Migration in the digital era: exploring new data, practices and lifestyles

Prepared by
Franz Buhr, Amandine Desille and Maria Lucinda Fonseca
Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal
The EuroMedMig Policy Papers Series aims to promote knowledge exchange and dialogue among actors working on a particular topic on Mediterranean Migration, comprising of international and Mediterranean organizations, stakeholders, civil society organizations, policymakers and politicians at all levels of government.

This Policy Paper is a summary of the National Workshop entitled “Migration in the digital era: exploring new data, practices and lifestyles”, organized by Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning (IGOT), Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, on March 25, 2021. The agenda and list of participants of this Workshop are in sections VI.

The main objective of this Policy Paper is to summarize the premises put forward during this National Workshop with the purpose of sharing what was considered as substantial policy-relevant arguments and recommendations for the development of MedMig policies.

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I. Introduction

This policy paper results from the presentations and discussions, which took place at the third EUMedMi National Workshop organised by the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning (IGOT), Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, on March 25, 2021. The workshop included 3 keynote speeches, 1 roundtable, 13 speakers, and 65 participants from academia, civil society, and public administration. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the workshop was carried out online and its video recording is publicly available at the EuroMedMig portal.

This national workshop was entitled Migration in the digital era: exploring new data, practices, and lifestyles, and aimed at bringing together academics, policy makers, and practitioners to promote dialogue around the ways Mediterranean migration has been transformed by digital technologies. The workshop was designed to reflect the diversity of approaches relating to the digital and its implications in terms of migration and integration policy, migrants’ everyday practices, migration journeys and decisions, but also at the methodological level, as digital technologies produce new research methods and forms of data creation.

The workshop is aligned both with EUMedMi’s objective to map and foster debates around migration in the Mediterranean, and with IGOT’s thematic contribution to the network, which relates to the ways information and communication technologies are shaping migrants’ everyday practices in Mediterranean cities. Moreover, the webinar raised key reflections, which will contribute to the organisation of the EuroMedMig symposium, scheduled to take place in 2022, in Barcelona.

Lucinda Fonseca’s welcome address to the workshop participants in Lisbon, on the 25th of March 2021.
II. Rationale

To speak about migration and the digital is of course not new. Since the late 1990s at least scholars have been looking at how migrants use information and communication technologies to manage remittances, to maintain long-distance familial arrangements, to mobilise social networks, and even to provide feedback about their migration experiences to family, friends or acquaintances who could, in turn, decide to migrate as well. In a way, the use of digital technologies helped paved the way for the transnationalism paradigm (Glick Schiller, Basch & Blanc-Szanton 1992), as the ‘connected migrant’ (Diminescu 2008) is increasingly able to maintain ties with individuals and groups beyond those with which they have face-to-face interaction.

More than two decades later, as our lives become increasingly enmeshed with digital technologies and their affordances, migrants' digital practices are not simply more intense; whole new forms of migration came about, which could not exist without the digital. Look at the gig economy, for example. On the one side, platform workers (such as drivers and those working in the food/package delivery service) are very often migrants working in rather precarious conditions (van Doorn, Ferrari & Graham 2020), as we have seen during the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other, digital nomads are relatively privileged freelance remote workers travelling from one place to the other in search of combining work, travel, and lifestyle. Digital economies fabricate specific kinds of labour, which intersect with particular kinds of migration trajectories.

It seems consensual that the major turning point in the digitalisation of migration has been the popularisation of smartphones, whether it is for communication, or for buying things, checking news, moving money, and so on. Smartphones generate huge amounts of data that have attracted the attention of governments and private technology firms, who usually scrape, filter, and construct data on demand. This does not only raise questions in terms of data protection, privacy, and ethics, but it is also a political problem, as there is no consensus around what kinds of data and online behaviour are to be perceived as relating to migrants' (Taylor & Meissner 2020).

Smartphones and other digital technologies have become important instruments for the provision of public services and the creation of new kinds of urban citizenship. Despite the ‘digital divide’, that is, how access to digital technologies is unevenly distributed, cities and municipalities have increasingly turned to the digital as a way to reach residents – migrants or not – and hear their demands. As for migrant residents, the COVID-19 pandemic has perhaps accelerated the digitalisation of procedures such as obtaining or renewing residence permits and other documents. Moreover, smartphones have become part of a fundamental toolkit for managing border crossing, asylum, and arrival, having also the potential to function as tools for mobilising migrants’ struggles and resistance (Trimikliniotis, Parsanoglou & Tsianos 2015). Finally, the digital has also provided new methods for research such as getting access to migrants' conversation groups on WhatsApp, or doing digital ethnographies (or netnographies), data scraping, cyber tracing, etc.

The third EUMedMi national workshop was designed to capture the diversity of themes and approaches relating to migration and the digital, particularly, in the Mediterranean region. The webinar helped mapped ongoing research projects working on this topic, as well as bringing together civil society, policy makers, and municipal stakeholders to discuss their experiences as practitioners.
III. Summary of the workshop

After Lucinda Fonseca (IGOT, University of Lisbon) and Ricard Zapata’s (GRITIM, Pompeu Fabra University) welcome address, Franz Buhr (IGOT, University of Lisbon) introduced the workshop’s rationale and organisation. Three keynote presentations followed, whose abstracts are written below. Each keynote presentation was assigned a discussant. Finally, a roundtable discussion around the digitalisation of migration processes and policy responses in Lisbon took place, bringing together 5 local stakeholders.

Abstracts of keynote presentations

1) How to research migration using data technologies? Re-visibilising migration information infrastructures

Fran Meissner, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Informational capitalism (Castells 2008) has led to the availability of commercially generated data on human behaviour and mobility and is transforming migration research and policymaking. EU-led initiatives (e.g., BD4M 2018) are connecting migration statisticians to commercial firms who analyse data from big tech infrastructures (Taylor & Meissner 2019). As these migration information infrastructures become established, they also become invisible to researchers. Migration researchers have two choices: to comply with these arrangements, or alternatively to uncover what constitutes the ‘backstage’ (Star 1999) and how it constructs the day-to-day reality of datafied practices in relation to migration policy. Using a relational information infrastructure lens (Bowker et al. 2009), we argue for a continual re-visibilising of migration information infrastructures. We illustrate this by reflecting on our own current attempt to produce formal guidance for migration researchers working with these emerging data sources and methods, and problematise the notion of doing such migration research ‘right’. We use the recent legal challenge to certain big data migration methodologies to explain why ethical principles are a necessary but insufficient response to this systemic change. We then propose a perspective to help us interrogate the power and politics of data, and how those reproduce vulnerabilities and hierarchies (Dalton, Taylor & Thatcher 2016). We argue that critical data studies is positioned to question both the established research agenda of migration studies, and the ways in which we discuss methodology and ethics in relation to that research agenda.

Fran Meissner introduces her research topic and collaboration with Linnet Taylor in Lisbon, on the 25th of March 2021.
2) **Digital Migration Infrastructure: Constructing a platform-governed migrant division of labor?**

Niels van Doorn, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

With markets concentrating predominantly in and around large cities, gig platforms across the globe depend as much on the labour of migrants and minorities as on investment capital and permissive governments. The movement of people within and across borders in search of work and a better future is in this way a critical condition ensuring the existence of urban gig economies. So, what may account for this situation? What makes migrants try their luck on gig platforms, despite the well-documented precarity of gig work? And how do they incorporate these platforms into their everyday lives and migration trajectories? The presentation will tackle these questions, discussing how gig platforms generate new chances and risks for migrant workers whose mobility is otherwise often regimented and/or curtailed. For these workers, gig platforms present an alternative to – or extension of – existing migration and arrival infrastructures, while also resulting in the tentative formation of a new, platform-governed "migrant division of labour".

![Image](image_url)

*Niels van Doorn responding to comments by Pedro Costa (ISCTE, University Institute of Lisbon) and by the audience (chat), on the 25th of March 2021.*

3) **Mobile commons, states of exception and border regimes: Struggles, digitalities and resistance in eastern Mediterranean in the pandemic crisis**

Nicos Trimikliniotis, University of Nicosia, Cyprus

This paper analyses the contested and contradictory consequences of pandemic-related restrictions to mobility rights in the eastern Mediterranean, i.e., the Cyprus-Greece-Turkey triangle. On the one hand, we observe the emergence and (re)establishment of old and new states of exception, surveillance regimes and derogations of rights, as the states involved in the south-eastern EU frontier have unleashed new waves of pushbacks, incarcerations, de facto imprisonment, deportations and the generation of an even more hostile environment in their territories. In opposition to these appalling practices, we are witnessing the intensification of new and old forms of solidarity aiming to counter these restrictions and
violations of rights, with the collective praxis of migrants and locals who are (re)generating socialities and commons.

Nicos Trimikliniotis talks about the Eastern Mediterranean context, on the 25th of March 2021.

Summary of arguments presented at the roundtable: The role of ICTs in migration and integration: migrants' agency and the digitalisation of policy responses

Silvia Cardoso, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Silvia Cardoso introduces the roundtable. As the only academic voice in this last session, she suggests covering two topics: the role of ICTs in migration and integration; and policy responses. Regarding the first, she insists that the role of ICTs changes along the migration process, from a tool to organise migration, to one easing settlement and communication. As for the second, migrants’ agency and digitalisation of policy responses involve specific actors and policies embedded in space and time. These responses usually encompass information; language and education; labour; communication with family; connectedness with local populations; and interaction with local governments. She summarises stating a few recommendations regarding the accessibility of information, but also the need for inclusive smart cities and bottom-up dialogue, which we will emphasise again in the last section of this policy paper.

Sonia Pereira, High Commissioner for Migration, Portugal

Sonia Pereira insists that digitalisation is part of the EU agenda and aims at incentivising institutions to keep efficient access to public services. She points out that the pandemic has accelerated the digitalisation of services towards migrant persons, including at the High Commissioner for Migration in Portugal, which has embraced this fast-paced transition to digitalisation. In fact, the High Commissioner for Migration (HCM) has expanded its online services through the creation of new emails, telephone support, and video-calls too. Phone translation services were reinforced. Collaboration with health lines meant to address Covid-19 related issues were also established. As for its website, the HCM has created dedicated
content on Covid-19 both in Portuguese and English and made available translated official documents in a repository. Sonia Pereira finishes her intervention on a careful note, pointing out to the risks of further exclusion of already marginal groups. The benefits of digitalisation are not equally distributed (for those with low Internet access and low literacy), and we ought to be careful with the intensified digital dependency.

João Tremoceiro, Lisbon Urban Management and Intelligence Centre, Lisbon municipality, Portugal

João Tremoceiro introduces the Urban Management and Intelligence Centre by showing participants the online data available to the municipality. In his words, the main advantage lies in the collection of a history of the use of different resources of the city, which can then be channelled towards better decision-making (eg: parking, shared bicycle system, waste, etc.). Part of the data is available to residents, through the website Lisboa Aberta where one can see publications of all public information on the city, accounting for 300 datasets. Tremoceiro also displays another municipal tool enabling real time monitorization of social media, and shows an example of its use regarding police-related news circulating on social media platforms. Lisbon municipality has also invested in citizen participative platforms, including the app Na Minha Rua LX, which enables residents to report in real time disturbances in the city. Tremoceiro ends with the display of the website Made of Lisboa, dedicated to a community of start-ups, where one can find resources such as co-working spaces or discounts on productivity apps.

Ana Paula Costa, Casa do Brasil, Portugal

Ana Paula Costa briefly goes through the history of Casa do Brasil, a Lisbon-based NGO funded in 1992, focusing on the rights of migrant people, and their access to egalitarian public policies. Casa do Brasil inaugurated a new website: Lisboa Acolhe, where persons who migrate can find information regarding social housing, the labour market, regularisation, and education. At the time of the talk, the website was yet to be made available in English.

Mubarak Hussein, UREP and Fórum Refúgio, Portugal

Mubarak Hussein briefly presents UREP, a union of refugees in Portugal, as well as Fórum Refúgio. In order to address the challenges of the digitalisation of services, but also of new labour requirements, Hussein shows the importance of digital training, access to equipment, and online information for refugees in Portugal, and the activities they carry out along this line. He also introduces the EU project New-ABC, which focuses on remote education for refugee children. This programme includes activities in Portuguese, English and Arabic. To support refugee children during the pandemic, Hussein highlights the collaborations established with other partners, including (but not only) public schools, teachers and children.
Silvia Cardoso reflects on the research framework of migration and ICTs on the 25th of March 2021.

Sónia Pereira summarised the digitalisation of processes at the High Commissioner for Migration in Portugal on the 25th of March 2021.
João Tremoceiro shows participants the Lisbon Intelligence platform on the 25th of March 2021.

Ana Paula Costa talks about the new Lisbon-based platform Lisboa Acolhe on the 25th of March 2021.
IV. Policy recommendations

In light of the discussions which took place during the workshop, and the ones taking place in international organisations whose work focuses on international migrations (see for instance the report “Smart Inclusive Cities” by Meghan Benton [2014] of the Migration Policy Centre; and “Towards 2035. Strategic foresight. Making Migration and Integration Policies Future Ready”, published by OECD [2020]), we would like to bring forward the following recommendations:

- Reduce barriers to accessing services, especially for more disadvantaged migrant persons:

  As Benton (2014) suggests, one-stop apps, on-the-ground reporting and service information apps provided by cities are useful digital platforms for efficient public service delivery. Non-governmental and non-profit actors can also invest in this field of service delivery. Dissemination is key, as High Commissioner S. Pereira has highlighted, so that these digital services are tapped on by migrant persons. Websites available in several languages, and translation of official documents are also part of this barrier reduction. As Trimikliniotis has argued during his talk, migrant persons intensively exchange information through their cell phones. Making information available, disseminating and making sure that they reach the target audience is thus fundamental.

  Yet, “it is equally unclear whether immigrants and disadvantaged groups are reaping the benefits of these services to the same extent as other residents” (Benton 2014). Pereira argued that the benefits of digitalisation are not equally distributed (for those with low Internet access and low literacy). How to close the digital gap? UREP and Fórum Refúgio have brought forward practical solutions, from training to equipment availability to enhance the use of digital services. Another key element is to promote the participation of migrants and relevant stakeholders in the design and development of ICT’s tools that help migrants and refugees access public services.
• Increase transparency and visibility through technological change:

Aside from improving information for newly arrived residents, other practical tools can be made available, including tailored apps for new arrivals: apps for language learning, apps for rights and naturalization, apps for service use and settlement. Casa do Brasil and its portal *Lisboa Acolhe* have shown a possible one-stop-shop (though a Website rather than an app). Fórum Refúgio also initiated online educational activities.

A better visibility of the migrant population can also be achieved through smart residency cards. As Benton (2014) suggests in the USA case, these municipal IDs have enabled otherwise undocumented migrant persons to access municipal services and have a documentation to show. Portuguese cities have not adopted such a policy; however, all foreigners were granted temporary regularisation in Portugal during the pandemic-driven states of emergency in 2020, providing them with access to health services; also, online support for managing local bureaucracies was made available broadly.

• Strengthen urban citizenship through ICTs:

ICTs can also be a means for encouraging civic engagement with apps or online platforms enhancing citizenship and cohesion, and inclusive planning. As Cardoso has reiterated during the roundtable, there is a need for inclusive smart cities and bottom-up dialogue. Tremoceiro has exposed the tools available at Lisbon municipality. The app *Na minha rua LX* enables all residents to report on small incidences in the city. Yet, this is only one step, and more should be done for community engagement.

A note of caution should be added here, as online presence could also translate into tracking and surveillance. Tremoceiro’s presentation of the municipality’s capacity to follow negatively connoted activity on social media is a case in point. This was also made very explicit by Meissner for whom the role of scholars is the “continual re-visibilising of migration information infrastructures”. As for each recommendation listed here, one must challenge the lasting exclusion of certain populations from digitalisation, and the dangers of digital exposition for vulnerable groups.

• Anticipate future trends regarding migrations and ICTs:

A last recommendation we wish to make is regarding the future trends regarding migrations and ICTs, such as “virtual migrants and digital workers” (OECD, 2020). In his introduction to this workshop, Buhr has mentioned new labour forms enabled by ICTs such as the (in)famous digital nomads reshaping the housing and commercial landscape in Lisbon. Van Doorn, in his presentation, reminded us of the pitfalls of the gig economy, which has grown bigger in our consumption habits during the pandemic, and is a sector increasingly occupied by migrant workers. He denounces a tentative formation of a new, platform-governed "migrant division of labour", one that policymakers should question despite the difficulties to legislate when transnational corporations, circulating workers and invisible work are part of the equation.

Another future trend brought forward in the OECD strategic foresight (2020), and further challenged by Meissner in her presentation, is that of Big Data, notably to create migrant profiles. Beyond the danger of increased surveillance is that of data-based selection of migrants.
V. References


Trimikliniotis N, Parsanoglou D & Tsianos V (2015) Mobile Commons, Migrant Digitalities and the Right to the City, Palgrave Macmillan UK. DOI: 10.1057/9781137406910
VI. ANNEX

National workshop’s programme and list of experts (alphabetical order)

EuroMedMig National Workshop: Lisbon, Portugal
“Migration in the digital era: exploring new data, practices, and lifestyles”

Date: 25th of March 2021
Time: 13h45 – 17h30 GMT

About this workshop:
This National Workshop is a working activity that forms part of the EUMedMi, EUMedMi: "Mapping European Mediterranean Migration Studies" (September 2019 - August 2022). Funded by the Erasmus + Jean Monnet Network Program. (Ref: 611260-EPP-1-2019-1-ES-EPPJMO-NETWORK).

Scientific Organizers:
Maria Lucinda Fonseca - Member of the EuroMedMig Steering Committee and IGOT-ULisboa
Franz Buhr - IGOT-ULisboa
Amandine Desille - IGOT-ULisboa

Background:

The 3rd EuroMedMig national workshop aims at exploring the diversity of approaches relating to migration and the digital. Since the 1990s, migration scholarship has looked into the ways information and communication technologies (ICTs) have proved crucial for the maintenance of long-distance familial arrangements, for the mobilisation of migrants’ social networks, for managing remittances and other transnational transactions. Yet, digital economies have recently produced new forms of mobile work and lifestyles, such as migrant platform workers, business expatriates and digital nomads. States and smart cities have also resorted to collaborative technologies (such as ‘my city’/”my neighbourhood’ apps) to foster integration and urban citizenship.

As migrants use and produce content on digital medias, new forms of data are generated. Social media platforms have attracted academic attention (e.g., netnography, social media analytics etc.), but big data has been systematically explored by technology firms, marketing companies and States. This opens up new research and policy possibilities, but also poses fundamental ethical questions (use of digital personal data, cyber tracing, web crawling etc.).

The Lisbon workshop will bring together academics, policy makers, and practitioners to discuss these questions and reflect on how migration has been transformed by digital technologies.
The workshop and the speakers should address the main following questions:

- Can big data be used ethically in migration research?
- What have we learned from migration policies/research projects using big data?
- Are smart cities implementing smart migration and integration policies?
- Have ICTs improved migrants’ liveability?
- How have digital technologies improved migrants’ integration to urban spaces?
- How have digital economies produced new migrant inequalities and stratifications?

Programme:

13h45h - 14h00 GMT

Welcome and opening
Maria Lucinda Fonseca, University of Lisbon
Ricard Zapata, Pompeu Fabra University

14h00 - 14h15

Introduction and framing of the workshop
Franz Buhr, University of Lisbon

14h15 - 14h45

How to research migration using data technologies? Re-visibilising migration information infrastructures
Fran Meissner, University of Twente
Discussant: Ricard Zapata, Pompeu Fabra University

14h45 - 15h15

Digital migration infrastructure: Constructing a platform-governed migrant division of labour?
Niels van Doorn, University of Amsterdam
Discussant: Pedro Costa, Lisbon University Institute

15h15 - 15h30 - Break

15h30 - 16h00

Mobile commons, states of exception and border regimes: struggles, digitalities and resistance in Eastern Mediterranean in the pandemic crisis
Nicos Trimikliniotis, University of Nicosia
Discussant: Amandine Desille, University of Lisbon

16h00 - 17h00

Round table - The role of ICT in migration and integration: migrants' agency and the digitalization of policy responses
Sílvia Cardoso, University of Lisbon
Mubarak Hussein, Refugees Union in Portugal
João Tremoceiro, Lisbon Urban Management and Intelligence Center
17h00 – Closing

List and Bios of Speakers (in alphabetical order):

**Franz Buhr** is a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre of Geographical Studies, University of Lisbon. His research lies at the intersection between migration and urban studies, and he is particularly interested in migrants' role in transforming urban space, urban mobilities, practical knowledges, and navigation. He currently works for the H2020 SMARTDEST project, in which he examines the commercial landscape transformation driven by the demands of transient populations in Lisbon. He is co-coordinator of the IMISCOE research initiative on privileged mobilities PriMob.

**Silvia Cardoso** is a PhD candidate at IGOT-University of Lisbon, working on refugees and asylum seekers’ im/mobility trajectories through the European Relocation Programme to Portugal. She has been doing ethnographic fieldwork with refugees and asylum seekers placed in Lisbon, accompanying their place-making paths in Lisbon's Metropolitan Area, and collaborating with Fórum Refúgio, a platform of the Portuguese-based refugee's associations.

**Ana Paula Costa** is a researcher at the Portuguese Institute of International Relations (IPRI) and a PhD student in political science at Nova University of Lisbon. She is also a member of the direction of Lisbon’s Casa do Brasil.

**Pedro Costa** is Professor at the Department of Political Economy at ISCTE and Director of DINAMIA’CET-Iscte (Research Centre on Socioeconomic Change and Territory), where he coordinates the “Cities and Territories” research group. Economist, PhD in Urban and Regional Planning, he works primarily in the areas of territorial development, planning, and cultural economics.

**Amandine Desille** is a postdoctoral fellow at UMR-Passages, Bordeaux, and an associated member of Migrare at IGOT, Lisbon. Her current research focuses on Amadora and its participation in European city networks sharing knowledge and best practices related to immigrant integration. Her research interests are: return migration, migration policies, local governance, ordinary cities and visual methodologies. She co-edited the volume Visual Methodologies in Migration Studies, published by Springer in 2021, and winner of the 2019 IMISCOE book competition.

**Niels van Doorn** is Assistant Professor of New Media & Digital Culture at the University of Amsterdam. He is the Principal Investigator of the Platform Labour project (ERC Starting Grant, 2018-2023). This project examines how digital platforms are transforming labour, social reproduction, and urban governance in post-welfare societies – particularly focusing on Amsterdam, Berlin and New York City.

**Maria Lucinda Fonseca** is Full Professor of Human Geography and Migration Studies at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning (IGOT), Universidade de Lisboa. She is also the Director of the PhD Program on Migration Studies and the coordinator of the Research cluster MIGRARE - Migration, spaces and societies at the Centre for
Geographical Studies (CEG) of the same institute. Her current research activities focus on migration dynamics and migrant transnationalism, migration, mobilities and urban transformation; migration, demographic change and regional development. She is a member of the International Steering Committee of the Metropolis International Project and of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board of IMISCOE Research Network - International migration, integration and social cohesion in Europe.

**Mubarak Hussein** is the Director General of UREP (Refugees Union in Portugal), member of European Council on Refugees and Exiles, and Assistant Coordinator for Fórum Refúgio.

**Fran Meissner** is Assistant Professor of Critical Geodata Studies and Geodata Ethics at the University of Twente. Her research is focused on contemporary urban social configurations and how – in times of datafication – these are transformed through international migration. She is particularly interested in how new tech, commercial actors, data and analysis methods are altering processes of diversification and how academics can critically engage with those changes.

**Sónia Pereira** is the High Commissioner for Migration of Portugal, thus assuming the role of President of the Management Board of the High Commission for Migration (ACM.I.P.). With a degree in economics and a PhD in geography, from the University of Lisbon, Sónia Pereira was formerly responsible for coordinating the Government’s Assistance Project for Refugee Resettlement at the Lisbon office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). As a researcher in this field she has been a member of the Centre for Geographical Studies at IGOT-University of Lisbon.

**João Tremoceiro** holds a degree in Biophysical Engineering from the University of Évora and a post-graduate degree in Spatial Planning and Resource Management from Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon. He was responsible for several services in the city of Lisbon and is currently Chief Data Officer and Director of the Center for Management and Urban Intelligence of Lisbon.

**Nicos Trimikliniotis** is a legal and sociology expert. He is Professor of Sociology at the School of Social Sciences, University of Nicosia. He heads the team of experts of Cyprus team for the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU. He is also a trained Barrister and legal expert who has researched on nationality, citizenship, asylum and immigration law and Labour Law, constitutional and European law and fundamental rights, free movement of workers, discrimination, state theory, conflict and reconciliation, digitalities, work, precarity.

**Ricard Zapata-Barrero** is Coordinator of EuroMedMig and of EUMedMi Jean Monnet Network. He is Full Professor at the Department of Political and Social Sciences, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain). Director of GRITIM-UPF (Interdisciplinary Research Group on Immigration) and the Master Program in Migration Studies. He is also member of the Board of Directors the European Network IMISCOE (International Migration and Social Cohesion in Europe) and Chair of its External Affairs Committee.