



Government of the  
Republic of Moldova



International Organization for Migration,  
Mission to Moldova



European Union

# MOLDOVAN DIASPORA MAPPING SERIES II

## MAPPING OF THE MOLDOVAN DIASPORA IN ITALY, PORTUGAL, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM



CHISINAU 2013

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an inter-governmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

The study is the result of a research performed by National Expert, Diana CHEIANU-ANDREI, under the coordination of the International Organization for Migration, Mission to Moldova, within the framework of the IOM EU ENPI-funded project “Supporting the implementation of the migration and development component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership”.

The analyses and findings of this report, the interpretations and conclusions expressed herewith belong to the authors and not necessarily reflect the opinions of the European Commission and International Organization for Migration.

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Mission to Moldova



## **MOLDOVAN DIASPORA MAPPING SERIES II**

# **MAPPING OF THE MOLDOVAN DIASPORA IN ITALY, PORTUGAL, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Development of migration management strategies, as well as those related to the involvement of Moldovan migrants communities abroad in the development of Republic of Moldova should be based on awareness of the situation of these communities, as well as on their prospects. In this respect, the International Organization for Migration planned a comprehensive study on the socio-economic profile of Moldovan citizens residing temporarily or permanently abroad, as well as their communities. The specific research objectives focused on the analysis of professional and social integration in the countries of destination, assessment of the migrants' relations with the country of origin and diaspora organizations, knowledge of diaspora organizations development and cohesion, as well as their future projects.

In order to identify the multiple problems and needs of Moldovan migrants communities in the European Union, as well as the benefits brought by them to their families of origin, a complex methodology was used, consisting of both quantitative methods of sociological research (questionnaire-based interviews), as well as qualitative methods (in-depth interviews, focus groups). The research methods helped acquiring an understanding of the life style of Moldovan migrants abroad, their future plans, integration in the country of destination and keeping ties with the homeland at micro-social level (family and community), as well as at macro-social (fulfilment of their civic duty as a citizen of Republic of Moldova by participating in the elections), attitudes towards the migration phenomenon and the possibility to harness the experience for a better cooperation with the migrants community abroad and to submit recommendations on the development of strategies for the return of Moldovan migrants and their involvement in the development and modernization of Republic of Moldova. Respectively, the research paints a general picture of the Moldovan diaspora in four EU countries: Italy, Portugal, France and the UK, as well as the specific situation in each of the analysed countries.

Collected quantitative data within the study has certain limitations in terms of representativeness of results, given the lack of information on the number of Moldovan citizens temporarily or permanently settled abroad, as well as persons originating from Republic of Moldova and their descendants.

As revealed by the *Mapping the Moldovan diaspora in Italy, Portugal, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* study, migration is triggered by the discrepancy in welfare and salary levels in the Republic of Moldova and the studied countries. The decision to migrate and the selection of the country of destination is influenced by the presence of friends, acquaintances, and/or relatives in the countries of destination. Labour migration prevails (72%), followed by permanent migration (18%), and

migration for education (8%), the other reasons (medical treatment, business) being much more rare.

There are differences in the profile of Moldovan migrants for the analyzed countries, which are determined most frequently by the demand of the labour market. The groups of migrants in Italy and Portugal are balanced in terms of age, whereas in France and the United Kingdom 18-40 year-old migrants predominate, most of whom are students (24 per cent in France and 11 per cent in the United Kingdom). From the gender perspective - in France and Portugal migrants communities are balanced, whereas female migrants predominate in Italy and male migrants in the United Kingdom. The migrants in the EU countries have a high level of education, either higher education or even scientific degrees.

The study reveals that activities carried out by the Government authorities in the countries of destination, especially in Italy and Portugal, have had a positive impact on the legalization of Moldovan migrants, who used to stay irregularly on the territory of those countries. In this manner, the number of irregular migrants has decreased significantly over the past few years.

The migrants from Republic of Moldova, holding the Romanian citizenship, can travel freely in the European Union and stay legally on the territory of EU states. The research reveals that 87 per cent of migrants from the UK, 49 per cent of migrants from France and 24 per cent of migrants from Italy hold Romanian citizenship.

Sixty-five per cent of Moldovan migrants find the existing social networks of Moldovan migrants in the countries of destination to be an important factor for their integration in the labour market. The occurrences of situations when paying a percentage of the salary to intermediaries who help migrants find a job is less frequent: Italy (11%), France (7%), Portugal (5%) and almost inexistent in United Kingdom (1%).

The analysis of Moldovan migrants in terms of their former employment in Moldova reveals that 19 per cent of Moldovans worked in the education system, trade - 14 per cent and health-care and social services - 11 per cent. This explains the high qualification level of Moldovan migrants. However, while abroad, Moldovan migrants work in economic sectors where labour force is in demand - community, social and personal services (33%), construction (20%), household management services (13%).

Only 12 per cent of migrants from surveyed EU destination countries managed to find a job in the same areas of economic activity as in Moldova, as a rule in the area of construction, health-care and social services, transportation and communication, communal, social and personal services. Of all Moldovans who were employed before emigration, only 21.7 per cent work in the same professional area as in Moldova (according to the Classification of Occupations ISCO-88). More than half of them are low-

qualified workers, and a part of them are qualified workers in construction, operators of machines and devices, specialists of average qualification, service workers, shop and market sales workers. In the case of most migrants a gap is noticed between their level of education, qualification and their job. Thus, the overqualified Moldovan workers are employed and provide low-qualified works, which eventually leads to the decrease or even loss of their qualification (*brain waste*).

The number of Moldovans, who establish businesses abroad is low – 6 per cent of the studied sample. The biggest share of Moldovans, who started up a business abroad, is in France (9%) and the lowest – in Italy (2%). Moldovans mainly start up businesses abroad in the area of construction, trade, community, social and personal services.

47.3 per cent of Moldovan migrants, who were interviewed during the study, work on the basis of a long-term employment contract, 28.3 per cent on the basis of a short-term employment contract, 23.8 per cent on the basis of a verbal agreement<sup>1</sup>. It has been found that one in four migrants work informally. There are differences in the ways of employment in the four European Union countries. Over 80 per cent of Moldovan migrants work legally in Italy and Portugal on the basis of long or short-term contracts, while in France and United Kingdom, 63 per cent and 48 per cent respectively work informally, on the basis of verbal agreements.

Among the multitude of difficulties encountered by Moldovan migrants abroad, the language issues rank the first, followed by employment problems, legalization of their stay on the territory of the host country and labour exploitation. The instances of labour exploitation are more frequent in Italy, being reported by over one third of respondents and are mainly characteristic of home care services system, which is less regulated. In France migrants have frequent problems with access to health-care services (one third of respondents). The discrimination of migrants (abuse, humiliation, limitation or denial of access to public services) by employers is more frequent in France, as well (almost 18 per cent of migrants).

In order to solve the problems encountered abroad, migrants seek first of all the assistance of their co-nationals from that country, and only afterwards they use the services of other institutions, which differ for the studied countries. The Moldovans from Italy more often seek the assistance of law enforcement bodies, trade unions, nationals of that country, including the embassy/consulates of the Republic of Moldova in Italy; those from Portugal more frequently seek the assistance of law enforcement bodies, embassy/consulate, including diaspora organizations; those from France -

<sup>1</sup> The difference of up to 100 per cent is applicable to people who aren't aware of the legal grounds of their employment.



from their relatives in Moldova, French citizens, law enforcement bodies, including embassy/consulate of the Republic of Moldova, and those from the United Kingdom - from law enforcement bodies, citizens of that country, other co-nationals.

The church is an essential element in the life of Moldovans abroad, just like in the Republic of Moldova. The Moldovan migrants go to the Moldovan Orthodox or Romanian Orthodox church. Most frequently, church is the place where co-nationals meet for the religious holidays, where they commemorate the most important life events - weddings, baptisms, - which make them feel like at home.

The Moldovan diaspora in the European Union countries, especially Italy, Portugal, France and the United Kingdom is being formed and under development. The difficulties encountered by representatives of diaspora organizations are determined by the low participation level of Moldovans in various activities. The organizations have a small core of people, who dedicate their time for this activity. However, a large part of associations have managed to become an important source of information for Moldovan migrants, to promote the Republic of Moldova abroad, its traditions and customs, to maintain relations with migration services from the countries of destination, to cooperate with various social stakeholders. The services provided by the diaspora organizations from Portugal are the most frequently used. 47.4 per cent of participants in the research mentioned that they kept in touch with them, if compared to 38.7 per cent of migrants from France, 27.0 per cent - from Italy and 19.0 per cent - from the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

Being abroad, 35 per cent of Moldovan migrants search regularly, and 49 per cent search occasionally for information about the social, political and economic situation of the Republic of Moldova, communicating frequently with the relatives or friends remained in the country of origin. Sixty two per cent of Moldovans from the United Kingdom, 53 per cent of those from Italy, 49 per cent of those from France and 28 per cent from Portugal sent remittances to Moldova to help their core or extended families to improve their financial situation.

Migration is a phenomenon that disrupts emotional ties within the family, sometimes leading to family dissolution, as reported by most migrants from the studied countries; however most of them don't regret their migration experience.

Some Moldovan migrants have obtained the citizenship of the countries of destination. Out of all countries included in the study, Portugal is the country with the biggest number of Moldovans holding its citizenship - over 6,000 Moldovans according to the official data of the Portuguese authorities. The number of Moldovans with French, UK, and Italian citizenship was much lower when the study was carried out, but will increase in the following years, as

more Moldovans will meet the eligibility conditions for the citizenship of the host country (period of legal stay, period of legal employment, knowledge of the language of the country of destination). But, not all of those who have the citizenship of the host country intend to remain permanently abroad. Some Moldovan migrants intend to return to the Republic of Moldova at an elder age. However, currently most of the Moldovan migrants are in a “standby” mode, without any clear objectives for the future. The decision whether to remain permanently abroad or return to the home country will depend on the social, economic and political circumstances from the countries of origin and destination. Of the less than 20 per cent of migrants, who stated their intention not to return to Moldova, 7 per cent have taken action confirming their intentions of settling down permanently abroad (obtained citizenship, invested in expensive assets, started up a business, reintegrated their family abroad).

The study provides policy recommendations to central public authorities and diaspora organizations, which are aimed at improving labour migration management and strengthening diaspora organizations. Respectively, the Government of Republic of Moldova should undertake the following actions: (i) signing social security agreements with main countries of destination of Moldovan migrants, (ii) support circular migration programmes for Moldovans, (iii) develop programs for Moldovan diaspora enabling it to keep ties with Moldovan migrants, as well as to preserve national traditions and customs, including the promotion of Moldovan culture abroad (iv) create favourable conditions for the development of the business environment, set up more programs of channelling remittances in the economy, thus encouraging Moldovan migrants' return to the homeland. Moldovan diaspora organizations should develop partnership relations, should strengthen collaboration with local authorities in the countries of destination and origin and should work on developing their services.

Taking into account the major concern shown for Moldovan migrants abroad, people from Republic of Moldova and communities they formed in the host countries, it should be noted that this study is addressed to:

- Policymakers who develop and implement sectorial public policies;
- Representatives of Moldovan diaspora organizations as they work in close contact with Moldovan migrants;
- Moldovan migrants who need to know where to seek assistance when encountering problems while being abroad;
- The population as a whole, who needs to be up to date with the social realities abroad, with the possibilities and opportunities that Moldovan migrants benefit from abroad.

Migration remains a challenge for Republic of Moldova, providing opportunities and posing risks to the level and perspectives of the country's sustainable development. Plenty of studies were carried out that underline the multiple aspects of this process – migration trends<sup>2</sup>, remittances<sup>3</sup>, situation of migrant households<sup>4</sup>, effects of migration on education<sup>5</sup>, consequences on certain socio-professional categories<sup>6</sup> or on vulnerable groups (children, the elderly)<sup>7</sup>.

Migration remains the focus of Moldovan authorities, researchers and international organizations, given the increasing numbers of people involved in migration and the multiple economic, demographic, social, cultural and other types of consequences. In these conditions, it is necessary to identify how migration could contribute to the development of Republic of Moldova, to become aware of the problems encountered by migrants communities abroad and their strategies for the future.

The study *Mapping the Moldovan diaspora in Italy, Portugal, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* aimed at researching the social-economic profile of Moldovan citizens temporarily or permanently staying abroad, persons originating from the Republic of Moldova and their descendants, as well as their communities<sup>8</sup>, in order to help the Moldovan Government develop migration management policies.

The research had the following specific objectives:

- To identify the sociodemographic, economic and social-cultural profile of Moldovan migrants;

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<sup>2</sup> Luecke M., Mahmoud T.O. and Pinger P. (2007). *Patterns and Trends of Migration and Remittances in Moldova*/ International Organization for Migration, Mission to Moldova. – Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, p.9.

<sup>3</sup> Luecke M., Mahmoud T., Steinmayr A. (2009). *Labour Migration and Remittances in Moldova: Is the Boom Over?* – Chisinau, p.18.

<sup>4</sup> IOM (2008). *How Moldovan Households Manage Their Finances Knowledge and Practices*/ International Organization for Migration. Survey Report. – Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. – P. 22.

<sup>5</sup> ILO (2012). *Evaluarea legăturilor dintre educație și migrațiune în Republica Moldova (Assessment of the relation between education and migration in the Republic of Moldova)*. – Chisinau. Working Paper.

<sup>6</sup> ILO (2012). Cheianu-Andrei D., *The impact of migration on teaching staff and researchers in Moldova*. Chiainau. Working Paper.

<sup>7</sup> UNICEF Moldova and Child Rights Information Center (CRIC) (2008). *The Impact of Parental Deprivation on the Development of Children Left Behind by Moldovan Migrants*. Working Paper. Cheianu-Andrei D., Gramma R., Milicenco S. etc. (2011). *Specific needs of children and elderly left behind as a consequence of migration*. – Chisinau.

<sup>8</sup> The term **diaspora**, used in this paper, includes "the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, with temporary or permanent stay abroad, persons originating from the Republic of Moldova and their descendants, as well as their communities", according to the Decision of the Republic of Moldova Government no. 780 of 19.10.12, Article 7<sup>j1</sup>.

- To assess the integration of Moldovan migrants in the foreign labour market;
- To analyze the migrants' relation with the home country;
- To analyze the level of migrants' social integration in host countries and their relations with diaspora organizations;
- To assess Moldovan diaspora development and cohesion, as well as its level of self-management;
- To gain awareness of migration strategies of Moldovan migrants.

This study is addressed to migrants and their families, representatives of the Moldovan diaspora communities, representatives of the central and local public authorities of Republic of Moldova, in particular the Bureau for Diaspora Relations, all stakeholders interested in increasing the degree of diaspora's involvement and encouraging the investment of the social and financial capital accumulated abroad in the development of the home country.

This research was carried out by collecting and analysing the opinions of different social stakeholders: Moldovan diaspora, representatives of diplomatic missions abroad, representative of the local public authorities from Moldova and studied countries. It has consulted their opinion on migration, trends, migrants' motivations and expectations, activity of diaspora organizations, return perspectives of migrants to Republic of Moldova.

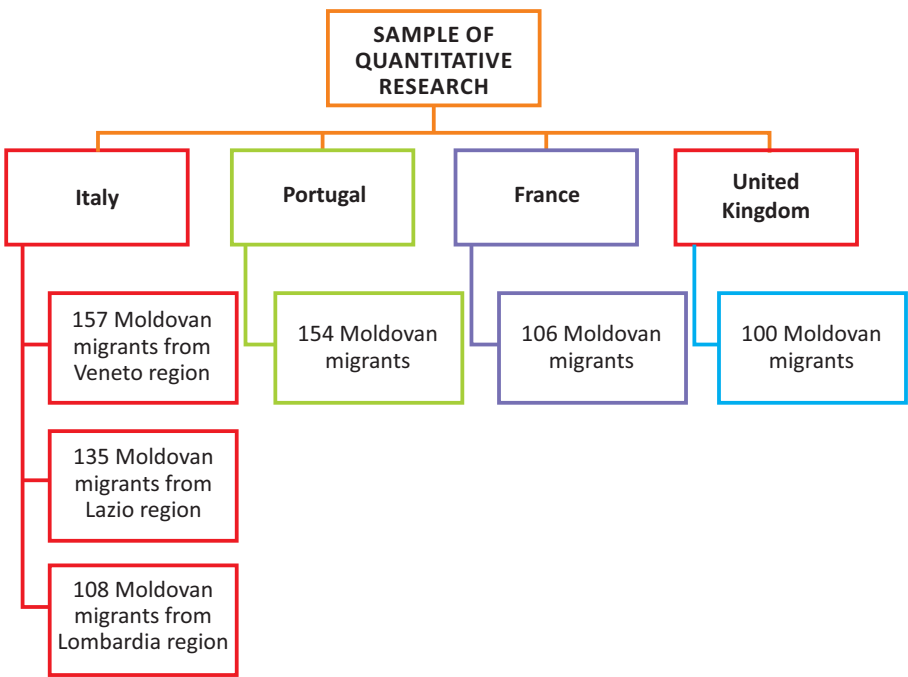
# METHODOLOGY OF THE MAPPING STUDY

A complex methodology was used in order to achieve the goal and objectives of the mapping. The analysis of relevant statistical data was complemented by primary data, collected through quantitative and qualitative methods in the Republic of Moldova and four countries of destination of Moldovan migrants – Italy, Portugal, France and the United Kingdom.

## Quantitative Research

The data was collected through a questionnaire-based sociological survey. The questionnaires were applied during standard face-to-face interviews, conducted by Moldovan migrants, who were trained preliminary for that purpose. The survey was carried out on a sample of 760 respondents from four abovementioned countries (see Figure 1).

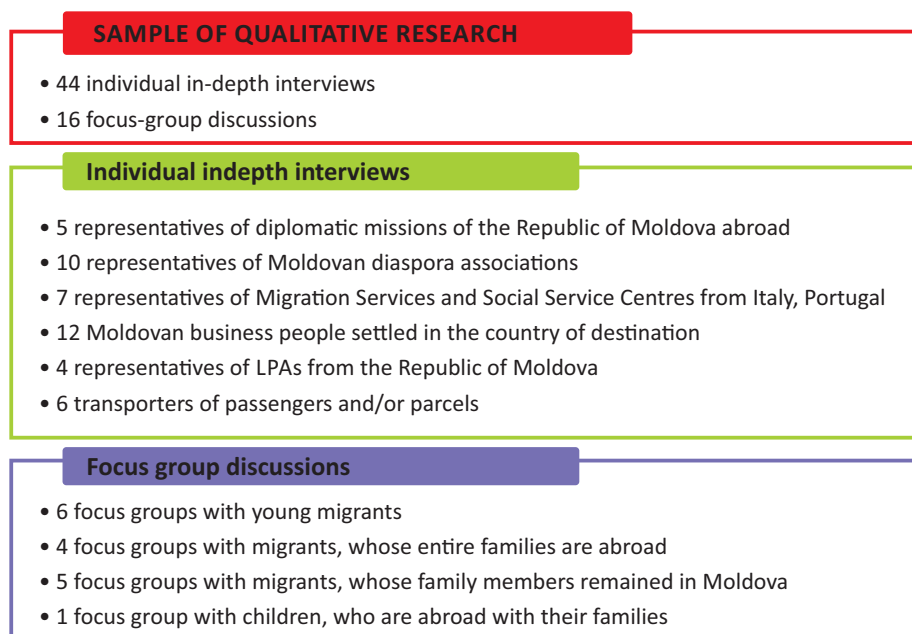
Figure 1: Sample of the quantitative research



## Qualitative Research

The qualitative research consisted of 44 in-depth individual interviews with experts and 16 focus-groups discussions with the Moldovan migrants abroad (see Figure 2).

The data was collected during 16 May – 16 August 2012.

**Figure 2: Sample of the qualitative research**

**Note:** The LPA representatives were selected on the basis of data collected as part of *Mapping of Moldovan diaspora in Italy, Portugal, France and the United Kingdom* study:

- Mereni village from Anenii Noi rayon, which has the highest number of Moldovan migrants in Italy;
- Ungheni town, which has the highest number of Moldovan migrants in Portugal, and is a twin town with the Portuguese town of Cascais;
- Corjeuti village from Briceni rayon, which has the highest number of Moldovan migrants in France;
- Costesti village from Ialoveni rayon, which has the highest number of Moldovan migrants in the United Kingdom.

The focus-group discussions were held with different categories of Moldovan migrants: young migrants<sup>9</sup>, Moldovan migrants, whose entire families were abroad, Moldovan migrants with family members left in Republic of Moldova, and children of Moldovan migrants who stay abroad with their family<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> The young migrants included people between 18 and 30 years of age.

<sup>10</sup> The migrants' children, who participated in the research, were 14 to 17 years of age.

**Table 1: Data on participants of focus-group discussions**

Number of focus group discussions	Category of participants	Number of participants
	<b>Italy</b>	
	<b><i>Rome</i></b>	
1 FG	Migrants with the entire family abroad	10
2 FG	Young migrants	7
	<b><i>Padova</i></b>	
3 FG	Migrants with family members left in Moldova	8
4 FG	Migrants with the entire family abroad	7
5 FG	Young migrants	9
	<b><i>Brescia</i></b>	
6 FG	Migrants with family members left in Moldova	12
7 FG	Migrants with the entire family abroad	11
8 FG	Young migrants	8
9 FG	Moldovan children staying abroad with they family	10
	<b>Portugal</b>	
	<b><i>Lisbon</i></b>	
10 FG	Migrants with family members left in Moldova	6
11FG	Migrants with the entire family abroad	9
12 FG	Young migrants	7
	<b>France</b>	
	<b><i>Paris</i></b>	
13 FG	Migrants with family members left in Moldova	8
14 FG	Young migrants	10
	<b>United Kingdom</b>	
	<b><i>London</i></b>	
15 FG	Young migrants	7
16 FG	Migrants with family members left in Moldova	7

The focus group participants were selected using the "snow-ball" method with the help of representatives of the Moldovan diaspora organizations. The focus-group discussions lasted for two hours on the average and were audio-taped with the participants' permission.

## Limitations of the Study

The quantitative data collected within the *Mapping the Moldovan diaspora in Italy, Portugal, France and the United Kingdom* study have certain limitations, especially when it comes to representativeness of the results. This is related to the difficulty of conducting precise estimations on the number of Moldovan migrants residing temporarily or permanently abroad.

However, despite these data limitations, the objectives posed by the study - to develop an overall profile and describe main characteristics of the Moldovan migrants and people from Republic of Moldova residing abroad – were reached, which makes the findings and the recommendations valid and relevant for operational and policy decision-making in the area of diaspora engagement.

## I. SURVEY PARTICIPANTS' SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The study *Mapping of Moldovan diaspora in Italy, Portugal, France and the United Kingdom* reveals that the youngest groups of migrants are in the United Kingdom (52.0% are aged 18-30 years) and France (49.1% are aged 18-30 years). But in Italy and Portugal was found a higher number of Moldovan migrants aged over 41 years, including over 50 years, if compared to France and the United Kingdom, (see Table 1.1).

From the gender perspective, the groups of Moldovan migrants are balanced in France and Portugal, while in Italy – it's mostly women and in the United Kingdom - men.

The analysis of migrants in terms of their education reveals that over 50 per cent of migrants from France and United Kingdom have higher education.

As the groups of migrants in the United Kingdom and France are the youngest, it has been found that about one third of the migrants from these countries are not married, and 10 per cent live in cohabitation. At the same time, Italy has the highest share of divorced or widow Moldovan migrants - 19.3 per cent.

**Table 1.1: Migrants' profile**

		Italy	France	Portugal	United Kingdom
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>760 migrants</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>100</b>
Age groups	18-30 years	<u>33.8%</u>	<u>49.1%</u>	<u>33.1%</u>	<u>52.0%</u>
	31-40 years	30.5%	35.8%	<u>29.2%</u>	27.0%
	41-50 years	20.5%	9.4%	26.0%	16.0%
	50 years and over	15.3%	5.7%	11.7%	5.0%
Sex	Male	29.3%	49.1%	46.8%	<u>71.0%</u>
	Female	<u>70.8%</u>	50.9%	53.2%	29.0%
Educational level	Incomplete secondary education	4.3%	2.8%	2.6%	4.0%
	Full secondary education	23.8%	14.2%	18.8%	17.0%
	Specialized secondary or vocational education	34.5%	27.4%	38.3%	27.0%
	Higher education, full, or scientific degree	37.5%	<u>55.7%</u>	40.3%	<u>52.0%</u>
Civil status	Never married / single	24.8%	32.1%	24.0%	<u>39.0%</u>
	Married	50.8%	46.2%	64.9%	44.0%
	Cohabitation	5.3%	12.3%	3.9%	10.0%
	Divorced / widower	<u>19.3%</u>	9.4%	7.1%	7.0%



Thirty per cent of the surveyed sample has experience in migration for over 10 years, 25 per cent - from 5 to 10 years, and 45 per cent - up to 5 years<sup>11</sup>. The research data reveals that Portugal was the first major country of destination for citizens of Republic of Moldova, thus 42 per cent of respondents arrived to that country more than 10 years ago. The second migration wave was directed towards Italy, and the most recent destination of migration is the United Kingdom (see Table 1.2).

There's a tendency among some participants in the study to bring all their family members abroad. The family reunion is characteristic especially for Italy and Portugal.

It is significant to mention that 47.4 per cent of all respondents have double citizenship. The share of persons with double citizenship is the highest in the United Kingdom - 95 per cent of migrants (87 per cent hold the citizenship of Romania, 4 per cent - the UK citizenship, and other 4 per cent - the citizenship of another EU state, besides the citizenship of the Republic of Moldova), and the lowest share in Italy - 27 per cent (24 per cent - citizenship of Romania, 2 per cent - the citizenship of the host country and one per cent - the citizenship of another EU state).

Portugal has a specific situation, where 62 per cent of Moldovan migrants already have the Portuguese citizenship and only 7 per cent - the Romanian citizenship. The representative of the High Commissariat for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI)<sup>12</sup> from the respective country stated that over 6,000 Moldovan migrants had received the Portuguese citizenship during 2009-2011. The research also revealed the migration of Moldovan with Portuguese citizenship towards the United Kingdom, Italy, and France.

The low number of Moldovan migrants with Romanian citizenship in Italy is explained by the migration policy of Italian authorities, which promoted the legalization of migrants. Out of all countries, Portugal developed policies on the legalization and integration of migrants, granting them citizenship, whereas Italy promoted policies on the legalization of migrants' stay, facilitating thus the regular migration of Moldovans.

Most of Moldovan migrants from the studied countries are circular migrants<sup>13</sup> (short-term - up to one year, or long-term - longer than one year).

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<sup>11</sup> The migration experience also includes the regulated and less regulated returns to the country of origin.

<sup>12</sup> ACIDI - Alto Comissariado para a Imigração e Diálogo Intercultural.

<sup>13</sup> Vadean F., Pirachia M. (2009). *Circular migration or permanent return: what determines different forms of migration?* Department of Economics discussion papers: KDPE 09/12. - University of Kent; Wickramasekara P. (2011). *Circular Migration: a Triple Win or a Dead End?*, Discussion Paper No.15. – Geneva.

**Table 1.2. Migrants' characteristics by country (%)**

		Italy	France	Portugal	United Kingdom
Presence of family members	All family members are abroad <sup>14</sup>	62.3	64.2	<u>70.8</u>	60.0
	With family members left in Moldova	37.8	35.8	29.2	40.0
The period of the migrants' stay in the respective country	Up to 3 years	20.8	37.7	7.8	<u>62.0</u>
	4-6 years	22.0	34.9	16.2	23.0
	7-10 years	<u>37.8</u>	20.8	34.4	12.0
	Over 10 years	19.5	6.6	<u>41.6</u>	3.0
Double citizenship	<b>Total with double citizenship</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b><u>68.2</u></b>	<b><u>95.0</u></b>
	With the citizenship of the host country	1.8	5.7	<u>61.7</u>	4.0
	With Romanian citizenship	23.8	<u>49.1</u>	6.5	<u>87.0</u>
	With the citizenship of another EU country	1.0	0.9	-	4.0

<sup>14</sup> The group of people who declared that all family members were abroad also includes single persons older than 18 years: 24.8 per cent single persons in Italy, 32.1 per cent single persons in France, 24.0 per cent single persons in Portugal and 39.0 per cent single persons in the United Kingdom.

## **II. MOLDOVAN DIASPORA: COMPARATIVE ASPECTS**

### **2.1. Migration: Motivations, Trends, Expectations**

The research data reveals that the social networks theory and neoclassical economic theory have a special value in the elucidation of reasons and trends of emigration from Republic of Moldova<sup>15</sup>. The analysis of reasons has revealed that the main factor determining emigration to Italy, France and Portugal was the existence of some migration networks based on the presence of friends or even acquaintances and as the secondary factors, the presence of parents/spouses, especially for Portugal, Italy (see Table 2.1). Moreover, the collected data allowed identifying some locations, whose inhabitants migrate exclusively towards certain destinations. For example, from Mereni village, Anenii Noi rayon, Carpineni village, Hancesti rayon, Boghicieni village, Hancesti rayon, Abaclia village, Basarabeasca rayon, Straseni town, Cimislia town to Italy; from Loganesti village, Hancesti rayon, Copaceni village, Sangerei rayon, Ungheni town to Portugal; from Corjeuti village, Briceni rayon, Caracusenii Vechi village, Briceni rayon, Gordinesti village, Edinet rayon, Trinca village, Edinet rayon to France; from Costesti village, Ialoveni rayon, Colibasi village, Cahul rayon, Cahul town to the United Kingdom.

Better employment opportunities abroad explain the migration generated mainly due to workers' different salary levels from different economic areas (neoclassical theory initiated by Lewis A., 1954; Ranis G. and Fei J., 1961). As a result, the highest average wages paid to Moldovan migrants are in the United Kingdom, thus explaining the choice of this country of destination.

At the same time, the reasons determining people to migrate allow us to differentiate the flows of migrants towards the four EU countries. Respectively, the knowledge of French language was the main reason for one fifth of respondents to choose this destination, as well as the knowledge of English language for the one fourth of respondents to choose the United Kingdom, explaining the stocks of young migrants, who go to study in those countries. For one fifth of respondents who migrated to the United Kingdom and over one tenth of respondents who migrated to France, the main reason was the possibility to find a job according to professional skills, which explains the presence of some flows of more qualified migrants towards these directions and the higher share of Moldovan migrants who have the possibility to assert themselves professionally abroad.

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<sup>15</sup> Massey, D., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A. and Taylor, J. (1993). Theories of international migration: review and appraisal// *Population and Development Review*, 19, p. 431–466.

**Table 2.1: Reasons underpinning the choice of the country of migration (%)**

	Italy	France	Portugal	United Kingdom
Better employment opportunities and a better income than in other countries	35.0	35.8	33.1	<u>81.0</u>
Relatively lower cost of living than in other countries	1.8	0.9	14.3	4.0
My children/My parents were already in this country/My husband was already here	23.0	17.0	<u>45.5</u>	12.0
I had friends/relatives in this country	<u>63.3</u>	<u>56.6</u>	<u>46.1</u>	<u>43.0</u>
I knew that people here were friendlier with foreigners	6.8	-	1.3	11.0
Better educational opportunities than in other countries/Higher quality education	4.3	16.0	6.5	8.0
I speak the language of this country	6.3	19.8	0.6	28.0
It is not difficult to obtain a visa or stay/work permit	7.0	2.8	9.1	-
It is not that difficult to enter the country illegally	6.8	-	1.3	-
I have lived / worked here before	1.8	2.8	-	13.0
Geographical / cultural similarities with Moldova	5.0	-	1.3	-
The qualifications acquired in Moldova are recognized	0.3	-	1.9	-
There are more opportunities to find a job in my area of activity	4.0	<u>11.3</u>	0.6	<u>20.0</u>
Those who helped me to migrate offered me the possibility to come to this country	5.3	3.8	1.9	2.0

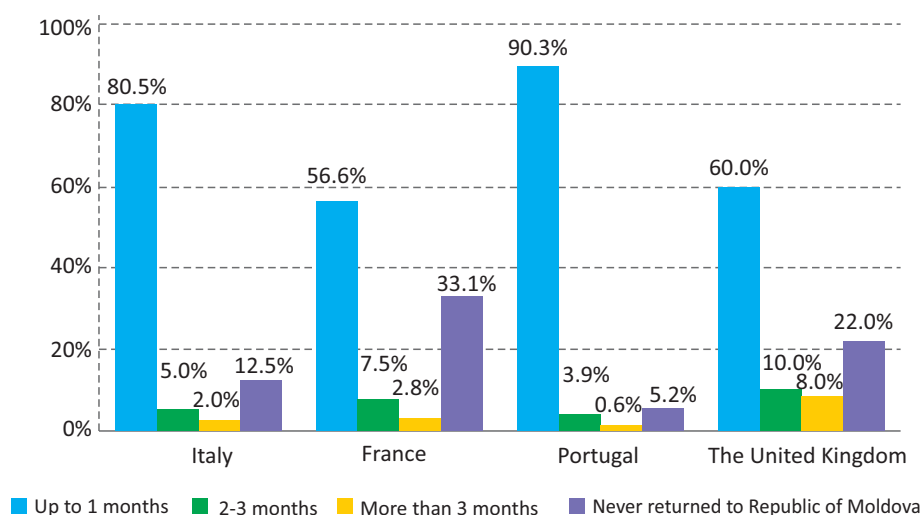
The analysis of migration from the perspective of the year when migrants returned to the host country reveals that the United Kingdom has the highest return migration rate, with more than half of respondents visiting Moldova in 2012, and a much lower rate in Portugal, where 40 per cent visited Moldova in 2011 and 38 per cent in 2010 or earlier.

It is worth paying attention to the groups of migrants who have never returned to the country of origin after their arrival to the country of destination. Most probably these are the irregular migrants, who cannot return to their homeland in order not to break the migration cycle, or those who have employment contracts that do not allow/ provide for vacations. The share of such migrants is the highest in France - 33 per cent and the United Kingdom - 22 per cent and the lowest in Portugal - 5 per cent (see Table 2.2).

**Table 2.2: Return of Moldovan migrants to the homeland (%)**

	Italy	France	Portugal	United Kingdom
This year (2012) visited Moldova	36.5	37.7	17.5	<u>51.0</u>
Last year (2011) visited Moldova	<u>38.0</u>	24.5	<u>39.6</u>	22.0
Visited Moldova more than 2 years ago (2010 and earlier)	13.0	4.7	<u>37.7</u>	5.0
Never returned to the homeland	12.5	33.1	5.2	22.0

Most migrants come back to Moldova for a one-month period, as they usually return to the homeland during the holidays. Eighteen per cent of migrants from the United Kingdom tend to return home for a period of two-three months (and more than three months), which is explained by the fact that some of them have businesses in Moldova (see Figure 2.1).

**Figure 2.1: Period of stay in Moldova during the latest return (%)**

The Moldovan migrants from Portugal and the United Kingdom have fulfilled most of their expectations in terms of family welfare, exposure to a new culture, organizing their personal life (full or partial fulfilment of these expectations). Approximately one third of respondents had the opportunity to buy real estate in Moldova.

France, Portugal and the United Kingdom offer more opportunities for Moldovan migrants to have a successful career, find an interesting job or settle down in that country - if compared with Italy.

## 2.2. Professional Training and Integration in the Labour Market

The study reveals that the social networks of Moldovan migrants play an important role not only during the migration process, but also when integrating in the labour market. In each of the studied countries more than 60 per cent of migrants found a job with the help of friends or relatives working in the country of destination.

Another efficient way to find a job, which Moldovan migrants resort to, is contacting the employer directly, especially in Italy (12%) and Portugal (17%). The Internet is used successfully for employment purposes by 15 per cent of migrants from France and 8 per cent of migrants from the United Kingdom. Sometimes migrants use the services of employment agencies from host countries, mainly in the United Kingdom - 13 per cent. Other employment ways are used much more seldom (see Table 2.3).

Only a small number of Moldovan migrants make some payments or offer gifts to reward those who helped them finding a job. The situations when Moldovans have to reward the persons who helped them to find a job are more frequent in Italy (11.2%), more seldom in France (7.1%), Portugal (5.0%) and United Kingdom (1.3%).

**Table 2.3. Ways of identifying job opportunities (%)**

Ways of identifying job opportunities	Italy	France	Portugal	United Kingdom
Internet	3.4	3.9	14.8	8.2
Newspapers	3.3	2.3	2.5	1.6
Through an employment agency from the host country	8.3	2.3	6.2	13.1
Through a private employment agency in Moldova	0.6	-	1.2	-
Using the services of an intermediary	7.2	3.1	9.9	4.9
With the help of a friend / relatives who work in this country	<u>65.5</u>	<u>68.0</u>	<u>66.7</u>	<u>62.3</u>
With the help of charities, religious organizations	3.1	1.6	2.5	-
With the help of Diaspora	-	3.9	2.5	-
By contacting directly the employer	12.3	17.2	9.9	8.2

Since their arrival in one of the four studied countries of destination 26.9 per cent of Moldovan migrants have been working in the same place.

The analysis of Moldovan migrants in terms of their former job sector in

Moldova reveals that they mainly worked in the education system - 19 per cent, trade - 14 per cent and health-care and social services - 11 per cent. This explains the high qualification level of Moldovan migrants. However, while abroad, Moldovan migrants work in job sectors where labour force is in demand - community, social and personal services (33%), construction (20%), household management services (13%).

Only 12 per cent of the migrants from these countries managed to get employed in the same job sector, as a rule in construction, health-care and social services, transportation and communication, community, social and personal services (see Table 2.4).

**Table 2.4: Job sectors of Moldovan migrants in the Republic of Moldova and abroad (%)**

No.	Job sector	Worked in Moldova, % (493 persons)	Work abroad, % (621 persons)	The share of those who have not changed their job sector, %
1.	Agriculture	7.7	1.1	0.2
2.	Mining and quarrying	0.2	-	-
3.	Processing industry	9.1	6.3	0.8
4.	Production and distribution of electricity, gas and water	1.4	0.6	0.2
5.	Construction	6.7	19.6	<u>5.1</u>
6.	Wholesale and retail	14.4	4.2	0.4
7.	Hotels and restaurants	4.5	9.7	0.6
8.	Transport and communications	6.9	6.0	<u>1.0</u>
9.	Financial activity	3.9	1.0	0.6
10.	Real estate transactions, leasing and services	0.4	0.6	0.0
11.	State administration, social insurance	8.5	1.0	0.4
12.	Education	18.5	0.8	0.4
13.	Health-care and social services	10.8	2.9	<u>1.4</u>
14.	Other community, social and personal services	6.7	33.3	<u>1.0</u>
15.	Household management services	0.4	12.9	0.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12.4</b>

Only 21.7 per cent of all Moldovans who were employed before emigration work in the same occupational group as in Moldova (according to the Classification of Occupations ISCO-88). More than half of them are low-

qualified workers, and a part of them are craftsmen and qualified construction workers, operators of machines and devices, specialists of average qualification, service workers and shop and market sales workers (see Table 2.5). Among 78.3 per cent of Moldovan migrants there was registered a mismatch between their skills and the jobs they have. As a rule, Moldovans have jobs for which they are overqualified. The workers with medium level salaries have higher chances to assert themselves professionally.

**Table 2.5: Affiliation of migrants to professional groups in the host countries and homeland (%)**

No.	Professional group	Worked in Moldova (N=493), %	Work currently (N=621), %
1.	Managers of economic-social units	6.1	0.6
2.	Highly qualified specialists	26.6	3.2
3.	Specialists with medium qualifications	12.0	8.2
4.	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	2.2	3.4
5.	Office workers	18.1	6.4
6.	Qualified workers in agriculture	0	0.2
7.	Craftsmen and qualified workers in mining industry and construction	5.3	11.1
8.	Operators of machines and devices	11.0	9.0
9.	Non-qualified workers	18.9	57.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

5.9 per cent of the persons included in the sample have businesses abroad, the highest rate being in France (9.4%) and the lowest – in Italy (2.3%). Most businesses are open in the area of construction, trade, community, social and personal services.

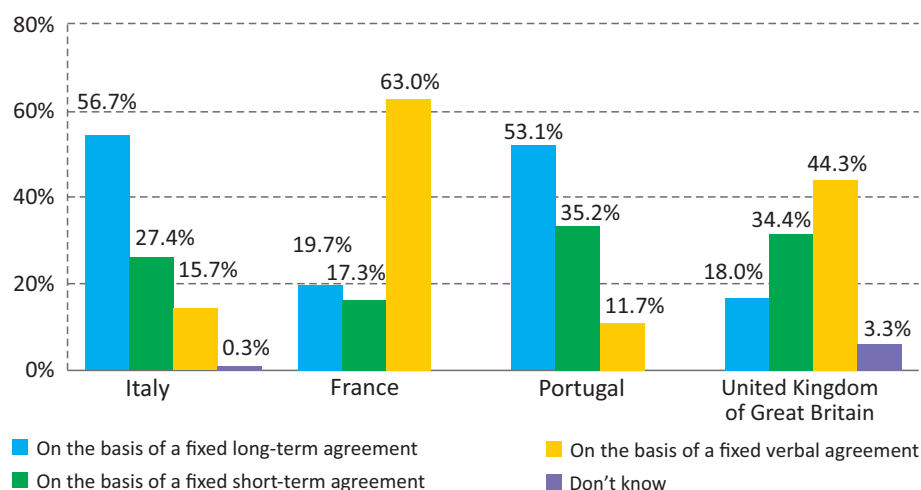
The results show that 47.3 per cent of Moldovan migrants work on the basis of a long-term employment contract, 28.3 per cent on the basis of a short-term employment contract and 23.8 per cent on the basis of a verbal agreement<sup>16</sup>. It means that one in four Moldovan migrants work informally (those who work on the basis of verbal agreements and those who are not aware of the legal grounds of their employment). There are differences in the ways of employment in the four EU countries. Thus, over 80 per cent of Moldovan migrants work legally in Italy and Portugal on the basis of long or short-term contracts, while in France and the United Kingdom, 63 per cent and

<sup>16</sup> The difference of up to 100 per cent is applicable to people who aren't aware of the legal grounds of their employment.



respectively 48 per cent work irregularly, on the basis of verbal agreements. A trend was observed in the studied countries, with small exceptions, where young people work on the basis of verbal agreements. There is a different situation in the United Kingdom, where verbal agreements are typical mainly for persons over 40 years of age.

**Figure 2.2: Working conditions of Moldovan migrants abroad (%)**



The Moldovan migrants, regardless of the country of migration, work eight hours a day and five days a week on the average. The number of Moldovan migrants with full-time employment is higher in the United Kingdom and Portugal, while in Italy and France it's the lowest (see Table 2.6). At the same time, 17 per cent of migrants from Italy, 14 per cent of those from the United Kingdom, 11 per cent of those from France and four per cent of those from Portugal have two or more jobs, managing to accumulate at least 40 hours a week in total.

**Table 2.6: Workload of Moldovan migrants abroad (%)**

	Italy	France	Portugal	United Kingdom
Full time <sup>17</sup>	57.5	61.7	78.9	78.7
Part time	41.6	38.3	21.0	19.7
Did not answer	0.9	0	0	1.6

The income of Moldovan migrants ranges from EUR 120 to EUR 4,000 a month; however there are significant differences between the studied countries (see Table 2.7).

<sup>17</sup> Migrants who work 40 hours a week and more.

**Table 2.7. Income earned by Moldovan migrants abroad (EUR)**

	Italy	France	Portugal	United Kingdom <sup>18</sup>
Minimum income	260	400	120	350
Maximum income	4000	3700	2000	3750
Average	1030	1493	922	1735
Median	980	1400	870	1650
Module	1000	1400	1000	1250

When it comes to work teams, which include Moldovan migrants, there are some differences, determined by the peculiarities of sectors where Moldovans are mainly employed abroad. Thus, in Italy 36.4 per cent of migrants work as caregivers, alone in the households of persons that they look after, 30.8 per cent - in groups consisting mainly of citizens from the host country, 20.0 per cent in joint work teams, 7.2 per cent in groups consisting mainly of Moldovans, other in groups consisting mainly of persons from the EU or CIS countries. The characteristic feature for Portugal is the occurrence of work teams consisting mainly of citizens of the host country (34.3%), followed by joint work teams (33.6%), people not working in work teams (21.6%), work teams of Moldovans (5.2%) and to a lesser extent groups consisting of people from CIS countries or Northern Africa. In France and the United Kingdom the share of Moldovan migrants who work in groups of co-nationals is much higher, constituting 16.5 per cent and 13.6 per cent respectively, a situation which determines the formation of construction teams.

The members of the work teams speak the language of the host country; sometimes they speak both the language of the host country and the native language and rarely another language (Russian or a foreign language). The research data from the United Kingdom shows that Romanian language is the most frequently spoken one, which is explained by the type of performed works (construction) and by the poor knowledge of English language among a large number of migrants, who have arrived recently in this country.

Among the array of difficulties encountered by Moldovan migrants abroad, the language issues rank the first, followed by employment problems, legalization of stay on the territory of host countries and labour exploitation (see Table 2.8).

There are also some specific peculiarities for the studied countries. Instances of labour exploitation are more frequent in Italy, 36.3 per cent cases being reported, and are mainly typical for the home care services, which are less regulated by the Italian legislation. In France migrants have frequent

<sup>18</sup> For comparability purposes, the income indicated by migrants from the United Kingdom were converted to EUR at the GBP/EUR exchange rate of National Bank of Moldova as of July 01 2012, when data collection started in the United Kingdom (GBP 1.0 = EUR 1.25).

problems with access to health-care services - 32.1 per cent of respondents signalled these problems. The discrimination of migrants by employers is also more frequent in France, where problems such as verbal violence, prohibition of access to public services, as well as issues of misunderstandings among the migrants exist.

**Table 2.8: Difficulties encountered by Moldovan migrants abroad (%)**

No.		Italy	France	Portugal	United Kingdom
1.	Employment-related problems <sup>19</sup>	<u>52.3</u>	<u>66.0</u>	<u>41.6</u>	<u>61.0</u>
2.	Labour exploitation	<u>36.3</u>	<u>26.4</u>	<u>22.7</u>	<u>16.0</u>
3.	Language problems	<u>54.5</u>	<u>72.6</u>	<u>81.8</u>	<u>49.0</u>
4.	Problems of communication with the family left in Moldova	11.5	25.5	5.8	5.0
5.	Medical/ health issues or lack of access to medical centres due to the lack of money or too expensive medical services	21.3	<u>32.1</u>	18.2	7.0
6.	Problems related to the legalization of stay on the territory of the host country	<u>46.5</u>	<u>60.4</u>	<u>29.2</u>	<u>30.0</u>
7.	Discrimination by employers	15.5	<u>17.9</u>	4.5	8.0
8.	Problems with local authorities	3.3	9.4	0.6	4.0
9.	Problems / misunderstandings with the citizens of this country	9.0	3.8	1.9	3.0
10.	Problems / misunderstandings with Moldovan migrants	6.0	<u>15.1</u>	7.1	5.0
11.	Problems / misunderstandings with migrants from other countries	4.5	6.6	1.3	8.0

In order to solve encountered problems, Moldovan migrants first of all turn to their relatives from the host country, and only afterwards they seek the services of other institutions, which differ among the studied countries. Moldovans from Italy also seek the assistance of law enforcement bodies, trade unions, citizens of this country, including embassy/consulates of the Republic of Moldova to Italy. Lastly, they request the assistance of churches or representatives of the diaspora organizations (see Table 2.9). Moldovans from Portugal ask frequently for the support of law enforcement bodies, embassy/consulate, including from the diaspora organizations. In Portugal the support of trade unions and organizations providing services to migrants is very rarely sought. As a rule, the Moldovans from France seek the assistance of their relatives from Moldova, French citizens, law enforcement bodies,

<sup>19</sup> The difficulties related to the identification of job opportunities and employment due to the status (irregular, initially for most Moldovan migrants from Portugal, Italy, France).

including the embassy/consulate of the Republic of Moldova in this country. In France, the migrants seek very seldom the support of trade unions and diaspora organizations. In the United Kingdom, the difficulties determine Moldovan migrants to seek the assistance of law enforcement bodies, citizens of this country, other co-nationals.

The research data shows that the diaspora organizations from Portugal have managed to win the migrants' trust thanks to the provided services. Respectively, over one third of migrants from this country seek their services when they encounter problems.

**Table 2.9: Who Moldovans turn to when encountering problems (%)**

	Italy	France	Portugal	United Kingdom
Relatives, friends living in the host country	<u>78.0</u>	<u>71.7</u>	<u>89.6</u>	<u>71.0</u>
Relatives, friends living in the Republic of Moldova	33.8	<u>34.9</u>	26.0	12.0
Nationals of the host country	35.8	<u>34.0</u>	26.6	<u>22.0</u>
Moldovan fellowmen who aren't friends or relatives	21.3	21.7	18.2	16.0
Representatives of Diaspora organizations	<u>15.8</u>	<u>6.6</u>	<u>37.0</u>	<u>11.0</u>
Law enforcement bodies	<u>49.5</u>	33.0	<u>57.8</u>	<u>26.0</u>
Organizations that protect migrants' rights	31.5	13.2	35.1	10.0
Social organizations that offer various services for migrants	21.0	10.4	8.4	-
Church	16.0	18.9	13.0	14.0
Embassy/Consulate of the Republic of Moldova in the host country	34.0	30.2	<u>56.5</u>	14.0
Local public authorities	30.8	14.2	24.7	5.0
Employer	32.8	22.6	20.1	1.0
Trade unions	<u>48.8</u>	0.9	9.1	-

As in the case of Republic of Moldova, the church is an essential element in the life of Moldovans abroad. Moldovan migrants go to the Moldovan Orthodox or Romanian Orthodox church. Usually, the church is the place where they meet to celebrate religious holidays and where they commemorate the most important life events – weddings, baptisms; sometimes it's a venue where migrants exchange information. It was found that many times migrants travel long distances, 20-30 km, to participate in religious ceremonies.

Moldovans who stay abroad attend church services in different premises,

leased out by the congregations of the host countries for a period of days, except for the community of Moldovans from Padova, Italy, which was granted in 2006 for use purposes an old church, on behalf of the Romano-Catholic church of Padova that has been abandoned for 85 years, and is an important historical monument from the nineteenth century.

In Padova, the Moldovans' Association for International Social Solidarity ONLUS was set up under the aegis of the church<sup>20</sup>, which promotes the Moldovan culture, art and traditions and encourages people to contribute financially for the support of orphanages and nursing homes for elderly people from the Republic of Moldova.

The church from Montreuil, a small town in the vicinity of Paris, manages to draw around it the Moldovan migrants and offers them needed support during the most difficult moments, as well as some social integration services. Thus, the Community Centre, opened under the aegis of the church, has a library with books in Romanian, offers Romanian language courses for children and French language courses for adults.

### 2.3. Support Provided to Migrants by Diaspora Organizations

An important aspect of migration, studied very little so far, is the self-organization of Moldovan migrants in diaspora organizations in the countries of destinations. These associations provide support both to migrants, as well as to the countries of origin and destination. The desire to lead an active social life and the civic spirit, manifested within the migrants' associations, stems from the need to keep in touch with the country of origin, and also represent an important instrument of local integration.

Most of the Moldovan diaspora organizations in the studied countries are still young and operate on the basis of volunteers (see further details for each separate country). Most leaders of diaspora organizations understand that the position of the chairperson implies accountability, sacrifices, volunteer work.

Besides other encountered difficulties, they have to cope with the low-level of participation of Moldovans in various activities. This is why it is necessary to build trust between migrants and associations. The organizations have a small number of members, who dedicate their time for this activity, but the majority of migrants are indifferent to the actions initiated and conducted by the diaspora associations. However, a large part of these associations have managed to become an important source of information for Moldovan migrants, to promote Republic of Moldova abroad, its traditions and customs, to maintain relations with migration services from the region where they

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<sup>20</sup> Social utility NGOs according to Italian Law no. 460 as of December 07 1997. Once entered in the so-called ONLUS register, the ONLUS members enjoy a number of facilities, especially in the fiscal area.

operate and discuss existing problems, to cooperate with various social stakeholders. Thus, some diaspora associations currently provide support to different groups of people.

The services provided by diaspora organizations from Portugal have the highest access frequency - 47.4 per cent of participants in the research stated that they kept in touch with them, if compared with 38.7 per cent of migrants from France, 27.0 per cent from Italy and 19.0 per cent from the United Kingdom. Thus, Moldovans turn to diaspora organizations from Portugal to get advice, information booklets about this country, information or assistance related to their dealings with law enforcement bodies or local public authorities, and last but not least, to learn Portuguese (see Table 2.10). It should be stressed out that Moldovan migrants prefer cultural-artistic events.

**Table 2.10. Services provided to Moldovan migrants  
by diaspora organizations (%)**

No.	The answer of those who keep in touch with Diaspora organizations	Italy 27%	France 38,7%	Portugal 47,4%	United Kingdom 19%
1.	Assistance with accommodation	3.7	14.6	2.7	<u>21.1</u>
2.	Assistance with employment	14.8	12.2	16.4	<u>26.3</u>
3.	Assistance with receiving/sending parcels from/to Moldova	12.0	19.5	12.3	<u>21.1</u>
4.	Information about kindergartens, schools	6.5	9.8	<u>13.7</u>	5.3
5.	Information / Assistance with the registration, issuance of the work permit	18.5	19.5	11.0	<u>31.6</u>
6.	Information / Assistance in communicating with local public authorities	14.8	14.6	<u>30.1</u>	15.8
7.	Information/Assistance in relations with law enforcement bodies	18.5	14.6	<u>34.2</u>	15.8
8.	Advice	<u>67.6</u>	<u>53.7</u>	<u>75.3</u>	<u>63.2</u>
9.	Mitigate conflicts with other co-nationals	3.7	7.3	5.5	-
10.	Booklets, leaflets about the life in the host country	<u>70.4</u>	24.4	46.6	21.1
11.	Booklets, leaflets about the life in Moldova	<u>78.7</u>	41.5	19.2	26.3
12.	Invitations to participate in cultural-artistic events	<u>84.3</u>	<u>87.8</u>	<u>80.8</u>	57.9
13.	Courses to study the language of the host country	18.5	<u>43.9</u>	<u>30.1</u>	10.5
14.	Romanian courses for children	7.4	<u>12.2</u>	4.1	-

The Moldovan migrants, regardless of the country of their stay, mentioned often the lack of a venue where they could meet periodically and build relations between them. Here are some other needs, which they would like to be addressed by diaspora organizations: (i) cultural centres to promote the national culture, traditions and customs; (ii) language training centres, teaching language courses for adults (English, Italian, French, Portuguese) and for children (Romanian); (iii) information and legal consultancy services, including online; (iv) services of entrepreneurial consultancy (how to start up and run a business in Moldova or abroad); (v) psychological services for migrants, families.

## 2.4. Perspectives of Return to the Republic of Moldova

The comparative analysis of durable goods owned by Moldovan migrants in the host countries and homeland shows a trend among some Moldovans of purchasing real estate abroad, as well as keeping their savings. Most of Moldovan migrants have more often businesses abroad than in Moldova. The United Kingdom is an exception to this rule, where 5 per cent of the interviewed migrants have businesses in the host country and only 3 per cent - in the country of destination (see Table 2.11).

Procurement of real estate, start up of a business also shows the willingness of these Moldovans to integrate in the host countries.

**Table 2.11: Goods and real estate owned in Moldova and in the countries of destination (%)**

No.		Italy		Portugal		France		United Kingdom	
		Goods owned in Moldova	Goods owned in the country of destination	Goods owned in Moldova	Goods owned in the country of destination	Goods owned in Moldova	Goods owned in the country of destination	Goods owned in Moldova	Goods owned in the country of destination
1.	Own real estate	54.5	7.8	53.8	3.8	66.2	14.3	47.0	7.0
2.	Mortgaged property	2.8	5.3	4.7	4.7	0.6	18.8	12.0	4.0
3.	Agricultural lands	30.5	0.3	33.0	0.9	30.5	0.6	35.0	1.0
4.	Plot of land for house construction	15.0	-	30.2	3.8	19.5	0.6	22.0	2.0
5.	Business	1.3	2.8	2.8	5.7	1.3	5.8	5.0	3.0
6.	Vehicle or other expensive goods	14.5	40.8	27.4	42.5	15.6	67.5	24.0	38.0
7.	Cash savings	13.5	34.0	34.9	34.0	19.5	59.7	11.0	36.0

Most Moldovans abroad, when asked about their future plans, state that they are in “*standby*”<sup>21</sup> mode. As a rule, they have short-term plans, and their future depends on a number of circumstances that at the moment can be hardly evaluated. The number of Moldovans who declared their willingness to return to Moldova for good is small and is mainly determined by the fulfilment of their migration expectations. At the same time, in each of the studied countries up to 20 per cent of Moldovans decided never to return to Moldova (see Table 2.12).

**Table 2.12: Plans regarding the permanent return to the Republic of Moldova, by countries (%)**

Intention to return	Italy	Portugal	France	United Kingdom
Yes, I intend to live and work in Moldova	30.0	14.9	28.3	34.0
No, never	17.5	14.9	15.1	19.0
I do not know / It is difficult to answer	52.5	70.2	56.5	47.0

In order to differentiate the stocks of people who plan never to return to Moldova, from those who certainly will not return, an indicator of integrated Moldovan migrants was drafted on the basis of the following:

- those who plan not to return;
- those who took a firm decision and actions in this respect (family reunion, citizenship, place of living);
- those who will not change their decision by any means.

As a result, it has been established that only 7 per cent of Moldovan migrants, who declared that they plan to never return to Moldova, meet all three requirements described above and will not return to live in the country of origin: 8 per cent of those from Italy, 8 per cent of those from the United Kingdom, 6 per cent of those from Portugal, 5 per cent of those from France. Our conclusion is that most Moldovan migrants, though holding the citizenship of the host country, intend anyway at a certain time to return to live in Moldova.

Migration leads to labour-force shortages in Moldovan migrants'

<sup>21</sup> *Standby* – situation occurring when the migrant does not have a vision regarding his/her future and objectives. On the one hand, the migrant has not decided yet to remain in the country of destination, respectively does not make any efforts to integrate culturally, linguistically and so on and, on the other hand, has not decided to return to the country of origin either, respectively he/she is very little interested in the social-political and economic situation from the country of origin. Such a behavior makes the migrant neither a full citizen of the country of origin, nor a person fully integrated in the country of destination, leading to "self-marginalization".



communities of origin. The interviewed representatives of Local Public Authorities (LPA) mentioned how staffing was difficult for Moldovan entrepreneurs: *„We have business entities that have been looking for employees for half a year and can not find any. A limited liability company received a sewing order from an Italian company. They are looking for seamstresses and are willing to pay MDL 1,500 to 3,500 a month”* (IIA\_mayor\_Mereni); *“There are vacancies. For example, Led Corporations would like to extend up to 2,000 employees and cannot find any”* (Representative of LPA\_Ungheni). On the other hand, the salaries offered in Moldova are not competitive and frequently it is the reason why the return to the homeland is delayed.

The programmes encouraging investment of remittances to start up a business in the Republic of Moldova are very little known by Moldovan migrants. Representatives of LPAs regard the PARE 1+1 Programme as *„cumbersome, slow in operation... there is a boy trying to obtain funding for one year already, and he is still waiting for a decision”* (Representative of LPA\_Ungheni). The biggest problem, in the view of LPAs, is the banks: *„the banks are monopolies. The Government initiates such projects as the National Programme for Economic Empowering of Young People, PARE 1+1, but the project winners are left on their own when dealing with the bank”* (Representative of LPA\_Ungheni).

### III. COMMUNITIES OF MOLDOVAN MIGRANTS IN ITALY

#### Box 3.1 Statistical data about Moldovan migrants in Italy

On 1 March 2012, there were reported 149,558 regular Moldovan migrants on the territory of the Italian Republic.

Number of Moldovan citizens enrolled in educational institutions for the 2012 – 2013 academic year - 1,756 persons.

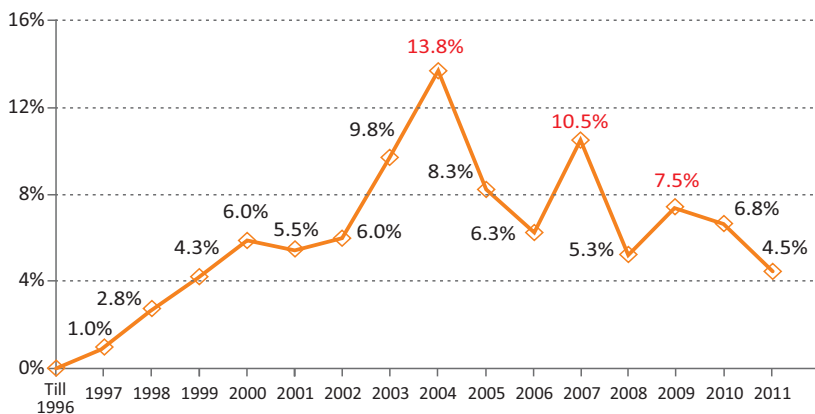
Number of identified Moldovan migrants in 2011 staying illegally - 651 persons; during the first five months of 2012 – 211 persons.

Moldovan citizens detained in Italian penitentiaries as of 11 May 2012 – 206 persons<sup>22</sup>.

#### 3.1. Migration: Trends, Motivations, Expectations

The research data shows that 14.1 per cent of Moldovan migrants, who participated in the mapping of the Moldovan diaspora study in Italy, have migrated to this country during the mid 1990s, and 35.1 per cent during 2000-2004. The peak of migration to Italy, according to surveyed participants was the year of 2004, followed by a decreasing trend, and some increases during 2007 and 2009. The research data reveals that the flow of Moldovan migrants to this country is decreasing and the share of those who arrived in Italy in 2011 amounted to only 4.5 per cent. Two per cent of the research sample immigrated to Italy during the first half of 2012 (see Figure 3.1). The collected data shows that 12 per cent of the research sample migrated to Italy for family reunion purposes; one third of them underwent this process during the past three years.

**Figure 3.1: Distribution of migrants who participated in the study by the year of their first entry in Italy, 1996-2011 (%)**



<sup>22</sup> Statistical data provided by representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to Italy.

The Moldovan migrants have settled mainly in the industrial areas in Northern and Central regions of Italy, and to a lesser extent in the South. For example, in the Veneto province Moldovans represented in 2011 the largest group of legal migrants (5,023 persons), and in Brescia province it was the eighth largest group (5,990 persons as of 31.12.2010).

The recent trends of decrease of flows of migrants to Italy are determined by the world economic crisis, which led to fewer employment opportunities, as well as new destinations for emigration - France, the United Kingdom.

As stated by representatives of the Italian migrant services, Moldovans are part of the second migration wave to Italy, together with Romanians, Bulgarians, Ukrainians and Russians. The first wave consisted of migrants from Northern Africa.

The migration of Moldovans to Italy was determined by the labour demand, especially for home care services, which is a less regulated job sector, offering much higher salaries, if compared to Republic of Moldova. A large part of Moldovan migrants - 41.3 per cent of the surveyed sample - are employed in home care services. The labour demand in this sector determined the female predominance of migration from Republic of Moldova to Italy. But, since 2006 an increase was noticed in the number of men migrating to Italy for family reunion purposes.

The analysis of Moldovan migrants' stock from Italy in terms of migration experience reveals that 72.8 per cent of them are at their first experience, but others have prior migration experience, mainly to the Russian Federation and Romania.

A part of Moldovan citizens from this country migrated illegally, with the assistance of an individual (39.5%). Other ways of migration among Moldovan migrants includes: on the basis of a Romanian passport or of another EU country passport (13.8%), legal migration via a formally registered employment agency (12.3%), legal migration as part of the family reunion process (10.0%), legal migration with the assistance of an individual intermediary (8.3%), on the basis of a tourist visa that eventually expired (7.0%). It should be noted that at the end of the previous century most of them used tourist visas, sometimes false passports. But due to the increase of ways of legal migration to Italy, this situation has changed gradually.

The emigration of Moldovans to Italy was not a simple process; some migrants had quite some difficult experiences:

*"We travelled one month and two weeks to Italy. We departed on 16 February and arrived on 28 March. We stayed for one month in Ukraine; they used to move us from Ujgorod to Odessa and from Odessa back to Ujgorod. Half of the trip from Romania we travelled in a truck, sitting on bags with fertilizers, and the other half of the trip - inside bags with peat and pesticides..." (FG\_2);*

*"We have arrived in one month and 10 days. The person, who sent us, took*

*money from us and drove us through Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Austria. We walked a lot by foot... When we arrived to Italy I had pneumonia and I was spitting blood. Everyone thought I had TB. A doctor treated me secretly as I didn't have any papers" (FG\_4);*

*"They gave us false Romanian passports... We were 4 women in the carrier of a car. During customs check we had to hold still, not move or cough... I arrived sick. My mother thought I had been already sold" (FG\_4);*

*„We departed in a group of 14 Moldovans and only three arrived, the rest were turned back on the way" (FG\_3);*

*"We arrived together with those girls, who were bound up under a train" (FG\_7).*

To emigrate from Republic of Moldova, Moldovans paid huge amounts of money (from EUR 900 to EUR 4,500), which as a rule were borrowed. A significant part of Moldovan migrants managed to return the loan and interest rate after the first years of work in Italy. However, other repaid huge amounts – *"I borrowed EUR 4,000 at an interest rate of 20 per cent. I had to repay EUR 800 a month. In total I repaid EUR 48,000" (FG\_4).*

The Italian Government regulated gradually the migrants' stay. The decrees issued annually by the Italian Government at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century stipulated the number of foreign citizens, who were allowed to enter the Italian territory. The employers had to go to the Immigration One-Stop-Shop from their region and request residence permits for non-EU citizens, who they wanted to hire. For that purpose they had to submit documents requested by the Italian authorities.

This way of legalization was characteristic for those employed in the homecare sector or household management services. The legalization of migrants and existence of an employment agreement offered more opportunities for migrants: *"you can have a bank account, access to health-care services, your own house; you can renew your documents without any troubles, reintegrate your family" (FG\_1).* However, for some Moldovan migrants it was difficult to initiate such a process due to the reluctance of Italian employers to grant migrants a regular status, who didn't want to pay the taxes.

The Romanian citizenship offered the possibility for Moldovans from Republic of Moldova to migrate legally. Actually this is more convenient for Moldovans than the residence permit offered by the Italian state, as it facilitates entry in all EU countries, and does not require additional expenses during the stay in Italy for the extension of that permit.

Some Moldovans, who had stayed legally for 10 years in Italy, submitted the necessary papers for being granted citizenship. At the moment of the study, the Moldovans with Italian citizenship accounted for only 1.8 per cent of the sample. But the number of persons who will apply for Italian citizenship will increase in the following years, as the first wave of Moldovan migrants to Italy

has already reached 10 years of legal stay. At the same time it should be underlined that it is more difficult to obtain the citizenship of Italy than of other EU countries, as it required 10 years of legal stay, and the legal provision of offering an answer within 730 since filing the application is not respected, as reported by some migrants. Some Moldovans reported having filed the application four years ago and still waiting for an answer from the Italian authorities.

Due to the global economic crisis, the number of employment opportunities decreased in Italy, leading to a decrease in salaries as well, that is why Moldovan migrants are motivated to migrate from Italy to France, the United Kingdom, Belgium. Perhaps, these flows will increase once the Moldovan migrants receive the Italian citizenship.

The number of Moldovans with an irregular stay in Italy decreased, but not definitely. The system of home care services has the highest number of irregular workers, if compared with other sectors, perhaps because many Italians were not willing to regularize the Moldovans working for them in order to avoid additional expenses. This is caused by the lack of any control in this sector. Last, but not least, some Moldovan migrants are unwilling to legalize their stay in order to avoid paying taxes. "Shady" employment is favoured because the migrants have higher salaries, as they do not pay any taxes (contributions) to the Italian state, as well because of the absence of an employment contract to facilitate the payment of retirement pensions to those who paid contributions, but will return to Moldova.

There are also children who emigrated from Republic of Moldova to Italy breaching immigration procedures. Most of them originate from villages of Cahul rayon. They left their homeland at the age of 14-15 years, being very well aware of the Italian legislation, as according to its national legislation, Italy must accept them without deporting them back to the country of origin. According to some estimation, there are about 100 such children, as reported by the Moldovan diplomatic missions from Italy.

The structure of reasons that determined Moldovans to migrate is diverse: to have a higher income (82.2%), to buy a house/apartment for the family/child (42.4%), to improve the family's living standards (38.3%), dissatisfaction with the social, economic, political situation (25.1%), debt repayment (24.8%), investment in children's education (23.3%), no future in Moldova (21.1%), "followed the spouse or a parent" (17.0%), "because most of my relatives are abroad" (14.8%), professional development and promotion (11.0%), to invest or start up a business in Moldova (9.0%), to continue the education (6.8%), other reasons (less than 6%)<sup>23</sup>.

The multitude of reasons can be grouped in five categories. The first category includes the short and mid-term needs of the family: improvement of

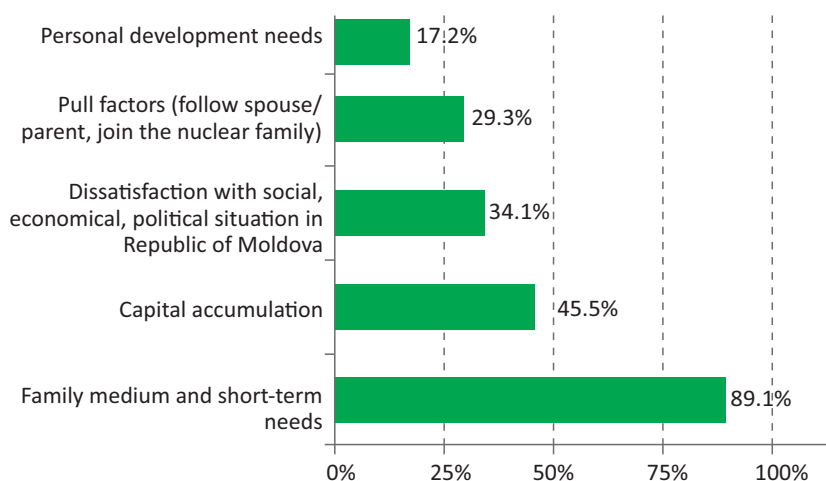
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<sup>23</sup> The respondents had the possibility of choosing multiple responses.

family's living standards, the possibility to have a higher income, support for the children's education, debt repayment: *"I had two jobs to earn a living for my family"; „I had five children and worked really hard, I also taught private classes. My husband was not working, he couldn't find any job"* (FG\_4). The second category includes the long-term needs of the family - capital accumulation: procurement of a house/apartment for the family/child, the willingness to invest or start up a business in Moldova. The personal development needs are included in the third category: continue education, possibility of professional development and promotion, gaining of new experience, trainings. The fourth category includes factors related to non-acceptance of the political, economic and social situation from Moldova: political, economic and social instability, no future in Moldova. The last category includes the pull factors: "to follow my spouse or a parent", "because most of my relatives are in this country".

It can be said that the main reasons of migration to Italy are the short and mid-term family needs, as well the possibility to accumulate financial capital. The personal development needs rank the last among migrants in Italy (see Figure 3.2).

**Figure 3.2. Factors determining migration from the Republic of Moldova to Italy (%)**



Migration for employment purposes predominates among migrants in Italy (80.5%), followed by family reunion (12.0%) and migration for education (3.5%). This country of destination was selected mainly because of the presence of friends and relatives, better employment opportunities and higher income, if compared with other countries, as well as the presence of family members in this country.

The expectations of Moldovan migrants from Italy are mainly related to solving their family's economic problems (improvement of financial situation,

procurement of real estate), as well finding an interesting job and getting to know the culture. The intention to settle down in this country ranks the last among Moldovan migrants (see Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1: Expectations of Moldovan migrants from Italy and their fulfilment (%)**

	Expectations	Fully fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Were not fulfilled
Improve the family's financial situation	90.7	46.7	36.0	8.0
Purchase real estate in Moldova	67.5	25.5	8.3	33.7
Organize personal life	54.1	25.0	12.8	16.3
Overcome the difficulties in Moldova	63.6	30.3	29.8	3.5
Settle down in this country	46.5	26.5	13.0	7.0
Get to know a new culture	76.0	55.0	20.0	1.0
Find an interesting job	78.8	20.5	18.3	40.0
Successful career	59.3	8.3	11.0	40.0

The research data shows that the plans related to improvement of financial situation, getting to know a new culture, settling down in this country were fulfilled (fully and partially) by most of Moldovan migrants. A significant part of Moldovans managed to acquire real estate in Moldova, thanks to working in this country. At the same time, there are difficulties in Italy with professional development. Thus, over a half of respondents stated that their plans to have a successful career and find an interesting job in this country had not been fulfilled.

### 3.2. Professional Training and Integration in the Labour Market

Most Moldovan migrants from Italy (75.7%) were employed at the moment of research, 12.0 per cent were previously employed but were looking for a job at that moment, 7.5 per cent were neither employed before, not looking for a job, 2.5 per cent were not employed before and were looking for a job and 2.3 per cent had a business abroad.

Job sectors of Moldovan migrants include: home care services (41.3%), household management services (15.1%), construction (11.1%), hotels and restaurants (9.1%), processing industry (7.4%) transport and telecommunications (4.6%), wholesale and retail (4.3%), health-care and social services (3.4%) (see Table 3.2). There is a difference in job sectors from the gender perspective. Women are employed in the sector of home care services, community, social and personal services, hotel and health-care services, and

men are employed in construction, industry, production and processing, transport and communications.

One fourth of Moldovan migrants from Italy, who started up a business, had already a business in the Republic of Moldova until emigration. The businesses of Moldovan migrants from Italy are in various economic sectors: construction, trade, hotel and restaurant services, transport and telecommunication and real estate and leasing services (see Box 3.2). Those who have businesses in Italy are abroad together with their entire families, except for those who have businesses in the transport sector. A noteworthy gender difference was observed: men start businesses in construction and transport sector, and women – in trade, hotel and restaurant services and home care services.

### **Box 3.2 Example of businesses in Italy**

#### **Clothes repair shop**

*"I started a family business. I am the owner. The prices used to be higher and taxes were lower, the rental fees were lower, we used to work from the computer... But now we work for 12 hours. We work without any breaks, the schedule is rarely broken... We provide good quality services. The quality of our work should be good in order not to lose clients"* (Businessman, clothes repair shop, Rome).

#### **Laundry**

*"We used our savings and bought the business. It is a good quality laundry. We wanted to start our own business. We wanted a bakery, but eventually bought a laundry... It is a family business. We have 3 children and we should move on. I learned how to use the washing machine, the fabrics, how to launder different types of fabrics..."* (Businessman, laundry, Brescia).

At the moment of survey execution, 7.5 per cent of Moldovan migrant workers in Italy were neither employed, nor looking for a job because they were either studying, were on maternity leave or were helping family members taking care of their grandchildren. And those who had not previously worked, but at the moment of research were looking for a job, had already graduated.

The data shows that 70 per cent of Moldovan migrants in Italy had previous working experience in Moldova. They worked in the area of education (18.1%), trade (13.2%), health-care and social services (12.5%), processing industry (12.5%), state administration and social insurance (7.1%), transport and telecommunications (6.8%).

Once arrived in Italy, most of Moldovan migrants have complied with the requirements of the Italian labour market, having to change their job. The share of migrants who haven't changed their job in the country of destination represents 10 per cent (see Table 3.2) and these sectors are: construction,



processing industry, transport and telecommunications, trade, hotel and restaurant, health-care and social services. However, the number of workers in the area of education, social insurance and trade has decreased significantly in Italy. A trend was observed among Moldovan migrants getting employed in sectors, such as home care and household management services, a share held by 56.4 per cent of migrant workers.

**Table 3.2: Job sectors of Moldovan migrants in the Republic of Moldova and Italy (%)**

No.	Job Sector	Worked in Moldova (N=281), %	Worked in Italy (N=351), %	The share of those who have not changed their job sector, %
1.	Agriculture	7.1	0.9	0.4
2.	Processing industry	12.5	7.4	1.1
3.	Production and distribution of electricity, gas and water	1.1	0.6	0.4
4.	Construction	4.6	11.1	2.8
5.	Wholesale and retail	13.2	4.3	0.7
6.	Hotels and restaurants	3.6	9.1	0.7
7.	Transport and communications	6.8	4.6	1.4
8.	Financial activity	3.6	0.6	0.4
9.	Real estate transactions, leasing and services	0.7	0.3	0
10.	State administration, social insurance	10.3	0.9	0
11.	Education	18.1	0.6	0
12.	Health-care and social services	12.5	3.4	1.4
13.	Other community, social and personal services	6.0	41.3	0.7
14.	Household management services	0	15.1	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>

This data reveals that 20.8 per cent of Moldovan migrant workers in Italy had held the same job since their arrival in Italy.

Only 22.4 per cent of Moldovan migrant workers who were previously employed before immigrating to Italy work in the same occupational group as in Moldova. Most of them are low-qualified workers (70%), and a part of them are qualified workers: specialists with mid-level qualification (7%), service workers and shop and market sales workers (7%), operators of machines and devices (6%), craftsmen and qualified workers in construction sector (6%) (see Table 3.3).

The average monthly salary of migrants in Italy is EUR 1,030 (the lowest – EUR 260, the highest – EUR 4,000).

**Table 3.3: Affiliation of migrant workers to occupational groups in the countries of origin and destination (%)**

No.	Occupational group	Worked in Moldova (N=281), %	Work currently in Italy (N=351), %
1.	Managers of economic-social units	5.0	0
2.	Highly qualified specialists	24.9	1.4
3.	Specialists with medium qualifications	12.8	7.1
4.	Office workers	3.6	2.3
5.	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	18.1	6.8
6.	Craftsmen, qualified workers in mining industry and construction	3.9	6.0
7.	Operators of machines and devices	9.6	6.0
8.	Non-qualified workers	22.1	70.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The young people who study in Italy stated that this country offered them more education opportunities and academic mobility – „*as a Master's student in Moldova, I couldn't have applied and do my research in USA or Australia*” (FG\_2). At the same time, they appreciate the education system of Moldova, regarding it as being well-organized.

The decision to continue education is more common among migrants who intend to stay long-term. Those who intend to integrate in the Italian society decide more frequently to continue their education or have their diplomas recognized. However, not all migrants can continue their education in Italy, even if they want to. Financial support is the key issue, and it takes time taking care of it. Moreover, in order to attend any training courses, they need to have a part-time job only.

Diploma validation process is quite difficult and costly, but not impossible (see Box 3.3). There are some Moldovan migrants who managed to complete the validation of their diplomas obtained in Moldova, take the exams to cover the curriculum differences and find a job in the same professional area. But their number is quite low.

The research also allowed identifying some success stories of Moldovan migrants in Italy who managed to build a career. Ambition, tenacity, existence of financial sources and family support are the key factors that lead to success. However, a problem may be that the majority of high-qualified Moldovan migrants do not want to have their diplomas validated, as their main concern is to improve their financial situation.

**Box 3.3 Case studies on diploma validation in Italy**

**Case study: Lawyer in Italy**

*"It was difficult, almost impossible. Initially I thought it was utopia, but eventually I have managed. My education and work experience in Romania was not enough for me to assert myself in Italy.*

*As I hold Romanian citizenship, I joined a Lawyer's Office. Nobody recognizes you automatically, you have to work as an intern for 3 years, after that you have to take exams and you can be granted a law license..."*

**Case study: Doctor in Italy**

*"I am a doctor and I've managed to build a career. After working hours I used to go to the university, I used to see my daughter only one hour a day; my husband was taking care of her..."*

*I have managed to open my Medical Office, own my house, bring here my family and be appreciated here, in Italy...*

*We are at least 15 doctors who have managed to assert ourselves and work in Italy. We took exams to have our qualifications validated; I attended training courses and became better. There are possibilities for our doctors here, they come with the education and experience acquired at home and become stronger here."*

Most Moldovan migrants from Italy encountered the following difficulties during their integration in the labour market: (i) lack of knowledge of Italian language (54.5% of respondents), (ii) legalization of their stay (46.5% encountered difficulties during the legalization of their stay in this country, others - 5.8% of respondents, which participated in the study, stated that they continue to stay irregularly in Italy), (iii) employment process itself (52.6%), (iv) labour exploitation issues (36.3%), (v) employer discrimination (15.5%).

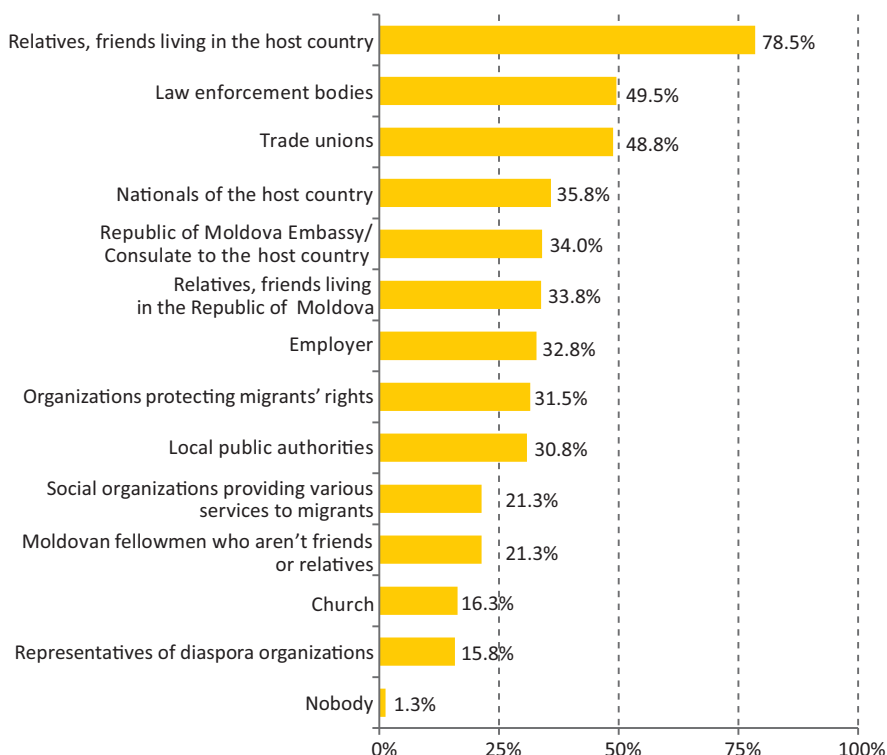
The research data reveals situations when Moldovan migrants are helped by third parties to get employed and have to reward them for that. In such situations, they have to give them the entire salary for the first month or a certain percentage of it. Recommendations are also a specific issue – *"Italians are reluctant to take stranger in their house and the one who recommends a certain person is responsible to a certain extent for him/her"* (FG\_1).

When facing problems, most Moldovans seek first of all the assistance of their relatives from the country of destination (78.5%), law enforcement bodies (49.5%), and trade unions (48.8%) (see Figure 3.3). The data reveals that only 15.8 per cent of Moldovan migrants seek the assistance of diaspora organizations from Italy when encountering problems.

The trade unions have an important role in supporting migrants in Italy. 48.8 per cent of participants in the study have contacted trade unions with view to finding out how to extend their period of stay, what documents to prepare for family reunion purposes. Trade union representatives explained them how to receive child benefits or unemployment benefits, in case they

lose their jobs. Trade unions can obtain lower rental fees for low-income families, especially for single mothers.

**Figure 3.3: Persons, who Moldovan migrants turn to, in order to solve problems encountered in Italy (%)**



### 3.3. Family and Migration

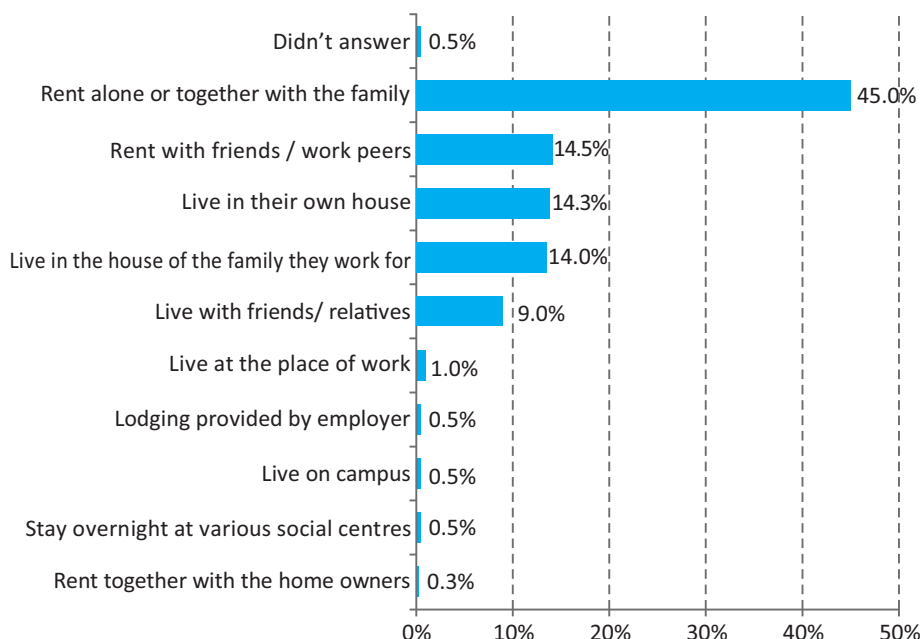
62.3 per cent of all Moldovan migrants from Italy are abroad together with their entire family<sup>24</sup>.

The following peculiarities were identified when it came to the accommodation of Moldovan migrants from Italy: most of them live either in a rented place alone or with the family (45.0%), either in a rented place with friends or work peers (14.5%), either in their own house, including the one of the Italian husband (14.3%), either in the house of the family they work for (14.0%), either at relatives' or friends' house (9.0%) (see Figure 3.4). The profile of Moldovan migrants who live in a rented place with their family is the following: most frequently they are persons of 18 to 40 years of age, married, who are with the entire family abroad, with an average period of stay in Italy.

<sup>24</sup> Single, widowed and divorced persons, who brought their children abroad, are also included here.

The Moldovan migrants, who own their house, are of different age, and most of them are married and have a longer period of stay (over seven years). At the same time, the profile of Moldovan migrants, who live in the house of the family they work for, is specific: these are mainly women over 41 years of age, with family members left in Moldova.

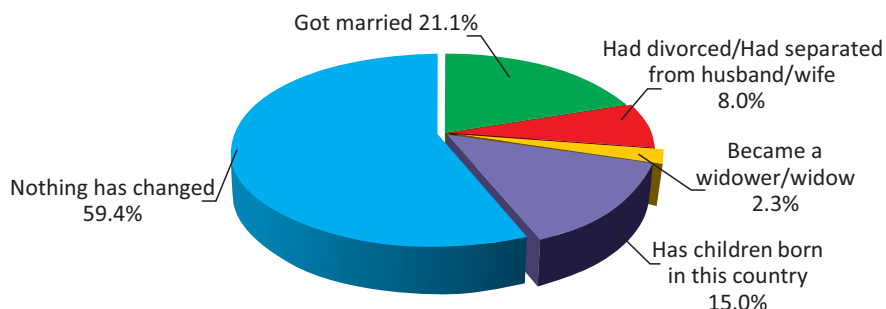
**Figure 3.4: Housing conditions of Moldovan migrants in Italy (%)**



When asked if their marital status has changed after their arrival to Italy - 21.1 per cent reported to have married, 15.0 per cent - that they have given birth to a child in this country, 8.0 per cent - that they had divorced / separated, 2.3 per cent - have become a widow/widower (see Figure 3.5). Italy has the highest number of Moldovan migrants who got married - one in five migrants from this country, as well as the number of those who divorced - 8 per cent, if compared to the changes occurred in the marital status of Moldovan migrants from other studied countries.

The problems encountered by families of Moldovan migrants are diverse. The family reunion is a desideratum for many migrants, but due to long separation, additional efforts are needed to resume daily relations with the spouse and children. The problems of communication between parents and children appear frequently when the separation was lengthy and the family was reunified when children were in their adolescence period. As a rule, the adolescents blame parents for separating them from their friends, colleagues and homeland.

**Figure 3.5: Changes in the marital status of Moldovan migrants during their stay in Italy (%)**



Some women mentioned that sometimes children were abused psychologically and physically by spouses, left in Moldova, who wanted them to return home – *"My husband has mistreated our girls for two years, as he wanted me to return. I called up the police in Moldova and sent them over to my home there. Teachers would call me and tell me about this..."* (FG\_5).

An issue underlined by representatives of migration services from Italy was that of divorces and separations in Moldovan families. This is explained by the high rate of divorces among Moldovan migrants in Italy - 19 per cent of the research sample, of whom 8 per cent divorced after their migration to Italy.

The partners go through a difficult process of accommodation in joint families because of the different social and cultural differences. However, the Moldovan women adjust to the lifestyle of Italian families. *"I live with an Italian man and, though we are family, each of us follows its own interests. I organize my day as I please, he organizes his day as he pleases, but clearly we respect each other"* (FG\_4).

40.3 per cent of Moldovan migrants families in Italy have children under 18 years of age, and most of them are in Italy (173 children), if compared to Moldova (49 children). It was found that Moldovan migrants tend to bring their minor children to Italy. The mothers who educate their children alone mentioned that they have a higher support from the Italian Government, which helps them solve a part of problems related to raising their children and their education.

The families together with their children abroad were asked to evaluate a number of situations in order to identify the children's problems in the country of destination. Parents believe that Italy improves the children's chances to succeed in life. The parents also stated that the children of Moldovan migrants in many cases had better grades in Italian schools than in the ones in Moldova.

The social integration of children in Italy depends frequently on their age. The children brought to Italy at a younger age integrate easier than those who come during teenage years. The latter find it difficult to adapt because of

changes in the social-cultural environment and difficulties to make friends. To facilitate the children's educational and social integration, Moldovan migrants' families in Italy speak Italian at home.

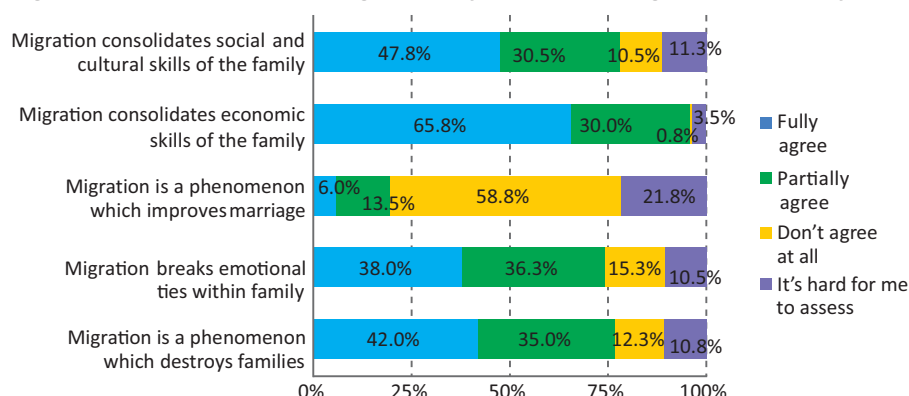
The legal status and the working conditions allow 43.0 per cent of Moldovan migrants from Italy to return to Moldova once a year, 27.3 per cent visit Moldova less than once a year, and 16.0 per cent - several times a year. At the same time, 12.5 per cent of Moldovan migrants from Italy have never returned to the homeland.

The return to Republic of Moldova from Italy is determined by the need to visit the members of the nuclear or extended family (79.7%), holiday period (48.3%), issuance of documents related to the civil status or education status (16.0%), medical treatment (15.7%). The Moldovan migrants in Italy spend the same period of time in Moldova as the migrants from other studied countries - one month (80.5%).

Study participants from Italy believe that migration allows the accumulation of economic, social and cultural capital, but at the same time worsens family relations, caused by divorce/separation, including ending of relationships (see Figure 3.6).

Migration requires many sacrifices from parents, as well as from children – *"I had worked for six years illegally, without any possibility to visit my child. I went back home when I had my papers, after six years. At the airport there were many children and everyone was shouting "Mom". All mothers were turning their heads. I was looking for my child, as well. I left at home a small girl... When I saw her, my daughter was the tallest; she grew up so much"* (FG\_6).

**Figure 3.6: Assessment of migration by Moldovan migrants from Italy (%)**



Though Moldovans from Italy believe that migration has mainly negative impacts on the family, 36.0 per cent of them do not regret at all their migration experience. Others, 35.3 per cent say that sometimes they have some regrets, but overall they do not regret their experience, 19.5 per cent - regret, but that was the only way to save their families and 5.5 per cent regret it and would not

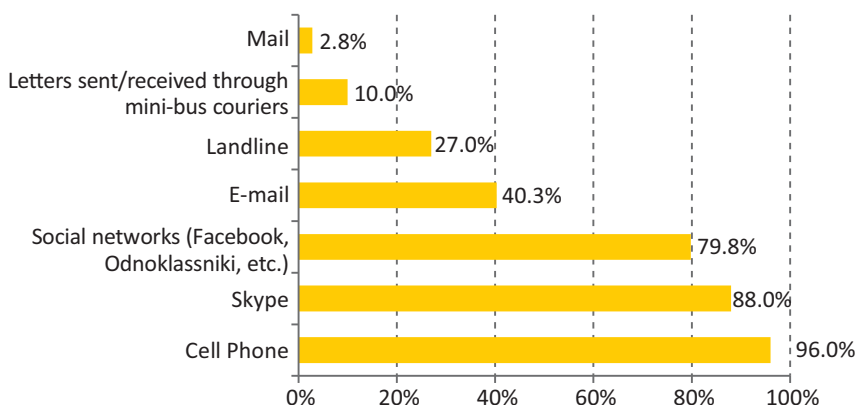
want others to repeat this experience. Italy has the biggest group of migrants regretting their migration experience.

### 3.4. Migrants' Relation with the Country of Origin

The research data shows that most Moldovan migrants do not have any difficulties in their communication with family members left in Moldova - 23 per cent communicate with family members on a daily basis, 34 per cent - several times a week. The migrants from Italy communicate more seldom with their relatives - 44 per cent once or several times a week, 38 per cent - several times a month. They communicate frequently with their friends and acquaintances - 46 per cent do it on a weekly basis. The number of those who do not communicate with the relatives or friends left in Moldova is low - 4 per cent.

Moldovan migrants from Italy most often use mobile phones, Skype and social networks as means of communication (see Figure 3.7). If the mobile phone is used by all categories of migrants, the other means of communication correlate with the respondents' age. In this respect, the younger migrants use more often Skype, social networks and email, while the elder persons use landline phone, letters through couriers or regular mail.

**Figure 3.7: Means of communication used by Moldovan migrants from Italy (%)**



Migration contributed to an increase in the number of computer usage and development of Internet skills. Internet ensures distance communication with the loved ones left in Moldova, including acquaintances. 83.8 per cent of the Moldovan migrants from Italy have free access to Internet at home, one in ten have access to Internet at their place of work or education. 11 per cent said that they did not have access to Internet, mainly women over 41 years of age, who work in the sector of home care services.

Internet is accessed, most often, by Moldovans from Italy for communication purposes with relatives from Moldova through Skype, messenger, e-mail (88.5%) or social networks (80.6%), to access news sites

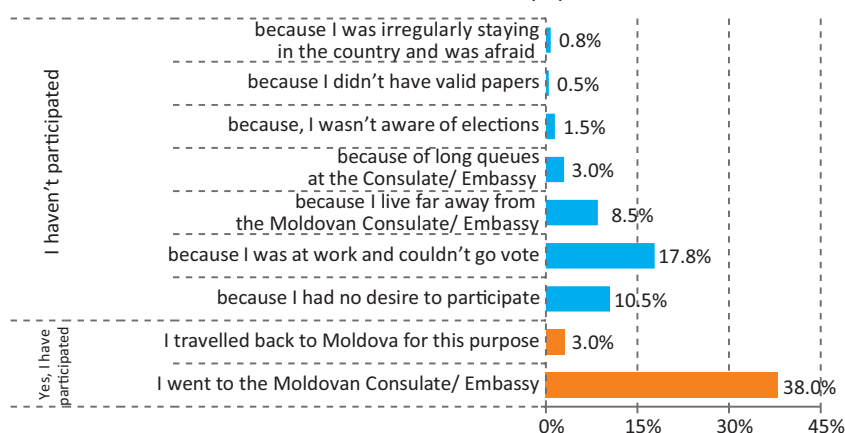


from Moldova (53.8%), more seldom to watch TV or listen to radio programmes (30.1%). Internet is also used, but to a lesser extent, as a means to communicate with other people from Italy. 71.3 per cent of Moldovan migrants communicate with other people in Italy via social networks, 64.8 per cent - via Skype, messenger, e-mail, 29.3 per cent access news sites from this country and 20.9 per cent watch Italian TV or listen to radio shows.

Some of the migrants regularly search for information on the social, political and economic situation in Moldova (31.3 per cent regularly and 51.0 per cent occasionally), and from Italy (43.0 per cent regularly and 40.0 per cent occasionally). However, the level of interest for the social, political and economic situation depends on the person's education. Therefore, the persons with higher education search more frequently for information, while the number of persons with general education, who are not interested to find out any information, is much higher.

The sources of information, accessed by migrants in order to find out about developments in the Republic of Moldova are: the Internet (69.0%), discussions with relatives / friends (63.3%), discussions with co-nationals (57.8%), Moldovan online TV stations (22.0%), Italian written press (16.8%), Italian TV channels (15.3%). Three per cent of migrants from Italy, who participated in this study, read the "Gazeta Basarabiei" newspaper, whose purpose is to inform Moldovan migrants abroad. The share of those who do not search for any information at all accounts for 5.8 per cent.

**Figure 3.8: Participation in the Parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010<sup>25</sup> (%)**



For the Parliamentary elections as of 28 November 2010, 15 voting sections were opened in Italy, where 26,000 Moldovans had voted (17 per cent of Moldovan with the legal status in Italy), as stated by the representative of the

<sup>25</sup> The difference up to 100 per cent is applicable to those who were not in the country (8.8%), did not want to answer (7.0%), who did not come of age to have the right to vote.

General Consulate in Bologna. Over 41 per cent of the research sample from Italy exercised their right to vote: 38 per cent went to the consulate/embassy and 3 per cent travelled to Moldova to vote (see Figure 3.8). It was noticed that mainly men participate in the elections. There is an interdependence between the participation in elections and the level of education, as the higher is the level of education, the higher is the level of participation in elections.

The reasons for the failure to participate in elections are various: impossibility to go to the voting sections because of the job (17.8%), unwillingness to participate (10.5%) and too large distance to the embassy/consulate of Moldova (8.5%). The long queues problem was mentioned by a few participants in the study (3.0%).

There are also positive consequences of migration for Moldovan migrants - changes in the mindset of both migrants, as well as of members of their core and extended family. This is why it is easier to implement sanitation projects in the country of origin, because people know this is necessary and there's no need to persuade them: *"in the sectors with many migrants the cleaning and sanitary measures are accepted easier"* (IIA\_mayor\_Mereni). However, the degree of involvement of Moldovan migrants in the development of their homeland communities is minimal. The migrants do not make investments: *"I came up with an initiative to build a playground for kids. No one supported my initiative"* (IIA\_mayor\_Mereni).

Very few migrants come up with community development initiatives. Besides, few Moldovans mentioned that they could contribute financially to the repair of rural health-care institutions, to road construction. Those who showed interest in helping would like to have a strict control over the use of financial resources: *"to have good results, it is necessary to make sure that the sent money is not wasted"* (FG\_4).

### 3.5. Integration of Moldovans in Communities of Destination and their Relationships with Diaspora Organizations

For most of the Moldovan migrants, initially migration was a "temporary dream". But as time passed, the Moldovans entered a *"standby"* mode, waiting for the suitable moment to return to the country of origin. From this perspective, several groups of Moldovan migrants can be established : (i) non-qualified, who adapted easily to Italian circumstances, having a social status similar to the one in Moldova; (ii) qualified and highly qualified, who cannot accept the loss of the social status, who encounter psychological issues due to migration and who accept this situation only because it grants them an economic benefit; (iii) qualified and highly qualified, who managed to continue their education and integrate in the Italian society, having a professional career. The Moldovan migrants from the first two groups intend to return to Moldova at a certain point of their lives, as opposed to the ones in the third group, who tend to establish their permanent residence abroad.

Among the young migrants, the trend to integrate in the Italian society is much stronger than among the elder people, who work in home care services and who seldom have such objectives. The latter aim at improving the financial situation of their family and are often viewed as *"money-making machines for the ones left in Moldova"* (Service manager\_Venice region).

Even though most Moldovan migrants from Italy migrated there temporarily, currently they don't talk about returning home. They try to find a balance (being both in Moldova - buying apartments, building houses and in Italy - accumulating a certain capital in this country), being up to date with what is going on in the country of origin and in the country of destination. If the economic crisis worsens and migrants lose their jobs, a part of them will return to their homeland - this is the opinion of various representatives of the host country, as well as of Moldovan transporters of passengers and parcels. Representatives of migrant services from the countries of destination highlighted that despite the aforementioned, compared to the Ukrainian migrants in Italy, Moldovan ones are more inclined to reintegrate their families and to live together abroad.

The language similarities facilitate the integration with the Italian society. The representatives of Italian local authorities mentioned that due to the fact that Moldovan migrants had been forced to go through negative migration experience, they are a peaceful community, rarely breaking the law (save for "shady" employment, sometimes sale of workplaces, some cases of prostitution). The "obedience" status was also confirmed by the migrants themselves: *"We pay EUR 4,000 to get here, so we don't want to be sent back, that's why we don't get in any trouble"* (FG\_2). As a result, Moldovan migrants enjoy a positive attitude of the local population, being considered as humble, tolerant and patient.

Moldovans easily integrate in the Italian society from the work perspective, they are appreciated for the work they do, but still are criticized by some Italians for not having learned how to relax during weekends and preferring to have only barbecues. At the same time, Moldovans that immigrated to Italy at the end of 1990s, beginning of 2000s state that there are changes in the attitude of Italians towards migrants as a whole: *"9-10 years ago we were looked for, they needed us. But since the economic crisis started - we are a burden for them"* (FG\_4). Moldovan migrants face some specific issues - *"I feel like a stranger here and I feel like a stranger at home, too. I am a stranger at home because I see people there hardened by their problems and arrogant rich people... They are not as they used to be, friendly and joyful"* (Businessman, clothing repairs service, Rome).

Anyway, migrants believe that the citizens of this country wouldn't accept Moldovan migrants as peers, a reason for which Italy is appreciated as a country where one can work and make money, but not live for a long time. The stereotypes the Italians have formed about Moldovans relate to their

tendency to save lots of money and that Moldovan women abandon their family for money.

Moldovan migrants keep in touch with all foreign communities from Italy, especially with Ukrainians and Russians, which is confirmed both by Moldovans and by representatives of Italian local authorities. Even the football team from Rome, which nowadays represents the Republic of Moldova in the Italian football championship among migrants, was initially set up as a team of migrants from the former USSR.

**Box 3.4 Case Study: Moldovan's football team in Italy**

The main coach of the football team said:

*"We managed to set up a team to represent Moldova, because when I was telling them about Moldova ten years ago they didn't know such country. The team initially was representing the Commonwealth of Independent States, but we established subsequently Moldova's team. Thus, Moldova's anthem is played before the game and we also show the country flag.*

*The guys come for training twice a week after work. We participate in the championship every year. We finance ourselves. We also pay for training on the stadium, entry fee for the championship. Before the championship we have friendly matches with Argentina, Romania, Paraguay."*

Children communicate with their grandparents from Moldova and with their former mates through social networks. A large part of them go on summer vacation to their grandparents. Most of the children don't want to return to Moldova. Some of them even advise their friends to emigrate abroad.

Some children, who had recently visited Moldova noticed changes in the behaviour of their former mates, friends. They despise the fact that when they come back to the country of origin they are often looked at as people who have money and who must pay for their friends' consumption - *"we went to the bar... and when it was time to pay the bill they were all looking at me - meaning "you came from Italy". I paid, but it was for the first and last time"* (FG\_9).

### **Educational Services**

The integration of Moldovan migrants' children in the Italian educational system is successful. The children mentioned that they don't face difficulties related to the integration in the Italian educational institutions. They manage to learn Italian quite quickly and gradually they make friends among the migrants coming from various countries, as well as Italians. The registered success at school: they are often the best pupils in terms of school results - shows that the Moldovan education system develops good pupils' skills. The parents appreciated the Moldovan education system, but criticized the informal payments they were forced to make when being in Moldova.

In order to facilitate the integration in the educational institutions, the

parents enrol their children, who recently came to Italy, to summer schools where they learn Italian.

The children, who were born in Italy or those who arrived there at an early age, do not speak Romanian - *"I speak Italian to my brother and to a very small extent - Romanian. My brother knows just a little bit of Romanian"* (13-year-old teen girl in reference to her brother born in Italy). The Romanian courses, organized by some diaspora associations are not attended by Moldovan migrants' children for various reasons, most often because parents do not have time to take them there. Because of this, it would be good to start such courses on-line. During individual interviews people mentioned that they needed tale books in Romanian. Children of young age could be engaged by tales and thus become interested in learning their mother tongue and, subsequently, their national culture.

The young Moldovans, who are in Italy with their parents or for educational purposes told that the education institutions abroad, particularly the universities provide more opportunities, academic mobility to study, research, and participate in projects and international conferences.

#### **Health-care Services**

A specific category of the problems encountered by Moldovan migrants in Italy refer to medical issues. 21.3 per cent of Moldovan migrants that participated in the quantitative survey mentioned that they did not have the possibility to access health-care services for various reasons - lack of money, too expensive health-care services.

At the same time, the system of health-care services is appreciated by Moldovan migrants for the attention paid to patients, lack of additional payments. The Moldovans highly appreciated the Italian system (screening and preventing some diseases, including cancer), as Moldovan migrants working abroad were invited to have a medical check-up for early identification of cancer. The control, interventions, treatment for those who were found to have this disease were provided free of charge. Thus, several Moldovan women benefited of surgeries abroad thanks to screening and after they get the permanent residence permit, even if they return to Moldova, they still are entitled to treatment, if they go back to Italy.

#### **Support Services Provided to Migrant**

Italy has a developed migrant support services system: services provided by migrant centres and other organizations, including religious ones (see Box 3.5). Caritas provided and continues to provide social services to migrants, including the ones from Moldova: food, information, legal support, psychological support: *"I have been living with my family in Italy for three years and I bought here pasta only once. I get them from Caritas on Wednesday and Thursday... I mean, those who want to save money go and receive the aid, those who don't want - don't go"* (FG-5).

Families in difficulty (families with four children, single mothers) have the possibility to get financial support to pay the monthly bills for electricity, gas.

Some public migration services from Italy implement projects for the prevention of alcohol addiction, which is specific for migrants, including Moldovan migrants.

#### Box 3.5 Case Study: Migrant Centre, Brescia

The Association "Migrant Centre" was established in 1991 with the goal to help migrants from Italy solve their problems. The association provides a wide range of services to migrants: information, training, legal services, counselling services.

The data submitted by the centre representatives allowed us to assess the beneficiaries. The share of social services beneficiaries coming from Eastern Europe is the highest (26%), compared to those from Asia (22%), Africa, except for Northern countries (21%), Northern Africa (18%), Latin America (9%) and the new EU countries (4%). The number of Moldovan migrants who requested services grew from 397 in 2010 to 477 in 2011<sup>26</sup>. The number of Moldovan men who requested such services is lower, if compared to the number of women; this is explained by the prevailing number of women in the total number of migrants. Most Moldovans are requesting employment facilitation services, counselling services and legal services regarding legalization of their stay and family reunification.

The age distribution of Moldovan beneficiaries in 2011 indicates the follows: 45-54 years - 165 persons; 25-34 - 118 persons; 35-44 years - 104 persons; 55-67 years - 43 persons; 19-24 years - 41 persons and minors - 6 persons.

**Table 3.4: Types of services provided by the Migrants Centre during 2010 – 2011, Brescia, Italy and the number of Moldovan migrants, beneficiaries of these services**

Type of services Moldovan migrants benefit from <sup>27</sup>	2010			2011		
	M <sup>28</sup>	W <sup>29</sup>	Total	M	W	Total
Information	15	18	33	0	26	26
Employment facilitation services	8	112	120	5	172	177
Training courses	0	18	18	2	14	16
Legal services	5	11	16	6	21	27
Food supplies	0	7	7	0	26	26
Counselling services	17	59	76	33	91	124
Services concerning legal residency	13	112	125	16	63	79
Secretarial services	0	2	2	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>477</b>

<sup>26</sup> As of 31 December 2010, in Brescia province there were 5,990 Moldovans with legal residence.

<sup>27</sup> The data was selected from the Annual Reports of the Centre, developed by Elisa Inglese.  
<sup>28</sup> Men.

<sup>29</sup> Women.

### **Support Services Provided to Migrants by Diaspora Organizations**

The Moldovan diaspora organizations from Italy were set up recently; some of them do not run permanent activities for Moldovan migrants. Most associations are relying on volunteer resources and operate on the basis of volunteer work; they don't have experience in the non-government sector, fundraising, lobby and advocacy. Most leaders of these organizations (not only the ones from Italy) have no knowledge in operational and strategic management of an organization. Some of them are focused only on daily work management and leadership, paying very little attention to long-term planning, selection, training and enrolling organization members among migrants, efficiency evaluation and impact of the organized activities. Though Italy has the highest number of Moldovan migrants associations - 47, only a few of them know how to develop project proposals. Most of them do not have any premises/office, because they are neither registered officially with the local authorities, nor in the Register of Associations and do not cooperate with local public authorities.

These diaspora associations have the following general objectives: (i) provide information support to Moldovan migrants in order to facilitate their integration in the Italian society, including with the help of mass media outlets (for example: "Gazeta Basarabiei"<sup>30</sup> newspaper and "MoldBrixia"<sup>31</sup> magazine), which are edited with the contribution of migrants from different countries<sup>32</sup>; (ii) promote Moldovan culture and traditions abroad; (iii) promote a healthy life style among migrants; (iv) raise awareness among Moldovan migrants on how to participate in elections; (v) inform Moldovan authorities about the problems encountered by Moldovans in Italy. Some organizations provide psychological consultancy services on issues like violence, migrants with suicide attempts.

It was found that the objectives of the diaspora associations from Italy are to provide information support to citizens, to preserve traditions and national customs and to cooperate with similar organizations, political parties, authorities from the country of origin. However, the overall lack of confidence of Moldovans in the non-government sector, community involvement and engagement, is shared by migrants as well: *"the Moldovan migrants do not trust anything or anyone. They do not trust the Moldovan Government; they do not trust the diaspora organizations. Even when something for free is offered*

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<sup>30</sup> The *Gazeta Basarabiei* newspaper is issued in 3,000 copies, and is disseminated online to 1,000 addresses.

<sup>31</sup> *MoldBrixia* magazine is issued in 1,500 copies, and is disseminated online to 2,500 addresses.

<sup>32</sup> IOM, under "Supporting the Implementation of the Migration and Development Component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership" Project developed a mechanism of grants for diaspora and provided financial support to 10 issues of *Gazeta Basarabiei*, six issues of *MoldBrixia* (Italy) and one issue of Pro Diaspora kids magazine (Portugal).



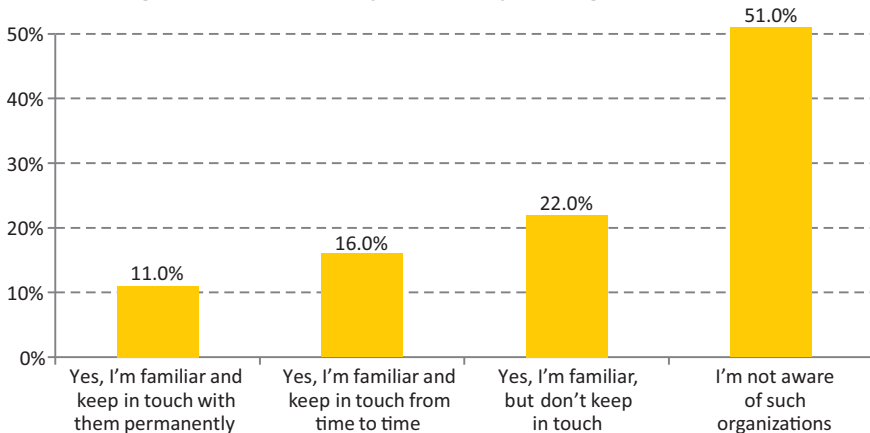
to them - a book or a guide - one has to insist..." (Diaspora organization leader, Rome\_1). They also mentioned the lack of solidarity among migrants with regards to the activities initiated by associations: *"When Vadim Pisari was killed, we were the only three persons protesting in front of the Russian Embassy in Rome... The same is true regarding the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Tansnistria"*. (Diaspora organization leader, Rome\_2).

The attempts to set up a coordinating council of the Moldovan associations in Italy have failed. Until now the creation of a viable network that could help the diaspora organizations to strengthen partnership relations and coordinate activities was not achieved.

The research results show that 11.0 per cent of Moldovan migrants from Italy know about diaspora organizations and permanently keep in touch with them; 16.0 per cent know about them and contact them periodically, 22.0 per cent know about the existence of these organizations, but don't contact them and 51.0 per cent are not aware of these organizations (see Figure 3.9). Even if the largest community of Moldovan migrants and most of diaspora organizations are in Italy, it was observed that they are very little known. This is determined by the nature of the Moldovan migrants' work in this country - home care, which keeps women busy six days a week around the clock. Moreover, some of the Moldovan migrants view migration as a temporary stage and hope to return home once they have their expectations met. These are the factors underpinning the low interest of Moldovan migrants in diaspora associations in all surveyed EU countries, but especially Italy.

The awareness degree concerning the existence of diaspora organizations is lower especially among the migrants aged 18-30 years and who have up to a three years residency in this country. Unlike this category, the ones that are keeping permanently in touch with diaspora organizations are people aged over 50 years old, married and who have their families abroad with them as well.

**Figure 3.9: Familiarity with diaspora organizations (%)**





The 108 Moldovan migrants from Italy, who are familiar with diaspora organizations, were asked several questions regarding the services that were provided to them by these organizations. Most frequently migrants contacted diaspora organizations for invitations to cultural events (84.3%), booklets, leaflets or films about life in Moldova (78.8%), booklets, leaflets about life in Italy (70.4%), advice (67.7%)<sup>33</sup>. The co-relational analysis shows that all migrants want to have invitations to cultural events, a fact confirmed by the focus-group discussions. Those who require booklets, leaflets or films about Moldova are newly arrived migrants, who stayed up to three years in Italy and are between 18 and 40 years of age. The advice of diaspora organizations is mainly requested by migrants who left their families in Moldova; they require information about the family reunion.

The Moldovan diplomatic missions to Italy make efforts to maintain permanent relationships with the diaspora associations. The cultural activities of the Moldovan Embassy, of the Bologna Consulate are organized with the support of diaspora organizations.

The strategic future directions of associations include strengthening partnerships between associations, regular organization of activities for Moldovan migrants, organization of thematic meetings.

### **3.6. Remittances and Savings**

The results of the study show that 52.5 per cent of the Moldovan migrants from Italy send money to Moldova. The amount of monthly average remittances represents EUR 235<sup>34</sup>, meaning approximately 27 per cent of the migrants' monthly income. 40 per cent of Moldovans from Italy have reported that comparatively to the previous year, the amount of money sent to Moldova is smaller due to the economic crisis, which has affected Italy and has led to the loss of employment or decrease in salaries. Moldovan migrants with family members in Moldova, compared to the ones that live with their full families abroad, are sending money to Moldova more often. Only one fourth of those living abroad with their family are sending money to Moldova, mostly to relatives and friends.

Among those that send money to their nuclear families in Moldova - 35.7 per cent do it frequently (monthly), 26.7 per cent – periodically (once in several months) and 3.8 per cent – rarely (once or twice a year). At the same time, 33.8 per cent of respondents who send money have never sent money to their nuclear family, given that their nuclear families have emigrated together with them (see Figure 3.10).

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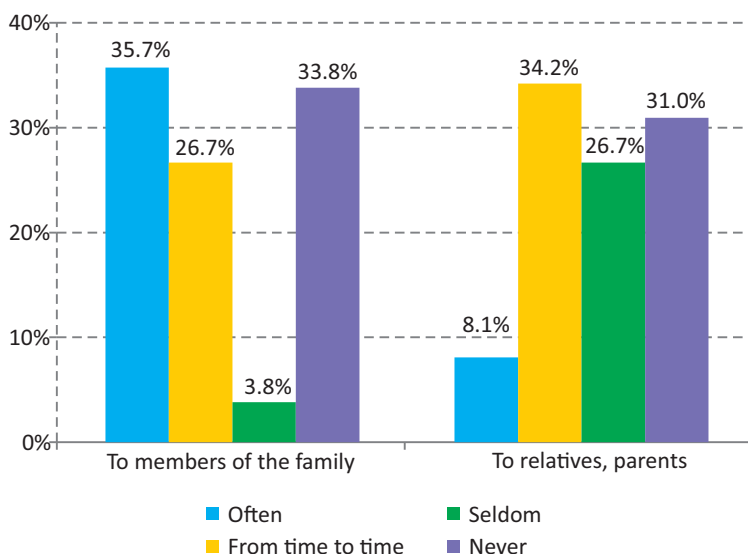
<sup>33</sup> See the comparative aspects in Chapter II hereof.

<sup>34</sup> Minimum – EUR 10, maximum – EUR 1,000, most frequently – EUR 100.

Remittances are rarely sent to the members of the extended family: 8.1 per cent do it frequently and 34.3 per cent - periodically. 31 per cent of respondents, who send money to Moldova, never send money to their extended families. The biggest groups of the migrants, who send money to members of the extended family, are those that settled down abroad together with their families.

13.3 per cent of the migrants occasionally send money to their friends, while 84.4 per cent never do this.

**Figure 3.10: Frequency of remittances sent to the Republic of Moldova by Moldovan migrants from Italy<sup>35</sup> (%)**

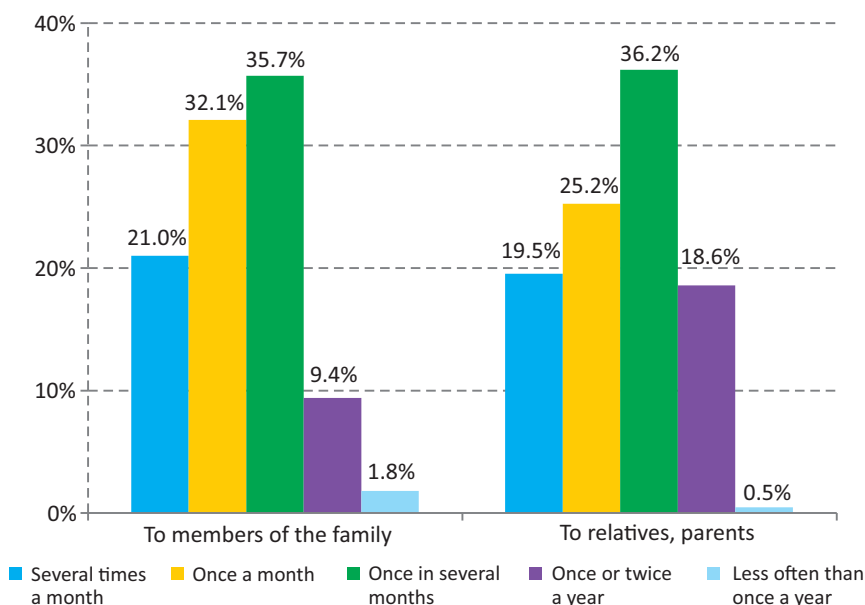


The practice of sending packages with goods is adopted by 78.2 per cent of the migrants. The persons, who have family members back at home and who return to the country of origin at least once a year, send goods to Moldova. This fact can be explained by the poor financial situation of those who do not visit Moldova and thus who cannot afford to send regularly certain goods to their families or relatives. *"The products, clothes, shoes are cheaper and it is convenient to send them home and pay per kg"*. (FG\_3). The goods are sent to Moldova by mini-buses. Usually, older people send packages more frequently.

The study shows 53.1 per cent of migrants send packages at least once a month to family members from the country of origin and 44.7 per cent - at least once a month to other relatives.

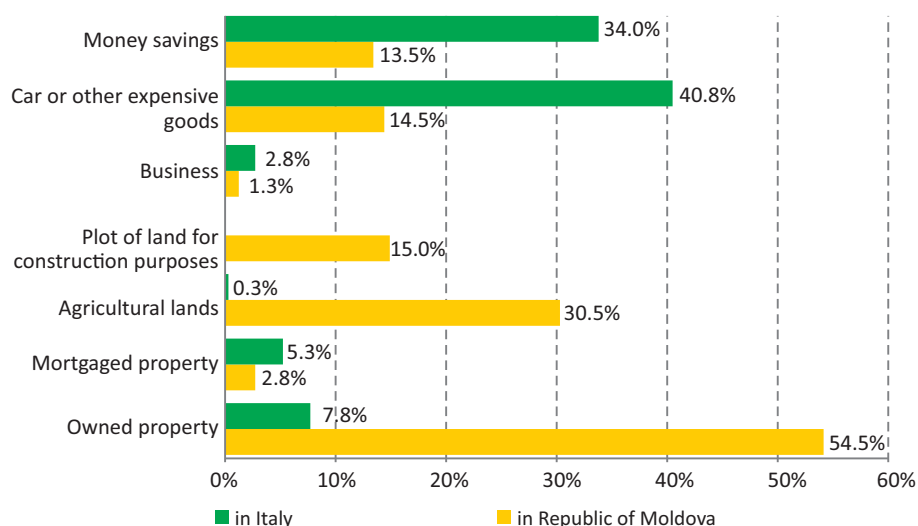
<sup>35</sup> 210 respondents from the entire sample (52.5% of the total).

**Figure 3.11: Frequency of sending goods to Moldova by mini-buses (%)**



The comparative analysis of goods owned in the country of origin and destination shows the tendency of some Moldovans from Italy to settle down in this country. Thus, 7.8 per cent of the Moldovans, who have immigrated to this country, own a property, others - 5.3 per cent have a mortgage and 2.8 per cent have opened businesses in this country. Also, it should be said that one third of the Moldovans from Italy are saving money in this country (see Figure 3.12).

**Figure 3.12: Goods owned by migrants from Italy in the countries of origin and destination (%)**



The collected data reveals that migration improved the welfare of families with migrants in Italy. It was established that 80 per cent of households with migrants in Italy have a higher welfare, 45 per cent have paid for their children's education or bought them a house, 32 per cent have organized their personal lives, 31 per cent bought a house in Moldova and 12 per cent in Italy (see Table 3.5), while 23 per cent have organized their professional lives, as well.

**Table 3.5: Impact of migration on the family welfare (%)**

No.		Yes	No	Hard to say / No answer	This situation does not apply to me
1.	It raised the family's welfare level	80.3	4.0	10.8	5.0
2.	It allowed to start a business in Moldova	1.8	73.0	0.5	24.8
3.	It changed the family's reputation for the best in the community of origin in Moldova	13.0	29.0	18.3	39.8
4.	It allowed to purchase housing in Moldova	30.5	53.0	2.0	14.5
5.	It allowed to purchase housing in the country of destination	11.8	75.5	2.3	10.5
6.	It allowed to start a business in the country of destination	5.0	77.8	1.0	16.3
7.	It allowed to help our children ( <i>education, lodging</i> )	45.0	12.5	7.0	35.5
8.	It allowed to organize my private life ( <i>marriage, love</i> )	32.0	29.3	7.5	31.3
9.	It allowed to organize my professional life ( <i>career, studies</i> )	22.8	55.5	11.3	10.5

### 3.7. Perspectives of Return to the Republic of Moldova

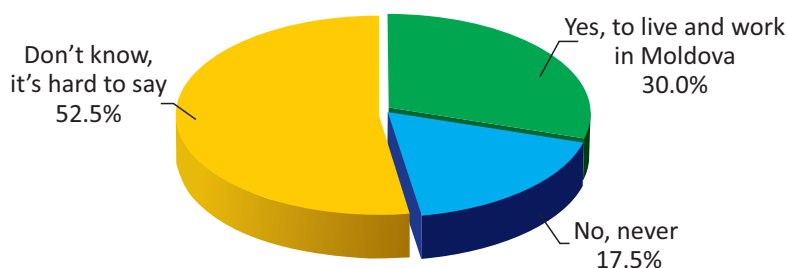
Most of Moldovan migrants from Italy do not make plans for the future; they are in “standby” mode. In any case, they did not break ties for good with their homeland. 30 per cent of migrants from Italy plan to return to Moldova, other 18 per cent have declared that they will never return (see Figure 3.13). Those who plan to return are not sure when this will happen, one fourth plans to return within the next two - five years.

Some migrants have reported that they intend to accumulate a certain capital and then return home and open a business or live out of the money they earned. Those who wish to open businesses in Moldova, including in the agricultural sector, at the moment of the research did not have enough money to purchase the necessary equipment.

The co-relational analysis shows that the intention to settle down abroad is more frequent among young migrants and those older than 40 years - to return to Moldova - *"we have to be buried in Moldova"*. Among those who stated that they will never return to Moldova, 18 per cent have taken action in this regard, two thirds of them being supported by their families with this decision. Differences of lifestyle were identified among the Moldovans who want to stay in Italy and those who intend to return to Moldova. The latter are more sparing, buying only the necessary things.

Representatives of Italian trade unions stated that some of the Moldovan migrants in Italy could remain in this country, as they were entitled to minimal social pension (up to EUR 500). This is a small amount; however in Moldova the minimum social pension is much lower.

**Figure 3.13: Plans of Moldovan migrants from Italy to return to the Republic of Moldova (%)**



Because of the crisis and of the difficulties, some migrants return to Moldova and are called back to Italy, when a vacant job is identified for them. As in the process of circular migration of some Moldovans changes occur - their stay in the country of origin is longer.

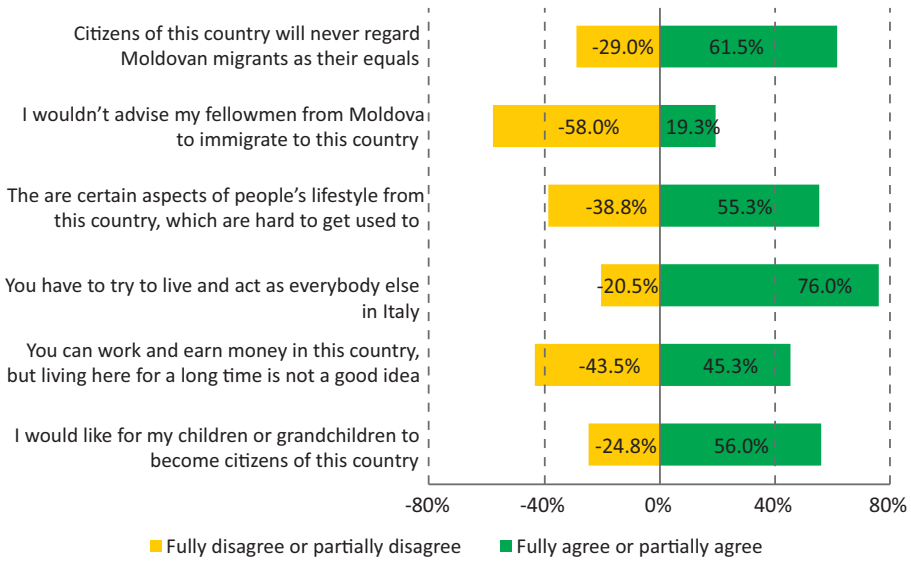
Most of the migrants from Italy state that they want their children and grandchildren to become citizens of this country and that they would advise other Moldovans to immigrate to this country too.

The small number of Moldovans who intend to return to the country of origin is determined by the disappointment with the outcome of the political situation in Moldova: *"there are no changes"*. Because of that they continue to see their future as circular migrants: *"I was home... and you should know that the money I have made throughout eight years was spent and now I have returned"* (FG\_3). Besides this category of migrants, there are also those who upon return to Moldova have had negative personal experiences or their acquaintances did, or who opened a business and subsequently they were forced to abandon it and go abroad again.

A considerable part of the migrants states that the state has to help the population that stayed in Moldova, stop it from emigrating, because it faces a much harder situation than the migrants. They are aware of the fact that they

have a better economic situation and that conditions for development should be created in Moldova: *"It is not bad that people go abroad, however there should be conditions in the country as well for the people to assert themselves... and corruption should be eliminated, especially in hospitals and schools"* (FG\_5).

**Figure 3.14: Migrants' opinion from Italy on the following statements<sup>36</sup> (%)**



The study emphasizes the following **strengths and weaknesses of the Moldovans' migration to Italy**:

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legalization of Moldovan migrants' stay by the Italian Government;</li> <li>- Conclusion of the Agreement on Labour Migration between the Government of Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Italian Republic, and its Implementation Protocol<sup>37</sup>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficulties in validating the qualifications of Moldovan migrants settled down in Italy;</li> <li>- Loss of qualification gained prior to emigration by Moldovan migrants;</li> <li>- High number of divorces among the families who have family members that immigrated to Italy;</li> </ul>

<sup>36</sup> The difference up to 100 per cent is applicable to those who mentioned that it was difficult to decide.

<sup>37</sup> Government Decision no. 620 of 18.08.2011 approving the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Italian Republic on Labour Migration and the Implementation Protocol of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Italian Republic on Labour Migration, signed in Rome on 5 July 2011.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperation between the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family from the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies from Italy on the reduction of the negative effects on the emigration of parents;</li> <li>- Involvement of trade unions with the view to solving problems of Moldovan migrant workers abroad;</li> <li>- Opening of an information office for those who wish to immigrate or travel to Italy in the building of the Embassy of the Italian Republic in Chisinau;</li> <li>- Overcoming economic problems, faced by Moldovan migrants;</li> <li>- Opportunities for Moldovan migrants to assert themselves professionally in sectors such as: healthcare, law, economy;</li> <li>- Family reunion for Moldovan migrants;</li> <li>- Successful integration of children in the Italian education system;</li> <li>- Access to free medical services in Italy - surgeries at the early diagnosis stage of cancer and its treatment;</li> <li>- Social protection services, helping Moldovan migrants facing difficulties;</li> <li>- Communication and keeping ties between Moldovan migrants and community members from the homeland;</li> <li>- Fulfilment of the civic duty and participation in the elections – 41 per cent of the Moldovans in Italy;</li> <li>- Cooperation between some diaspora organizations, diplomatic missions of the Republic of Moldova to Italy, and local Italian public authorities for the organization of cultural events;</li> <li>- Desire of some Moldovan migrants settled down in Italy to found charity organizations and to help vulnerable social groups from Moldova.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of knowledge on the existence of diaspora organizations among Moldovan migrants;</li> <li>- Lack of premises to hold meetings and carry out various activities; this problem is specific for most of the diaspora organizations;</li> <li>- Poor cooperation between the members of the Moldovan diaspora and sometimes unfair competition between diaspora organizations;</li> <li>- Diaspora leaders' lack of project management skills, knowledge of operational and strategic planning;</li> <li>- Just like in Moldova, the institutions of the Orthodox Church focus on provision of religious services and less on helping migrants facing difficulties.</li> </ul>

## IV. COMMUNITIES OF MOLDOVAN MIGRANTS IN PORTUGAL

### **Box 4.1 Statistical data about Moldovan migrants in Portugal**

The statistics on Moldovan migrants in Portugal have shown a downward trend in the number thereof, from 20,773 migrants in 2009 to 15,641 in 2010 and 13,586 in 2011. This decrease in the number of Moldovan migrants is justified by the fact that many of them have been granted Portuguese citizenship. Over 6,000 Moldovans received Portuguese citizenship during 2009-2011.

The distribution of Moldovan migrants by gender has revealed a higher number of men compared to women (8,310 men and 7,331 women in 2010; 7,064 men and 6,540 women in 2011).

The number of Moldovans with irregular status in this country is estimated at about 1,000<sup>38</sup>.

### 4.1. Migration: Trends, Motivations, Expectations

The migration to Portugal started in the second half of the 1990s of the last century, having a positive increasing trend until 2001, when it reached the peak number of migrants to this country. After 2001 the number of migrants to this country decreased to less than two per cent since 2010 (see Figure 4.1). Nowadays Portugal is not a country of destination for Moldovans anymore, except for migration for family reunion. The economic crisis from Portugal stopped the migration of Moldovans to this country, because of the high unemployment rate among migrants<sup>39</sup>. There are no migrants in the research sample who arrived to Portugal in 2012.

Moldovans are the 9th largest community of migrants in Portugal and the first community of migrants from Eastern Europe in Portugal, with a share of 3.5 per cent of all migrants in this country (excluding the Moldovan migrants who hold Portuguese citizenship).

The share of Moldovan migrants, who came to Portugal for the first time, is of 91.6 per cent, the others having a migration experience in Russia, Germany, Israel, Turkey. Portugal was originally a country of emigration for Moldovan men, who later brought their wives and children with them. The research has shown that most Moldovan citizens living in this country migrated legally through the family reunion procedure (33.1%), legally through an officially registered recruitment agency (22.1%), illegally through an individual (18.2%),

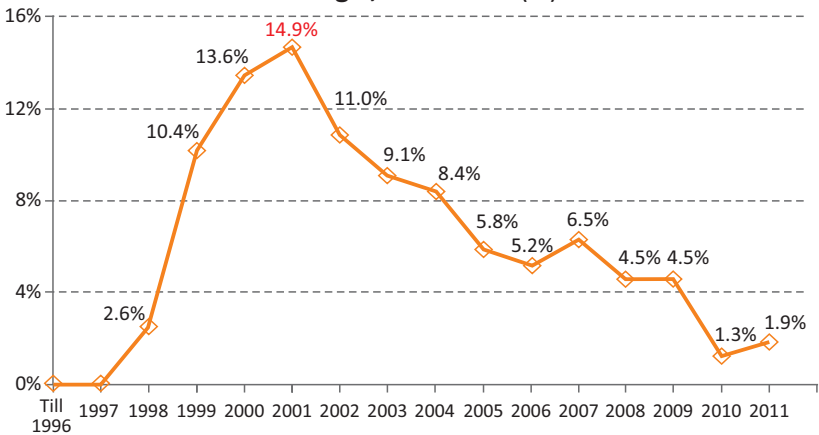
<sup>38</sup> The data was provided by representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to the Republic of Portugal and representative of the High Commission Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI).

<sup>39</sup> EUROSTAT / Population and social conditions/ Labour Market,  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search\\_database](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database)



legally by invitation from their family or relatives (9.1%), legally through an individual intermediary (7.8%). It should be stated that one third of migrants from Portugal came to this country for family reunion purposes. Furthermore, the share of those who migrated illegally to Portugal is much lower than in Italy, mainly due to the longer distance between the country of origin and country of destination, including the large number of borders between them. These obstacles have also excluded the phenomenon of human trafficking to this country in the opinion of representatives of the Moldovan diplomatic mission in Portugal.

**Figure 4.1: Distribution of migrants by the year of their first entry in Portugal, 1996-2011 (%)**



The Portuguese authorities, just as the Italian ones, allowed the legalization of migrants who entered illegally its territory. Accordingly, those who had an employment contract were able to apply for legalizing their status, so the number of Moldovans with irregular status decreased greatly. In addition, Moldovan migrants who legally worked in Portugal for a minimum period of six years<sup>40</sup>, applied for Portuguese citizenship, which they received after passing the Portuguese language exam. The wives of Moldovan men, who entered Portugal for family reunion purposes, received Portuguese citizenship on the basis of their husbands' papers, and the children born in this country obtained the citizenship of this state at the time of birth.

Notwithstanding all these benefits, the focus group discussions have highlighted certain difficulties of emigration to Portugal:

*"My husband was in Portugal since 1998, and the child and I could not get out of the country... Different individual companies dealing with the issuance of documents took money and then we got refusal based on the fact that the child was a toddler. After many attempts I arrived to Portugal*

<sup>40</sup> The Portuguese Nationality Act,  
<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/entreelibre/Laurette/country/portugalbistxt.html>

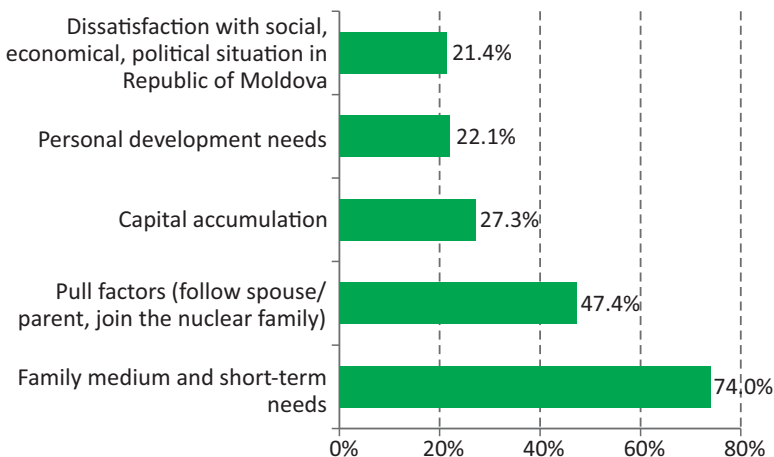
*with a tourist visa, and we brought the child after one year when the legalization of Moldovans in Portugal started" (FG\_11);*

*"I came through Moscow; I paid around USD 2,000, as well as for the tickets. We had to say that we were born in Russia ... a story learned by heart. But they took us only to Italy, from there we had to buy tickets to Portugal on our own and I did not have enough money. I sold the gold earrings to some women who spoke Ukrainian for USD 17, so that I could buy the ticket" (FG\_10).*

The structure of the reasons for migrating is diverse - from earning higher incomes (71.4%), joining the husband or a parent/parents who left abroad (42.4%), purchasing a house/flat for the family/child (27.3%), improving living standards of the family (23.4%), continuing the studies abroad (13.6%), lack of future prospects in Moldova (13.6%), dissatisfaction with the social, economic, political situation (13.0%), professional development and promotion (13.0%), paying for the children's education (12.3%), paying the debts (7.8%) other reasons (less than 6%)<sup>41</sup>. The second reason among Moldovan migrants for emigrating to Portugal was to join family members, spouse or parent/parents, and a much lower number of Moldovans migrated due to dissatisfaction with the political, economic and social situation in the homeland, compared to Moldovan migrants in Italy, France and the United Kingdom.

All these reasons were classified in five categories<sup>42</sup> showing that people migrated to Portugal mainly due to short and medium-term family needs, family members' invitation and the chances to accumulate financial capital.

**Figure 4.2: Factors determining migration from Republic of Moldova to Portugal (%)**



<sup>41</sup> The respondents had the possibility to choose multiple responses.

<sup>42</sup> See paragraph 3.1 of this report.

53.9 per cent of the respondents migrated to Portugal for work purposes, 35.1 per cent joined their families in Portugal, and 6.5 per cent went to study. From these viewpoints, migration to Portugal was mainly determined by the reunion of the nuclear family, including the presence of friends in this country.

The expectations of Moldovan migrants were and are still based firstly on overcoming economic problems (improvement of financial situation, procurement of real estate), getting to know a new culture, finding an interesting job and overcoming the difficulties from Moldova. The intention to purchase real estate in Moldova ranks last for Moldovan migrants from Portugal (see Table 4.1). The research data shows that the plans related to getting to know a new culture, overcoming the difficulties from Moldova, improving the financial situation, settling down in this country were fully fulfilled by most Moldovan migrants. Having a successful career and finding an interesting job is, however, difficult for Moldovan migrants in Portugal, given that only 5.8 per cent of them have managed to do so.

The crisis has heavily hit Portugal, which conditions the migration of Moldovans from Portugal to other countries, especially the migration of Moldovans who hold Portuguese citizenship. A trend among Moldovans from Portugal was observed – particularly they leave for Austria, Germany, France, having job offers in these countries - *"these directions have been recently highly demanded by Moldovans. We sell one-way tickets, few people buy return tickets"* (Manager\_Travel Agency). The men are those who usually leave; women and children remain in Portugal and visit for two-three days.

**Table 4.1: Expectations of Moldovan migrants from Portugal and their fulfilment (%)**

	Expectations	Fully fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Were not fulfilled
Improve the family's financial situation	93.5	53.9	34.4	5.2
Purchase real estate in Moldova	58.4	26.0	4.5	27.9
Organize personal life	71.5	45.5	18.2	7.8
Overcome the difficulties in Moldova	83.1	57.1	23.4	2.6
Settle in this country	68.8	53.9	11.0	3.9
Get to know a new culture	92.2	82.5	9.7	-
Find an interesting job	88.3	27.9	32.5	27.9
Have a successful career	82.4	5.8	35.7	40.9

## 4.2. Professional Training and Integration in the Labour Market

The research data reveals that 76.0 per cent of Moldovan migrants in Portugal were employed at the time of conducting the research, 9.1 per cent were neither employed, nor looking for a job, 7.1 per cent worked previously, but were searching for a job at that time, 3.9 per cent did not work previously, but they were looking for a job at that time. 3.9 per cent of the migrants participating in the study managed to start up a business in Portugal. Moldovan businessmen from Portugal haven't run previously a business in Moldova, which is explained by their young age at the time of emigration.

9.1 per cent of Moldovan migrants in Portugal, who neither work nor look for job, study or are on maternity leave, and 3.9 per cent who have not worked previously, but are looking for a job now, have recently graduated or helped the family in taking care of brothers/sisters.

Sixty per cent of Moldovan migrants from Portugal participating in the mapping study worked in Republic of Moldova before emigration. The research data has revealed that back in the homeland migrants worked in the education system (24.7%), trade (14.0%), health-care and social services (12.9%), agriculture (10.8%), hotels and restaurants (7.5%), transport and telecommunications (6.5%), state administration and social insurances (6.5%). Most migrants in Portugal worked in the same sectors of the national economy as the migrants in Italy - education, trade, health-care and social services. It was found that skilled and highly-skilled persons from Moldova were involved in the migration processes.

According to research data, the job sector of Moldovan migrants in Portugal changed significantly. Hence 21.9 per cent of Moldovan migrants work in the system of community, social and personal services, 15.6 per cent in construction, 14.8 per cent in household management services, 14.1 per cent in transport and telecommunications, 12.5 per cent in hotels and restaurants, 6.3 per cent in manufacturing industry, 4.7 per cent in wholesale or retail, 3.1 per cent in agriculture (Table 4.2). Women work in the home care system, household management services, while men in construction, manufacturing industry. In other job sectors both women and men are employed.

In Portugal was observed the lowest share of Moldovan migrants who continued working in the same economic sector as in Moldova - 9.7 per cent, particularly, in the area of construction, state administration and social insurances.

The number of Moldovan migrants who continued working in education sector has decreased significantly. Instead, the share of workers employed in construction, community, social and personal services, and household management services has increased, over a half of those who are employed, work currently in these sectors.

**Table 4.2: Job sectors of Moldovan migrants in Republic of Moldova and Portugal (%)**

No.	Job Sector	Worked in Moldova (N=93), %	Worked in Portugal (N=128), %	The share of those who have not changed their job sector, %
1.	Agriculture	10.8	3.1	0
2.	Mining and quarrying	1.1	0	0
3.	Processing industry	3.2	6.3	0
4.	Production and distribution of electricity, gas and water	2.2	1.6	0
5.	Construction	2.2	15.6	2.15
6.	Wholesale and retail	14.0	4.7	0
7.	Hotels and restaurants	7.5	12.5	1.08
8.	Transport and communications	6.5	14.1	1.08
9.	Financial activity	3.2	0	0
10.	Real estate transactions, leasing and services	0	0.8	0
11.	State administration, social insurance	6.5	2.3	2.15
12.	Education	24.7	0.8	1.08
13.	Health-care and social services	12.9	1.6	1.08
14.	Other community, social and personal services	4.3	21.9	0
15.	Household management services	1.1	14.8	1.08
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>

29.4 per cent of Moldovan migrant workers in Portugal hold the same job since their arrival to this country.

Only 18.3 per cent of Moldovans, who were employed before migrating to Portugal, work in the same occupational group as in Moldova. Forty nine per cent represent non-skilled workers. There are skilled workers as well: machinery operators - 20 per cent, craftsmen and construction workers - 9 per cent, office employees - 9 per cent (see Table 4.3).

The average monthly salary of migrants in Portugal is EUR 922 (the lowest – EUR 120, the highest – EUR 2,000).

**Table 4.3: Affiliation of migrants to occupational groups in the countries of origin and destination (%)**

No.	Occupational group	Worked in Moldova (N=93), %	Work currently in Portugal (N=128), %
1.	Managers of economic-social units	5.4	0
2.	Highly qualified specialists	33.3	3.9
3.	Specialists with medium qualifications	12.9	3.1
4.	Office workers	0	8.6
5.	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	17.2	7.0
6.	Qualified workers in agriculture	0	0
7.	Craftsmen and qualified workers in mining industry and construction	3.2	8.6
8.	Operators of machines and devices	15.1	19.5
9.	Non-qualified workers	12.9	49.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The agreement on recognition of studies in accordance with the Bologna Process allowed the recognition of studies for some Moldovans who immigrated to Portugal. Certain migrants got their diplomas validated; in some cases they pursued extra studies and passed exams for academic differences. Thus, a part of them acquired the right to practice medicine: *"many doctors got qualified, but anyway it was difficult for them"* (Manager, Travel Agency). In the opinion of Moldovan migrants participating in the focus group discussions, the number of Moldovans who worked in police agencies, security, banking system is low, because priority is given to Portuguese nationals during employment.

Having a career, like in other countries, is possible through ambition, hard work: *"We succeed in keeping up due to the fact that we can do our work well; since we are foreigners, we should do the work twice better"*(FG\_12). At the same time, there were more often reported situations in Portugal when Moldovans were hiding their identity at the work place: *"I remember my boss told me during a meeting that she would order a badge with my name in Portuguese and I agreed. When I had a badge with my original name, each customer asked me if I was Portuguese, where I was from and how many years I stayed in Portugal. Thus, some of my working time was spent for explanations ..."* (Employee in banking sector); *"I started working in a call centre. At first, I used to tell customers my birth-given name. It was difficult; I managed to conclude only one contract during a week. People were not taking me seriously when I was telling them my name. After I changed my name, I started making contracts without any problems"* (FG\_12).

The economic areas in which Moldovan migrants have started a business in Portugal do not differ greatly from those of other countries of destination and include: restaurant services (one third), social and personal services (one third), trade (one sixth), transport and telecommunications (one sixth). Just as in Italy, people starting a business are those who settled down with the entire family, having a large migration experience. Most of them hold the Portuguese citizenship. The doctors, who managed to get their diplomas recognized and opened private offices, are doing well (see Box 4.2). In Portugal the businesses in trade and transport sectors are started by men; in care service sector – by women, and in hotel and restaurant services are started by both women and men.

**Box 4.2 Examples of businesses in Portugal****Travel Agency**

*"The travel agency is selling airline and bus tickets to Moldova. We are representatives of Air Moldova Company in Portugal. We have currently a large office in Lisbon airport and two offices in South Portugal, in the cities of Faro and Portimao. We had four offices before the crisis, of which two were in Lisbon – one in the city and another in the airport. We decreased the number of Lisbon offices, as they did not cover their costs.*

*At the beginning we hired Moldovan staff, later we hired Portuguese staff as well, since if a Portuguese enters the Agency and hears a different pronunciation, he/she does not want to buy tickets. Accordingly, we hire Portuguese staff in order to attract more customers.*

*At the same time, Portuguese people work strictly during the working time; if it is lunch time they stop working, even if there is a customer in the office. We tried to hire Romanians and Russians, but some of them speak only Russian, others only Romanian and then it is more convenient to hire Moldovans who speak Russian, Romanian and other languages."* (Businessman, Travel Agency, Lisbon).

**Private dental office**

*"I cleared and translated all the documents related to my education. The recognition procedure lasted about one year. It was difficult, but I succeeded. I was lucky because dentists had more hours of practice classes in Moldova than there are held here.*

*I attended intensive courses of Portuguese language at the Faculty of Letters of Lisbon.*

*I bought the business (dental office). My sister, who managed to have a career as a gynaecologist in Germany, helped me. She managed to get a loan in Germany and helped me with money.*

*This was a family type clinic earlier. After the doctor's death, her husband, who was not a doctor by profession, decided to sell it.*

*It was hard at the beginning. I could not keep the doctor's patients. They were not able to get used that their doctor does not exist anymore. I sent Christmas and Easter cards, according to the files, but when the patients were coming and seeing*

*that I am a foreigner, they were leaving... I recovered 3-4 patients; in fact, I started from point zero.*

*I had 1-2 patients per week at the beginning and the money I was earning was enough just to pay the babysitter, rent and the monthly loan.*

*In order to attract customers I pasted up ads at the Romanian Orthodox Church, I placed them in the Russian newspaper "Slovo" and in other magazines. There was no need to place any ads lately, since I have already created a network of patients.*

*We are three employees in the clinic: me, a Portuguese assistant and a Portuguese accountant. The assistant fills in the health-care questionnaire and has the first contact with the patient. Since she is a Portuguese, she provides psychological comfort and confidence to Portuguese people.*

*The loan I took out was one per cent higher and I lived for two years almost like in army. But I managed to repay it in two years. Later I took another loan in support of small and medium-sized enterprises in Portugal with a much smaller interest rate and I started the other business – another dental clinic.*

*In order to succeed abroad you should be disciplined, persistent and have a spirit of sacrifice, because we do not have a specific time when we come and leave the office. You have to work until the last patient leaves." (Businessman, dental office, Lisbon).*

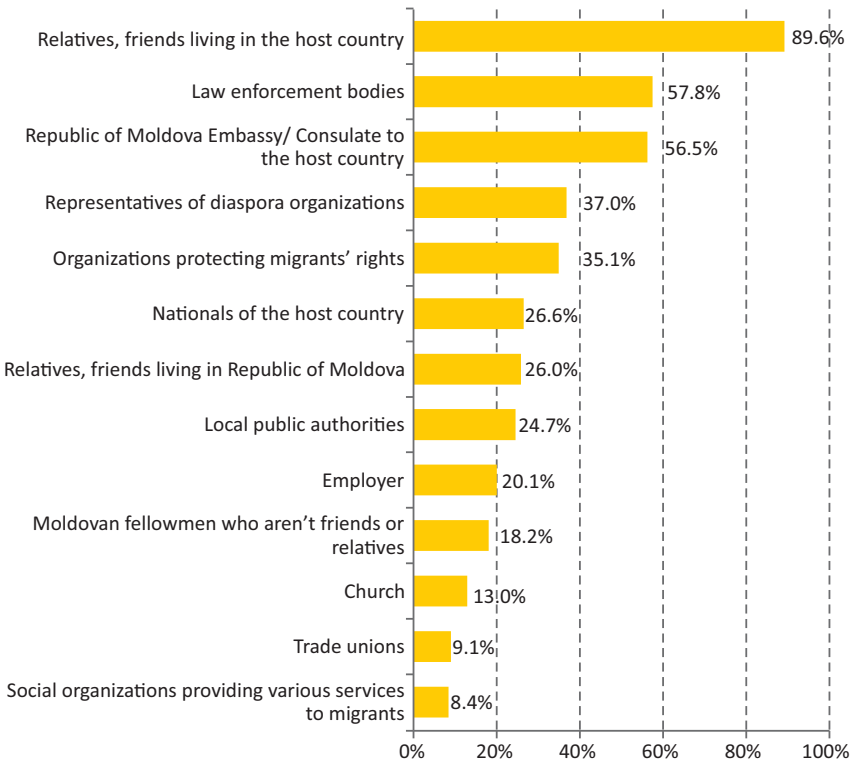
The difficulties faced by Moldovan migrants in Portugal do not differ greatly from the ones in Italy and include: (i) lack of language knowledge (81.8 % of respondents), (ii) difficulties in the legalization procedure in this country (29.2%); (iii) difficulties in finding a job - *"the practice of going from door to door to find a job does not work anymore; Portuguese employers hire on the recommendation of somebody"* (FG\_11) (41.6%); (iv) problems related to labour exploitation: some Moldovans work two-three months and are not paid by the employer (22.7%), (v) medical problems, being unable to access the health-care services for various reasons (18.2%).

A specific problem faced by Moldovan migrants in Portugal is the criminality, blackmail cases. In the 2000s there were crime gangs in Portugal, which extorted money from Moldovan migrants working in this country. The Portuguese authorities investigated these cases and most of those gang members are currently in prison.

While solving the problems, which Moldovans encounter abroad, first of all they turn to their relatives and friends, who are in this country (98.6%), to legal authorities (57.8%), to the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova in Portugal (56.5%), to the representatives of diaspora organizations (37.0%) (see Figure 4.3). It was noted that diaspora organizations are better known among migrants in Portugal and are highly appreciated by a significant part of them and by the representatives of local authorities as well, including representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to Portugal, and are regarded as organizations providing support to migrants who encounter different problems.



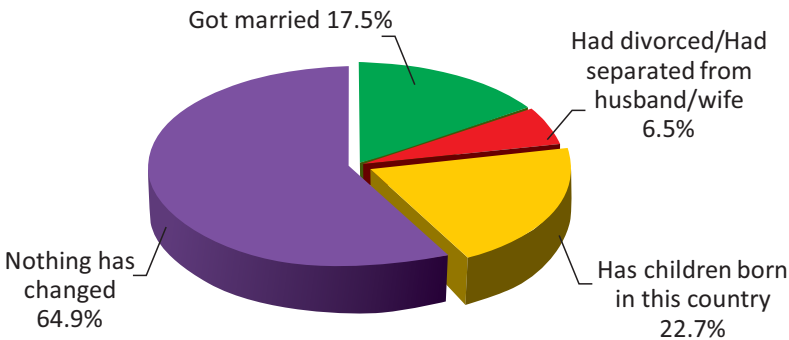
**Figure 4.3: Persons, who Moldovan migrants turn to, in order to solve problems encountered in Portugal (%)**



4.3. Family and Migration

70.8 per cent of Moldovan migrants live in Portugal with all family members<sup>43</sup>.

**Figure 4.4: Changes in the marital status of migrants during their stay in Portugal (%)**



<sup>43</sup> It also encompasses the unmarried persons - 24.0 per cent and widowed/divorced persons.

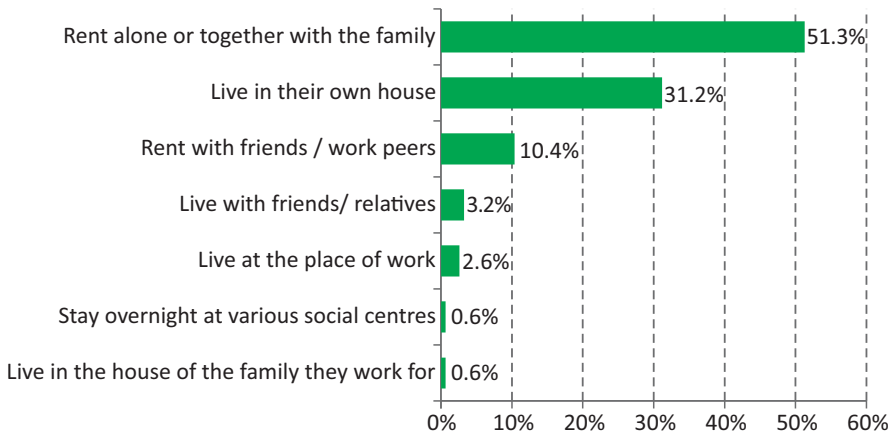
The marital status of the vast majority of Moldovans has not changed since they arrived to Portugal (64.9%), however in some families children were born in this country (22.7%), others got married (17.5%) or divorced (6.5%). Portugal has the highest share of children born abroad - 22.7 per cent (see Figure 4.4).

The housing conditions of Moldovan migrants from Portugal reveal that 51.3 per cent rent a flat with their family or alone, 31.2 per cent have their own house, 10.4 per cent rent with their friends or work peers, 3.2 per cent live at their relatives or friends, 2.6 per cent live at the working site (construction site, market) (see Figure 4.5). Usually people aged 18-40 years live together with their families; they have immigrated more than seven years ago to Portugal and are with all family members abroad. People aged 31-40 years mainly own a house in this country; they are married and live with all members here and have stayed over 10 years in this country.

Low wages are the reason why some Moldovan migrants from this country live together with other work peers – *"We lived 24 boys in a flat"* (FG\_10) - especially those, whose family members remained in Moldova. Some participants of focus group discussions mentioned instances when they lived at the work place in barracks of 20-30 persons, void of heating during the winter.

The share of families in Portugal with children under 18 years of age accounts for 40.9 per cent. The vast majority of families in Portugal live abroad with their children (86 children); few children are separated from their parents and live in Moldova (6 children). Parents believe that Portugal increases their children's chances of success in life. The children of Moldovan migrants in Portugal have good results at school. The parents have stated that the process of social integration of children passes without difficulties. Only 8.6 per cent of parents have mentioned adapting problems due to the change of social and cultural environment and children missing their homeland.

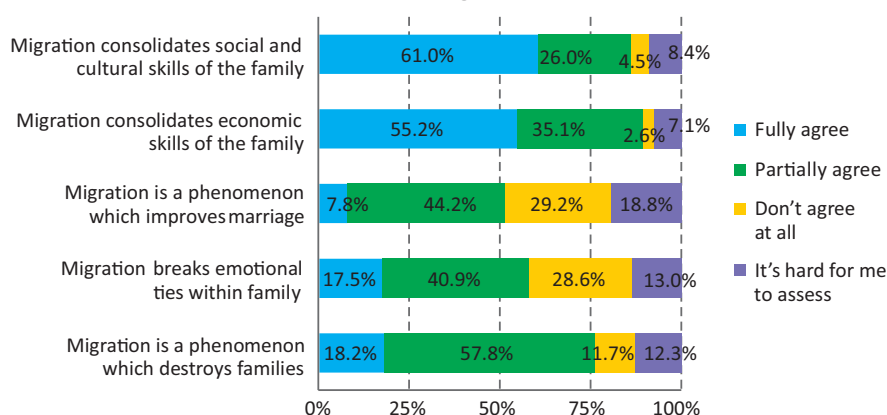
**Figure 4.5: Housing conditions of Moldovan migrants in Portugal (%)**



Most Moldovan migrants in Portugal are permanently abroad and return to Moldova once a year or more rarely. 17.5 per cent of Moldovan migrants from Portugal returned home in 2012 and 39.6 per cent in 2011. The return to Moldova from Portugal is determined by the same reasons as in the case of Moldovan migrants from Italy, specifically the need to visit members of nuclear or extended family, the period of leave/holidays, clearance of documents on marital or education status, medical treatment. The period of stay in Moldova is up to one month for 90 per cent of Moldovan migrants from this country. The share of people who live permanently abroad and have never returned to Moldova is 5.2 per cent.

The vast majority of Moldovan migrants in Portugal, even if they live abroad with all family members, believe that migration is a phenomenon that destroys families and emotional bonds within them (see Figure 4.6).

**Figure 4.6: Appreciation of migration by Moldovans migrants from Portugal (%)**



Over 22 per cent of Moldovan migrants in Portugal regret their migration experience, since this decision has affected the migrant's life in general, respectively 4 per cent of them would not want anyone to repeat their experience, other 18 per cent still have regrets, though they had the opportunity to help their family. It was established that the share of people who regret their migration experience is three times higher among Moldovans in Portugal, whose family members remained in Moldova, compared to those who live with their families in this country.

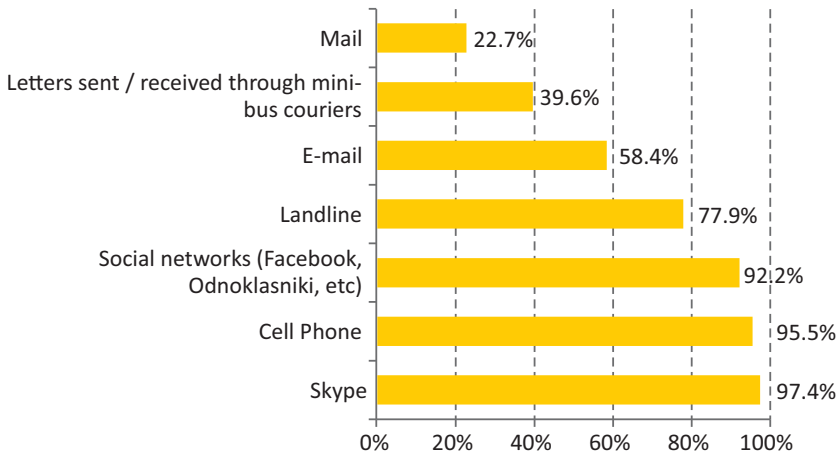
#### 4.4. Migrants' Relation with the Country of Origin

The research data reveals that there are no difficulties in communicating with family members, who stayed in Moldova; 42 per cent of Moldovan migrants in Portugal talk daily or weekly to them. At the same time, Moldovan

migrants in Portugal usually talk monthly to more distant relatives, friends and acquaintances.

In Portugal, unlike in Italy, all communication means are used. There is not a clear distinction between the usage of communication means and age of Moldovan migrants, like in Italy. Almost all migrants (96.8%), regardless of age, have access to Internet and use Skype, mobile phone and social networks.

**Figure 4.7: Means of communication used by Moldovan migrants from Portugal (%)**



Internet is used both for communication purposes with those from the country of origin and country of destination, and also for information purposes by accessing websites of news, watching/listening to TV or radio programmes. Moldovans, who settled down in Portugal, more often watch/listen to Moldovan TV or radio programmes via Internet comparing to those in Italy.

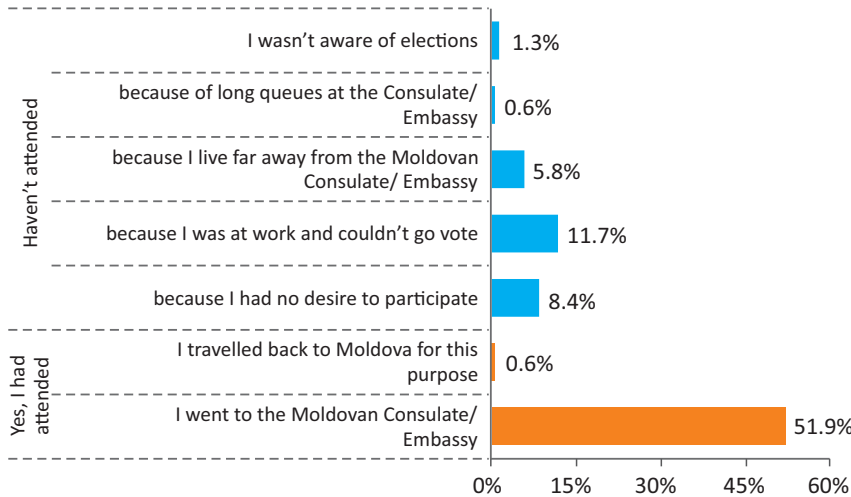
The sources of information used by the Moldovan migrants in Portugal to learn about the situation in Moldova are: Internet (90.3%), online TV channels of Moldova (63.6%), discussions with the nationals of this country (61.0%), discussions with the relatives/friends (59.1%), local TV channels (37.0%), local print media (14.3%), online radio of Moldova (13.0%).

Among migrants in Portugal a higher interest was noted for social, political and economic developments in the country where they live (51.3% show regular interest), compared to the developments of Republic of Moldova (45.5%). However there are Moldovans who are neither interested in the developments of the host country, nor in those of their homeland (4.5%); most of them are aged up to 30 years old and hold general secondary education.

Moldovan migrants from Portugal were the most active during the last parliamentary elections (28 November 2010) compared to those from Italy, France and the United Kingdom. Thus, 51.9 per cent went to the Embassy of

Moldova to exercise their right to vote (see Figure 4.8). The migrants who failed to vote provided reasons such as: nature of their job (11.7%), lack of desire (8.4%), long distance from the consulate (5.8%).

**Figure 4.8: Participation in the Parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010<sup>44</sup> (%)**



The analysis of the group of migrants, who participated in the elections, has revealed that older people and those with a higher level of education show a higher level of activism. People, who stated that they did not have any desire to exercise their right, as well as fulfil their civic duty, are mostly aged between 18-30 years of age, having general incomplete education and being single.

There are differences in Moldovan migrants stocks in Portugal, who travel back home by bus and those who travel by plane: *"the bus trip takes three days, but instead you save some money and this mean of transportation is convenient for some of them"* (Manager\_travel agency). The representatives of travel agencies have noted that the number of Moldovans travelling to the country of origin had decreased: *"The bus made two trips a week last year, while this year it makes two trips a week only during the summer time and Easter"* (Manager\_travel agency). The drop in the flow of Moldovan migrants travelling by bus to the country of origin is attributed to the fact that many Moldovans in Portugal purchased cars and prefer to travel back to their homeland, using their own means of transportation and also because of the more rarely return to the country of origin (some migrants do it once in two years).

A growing trend of twinning localities from Moldova with those from abroad, where Moldovans reside, is observed. For example, Ungheni became

<sup>44</sup> The difference up to 100 per cent is applicable those who were not in the country (7.1%), did not want to answer (9.7%), who did not come of age in order to have the right to vote.

a twin town of Cascais, Portugal, in July 2012. According to the Ungheni LPAs, the cooperation between twin towns should be improved, covering also social-economic cooperation besides social-cultural events. Moldovan LPAs mentioned the need to develop programmes promoting the return of Moldovans to the country of origin, develop the entrepreneurial environment and eradicate corruption. According to the study data, Moldovan migrants from Portugal rarely start up businesses in Moldova, if compared to those from the other surveyed countries.

There are cases when some migrants from Portugal support the development of local projects, help people in difficulty: *"... gave MDL 20,000 to the victims of the car accident that occurred in our rayon, donated to people in difficulty, donated for the building of two wells in two villages of the rayon, at a school, and a kindergarten"* (Representative of LPA\_Ungheni), but such cases are very few.

To a certain extent, the migrants determine the development of care services for the elderly, including paid services rendered in the Republic of Moldova. Some migrants leave their parents in the care of social service providers: *"The Elderly Reintegration Centre of Ungheni provides paid services for those who want to leave their parents in safety"* (Representative of LPA\_Ungheni), thus contributing to the development of social services sector.

#### 4.5. Integration of Moldovans in Communities of Destination and their Relationships with Diaspora Organizations

Migration was a temporary solution for many Moldovan migrants in Portugal. However, it has become a long-term solution for the vast majority of them. The Portuguese state provides free courses of Portuguese language for migrants. The Portuguese courses are organized in such a manner that allows migrants to attend them, take a test afterwards and receive a certificate of proficiency in Portuguese. Thus, the majority of Moldovan migrants studied Portuguese and a part of them integrated in and became citizens of this state; while another part is waiting for the Portuguese citizenship and for the economic crisis to pass.

#### **Educational Services**

The access to education is for all children, including for those children whose parents have an irregular income in Portugal. There are some difficulties encountered when accessing kindergartens for toddlers (up to three years).

The children of Moldovan migrants, who graduate from the secondary school in Portugal, cannot apply for university scholarships if they do not have Portuguese citizenship. Being of Moldovan origin, they must pay a fee for their studies, even if they had good and very good results in school.

## Health-care Services

Moldovan migrants have highly appreciated the quality of health-care services, however they had some objections to the health care system organization – *"you are seriously sick, but the doctor makes an appointment in 2-4 months"* (FG\_12). The positive practices mentioned by Moldovan migrants are the doctors' attitude towards the patients, the politeness they show when treating their patients.

## Support Services Provided to Migrants

There are National Centres for Assistance to Immigrants (CNAI<sup>45</sup>) in Lisbon, Porto and Faro, and Local Centres for Assistance to Immigrants in other 86 locations, these structures being under the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI). These centres provide various services to migrants (see Box 4.3) and cooperate also with the Moldovan diaspora organizations, giving them, if necessary, premises, equipment (microphones, speakers) for organizing different events.

### **Box 4.3 Case Study: National Centres for Assistance to Immigrants in Portugal**

The National Centres for Immigrants provide a wide range of services. The services of some government institutions and specialized services created by ACIDI are provided within these centres. In order to facilitate the communication in the specialized offices, the services are provided by social cultural workers, some of them being immigrants.

Communication with migrants is in Portuguese, English, French, Spanish, German, Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian, Chinese. In order to communicate in other languages, there may be used translation services by phone (for other 60 languages).

The support services provided in the centres for immigrants include:

- First aid services - analysis of the migrant's situation, providing information and reference to other existing services in CNAI;
- Employment support services for – information on the labour market and possibilities to start a business, including advertisements about job offers;
- Support services for raising the level of qualification – information on the procedure of recognition of the education and qualification, reference to the services for preparation of staff;
- Social support services – support services for the persons encountering financial difficulties, providing also information on voluntary return to the country of origin;
- Support services for family reunion;
- Legal services.

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<sup>45</sup> Centros Nacionais de Apoio ao Imigrante.

The migrants who work and reside legally in Portugal, as well as their families are subject to the same obligations and enjoy the same rights in the field of social security like the native citizens. However, the payment of certain social security benefits to foreign residents depends on the verification of certain requirements, including the period of residence on the territory of the Portuguese state. Foreign nationals residing on the Portuguese territory may benefit from family allowances (pre-natal family allowance, maternity allowance, allowances for children) if they meet the general and specific requirements for payment of benefits.

### ***Support Services Provided to Migrants by Diaspora Organizations***

The leaders of diaspora organizations and Moldovan cultural centres from Portugal cooperate widely with those from Italy, France, Spain, providing information about the situation of Moldovans in this country. Their main objectives are to promote the culture, traditions and customs of Moldovan people; promote the interests of Moldovan migrants abroad and support them in difficult situations; set up a network of communication among diaspora organizations in Portugal, between the Moldovan authorities and diaspora organizations, between local authorities in Portugal and diaspora organizations; inform Moldovan migrants about the political, economic and social situation in Moldova.

The promotion of the national culture is carried out by organizing the Christmas and Martisor holidays, cultural events dedicated to poets – M. Eminescu, Gr. Vieru, composers – E. Doga, and concerts, including as well honouring historical events.

Some diaspora organizations in Portugal believe children are a specific group requiring more attention. For this purpose, the *Pro Diaspora Kids*<sup>46</sup> magazine is published in Portugal whose target group are the children of Moldovans and their parents, providing useful information in terms of legislation, education, health. Some organizations have tried to organize Sunday schools where Romanian is taught to children of Moldovan migrants; unfortunately this initiative failed to materialize for various reasons: some parents showed no interest, low attendance level of children, difficult access and large travelling distances.

The diaspora organizations may apply for various grants in Portugal to implement the activities for preservation of traditions, customs. As in Italy,

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<sup>46</sup> *Pro Diaspora Kids* magazine was issued in 2,000 copies. Only one issue of the magazine has been released so far with the support of the International Organization for Migration as part of the Diaspora Grants Mechanism, within the "Supporting the Implementation of the Migration and Development Component of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership" Project, funded by the European Union.



most of the activities of diaspora organizations are carried out on a voluntary basis. The number of Moldovans getting actively involved is low. Most of them prefer to be beneficiaries, bystanders.

The Moldovan community in Portugal can be divided into several groups, according to the representatives of diaspora organizations:

- Highly qualified people (doctors, teachers) and qualified people who managed to get their diplomas recognized – they are activists in the diaspora organizations;
- People who have a low level of qualification and who do not want to get involved in activities, but participate as bystanders at events organized by diaspora organizations;
- People who came to Portugal to improve the financial situation of their families, they wish to return to Moldova and do not care about what is going on in Portugal.

Some Moldovan businessmen, who migrated to this country, contribute to the activities run by diaspora organizations; Portuguese entrepreneurs contribute more rarely. However, it is not easy to find entrepreneurs who are willing to support financially some activities: *"They are not so open to fund various activities; it is very difficult to find them"* (Leader, Diaspora Association). The process of persuasion is usually quite difficult; often it is based on personal relationships. As an example, certain travel agencies organize contests offering *"two free bus tickets from Portugal to Moldova for raffle winners"* (Leader of Diaspora Association). As a reward, diaspora organizations provide advertising services to entrepreneurs.

Moldovans, who own travel agencies, have reported that keeping ties with diaspora organizations helped them promote their business; respectively, they participated in some activities and did charity work for Moldovan migrants by giving them away return bus tickets to Moldova. However, there's sporadic evidence of Moldovan migrants, who managed to start a business, supporting activities for migrant communities.

There is a close cooperation between diaspora organizations in Portugal and the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to this country in organizing various cultural activities. The Embassy employees place useful information on its website, including for diaspora leaders, inform visitors about diaspora organizations and events organized by them.

There is cooperation between diaspora organizations and centres that provide services for migrants (CNAI<sup>47</sup>). The latter invites diaspora organizations to different seminars, conferences, providing them with useful information.

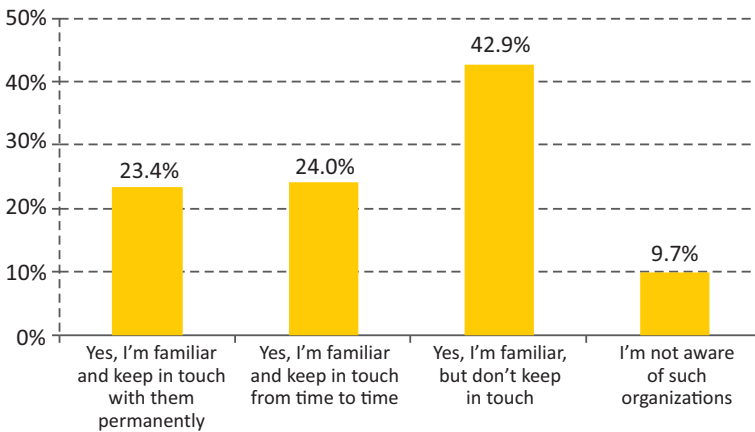
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<sup>47</sup> Centros Nacionais de Apoio ao Imigrante.

Some diaspora organizations submitted documents to the LPAs requesting premises and are still waiting for a response from them. In the offered venues the leaders of organizations would like to install computers, facilitating migrants' communication with Moldovan fellowmen in the homeland, open a library of Romanian books and organize Romanian courses for children.

Portugal is one of the first EU countries where Moldovans migrated. This is one of the reasons explaining the high awareness of diaspora organizations among Moldovan migrants. Thus, 23.4 per cent of Moldovans who participated in the mapping study are familiar with these organizations and maintain permanent contact with them; 24.0 per cent are familiar with them and contact them regularly, 42.9 per cent- know them, but they do not contact them and 9.7 per cent aren't familiar with these organizations (see Figure 4.9). However, it was noticed that in Portugal most Moldovans tend to solve their problems of adjustment on their own and rarely seek the assistance of these organizations. Diaspora organizations are contacted by some Moldovans who have recently arrived to Portugal or a part of those who have a long period of stay. The former want to obtain information about the residence permit, available jobs, benefits in case of payment of taxes, while the latter come to attend folk dance classes, participate in the organization of national holidays, concerts.

**Figure 4.9: Familiarity with diaspora organizations (%)**



Ten per cent of those who aren't familiar with diaspora organizations are migrants of 18-30 years old or over 50 years of age; they have general secondary or vocational/technical education, their family members remained in Moldova and have a migration experience of up to three years.

The services provided by diaspora organizations to Moldovan migrants in Portugal include: invitations to cultural and artistic events (80.8%), advice (75.73%), booklets and leaflets about the country of stay (46.5%), provide support when dealing with law enforcement bodies (34.2%), provide communication support with the local authorities (30.1%), Portuguese courses (30.1%).

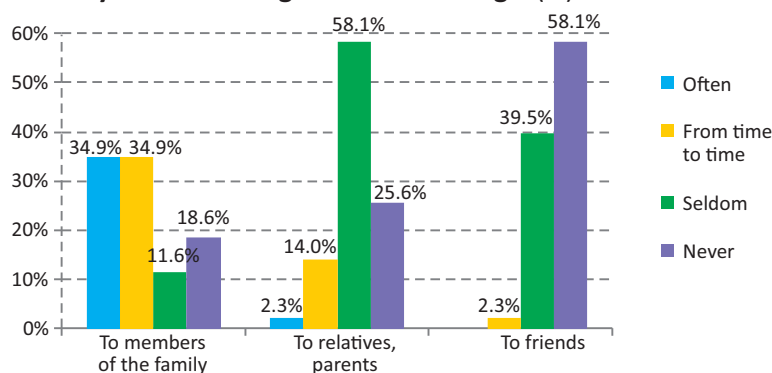
All Moldovan migrants in Portugal request cultural-artistic services, as well as booklets and leaflets about the life in this country. The migrants aged 18-40 years, whose family members stayed in Moldova, asked mostly for advice from representatives of diaspora organizations. People aged 18-50 years, who live with their entire family abroad, ask for help or information regarding their dealings with the law enforcement bodies or local public authorities. Women, when compared with men, attend more often Portuguese courses; they have secondary education and their family members stayed in Moldova. Men usually study Portuguese at their workplace.

#### 4.6. Remittances and Savings

27.9 per cent of migrants in Portugal send remittances to their homeland. On the average, they sent monthly EUR 210 to Moldova over the last year<sup>48</sup>, which represents 22 per cent of the monthly income of the migrants who sent remittances. 42 per cent of Moldovans in Portugal, who send remittances to the homeland, reported that comparing to the previous year the amount of money sent to Moldova in 2012 did not change; 40 per cent stated that they send less money and 16 per cent that they send more money; others did not send previously and could not compare.

The decrease in estimated volume of remittances was explained by the economic crisis in Portugal, which led to loss of jobs or salary cuts of some Moldovans. Most of respondents, who reported to have offered financial help to their family members in Moldova, are men over 41 years old. They help more often the members of the nuclear family; more rarely other relatives and occasionally friends (see Figure 4.10). While migrants who have family members back in Moldova are concerned about helping them, those with their entire family abroad usually offer help to members of the extended family, especially parents.

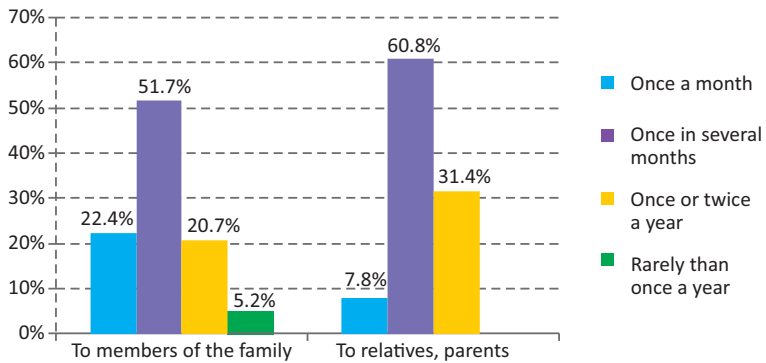
**Figure 4.10: Frequency of remittances sent to the Republic of Moldova by Moldovan migrants from Portugal (%)**



<sup>48</sup> Minimum – EUR 10, maximum – EUR 1,000, most frequently – EUR 50.

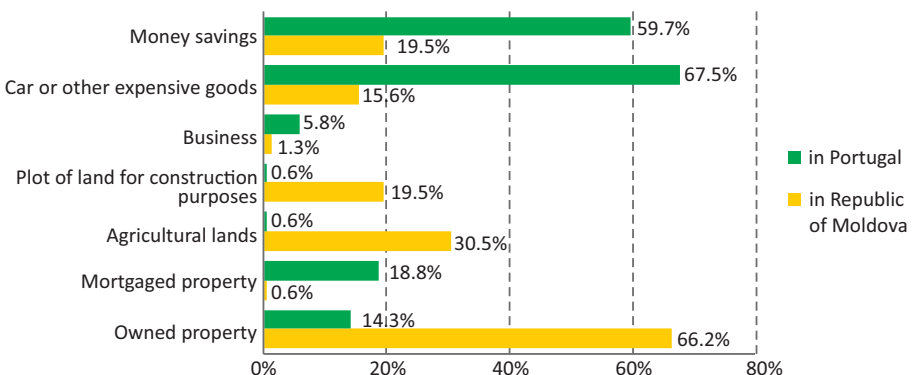
Moldovan migrants in Portugal, compared to those in other countries, send fewer parcels to Moldova both to family members and relatives: *"People do not send parcels now as they did before. We have even decreased shipping costs for sending parcels, but the volume did not increase"* (Manager\_travel agency). 54.5 per cent of migrants send goods to Moldova through parcels. It was noticed in Portugal that mainly elder migrants send parcels to Moldova. Usually, people who have family members in Moldova are the ones who send goods more often, mainly food, clothing and footwear – *"as they are cheaper and of better quality than in Moldova"*, and families from Moldova send sweets and spirit drinks to their relatives in Portugal – *"Bucuria chocolates, they all miss these chocolates, and the Moldovan cognac is appreciated by Portuguese people"* (Manager\_travel agency).

**Figure 4.11: Frequency of sending goods to Moldova by mini-buses (%)**



The number of Moldovans from Portugal who tend to integrate in this country is much higher than in Italy: 14.3 per cent of them already own their house, 18.8 per cent have mortgaged property, and 5.8 per cent have started a business in this country. It is important that 60 per cent of Moldovan migrants have money savings in Portugal (see Figure 4.12).

**Figure 4.12: Goods owned by migrants from Portugal in the countries of origin and destination (%)**



According to study participants' assessments, migration impacts the most the welfare of families with migrants in Portugal. Thus, 83 per cent of Moldovans in Portugal enhanced their families' welfare, 51 per cent provided education or housing to their children, 48 per cent organized their private life, 34 per cent purchased a house, 32 per cent started a new professional career (see Table 4.4).

**Table 4.4: Impact of migration on the family welfare (%)**

		Yes	No	Hard to say / No answer	This situation does not apply to me
1.	It raised the family's welfare level	82.5	2.6	11.0	3.9
2.	It allowed to start a business in Moldova	1.9	67.5	0.6	29.9
3.	It changed the family's reputation for the best in the community of origin in Moldova	14.3	22.1	21.4	42.2
4.	It allowed to purchase housing in Moldova	27.9	46.1	3.9	22.1
5.	It allowed to purchase housing in the country of destination	33.8	55.2	3.2	7.8
6.	It allowed to start a business in the country of destination	7.8	62.3	3.9	26.0
7.	It allowed to help our children ( <i>education, lodging</i> )	51.3	5.2	13.0	30.5
8.	It allowed to organize my private life ( <i>marriage, love</i> )	48.1	16.9	14.3	20.8
9.	It allowed to organize my professional life ( <i>career, studies</i> )	31.8	38.3	20.8	9.1

#### 4.7. Perspectives of Return to the Republic of Moldova

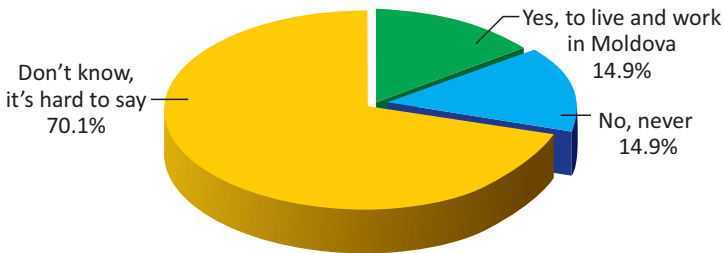
A part of Moldovans, who migrated to Portugal and received Portuguese citizenship, have already left for other European countries. The others continue to work in Portugal, but they mentioned that they will go to another EU country once they lose their job.

Only 15 per cent of migrants from Portugal plan to return to Moldova, and other 15 per cent are firmly convinced that they will never return. The correlation analysis has shown that the intention to settle down abroad is more common among young migrants, while those over 40 years old intend to return to Moldova (see Figure 4.13). The latter, who plan to return from

Portugal, have reported that they will do so in the next 2-5 years and only a part of them are not sure about the time of return. Twenty per cent of respondents who do not plan to return to Moldova (out of those 15 per cent) have taken action in this respect and 80 per cent of them are supported by family members regarding this decision. The others have certain doubts or haven't taken any steps to settle down abroad, being in a "standby" mode: *"I would go home, if I had the benefits I enjoy here"* (FG\_12). It is most likely that people, who came to Portugal 10-12 years ago and live here with their families, will not return to the homeland, since their children study in this country and basically speak only Portuguese at home: *"I have three girls and all of them were born here. Sometimes I have the desire to return to Moldova, but my husband is not so sentimental. Besides, our parents, parents-in-law, and godparents are all here"* (FG\_11).

The number of respondents for whom the future is not clear and who are in a "standby" mode is very high in Portugal – 70 per cent. Many Moldovans are confused with regard to the social and economic situation in Moldova: *"it is difficult for us, the migrants, when we go home, the prices are exaggerated"* (FG\_10, FG\_11). Respectively, they return to Moldova more rarely. However most of them could return home if the wages were higher and the business environment improved.

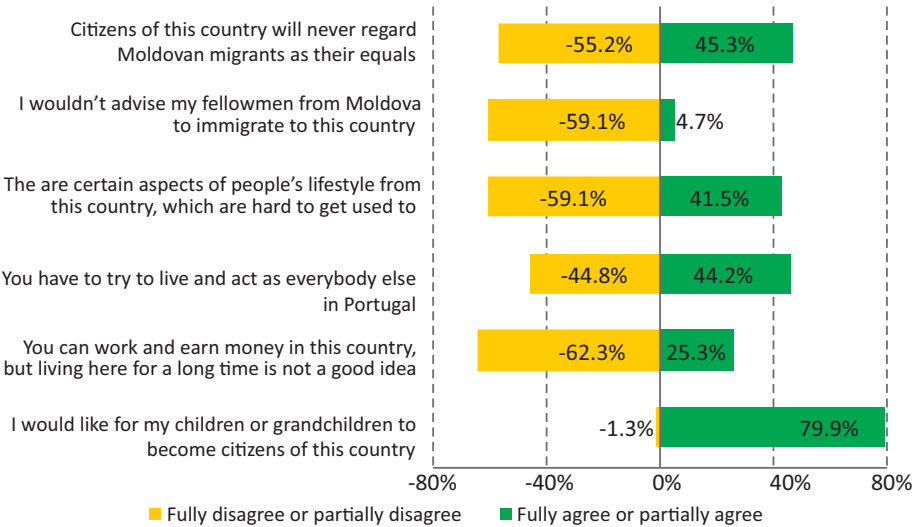
**Figure 4.13: Plans of Moldovan migrants from Portugal to return to the Republic of Moldova (%)**



The parents believe that the future of their children born in Portugal is abroad: *"they already live according to the lifestyle of this country"* (FG\_11). Moldovans, who settled down in Portugal, want that their children or grandchildren to become citizens of this country (79.9%), even if respondents believe that Moldovan migrants are not equally accepted as Portuguese people.

The number of Moldovan migrants who believe that it is possible to earn a high income in Portugal is low; the collected data has shown that the wages in this country are the lowest, compared to other studied countries, leading to a decrease in the flow of migrants to this country in the past years.

Figure 4.14: Migrants' opinion from Portugal on the following statements<sup>49</sup> (%)



The study revealed the following **strengths and weaknesses of migration of Moldovans to Portugal**:

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Legalization of stay of Moldovan migrants by the Portuguese state;</li><li>- Promotion of integration policy for migrants by the Portuguese state;</li><li>- Granting Portuguese citizenship to over 6,000 Moldovans during 2009-2011;</li><li>- Conclusion of Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of Moldova and Portuguese Republic, which became effective on 1 December 2010;</li><li>- Possibilities for recognition of qualifications obtained by Moldovan migrants in Portugal;</li><li>- Possibilities for Moldovan migrants to have a career in different sectors: health care, economics;</li><li>- Moldovan migrants are distinct from other migrant communities, confirmed also by representatives of Portuguese</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Low wages, which determines the migration of Moldovans from this country to other states;</li><li>- Loss of existent qualification by the majority of Moldovan migrants prior to emigration;</li><li>- Low-level of involvement of Moldovan migrants in diaspora organizations activities;</li><li>- Lack of premises intended for meetings and activities of diaspora organizations;</li><li>- Diaspora leaders' lack of project management, operational and strategic planning related skills;</li><li>- Migrants' low-level of involvement in regional development of their communities of origin through investments.</li></ul></div>

<sup>49</sup> The difference up to 100 per cent is applicable to respondents who mentioned that it was difficult to answer.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p>authorities and their high regard of Moldovan migrants studying easily Portuguese and being a peaceful community that does not create any problems;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating conditions for studying Portuguese and studying it without much difficulty;</li> <li>- Process of Moldovan migrants' family reunion;</li> <li>- Identification of possibilities to return home through various means of transport – air, minibuses, private cars;</li> <li>- Successful integration of children in the education system;</li> <li>- Publishing a children's magazine in Portugal - "Pro Diaspora Kids";</li> <li>- Social protection services helping Moldovan migrants facing difficult situations;</li> <li>- The communication and keeping ties with members of the community of origin;</li> <li>- Fulfilment of civic duty and participation in elections of 52 per cent of Moldovan migrants in Portugal;</li> <li>- Higher degree of involvement of Moldovan migrants in various activities of diaspora organizations;</li> <li>- Cooperation between diaspora organizations, the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova in Portugal and the Portuguese LPAs in organizing cultural activities;</li> <li>- Establishing cooperation relationships through twinning localities from Moldova and Portugal.</li> </ul>	



# V. COMMUNITIES OF MOLDOVAN MIGRANTS IN FRANCE

**Box 5.1 Estimations regarding the number of Moldovan migrants in France**

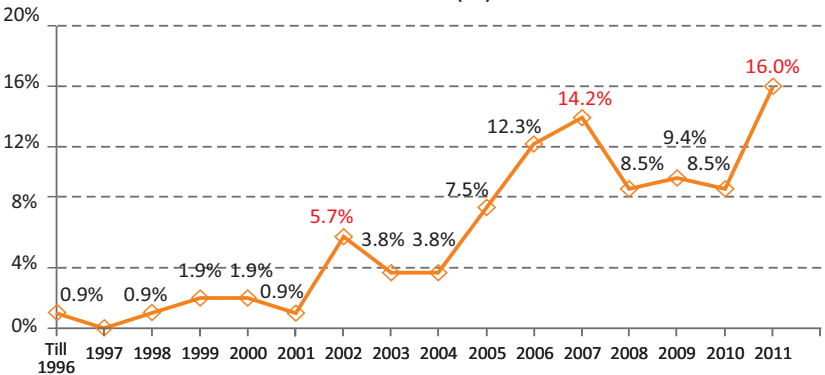
*"Our estimations, concerning the number of the Moldovan migrants differ from the French ones, in the order of 25,000 – 40,000. Students represent a specific group of migrants, France being the second country after Romania by the number of students. Also, a high number of doctors is present in France; about 500 persons"* (Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to France).

*"There are about 40,000 – 60,000 Moldovans residing in France"* (an active member of the Diaspora).

## 5.1. Migration: Trends, Motivations, Expectations

The data collected during the mapping process reveals that the migration of Moldovan citizens to France is characterized by a low migration flow in the 1990s (under 4%), although an increasing trend was registered in the early 2000s. Moldovan migration to France peaked in 2011, 16 per cent of the surveyed respondents having emigrated at that time. The migration flow to France continues. Thus, during the first six months of 2012, 3.8 per cent of Moldovan citizens entered France. Representatives of air companies reported an increase in the number of migrants - *"since February 2012 the traffic of Air Moldova doubled"* (Businessman\_2).

**Figure 5.1: Distribution of migrants by the year of their first entry in France, 1996-2011 (%)**



Mainly the young population migrates to France, a part of them to pursue studies, as well as highly qualified persons - *"the student communities are very large in France; also, there are persons working in research institutes and universities"* (Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to France). However, the overall community of Moldovan migrants in this country is small and does not create major problems to the French authorities.

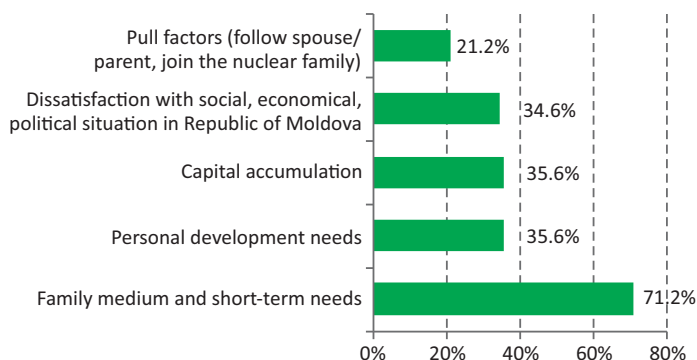
One of the specific issues of Moldovan migration to France is prostitution. *"Moldova is known for high fees and male prostitution, especially in the southern parts of France"* (Representative of the diplomatic mission of the Republic of Moldova to France).

Moldovan migrants in France, 57.5 per cent, have come to this country for the first time, others had a migration experience in other countries: Russian Federation, Italy, Romania. Most of the Moldovan citizens from France migrated holding a Romanian passport or a passport of another EU country (32.1%), legally with the support of an individual intermediary (23.6%), through academic studies programmes (13.2%), illegally with the support of an individual (12.3%), legally with the support of a legally registered recruitment agency (11.3%). The participants in this study reported that during the past years, the number of Moldovan citizens residing in France, holding a Romanian passport, has increased; there is also a trend to legalize the status of the irregular migrants. The desire to have a higher income in a short period of time explains the motivation of some Moldovans to maintain their irregular status.

The structure of reasons that determined Moldovans to migrate to France is the following: desire to have a higher income (66.0%), to buy a house/apartment for their family/ children (29.2%), no future in Moldova (25.5%), continuation of studies (24.5%), the need for professional development and promotion (21.7%) and dissatisfaction with the social, economic and political situation (21.7%).

Most of these motives were grouped in five categories, like in the case of other countries<sup>50</sup>. The main motives of migrating to France are different from those motivating migration to other countries; they are focusing on medium and short-term family needs, on personal development by continuing the education and the chance to accumulate financial capital (see Figure 5.2).

**Figure 5.2: Factors determining migration from the Republic of Moldova to France (%)**



<sup>50</sup> See paragraph 3.1 of this report.

The study data reveals that one in four Moldovans left homeland to continue their education in France. The choice of this destination was conditioned by the presence of their friends in that country (57%), better employment opportunities (36%), knowledge of French language (20%), better study opportunities compared to other countries (16%) and the opportunity to find a job in their area of activity (11%).

One third of Moldovan migrants from France have never returned to Moldova after migration, others manage to come back few times a year or at least once a year. The persons that did not return to Moldova have stayed in France for 4-6 years, which shows that most of them have an irregular status.

The biggest expectations of Moldovan migrants in France is the improvement of their families' financial situation, followed by the identification of an interesting job, learning about the French culture, the intention of settling down in France or having a successful career ( see Table 5.1).

The data shows that plans related to getting to know a new culture, organizing one's private life, leaving behind difficulties from Moldova were achieved by most of the Moldovan migrants. However, it is also difficult to find interesting job and have a successful career abroad. Nonetheless, the share of migrants who managed to have a professional career in France is higher than in other studied countries - 19.8 per cent have a successful career and 25.5 per cent have an interesting job.

**Table 5.1: Expectations of Moldovan migrants from France and their fulfilment (%)**

	Expectations	Fully fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Were not fulfilled
Improve the family's financial situation	70.7	28.3	37.7	4.7
Purchase real estate in Moldova	53.8	24.5	5.7	23.6
Organize personal life	38.7	20.8	8.5	9.4
Overcome the difficulties in Moldova	59.4	34.9	21.7	2.8
Settle in this country	67.1	27.4	25.5	14.2
Get to know a new culture	67.9	54.7	11.3	1.9
Find an interesting job	69.9	25.5	20.8	23.6
Have a successful career	65.1	19.8	20.8	24.5

## 5.2. Professional Training and Integration in the Labour Market

Sixty per cent of Moldovan migrants in France were employed before emigration. The high share of Moldovan migrants in France who did not have working experience prior to emigration is explained by the high number of relatively young migrants to this country, but also by a higher percentage of those who go abroad to continue their studies. A significant part of migrants, who continue their studies in France, have graduated universities in Romania.

Most of the Moldovans from France, 71.7 per cent, are working. Others - 13.2 per cent are neither employed nor looking for a job, 4.7 per cent were looking for a job and 0.9 per cent did not work previously, but were looking for a job. France has the highest number of Moldovan migrants, who are neither employed, nor looking for a job. The underlying reasons are not as different as those of similar migration groups from Portugal, being determined by studies, maternity leave or taking care of children.

The economic sectors, where Moldovan migrants worked before emigration to France are relatively different from those of the migrant groups from Italy and Portugal. Thus, 17.2 per cent of the Moldovan migrants were working in trade, 14.2 per cent in construction, 12.5 per cent in education, 9.4 per cent in community, social and personal services, followed by agriculture, transport and telecommunications, financial activity, health and social services (each accounting for 7.8 per cent).

At the moment of the research, the Moldovan migrants from France were employed in the following economic sectors: construction (37.0%), community, social and personal services (27.2%), hotels and restaurants (9.9%), household management (8.6%), financial activities (4.9%), wholesale and retail, transport and telecommunications, real estate operations, services and renting, education, health-care and social services (each accounting for 2.5 per cent) (see Table 5.2). From gender perspective, there are certain differences among the economic sectors. Women are employed in the community, social and personal services, hotels and household management services, education, while men - in construction, transport and communications. At the same time, both men and women are employed in such sectors as real estate activities, renting and services, health care.

France also has the highest share of Moldovan migrants, one in five migrants, who have continued to work in the same sector as in Moldova (see Table 5.2). This situation is characteristic especially for the migrants that have worked in construction, financial activities, health-care and social services, education, other community, social and personal services, thus proving that Moldovans can have a professional career in this country. The procedure of diploma validation is accessible and used by some of Moldovan migrants.

**Table 5.2: Job sectors of Moldovan migrants in the Republic of Moldova and France (%)**

No.	Job sector	Worked in Moldova (N=64), %	Worked in France (N=81), %	The share of those who have not changed their job sector, %
1.	Agriculture	7.8	0	0
2.	Processing industry	1.6	1.2	0
3.	Production and distribution of electricity, gas and water	3.1	0	0
4.	Construction	14.1	37.0	12.5
5.	Wholesale and retail	17.2	2.5	0
6.	Hotels and restaurants	1.6	9.9	0
7.	Transport and communications	7.8	2.5	0
8.	Financial activity	7.8	4.9	3.1
9.	Real estate transactions, leasing and services	0	2.5	0
10.	State administration, social insurance	7.8	0	0
11.	Education	12.5	2.5	1.6
12.	Health-care and social services	7.8	1.2	1.6
13.	Other community, social and personal services	9.4	27.2	1.6
14.	Household management services	1.6	8.6	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20.4</b>

One fifth of Moldovan migrants, employed prior to immigrating to France, work in the same occupational group as in Moldova. The largest part are qualified workers, construction workers and craftsmen, trained experts, service workers and shop and market sales workers, highly qualified experts (see Table 5.3); a different situation than in Italy and Portugal.

The average salary of migrants in France is EUR 1493 (the lowest – EUR 400, the highest – EUR 3,700).

**Table 5.3: Affiliation of migrants to occupational groups in the countries of origin and destination (%)**

No.	Occupational group	Worked in Moldova (N=64), %	Work currently in France (N=81), %
1.	Managers of economic-social units	4.7	1.2
2.	Highly qualified specialists	28.1	4.9
3.	Specialists with medium qualifications	14.1	24.7
4.	Office workers	1.6	1.2
5.	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	18.8	4.9
6.	Qualified workers in agriculture	0	1.2
7.	Craftsmen and qualified workers in mining industry and construction	12.5	35.8
8.	Operators of machines and devices	10.9	2.5
9.	Non-qualified workers	9.4	23.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Since their arrival to France 43.2 per cent of the Moldovan workers from France have the same job, a situation which shows that Moldovans are satisfied with their jobs and wages.

9.4 per cent of Moldovans have started up a business in this country, most of them in construction (60 per cent of Moldovans who run their own businesses), home care services (20%), trade (10%) and health care (10%) (see Box 5.2).

Health-care and social services are particular job sectors in France for Moldovan migrants. The profile of those that have businesses in this sector is the following: mainly persons aged 41-50 years, married, who have their entire family abroad with them, are staying in France more than 10 years, and received French citizenship.

#### **Box 5.2 Example of businesses in France**

##### **Construction Company**

*"I started working in a construction company for a year. Afterwards, I started my own business in construction. I had worked independently throughout 2004 - 2006. Initially, it was difficult; I did not know the laws.... Then I hired one employee, then 3-4 employees. Actually, I hired nine Moldovan employees.*

*I prefer hiring Moldovans. Our Moldovans can work 24/7 in order to achieve results. French people cannot do that.*

*The procedure of employing Moldovans is complicated. To employ a person from Moldova, I have to fill out papers and submit them to the local authorities. The papers are reviewed by authorities six to eight months, sometimes it takes longer.*

*In my profession I am dependent on the work provided by these guys and I am aware of this fact. In my work I am guided by the following principle – in order for me to succeed on a personal level, my business has to be successful...*

*While developing my business, everything has progressed, step by step. In Moldova it is the other way around - we get rich faster today, this year, and next year we shall see...*

*We do not feel the crisis now. The crisis in construction is felt by large companies that are working for the Government. In France, the crisis is reflected in prices. Honestly, the war in Libya affected us twice as much as the alleged crisis. At that time the oil prices went up, in the first place. Then the war was over, but prices stayed the same..." (Businessman, construction company, Paris).*

#### **Air Tickets Company**

*"I came to France in 1999 as a representative of the Air Moldova Company, on a legal contract. In 2004 I opened my own business. I invested EUR 8,000 in it. I had contracts with other air companies and I found a place to rent. All formalities were taken care of with the help of a French lawyer, I have a French accountant and it is not that complicated, actually. However, eight years ago it was much easier..." (Businessman, air tickets company, Paris).*

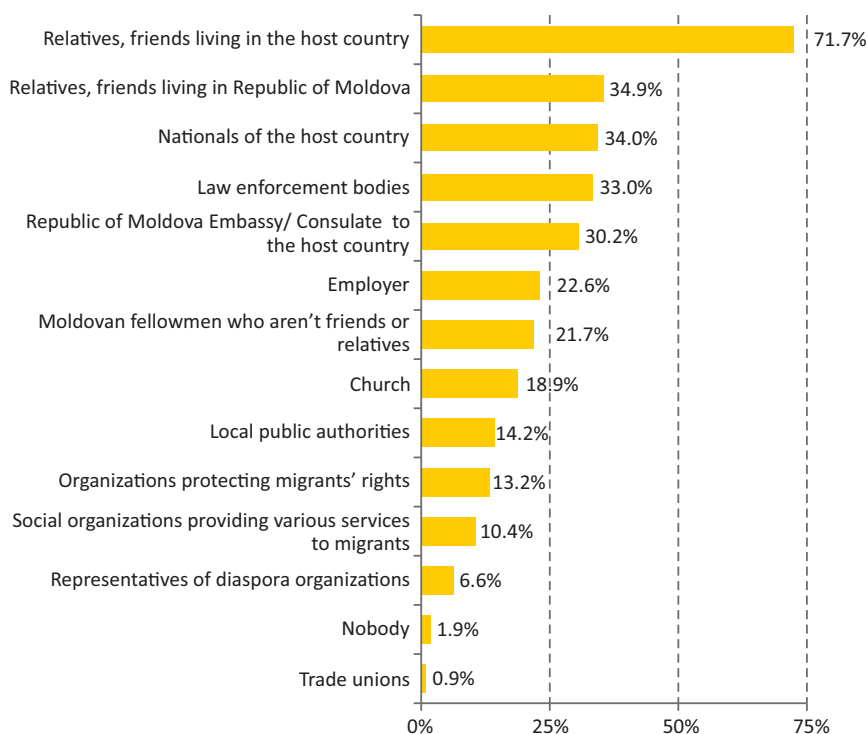
The problems encountered by migrants in France are not essentially different from those identified in the other studied countries. There is a difference in the much higher number of Moldovans facing problems in this country: (i) lack of knowledge of French (73% of migrants), (ii) the procedures for legalizing their stay (60%), (iii) employment difficulties (66%), (iv) labour employment (26%), (v) discrimination by employers manifested through humiliation, abuse, restriction or prohibition of access to public services (18%).

The illegal practice of "selling" jobs is known and sometimes practiced by some Moldovans living in France. Moreover, there are certain groups in this country with deviant behaviour, engaging in burglaries or controlling the areas populated predominantly by Moldovans.

Furthermore, it should be pointed out that one in three Moldovan migrants from France reported health issues. This situation is explained, partially, by the lack of information about health services that migrants are entitled to.

When Moldovans have such problems in France, they seek the assistance from friends and relatives who live in this country (71.7%), relatives, friends who live in Moldova (34.9%), French nationals (34.0%), law enforcement bodies (33.0%), Moldovan Embassy in France (30.2%) (see Figure 5.3). Data shows that less than 7 per cent of Moldovans from France seek assistance from diaspora organizations.

**Figure 5.3: Persons, who the Moldovan migrants turn to, in order to solve problems encountered in France (%)**



The church is an essential element in the life of migrants from Paris and its suburbs, managing to gather Moldovan migrants around it and offer them needed spiritual support in the most difficult moments, but also some social services to facilitate their integration in the society. Thus, the Community Centre of the Moldovan Orthodox Church from Montreuil, near Paris, has a library of Romanian books and organizes Romanian courses for children and French course for adults.

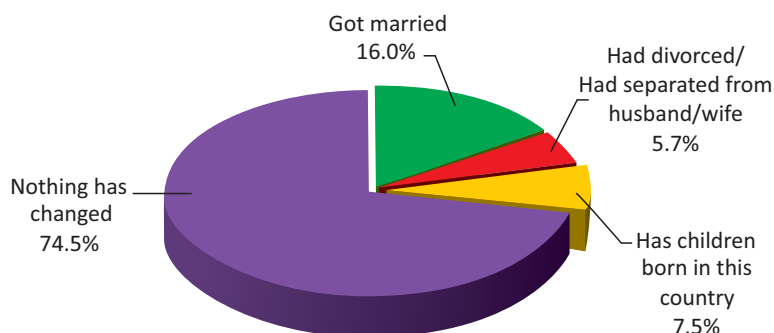
Some migrants have regarded the activity of the French trade unions as a "*fight*" for the interests of those who they represent, offering them various unemployment benefits, allowances for transportation costs.

### 5.3. Family and Migration

Among the total number of Moldovan migrants a high rate of unmarried persons is registered - 53.8 per cent, explained by the high number of young people. Respectively, the research identifies also the changes that were produced in the civil status of the Moldovans – 16 per cent of the Moldovans from France got married, 7.5 per cent - gave birth to children, and 5.7 per cent have divorced/ are separated (see Figure 5.4).



**Figure 5.4: Changes in the marital status of migrants during their stay in France (%)**



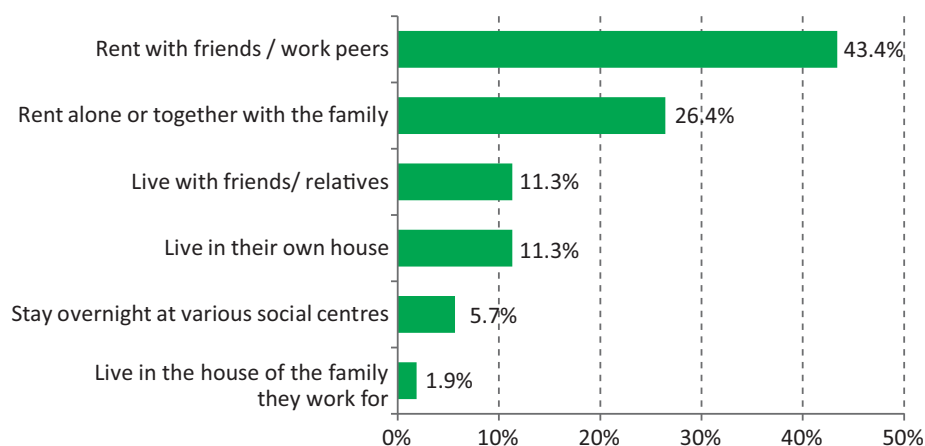
The living conditions of Moldovan migrants from France are different from the ones in Italy and Portugal. As 43.4 per cent of migrants are renting out together with friends or work colleagues, 26.4 per cent are renting by themselves or with their family, 11.3 per cent own a property or live with their friends, relatives, 5.7 per cent sleep at different social centres and 1.9 per cent live with the families they work for (see Figure 5.5). Moldovan migrants in France who rent apartments with their friends are mostly single, aged between 18-30 years old, with family members left in Moldova and they stay for a period of up to three years. Those who have purchased homes are mostly married, aged between 31 and 40 years and have been residing in France between 4 and 6 years.

The share of families with children in France accounts for 40.6 per cent. Unlike other studied countries, some of the children are staying in France with their parents (36 children), some children are living with their extended family in Moldova (31 children).

Moldovan migrants in France consider that their children's chances of integration are high, regardless of the fact that their school grades are not as good compared to the ones of Moldovan migrant children in the United Kingdom, Italy and Portugal. Most children from France miss Moldova, even if their parents reported that one third of them are happy. However, some Moldovan migrants from France consider that their children sometimes are isolated from those born in this country.

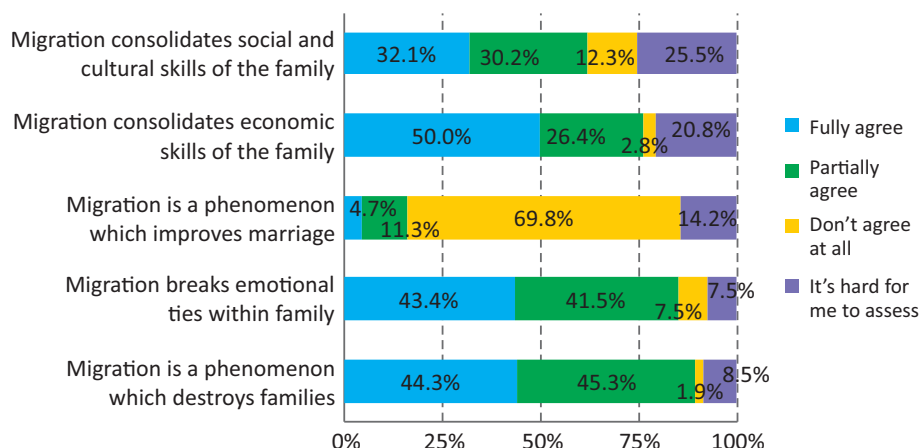
37.7 per cent of the Moldovan migrants from France visited Moldova in 2012, and 24.5 per cent in 2011. The factors determining the return of migrants to Moldova and their stay in the country of origin are not any different from those identified in Italy, Portugal. Most of them stay in Moldova for one month.

**Figure 5.5: Housing conditions of Moldovan migrants in France (%)**



Most of the Moldovan migrants from France believe that migration is a contradictory phenomenon; on one hand, it destroys emotional ties within the family, leading to divorce or separation, and on the other hand, it enables development of some economic skills (see Figure 5.6). Nonetheless, fewer Moldovan migrants in France regret their migration experience, compared to those from Italy and Portugal. This is mainly due to a group of Moldovan migrants in France - young people that study and are not yet married.

**Figure 5.6: Appreciation of migration by Moldovan migrants from France (%)**

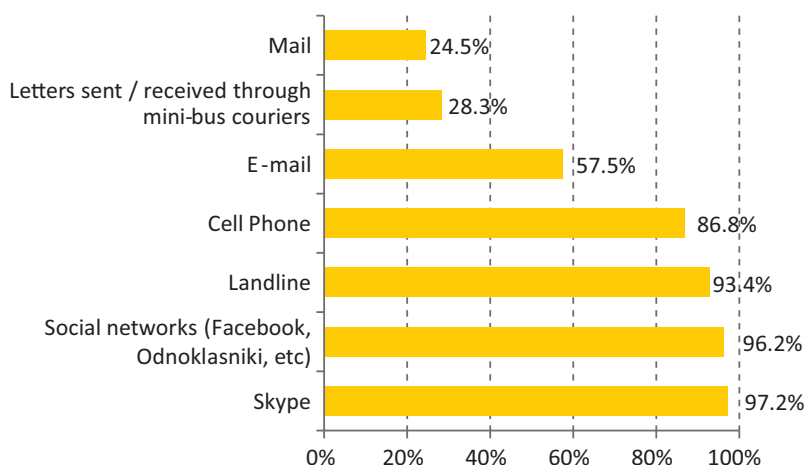


## 5.4. Migrants' Relation with the Country of Origin

The Moldovan migrants in France are not different from any other country concerning the communication with family members, relatives, friends and acquaintances. They communicate regularly via Skype, social networks, landline and mobile phone (see Figure 5.7). These means are used by almost all migrants, compared to the regular mail or letters sent via courier by minibuses, which are mainly used by migrants over 41 years of age.

Over 90 per cent of Moldovan migrants from France have free access to Internet at home; 25 per cent have access at work or university. Moldovan migrants aged over 50 lack Internet access in their households.

**Figure 5.7: Means of communication used by Moldovan migrants from France (%)**



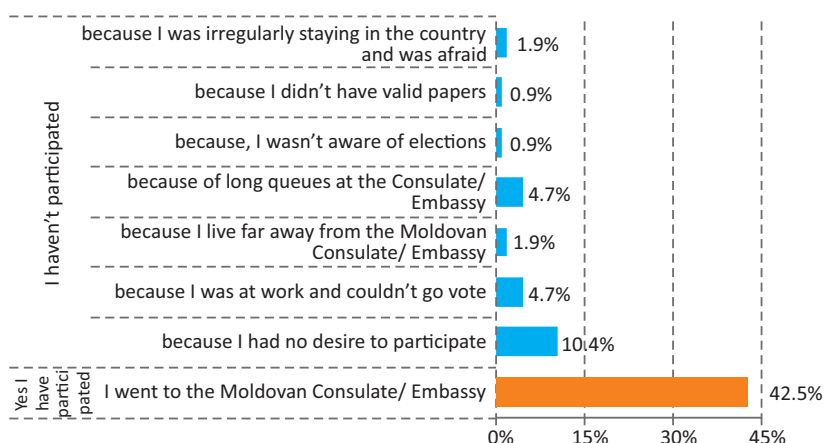
The presence of young Moldovan migrants in France explains the frequent use of Internet in comparison to Italy, however the intended use is the same: 87.2 per cent communicate with close ones through Skype, messenger, 76.3 per cent communicate through social networks, 65.3 per cent access news sites from Moldova and 34.7 per cent watch and listen to TV or radio shows.

In France Moldovan migrants show interest in the latest developments in Moldova (33.0 per cent seek regularly for information and 50.9 per cent only occasionally) and in France (42.5 per cent - regularly and 31.3 per cent occasionally). The sources of information accessed by migrants in order to stay up to date with the latest news from Moldova are: Internet (82.1%), communication with relatives and friends (63.2%), communication with other co-nationals from this country (54.7%), online TV channels from Moldova (27.4%), local written press (13.2%), local TV channels (12.3%). The number of people, who are neither interested in the latest developments in France nor in the ones in Moldova, is the highest among studied countries.

Regarding the analysis of participation of Moldovan migrants from France in the recent parliamentary elections, a participation rate of 42.5 per cent has been registered among participants of this mapping study. The reasons why people didn't participate in the election were: they were not in France (17.0%), didn't want to (10.4%), had to be at work (4.7%), long queues at the Embassy (4.7%) (see Figure 5.8). There are no correlations with the voters' age; however there is a direct link between level of education and the period of stay in France. The number of non-participants was higher among those with lower qualifications staying for a shorter period of time.

Some representatives of the diaspora organizations have reported that the voter turnout among Moldovans increased "from 17,000 in 2009 to 64,000 in 2010", thanks to the campaigns promoting overseas voting.

**Figure 5.8: Participation in the Parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010<sup>51</sup> (%)**



The impact of Moldovan migration to France on the communities of origin is not essentially different from the emigration to other countries. The mayor of Corjeuti village, Briceni rayon, reported that 2,000 out of the over 8,000 inhabitants are involved in circular migration to France. The financial resources accumulated by emigrants are invested in construction and repair of houses, procurement of land and tillage equipment - "we have about 630 tractors, of which 300 weigh 20 tones, 5,000 small units and 400 minibuses" (LPA representative). A direct bus line Corjeuti-Paris runs regularly, because "money abroad is earned easier than in Moldova", and when more workers are needed, locals of neighbouring villages are hired.

Nonetheless, migrants did not make major investments in the development of the village. An exception is the procurement of a firemen car,

<sup>51</sup> The difference up to 100 per cent is applicable to those who were not in the country (17.0%), did not want to answer (14.2%).

which was purchased and brought from Austria with the support of the community, including migrants from France - *"it was offered to us, we went there, bought it, and brought it here. We built the garage where it is stationed now"* (LPA representative).

The initiative of a village local to open a village museum, *"we have picturesque places, the house of a noble man"* was not endorsed by the LPA representatives due to lack of financial resources.

### 5.5. Integration of Moldovans in Communities of Destination and their Relationships with Diaspora Organizations

The research data reveals that a large share of young people aspires to a professional career in this country, and some even succeed. The career opportunities depend very much on how well they master French language. And those who decide to stay in France make big efforts to learn the language.

Most migrants, who migrated only for work purposes, hope to return to Moldova when they earn enough money or when they get closer to retirement age.

#### Educational Services

The Moldovans that came to France with their entire family, including children, have mentioned that their children face no major adjustment difficulties at school, once they have a stable place to live. The children of Moldovan migrants are integrating easily in the French education system, without too many difficulties.

#### Health-care Services

As for health-care services, some migrants reported that the French health-care system was very good - *"I came here with my family because I had health problems - hobnail liver - and the treatment for this disease is provided here for free "* (Businessman\_3). This was also mentioned by other businessmen, diaspora representatives and participants of the group discussions - *"I brought a child with special needs for a medical intervention, which costed EUR 120,000"* (FG\_14). At the same time, there are instances, when French doctors refused to treat children with disabilities from Republic of Moldova due to corruption. - *"I know that from 1999 to 2002, there were cases when French doctors were performing for free surgeries to children suffering of certain diseases... However, after a certain time span, they refused to attend them due to corruption - Moldovan doctors demanded money from these families and then this cooperation ended"* (Businessman\_2).

### Support Services provided to Migrants

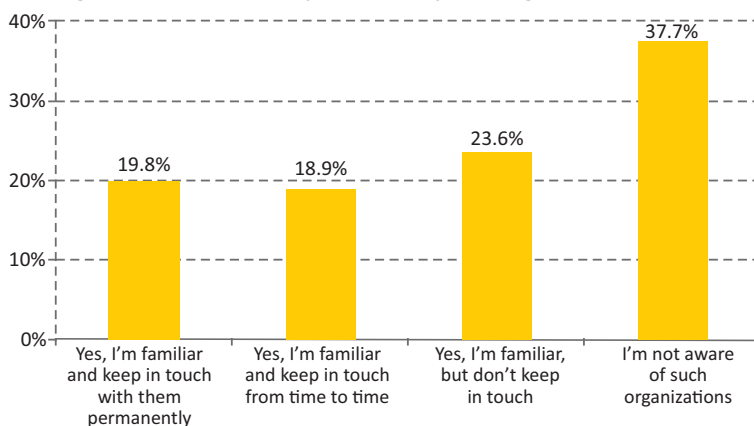
In order to help migrants in various vulnerable situations, there are a number of NGOs in France that provide various social services: accommodation, nutrition, legal support if needed.

#### ***Support services provided to Migrants by Diaspora Organizations***

There are active diaspora organizations in France, both among students and migrants. The diaspora organizations from France organize various activities - promoting the image of Moldova in Europe, maintaining traditions, customs. In Paris there are even community centres opened by diaspora organizations, and by the church. They provide different services: information, Romanian courses for children, French courses for adults, a library, cultural and historical events (Martisorul, Christmas, Independence Day, 28 June 1940), including concerts. One of the most recent initiatives of various diaspora organizations from France is the establishment of a Coordinating Council for the facilitation of the dialog between Moldovan diaspora organizations and French authorities, accessing European funds, as well as naming a small street in Paris after M. Eminescu in his memory.

The study results reveal that 19.8 per cent of Moldovan migrants from France are familiar with diaspora organizations and keep in touch continuously with them; 18.9 per cent are familiar with them and contact them periodically, 23.6 per cent are aware of the existence of these organizations, but don't keep in touch with them and 37.7 per cent are not familiar with these organizations. The detailed analysis of these categories of migrants shows that mostly single men, having higher education degrees, and staying in France up to three years know about the existence of these organizations. Another group of persons who are in close contact with diaspora organizations includes people of 31-50 years old, married, staying in France longer than seven years.

**Figure 5.9: Familiarity with diaspora organizations (%)**



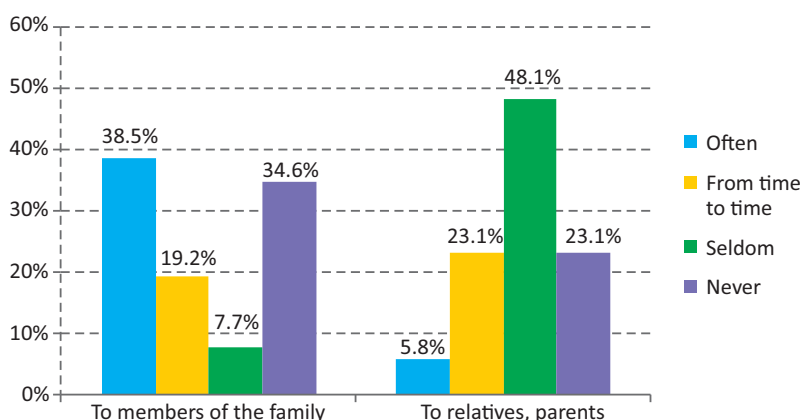
The beneficiaries of diaspora services in France requested mainly invitations to cultural events (84.3%), advice (53.7%), French courses (43.9%), leaflets, booklets, films about the Republic of Moldova. The persons most interested in cultural events are over 31 years of age, married and having stayed in France longer than four years. Advice is mainly requested by persons over 41 years of age, with secondary education and family members left in Moldova. Those who attend French courses organized by diaspora organizations are usually over 31 years of age, with vocational/technical education, having stayed in France for over four years. Leaflets and booklets about life in Moldova are of interest mainly to people older than 41 years, having stayed in France for over seven years.

## 5.6. Remittances and Savings

About half of the Moldovans that go to work in France send money back home to their families. On the average, during the past year migrants from this country sent to Moldova monthly remittances of EUR 454<sup>52</sup>, which accounts for 32 per cent of the monthly income. Migrants who send money are usually over 31 years old, males, with completed secondary education, who have family members left in Moldova and have been staying in France for over 10 years.

Remittances are sent more often to members of the nuclear family, (38.5 per cent - frequently and 19.2 per cent - once in a while). Young migrants - 18 - 30 years old and not married, with a migration experience of up to three years, send money to the families of origin and to other relatives (5.8 per cent - frequent and 23.1 per cent - once in a while). Just like in the case of other countries, it was established that few migrants send money to their friends.

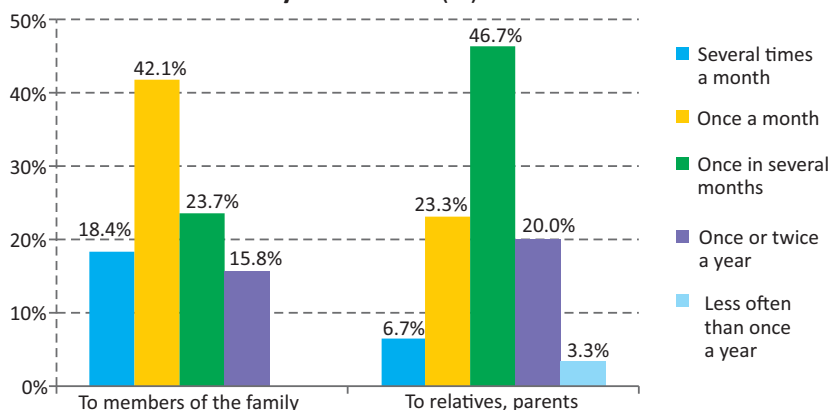
**Figure 5.10: Frequency of remittances sent to the Republic of Moldova by Moldovan migrants from France (%)**



<sup>52</sup> Minimum – EUR 50, maximum – EUR 1,500, most frequently – EUR 100.

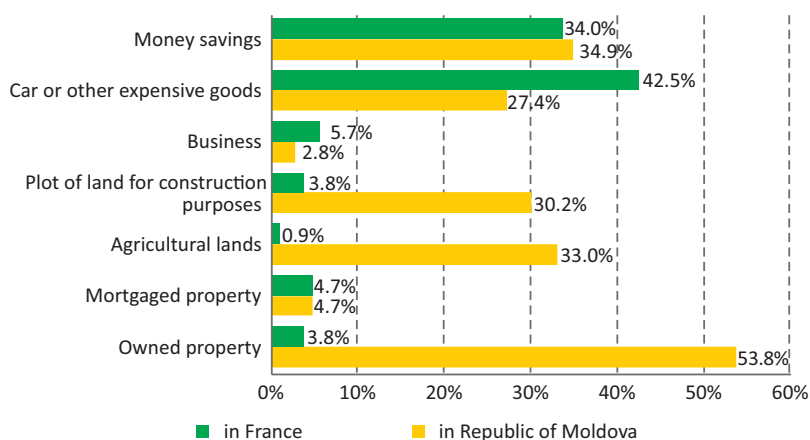
61.3 per cent of Moldovan migrants from France send parcels to Moldova consisting of goods, mainly appliances, clothes, shoes and food. Migrants who have family members left in Moldova send personal goods more often. The study reveals that at least once a month, 60.5 per cent send parcels to members of the nuclear family from Moldova and 30.0 per cent to the extended family.

**Figure 5.11: Frequency of sending goods to Moldova by mini-buses (%)**



The Moldovans from France can be grouped in two rather equal categories in terms of the country they keep their savings in - 34.9 per cent in Moldova and 34.0 per cent in France (see Figure 5.12). The analysis of goods owned by Moldovan migrants in France shows a trend of integrating by some of them in this country. Thus, 4.7 per cent acquired real estate in France, another 4.7 per cent have mortgaged property and 3.8 per cent purchased land to build a house.

**Figure 5.12: Goods owned by migrants in the countries of origin and destination (%)**





Compared to other studied countries, migration in France has the lowest impact on the welfare of the migrants' families. This is explained by high investments made in this country for purposes of education, recognition of qualifications. Thus, only 55 per cent improved their welfare, however 34 per cent have organized their professional life and 27 per cent their personal life, another 27 per cent have purchased real estate in Moldova.

**Table 5.4: Impact of migration on the family welfare (%)**

No.		Yes	No way	Hard to say/ No answer	This situation does not apply to me
1.	It raised the family's welfare level	54.7	6.6	18.9	19.8
2.	It allowed to start a business in Moldova	3.8	63.2	5.7	27.4
3.	It changed the family's reputation for the best in the community of origin in Moldova	15.1	26.4	23.6	34.9
4.	It allowed to purchase housing in Moldova	27.4	35.8	4.7	32.1
5.	It allowed to purchase housing in the country of destination	8.5	61.3	0.9	29.2
6.	It allowed to start a business in the country of destination	11.3	58.5	1.9	28.3
7.	It allowed to help our children ( <i>education, lodging</i> )	16.0	13.2	15.1	55.7
8.	It allowed to organize my private life ( <i>marriage, love</i> )	27.4	16.0	6.6	50.0
9.	It allowed to organize my professional life ( <i>career, studies</i> )	34.0	25.5	15.1	25.5

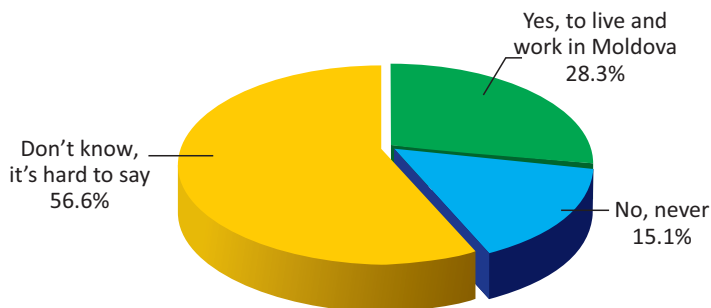
## 5.7. Perspectives of Return to the Republic of Moldova

Twenty eight per cent of the migrants from France plan to return to Moldova, other 15 per cent declared that they would never return (see Figure 5.13). Among those who do not plan to return to Moldova, 12 per cent have taken action in that regard (purchased real estate, applied for citizenship), and in half of these cases their family supports their decision. Among the invoked reasons for staying abroad they mentioned that Moldovan laws don't work and are enforced selectively only in the favour of the governing parties - "*I need four tires and I cannot enter the country with them... Someone imports tires by truck and makes millions over night, and I'm not permitted to enter the four of them and...*" (Businessman\_3).

Most of those who plan to return to Moldova, state that they will do it

within the next years, however there is significant group that is not sure regarding the timing of their return.

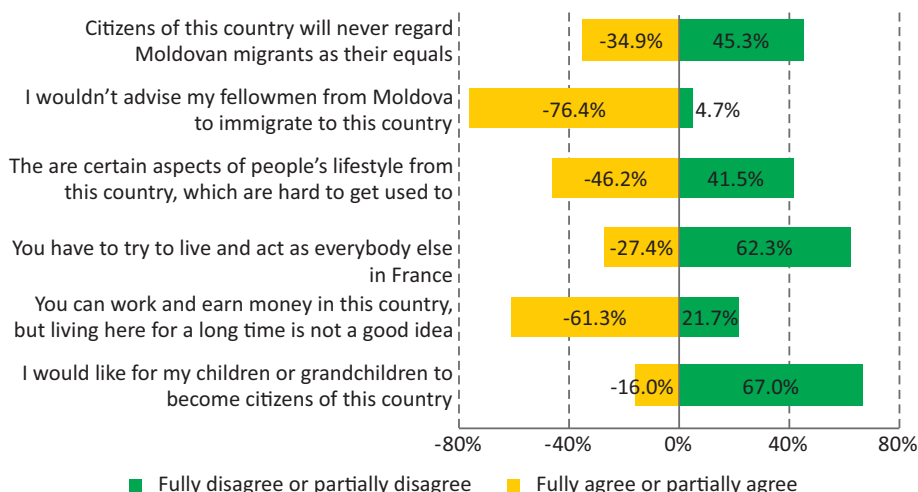
**Figure 5.13: Plans of Moldovan migrants from France to return to the Republic of Moldova (%)**



Moldovans, regardless of the country they have immigrated to, would like their children and grandchildren to become citizens of their host countries and France is no exception. 22 per cent agreed with the statement that "one can work and earn money in France, but living here for a longer period is not good". However, 76 per cent of respondents are advising those that want to emigrate from Republic of Moldova to come to France.

The number of Moldovans in France who regret their migration experience is smaller than in other studied countries - 2.8 per cent.

**Figure 5.14: Migrants' opinion from France on the following statements<sup>53</sup> (%)**



<sup>53</sup> The difference up to 100 per cent is applicable to those who mentioned that it was difficult to answer.

The migration of Moldovans to France underlines the following **strengths and weaknesses**:

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- About one fourth of migrants came to France for education purposes ;</li> <li>- Opportunity for Moldovan migrants to validate their qualifications in France;</li> <li>- Opportunities to asserts themselves in different areas: construction, health care, science, economy;</li> <li>- The highest rate of highly qualified Moldovan migrant workers, employed according to their level of qualification;</li> <li>- Communication and keeping ties with members of the community of origin;</li> <li>- Active diaspora organizations cooperate with similar organizations from other countries; existence of diaspora organizations of Moldovan students in France;</li> <li>- Existence of Community Centres - a place where diaspora organizations can meet;</li> <li>- Fulfilment of the civic duty and participation in elections – 43 per cent of the Moldovans in France;</li> <li>- The Moldovan church in the suburb of Paris opened a Community Centre and provides various services to migrants, including a library with books in Romanian, Romanian courses for children, French courses;</li> <li>- Cooperation between diaspora organizations and the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to France for the purpose of organizing cultural and scientific activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of statistics on the number of Moldovan migrants in France;</li> <li>- One third of Moldovan migrants from France did not return home after migration;</li> <li>- Low-level of involvement of Moldovan migrants in activities organized by diaspora organizations;</li> <li>- The lack of a diaspora organization for Moldovan doctors in France;</li> <li>- The migrants facing difficulties do not contact diaspora organizations;</li> <li>- Unfair competition between diaspora organizations;</li> <li>- Migrants' low level of involvement in regional development of their communities of origin through investments;</li> <li>- Lack of project management and operational and strategic planning skills of diaspora leaders;</li> <li>- Many informal employees (based on a verbal agreement; this doesn't allow them to access to social protection, labour protection);</li> <li>- Low level of involvement of Moldovan migrants from France in coming up with development initiatives in their country of origin;</li> <li>- Lack of cooperation between diaspora organizations and LPAs in France.</li> </ul>

## VI. COMMUNITIES OF MOLDOVAN MIGRANTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

### Box 6.1 Estimations regarding the number of Moldovan migrants in the United Kingdom

*"We estimate the general number of Moldovans in the United Kingdom to be between 10,000 - 15,000. The Embassy has repeatedly submitted written requests to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and to other official agencies of population registration, of work permits, but currently we did not receive any official answer. My counterparts, at other embassies from the United Kingdom, are confronted with the same issue. Thus this is not a special attitude towards our country, but rather a general approach towards all foreign diplomatic missions"* (Representative of the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to the United Kingdom).

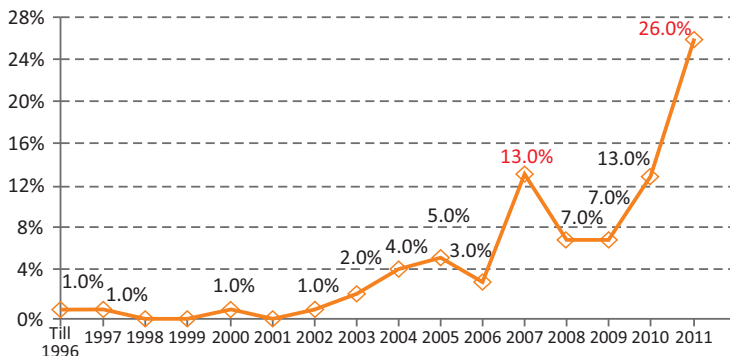
*"The rough number of the Moldovan migrants in the United Kingdom is 20,000"* (Representative of the Moldovan Diaspora).

### 6.1. Migration: Trends, Motivations, Expectations

The research data reveals that the number of Moldovan migrants in the United Kingdom was insignificant until the twenty-first century, and has been increasing since 2003, peaking in 2011, when 26 per cent of migrants immigrated to this country. The United Kingdom is a new destination for Moldovan migrants, which was confirmed by the highest number of migrants to this country during the first 6 months of 2012 - 16 per cent. Mainly young people immigrate to this country.

The visa system for the United Kingdom is different from the European one. The persons applying for a UK visa are assessed as potential persons applying for UK citizenship.

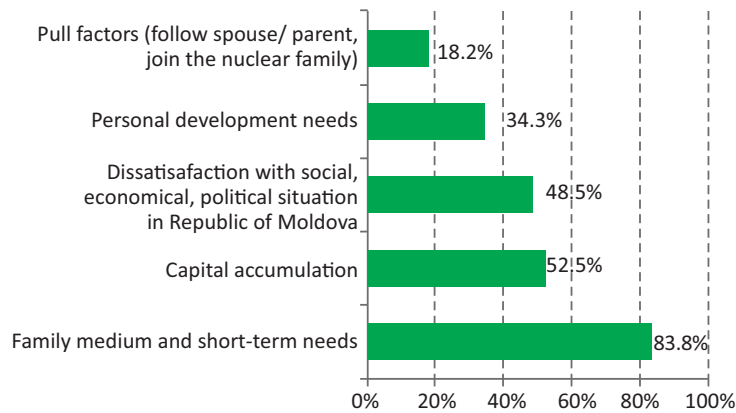
**Figure 6.1: Distribution of migrants by the year of their first entry in the United Kingdom, 1996-2011 (%)**



Most migrants from the United Kingdom have previous migration experiences in the Russian Federation, Italy, Romania, Portugal, Greece, France, Germany, Israel, Spain, Turkey, Hungary, Czech Republic. Only 41 per cent have migrated for the first time to the United Kingdom. As it is a recent destination country for Moldovan migrants, the United Kingdom presents certain particular features. It was found that 75 per cent of Moldovan migrants who arrived to this country, held a Romanian passport or a passport of another state, but some of the times these were forged: *"five years ago most of Moldovans from the United Kingdom had forged papers"* (FG\_15). This situation was confirmed by the representative of the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to this country: *"the UK authorities have identified quite late the problem of migrants with forged papers"*. Other migration methods to this country include: illegal migration through an individual intermediary (9.0%), legal migration through an individual intermediary (5.0%), legal migration as part of an academic programme (4.0%), legal migration a part of an experience exchange programme and then continuing to stay illegally (3.0%), family reunion (3.0%).

There are plenty of reasons for migration and the respondents were free to choose the ones related to their personal migration experience. The structure of reasons is diverse – from earning a higher income (70.0%), to purchasing a house/apartment for the family/child (43.0%), dissatisfaction with the social, economic, political situation (39.0%), enhancing the family's level of living (35.0%), professional development and promotion (24.0%), paying out debts (24%), investing in or starting up a business in Moldova (17.0%), following their spouse or a parent/parents (15.0%), paying for their children's education (12.0%), other reasons (less than 6%)<sup>54</sup>.

**Figure 6.2: Factors determining migration from the Republic of Moldova to the United Kingdom (%)**



<sup>54</sup> The respondents had the possibility to choose multiple responses.

The multitude of submitted reasons can be grouped in five categories<sup>55</sup>. The main reasons, determining Moldovans' migration to the United Kingdom, are partially different from the ones invoked by the migrants from other countries. First of all, just like in the previous cases, these are the short and medium term family needs, followed by the desire to earn more money. The dissatisfaction with the general situation in Moldova seems to be a significant reason among respondents only in the United Kingdom, amounting to 48.5 per cent (see Figure 6.2).

Currently, the migration process to the United Kingdom is much easier than it was five – eight years ago:

*"I wanted to emigrate in 2005 and we have reached out to different companies that were dealing with such things. We have paid a lot of money - once we paid EUR 1,000 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> time – EUR 2,000 that we have borrowed and had to pay interest for and we were cheated..... When my husband and I understood that we were cheated, my husband, who is a lawyer, tried to get our money back and sue them. We went to court and only now our case is ready and up for examination ...It is not only me, there are tens of people that do not know if they will get their money back; but it is important for me to be at peace as the criminals will be punished".* (FG\_16).

*"In 2008 I paid EUR 6,000 to come to the United Kingdom and arrived in two days. Before that I paid some small amounts of money to those who arranged the trip. I borrowed money from my parents, and I have not yet fully repaid them..."*(FG\_15).

United Kingdom holds the lowest number of Moldovan migrants who migrated to reunite with their families (8%), others for study (11%) or work purposes (77%).

Asylum-seekers and refugees are a specific category of migrants in the United Kingdom - *"after the Transnistrian conflict and 7 April 2009 events, some Moldovan citizens have invoked a non-democratic regime and were accepted by the UK authorities as refugees and asylum seekers"* (Representative of the Republic of Moldova Embassy to the United Kingdom).

The United Kingdom is chosen as a country of migration due to higher employment opportunities and better income compared to other countries (81.0%), presence of friends in this country (43.0%), knowledge of English (28.0%), and possibility to find a job in the same professional area as in Moldova (20.0%).

The Moldovan migrants from this country are less homogeneous in terms of frequency of visits to Moldova - 31 per cent return once a year, other 21 per cent less than once a year, 21 per cent - several times a year, and 5 per cent spend a similar amount of time in the Republic of Moldova and the United

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<sup>55</sup> See paragraph 3.1 of this report.

Kingdom. One in five migrants from this country has never returned home after emigration.

The migrants from the United Kingdom visit Republic of Moldova for same reasons as the migrants from Italy, Portugal or France. Most of them are staying in Moldova up to a month (60.0%); 10 per cent had stayed for two months and 8.0 per cent - three months and more.

The expectations of Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom are not essentially different from the ones of Moldovans from other countries. Few Moldovan migrants intend to have a career in this country, thus this expectation ranks last (see Table 6.1).

The research data reveals fewer fulfilled expectations, if compared with other countries, which is explained by the recent emigration wave to the United Kingdom. Like in other countries, having a career is the most difficult process.

**Table 6.1: Expectations of Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom and their fulfilment (%)**

	Expectations	Fully fulfilled	Partially fulfilled	Were not fulfilled
Improve the family's financial situation	87.0	36.0	44.0	7.0
Procure real estate in Moldova	66.0	13.0	20.0	33.0
Organize personal life	67.0	35.0	22.0	10.0
Overcome difficulties in Moldova	76.0	35.0	30.0	11.0
Settle down in this country	74.0	42.0	25.0	7.0
Get to know a new culture	76.0	46.0	24.0	6.0
Find an interesting job	75.0	19.0	28.0	28.0
Have a successful career	60.0	9.0	15.0	36.0

## 6.2. Professional Training and Integration in the Labour Market

The United Kingdom has the lowest share of Moldovan migrants who had work experience prior to migration - 55 per cent, due to the high share of young migrants to this country. Some of them continued their education in this country and after graduation have found a job. Migrants from this category are promoted professionally, competing with UK citizens.

The job sectors of Moldovan migrants in Moldova coincide partially with those in France: trade (18.2%), construction (16.2%), education (16.2%), processing industry (10.9%), community, social and personal services (10.9%), hotels and restaurants (7.3%), transport and telecommunications (7.3%), agriculture (5.5%) - (see Table 6.2).

The Moldovan migrants work in the following economic sectors in the United Kingdom: construction (54.1%), community, social and personal services (19.6%), processing industry (6.6%), hotels and restaurants (6.6%),

wholesale and retail (4.9%), health-care and social services (4.9%) - (see Table 6.2). Men work in construction, transport and telecommunications; women work in the area of home care, household management, hotels and restaurants, health care. Both men and women are employed in trade and processing industry.

**Table 6.2: Moldovan migrants job sectors in the Republic of Moldova and the United Kingdom (%)**

No.	Job Sector	Worked in Moldova (N=55), %	Worked in United Kingdom (N=61), %	The share of those who have not changed their job sector, %
1.	Agriculture	5.5	0	0
2.	Processing industry	10.9	6.6	1.8
3.	Construction	16.4	54.1	12.7
4.	Wholesale and retail	18.2	4.9	1.8
5.	Hotels and restaurants	7.3	6.6	0
6.	Transport and communications	7.3	1.6	0
7.	Financial activity	1.8	0	0
8.	State administration, social insurance	3.6	0	0
9.	Education	16.4	0	0
10.	Health-care and social services	1.8	4.9	1.8
11.	Other community, social and personal services	10.9	19.6	3.6
12.	Household management services	0	1.6	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>

The research data shows that 20 per cent of Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom with prior work experience managed to find a job in the same job sector as in Moldova. The persons who worked in the country of origin in the area of education, trade, agriculture, were employed in construction, community, social and personal services or household management services in the country of destination.

39.9 per cent of Moldovan migrant workers in the United Kingdom have had the same job since their arrival to the United Kingdom.

Only 18.2 per cent of Moldovan migrant workers who had a job before immigrating to the United Kingdom stayed in the same occupational group as in Moldova. The majority are non-qualified workers, and some qualified ones from such occupational groups as craftsmen and construction workers, machine operators and highly-qualified workers.



The United Kingdom offers the highest salaries among compared countries, with an average monthly salary for migrants of EUR 1,735 (the lowest – EUR 350, the highest – EUR 3,750)<sup>56</sup>.

**Table 6.3: Affiliation of migrants to occupational groups in the countries of origin and destination (%)**

No.	Occupational group	Worked in Moldova (N=55), %	Work currently in the United Kingdom (N=61), %
1.	Managers of economic-social units	14.5	4.9
2.	Highly qualified specialists	21.8	9.8
3.	Specialists with medium qualifications	3.6	3.3
4.	Office workers	0	1.6
5.	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	18.2	4.9
6.	Qualified workers in agriculture	0	0
7.	Craftsmen and qualified workers in mining industry and construction	7.3	13.1
8.	Operators of machines and devices	10.9	13.1
9.	Non-qualified workers	23.6	49.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Three per cent of Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom started their own businesses (see Box 6.2), while 17 per cent of Moldovan migrants are self-employed individuals. This is a way for Moldovan migrants holding Romanian citizenship, as well as for Romanians, to get employed, unlike citizens of the UK or other EU countries, who do not need additional papers for employment purposes. The UK residence permit does not imply automatically a work permit for Romanian passport holders.

#### **Box 6.2 Example of businesses in the United Kingdom**

##### **Business in accounting**

*"I have been in the United Kingdom since 1997 and I started a business in accounting. I landed in this area by chance. When I was studying at the college here in United Kingdom, I decided that I have skills in accounting and that I have to practice them.*

*It is not a problem to start up a business in the United Kingdom; it is much more difficult to make it successful. For many years I worked seven days a week. The first 4-5 years I had to work more than the British in order to reach their level. It was my choice and I worked 12-14 hours a day.*

<sup>56</sup> The incomes indicated by migrants were converted to EUR at the GBP/EUR exchange rate of National Bank of Moldova as of 01 July 2012, when the data collection started in United Kingdom.

*My customers are migrants from around the world, but most of them from Eastern Europe. That is why I prefer to employ Moldovans, who speak English, Russian and Romanian."* (Businessman, accounting, London).

**construction business**

*"I came to the United Kingdom after graduating from the university in Bucharest and launching a logistics business in Moldova. I still have that company, but things are very difficult in Moldova.*

*In the United Kingdom I have a construction company. Currently I employ 10 people and I am subcontracted by big construction companies. Previously, one year ago, I had 70 employees, 20 of whom had to undergo a three-month training."* (Businessman, construction, London).

Most businesses owned by Moldovan migrants in the United Kingdom are in construction, trade and household management, accounting, transport, home care and processing industry. Some of those who started businesses in the United Kingdom, especially in trade, household management, and home care have family members left in Republic of Moldova.

The research data revealed that one in ten Moldovan migrants was neither employed, not searching for a job at the moment of survey execution, due to various reasons: studies, medical treatment, maternity leave. Those who have not previously worked and were actively looking for a job either had recently arrived to the United Kingdom or did not have a work permit.

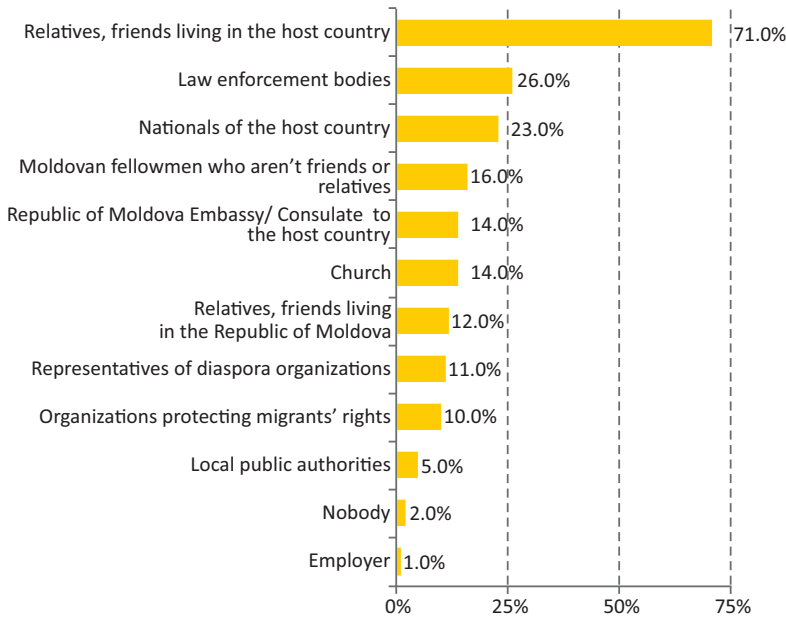
The most stringent problems encountered in the United Kingdom are the following: (i) employment (mentioned by 61 per cent of migrants); (ii) legalizing the stay, as some of them arrived to and lived in the United Kingdom with forged papers (30%); (iii) exploitation (16%); (iv) discrimination (8%); (v) medical issues (7%).

Besides these issues, it should be mentioned that one in two Moldovans migrants from this country faces difficulties due to poor knowledge of English.

The most frequent offences committed by Moldovans in the United Kingdom are forgery of documents and vandalism - *"sometimes there are up to 10 forgery cases a month, but usually 3-5 such cases and 1-2 cases of vandalism or burglary a month... The Moldovans forging papers is an older issue. They used to hold forged Romanian or other states documents and were registered on their basis. Presently, if a specialized control occurs, they are detained and brought to court, in order to decide on their punishment"* (Representative of the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to the United Kingdom).

To solve the problems encountered in the United Kingdom, Moldovans seek first of all the assistance of their relatives and friends from this country (71.0%), law enforcement bodies (26.0%), and UK citizens (22.0%) (see Figure 6.3). The number of Moldovans requiring the assistance of diaspora organizations is low in this country, as well.

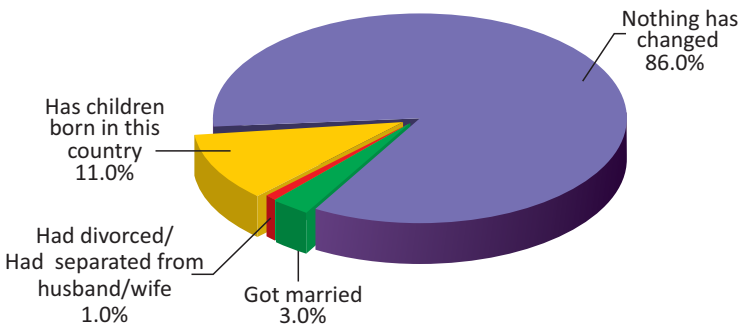
**Figure 6.3: Persons, who Moldovan migrants turn to, in order to solve problems they encounter in the United Kingdom (%)**



### 6.3. Family and Migration

The marital status of Moldovan migrants' from the UK suffers little change (see Figure 6.4). The share of families with children in the total number of migrants is small - 36 per cent. Some children live together with their parents in the United Kingdom (24 children), while others are in Moldova (26 children). Parents, whose children are with them abroad, believe that their children have better chances for a successful life in the United Kingdom. Nonetheless, Moldovan children find it difficult to make friends in this country, communicating mainly with other Moldovan children.

**Figure 6.4: Changes in the marital status of migrants during their stay in the United Kingdom (%)**

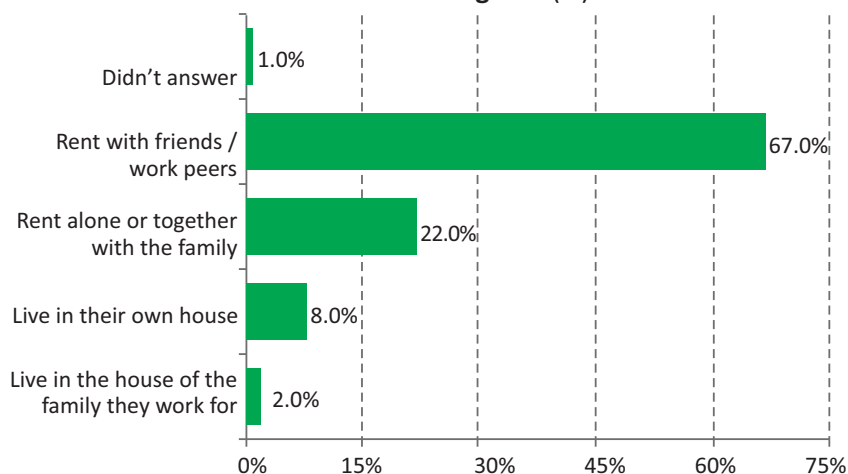


The housing conditions of Moldovan migrants in the United Kingdom reflect the same trends identified in France, being partially determined by the stock of young migrants, who stay only for a short period of time in this country. 67.0 per cent of the migrants are renting out together with friends or work peers, 22.0 per cent are renting with their families and 8.0 per cent own a property (see Figure 6.5). Moldovan migrants, who live together with their friends or work peers, have the following profile: 18-30 years old, men, single, staying in the UK for less than seven years. Those who live together with their families are 31-50 years old and have been staying in the UK for more than seven years.

Accommodation is very costly in the United Kingdom and explains partially the living style of young Moldovans in this country - *"in the beginning we were 10 men living in one room. Later on, when you find a partner, gradually you move to your own place"*. (Businessman\_2).

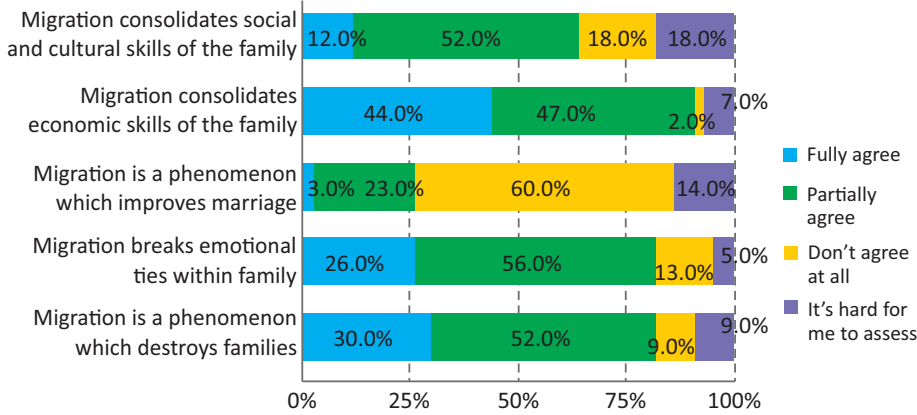
In the United Kingdom was observed the highest number of Moldovan migrants who returned back home in 2012 - 51 per cent, basically double if compared to 2011, when Moldova was visited by only 22 per cent of the Moldovan migrants from this country. This situation is partially explained by the fact that the migrants who emigrated previously acquired Romanian passports, as well as by the possibilities offered by the Romanian passports and the status of self-employed individuals.

**Figure 6.5: Housing conditions of Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom (%)**



Half of Moldovans from the United Kingdom do not regret their migration experience, which indicates that the overall perception of migration to this country is positive. However, the impact of migration on family, similar to the other studied countries, was evaluated as negative (see Figure 6.6).

Figure 6.6: Assessment of migration by Moldovans from the United Kingdom (%)

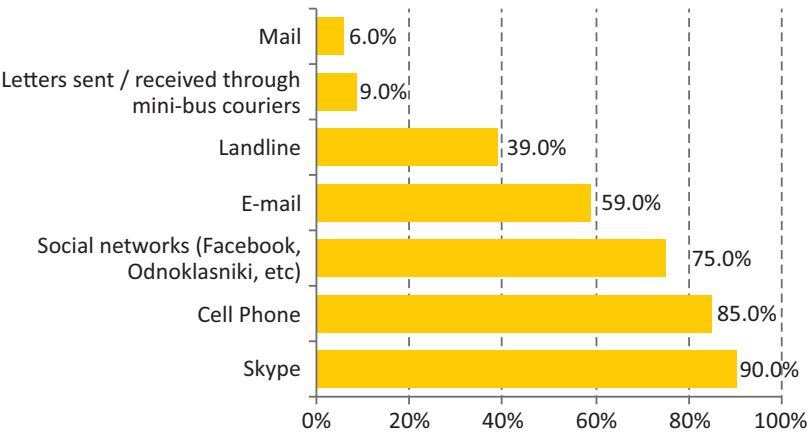


6.4. Migrants' Relation with the Country of Origin

The Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom are communicating more often with their family members from Moldova - 31 per cent communicate daily, 33 per cent - several times a week. The frequency of communication with relatives, friends, and acquaintances does not differ from other countries.

Most used communication means are Skype, mobile phone and social networks (see Figure 6.7). Age differentiation was noted in regards to such means of communication as the land line, mainly used by older Moldovan migrants, the young ones preferring mobile phones. Some migrants, younger than 40 years old, send letters through mini-bus couriers.

Figure 6.7: Means of communication used by Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom (%)

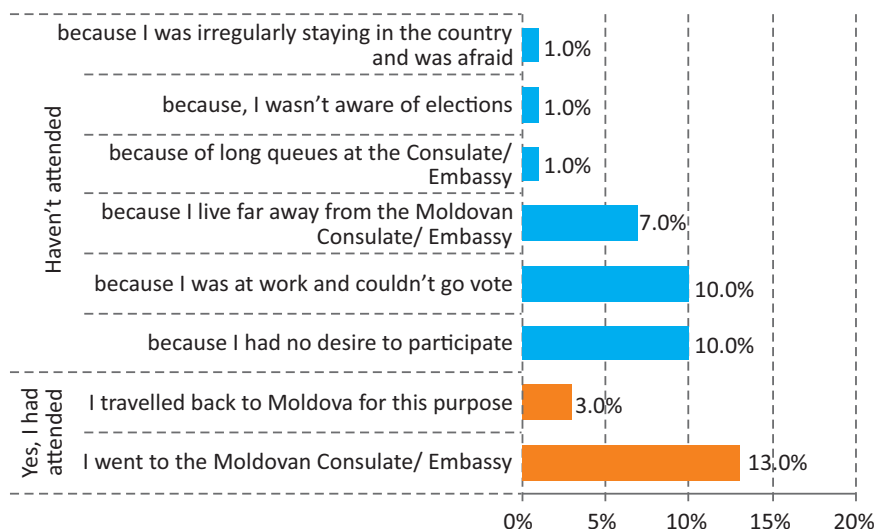


13 per cent of Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom do not have free access to internet at home, mostly these are people over 41 years of age.

The highest number of Moldovan migrants who do not have access to internet are living in the United Kingdom and opposed to them those who do have access, try to make the most of it. The United Kingdom has the highest rates of using internet for communication purposes - Skype and messenger (96.6%), access Moldovan news sites (62%) and watch and listen to Moldovan TV and Radio shows (45.9%). A specific characteristic for the United Kingdom is also the high level of internet usage by Moldovan migrants for communication purposes, mainly through Skype, for information search on news sites, for watching and listening to TV and Radio shows of this country.

When it comes to the parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010, the research shows that the lowest participation rate was in the United Kingdom - 16 per cent (13 per cent voted in the United Kingdom and 3 per cent in Moldova). The absenteeism was explained by the fact that some current migrants were not yet in the country at that time (42%). As for those present in the country, 10 per cent had to be at work, 10 per cent did not want to participate in the election, and 7 per cent live too far away from the embassy (see Figure 6.8).

**Figure 6.8: Participation in the Parliamentary elections of 28 November 2010<sup>57</sup> (%)**



<sup>57</sup> The difference up to 100 per cent is applicable to those who were not in the country (42.0%), did not want to answer (12.0%).

The trend of staying up-to-date with political, social and economic developments in the United Kingdom is not any different from other countries. Thirty eight per cent of Moldovan migrants search regularly for information about the situation in the country of destination, and 35 per cent search for information about the situation in the country of origin. The sources of information about the situation in Moldova are the following: internet (80 per cent), communication with family/friends (41 per cent), Moldovan online TV channels (36 per cent), discussions with other Moldovans from the United Kingdom (33 per cent), local written press (20 per cent) and UK TV channels (14 per cent). Nonetheless, the highest number of persons, who don't want to be informed about the latest developments both in Moldova (13 per cent) and in the UK (21 per cent), was registered in the United Kingdom.

Representatives of LPA from Costesti village, Ialoveni rayon, the native village of many Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom, mentioned a number of investments made by migrants and their families - in green houses, fruits and vegetables refrigerators, car repair services, bakeries. This situation is determined by the geographical location of the village - close to Chisinau. Some migrants/their families are also the beneficiaries of "PARE 1+1" programme. However, LPA representatives underlined the need to provide entrepreneurial training for migrants *"not all people who worked abroad have entrepreneurial skills. Yes, we have money, but we do not know many things"* (LPA representative).

### 6.5. Integration of Moldovans in Communities of Destination and their Relationships with Diaspora Organizations

The migrants to the United Kingdom can be divided in two categories: those who want to earn money and return to Moldova (the majority) and those who emigrated for study purposes or to start a professional career, tending to integrate in the British society. The Moldovans from the United Kingdom mentioned that they do not have too much free time - *"when you have a free day, you don't know what to do first to solve all the pending issues"*(FG\_16). There are Moldovans who cannot cope with the conditions in the United Kingdom - weather conditions (*"it is always raining"*), can't find a job and return home.

A specific situation describes the group of migrants who have migrated with their families or children, as they want to offer their children a better future, investing significant financial resources in their education and insuring thus a future in the destination country.

#### Education Services

Moldovan families with small children do not always have the possibility to register their children in preschool institutions or in educational centres due to

high prices, determining thus mothers to stay at home with their children. Most of the times, children adjust easily to the school environment, although there are cases, when the integration process was more difficult, due to cultural, linguistic, and ethnic differences: *"when my daughter went to school, she did not speak for one week"* (FG\_16)

### **Health-care Services**

Health-care is highly regarded. Moldovans benefit from medical treatment, however medical treatment is offered through doctor appointments that can take long periods of time and Moldovans are not happy with this situation *"I have waited for six months to get an appointment"*. (FG\_15). Doctor visits are free of charge. However, doctor home visits have to be paid for.

### **Support Services Provided to Migrants**

The British social protection system does not exclude migrants, as those who have small children benefit from child allowance and those with low incomes - financial support.

#### ***Support Services Provided to Migrants by Diaspora Organizations***

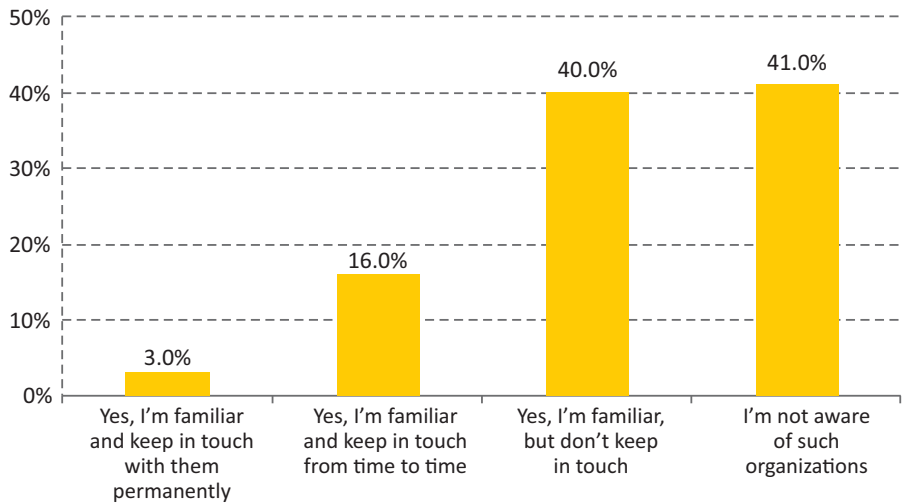
The main goals of Moldovan diaspora organizations from the United Kingdom are to promote the Moldovan image and culture in this country, preserving old Moldovan traditions and customs, as well as to provide information to those who request it. The internet, telephone, and personal references are the connecting links between Moldovan migrants and representatives of diaspora organizations from this country.

The most important activities of diaspora organizations from this country include organization of Moldovan festival in 2007, cooperation with diaspora organizations from other countries (an initiative launched back in 2009), organization of cultural events, thematic meetings. Unlike other countries, the representatives of diaspora organizations provide legal consultations on issues such as legalization of stay, work permit issuance – *"I am a law expert and I provide legal assistance to interested migrants"* (Diaspora representative).

As the United Kingdom is one of the most recent countries of destination for Moldovan migrants, there is little knowledge about diaspora organizations there – 41 per cent do not know about such organizations, 40.0 per cent know, but do not contact them, 16.0 per cent know and contact them periodically and only 3 per cent know and have a permanent connection with them (see Figure 6.9). The longer the stay in the United Kingdom, the higher is the motivation to get informed about diaspora organizations. The low-level of involvement of Moldovan migrants in the activities of diaspora organizations is determined by the same particularities as in other countries: volunteering, lack of financing, lack of motivation, extended working hours, high transport costs.



Figure 6.9: Familiarity with diaspora organizations (%)



Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom contact diaspora organizations for advice (63.2%), invitations to cultural events (57.9%), support in obtaining work permits (31.6%). The UK procedure of obtaining a work permit for Moldovans is rather difficult; therefore almost one third of Moldovan migrants require such information from diaspora organizations.

6.6. Remittances and Savings

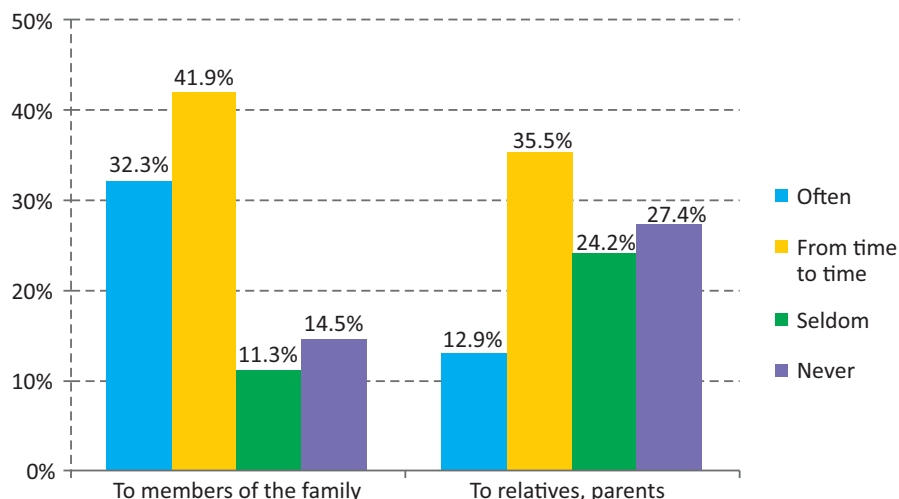
The high income of Moldovan migrants in the United Kingdom allows 62 per cent of the Moldovans working in this country to send remittances. During the last year, migrants sent on the average GBP 492<sup>58</sup> monthly to Moldova, accounting for about 38 per cent of the earned income.

For most migrants from this country, the volume of remittances sent home did not change compared to the previous year, this being explained by the high income earned in the United Kingdom, but also by the tendency of some Moldovans to return home.

Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom, who send money back home, send it most of the times to members of the nuclear family (32.3 per cent - regularly, 41.9 per cent - periodically, and 11.3 per cent - occasionally). Most of migrants who support financially their extended families (12.09 per cent regularly, 35.5 per cent periodically and 24.2 per cent occasionally) are single or have their families with them in the UK (see Figure 6.10).

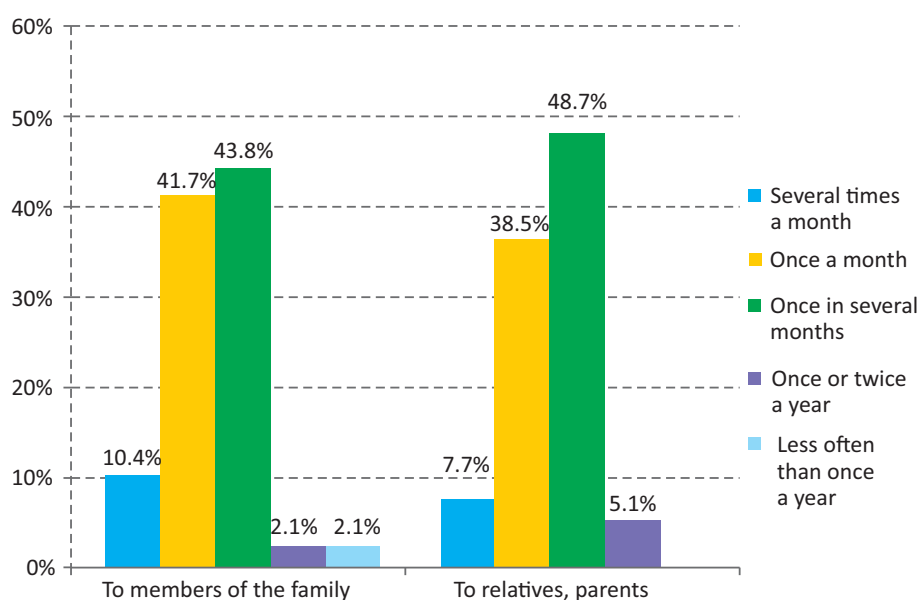
<sup>58</sup> Minimum – GBP 50, maximum – GBP 1,000, most frequently – GBP 300.

**Figure 6.10: Frequency of remittances sent to Republic of Moldova by Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom (%)**



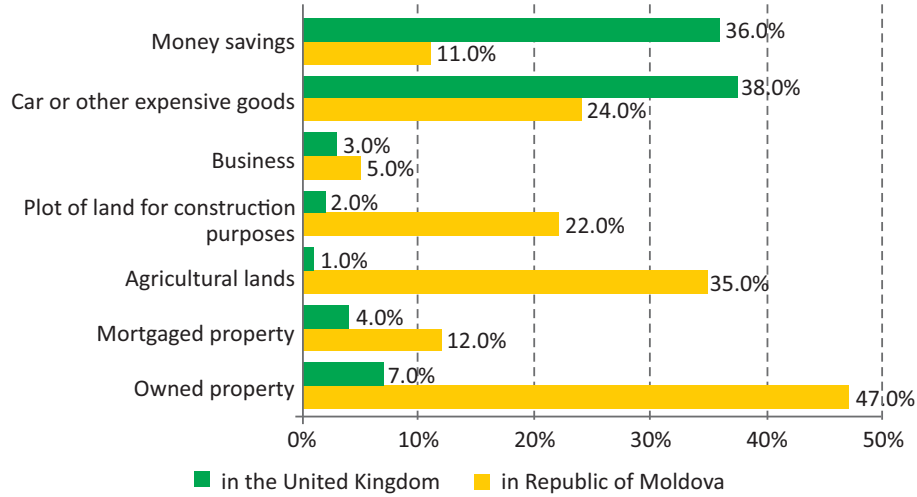
Sixty nine per cent of migrants send goods to Moldova in parcels, most of them are married women, who have family members left in Moldova. The study shows that 52.1 per cent of migrants from the United Kingdom send parcels home at least once a month, usually to family members (see Figure 6.11).

**Figure 6.11: Frequency of sending goods to Moldova by mini-buses (%)**



Currently, the United Kingdom is the country with the weakest trend of full integration of Moldovans. Only 7 per cent of migrants from this country purchased a property and prefer to live in this country, other 4 per cent invested in mortgage, others purchase real estate in Moldova or land to build a house, or agricultural land (see Figure 6.12). These investments describe the trends of Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom to return home after a certain period of time.

**Figure 6.12: Goods owned by migrants from the United Kingdom in the countries of origin and destination (%)**



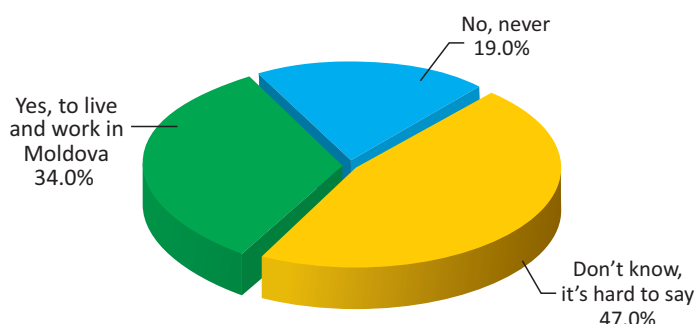
The impact of migration on families does not differ significantly from the migration process in France. Thus, besides improving the family's welfare, it also helped organize both professional and personal lives, as stated by young migrants from this country. Those who managed to achieve professional recognition are also highly integrated into British society.

**Table 6.4: Impact of migration on the family welfare (%)**

No.		Yes	No	Hard to say / No answer	This situation does not apply to me
1.	It raised the family's welfare level	67.0	8.0	11.0	14.0
2.	It allowed to start a business in Moldova	6.0	70.0	10.0	14.0
3.	It changed the family's reputation for the best in the community of origin in Moldova	25.0	31.0	24.0	20.0
4.	It allowed to purchase housing in Moldova	17.0	47.0	12.0	24.0
5.	It allowed to purchase housing in the country of destination	8.0	73.0	8.0	11.0
6.	It allowed to start a business in the country of destination	20.0	61.0	7.0	12.0
7.	It allowed to help our children ( <i>education, lodging</i> )	18.0	22.0	13.0	47.0
8.	It allowed to organize my private life ( <i>marriage, love</i> )	34.0	23.0	11.0	32.0
9.	It allowed to organize my professional life ( <i>career, studies</i> )	45.0	27.0	13.0	15.0

## 6.7. Perspectives of Return to the Republic of Moldova

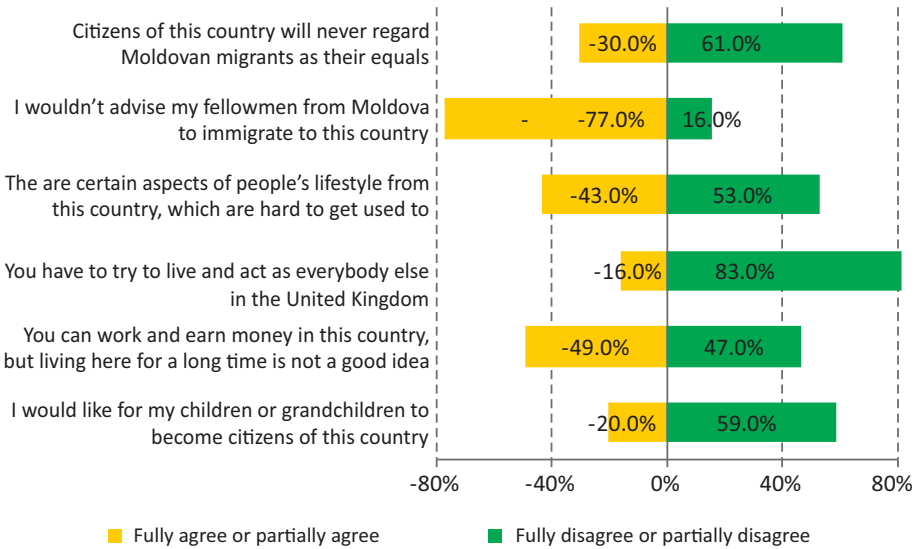
The United Kingdom is characterized by the highest number of Moldovan migrants, who are convinced that they will return to the country of origin - 34 per cent; we also noticed in this country the lowest number of undecided people (see Figure 6.13). When asked about when exactly they will return for good, those contemplating a return were not able to name an exact date.

**Figure 6.13: Plans of Moldovan migrants from the United Kingdom to return to the Republic of Moldova**

At the beginning of crisis many Moldovans returned home - *"in 2008 my accounting company processed the highest number of applications for business termination and departure from the United Kingdom. I had to order more forms. Next years I had to order a different type of forms - registering everyone back"* (Businessman\_1).

Among those 19 per cent who declared that they will never return back to Moldova, only 12 per cent have taken actions in this regard: *- I don't expect to receive my pension back there, but rather here"*. (FG\_16). Most of them have the support of their families concerning the decision to stay.

**Figure 6.14: Migrants' opinion from the United Kingdom on the following statements<sup>59</sup>(%)**



Although it is difficult to obtain a work permit and the weather conditions are specific, 77 per cent of the Moldovan migrants to the United Kingdom would advise their co-nationals to migrate to this country (see Figure 6.14). Only a small number of Moldovans in this country regret their migration experience - 6 per cent state that they regret it and would not advise anyone to repeat this experience; 5 per cent state that they regret it, but this was the only way to help their families.

<sup>59</sup> The difference up to 100 per cent is applicable to those who mentioned that it was difficult to answer.

The migration of Moldovans to the United Kingdom underlines the following **strengths and weaknesses**:

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eleven per cent of Moldovan migrants decided to continue their education in the United Kingdom. After graduation, most of them are integrated professionally in the UK labour market.</li> <li>- Twenty per cent of Moldovan migrants have found jobs in the same job sectors as in the country of origin, and 18 per cent are working in the same occupational group as they did back in Moldova;</li> <li>- Seventeen per cent have the status of self employed individuals, which allows them to develop entrepreneurial skills thanks to this status;</li> <li>- A significantly high number of migrants from this country have started businesses also in Moldova;</li> <li>- Communication and maintenance of relationships between Moldovan migrants and the members of the community of origin;</li> <li>- Provision by diaspora organizations of legal advice on work permits; one third of migrants require such information from diaspora organizations;</li> <li>- Law suits, initiated against representatives of agencies recruiting Moldovans in the United Kingdom, who didn't fulfil their contractual obligations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficult to emigrate at first, which led to irregular migration and explains why some Moldovans still live with forged papers;</li> <li>- Low rate of participation in elections among Moldovan migrants - 16 per cent ;</li> <li>- Few diaspora organizations and lack of sustainable activities;</li> <li>- Low-level of involvement of Moldovan migrants activities organized by diaspora organizations;</li> <li>- Limited cooperation between Moldovan diaspora organizations and LPAs, including diplomatic missions of Republic of Moldova in this country;</li> <li>- Low-level of involvement of migrants in the development of their communities of origin by way of investing in them;</li> <li>- Diaspora leaders' lack of project management, operational and strategic planning skills;</li> <li>- Many Moldovan migrants do not speak English;</li> <li>- Some Moldovan migrants were granted political asylum, which affects negatively the image of the country of origin.</li> </ul>

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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Given the set objectives, the following conclusions may be drawn on the basis of the research data:

- Migrants of 18-30 years have the largest share in the general group of migrants. They account for 52 per cent of migration flows from the United Kingdom, 49 per cent of those from France, 34 per cent of those from Italy and 33 per cent of those from Portugal. The groups of migrants are younger and younger. Most migrants are married (52%) and about one third of them managed to reintegrate their family abroad.
- The Romanian citizenship offered the opportunity for Moldovan migrants to immigrate legally and have a legal stay abroad. Thus, 87 per cent of migrants from the United Kingdom, 49 per cent from France, 24 per cent from Italy and 7 per cent from Portugal have Romanian citizenship.
- Legalization and integration policy of migrants, promoted by Portugal, allowed Moldovan migrants to receive Portuguese citizenship (6,000 Moldovan migrants, according to the official data, 62 per cent of the research sample). Policies on legalization of irregular migrants adopted by the Italian Government helped Moldovan migrants from Italy to obtain a legal stay permit.
- The study reveals the phenomenon of brain waste for most Moldovan migrants working abroad, due to the gap between their skills and the actual work they perform. Only 12 per cent of migrants found a job abroad in the same job sector they worked before emigrating from Republic of Moldova, and 22 per cent - in the same occupational group. But most of them are low-qualified workers. A better situation was observed in France and in the United Kingdom where one in five migrants works in the same job sector, most of them belonging to the category of qualified workers.
- The migrants do not have any difficulties in communicating with members of the nuclear or extended family, left in Republic of Moldova. The migrants most often use mobile phones, Skype and social networks as means of communication. Most migrants use Internet to watch the Moldovan online TV channels.
- Almost 80 per cent of migrants from each country seek regularly or occasionally information about the social, economic and political situation in Republic of Moldova. However, the right to vote was exercised by most study participants from France (52.9%) and Portugal (52.5%), and fewer from Italy (41.0%) and the United Kingdom (16.0%).
- More migrants prefer to keep their savings abroad, the volume of remittances sent by migrants decreasing as a result of the economic crisis, which led to fewer employment opportunities, lower salaries, and higher uncertainties regarding the future perspectives. However, migration

improves the welfare of migrant households, the housing conditions, the possibility for their children to continue education.

- The diaspora organizations are young, are still developing and strengthening. Most of the them do not have premises for ongoing activities, are not registered with the local Mayor's Offices / in the registers of associations, do not have any experience in operational and strategic planning, project writing; they have very little cooperation with the local public authorities from the countries of destination. Most of diaspora organizations carry out activities aimed at promoting the national culture, preserving the Moldovan traditions and customs or informing migrants ("Gazeta Basarabiei" newspaper, "Moldbrixia" magazine, "Pro Diaspora Kids" magazine). Some organizations offer French, Portuguese courses to migrants and Romanian courses to migrants' children. In the United Kingdom some associations offer legal consultancy on how to obtain a work permit.
- Most of the times diaspora organizations are not known by most migrants. Thus, 51 per cent of migrants from Italy, 41 per cent of those from the United Kingdom, 38 per cent of those from France and 10 per cent of those from Portugal reported not being aware of diaspora organizations. The highest awareness level of diaspora organizations was found in Portugal, where about 23 per cent of migrants know these organizations and keep in permanent contact with them, and other 24 per cent know them and have periodical contacts with them.
- The intention to migrate abroad for a short period of time frequently turns into an undetermined period of time stay abroad. Most migrants are not sure about their future perspectives, as they are "waiting" for some changes that could influence their decision to return to the country of origin or remain in the country of destination. The collected data reveals that 27 per cent of participants in the study intend to return to Moldova, other 17 per cent claim that they do not plan to return permanently to Moldova. The largest share of those who stated their intention to return to Moldova consisted of migrants over 40 years of age; however the descendants of migrants, who were born abroad, and those who joined their family at a young age most probably will integrate in the host countries.

The above findings call for some **recommendations** that could improve labour migration management and strengthen diaspora organizations:

***For central public authorities***

- Continue the negotiation of Social Security Agreements with Italy, France, and the United Kingdom.



- Develop programmes, sign agreements on circular migration, following the example initiated between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and of the Italian Republic. Inform about the labour market and employment opportunities abroad, organize courses to study the language of the country of destination.
- The Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family to cooperate with the relevant ministries and institutions from countries of destination of the Moldovan migrants in order to eliminate the issues of labour exploitation, discrimination, failure to respect the human rights.
- Develop working relationships between trade unions from Republic of Moldova and those from Italy and France in order to improve the protection of Moldovan migrants and ensure their rights.
- Develop programmes to support the Moldovan diaspora. Organize training courses for leaders of diaspora organizations in operational and strategic institutional planning, project writing, building trust relations between diaspora organizations and migrants, advocacy for migrants and their rights.
- Fight against corruption in Republic of Moldova, develop the business environment and create jobs with attractive salaries in order to encourage the return of Moldovan migrants to the homeland.
- Continue the implementation of "PARE 1+1" programme of channelling remittances in the economy, as well as develop other alternative programmes.
- Offer Romanian books donations to children from Moldovan migrant communities abroad with view to studying their native language.

#### ***For Moldovan diaspora organizations***

- Register formally the organizations and strengthen them by developing operational and strategic plans.
- Cooperate with local public authorities from the countries of origin and destination of Moldovan migrants; establish viable partnerships with business people that would contribute to organizational consolidation.
- Develop online information services, online Romanian courses for children and some online legal consultancy services.
- Organize more activities for children and their families in order to promote the national culture, traditions and customs, including the Romanian language.
- Develop partnerships and cooperation between the Moldovan diaspora, both within each country and among countries.

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# MOBILITY *for* DEVELOPMENT



Government of the  
Republic of Moldova



International Organization  
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