

About GEMMA



GEMMA is a European project that aims to bring together different actors, such as policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations, and the media, active in the fields of Gender and Migration. Since migration—closely linked with the issue of gender—is one of the most significant global issues of our age, a closer and more intensive dialogue of these actors is needed in Europe to tackle the complex challenges arising from gender and migration effectively.

GEMMA wishes to facilitate this multilateral dialogue. To achieve this, the project partners have launched a number of services aimed at policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations, and the media.

To keep track of upcoming events and services that may be of interest to you, please consult the GEMMA webpage regularly and subscribe to receive this newsletter at <http://www.gemmaproject.eu>



Workshop with researchers and civil society organisations in Austria

Up to June 2009, all GEMMA partners organised workshops in their countries to initiate a dialogue between researchers and civil society organisations, inviting participants from both groups. For the results and recommendations arising from the debates, please check the [project website](#).

In the coming months, GEMMA partners will organise similar workshops involving researchers and policy makers. If you are interested to know more about these workshops, please ask us! Partner contacts can also be obtained from our website.

GEMMA is supported by the [Seventh Framework Programme](#) of the European Union.



News

Towards responsive, effective and fair migration policies OECD High-Level Policy Forum on Migration, June 29-30, Paris, France

On June 29 and June 30, the [OECD High-Level Policy Forum on Migration](#) took place in Paris, France. In preparation for the forum, the OECD edited a document about the [Labour market integration of immigrants and their children](#). The report stresses that “immigrant women are particularly disadvantaged, especially when they come from either non-OECD countries or Turkey or Mexico”. The report states this is due to women’s lower pre-migratory rate of employment, but also due to restrictions on participation in the labour market concerning long-term immigrants entering for reasons other than labour. These disproportionately affect female immigrants.

At the OECD policy forum, Mr. Vladimír Špidla, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, highlighted the need to “manage migratory flows in an effective as well as human manner”. According to Mr. Špidla, fighting discrimination is an important step in this direction, “with a particular focus on female immigrants who are often victims of multiple discrimination”.

FAO/ECA Working Party on Women Holds its 14th Session on Rural Migration and Gender Focus/ Mainstreaming

The FAO/ECA Working Party on Women organised its 14th session on 29 June – 1 July 2009 in Budapest, Hungary to discuss rural outmigrations and migrations within rural areas in Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and countries of Central Asia.

The workshop focused on both the rural development policies to sustain and revitalize rural areas thus reducing rural poverty, and the mainstreaming of gender considerations into the policies and programmes proposed. The meeting was complete with a study tour in Hungary to present rural development programmes near Budapest with a gender focus.

Details on the policy issues and research areas, as well as background papers, are [available here](#).

FAO/ECA

The acronym stands for the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, European Commission on Agriculture](#). The Working Party on Women was established in 1965 in recognition of the important role of farm and rural women in the economic development of rural communities.

East European brain drain

The Italian [Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies](#) (IRPPS) has recently started a survey on inclusion in the workplace of skilled migrants from Eastern European Countries, in collaboration with the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Turin. The research proposes to study the correct use of the skills of these immigrants, the recognition of their competences and their inclusion in the workplace and within the Italian society, especially in the provinces of Rome and Turin, with a focus on those coming from Romania, Poland, Albania and Ukraine.

The full utilization of immigrant workers’ intellectual abilities is an unquestionable interest for every highly industrialized country; however, the skills of migrant workers are often under exploited (brain waste). Several stakeholders, such as trade unions, public bodies and the Municipality of Rome, have offered their contribution to this research.



Events

Future events

**IMISCOE—SUS.DIV conference: Sustainable diversity, migration, social cohesion and sustainability
9-11 September 2009, Stockholm, Sweden**

Two sessions of this conference will deal with gendered issues: one on marriage migration and the other on the intersections of gender, age and generations of migrants. More information is available at the [conference website](#).

**International Metropolis Conference on Migration and Mobility
14-18 September 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark**

The next International Metropolis conference, entitled *Migration and Mobility: National Responses to Cultural Diversity*, will examine the role of policy in determining the outcomes of immigration and the presence of immigrants in different societies. Additional information is [available here](#).



**Conference on Security, Insecurity and Migration in Europe
18-19 September 2009, University of Leicester, UK**

The [IMEPO \(Hellenic Migration Policy Institute\)](#) and the [Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Leicester](#) are jointly organising a conference on security, insecurity and migration in Europe. The conference will discuss the concerns of states arising from the challenges posed by irregular migration as well as the need to protect the fundamental rights of migrants. A number of related themes will be explored and discussed in detail. More information on the conference can be obtained from Ms Jane Russell at jer13@leicester.ac.uk.



Social Inequalities and Migration in Post-Communist Societies 21-22 September 2009, Poznan, Poland

This workshop is intended to be a meeting of sociologists interested in Central and Eastern European societies, with a special emphasis on questions of social inequality and migration. Topics to be discussed include, among others, the diagnosis and interpretations of migration to and from the region; the social and cultural consequences of migration; and the role of the state and civil society in coping with the issue. The workshop will have a session dedicated to gender aspects of migration processes. Further information can be obtained [here](#) or [here](#).

Migration and Diversity Challenges in Europe: Policy Responses 24-25 September 2009, Berlin, Germany

Organised by the [European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder](#) and the [Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy](#) (ELIAMEP), this event is the final conference of the EMILIE project presenting new findings in three policy areas, namely the education, discrimination and political participation of migrant groups. The first day of the conference will be more academically oriented, while the second day will present policy findings and engage policy experts. More information is [available here](#).

Moving Gender: Conflicts, Negotiations and Redefinitions 30 September – 2 October 2009, Paris, France

This conference will investigate several topics linked to the phenomenon of gender patterns undergoing significant changes. It will explore and negotiate the multiple understandings of what constitutes the norm gender and will try to challenge conventional ways of framing gender relations. The main topics of the conference will be work, productive activity and the labour market; family, solidarities and inequalities; intimacies and sexualities; marginalities and transgressions; social forms and violent spaces; spatial mobilities and circulation (including migration); citizenship and participation. More information is available at femmagh@gmail.com.

Female Migration in the Mediterranean Region: Challenges and Perspectives 27-28 November 2009, Casablanca, Morocco

The Moroccan Centre for Studies and Research about International Migration and Sustainable Development ([CERMID](#)) is organising an international conference about the role of women in migration. The conference has two principal aims: 1) to promote a better understanding of the processes of female migration which are often neglected in the public and academic debate; 2) to assert that female migration is part of social modernization which essentially manifests itself through the women's active participation in the process of socio-economic development.

The conference proposes a "multidimensional" approach focusing on four main axes: juridical, economic, socio-political and cultural. Researchers from the North and the South are invited to participate in order to share their knowledge about female migratory movements. For more information, please check the [call for papers](#) (in French).

Study Day on "Lesbians, Exiles, Migrations and Racism" 12 December 2009, Paris, France

This seminar, organised at Paris 8 University (Saint-Denis), will bring together lesbians, migrants, exiles, descendants of migrants, activists' associations and action groups, researchers in Europe and elsewhere, to debate and think about intersections between the dominations of "race", gender, class and sexualities. This day also aims to have exchanges and to combat the manifold difficulties that lesbians brave daily in France, in Europe and elsewhere. More information is [available here](#).



EU Policy on Gender and Migration

European Commission examines the Italian “Security Package” for compatibility with Community law

Jacques Barrot, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for Justice, Security and Freedom announced that the European Commission decided to examine the “Security Package” adopted on 2 July 2009 in Italy in order to verify if it is compatible with the Community law. He reminded that the EU “could not accept general measures” and that controls had “to be individual”, “targeted” and “proportional”.

The new law adopted by the Italian Parliament demonstrates a tightening up in relation to immigration. It introduces the crime of illegal immigration punishable by a fine of 5,000 to 10,000 euro together with immediate expulsion.

The “security package” criminalizes irregular migration and endangers the rights of vulnerable people, based on residence and registration status, and establishes and empowers citizens associations to patrol municipalities.

At EU level, The European Parliament was one of the first EU institutional actors to react to the Italian situation. At the international level, significant criticism about some of the measures included in the security package have been expressed by the Council of Europe. The list of objections from the Commission against Italy is long. The new immigration law comes up against a founding principle of the European Union which is the freedom of movement. “If the Italian government votes a law which foresees the introduction of the crime of illegal migration – said Barrot – and if this crime could be directly followed by an immediate expulsion, then the Italian legislation will be in conflict with the Community law”. What is the reason behind the criticism? In Italy, certain citizens of the European Union, for example, Romanians or Bulgarians, may easily be in the situation of not being entitled to work legally. This is the same for the Roma who, according to Barrot, are clearly in the sight of the new legislation.

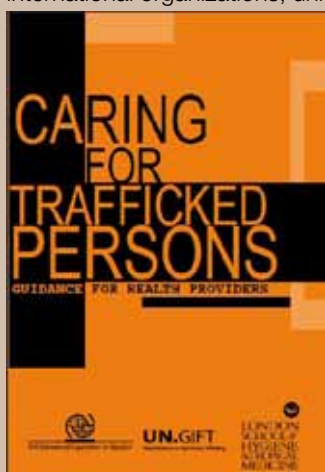
More information on the issue can be [found here](#).

Research in Gender and Migration

Selected Publications

Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers (2009)

[This handbook](#) brings together the collective experience of a broad range of experts from international organizations, universities and civil society in addressing the consequences of human trafficking. The book provides practical, non-clinical advice to help a concerned health provider understand the phenomenon of human trafficking and some of the associated health problems. This essential tool is available for free [in electronic format](#) and will be available in additional languages in late 2009.



The situation of unemployed young people with immigrant background in Tirol (2009)

This study, published in March 2009, compares the situation of unemployed young men and women in the Austrian state of Tirol and proposes efficient strategies to foster their integration.

The text of the study (in German) is [available here](#).



Moving People and Knowledge, Scientific Mobility in an Enlarging European Union (2008)

This book by Louise Ackers and Bryony Gill explores the relationship between highly skilled migration in the natural sciences and the transfer of knowledge within the EU. It provides a useful perspective on the implications of increasing researcher mobility - for both sending and receiving regions and the individuals concerned - which is necessary for the construction of future policies on sustainable scientific development. More information on the book is [available here](#).

Migrant Women Transforming Citizenship. Life-stories from Britain and France (2009)

Written by Umut Erel, this book develops insights into the transnational citizenship by means of life-stories of skilled and educated migrant women from Turkey in Germany and Britain. It interweaves and develops theories of citizenship and identity and culture with the lived experiences of an immigrant group that has to date received little attention. More information on the book is [available here](#).

Selected Ongoing Projects

IDEA – Mediterranean and Eastern European Countries as New Immigration Destinations in the European Union

This project, supported by the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission, analyses immigration trends and new immigrant destinations in the European Union. The regions and countries included in the scrutiny are chiefly those located on the EU's southern and eastern border. Yet they are looked at in a comparative manner, against the "pioneers" of Western Europe, as the latecomers, and representing two distinctly different regions of the continent – the Mediterranean region and the new accession countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The – chiefly quantitative – analyses include all GEMMA countries except the UK, and the [project web page](#) lists a host of downloadable [project results](#) and [policy recommendations](#).

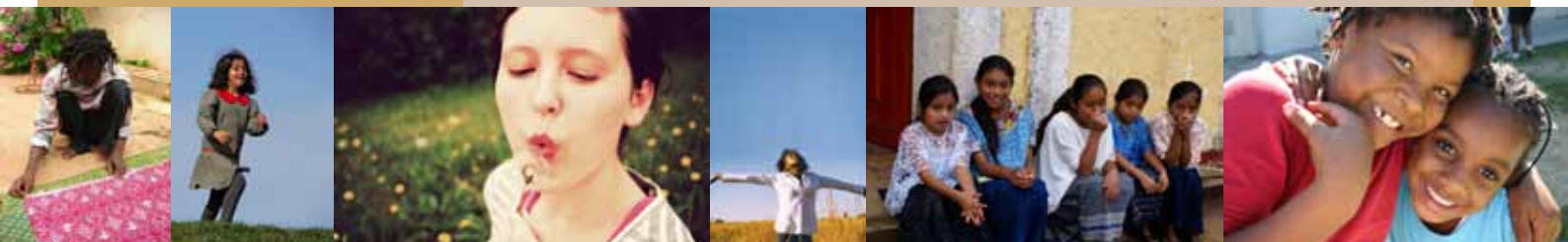
Civil Society in Gender and Migration

Refugee Women's Resource Project (RWRP) at Asylum Aid

This project was set up in 2000 in recognition of the fact that women who have fled in search of safety had specific problems and that their needs and circumstances were not being addressed by the asylum system in the UK. It has sought to combat the traditional image of a refugee as a male political activist. Women's political activities often take a different form, perhaps giving shelter or food to those in hiding or refusing to abide by restrictions such as dress codes. Women also face forms of persecution that are particular to them.

RWRP has, in the past decade, pursued legal cases, campaigned on behalf of asylum-seeking women to ensure that gender guidelines are properly implemented in the UK and in Europe, published reports in conjunction with other organisations and conducted its own research.

More information on the project can be obtained from *Women's Asylum News*, a monthly newsletter [available online](#).



People in Gender and Migration

Interview with Zsuzsanna Pásztor, Project Coordinator of Hungarian Interchurch Aid



Zsuzsanna Pásztor has worked in several projects of [Hungarian Interchurch Aid](#), a civil society organisation engaged, among a number of other fields, in migration and refugee-related activities. As a psychologist, currently she is working on the training of professionals dealing with immigrant minors who need protection. In the interview, available in full length on the GEMMA webpage (both in English and in Hungarian), she talks about her experiences in cooperating with local, regional and national policy makers, the relationship of civil society and researchers in gender and migration, and communicating gender/migration issues in the media. The interview also touches on the achievements and problems of civil society organisations working with migrants in Hungary.

How to Get Involved

Gender and Migration Research and Capacity Building Agenda sought at UN-INSTRAW

The [UN-INSTRAW Virtual Community](#) is creating a Gender and Migration Research and Capacity Building Agenda which seeks, in a participatory manner, to identify gaps in gender and migration research, and to identify the tools and resources researchers are using to make their work more gender sensitive and what tools and resources are needed. The questionnaire is [available here](#). For more information please check the [Virtual Community website](#).

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