

Workshop proposal nr.18

Title: Migration and Mobility of high-skilled professionals in Europe: Exodus or Diaspora?

Organizer(s): Rui Gomes, Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra
(http://ces.uc.pt/investigadores/cv/rui_gomes.php)

João Teixeira Lopes, Institut of Sociology, University of Porto

Luísa Cerdeira, Institut of Education, University of Lisbon

Email(s): ramgomes@gmail.com

Migration and Mobility of high-skilled professionals in Europe: Exodus or Diaspora?

See also the project BRADRAMO (Brain Drain and Academic Mobility from Portugal to Europe) in
www.bradramo.pt

Emigration of high-skilled professionals from less developed countries to developed countries leaves the sending countries economies with a reduced supply of skilled people. The resulting brain drain would limit the use of educational investment in the sending countries, creating conditions for their re-use by the more developed countries. Skilled emigration has been analyzed according to two contrasting models: the model of the exodus that stresses the idea that more skilled individuals are forced to the exile, allowing them to get a job and a remuneration corresponding to their training; the model of the Diaspora that stresses the mutual benefits of intercultural exchanges opened by the circulation of cosmopolitan elites. This stream aims to discuss the comprehensive power of each of these theses referencing to the mobility of highly qualified professionals from South to North in Europe in the last decade.

Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy, Ireland and Poland are the European countries where the drain is more accentuated in the last decade. Expected papers will deal with the theme of outflows (and inflows) of high-skilled professionals from (or to) these countries; factors affecting migration decisions; specific flows involving academics and scientists; immigrants' incorporation in the labour market in the destination countries (evaluating the amount of deskilling or, alternatively, the adequate use of skills in new occupations); and links maintained with the sending societies, including the amount of transnational connections and return. Moreover, papers dealing with the recent impact of the crisis will be particularly welcomed, as well as those stressing the current European dimension of flows, either from the point of view of host countries, particularly at Central and Northern EU countries, or from sending ones, particularly at the South. The fact that several research projects on high-skilled flows in Europe are currently being developed or were recently concluded is a promising indicator of the success of this workshop.