2020b)

**children separated from their parents according to the national survey CER-103** (Biroul Național de Statistică. Statistica Moldovei, 2021)

The war in Ukraine brought to the Republic of Moldova an important number of refugees who transited this country, as international organizations estimate that the Republic of Moldova received the largest number of refugees in relation to its population (UNCHR, 2022b). The number of refugees who have transited the country has exceeded 627,796, 85% of whom are women, children and the elderly (UNCHR, September 30, 2022b). At the end of September, 92,443 Ukrainians who chose to stay in the Republic of Moldova were registered (UNCHR, September 30, 2022b).

## THE EFFECTS OF PARENTAL MIGRATION ON CHILDREN

The migration of mothers is felt by children to a greater extent than the departure of fathers (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p.55)

Children from single-parent families and children separated from their family (parents and siblings left) remaining in the country of origin bear the separation from parents and siblings with difficulty (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 55).

“Sadness, longing, emptiness/lack” generated by “lack of parents and lack of maternal affection” were frequently mentioned by the children interviewed (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 59-60).

Children develop adaptation strategies and try to reduce the visibility of the states of anxiety and depression or of other types of emotions that they go through (revolt, anger) (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p.60-61).

Adolescence is a difficult period for migrant children (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 56).



Children whose parents have divorced and one of the parents has been deprived of his parental rights have a special situation: the children feel the loss of the connection with that parent and with the extended family members from that parent (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 61).

New technologies have facilitated communication between parents who are away and their children who remained in the country, the study showed that although some of them communicate daily, communication is limited to everyday topics, while discussions on the problems and difficulties of living separately are avoided by both parties (Vaculovschi et al, 2022 , p.58).

Communication between children and parents seems to be much better during direct contacts during the times when migrant parents come for visits, most of the time on holidays (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 59).





Children prefer to share successes and problems with the people close to them, who take care of them on a daily basis, and only after that to share them also with their migrant parents (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 59).

Children become more independent, they take over a series of daily household activities and responsibilities (prepare food, wash, etc.) that their parents would have done if they had not migrated (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 61-62).

Household activities consume children's time which could have been otherwise allocated to schoolwork (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 63).

Some children have difficulties relating to their peers or "integrating into different social groups" (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p.68)

Students may have poorer school results, especially boys (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 68).

## THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN

Some children feel the need to participate in their parents' migration decision-making and to be listened to, to be informed and to be prepared for their parents' departure (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 58).

There is a need for emotional support from parents especially during holidays, celebrations and school activities, but also during birthday parties (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 60).

Children whose parents have divorced feel the need to be in contact with members of the extended family, to be informed about the breakup of relations, and to be explained to about the reason for the lack of communication with them (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 61).

The need to be cared for by their parents (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 61).

More time for activities specific to their age, and for school activities (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 63).

## DIRECTIONS OF INTERVENTION

✓ Improving migrant child protection legislation, especially regarding child custody (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 77-78)

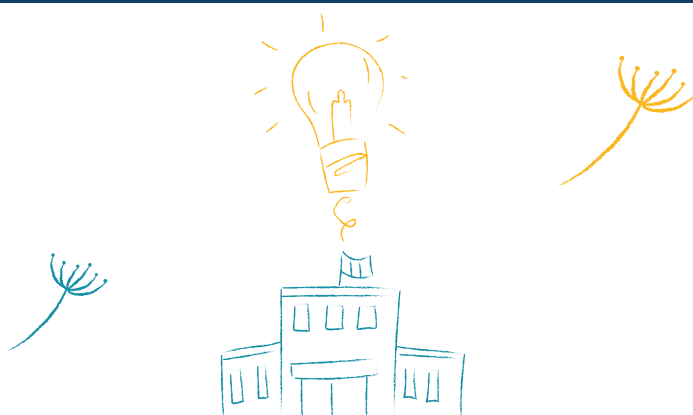
✓ Development of impact studies on legislation in the field of protection for migrant children (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 78)

✓ Psychological services available locally (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 76).

✓ The creation of local networks of specialists to ensure the necessary services for the children left home (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 75)

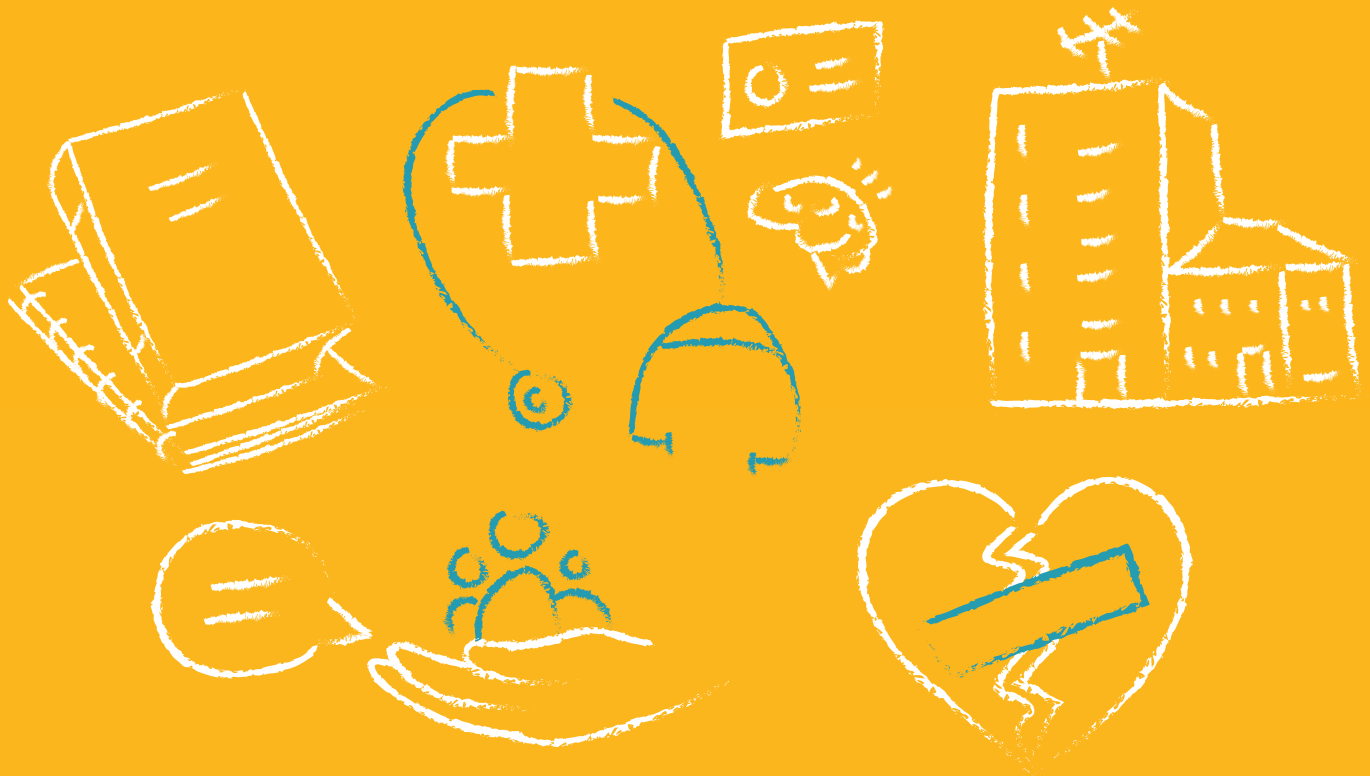
✓ Multiplication and diversification of extra-curricular services for migrant children (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 76)

✓ Lack of specialists for intervention in cases of children left home: psychologists, psychopedagogues, doctors, protection of children's rights (Vaculovschi et al, 2022, p. 74)



# 7.

## THE NEEDS OF TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES



**The United Nations have recently drawn attention to the fact that beyond their economic needs, international migrants need:**

- **Access to education**
- **Access to the health system, including mental health**
- **Accommodation**
- **Social assistance**
- **The reunification of migrant mothers with their children**

(Kaczmarska & Ono, 2022:1)

**The analysis of specialized literature highlights a series of needs which are common to all members of transnational families, regardless of the country they are in (country of origin or country of destination) and regardless of their role within the family. The analysis highlighted also specific needs of some members of transnational families.**



## **COMMON NEEDS OF TRANSNATIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS**

- » Economic/ financial needs
- » Emotional needs
- » The need for communication



## **SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE MIGRATED**

- » The need to know/learn the language of the destination country
- » Legal needs: knowledge of migrant status, labor law and migrant rights in the destination country, as well as the general legislation in the destination country.
- » The need for protection against the risks to which migrants are exposed: violence and exploitation at work, human trafficking for labor exploitation or sexual exploitation, etc.
- » Cultural needs: knowledge of the cultural particularities of the destination country.
- » Access to the health system



- » Psychological support
- » Access to the education system
- » Social assistance
- » Housing

## **THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN**

- » The need for safety and protection
- » The need for love and affection
- » The need for attachment
- » The need to communicate with parents, grandparents and the custodian
- » The need for approval and acceptance
- » The need for encouragement, stimulation and appreciation
- » The need to have a family
- » The need for information with respect to the actual departure, and with respect to the changes that will take place after the departure of the parent/ parents” (Turčină 13-14)

# 8.

## COLLECTION OF DATA ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS

Case study:  
**ROMANIA**





## ROMANIA, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

# 3.987.093

români care au plecat în străinătate în  
căutarea unui loc de muncă

(UNDESA, 2020a:48)



## ROMÂNIA, COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

for the international migrants  
searching for a workplace.

According to official data provided by the General Inspectorate for Immigration, in 2021 alone, 49,962 employment permits were granted for workers from other countries (General Inspectorate for Immigration: February 15, 2022). The international migrants who came to work in Romania were from:



NEPAL  
10 448



BANGLADESH  
8 662



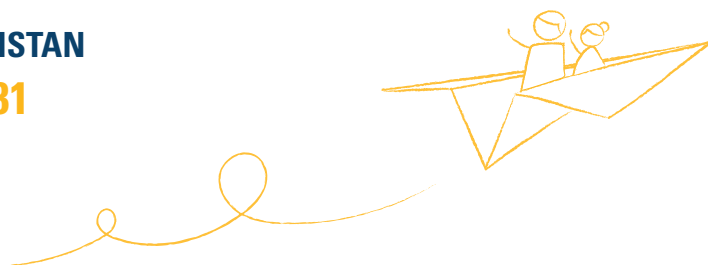
SRI LANKA  
6 799



TURKEY  
7 163



PAKISTAN  
5 731



## ROMANIA, COUNTRY OF TRANSIT AND DESTINATION

because of the war in Ukraine

# 2.65 million

refugees from Ukraine

# 85 500

 (36 000 children)

Ukrainean residents

(Ministerul Afacerilor Externe, 24 octombrie 2022)



In Romania, until 2018, there were 2 institutions that collected data on families who went abroad: the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and the Ministry of Education through the County School Inspectorates.

The data provided by these two institutions were different. In 2015, the difference between the data provided by the institutions was 1:3 (Presidential Administration, 2018, p. 11):

✓ **National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA)**

**85.194** children

✓ **The Ministry of Education through the County School Inspectorates**

**212.352** copii

(Presidential Administration, 2018, p. 11)

The significant differences between the statistical data on children left behind recorded by various institutions in Romania determined the initiation of activities focused on the development of a methodology that would allow the collection of data on migrant children.

In this context, in August 2015, Government Decision 691 of 2015 was elaborated on the **Procedure for monitoring the manner of raising and caring for children with parents who have gone to work abroad and on the services that they can benefit from**. A year later, in 2016, the Interinstitutional Working Group was created for the protection of children with parents working abroad (on the initiative of the Presidential Administration and methodologically supported by the Save the Children Organization).

In 2016, recommendations were made regarding the collection of data by the Working Group for the protection of children with parents working abroad (Presidential Administration - Department for Relations with Romanians Abroad, the sub-working group **Collection and harmonization of statistical data** by Save the Children, together with the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions, the Ministry of Education and Research and other institutions).

Finally, a complex model of data collection from several sources was developed and recommendations were formulated regarding the collection of data on children left behind (Romania Presidential Administration). More information on the collection model will be presented in the next section.



# COLLECTION OF DATA WITH RESPECT TO THE CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

Currently, in Romania, the data collection system includes several institutions at the local and central level (see Figure 2). Schematically it can be represented as in the figure below.

## FIGURE 2. DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM ON MIGRANT CHILDREN<sup>3</sup>

### A. SCHOOL UNITS/ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL UNIT LEVEL

1. They have the obligation to prepare within 15 days, at the request of SPAS, the Nominal Table with: children whose parents have gone abroad and children who have returned to the country after at least 1 year.
2. Continually inform SPAS about new cases of children returned from abroad.

To make data collection more efficient and to eliminate data recording errors, it is recommended:

1. **Collecting and verifying data through discussions with parents or caregivers.**
2. **Initiate the collection process at the beginning of the school year.**

### B. PUBLIC SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES (SPAS)/ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL UNIT LEVEL

1. Quarter III of each year - SPAS requests school units (kindergartens, public and private schools in the area of competence) data on: 1) children with parents who have gone abroad 2) children who have returned to the country after a period of staying abroad with their parents one year old.
2. SPAS goes to the homes of the children registered in the Nominal Table sent by the school units and checks the situation of the children on the list. SPAS informs the school units about the result of the field verification by April 1. SPAS completes the Table with observations from the field or information received from its own sources and modifies/removes the list when the situation requires it.
3. SPAS collects information from the field regarding children who returned to the country with their parents after a period of more than a year and who are not enrolled in the Romanian education system (children aged 0-2 years old and schoolchildren who are not enrolled or who have dropped out).
4. Every quarter, SPAS sends to the county DGASPC the numerical situation regarding children whose parents went abroad and children who returned to the country after a period of more than one year.

### B1. THE SOCIAL WORKER/PERSON WITH SOCIAL ASSISTANCE DUTIES WITHIN THE CITY HALL

When there is no SPAS at the locality level, all activities are carried out by the social worker.

<sup>3</sup> More information on the Methodology of data collection regarding children left at home in: Romanian Presidential Administration, REPORT of the Interinstitutional Working Group for Children with Parents Working Abroad (CCPPMS), [https://www.presidency.ro/files/userfiles/Raportul\\_Grupului\\_de\\_lucru\\_Interinstituional\\_dedicat\\_situatiei\\_copilor\\_cu\\_prini\\_plecai\\_la\\_munc\\_in\\_strintate.pdf](https://www.presidency.ro/files/userfiles/Raportul_Grupului_de_lucru_Interinstituional_dedicat_situatiei_copilor_cu_prini_plecai_la_munc_in_strintate.pdf)

### C. GENERAL DIRECTORATES OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND CHILD PROTECTION (DGASPC)/COUNTY

1. Every quarter, DGASPC sends to ANDPCA the numerical situation regarding children whose parents went abroad and children who returned to the country after a period longer than one year.

2. DGASPC monitors data collection by SPAS:

- » ensures that official requests are sent to school units by December 1st
- » contacts County Inspectorates and requests support when school units do not send nominal lists.

### D. AUTORITATEA NAȚIONALĂ PENTRU DREPTURILE PERSOANELOR CU DIZABILITĂȚI, COPII ȘI ADOPTII (ANDPDCA)/NIVEL CENTRAL

1. It collects and publishes data from DGASPC

2. It elaborates and presents, quarterly, the statistical situation of the data regarding children whose parents went abroad and children who returned to the country after a period of more than one year.

**Source:** The Scheme of the Data Collection System on Migrant Children was developed starting from the information published by the Save the Children Organization - Romania, the "Home Alone Children" project <https://copiisinguriacasa.ro/pentru-specialisti/studii-si-cercetari/recomandari-metodologice-privind-culegerea-si-transmiterea-de-date-statistice-cu-privire-la-copii-cu-parintii-plecati-la-munca-in-strainatate-si-copiii-reveniti-in-tara-dupa-o-perioada-de-sedere-in-st/>



In **2018**, after the implementation of the Collection Methodology, the ratio between the data provided by the institutions was 1:2:

In December 2021, according to the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights (ANDPCA), in Romania, the number of families who went abroad was

√ ANPDCA

**94.896** children

√ Ministerul Educației

**159.038** children

(Administrația Prezidențială, 2018, p. 11)

√ ANPDCA

**59 845** families

who went abroad

**76 170** children

left behind

(ANDPCA, 2021)





The **ANDPCA statistics** contain information on the number of parents who left, the number of children remaining in the country, the number of children in the care of relatives or family members remaining in the country and the number of children with left parents who ended up in the special protection system (see Table 3). All this information is also collected according to how the family was affected by migration: migration of both parents, migration of one parent, migration of the single parent.

**Table 3.** Data on children and families abroad – 31.12. 2021

<b>Number of families abroad</b>	<b>59.845</b>
<b>Number of children with parents gone abroad</b>	<b>76.170</b>
<b>out of which:</b>	
<b>Number of families with both parents working abroad</b>	<b>9487</b>
<b>Number of children with both parents working abroad</b>	<b>12.286</b>
<b>Number of families with one parent working abroad</b>	<b>43.299</b>
<b>Number of children left at home with a parent abroad</b>	<b>55.146</b>
<b>Number of families with a single supporting parent working abroad</b>	<b>7059</b>
<b>Number of children left at home with a single parent away</b>	<b>8738</b>
<b>Number of children deprived of parental care</b>	<b>22.262</b>
<b>Children entered into the special protection system</b>	<b>3.047</b>

**Source:** Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption, Situation of children with parents working abroad, 31.12.2021, <https://copii.gov.ro/1/date-statistice-copii-si-adoptii/>

## DATA SOURCES REGARDING INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS AND THE CHILDREN STAYING HOME

### National Institute of Statistics

The annual flow of emigrants – the number of people who have established their residence on the territory of another state for a time interval of at least 12 months.

### EUROSTAT, Immigration by age group, sex and citizenship MIGR\_IMM1CTZ (update 30.03.2022)

The total number of immigrants and information on the distribution of immigrants according to: country, age (<5 years and over 100 years, sex); time frame 2010-2020. Definition of immigration - "the action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of a Member State for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least 12 months, having previously been usually resident in another Member State or a third country." (Eurostat, 2022)

## The index of the integration of immigrants in Romania (2017, 2019, 2021) a national study that includes:

### 1. Statistical data on immigrants located in Romania

Immigrants Beneficiaries of International Protection (BPI) and citizens of third countries – RTT

**Dimensions:** general context (country of origin, age, gender, religion, marital status, immigrant counties of residence, monthly income, immigrant crime rate), data on housing, education, health, culture and language, civic participation, citizenship, work (Coşgiug & Răcăţău coord., 2018: 34-37).

### 2. Information on immigrants' perception of discrimination and social distance

The perceived level of discrimination, the social distancing index (Coşgiug & Răcăţău coord., 2018: 34-37)

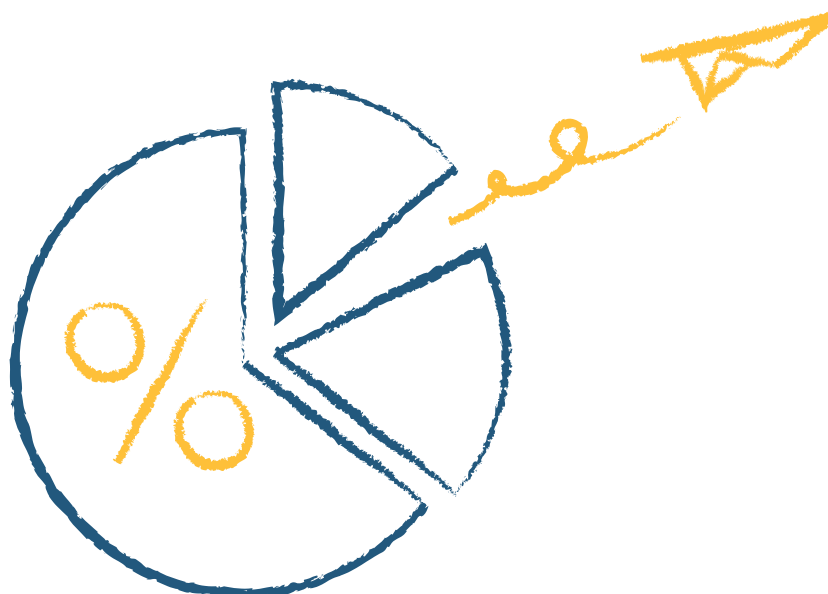


## 2017-2019

The study was carried out within the project of the "CRCM – The Romanian Migration Research Center". The institutions involved were: The Human Rights Defense League (LADO) Cluj branch, in partnership with the Center for the Comparative Study of Migration (CSCM) - Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca and Timișoara Intercultural Institute (IIT), through the National Program – The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (FAMI / 16.01.01).

## 2020-2022

The study is financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, managed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, through the General Inspectorate for Immigration I." CRCMIS – the Romanian Center for Research on Migration and Social Inclusion". Partners: CRCMIS – the Romanian Center for Research on Migration and Social Inclusion and the Center for the Comparative Study of Migration, the Human Rights Defense League – Cluj branch, the Romanian Association for the Promotion of Quality and Successful Practices, and Timișoara Intercultural Institute.



# 9.

## **PUBLIC POLICIES REGARDING TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES ROMANIA**



In Romania, the problem of children left behind enjoyed the support of the Presidential Administration around which several governmental and non-governmental institutional resources were grouped:

Representatives of

**6 ministries**

**15 public institutions**

**13 non-governmental organizations**

(including Terre des Hommes)

**2 UN agencies**

(Unicef și ILO)

(Pralong 2022)

<sup>4</sup> Presidential Administration, 2018, Report of the Interinstitutional Working Group for Children with Parents Working Abroad (CCPPMS), pp. 4-5 [https://www.presidency.ro/files/userfiles/Raportul\\_Grupului\\_de\\_lucru\\_Interinstituional\\_dedicat\\_situatiei\\_copiilor\\_cu\\_prini\\_plecai\\_la\\_munc\\_in\\_strintate.pdf](https://www.presidency.ro/files/userfiles/Raportul_Grupului_de_lucru_Interinstituional_dedicat_situatiei_copiilor_cu_prini_plecai_la_munc_in_strintate.pdf)




The involvement of the Presidential Administration in solving the problems of children left at home was possible due to the commitment of this institution for the matter of Romanian migration, as this matter has been considered a “national priority” (Presidential Administration).

The Presidential Administration, through the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, was directly involved in promoting actions for children left at home <sup>4</sup>:

- **November 2015** - the launch of the **Hotline 0800 070 040 for children left behind**, initiated by the organization Save the Children Romania
- **February 2016** - The President of Romania “declared the **Diaspora as a national priority**”
- **May 2016** - The Presidential Administration participated in the national conference dedicated to children left behind (organizer Save the Children)
- **June 2016** - The Presidential Administration, through the Department for Relations with Romanians Abroad, took the initiative to form an inter-institutional **Working Group dedicated to children with parents working abroad**
- **July 2016** - **the first meeting of the Working Group** established the priority topics:
  - 1. **Collection and harmonization of statistical data**
  - 2. **Administrative and legislative simplification**
  - 3. **Public policies, human resources and communication** (Presidential Administration, p. 5)
- **2016** - the development of some recommendations regarding the data collection methodology with respect to children left behind
- **July-December 2016** - elaboration of the Report of the Working Group dedicated to children with parents working abroad
- **September-October 2018** - updating the Working Group Report
- **June 2022** - presentation of **the Presidential Administration Report on the Children Left-Behind due to parental labor mobility or migration project** (Sandra Pralong, June 7)

# 9.1 PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION - RECOMMENDATIONS



The analysis carried out by Sandra Pralong (2022) regarding Romania's experience regarding children left behind by labor migration highlighted the need to implement the following recommendations:

- » **The involvement of both public institutions and non-governmental organizations in solving the problem of children**
- » **The involvement of State institutions at high levels: President or Prime Minister**
- » **The correct assessment of needs**
- » **The involvement of local authorities, teachers, parents, etc.**
- » **Focusing the measures on the family and on the community**  
(Pralong, 2022).

The Presidential Administration also drafted proposals regarding future directions of action to be taken in order to improve the situation of the children left behind:

- » **Staff for the Social Assistance Services, at the local level**
- » **Expanding Social Assistance Services to providing psychological counseling**
- » **Expansion of the After-Schools**
- » **Creating a "buddy system" in the classroom/school**
- » **Using technology to connect parents with children**
- » **Training of social workers**
- » **Community and Church involvement in providing support**
- » **Regular assessment of local needs**
- » **Initiating regular campaigns for parents and**

# 9.2 PUBLIC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON CERTAIN STUDIES



**A**mong the documents developed within the project “CASTLE - Children left behind by labor migration: supporting Moldovan and Ukrainian transnational families in the EU -ICMPD/2021/MPF-357-004” was also “Children left behind by labor migration: supporting transnational families from Moldova and Ukraine in the EU (“CASTLE”)” (Policy Summary). This document presented

the recommendations drafted by the research teams involved in the above-mentioned project: Babeş-Bolyai University from Cluj-Napoca, Romania, the Academy of Economic Studies from Moldova and the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research “Olexandr Yaremenko”. The recommendations were developed based on the results of the research carried out in Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

## RECOMMENDATIONS DRAFTED BY RESEARCHERS FROM THE “CASTLE” PROJECT



### Legislative recommendations:

- Refining and promoting the law on guardianship and temporary custody
- Simplification and acceleration of the institutional process for orderly departure, including digitalization of bi-directional institutional communication (access and response) and of decision-making
- Creating a dedicated institutional body to process (full, temporary or partial) delegation of parental authority in order to streamline the process and avoid reluctance towards traditional judicial forums
- Creating a legal instrument of “hybrid” co-guardianship, whereby the migrant parent exercises authority, responsibility, and full participation in communication, monitoring, decisions, and significant events within children’s lives from a distance, in partnership with the stay-behind parent or caregiver who represents and complements his/her presence, without replacing it
- At the international level, the creation of legislative frameworks that will make it easier for minor children to travel abroad for visiting their migrant parents

## Recommendations for institutions and organizations:



- Organizing experience exchange meetings for community representatives who have established successful work with TNFs (transnational families)
- Creating awareness-raising campaigns for acknowledging the TNFs phenomenon, to initiate constructive interest and dialogue, and to prevent the bullying of migrants' children
- Encouraging the direct involvement of transnational family members and children in communication, as well as in administrative and research initiatives that concern them
- Specialized training in migration and TNFs, including legislation, data, practices, and policies should be provided for professionals dealing with TNFs with children: this can start in the very short term with training courses, then in the long term with MA or postgraduate courses
- Assigning trained specialists in regional social service centers for families, children, and youth
- The initiation by institutions of a partnership with the beneficiaries, by community information provision meetings and through communication by means of social media
- Campaigns should be organized to promote the partnership where beneficiaries themselves present success stories
- For the credibility of the initiative, reliable and up-to-date online information and a consistent openness to real-time digital communication must be provided
- Setting up databases and joint international contacts on TNFs, accessible to all institutional stakeholders interested

## Recommendations for actions facilitating transnational togetherness of families:

- Awareness-raising and training campaigns on children's participation in transparent and functional transnational communication
- Incentivizing employers in countries of destination to offer convenient phone/internet packages and time/flexibility for possibilities to connect within working hours
- Facilitating regular visits (minimum 3 full days spent together every 3 months) between home and destination country by paid leave days and travel vouchers offered by employers or authorities
- Setting up community centers that facilitate the online communication for TNFs with limited access to internet
- Provision of quality audio/video communication kits and internet access for families in need, at least in the early stages (3-6 months) of migration, similar to the approach used during the

## Recommendations concerning national programs for TNFs:



- Creation of online platforms where children can express themselves, share their concerns and provide reciprocal support in groups moderated and monitored by public authorities, educational institutions, NGOs, which also collect anonymous data on issues to be used in research
- Training programs for family members left at home, including caregivers, extended family, grandparents and supportive families;
- Creation of “transnational parent/ caregiver clubs” where they can share experiences, support, problems, and solutions;
- Organizing psychological support for transnational family members, training in methods of preventing and overcoming crisis situations;
- Telephone hotline or online chat where TNFs, including children, can seek advice or assistance;
- Creation of a digital resource called “Transnational Family Advisor” with a summary of legal, domestic and other information that can be useful for migrant workers and families, with systematic answers.
- Emergency economic intervention packages for TNFs for economic, medical or legal crisis situations, with special focus on single-parent families and chronically ill children.



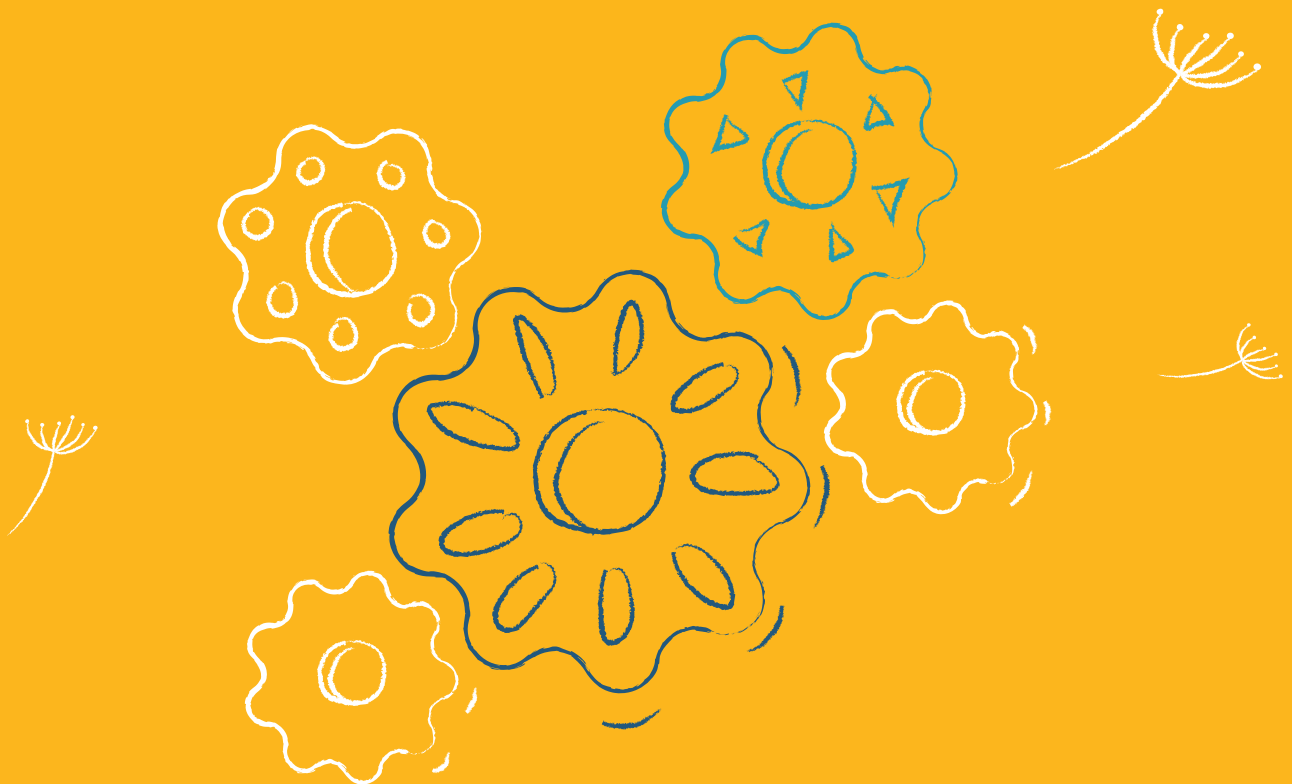
Note: recommendations within each category are presented as urgent / short-term recommendations and important / long-term recommendations

Source: “Children left behind by labor migration: supporting transnational families from Moldova and Ukraine in the EU (“CASTLE”)”. Policy Summary. 2022, pp. 14-15



# 9.

## SERVICES FOR TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES



## A. Terre des hommes-România Foundation

In the period 2013-2016, about 100 communities in Olt, Gorj and Dolj were supported through micro-grants to provide support to the children left behind and to their families. Services provided for children: psychological counseling (“Movement, Sport and Play” methodology), remedial activities, recreational activities, socio-medical services. Services provided to parents: psychological counseling, parenting programs and personal development.

**More information:** <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUPkYL7-E4ibhjQsQJWQGio5epVgwwPty>

## B. Terre des hommes Moldova Foundation

In the period 2016 - 2017, the Swiss Foundation “Terre des hommes” Moldova ran the “Borderless Families” Campaign, which offered the public practical recommendations for maintaining and developing a healthy and “borderless” relationship between parents and children, before and after the departure of the parents in order to work abroad. Within this project the following were developed:

**The booklet “Families Without Borders: 20 Questions and Answers about Children, for the Parents Going Abroad”.**

The booklet is especially intended for parents who intend to go to work abroad and for those who have already left. At the same time, the booklet is that pocket guide that every parent needs. Here are the most frequently asked questions by parents regarding their communication and relationship with their

children, before and after their departure. Practical and short answers are provided that would help parents maintain and develop a healthy and “boundaryless” relationship with their children. We are convinced that the geographical distance that temporarily separates the members of a family cannot be an obstacle in the communication with their children.

**The guide “Families Without Borders: Questions and Answers about children left behind, for professionals”**

The guide provides information on knowing the needs and vulnerabilities associated with the absence of parents, it is a way to identify optimal and individual solutions for each situation. The materials presented in the guide serve as informative support for professionals, for a better understanding of the situations of children whose parents are abroad and to undertake certain actions in favor of the children. Only by working as a team, specialists will ensure the protection of children whose parents are away working abroad.

Through the project’s activities and informative materials, society was made aware of the challenges faced by children affected by migration, and people’s attitudes towards migration, towards children remaining in the country and towards their families changed. The general public has access to useful and practical advice on how to maintain a healthy relationship between children and parents in the context of migration. As part of the project, hundreds of thousands of people were contacted through public events, mass media, social media and the campaign website.

## C. The project “Found back home”

This project was initiated on October 20, 2022 by Vola.ro and The Social Incubator Association. The partners provide free plane tickets for 50 families and the necessary travel expenses to reunite the children with their parents abroad.

**More information:** <https://asociatiasocialincubator.org/acasa-regasit/>

## D. Proiectul “Mummy loves you!”

Initiated by Associazione Donne Romene in Italy, the project allowed the connection and audio-visual communication between parents and children left at home in order to reduce the psycho-emotional consequences of the distance between parents and children, as well as school dropout. At the same time, the project’s objectives included: informing Romanian migrants from Italy about their rights and obligations.

**More information:** <https://teiubestemamasilviadumitrache.wordpress.com/>

## E. The program “Home Alone Children” (2009/2010 - present) – The Organization “Save the Children” Romania

The organization offers services for children and adults (parents and people who take care of children left behind): psychological counseling, school support - additional school preparation, socialization and leisure activities, parenting education, legal education.

**More information:** <https://copiisinguriacasa.ro/>



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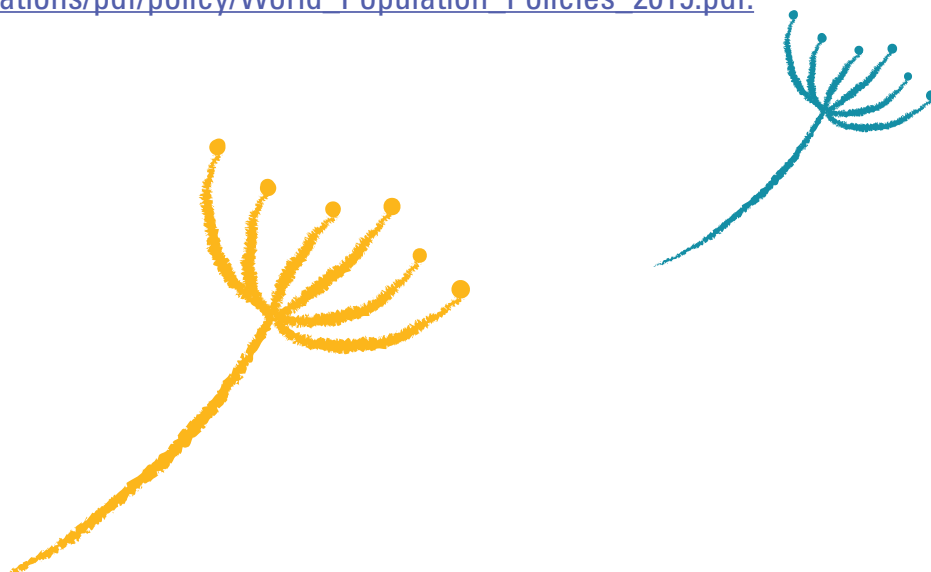
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