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***The New Migration Patterns of  
High-Skilled Romanians to the EU:  
a Challenge for the Romanian  
State?***

# International context:

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Accrued concurrence in order to attract high-skilled labour

Policies aimed at attracting the high-skilled

# Regional level:

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collapse of communism followed by the development of new forms of mobility and by the transformation of old ones

## National level

Important development of «brain drain » (15.000 young people leave the country each year)

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High-skilled migration rate of 11,8% (Docquier and Marfouk 2005)

Among the first twenty-five countries of origin for high-skilled migrants inside the EU (Docquier, Lohest and Marfouk 2005)

Most high-skilled migrants go to the US and Canada (Dumont et Lemaitre 2005)

At EU level Germany holds the most important stock of high-skilled Romanians

At the beginning of 2000 the rate of selectivity for high-skilled Romanians was the highest : France, UK and Germany (Radu 2003)

# Literature on brain drain

- During the 70 and the 80 emphasis on the negative consequences of the « brain drain» for the country of origin
- Early 90 in the endogenous growth frame: negative consequences
- The second half of the 90: shift in the economic view on the brain drain → possible positive consequences

# Case Study

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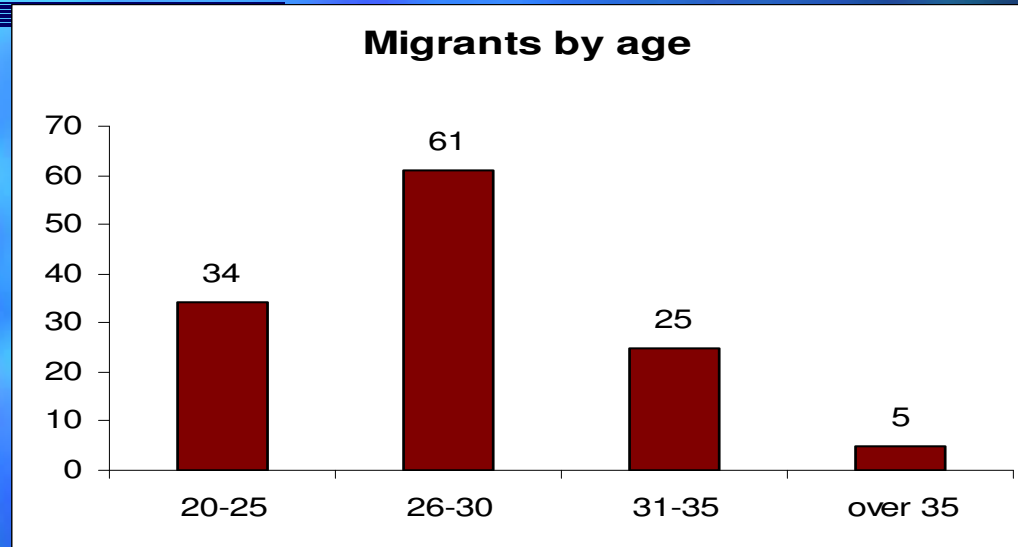
## Circulation of Romanian Professionals in France

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**Data from a qualitative survey  
conducted between March 20 2006  
and June 30 2006**

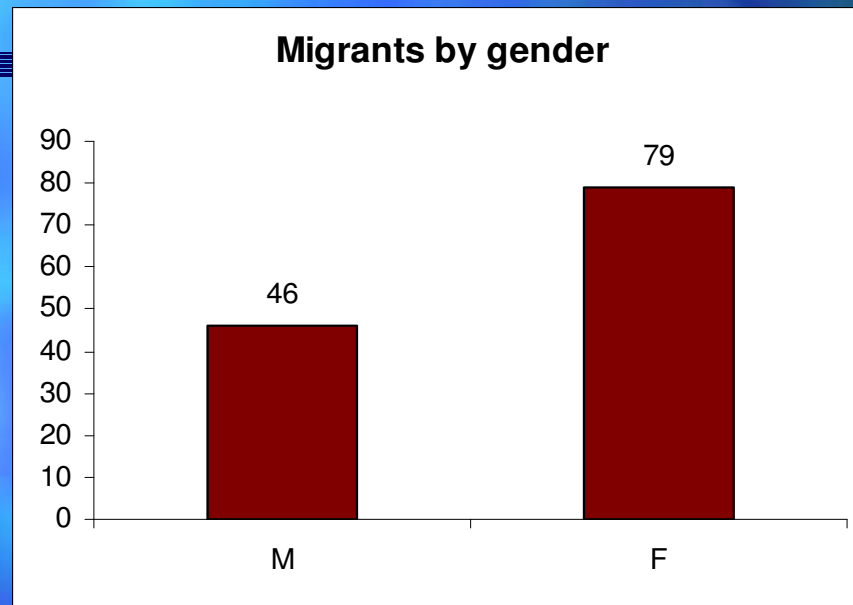
**21 interviews  
125 questionnaires**

# Description of the sample



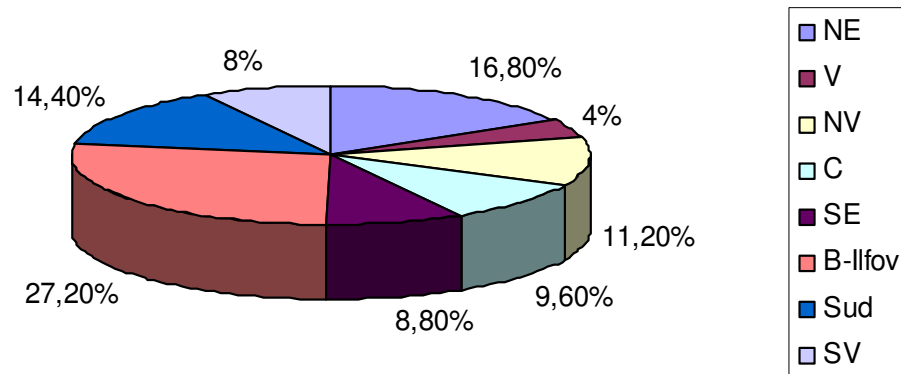
Most of the migrants of our sample are young people, the average age being inside the interval (26-30).





Women are predominant and represent almost 2/3 of the sample population.

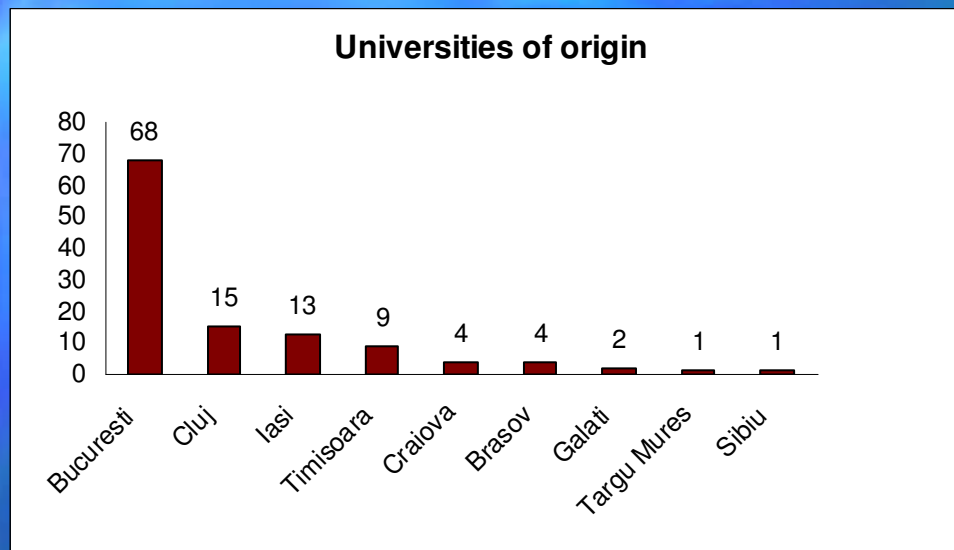
Migrants by regions of origin NUTS II



Even if most qualified migrants come from Bucharest, all NUTS II regions represent a source of high-skilled migrants.

The West region is underrepresented due to an ethnical and historical effect.

# Universities of origin



Most of the migrants have completed their education in Bucharest.

Nine migrants have pursued their university studies entirely abroad.

## Importance of previous migratory experience:

	Gini Coefficient	Limit	Struck Coefficient
Regions NUTS II	0.40	0,0894	0,3920
Regions NUTS III	0,3146	0,0894	0,3028
Universities of origin	0,6125	0,0924	0,6081

The comparison in terms of Gini coefficients emphasizes the importance of previous migratory experience, which at times can be both internal and external.

## Reasons to leave the home country

- in order to seek better career opportunities → social status
- In order to have an internationally acknowledged education
- In order to learn the language of the destination country

# Migratory strategies

67,2% with a study programme

7% work contract

7% family reunification

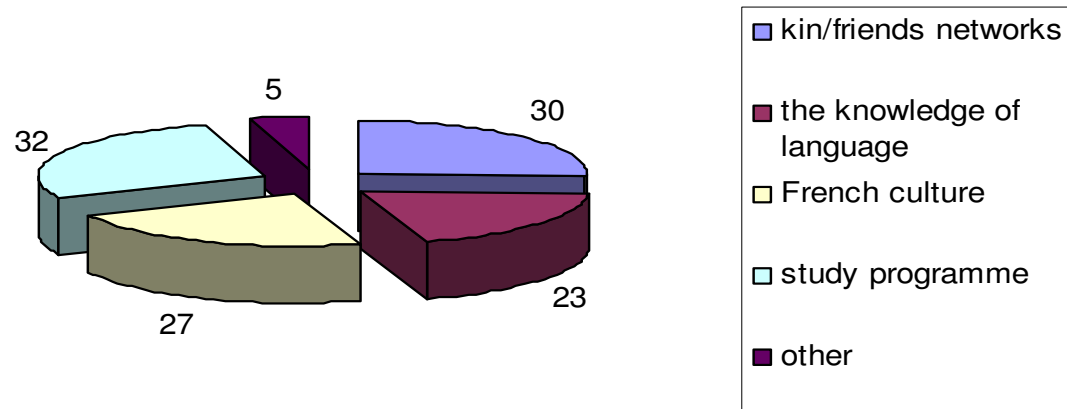
## **Other strategies:**

As tourists

With an au pair contract

# The destination choice

Detreminants of the destination choice



This geography of mobility is shaped by inter-university contrats and also by the soft power (langue knowledge and cultural attirance) and by kin/family networks.

Continuity aspect : practices developed before communism

# Change in perspectives

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- study continuation
- family building
- inertia



## Professional integration:

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- ✓ More or less successful depending on profession
- ✓ There is a discrimination in the labour market
- ✓ Identitary construction allowing a better integration on the labour market

# Social integration:

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difficult because of the difference in value systems

Elements enabling social integration:

- nationality acquisition
- language knowledge
- networks

# **Relations with communities and society of origin/destination**

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- **overlapping communities**
- **multiple allegiances**

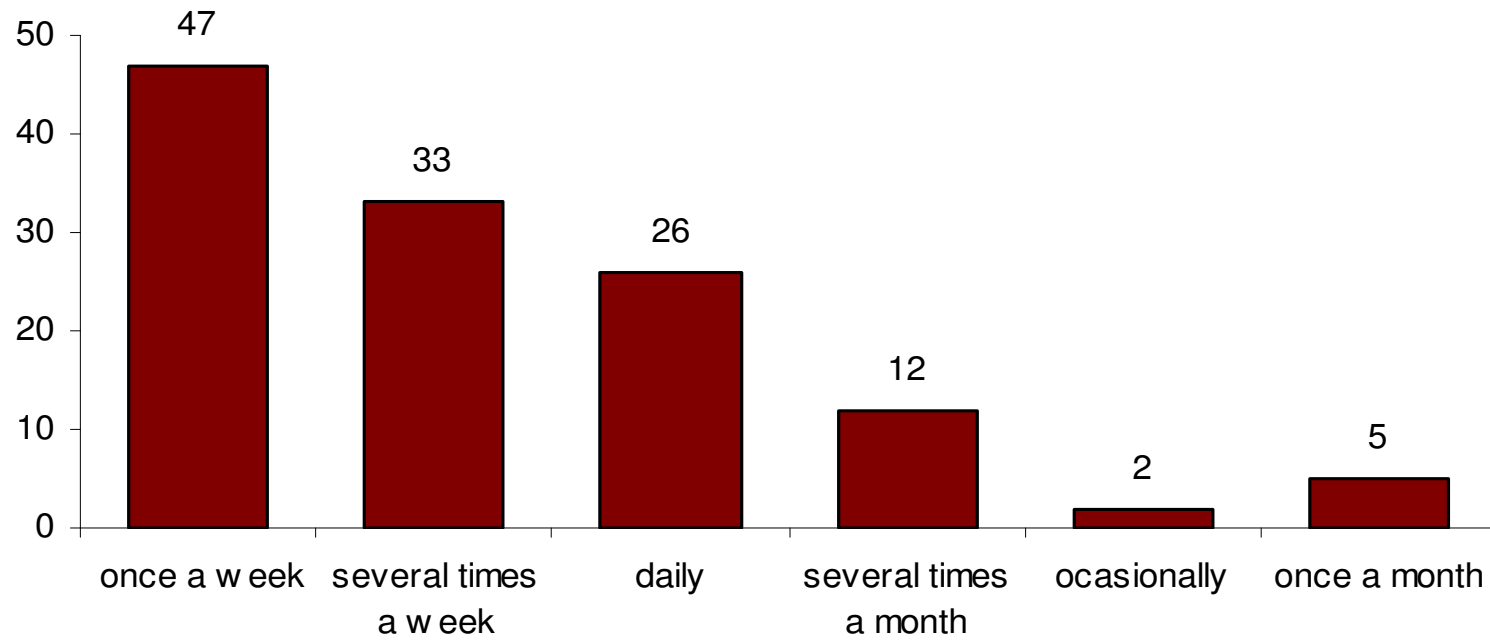
## **Social contact**

**The migrants conserves its ties with the home society**

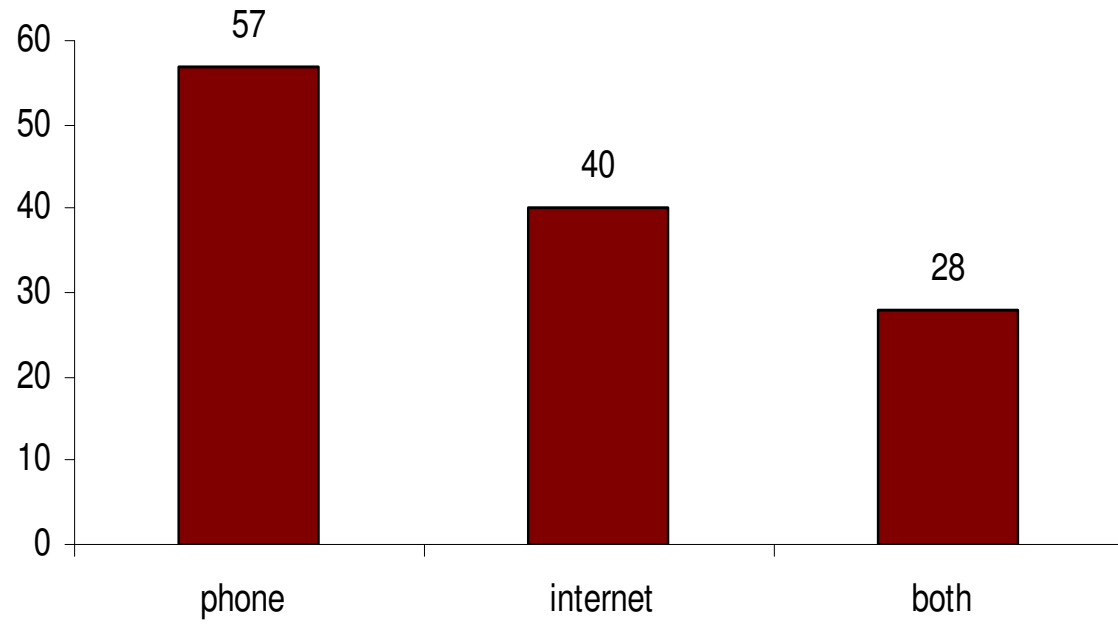
➤ **« virtual » contact » the migrants remains in contact with the home society by the development of low cost TICs**

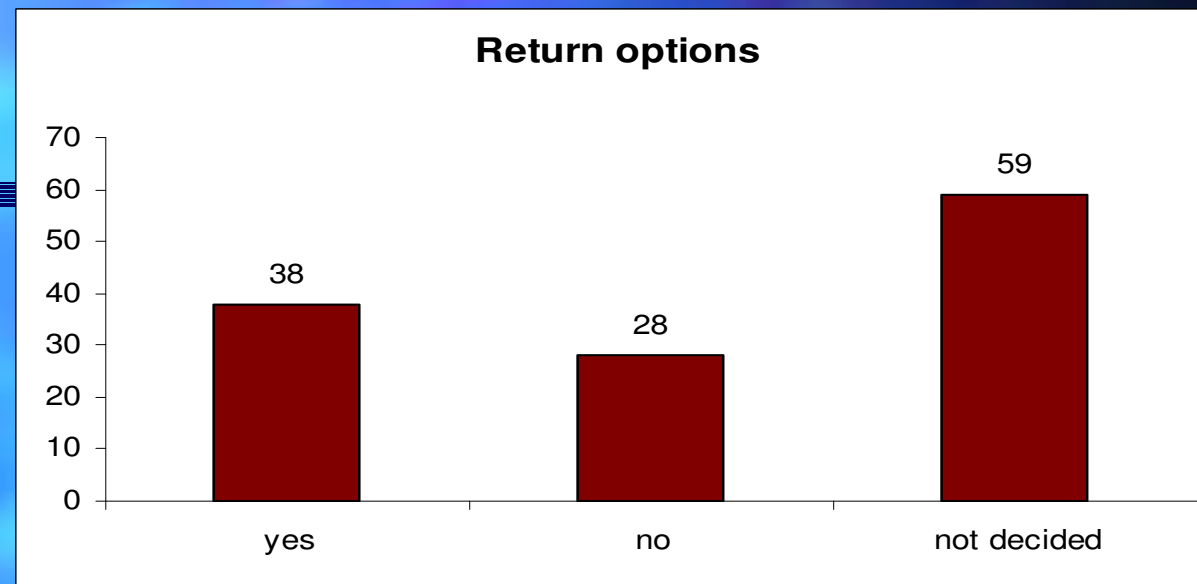
➤ **most migrants return home at least once a year and are also visited by family and friends while away**

## Contacts' frequency



### Communication means





**Most migrants do not have a very well defined migration plan they are ready to come back should the economy and the society evolve prêts**

**The perspective of going mobile again is still present**  
**→ reversability of migration**

In reality: multiple presences determined by the contacts developed within a constellation of communities.

Multiple presences enable them to take advantage of the best opportunities, no matter where these opportunities arise  
→ circulatory aspect and the building of a network culture inside a space of flows

Networks: informal institution on the international labour market



# CONCLUSION:

**Brain drain**



**Brain circulation**

Need to revise statal policies