



With The Swiss Cooperation funding through the Global Migration and Development Program

## **Workshop on «Migration, Mobility and Development in Africa»**

**12-16 December 2016, Niger**

Laboratoire d'études et recherches sur les dynamiques sociales et le développement local (LASDEL)

### **MIGDEVRI WORKSHOPS**

The MIGDEVRI Workshops aim to establish meaningful exchanges between researchers, practitioners and public officials around migration and sub-regional mobility within the ECOWAS community. It focuses on South-South mobility that is largely neglected by scientific research to date. There are five research themes: (i) South-South mobility and West-African higher education; (ii) Mobility and informal sectors; (iii) Mobility and sub-regional economic and financial exchanges; (iv) Mobility brakes and hassles; and (v) Mobility and family strategies.

#### **1. South-South mobility and West-African Higher Education**

Analysis of South-South mobility is prioritised to shift the excessive focus on African migrants "invading Europe". Historical root-causes of intra-African mobility in colonial and pre-colonial periods may be discussed according to their contemporary changes. Student, professional and business mobility are examples of the interesting analysis fields: South-South student mobility is particularly important. Very little research has been carried out on the topic. However, student migration is historically embedded, and is likely to have evolved due to recent European migration policies and the generalization of Bologna reform (Bachelor-Master-Doctorate system). Emerging countries (i.e. BRICS) and Maghreb countries offer new opportunities that may lead to some changes in these mobility patterns. Sub-regional training dynamics and career transitions through mobility may also be discussed. Research on the impact of South-South mobility on the reconfiguration and flow of knowledge and competencies in West African Higher Education may be explored.

#### **2. Mobility and informal sector**

Informal aspects of West African economy will be explored through the impacts of migrants on daily economy production. Day-to-day informality production will be well documented with wide and concrete examples. The program will investigate such as the links between human mobility and informal economic activities, their implication on neighbouring countries, the infringement of laws, or stakeholders transnational networks which structure informal activities, etc.

#### **3. Mobility and sub-regional economic and financial exchanges**

This theme aims to analyse links between mobility and sub-regional economic and financial exchanges. For example, remittances are essential to understand new aspects of human mobility. This theme will help to question formal and informal aspects of these south-south fund transfers, their importance, the risk generated through remittances, etc. Some other aspects of financial and economic exchanges, particularly exchange activities at borderlands will also be discussed.

#### **4. Mobility brakes and hassles**

Mobility brakes and hassles will be examined both theoretically and practically through the day-to-day movement of people and goods in West Africa sub-region. Emphasis will be put on the role of women (tradeswomen or not) in mobility. Transnational activities such as small businesses, all kinds of traffic flows, and official policies could be analysed. Strategies to bypass official barriers, corruption, or local practices to skirt institutional and national arrangements could also be examined in different ways.

#### **5. Mobility and family strategies**

It has been widely observed that many migrants move first as individuals and later arrange for their families to join them. The number of families living apart is increasing. We invite contributions that explore the different strategies migrants adopt to create a family life when they settle in new destinations. What are the conditions under which different family members may move? When does the separation of couples caused by migration result in divorce? How do these family strategies vary for internal and international migrants, or if the project is engaged by a male or female?

#### **6. Others sub themes**

Other related aspects of mobility and development may also be explored, such as the links between mobility and sub-regional security, their influence on local or national development, cross-border trade of women, women and mobility, forced mobility, children trafficking, trade, forced or voluntary mobility of children to Nigeria, mobility in the oil or mining regions, adventures migration, etc.

#### **Submissions guidelines**

Abstracts of 500 to 1000 words **in French or English** should clearly state the Name, Surname, Institution, Actual Position of authors, **the research question, methodology and field of study**. Proposals focusing on the four main countries (Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Niger), and comparisons of other African countries (**including Portuguese areas**) are welcome. Please include the **author (s) name, position and institution**. Working languages are French and English.

**This Workshop is open especially for PhD students, master students and young researchers or lecturers who obtained their PhD not earlier than 6 years !**

**This workshop will be focused in particular on scientific writing.**

**Contact :** [migdevri-infos@lasdel.net](mailto:migdevri-infos@lasdel.net)

### **Schedule**

- Call Bid : 1st October 2016
- **Due date for proposals :** **20th October 2016**
- Notification to authors : 25th October 2016
- **Date for complete papers :** **25th November May 2016**
- **Due date for presentations :** **5th December May 2016**

**Workshop Organisers :** Ali Bako Tahirou (LASDEL, Niger), Oliver Bakewell (IMI Oxford, Angleterre); Elieth Eyebiyi (Lasdel Benin/Transpol), Hamani Oumarou (Lasdel Niger).

### **Scientific committee**

Oliver Bakewell (IMI Oxford, UK); Salimata Kouame Traore (LAQAD-S, Université Ouaga II, Burkina-Faso); Hamani Oumarou (Lasdel Niger); Imorou Abou-Bakari (UAC and Lasdel Benin); Eric Hahonou (Roskilde University, Denmark); Nassirou Bako Arifari (Lasdel Benin/ UAC Benin); Sylvie Bredeloup (LPED, IRD-Dakar-AMU); Elieth Eyebiyi (Lasdel Benin/Transpol); Marie-Laurence Flahaux (IMI Oxford, UK); Lama Kabbanji (CEPED, UMR 196 Paris Descartes Ined IRD); Frederic Lesemann (Transpol Montreal and RECIM); Sylvie Mazzella (LAMES Marseille); Angèle Mendy (University of Lausanne, Switzerland); Boubacar Niane (UCAD/GIRES, Senegal); Jean-Pierre Olivier de Sardan (Lasdel Niger, EHESS/CNRS France); Martin Rosenfeld (ULB, Belgium); Amadou Sarr Diop (UCAD/GIRES, Senegal); Abye Tasse (Université de Nouakchott, Mauritania); Gabriel Tati (University of The Western Cape, South Africa); Oluyemi Fayomi (Covenant University, Nigeria); Rasheed Olaniyi (University of Ibadan, Nigeria), Joseph Sahgui (Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Benin); Emmanuel Sambieni (Université de Parakou, Benin).