



# Gender & Migration between Research and Policies

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Recommendations for improving coordination  
between Research and Policy:  
the French case



This document has been elaborated under the European funded project GEMMA ([www.gemmaproject.eu](http://www.gemmaproject.eu)) which aims to improve the flow of communication between researchers, policy-makers and civil society organisations in the field of Gender and Migration research.

In September 2009, the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (the French GEMMA partner) organised a workshop where academic researchers and Policy-makers discussed how to improve their future collaboration and drafted together this guidelines that should be intended as a plan to be implemented at national level. The electronic version of this document is available on GEMMA website: <http://www.gemmaproject.eu/documentslist.aspx?subcat=3>

The debate analysis produced several policy recommendations that could be the basis for **an action plan** that forces the cooperation as a standard procedure in research practice.

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## 1. Introduction

The second GEMMA France workshop took place at September 22nd at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris. It aimed at presenting and disseminating results from European projects on gender and migration, as well at reinforcing the communication and strengthening the dialogue between researchers specialised in the field of gender and migration and Policy-makers who deal with these issues.

Half of the participants who presented their work and expressed their opinion were researchers, half were Policy makers.

## 2. Thematic groups

After a presentation of GEMMA by the the French GEMMA team (Monika Salzbrunn from Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, responsible, Stefanie Lämmermann, Salima Amari, Elsa Lagier), European and national research projects were presented as well as the needs for Policy-makers on a local, regional and national level, and recommendations for improving a dialogue between policy maker and researchers were discussed according the most important sub-themes.

Despite the fact the most of the research projects cover several themes, the workshop was divided into three thematic groups:

- Labour migration
- Migration and politics, migration policy
- Migration and identities

### 2.1 Labour migration

The round table on labour migration was organised around the presentation of four European projects, SERVANT (presented by Suzanne Pasleau from University of Liege), PROMINSTAT (presented by Tatiana Eremenko from National Institute for Demographic Research in Paris, INED), CIVIC STRATIFICATION (presented by Eleonore Kofman from Middlesex University), accompanied by a related project on downgrading of immigrants, presented by Florence Lévy (from University of Neuchatel), and one selected GEMMA national project, « Les rôles et perspectives des femmes relais en France » (The roles and perspectives of female mediators in France, presented by Catherine Delcroix from University of Strasbourg). Laurence Roulleau-Berger (from CNRS/Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon) has presented her related research on labour migration between China and France, and Adelina Miranda (University of Naples and research group gender, work, mobility at University Paris 8) has presented her research on female immigrants in the domestic sector in Italy. Martin Clément, a policy maker representing the HALDE (Haute Autorité de Lutte contre les Discriminations et pour l'Egalité, High Authority of Struggle against Discrimination and for Equality), as well as Kais Marzouki, a policy maker from l'Agence Nationale pour la Cohésion Sociale et l'Egalité des Chances (National Agency for Social Cohesion and Equal Opportunities, ACSE) have presented the specific needs of those institutions concerning research and policy recommendations.

Recommendations concerning labour migration

- Struggle against inequalities between countries on the global level in order to limit economic migrations
- Policies in favour of family migration, particularly the right for parent(s) to migrate with their children
- Deliver a special residence permit for people working in the domestic sector
- Develop the juridical frame of the profession (e.g. avoid sanctions following the change of an employer)
- Simplify administrative issues (e.g. by introducing and/or developing service vouchers with tax advantages) in order to lower undocumented work
- Facilitate recognition of diploma obtained abroad
- Recognize professional experience
- Professionalise the work of mediators; develop a diploma; give them access to paid employments as mediators
- Support civil society associations (linked to the domestic service sector, but also to other sectors)
- Develop more research programs that allow to understand discrimination based on **sex and origin**
- Develop a European Directive concerning the struggle against double- or multi-discrimination; provide data on this phenomenon and develop strategies to fight against it – this concerns a majority of female migrants
- Provide opportunities and/or develop affirmative action programs in order to allow migrants upscale social mobility

### 2.2 Migration and politics, migration policy

The migration policy round table included presentations of policy makers from different local, regional and national levels: Pascale Boistard, responsible for the integration of non-European citizens at the city of Paris, Michèle Loup, responsible for gender and migration issues at region Ile de France, and Fodé Sylla, member of the Social and Economic Council. Isabelle Carles from Free

University of Brussels has presented the GENDERACE project results and Jane Freeman from University Paris 8 and from the Terra-Network has given an overview on the issues that are related to asylum and gender.

Recommendations concerning migration and politics, migration policy:

- Researchers should not only focus on national policy, but also on decentralised levels like the regional and communal level, where the application of national or European policies might differ according to the context
- Researchers and policy makers regret the lack of qualitative and quantitative data concerning gender and migration. The amount of data is slowly increasing, but often, the gender aspect is not central and gets only minor attention.
- Data are often not comparable on a European level. The collection of data should be harmonised in order to provide a solid basis for comparison of different national contexts
- Women are less visible in public policies. Their engagement and their claims are often ignored. Researchers and policy makers think that their expertise should be better included in policy making as well as in research
- Migration experience and the competence acquired thanks to the circulation practices should be recognised and valorised. The high potential linked to the migration experience is not used because it is not recognised

### 2.3 Migration and identities

During the migration and identities round table, several projects were presented: Claude Dargent from University Paris-8 presented his research on religious practices amongs first and second-generation immigrants; Beate Collet presented the study conducted with Emmanuelle Santelli on forced marriage. Kaïs Marzouki has presented the needs of ACSE (Agence Nationale pour la Cohésion Sociale et l'Égalité des Chances, National Agency for Social Cohesion and Equal Opportunities) concerning research on gender and migration, and Ferial Kachoukh from OPALE (Observer, Penser, Agir avec les Lois pour l'Égalité, Observe, Think and Act with Equality Laws) has presented a political action program against discrimination and the link with research projects.

Recommendations concerning migration and identities:

- Establish surveys and research programs that compare rights and de facto applications of immigrants rights and equality/anti-discrimination laws
- Take into consideration the diversity of women's movements
- Take into consideration the variety of female trajectories
- Analyse the use of feminism by political forces that do not necessarily support women
- Discrimination programs based on race have underestimated or ignored gender issues, so that a combination of gender and race issues should be taken into consideration during research
- Knowledge on primo-arriving female immigrants is needed
- Research on different social strata of female migrants is needed, and should be input into migration and gender policies
- Research programs that establish a concrete application for secondary and higher education programs is needed, so that recent research results are taken into consideration by teachers
- Political action has focused on anti-violence programs etc. and should now integrate middle-class immigrants and highly skilled immigrants
- Political action should provide programs concerning personal rights including access to employment, access to birth control etc.
- The richness and diversity of male and female life courses should be taken into consideration

### 3. Recommendations for improving the dialogue between researchers and policy makers

- Develop quantitative **and** qualitative research
- Cross different variables, particularly **race and gender**
- Develop research on double- or multi-discrimination (e.g. based on gender, sexual orientation and/or origin) and ground anti-discrimination programs on the results of this research, in a collaborative scheme between researchers and policy makers.
- Develop research programs that take into consideration the transnational practices and the circulation of migrants and give this input into policy making: in fact, policies are often based on national frames although transnational migration by definition goes beyond national borders.
- Facilitate access to research results
- Develop stable and long term cooperation between researchers and policy-makers. Therefore, the very frequent changes of representatives for migration and gender issues within the Ministries and administrations should be avoided. The creation of particular communication paths could help to overcome the problems due to the frequent change of speakers and employees within these services.
- Establish a permanent dialogue on several levels: the European, the national, the regional and the local level, because the very specific territorial context should be taken into consideration. Often, cooperation on a regional and/or a local level has a better output than on a national level.