

**ON-THE-MOVE – "The reality of free movement for young  
European citizens migrating in times of crisis"**

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**National Report**

France



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## **SUMMARY**

Do the thousands of young Europeans who move to France every year chose this country for its gastronomy? Is French bureaucracy really a nightmare? And what are the reasons that lead young French people to make the journey in the opposite direction and move to another EU country? Is free movement a reality in the European Union?

To answer this question, 35 young Europeans of nine different nationalities living in France were interviewed, as well as 4 young French people willing to move, and 4 representatives of NGOs working with movers. At the same time, an analysis of French legislation was carried out.

What appears to be a universal driver is being in a relationship, and more pragmatically, finding work. When young people move to another country they are faced with several barriers, the main ones being finding a place to live, finding a job, and dealing with administration. In France, the majority of young Europeans pointed to discrimination as a major difficulty to becoming integrated.

What is worth noticing is that, in general, young people in Europe feel that moving between EU countries is an easy step to take. However, they all highlight a lack of information and advocate the creation of an easily available website that would give practical and administrative information in a way which is easy to understand.

Finally, we need to point out that double standards seem to apply regarding the implementation of legislation on free movement for Roma people.

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## PART A: SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND MIGRATION PATTERNS

### 1. CURRENT SITUATION AND CHALLENGES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

#### Reports and surveys

#### *European youth in 2016, Special Eurobarometer of the European Parliament, Jacques Nancy, EPRS, May 2016.<sup>1</sup>*

The Eurobarometer survey on European youth was carried out in 28 member States with 10,294 young people of 16 to 30 years old, between April 9<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

In 20 member states, a majority of interviewees feel excluded from the economic and social life of their country. In France, 66% of interviewees feel this way, which is above the European average.

The majority of French interviewees also consider their training does not match the job market.

#### *The mobility of young people, The Economic, social and environmental council, 2011.<sup>2</sup>*

This report on the perspectives of mobility for young French people in France was produced upon the request of the French Prime Minister. The Council drew a picture of the mobility of young people and made recommendations to enhance this mobility.

Firstly, the Council pointed out that there are not many studies in France on the mobility of young people. It then explains that there are many barriers to mobility (such as financial, administrative, social and cultural barriers) which are strongly correlated with social and geographical inequalities.

The main cost related to mobility is housing, which is a major challenge that needs to be addressed. It also underlines that there is more mobility when young people are qualified.

An interesting concept is mentioned in this report: some sociologists and geographers, such as Vincent Kaufman, speak of 'motility'<sup>3</sup>. 'Motility' means that mobility is a skill that young people need to acquire. 'Motility' is the way an individual or group makes the scope of possibilities their own and uses this to develop their projects.<sup>4</sup> It is an unavoidable phase to appropriate space and thus moving.

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<sup>1</sup>Jacques Nancy, La jeunesse européenne en 2016, Eurobaromètre spécial du Parlement Européen, EPRS, Mai 2016, available at: [www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/fr/20160504PVL00110/La-jeunesse-europ%C3%A9enne-en-2016](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/fr/20160504PVL00110/La-jeunesse-europ%C3%A9enne-en-2016).

<sup>2</sup>Conseil économique, social et environnemental, La mobilité des jeunes, 2011, available at: [www.lecese.fr/sites/default/files/pdf/Fiches/2011/FI13\\_mobilite\\_jeune.pdf](http://www.lecese.fr/sites/default/files/pdf/Fiches/2011/FI13_mobilite_jeune.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> « Motilité »

<sup>4</sup>« la manière dont un individu ou un groupe fait sien le champ du possible et en fait usage pour développer des projets »

The Council recommends, among other things, standardizing scholarships and health security, and developing the learning of foreign languages in France. It also recommends improving the welcoming of foreigners.

**National Assembly, Information Report No. 2620, *The employment of young people in Europe: an emergency, 2015.*<sup>5</sup>**

A main challenge for young French people is that the unemployment rate for them has been high for more than 30 years, with unemployment rates above 15% and regularly above 20%. In France, young people are an adjustment variable on the job market. However, the more they are qualified, the more they are protected from unemployment. Social origin has a great impact on qualifications and access to the job market. It is also worth noting that poverty has increased in France since 2002.

The desire to move and actual mobility are higher for young graduates. This is linked to a desire to gain international experience, rather than to the economic situation in France. There is a steady increase in the migration of young and qualified people, however, there is not a brain drain in France.

More than half of expatriations are within the European Union.

**2. MIGRATION PATTERNS AND TRENDS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE MIGRATING ACROSS EUROPE**

COUNTRY	FRANCE	PARNTER NAME	IFDL
Please Specify:	Mainly receiving country		
<b>OTHER EU COUNTRY YOU ARE SENDING TO/RECEIVING FROM</b>			
Country/ies to which your country is usually sending?	UK, Germany, Belgium, Spain  Source: Ministry of foreign affairs, 2013	Country/ies from which your country is usually receiving?	Romania, Poland, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium  Source Insee, 2012
<b>POPULATION STATISTICS</b>			
<b>Host population</b> (year of census?)	In January 2015, there were 66.3 million people living in France including overseas territories: 64.2 million in mainland France and 2.1 million in 5 overseas departments	No. of <b>union citizens</b> in your country (specify period)	In 2012 there were 1,838,056 European Union citizens in France  Source: Insee, July 2015  In 2013, among the 5,719,761 foreign migrants

<sup>5</sup>L'Emploi des jeunes en Europe : une urgence, Rapport d'information n°2620, Assemblée Nationale, 2015.

	Insee, January 2015		<p>living in France, 32.3 % were EU citizens.</p> <p>Source: Insee, 2013</p> <p>In 2012, this figure was 32.2% of which: 4.3 % Spanish citizens; 5.1% Italian citizens; 10.5% Portuguese citizens; 2.7 % UK citizens and 9.6 % other EU citizens.</p> <p>Source: Insee 2012</p>
<b>LABOUR STATISTICS</b>			
Unemployment Total	10.6% in 2015 or 2.9 million people living in mainland France Source: Insee, 2015	Unemployment Host population	2,499,000 French citizens older than 15 years old and living in mainland France are unemployed. Their unemployment rate is 9.3% Source: Insee, October 2015
Unemployment youth (host)	No recent official available data. In 2014 the unemployment rate of youth in general was 29.2% Insee: October 2015	Unemployment amongst Union citizen	74,000 European Union citizens older than 15 years old and living in mainland France are unemployed. Their unemployment rate is 10.7% Source: Insee, 2014
Age definition of 'youth' in your statistics	Insee statistics refer to the category of 15-24 year olds followed by 25-49 year olds.	Unemployment amongst <i>young</i> Union citizen	No recent official available data. In 2014 the unemployment rate of youth in general was 29.2% Insee: October 2015
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC STATISTICS</b>			
Under a memorandum with the troika?	No	Inflation rate (specify period)	0% in 2015: 0.5% in 2014 Source: Insee, January 2016
Austerity package?	Yes	Areas affected most by austerity	Health, Social Protection

	(e.g. health, welfare, education, etc)	
<b>ANY DRIVERS/BARRIERS TO INTRA-EU MOBILITY PROMINENT IN YOUR COUNTRY?</b>		
<p>Drivers: employment, economic and social conditions  Barriers: administrative obstacles, discrimination</p>		

### 3. WAYS YOUNG PEOPLE ARE REACTING TO THESE CHALLENGES AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

#### 1. Reports and surveys

*Survey Generation what, Study on 18-34 year olds across Europe, FTV, UPIAN, YAMI 2, consulted September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016.<sup>6</sup>*

*Generation what* is an interactive programme produced, among others, by France Television. On its website, there are 149 questions addressed to young people (18-34 year olds) in 12 countries. Its purpose is to paint a picture of the 'Y generation'. Data is available as it is gathered. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, there were more than 180,000 young French people who had answered questions.

Of these 149 questions, some answers are of particular interest to our report:

- *Would you like to settle abroad?* 181,174 French people answered:

22% yes, as soon as I can

49% yes, maybe one day

23% no, I do not think so, but we will see

5% never, I am too good in France

- *In times of high rates of unemployment, employment should be reserved for French people:* 65% of 180,674 interviewees do not agree with this statement.

- *Do you trust politicians?* 87% of 183,432 answered no.

- *Do you trust Europe?* 57% of 180,865 answered no.

- *Does the education system give opportunities to everybody.* 62% of 182,590 answered no.

- 61% of 180,775 say they are optimistic about their future.

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<sup>6</sup>Enquête Génération what, La grande enquête sur les 18-34 ans dans toute l'Europe, aujourd'hui. FTV, UPIAN, YAMI 2, 2016, available at : <http://generation-what.francetv.fr/>.



### ***Report Europe in movement, Indeed, 2016.<sup>7</sup>***

*Europe in movement* is a report based on the data gathered on the Indeed work search engine, between January and September 2015. It concerns 15 countries of the European Union.

Its main findings are that 95% of people from these 15 countries who were looking for a job on this website have looked for a job within the region. Also, the main reason for looking for a job abroad is for personal reasons rather than professional ones.

A major piece of data that is of interest for our research is that France is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most attractive country in Europe, after the United Kingdom. However, there are more people in employment looking to leave France than to move here.

## **2. Media report**

### ***Why young people chose to leave France, Le Monde, July 31st, 2013<sup>8</sup>***

Young and qualified French people are the majority groups who leave France. According to a study from Deloitte, 27% of young graduates in France wanted to work abroad in 2013, while only 15% were willing to do so a year before.

The main reason for leaving is not the French economic situation but a desire to work in another country and a desire to get a better job and a better quality of life. However, interviewees still acknowledge that the crisis has had consequences on their decision to move.

### ***Expatriation: Dreams of young graduates, Le Monde, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.<sup>9</sup>***

In France, almost half of French students want to work abroad, according to a survey from Universum in 2013 with 34,000 students.

The majority of these students do not perceive leaving as an obligation but as a wish to work in a different cultural environment. They also want to work in a 'more positive atmosphere'.

## **4. INTERIM FINDINGS**

Due to the high unemployment rate for young French people (15-20%), they leave France to go to another European Union country, in the majority of cases. According to the Ministry of foreign affairs' statistics of 2013, the main countries of destination are the UK, Germany, Belgium and Spain. About 30-50% of qualified French youth want to work abroad in order to work in "better conditions".

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<sup>7</sup>Enquête L'Europe en mouvement, Indeed, 2016, available at: [www.myrhline.com/actualite-rh/marche-europeen-de-l-emploi-le-royaume-uni-et-la-france-les-deux-territoires-les-plus-convoites.html](http://www.myrhline.com/actualite-rh/marche-europeen-de-l-emploi-le-royaume-uni-et-la-france-les-deux-territoires-les-plus-convoites.html).

<sup>8</sup>Pourquoi des jeunes choisissent de s'expatrier, Le Monde, 31 juillet 2013, available at: [www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2013/07/31/pourquoi-des-jeunes-choisissent-de-s-expatrier\\_3455644\\_3224.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2013/07/31/pourquoi-des-jeunes-choisissent-de-s-expatrier_3455644_3224.html)

<sup>9</sup>Expatriation : rêves de jeunes diplômés, Le Monde, 2 juin 2014, available at: [www.lemonde.fr/emploi/article/2014/06/02/expatriation-reves-de-jeunes-diplomes\\_4430451\\_1698637.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/emploi/article/2014/06/02/expatriation-reves-de-jeunes-diplomes_4430451_1698637.html).

However, France remains mostly the receiving country, being the 2<sup>nd</sup> most attractive in the European Union, after the United Kingdom. Around 32% of foreign citizens living in France are European Union citizens, including a high number of Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and UK citizens. The INSEE points out the increasing number of movers from Romania and Poland. France also receives citizens from the countries to which French people move: Germany, United Kingdom and Belgium.

## PART B: POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

### 1. LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING DIRECTIVE 2004/38/EC AND SECONDARY LEGISLATION. OTHER LEGISLATION

Law No. 2003-1119 of 26 November 2003 relating to the control of immigration, the stay of foreign nationals in France, and nationality, and Decree No. 2005-1332 of 24 October 2005 modifying decree No. 94-211 of 11 March 1994 regulating the conditions of entry and stay in France of the nationals of the Member States of the European Community who benefit from the freedom of movement of people, have provided for the transposition of certain provisions of Directive 2004/38/CE of the European Parliament and the Council of 29 April 2004 relating to the rights of citizens of the Union and the members of their families to move and remain freely on the territory of the Member States, by removing the obligation to hold a residence permit for the nationals of the old Member States.

Directive 2004/38/CE of 29 April 2004 was also transposed by Law No. 2006-911 of 24 July 2006 relating to immigration and integration, Law No. 2007-1631 of 20 November 2007 relating to the control of immigration, integration and asylum, Law No.2011-672 of 16 June 2011 relating to immigration, integration and nationality and its Decree of application No. 2011-1049 of 6 September 2011, as well as by Decree No. 2007-371 of 21 March 2007 relating to the right of stay in France of the citizens of the European Union, of the nationals of the other States Party to the European Economic Area, and of the Swiss Confederation, as well as members of their family. This Decree modified the 1st Chapter of Title II of the 1st Book of the code of entry and stay of foreigners and the right to asylum (CESEDA) containing the regulations.

#### Entry into France

According to Article R 121-1 of the CESEDA, introduced by the Decree of 21 March 2007, any citizen of the European Union carrying an identity card or a valid passport is allowed into France, provided that their presence does not constitute a threat to law and order. Any member of their family, as a national of a non-member state, is allowed into France provided that their presence does not constitute a threat to law and order and that they carry, in the absence of a valid residence permit delivered by a Member State of the European Union marked 'Residence permit for a member of the family of a citizen of the Union', a valid passport, a visa, or, if they are exempt from this, a document establishing their family bond. The consular authority delivers to them free of charge, at the earliest opportunity and within the framework of a rapid procedure, the necessary visa upon justification of their family bond. All facilities are granted to them to obtain this visa.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-1, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=9F7819321A9F23D6670AFC086130BEF2.tpdila07v\\_1?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163245&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=9F7819321A9F23D6670AFC086130BEF2.tpdila07v_1?i dSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163245&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

### Right to stay

In accordance with Article L121-1 of the CESEDA, introduced by the law of 24 July 2006, any citizen of the European Union has the right to remain in France for a duration of more than three months, except if their presence constitutes a threat to law and order, and if they satisfy one of the following conditions:

- 1) They have an occupation in France;
- 2) They have sufficient resources for themselves and the members of their family in order for them not to become a burden for the social welfare system, as well as medical insurance;
- 3) They are enrolled in an establishment to principally follow studies or vocational training, and they have medical insurance as well as sufficient resources for themselves and the members of their family in order for them not to become a burden for the social welfare system;
- 4) They are the direct descendant under twenty one years old or dependent, or a direct dependent ascendant, direct ascendant or descendant dependent on the spouse, accompanying or joining a national who satisfies the conditions laid out in 1 or 2;
- 5) They are the spouse or a dependent child accompanying or joining a national who satisfies the conditions laid out in 3.<sup>11</sup>

According to Article R 121-4 introduced by the Decree of 21 March 2007, the medical insurance mentioned in Article L. 121-1 must cover the services provided for in Articles L. 160-8 (social protection against the risk and the consequences of illness), L. 321-1 (daily allowances to the insured person who is physically incapable of continuing or returning to work) and L. 160-9 (social protection against the risks and consequences of maternity) of the social security code<sup>12</sup>

The sufficient nature of resources is assessed by taking into account the personal situation of the interested party. In no case may the amount required exceed the flat-rate amount of the revenue of active solidarity (*revenu de solidarité active*) or, if the interested party meets the age conditions to obtain it, the amount of the solidarity allowance for elderly persons (*allocation de solidarité aux personnes âgées*). The burden for the social welfare system which a national mentioned in Article L. 121-1 can constitute is evaluated in particular by taking into account the amount of non-contributory social security benefits which were granted to them, the duration of their difficulties and their stay. European Union nationals who have entered France to seek employment there cannot be removed for irregularity of stay as long as they are

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<sup>11</sup> France, CESEDA, article L 121-1, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCodeArticle.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&idArticle=LEGIARTI00006334963&dateTexte=&categorieLien=cid](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCodeArticle.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&idArticle=LEGIARTI00006334963&dateTexte=&categorieLien=cid)

<sup>12</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-4, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163247&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163247&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

able to prove that they continue to seek employment and that they have a real chance of being employed.<sup>13</sup>

In accordance with Article L 121-2 of the CESEDA, modified by Law No.2007-1631 of 20 November 2007 transposing Directive 2004/38/CE of 29 April 2004, European Union nationals who wish to establish their usual residence in France must register themselves with the mayor of their commune of residence in the three months following their arrival. A certificate is given to them by the mayor who sends to the Prefect and, in Paris, the prefect of police, copies of the certificates which were provided.<sup>14</sup> Nationals who have not respected this obligation to register are considered to have resided in France for less than three months. They are not required to hold a residence permit. If they make a request for one, a residence permit is delivered to them.

However, the stay is subject to holding a residence permit during the time of the validity of any transitional measures provided for by the Treaty of Accession for the country from where they originate, and unless this treaty stipulates otherwise, the same applies to citizens of the European Union who wish to work in France. However, they are not subjected to the requirement of holding a residence permit to work in France when these citizens have successfully completed studies leading to a qualification at least equivalent to a masters, in a nationally accredited higher educational establishment.<sup>15</sup>

A member of family of a European Union national has the right to stay on the whole of the French territory for a duration exceeding three months. If they are over eighteen years old, or at least sixteen years old if they wish to work, they must hold a residence permit. This permit, whose validity corresponds to the duration of stay provided for citizens of the Union within the five-year limit, is marked: 'residence permit for a member of the family of a citizen of the Union'. Except in cases of the application of the transitional measures provided for in the Treaty of Accession to the European Union of the State from where they originate, this permit gives to its holder the right to work.<sup>16</sup>

As long as they do not become an unreasonable burden for the social welfare system, citizens of the European Union, as well as the members of their family, have the right to remain in France

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<sup>13</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-4, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163247&cidTexte=LEGITEXT00006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163247&cidTexte=LEGITEXT00006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

<sup>14</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-5, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163247&cidTexte=LEGITEXT00006070158&dateTexte=20160331](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163247&cidTexte=LEGITEXT00006070158&dateTexte=20160331)

<sup>15</sup> France, CESEDA, article L 121-2, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=71A44656ECEA40447CE5EF32221F8D94.tpdila20v\\_2?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147746&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=71A44656ECEA40447CE5EF32221F8D94.tpdila20v_2?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147746&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331)

<sup>16</sup> France, CESEDA, article L 121-3, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=71A44656ECEA40447CE5EF32221F8D94.tpdila20v\\_2?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147746&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=71A44656ECEA40447CE5EF32221F8D94.tpdila20v_2?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147746&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331)

for a maximum duration of three months, with no other condition or formality than those provided for for entry into France.<sup>17</sup>

### **Application of these dispositions in case law**

The Order of the Court of Appeal of Paris of December 10, 2015, case No.12/02247

The family benefits office (*Caisse d'allocations familiales*) refused the adult disability allowance to a Romanian national, Ms X, on 22 June 2009. The Paris court for social security affairs, in a ruling of 17 October 2011, upheld this decision of refusal. The Paris Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the court of first instance by referring to Articles L121-1 and L121-2 of the Code of entry and stay of foreigners and the right to asylum, which, 'in transposing exactly the provisions of European Directive 2004/38, impose on European Union nationals who are not in work and who are not students two conditions, respectively, relating to their resources and their medical insurance in order to be able to stay legally in France' for more than three months.

The Court of Appeal observed that Ms X. had produced no evidence to establish that had any resources, and had never declared any income of any nature in France. The total absence of income cannot make it possible to establish 'sufficient' resources and it entails de facto the consequence that Ms X. can only be a burden on the system of French social assistance. Moreover Ms X. benefited only from State medical aid (AME) which is a minimum emergency cover in particular intended for people in an irregular situation, and not from the CMU (Universal Medical Cover), and nor did she thus meet the condition of full medical insurance. The Court of Appeal concluded that Ms X., in not meeting the conditions required for regular stay of more than three months for a national of the European Union, was justifiably refused the allowance that the French law reserves for European Union citizens regularly residing in France. According to the Court of Appeal, Ms X. could not claim to be the subject of discrimination, since the refusal of a disability allowance rests only on principles of access to social security benefits which are unrelated to the concepts of race, skin colour, political opinion or membership of a minority, and which apply in the same way to all European Union nationals.

### Retention of the right to stay

Article R 121-6 of the CESEDA, introduced by the Decree of 21 March 2007, sets out that European Union nationals retain their right to stay in the quality of an employed or self-employed person:

- 1) If they suffer a temporary incapacity to work resulting from an illness or an accident;
- 2) If they are in duly recorded involuntary unemployment after being employed for more than one year and have registered as a job seeker with the relevant employment office;
- 3) If they undertake vocational training which must be related to the former occupation, unless they have been put into involuntarily unemployment.

They retain their right to stay for six months on the same basis:

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<sup>17</sup> France, CESEDA, article L 121-4-1, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=71A44656ECEA40447CE5EF32221F8D94.tpdila20v\\_2?iSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147746&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=71A44656ECEA40447CE5EF32221F8D94.tpdila20v_2?iSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147746&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331)

- 1) If they are in duly recorded involuntary unemployment at the end of a contract of temporary employment of less than one year;
- 2) If they are in involuntarily unemployment in the first twelve months which follow the conclusion of a contract of employment and are registered as a job seeker with the relevant employment office.<sup>18</sup>

European Union nationals admitted to stay as a member of family, retain their right to the stay:

1. In the event of the death of the national who was accompanied or joined or if this person leaves France;
2. In the event of divorce or of the annulment of the marriage to the national who was accompanied or joined.

Before the acquisition of the right of permanent stay, they must comply on an individual basis with one of the categories defined in Article L. 121-1.<sup>19</sup>

Non-European Union nationals admitted to stay as a member of family, retain their right to stay:

- In the event of death of the national who is accompanied or joined and on condition of having established their residence in France as a member of their family more than one year before this death;
  - In the event of divorce or of the annulment of the marriage to the national who was accompanied or joined.
- a) When the marriage lasted for at least three years before the beginning of the legal divorce proceedings or annulment, of which at least one year in France;
  - b) When the care of the children of the national who is accompanied or joined is entrusted to them in their capacity as spouse, by an agreement between the couple or by a decision of the courts;
  - c) When particularly difficult situations require such, in particular when conjugal life was ended upon the initiative of a member of family because of domestic violence which they have suffered;

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<sup>18</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-6, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163248&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163248&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

<sup>19</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-7, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163248&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163248&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

d) When the spouse benefits from, by agreement between the couple or by a decision of the courts, a right of access to the minor, provided that this right is exercised in France and for the duration necessary for its exercise.

Before the acquisition of the right of permanent stay, they must comply on an individual basis with one of the categories defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 4, or 5 of Article L. 121-1.<sup>20</sup>

In the event of death of the national who is accompanied or joined or if this national leaves France, the children and the member of the family who is responsible for their care retain this right to stay until these children complete their schooling in a French establishment of secondary education.<sup>21</sup>

### Residence permits

European Union nationals who have had their usual place of residence established in France for less than five years benefit from, upon their request and according to their situation, either a residence permit being marked: 'EU - all occupations', or 'EU - not economically active', or 'EU - student'.

The recognition of their right to stay is not subordinated to the holding of a residence permit nor to holding an acknowledgement docket for a request for a residence permit.

The permit is for a period of validity equivalent to that of the contract of employment or, for self-employed persons, the duration of the activity envisaged, or a period of five years maximum validity, determined according to the sustainability of the resources they have available. Its period of validity cannot exceed five years.<sup>22</sup>

A residence permit marked 'EU - student' has a renewable period of one year maximum validity.<sup>23</sup>

The members of family who have had their usual place of residence established in France for less than five years benefit from, upon their request, a residence permit marked 'EU -

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<sup>20</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-8, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163248&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163248&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

<sup>21</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-9, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163248&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006163248&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

<sup>22</sup> France, CESEDA, articles R 121-10 et R 121-11, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331)

<sup>23</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-12, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331)



member of family - all occupations'. The recognition of their right to stay is not subordinated to the holding of a residence permit nor to holding an acknowledgement docket for a request for a residence permit. When the national that they accompany or join does not work, they must also justify the resources they have available to them to ensure their assumption of financial responsibility and insurance. They receive a residence permit of the same duration of validity as that to which the national that they accompany or join can claim within the five-year limit.<sup>24</sup>

The members of family of non-EU nationals must within three months of their entry into France present their request for a residence permit with a valid passport as well as documents proving their family bond and guaranteeing the right to the stay of the national who is accompanied or joined. When the national that they accompany or join does not work, they must also justify the resources they have available to them to ensure their assumption of financial responsibility and insurance. They receive a residence permit marked 'Residence permit of a member of the family of a citizen of the Union' of the same duration of validity as that to which the European national that they accompany or join can claim, within the five-year limit. The recognition of their right to stay is not subordinated to the holding of a residence permit nor to holding an acknowledgement docket for a request for a residence permit.<sup>25</sup> The delivery of the residence permit to nationals of a non-member state must be effected no later than six months after the submission of the application.<sup>26</sup>

### Right to permanent stay

According to Article L 122-1 of the CESEDA, introduced by the law of 24 July 2006, unless their presence constitutes a threat to law and order, a European national who has resided in a legal and uninterrupted way in France for the five previous years acquires a right to permanent stay on the whole of the French territory. Unless their presence constitutes a threat to law and order, a member of their family also acquires a right to permanent stay on the whole of the French territory provided they have resided in a legal and uninterrupted way in France with the European national for the five previous years. A residence permit with a period of ten years renewable validity is automatically delivered to them.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-13, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331)

<sup>25</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-14, available et : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

<sup>26</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 121-16, available et : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006180208&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

<sup>27</sup> France, CESEDA, article L 122-1, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147747&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147747&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160331)

Article R 122-1 introduced by the Decree of 21 March 2007 states that European Union nationals may automatically request the delivery of a residence permit with a period of twenty years renewable validity marked 'EU - permanent stay - all occupations', which is delivered at the earliest opportunity. The recognition of their right to stay is not subordinated to the holding of a residence permit nor to holding an acknowledgement docket for a request for a residence permit. Nationals of Member States of the European Union that are subjected to transitional measures by their Treaty of Accession who have acquired a right to permanent stay are required to request a residence permit if they wish to work. Their residence permit is marked: 'EU - permanent stay - all occupations'.<sup>28</sup> The members of family of non-member state nationals must request the delivery of a residence permit marked 'EU - permanent stay - all occupations' within two months of the period of uninterrupted and legal stay reaching a duration of five years. This permit, with a period of ten years validity, must be delivered within six months as from the submission of the application. Its renewal must be requested within two months of its expiry. The members of family of nationals of Member States of the European Union that are subjected to transitional measures by their Treaty of Accession are required to request a residence permit if they wish to work. Their residence permit is marked 'EU - permanent stay - all occupations'.<sup>29</sup>

The Decree transposing Directive 2004/38/CE of 29 April 2004 has also introduced the following regulations:

A European Union national who ceases their occupation in France acquires a right to permanent stay before the expiry of the period of five years uninterrupted stay:

- 1) When they reach the age provided for by the legislative or regulatory provisions in force to benefit from their rights to a retirement pension on condition of having worked for the previous twelve months and having legally resided for more than three years;
- 2) Following early retirement and on condition of having worked for the previous twelve months and having legally resided for more than three years;
- 3) Following a permanent incapacity to work and on condition of having resided legally and continuously for more than two years;
- 4) Following a permanent incapacity to work and with no condition on the duration if this incapacity results from an industrial accident or an occupational illness which opens the right for the person concerned to an allowance from a social security organisation;
- 5) After three years of legal and continuous activity and stay, in order to work in another State mentioned in Article L. 121-1, with the condition of keeping their residence in France and of returning there at least once per week.

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<sup>28</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 122-1, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147821&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147821&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

<sup>29</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 122-2, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147821&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147821&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

The periods of work thus achieved in another State are considered as having been worked in France for the acquisition of the rights provided for in 1 to 4.

The conditions of duration of stay and activity provided in 1, 2, and 3 do not apply if the spouse of the worker is of French nationality or has lost this nationality following their marriage to this worker.

Also regarded as periods of employment are periods of involuntary unemployment duly recorded by the relevant employment office, periods of inactivity of self-employed persons without the consent of the person concerned, as well as a lack of work or inactivity due to illness or accident.<sup>30</sup>

Whatever their nationality, the members of family who reside with the European Union worker acquire a right to permanent stay in France before the expiry of the uninterrupted period of five years of legal stay:

- 1) If the worker benefits from the right to permanent stay pursuant to Article R. 122-4;
- 2) If the worker dies while still working in France and if they have worked in France legally and continuously for more than two years;

If the worker dies following an occupational illness or industrial accident while still working in France;

If the spouse of the deceased worker lost French nationality following their marriage to this worker.<sup>31</sup>

Directive 2004/38/CE of 29 April 2004 was also transposed by Law No. 2003-1200 of 18 December 2003 on decentralization of the minimum income benefit and creating a minimum income of activity modifying the Code of social action and families. According to provisions in force of the Code of social action and families, also modified by law No.2008-1249 of 1 December 2008, in order to be able to benefit from the income of active solidarity (an allowance), a national of a Member State of the European Union aged over twenty-five, or assuming the care of one or more children or children due to be born, must meet the conditions required to benefit from a right to stay and have resided in France for the three months preceding the request.

However, no condition of duration of residence exists for a person who is in work or a person who has worked in France and who, either has a temporary incapacity to work for medical reasons, is in vocational training, or is registered as a job seeker. The national of a Member State of the European Union who has entered France to seek employment there and who stays for this purpose, is not entitled to the income of active solidarity. The condition of

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<sup>30</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 122-4, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147821&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147821&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

<sup>31</sup> France, CESEDA, article R 122-5, available at : [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147821&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006147821&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006070158&dateTexte=20160323)

duration of residence concerned is not applicable to the ascendants, descendants or spouse of such a European Union national.<sup>32</sup>

Law No. 2007-290 of 5 March 2007 establishing the enforceable right to housing and various measures for social cohesion transposing Directive 2004/38/CE of 29 April 2004, modified the provisions of the Code of Social Security. According to Article L 160-6, nationals of the Member States of the European Union who have entered France to seek employment there and who stay for this purpose, are not entitled claim for the costs of medical care in the event of illness or maternity.<sup>33</sup>

Under Article L 511-1 of CESEDA, modified by the Law of 29 May 2015, the relevant administrative authority may, in a legally grounded decision, require a national of a Member State of the European Union, another State party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation, or a member their family to leave France when it establishes:

1. That they no longer hold any right of residence as provided for by Articles L. 121-1, L. 121-3 and L. 121-4-1;
2. Or that their stay constitutes an abuse of the law. Renewing permits of less than three months in order to remain in the country while the conditions for a stay of more than three months are not met constitutes an abuse of the law. Remaining in France with the primary aim of benefiting from the social security system also constitutes an abuse of the law;
3. Or that their behaviour constitutes, from a public order or public safety point of view, a genuine, real and sufficiently serious threat to the fundamental interests of society.

The relevant administrative authority takes into account all the circumstances relating to their situation, including the length of stay of the person concerned in France, their age, health, family and economic situation, degree of social and cultural integration in France, and the strength of their bonds with their country of origin.

In order to meet the obligation imposed upon them to leave France, the foreign national benefits from a period of time to do so, which, except in emergencies, can not be less than thirty days from notification. In exceptional circumstances, the administrative authority may grant a period of voluntary departure exceeding thirty days.

The obligation notice to leave France sets out the country to which they are to be returned in the case of compulsory removal.

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<sup>32</sup> France, Code de l'action sociale et des familles, article L 262-6, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=71A44656ECEA40447CE5EF32221F8D94.tpdila20v\\_2?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000019869120&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006074069&dateTexte=20160331](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do;jsessionid=71A44656ECEA40447CE5EF32221F8D94.tpdila20v_2?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000019869120&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006074069&dateTexte=20160331)

<sup>33</sup> France, Code de la sécurité sociale, article L 160-6, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCodeArticle.do;jsessionid=71A44656ECEA40447CE5EF32221F8D94.tpdila20v\\_2?idArticle=LEGIARTI000031669594&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006073189&dateTexte=20160331&categorieLien=id&oldAction=&nbResultRech=](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCodeArticle.do;jsessionid=71A44656ECEA40447CE5EF32221F8D94.tpdila20v_2?idArticle=LEGIARTI000031669594&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006073189&dateTexte=20160331&categorieLien=id&oldAction=&nbResultRech=)

## 2. A DIFFERENT APPLICATION OF THE LAW; THE CASE OF ROMA PEOPLE

In the interviews with young Europeans, no mention was made of laws regarding expulsions on the basis that the person is a burden to society; except for two interviewees who explained that they knew Spanish people who had been expelled from Belgium and Germany because they were unemployed. No interviews were made with people from the Roma population because it is a population that is difficult to target, and who can be suspicious of answering personal questions. However, we did do an interview with an employee of a NGO who works with this population and could point out some issues with French law to us.

### 1. A discriminatory application of the law

What appears from the interview with NGO1 is that on the one side, the rights to which Europeans are entitled to in France are not respected for Roma people, and on the other side, the French law on foreigners is enforced in a different way with Roma people.

NGO1 explained that most of the time Roma people do not know their rights, and thus do not claim them. It is NGOs that raise their awareness and help them to access their rights. For instance, children's right to education is not respected and even when supported by NGOs, it is very difficult to access this right.

On the other side, the French law on foreigners is not applied the same way to Roma people. They are expelled on the basis that expulsion can be carried out when a European citizen is a burden on French society. However, most of the time, they do not claim their rights in France. However, they are expelled on the basis that they 'could' be a burden for the social welfare system. It appears that these laws are not clear, besides being used in a discriminatory way. Roma people can also be expelled on the concept of "abuse of rights"<sup>34</sup> which is justified by the multiplication of journeys of less than three months in France. Again, this provision is used in a discriminatory way.

#### **Case law**

##### The Decision of the Administrative Court of Lille, 27 July 2016, No. 1605248

A mother from the Roma community requested the enrolment of her nine year old son in the local primary school. The mayor of this municipality opposed this enrolment on the basis that they did not reside on in the municipality. In fact, the woman did live in the municipality but occupied her accommodation without being entitled to do so. She thus appealed for annulment of the mayor's decision, with the appeal combined with a request for suspension in summary procedure.

In order to succeed, the appeal in summary procedure requires two conditions: the urgency to act, and a serious doubt on the legality of the contested measure.

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<sup>34</sup> « *Abus de droit* »

In this case the judge considered that due to the imminence of the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, as well as the consequences of the contested measure, which deprives the child of the possibility of starting school, the urgency condition is met.

In addition, the judge also considered that it is plausible that the mayor's decision to refuse school enrolment ignores the right of the boy to be provided education in accordance with the principle of schooling of children from six to sixteen years old resulting from the provisions of the Code of education and France's international commitments.

Although the judge did not comment on the legal grounds of the case, he considered that there was a serious doubt over the legality of the mayor's decision which claimed that the woman did not reside in his municipality. The right to schooling was an essential element in the reasoning of the judge. The judge thus ordered the suspension of the refusal of the mayor to enrol the child and ordered him to proceed, on a provisional basis, with the boy's enrolment (until the ruling panel comes to a conclusion on the legal grounds of the case).

## **2. Recommendations**

Public authorities should raise the awareness of Roma people on their rights in France and give them full access to these basic rights, mainly the right to health and the right to education.

Provisions in French laws which are unclear and used in a discriminatory way against Roma people should be removed.

Attention should be paid to how the law of March 2016 is applied to verify if it complies with the European directive.

## **3. COMPETENT AUTHORITIES FOR FREE MOVEMENT AND YOUTH ISSUES**

- Ministry for Towns, Youth and Sports (*Ministère de la Ville, de la Jeunesse et des Sports*), whose Department for Youth, Education and Voluntary Associations develops, coordinates and evaluates policies for young people, education and community life.
- Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research (*Ministère de l'éducation nationale, de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche*) which defines training programmes, national curricula, and the organization and content of courses. It is also responsible for: defining and issuing national diplomas and conferring university degrees; the allocation of resources devoted to education, in particular to ensure equal access to the public service; monitoring and evaluation of educational policies, with a view to ensuring the overall coherence of the education system.
- Ministry of Employment, Vocational training and Social Dialogue (*Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi, de la Formation professionnelle et du Dialogue social*) which prepares and

implements rules on working conditions, collective bargaining and employees' rights. The Ministry is responsible for the protection and promotion of employment, including the policy for returning to employment, as well as vocational training for young people and adults.

- Ministry for Families, Childhood and Women's rights (*Ministère des Familles, de l'Enfance et des Droits des femmes*) which works to promote all measures that support families, children, young people and parents.
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Development (*Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du développement international*)
- Agency of the Civil Service (*Agence du Service Civique*) whose role is to promote the civil service to organizations for the reception and guidance of young people, educational establishments and vocational sectors;
- French Erasmus+ Youth and Sport Agency (*Agence Française Erasmus+ Jeunesse et Sport*) aimed at exchanges for young people to encourage meetings between groups of young Europeans on various themes; the European Voluntary Service to encourage the sending and receiving of young volunteers on community projects; strategic partnerships to share innovative experiences and practices between educational, training and youth organisations from different countries.

#### 4. POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES ADDRESSED TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Within the framework of the 'Youth Priority' scheme set up by the government, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI) committed to the mobility of young people, in particular within the framework of international voluntary schemes and the civil service. The working groups of the National Commission of Decentralized Co-operation, 'Local authorities, young people and mobility' and 'Social Inclusion', have provided recommendations and examples of good practices in order to support and invite local authorities to do more for the international mobility of young people.

From this point of view, the Delegation for external action by local authorities (DAECT) launched on 15 October 2015 a call for projects devoted to the international mobility of young people within the framework of international voluntary schemes. This call for projects by the DAECT thus supports the external action by local authorities as regards the international mobility of young people in order to increase the number of young people in voluntary schemes or civil service at the international level.

This call for projects will moreover allow young people who have fewer opportunities for international mobility to gain their first experience abroad. Additionally, in order to build on the relations that already exist between community partners, the call for projects places the priority on exchanges by international volunteers coming within the scope of decentralized co-operation projects already in progress.

This has made it possible to mobilize 43 French and foreign local authorities for 11 winning projects representing a total budget of €704,500, and offering the possibility for 100

young people from their community to become involved in a project of decentralized co-operation.<sup>35</sup>

## 5. INTERIM FINDINGS

Directive 2004/38/CE of 29 April 2004 was gradually transposed into French law by different laws and decrees which are integrated into the Code of entry and stay of foreigners and the right to asylum (CESEDA). It can be noted that the legal provisions are strictly applied by the courts, especially conditions for stay in France. In the case of Roma people, the NGOs point out that the legal provisions are not observed and the French law on foreigners is enforced in a different way with this population. This situation needs to be stopped.

The 'Youth Priority' scheme launched by the government and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Development aims to increase the mobility of young French people within the framework of international voluntary schemes and the civil service. Local authorities are supported in their actions to develop the international mobility of young people.

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<sup>35</sup> [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/action-exterieure-des-collectivites-territoriales/appels-a-projets-et-fonds-en-soutien-a-la-cooperation-decentralisee/appele-a-projets-mobilite-internationale-des-jeunes-2015-2016/](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/action-exterieure-des-collectivites-territoriales/appels-a-projets-et-fonds-en-soutien-a-la-cooperation-decentralisee/appele-a-projets-mobilite-internationale-des-jeunes-2015-2016/)



## PART C: EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON FREE MOVEMENT

### 1. SAMPLE AND METHOD

43 interviews were carried out, 35 with young Europeans living in France, 4 with young French people willing to move to another EU country, and 4 with representatives of NGOs.

#### *Sample of young Europeans*

Of the 35 young Europeans interviewed, 9 nationalities were represented: Austrian (1), Bulgarian (2), Estonian (3), Greek (3), Italian (8), Polish (3), Portuguese (3), Romanian (6) and Spanish (6). 15 were aged between 24 and 29 years old and 20 between 30 and 38 years old. A majority of interviewees were women (25) and 4 have children.

Almost all interviewees have a university degree (only one had a high school degree), which is reflected in the profession they have in France. 2 were unemployed and looking for a job in France.

Interview n°	Code interview	Gender	Age group	Nationality	Family situation		Level of education	Professional situation				Country		Interview	
						Dependent children		Employment status	Sector	Socio-professional group	Job	Country of residence	Country of birth	Interview conducted face to face	Date of interview
1	RO1	F	30-35	Romanian	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Public sector	Executive	Executive	France	Romania	Yes	11/03/2016
2	RO2	F	25-29	Romanian	Cohabiting	Y	Master2	Employed	Private sector	Executive	Manager	France	Romania	Yes	14/03/2016

3	PO1	F	25-29	Polish	Cohabiting	N	Master2	Employed	Public sector	Executive	Manager	France	Poland	Yes	17/03/2016
4	IT1	F	30-35	Italian	Cohabiting	N	PhD	Employed	Public sector	Researcher	Marie Curie Project	France	Italia	Yes	17/03/2016
5	IT2	M	25-29	Italian	Single	N	Bachelor	Employed	Private sector	Employee	Waiter	France	Italia	Yes	18/03/2016
6	RO3	F	25-29	Romanian	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Private sector	Executive	Senior analyst	France	Romania	Yes	18/03/2016
7	IT3	M	30-35	Italian	Married	Y	Master2	Employed	Private sector	Executive	Solution designer	France	Italia	Yes	18/03/2016
8	SP1	F	30-35	Spanish	Single	N	Bachelor	Employed	Private sector	Employee	Contractor	France	Spain	Yes	18/03/2016
9	IT4	M	30-35	Italian	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Private sector	Lawyer	Lawyer	France	Italia	Yes	18/03/2016
10	PO2	F	25-29	Polish	Cohabiting	N	Master2	Unemployed	Associative sector	Unemployed	Project manager	France	Poland	Yes	19/03/2016
11	SP2	M	30-35	Spanish	Single	N	High school	Employed	Private sector	Employee	Manager	France	Spain	Yes	19/03/2016
12	IT5	F	30-35	Italian	Cohabiting	N	PhD	Employed	Public sector	Researcher	'Post-PhD'	France	Italia	Yes	21/03/2016
13	BU1	F	24	Bulgarian	Single	N	Master1	Employed	Private sector	Employee	Policy officer	France	Bulgaria	Yes	22/03/2016
14	IT6	F	25-29	Italian	Cohabiting	N	Master2	Employed	Public sector	Teacher	Italian teacher and social carer in schools	France	Italia	Yes	23/03/2016

15	IT7	F	25-29	Italian	Cohabiting	N	Master2	Employed	Associative sector	Employee	Project manager	France	Italia	Yes	24/03/2016
16	SP3	F	25-29	Spanish	Single	N	Master1	Employed	Associative sector	Employee	Project manager	France	Spain	Yes	24/03/2016
17	RO4	M	30-35	Romanian	Married	Y	Master2	Unemployed	Private sector	Unemployed	Technician	France	Moldavia	Yes	24/03/2016
18	IT8	F	30-35	Italian	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Associative sector	Employee	Social carer	France	Italia	Yes	24/03/2016
19	RO5	F	30-35	Romanian	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Private sector	Executive	International project manager	France	Romania	Yes	25/03/2016
20	PO3	F	30-35	Polish	Civil partnership	N	Master2	Employed	Private sector	Executive	Lawyer	France	Poland	Yes	25/03/2016
21	BU2	F	25-29	Bulgarian	single	N	Master2	Employed	Public sector	Executive	Assistant	France	Bulgaria	Yes	30/03/2016
22	GR1	F	30-35	Greek	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Private sector	Artistic profession	Architect-Scenographer	France	Greece	Yes	31/03/2016
23	ES1	F	30-35	Estonian	Cohabiting	Y	Master1	Self employed	Private sector	Artistic profession	Freelance stylist	France	Estonia	Yes	01/04/2016
24	SP4	F	25-29	Spanish	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Private sector	Journalist	Journalist	France	Spain	Yes	07/04/2016
25	ES2	F	25-29	Estonian	Engaged	N	Master2	Employed	Private sector	Executive	Marketing and business development consultant	France	Estonia	Yes	07/04/2016

26	GR2	M	30-35	Greek	Single	N	PhD	Employed	Public sector	Researcher	Researcher	France	Greece	Yes	07/04/2016
27	ES3	F	30-35	Estonian	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Public sector	Executive	Statistical researcher	France	Estonia	Yes	08/04/2016
28	SP5	F	30-35	Spanish	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Associative sector	Employee	Technical adviser	France	Spain	Yes	20/04/2016
29	GR3	F	25-29	Greek	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Public sector	Executive	Project manager	France	Greece	Yes	21/04/2016
30	SP6	M	25-29	Spanish	Cohabiting	N	Master2	Employed	Private sector	Journalist	Journalist and economic analyst	France	Spain	Yes	28/04/2016
31	PR1	F	30-35	Portuguese	Cohabiting	N	PhD	Employed	Private sector	Engineer	Engineer	France	Portugal	Yes	08/05/2016
32	RO6	M	25-29	Romanian	Single	N	9th year of medicine	Employed	Public sector	Doctor	Doctor currently studying for a specialization	France	Romania	Yes	17/05/2016
33	AU1	F	30-35	Austria	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Associative sector	Executive	Executive	France	Austria	Yes	23/05/2016
34	PR2	M	30-35	Portuguese	Single	N	Master2	Employed	Associative sector	Employee	Assistant	France	Portugal	Yes	15/07/2016
35	PR3	M	38	Portuguese	Single	N	Master1	Self employed	Private sector	Artistic profession	Musician and music teacher	France	Portugal	Yes	21/07/2016

### *Sample of young French people*

Of the young French people willing to move, 3 were under 30 years old and one was over 30, none have children. All our were women and have a university degree. 2 of them are unemployed.

Interview n°	Code interview	Gender	Age group	Nationality	Family situation	Dependent children	Level of education	Employment status	Sector	Socio-professional group	Job	Country of residence	Country of birth	Interview conducted face to face	Date of interview
1	FR1	F	25-29	French	Married	N	Master2	Working	Private sector	Engineer	Engineer	France	France	Yes	02/05/2016
2	FR2	F	30-35	French	Single	N	Bachelor	Working	Private sector	Employee	Assistant	France	France	Yes	31/05/2016
3	FR3	F	25-29	French	Cohabiting	N	Master2	Unemployed	Artistic sector	Unemployed	Artist	France	France	Yes	23/08/2016

4	FR4	F	25-29	French	Cohabiting	N	Master2	Unemployed	Associative sector	Unemployed	Policy officer	France	Portugal	Yes	13/09/2016
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### *Sample of representatives of NGOs*

4 interviews were carried out with representatives of NGOs working with European movers in France: one with Roma movers, two with Italian movers, and one with Spanish movers. All are closely linked with other NGOs that work with other European nationalities.

Interview number	Interview code	NGO	Position	Years of relevant experience
1	NGO1	Secours catholique	Project manager	1
2	NGO2	Italia in Rete	President	12
3	NGO3	Italia in Rete	Project manager	1
4	NGO4	Marea Granate	Spokesperson	3

### 3. Chart

#### *Family situation of young Europeans according to age*

The majority of interviewees are single and the vast majority do not have children (only 4 interviewees out of 35 have children).

	24	25-29	30-35	38	Total
<b>Single</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>
No children	1	7	12	1	21
<b>Cohabiting</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>10</b>
No children		5	3		8
Children		1	1		2
<b>Civil partnership</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>
No children			1		1
<b>Engaged</b>		<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>
No children		1			1
<b>Married</b>			<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>
Children			2		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>

### *Qualifications and professions of young Europeans*

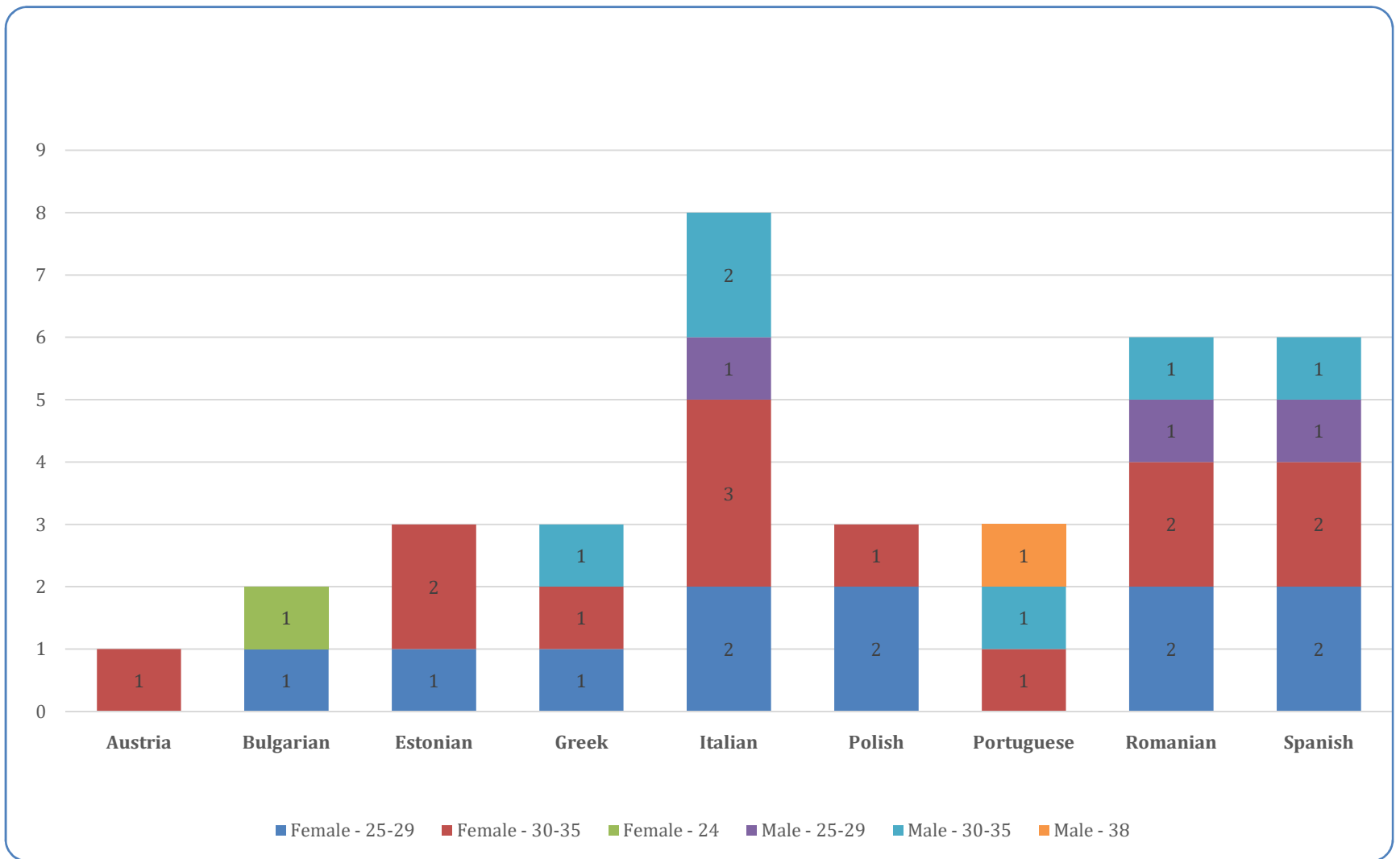
Only one interviewee does not have a university degree, the majority of them have reached the level of Master's Degree (23 out of 35). This is reflected in the professions the interviewees have in France, which are predominantly skilled jobs.

Diploma	Artistic profession	Engineer	Journalist	Researcher	Teacher	Unemployed	Executive	Employee	Lawyer	Doctor	Total
High school								1			1
Bachelor								2			2
Master1	2							2			4
Master2	1		2		1	2	12	4	1		23
9th year of medicine										1	1
PhD		1		3							4
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>

### *Nationalities, age and gender of young Europeans*

Nine nationalities were represented; 8 interviewees were from Italy, 6 from Romania, 6 from Spain, 3 from Portugal, 3 from Poland, 3 from Greece, 3 from Estonia, 2 from Bulgaria, and 1 from Austria. 25 interviewees were women and 10 were men. One woman was 24 years old, 11 were between 25 and 29 years old, and 13 were between 30 and 35 years old. 3 men were between 25 and 29 years old, 6 were between 30 and 35 years old and 1 was 38 years old.





## Method

43 interviews were carried out, 35 with young Europeans living in France, 4 with young French people willing to migrate to a European country, and 4 with representatives of NGOs. All interviews were carried out face to face, in Paris and in the Parisian region.

### *Way of recruiting*

The main way to recruit interviewees was through the internet. We contacted NGOs and associations of nationals established in Paris. Depending on the nationalities we were targeting, we noticed great discrepancies in the results (*see below*).

We also used social networks, we posted messages on Facebook pages and sent emails through a mailing list of people interested in international solidarity<sup>36</sup>. We contacted University teachers and language teachers. We also used the networks of people we interviewed and those of our European partners. All these ways gave good results.

We also asked embassies for contacts and employment agencies for foreigners in France, however we did not get any positive answers. The Eures contact did not prove to be useful either. We also went onto a website or expatriates and movers<sup>37</sup> but we did not get any answers.

## Major challenges and problems encountered

### *Nationalities difficult to target*

#### Portugal:

Portuguese people were found only through personal networks and the networks of interviewees. We contacted several Portuguese associations but did not get any answers. There were in fact great discrepancies between associations of nationals we targeted. For example, we contacted an Estonian association<sup>38</sup> and received immediate help from them to find Estonian people to interview. We can assume that this is because Estonian migration is more recent, it is a smaller community and there is a lot of solidarity within this community in France. On the contrary, Portuguese migration is much older and it is much larger than Estonian migration, thus the profile of members of the Portuguese association may be more diversified.

#### Austria:

We found one Austrian living in France through personal networks. The Austrian Embassy did not share our project with their network. We found one Austrian association that shared our project to its members, however, we did not get any answers.

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<sup>36</sup> L'Auberge de la Solidarité

<sup>37</sup> [www.expats.com](http://www.expats.com)

<sup>38</sup> [www.france-estonie.org/](http://www.france-estonie.org/)

### Cyprus:

We found some people from Cyprus however they did not fit the criteria of our study (for age reasons and status in France). We did not find any Cypriot associations and did not get any answer from the Embassy.

### *French people not matching the criteria of the study*

To target French people willing to move, we used the tools mentioned above. However, not all the answers we got matched the criteria of the study. Most of the time, we had answers from French people who had already moved and were willing to share their experience. We also had answers from French people who left through the Erasmus programme. Ultimately, we found interviewees through personal networks. We can assume that these difficulties were because French people did not fully understand what it meant to 'plan to migrate to another country', that is to say that some did not feel that they had enough to say to us, since it was only a project, and others thought that they could answer questions on how they prepared their departure even though they had already left. Also, we noticed that foreigners living in France were eager to share their story, while it seems that French people who had not yet left did not necessarily perceive they had a story to share.

### *Lack of cooperation from authorities*

We did not get any answers from Embassies that we contacted. We did not receive any answers from employment agencies for foreigners in France either.

## 2. EU CITIZENS IN FRANCE

### 2.1. Previous experience and information about free movement

Two very distinct categories appear regarding previous experiences of moving: 18 have lived in other countries besides France, while 17 have only lived in France besides their country of origin. 12 had already been to France, 4 through a trip and 8 as students. Though there are different profiles, for interviewees in general, moving within the European Union is perceived as easy.

### *Information about free movement*

For the majority of interviewees, moving between EU countries is something easy and rather natural. Answering a question on how she knew she could move to France, P03, female, 30, answered: "*I do not know, it was known, simply*".<sup>39</sup> Several quotes are very representative of this feeling. P02, male, 32, expressed it with a material example: "*Mobility is easy, you take your*

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<sup>39</sup>"*Je ne sais pas, ça se savait, tout simplement*"

*car and you move*"<sup>40</sup>. Others pointed out the freedom that their identity cards give them, for PR3, male, 38: "*Just with a little identity card, I can be here*".<sup>41</sup>

One of the consequences is that most interviewees did not really prepare their coming to France. They faced challenges and barriers once they arrived in France and dealt with them at that time. However, many interviewees perceived that they needed to know their rights when dealing with administration or employers, and felt stronger when knowing these (see "Practices that hinder the right to move").

Most interviewees did not reflect on the fact of moving as a right that could be withdrawn, except for PR3, male, 38, who said "*If you see things from an historical perspective, the tools we have as a European space are amazing*".<sup>42</sup>

However, one interviewee, IT1, female, 30, reflected on the fact that mobility was not necessarily obvious for everyone. When she was asked about how to improve mobility between EU countries, she said "*I am not sure that everybody wants this mobility*".<sup>43</sup>

### *The experience of moving*

Young Europeans living in France had not necessarily chosen France specifically as a destination. What appears to be key in the pattern of migration is the opportunity, a job opportunity, having a French companion, or knowing people living in France (see *Drivers*).

The fact that it is opportunities that make people move means for many interviewees that they would move from France if they had a new opportunity in another country. However, two categories appear: those who think that moving has been so difficult that they do not want to go through this process again, and others, mainly interviewees who have lived in several countries, who think that when one has already moved, it is easier to move again. Some of the interviewees who have lived in several countries express the will to move again, and one of these called herself a "*nomad*"<sup>44</sup>. However, it appears that to move, interviewees need an opportunity, they do not want to move just to move. Regarding this point, the interview of ES3, female, 34, is very interesting: she has lived in several countries and explains that before she would move only to discover a new country, but after living in several countries, though she still wants to move, she wants to have a project to do so.

Only a few interviewees said they were thinking about going back to their home country. Though they may wish to, but because of the economic crisis in their country they do not see a future for themselves in their own country, and thus do not want to go back.

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<sup>40</sup> « *La mobilité c'est facile, tu prends ta voiture et tu te déplaces* »

<sup>41</sup> « *Juste avec une petite carte d'identité, je peux être là* »

<sup>42</sup> « *Si tu vois les choses historiquement, c'est incroyable les outils qu'on a aujourd'hui en tant qu'espace européen* »

<sup>43</sup> « *Je ne suis pas sûre que tout le monde a envie de cette mobilité* »

<sup>44</sup> IT5, female, 31

## 2.2. Drivers

The main drivers mentioned by the interviewees are work, in first place, then knowing someone French or in France, being attracted to France, and the French language. What needs to be noted is that it is usually several drivers that have led interviewees to move and to choose France.

### *Migration patterns defined by several drivers*

In most cases, one needs to look at different drivers to understand why a person decided to move and why they came to France: for instance, the person was willing to leave their country because they had no job opportunities there, and chose France because they knew someone there. This is the case of SP3, female, 27, for instance, who wanted to leave Spain because there was no job opportunity for her there, and who chose France because her sister was living in France and had found a job there.

Only seven interviewees gave just one driver for coming to France: two because of their studies, two because they had a job opportunity, and three because their companions were living in France.

### *Work*

Work is the main driver for interviewees to move, either because they are leaving their country where they can not find work, or because they have a work opportunity in France, sometimes, for both reasons. For 17 interviewees, work was their main reason for moving, 8 of them, because they had no working opportunities in their own country. 11 out of these 17 came to France because they thought they could find a job in France or they had a job opportunity in France. For instance, R04, male, 34, came to France because there were no job opportunities in his country. If he chose France, it is because his mother was already living in France and he thought that in France he would be able to find a job and better quality of life.

### *Companion is French or lives in France*

In most situations, it is not only working that made interviewees come to France, but also the fact that they had a personal connection with France. 11 interviewees came to France because their companion was French or living in France. More than half of them also mentioned work as a driver for coming to France. For three of these 11 interviewees, the only driver for coming to France was that their companion was living in France. It is worth noting that of these three, two of them ended their relationship and, even though they did not start a new relationship, they are still living in France.

### *France appears attractive*

16 interviewees said that they chose to come to France because they were attracted by the country or what it offers. 12 said they chose France because of its opportunities in education: for some, because there was an opportunity that did not exist in their own country, such as BU1, female, 24, who wanted to do European studies, others because they thought the

level of education was high, such as RO6, male, 28, for medicine. One interviewee, SP6, male, 27, mentioned the fact that tuition fees are very low even though the education is very good.

Five chose to come to Paris because they think Paris is a beautiful city - they said they had fallen in love with the city, more specifically they mentioned architecture and art. Two other interviewees mentioned that the positive image they had of France was a driver, GR2, male, 31, said he associated France with freedom, and two interviewees, RO5, female, 30, and GR3, female, 26, said they were attracted by French culture. For one interviewee, IT2, male, 25, the perception of difficulties is linked to the way you perceive the country where you live, referring to the fact that he loves Paris and thus does not feel he has difficulties in Paris, he says "*We see the world as we think it is*"<sup>45</sup>.

One interviewee, PR3, male, 38, said that one of the drivers for coming was the French social system, which he finds "*balanced*"<sup>46</sup>. No other interviewees mentioned this, however, it was mentioned by four other interviewees as a reason to stay.

One interviewee, RO5, female, 30, said one of her drivers was the multiculturalism of Paris. Many other interviewees value multiculturalism, but they mentioned it as a reason for staying in Paris, not as a driver for coming.

It is worth mentioning that for two interviewees, the fact that they thought that French culture was close to their own culture was an incentive to choose France.

### *Language*

15 interviewees mentioned language as a driver for choosing France. Some of them because they already knew French. Knowing French gave them the opportunity to find work in France or to be accepted in a French university.

Three other interviewees explained they had studied French in school in their country of origin. BU2, female, 27, explained that since she had studied French at school, it was natural for her to go to France. For BU1, female, 24, having studied French meant that a lot of students she knew had gone to France, which was a driver for her to leave for France. 6 interviewees said that one of the drivers was that they liked the French language.

### *Discover a new culture and travel*

Seven interviewees said that one of the drivers was that they were willing to discover a new culture and experience living in another country. For IT5, female, 31, there are two main drivers for a person to migrate: the first one is personal, the person has to be curious and open-minded. The second one is structural, related to the job market. The desire to travel was also mentioned by interviewees to explain a desire to move again.

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<sup>45</sup> « *On voit le monde comme on pense qu'il est* »

<sup>46</sup> « *Equilibré* »

One interviewee, PR3, male, 38, explained how for him, moving away was perceived as an opportunity to change life, he said *“I woke up, I had missed all opportunities [...] I need that in my life, as a European”*.<sup>47</sup>

### *Leaving one's country*

5 interviewees mentioned that one of their drivers for moving was that they wanted to leave their home country. Three explained that they did not like where they lived: for instance, ES1, female, 31, who was from Estonia, had followed her boyfriend to Italy but she felt miserable there and wanted to move to another country. PR2, male, 32, explained how he felt oppressed in Portugal where he thought culture was too homogeneous.

For ES2, female, 27, the main reason for leaving was that she had the feeling that if she stayed in Estonia, her future was already planned out.

RO4, male, 34, wanted to leave his own country for several reasons, among them, the economic crisis and political issues, mainly corruption.

### *Take revenge on France*

One interviewee, ES2, female, 27, mentioned that she settled in France because she wanted to take revenge on France, as the first time she came to France she thought it was a very hard experience. Another interviewee, AU1, female, 35, mentioned that she decided to stay in France because she wanted to show that even if it was hard, she could make it. She went even further saying that for her, she had gone through too much to leave. These two interviewees verbalized in a particular way what can be seen in many interviews, that France is a difficult country to settle in (see “Barriers”).

### *Being far from close relatives is not an obstacle*

It is interesting to note that only one interviewee mentioned that moving away from friends and family was a barrier for her to move that she had to overcome. Another, PO1, female, 29, pointed out that it is difficult to leave one's country *“Leaving for the unknown is a very tough decision to make”, “It is all my life that I've lived, I know how it works”*.<sup>48</sup> Almost all interviewees mentioned barriers for moving when arriving in France but did not mention barriers in their own country.

Indeed, family and friends rarely appear in the interviews, contrary to having a French companion or a companion living in France, which is a great incentive to move (see *Main*

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<sup>47</sup>« *Jeme suis réveillé, j'ai raté toutes les opportunités [...] j'ai besoin de ça dans ma vie en tant qu'Européen* »

<sup>48</sup> « *Partir vers l'inconnu, c'est une décision très difficile à prendre* », « *C'est toute ma vie que j'ai vécu, je sais comment ça marche* »

drivers). Only a few interviewees mentioned the fact that being away from their friends and family was difficult.

### 2.3. Barriers

The main barriers that were identified for young Europeans that settled in France is discrimination, language and feeling integrated.

#### *Discrimination and racism*

22 interviewees out of 34 mentioned that they suffered from discrimination and racism while in France. Many explained how they were discriminated against when looking for a job (see “Difficulties to find a job”).

Discrimination was also very present when looking for an apartment (see “Difficulties to find a place to live”). For instance, R06, male, 28, related how a landlord told him that he did not rent to Romanians, this also happened to an Italian interviewee who was discriminated against because of his nationality (IT4, male, 30-35). Another person from Romania, R05, female, 30, was specifically discriminated against because of her country of origin. When she tried to change bank branches, the manager told her that he did not want Romanians in his branch. One interviewee, IT5, female, 31, mentioned that when looking for a place to live she suffered from discrimination, but she spoke of “*social racism*”, because for her it was more linked to her social status - she had a temporary work contract - than because she was a foreigner.

In the administrations staff could also be discriminating. SP3, female, 27, related how when she had difficulties with an administration, she was told that she could go back to her own country. IT6, female, 30-35, had a similar experience: when she asked why it took so long for her to get her health insurance card, she was told it was because there are too many foreigners in France.

Several interviewees spoke of how they felt there were stereotypes of their country. For instance, IT3, male, 34, had issues renting a car because car renters thought that Italians drove badly. Two interviewees out of three from Portugal explained how there is the stereotype that Portuguese people in France are caretakers, and those people who looked down on them were surprised when they were told that in fact they had studied.

However, many interviewees who mentioned that they were discriminated against felt the need to add that they knew that it was nothing in comparison to people who are not from the European Union. A sentence from PR2, male, 32, sums it up “*I am more worried about those who are not in the Schengen space than for those who are already in it*”<sup>49</sup>.

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<sup>49</sup> « *Je m'inquiète plus pour ceux qui ne sont pas dans l'espace Schengen que pour ceux qui y sont déjà* ».



## *Language*

15 people out of 34 mentioned language as a major challenge to their integration in France. Not speaking French or having an accent can be a barrier to finding information, a place to live, or a job. Several interviewees related how they felt prejudiced against because they had an accent or could not speak French. ES2, female, 27, explained that she had the feeling that the staff from the administration considered her “*stupid*” because of this. PR2, male, 32, stated that he was not able to find a place because of his accent. PR2 (male, 32) had a French girlfriend and when he called to rent a place, when people heard his accent, they told him that the place was no longer available. When his girlfriend called to rent the same place, they told her it was available. Several interviewees also expressed how language is important in social relations in France, PO3, female, 30, gives an overview of this feeling: “*Sometimes in France if we do not speak French very well, or if we have an accent, or if we make little mistakes, we feel it very, very strongly*”.<sup>50</sup>

Interviewees noticed that French people do not speak English well and do not like to be spoken to in English. For instance, IT5, female, 31, explained that people are not helpful with people that do not speak French, contrary to other countries where she lived, like Finland. PR1, female, 32, has the same feeling, for her, French people are not nice with people who talk to them in English and prefer that someone tries to speak in French, even if really badly. PR3, male, 38, explained this by saying French people are very proud of their language, but he highlighted that for him this is positive. Not speaking French well also proves to be a barrier to making friends.

## *Feeling integrated*

11 interviewees explained how for them it is difficult to make friends in France. At the beginning it seems to be easier to make friends within the foreign community. There were several reasons for that. One interviewee, SP2, male, 31, thinks that French people like to stay with French people. For PR2, male, 32, not speaking French is a barrier to making friends with French people. Another interviewee, PR3, male, 38, thinks that French people in Paris are very busy. SP1, female, 33, noticed the difference in habits between French people and Spanish people, for instance, in Spain colleagues go for a drink after work, which is not the case in her firm. The feelings of IT4, male, 30-35, are a good illustration of what interviewees felt about having trouble making French friends: “*I would have liked to have a more friendly environment*”.<sup>51</sup>

One interviewee, SP6, male, 27, mentioned that he had a “*cultural shock*” when he arrived in France because French people are not friendly and are very formal. Several interviewees mentioned that for them it was hard to make friends with French people because they are cold. For PR3, male, 38, French people are very negative and they are taught to complain, which, while this may be positive for claiming one’s rights, is hard to endure for new comers.

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<sup>50</sup> « *Des fois en France si on ne parle pas très bien le français ou si on a un accent ou si on fait des petites fautes, on le ressent très très fort* »

<sup>51</sup> The interview was in English.

Several interviewees expressed that they always feel like a foreigner in France. RO1, female, 32, pictures herself as an open-minded person, however, according to her people always look at her as a foreigner. She gave the example that she has the feeling that people look down on her because of her accent or because she makes grammatical mistakes. This feeling is shared among several interviewees. One interviewee, PR1, female, 32, explained how for her feeling like a foreigner makes one feel more fragile.

Some interviewees felt they had to make great efforts to adapt themselves to French people. For instance, GR3, female, 26, related how she had to speak quieter, or be less tactile. For SP4, female, 28, Paris is a city where it is difficult to live and that makes people become embittered.

However, it is worth noting that for most of these interviewees, these difficulties are not reasons for them to leave France.

### *Difficulties finding a job*

For 14 interviewees, finding a job proved to be a major challenge in France, though more than half of them had come to France looking for a job opportunity. One of the interviewees testified that for her, it had been very traumatizing because she had been living in Germany beforehand and it had been much easier to find a job. She did not expect it to be so difficult and it was such a shock, and a difficult time, that for the first time in her life, she had to go to a psychologist.

One of the reasons mentioned is that French people are always preferred to foreigners, even if both have the same level of education or experience. As shown above, language is a barrier to finding a job. Another point raised is that in France, one needs to have the exact studies that fit a job offer. ES2, female, 27, explained how she had to do another Masters to get the job she wanted.

One interviewee testified how this situation was difficult because of all the procedures that one needs to do when arriving, and that are linked to one another: PR2, male, 32, said that to find a place to live, he had to have a job, however, to have a job, he needed an address, a phone number and a bank account, but to open an account he needed an address. He analyses this as not being an issue of French administration but of capitalism.

Five interviewees also mentioned the fact that employers did not know their rights as EU citizens, they asked them for a working visa and interviewees had to explain their rights themselves. RO5, female, 30, believes that if employers had administrative procedures to perform to recruit EU citizens they would not hire them.

Two interviewees, RO4, male, 34, and SP6, male, 27, explained how it was difficult to find jobs, they had to work in jobs that were very hard and low-paid. Moreover, they were treated differently from French workers. SP6, male 27, explained that he realized afterwards that he was not paid according to French legislation. He perceived that it was an issue that he did not know

his rights. For RO4, male, 34, he was only given short-term contracts while French workers were hired with long-term contracts.

### *High cost of life*

Six interviewees pointed out that Paris is a very expensive city. SP1, female, 33, explained how housing is very expensive in Paris and flats are very small. For some interviewees, like PO1, female, 29, the cost of living was so high that she considered moving back to Poland.

## 2.4. Practices that promote or hinder the right to move freely

Having a network in France appears to be key to making the right to move effective.

### Practices that promote the right to move

#### *Network/ Relations*

Two interviewees, BU1, female, 24, and PR3, male, 38, mentioned as a driver the fact that there was a network from their country living in France. For them, this was a driver because it meant that they could get help when arriving in France. But it was not the only driver. For BU1, female, 24, it was also a driver that a friend was willing to come with her. She was also willing to move because she knew French, was interested in university classes in France, and was willing to discover a new culture. Other interviewees mentioned that they knew French or foreign people in France, however, they did not mention it as a driver but as a way to get information and support.

One interviewee mentioned that he dared to move to France because he had a close relationship with a person who was from another EU country. It made him realize that it was possible to move between EU countries and it was one of the factors that made him move. Though we can expect that the fact of knowing people who have lived abroad has been an incentive for many interviewees, he was the only one who stated this directly.

#### *France is already known*

12 interviewees explained that one of the reasons they came to France was that they already knew the country, 4 mentioned trips they had made, and 8 previous experience as students (7 with the Erasmus programme). The experience as a student is not a driver in itself, it must be read with other drivers: for instance, for IT8, female, 33, having already been in France made her think it would be easier to go back. For IT6, female, 30-35, it meant she already knew the language, and for others it is because they enjoyed their stay in France during their Erasmus time.

Two interviewees, IT2, male, 25, and ES3, female, 34, came to France because they had fallen in love with a city after a trip there. It was their main driver for moving, however, they both mentioned that the fact of knowing people in Paris was a factor that influenced them to

come, even though they had different profiles, since IT2, male, 25, had never lived outside Italy, while ES3, female, 34, had lived in many countries. RO6, male, 28, also chose to come to Paris after a trip there, but for him, the other driver was that he thought French medicine universities are good.

### *Practices that hinder the right to move*

#### *Access to information*

The majority of interviewees explained how they had to rely on people they knew in France or foreigners living in France to access information. For the great majority, administration or public authorities, from France or from their own countries, were not a useful source of information (see the part “Difficulties with French administration”). They preferred to rely either on French people they knew because as French citizens they thought they knew how administration works, or on foreign people who had gone through the same procedures and knew how it works for foreigners, which is specific to them. Foreigners are perceived as good advisers since they have gone through the same procedures, but also as people to whom it is easier to ask for information. The feelings of PO1, female, 29, are very representative of this, she explained: *“When we arrive, we do not think about it or we do not dare to, we are afraid of looking ridiculous”*.<sup>52</sup>

To picture how interviewees rely on foreigners residing in France, the example of Estonian interviewees is a good one. All three Estonian interviewees explained how there is a lot of solidarity within the Estonian community in France, for example, there is a Facebook page where they can share information and ask for help.

The internet was also a source of information, but many interviewees related having issues with websites that were only in French. RO3, female, 26, pointed out that there are not many forums on the internet where foreigners can exchange information.

The majority of interviewees explained how gathering information was a barrier for them and advised creating websites that are easily accessible and understandable, with all the information needed. Even an interviewee like IT4, male, 30-35, who thinks that it is easy to find information on the internet, advocated the creation of such websites.

### *Barriers to find a place to live*

28 people out of 34 mentioned that finding a place to live in France is very complicated. Though rents are very high, mainly in Paris, it is not the main reason given to explain why finding a place to live is the biggest barrier to settling in France. The main reasons are that landlords ask for French guarantors, and for tenants to have a job with a high salary. As a consequence, it is very difficult to find a place to live in France, because when one arrives, usually one does not yet have a job and does not know French people who could be their guarantors. Some interviewees knew that these demands are not legal, however, since there are

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<sup>52</sup>*“Quand on arrive on n’y pense pas forcément ou on n’ose pas, on a peur d’être ridicule”*

so many people looking for a place to live in Paris, landlords do not respect the law. As a consequence, although they knew their rights, they could not exercise them.

Also, many interviewees related how one procedure blocked another procedure. BU2, female, 27, explains that she needed to have a bank account to rent a place, but to open a bank account, she needed to have an address.

PR2, male, 32, explained that he tried to find a place to live in Paris when he was still abroad but realized that it was impossible because of all these reasons. ES1, female, 31, also tried to rent a place while abroad but she was not able to because landlords want to meet people before renting to them.

Several interviewees expressed that for them the fact that it is more difficult for foreigners to find a place to live than for French people amounts to xenophobia. Many also experienced direct xenophobia as they were told by landlords that they did not rent to foreigners, such as SP6, male, 27, for instance.

To overcome these difficulties, interviewees relied on their networks and foreigners living in Paris who had gone through the same difficulties. Several had to stay for a time with people they already knew. Others had to sublet a flat, which meant that they could not benefit from social welfare help that the French state provides to help people pay their rent. One interviewee, RO2, female, 28, had a really powerful sentence to explain how difficult it is, she said *"I had to cry for help to everybody, otherwise, I would have come to live under a bridge"*.<sup>53</sup> This embodies well how disillusioned many interviewees felt when they saw how difficult it is to find a place to live in Paris.

### *Difficulties with French administration*

28 people out of 34 mentioned having trouble with the administration. The main criticisms are that administrative procedures in France are complicated, bureaucratic and lacking clear information, RO3, female, 26, said *"You do not know where to start"*<sup>54</sup>. This illustrates well the fact that many interviewees complained of, that there is a lack of clear procedures.

Many complained that administrative procedures are time consuming. SP4, female, 28, summarizes it by saying that in France, people need attestations for everything. 17 interviewees spoke of having difficulties with health insurance, mainly to get the health insurance card. Several testimonies explained that their files were lost several times by the administration, and they were asked for different documents each time they went to the administration, depending on the member of staff they were dealing with. GR1, female, 31, waited three years to get her health insurance card. The testimony of RO5, female, 30, shows the impact of this difficulty, she explained how stressful it was to think that she would have to cover her medical costs if she fell sick.

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<sup>53</sup> « *J'ai dû crier au secours à tout le monde, sinon je serais venue pour vivre sous un pont* »

<sup>54</sup> « *Tu ne sais pas par où commencer* »

Several people felt they were not well received by the staff, mainly because they were foreigners. SP3, female, 27, testified that when she complained to the staff, she was told that if she was not happy she could go back to her country. For her, it is easier for people who know their rights to face the administration.

12 interviewees think that the administration does not have enough information on EU citizens moving to France. GR3, female, 26, was told that her ID card was not valid, she faced people that did not know that Greece was part of the European Union and that she did not need a visa. PR1, female, 32, noted that in the administration, for instance for obtaining health cover, there is no information specifically for foreigners, contrary to the situation in Belgium. For IT7, female, 27, the staff are not prepared to deal with people who move a lot which means that interviewees had to look for the information by themselves. As a consequence, interviewees had to look for their rights by themselves, on the internet and through their network, in order to be able to interact better with the administration and access their rights.

### *The lack of European cooperation*

Many interviewees explained how some of their ID papers are hardly recognized in France. In French administrations, birth certificates are needed, however, several interviewees testified that their birth certificate was not accepted or that they had to pay for a French translation of it. PR3, male, 38, explained how he had to pay 60 euros to have a certified translation and was told later by another employee that as a European citizen, he did not need to do this.

Another issue mentioned was the difficulty in having one's qualifications recognized in France. 5 interviewees specifically mentioned this issue, for two of them, it prevented them from getting a job in their area of work and they had to get jobs which needed no qualifications. For two others, it was an issue with university, one because she had issues converting her grades, the other because he had to do two years of Masters instead of one. This issue was mentioned by more interviewees but not as a barrier, rather as a suggestion to improve migration between EU countries.

Two interviewees that moved between EU countries pointed out that it was hard for them to benefit from their social rights from the country they had left. IT6, female, 30-35, testified that she had not been able to receive her unemployment benefit that she had received in Germany. For IT1, female, 30, she does not know how she is going to benefit from the contributions she made for her pension during two years when she was living in Holland.

One issue appeared to be specifically Spanish, as it was mentioned by two Spanish interviewees: they explained how it is difficult to vote in Spanish elections from France, and SP3, female, 27, explained she has to go back to Spain to vote.

One interviewee, SP3, female, 27, mentioned a specific issue she had because of the kind of work she did. When she arrived in France, she started working as a seasonal worker. Because of that, the bank did not want to give her a bank card or a cheque book because she was told that there had been issues with seasonal workers that wrote cheques without paying them.

### *Difficulties to open a bank account*

For five interviewees, opening a bank account proved to be difficult. The main reason is that to open a bank account one needs to have an address, however, it is very difficult to find a place to live (see above). R03, female, 26, explained that to open a bank account, she had to prove that she had been living in France for 3 months. AU1, female, 35, could not open a bank account because she did not work. For her, it was very difficult because it meant she was very dependent on her boyfriend, who was working.

### **2.5. Suggestions**

Interviewees mainly suggested better access to information and harmonized cooperation between European countries.

#### *Improve access to information*

Most interviewees suggested making information more easily understandable and accessible, in several languages. A website or a guide could be created that would explain in a simple way how to settle in France, from administrative procedures to cultural specificities. It could explain step by step how to settle. Very concrete information should be given such as how to find a place to live, how transportation works or how to open a bank account. There should also be a referencing of different prices so movers can know what to expect and thus not get abused. It could also take the form of a welcome pack in firms.

Such a website could also take the form of a forum where movers would exchange information. A moderator would verify the information given and organize the topics.

Several interviewees pointed out how fundamental it was for one to know one's rights, when looking for a job or facing the administration. For instance, there could be guides that compare labour laws of different countries in order to avoid movers being taken advantage of. Interviewees pointed out the need to have information specific to each EU country, as they are all very different. It could take the form of a website that would give information on each EU country and give users the possibility to compare countries.

In order to look for a job, there should be a common data base easily available for all European countries that would gather job offers according to sectors.

Staff of the French administration should be better trained on the rights of EU citizens. Also, there should be the possibility for movers to have information and interact in another language than French. There could be special offices for EU movers, for instance.

#### *Better cooperation between EU countries*

Several interviewees pointed out that there should be better cooperation to recognize diplomas and qualifications between EU countries. Several, because of the difficulty in obtaining the health card in France, mentioned that there should be a unified health system. Taxes, unemployment and retirement systems could also be recognized on the basis of reciprocity.

There should be programs that foster the feeling of belonging to the European Union. For several interviewees, the European Union is too focused on the economy.

### *Finding a place to live*

As finding a place to live in France is a major issue, several interviewees advocated the removal of the need to have French guarantors to rent a place to live, and the need to earn three times the rent.

## **3. FRENCH PEOPLE WHO WISH/PLAN TO MOVE**

Four interviews were done with French people willing to move to a European country.

### **3.1. Previous experience and information about free movement**

Two of the interviewees, FR3, female, 28, and FR2, female, 35, have already chosen the country where they are going to move, FR3, female, 28, to Holland and FR2, female, 35, to Scotland. Both of them are about to move but have not found a job before moving.

On the contrary, the two other interviewees are looking to move to another EU country but have not chosen their destination yet. Both of them are looking for a job in several countries that they are targeting for different reasons (see below), but neither of them are considering moving without having found a job first. Thus, there are two different patterns but we will see below that drivers and barriers may still be similar for the four interviewees.

### *Experience of free movement*

Three of the four interviewees had lived outside of France before considering moving. Of these three, one (FR2, female, 35) is looking to go back to a country where she had lived, two (FR1, female, 27, and FR4, female, 25) are looking at different countries where they have not necessarily lived beforehand. The fourth one (FR3, female, 28) had travelled through Europe for a few months and is willing to go back to Amsterdam, which she had visited.

It does not appear that when they move they have a specific idea of how long they will stay, or if they will come back to France. For instance, FR4, female, 25, explained that it will depend on how it goes, and FR3, female, 28, said that she will stay in Amsterdam until she is tired of the city.

It is worth noting that free movement is an incentive to move, as FR4, female, 25, puts it, she looks at different countries to move to but she looks less at the United Kingdom because supposedly there will not be free movement there in the future.

Half the interviewees had already chosen the destination country where they wanted to go, while the other half had not chosen a specific country but were looking at several countries. There are specific drivers for each country to which they are looking to move. For instance, FR4, female, 25, is looking for a job in Spain because she knows the language, in Brussels because she



thinks she can have job opportunities there, in the Czech Republic because she had enjoyed living there, and in Portugal because she likes Portuguese people and their culture (see *Drivers*).

### *Information about free movement*

For French people that were interviewed, moving between European countries is something that appears to be easy and rather natural. They do not look for information on their rights, FR4, female, 25, explains “*I assumed that I had the right to work abroad*”<sup>55</sup>. Being able to move between countries seems to be something obvious, FR2, female, 35, reflects this opinion well by saying: “*Everybody knows that with the Schengen agreements we can move freely, just with ID, without a visa*”<sup>56</sup>. Being able to move so easily between EU countries is valued, FR2, female, 35, said “*It is pleasant to be able to cross frontiers peacefully*”<sup>57</sup>. For FR1, female, 27, their generation is used to moving abroad. However, one interviewee, FR4, female, 25, mentioned the fact that she feels that Europe is in a period of withdrawal, though it does not yet affect free movement it could end up doing so.

As a consequence, interviewees do not foresee barriers that would make it too difficult to move between EU countries. FR2, female, 35, reflected on this fact by saying: “*We create our own obstacles, I think, we are all able to leave for another EU country*”<sup>58</sup>. However, not all interviewees have the same feeling, for instance, FR3, female, 28, explained that she thinks that some people could be afraid of leaving France because they do not speak English well.

## **3.2. Drivers**

The main driver for moving to a European country is the wish to leave France, a desire to live in a specific country and finding work.

### *Will to leave France*

For four interviewees, the will to leave France was a key driver for moving. Three mentioned the fact that there is an increase in manifestations of racism in France, and that France is withdrawing into itself. FR4, female, 25, explained that it ‘*pushes her to lassitude*’.<sup>59</sup> Although she thinks that it is a trend in all European countries, she believes that cohabitation works better in other countries. What is interesting to note however, is that when speaking about countries where she is willing to move, she did not mention this fact as a driver. As a consequence, it appears to be much more of a driver for leaving France than for choosing a country. FR1, female, 27, on the contrary, is looking to move to specific European capitals because she values the fact that they are multicultural. FR2, female, 35, also mentioned the fact that she is willing to move to Scotland because people are more open-minded and she does not like the French mentality.

FR2, female, 35, also explained that she wants to leave France because she does not like the government. She mentioned the fact that it does not listen to citizens (she was referring more

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<sup>55</sup> « *Je suis partie du principe que j’avais le droit de travailler ailleurs* »

<sup>56</sup> « *Tout le monde sait qu’avec les accords de Schengen on peut circuler librement avec juste une carte d’identité, sans visa* »

<sup>57</sup> « *C’est quand même agréable de pouvoir traverser la frontière tranquillement* »

<sup>58</sup> « *Les obstacles, on se les crée soit-même je pense, on est tous capables de partir dans un autre pays européen* »

<sup>59</sup> « *Ça me pousse à la lassitude* »

specifically to the strong mobilization that took place in France against the reform of labour law).

FR3, female, 28, did not specifically mention changes in French society but she said that one of the drivers for her and her boyfriend was that they do not picture themselves living in any city in France, she used the very strong word of it being an “*imperative*”<sup>60</sup> for them to leave France.

### *Desire to live in a specific country*

All four interviewees targeted specific countries for moving. Although three interviewees out of four mentioned the will to travel and discover new culture as an incentive to move, it appears that interviewees’ curiosity and will to travel is to be understood with their interest for a specific country.

FR2, female, 35, is moving to Scotland and FR4, female, 25, is willing to move to Portugal or the Czech Republic because they have already lived in these countries and enjoyed living there. Also, because they like the mentality of people of these countries.

FR2, female, 35, and FR1, female, 27, are also looking at countries where they think they will have a better quality of life compared to Paris, with more nature and less pollution.

FR3, female, 28, and FR1, female, 27, also mentioned as a driver the will to learn a new language, though it is also perceived for them as a barrier to becoming integrated (see *Barriers*). FR4, female, 25, and FR3, female, 28, also chose their country (Portugal for FR4, female, 25 and Holland for FR3, female, 28,) because they like their culture. For FR3, female, 28, this was particularly key as she works in art. She is moving to Amsterdam and she said that she feels closer to the Amsterdam art style.

FR4, female, 25, also mentioned weather as a driver for wishing to move to Portugal. However, she is also looking at moving to Poland. She said that the weather in Poland is a challenge for her but it is not the main driver or barrier to choosing a country, it is just one of the factors that leads her to make a decision.

### *Desire to move to a country close to France*

The four interviewees mentioned the fact that EU countries are close to France on different levels as a driver. For FR4, female, 25, and FR3, female, 28, the fact that there is a common cultural base between EU countries is an incentive to move to a European country. For FR3, female, 28, it is reassuring to feel close to the history and the political system of the country where she is to move to. FR4, female, 25, explained how she has lived in Latin America and is now looking to live in a European country because she thinks it will be less different.

FR1, female, 27, does not want to move out of the European Union because she does not want to be too far from her friends and family. FR4, female, 25, also mentioned as a driver the fact of knowing the language of a country.

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<sup>60</sup> « *Impératif* »

### *Companion is moving*

One of the drivers for two interviewees was the fact that their boyfriends are moving. FR1, female, 27, is living with her boyfriend who has a job opportunity in Sweden and this is the reason why she is looking at jobs in this country. FR3, female, 28, has a boyfriend who was accepted in a university in Holland and she is following him. However, it is important to note that in both cases, moving abroad to a European country was already a project of the couple.

### *Find work*

Three interviewees out of four mentioned work as a key driver for moving. The three of them mentioned the fact that they had no opportunities in France, and at the same time, thought they would have better opportunities in other EU countries. For the three of them, this difficulty is linked to their working sector. FR4, female, 25, wants to work in a NGO and in France there are few job opportunities for the many people looking for a job in this area. This is the reason why she is looking for jobs in Brussels, because there are many more work opportunities there. It is interesting to note that for her it is the main driver to look to move to Brussels, however, she is also looking for jobs in other EU countries to which she is attracted for other reasons.

FR3, female, 28, works in art and she thinks that there are many more opportunities for her in Amsterdam than in Paris. She thinks there is more openness towards art there and more spontaneity compared to Paris. She also feels closer to the art style of Holland than to the French style.

FR2, female, 35, is a secretary in France. She hates her job and she is looking to go to Scotland to work in personal development. She thinks that there will be more opportunities for her in this sector in Scotland and she pointed out that there is a lot of unemployment in France. It is also interesting to note that she considers that she may have to work as a secretary when she arrives in Scotland, however, in France she felt that people looked down on her because of her job while she thinks it will be different in Scotland.

### **3.3. Barriers**

Two main barriers were mentioned by interviewees, the fact that they were afraid of not being able to make friends and create a network such as they have in their own country, and the fact of being torn between one's own country and moving abroad. It is interesting to note that these challenges are not related to concrete barriers that they would have to overcome. We can explain this by the fact that interviewees perceive moving as a very easy process within the European Union. It is also interesting to compare this to the answers of the interviewees of young Europeans who had moved to France. For them, it was rather unusual to mention relations and networks as a challenge they had perceived before moving. This can be explained by the fact that young Europeans interviewed had already moved, while French interviewees are still planning to move.

### *Lack of friends and network*

Half the interviewees, FR3, female, 28, and FR1, female, 27, mentioned that they were very much afraid of not being able to make friends. This is linked to the fact that they value having friends and a strong network, which they have in France and for them it is hard to leave behind them. For FR3, female, 28, not leaving as a student makes it harder to make friends.

### *Leaving one's country*

FR4, female, 25, is used to living abroad, she has lived in many countries and explained how after six years in France she is willing to move abroad again. Although she mainly looks for jobs abroad, she is also looking in France. She explains very strongly: *'I am always torn between the idea of staying in France and leaving'*.<sup>61</sup>

### *High cost of life*

One interviewee, FR4, female, 25, explained that cost of life was a criteria for her when considering where to move. She looked for job opportunities in Scandinavian countries but hesitated about moving because of the cost of living.

## 3.4. Practices that promote or hinder the right to move freely

### *Practices that promote the right to move*

#### *Having relations in the country*

FR3, female, 28, and FR2, female, 35, mentioned the fact they were moving to a city where they already knew people who could help them when arriving. It is worth underlining that FR3, female, 28, and FR2, female, 35, have already chosen the city where they want to move to, which may be the reason why they have already drawn on their networks, contrary to FR1, female, 27, and FR4, female, 25, who do not know yet where they are going to move.

For the four interviewees, the main source of information was the internet. Three of them mentioned that having friends living in the country where they wanted to move to would prove to be a support and a source of information.

### *Practices that hinder the right to move*

#### *Complex administrative procedures*

Three interviewees mentioned that they perceived administrative procedures as a difficulty. FR3, female, 28, and FR4, female, 25, are worried that there will be a lot of paperwork. FR3, female, 28, is afraid that it will be difficult to register in Holland.

FR4, female, 25, has lived in many countries and she said *'I know that one can feel a bit lost because there are many things to do'*.<sup>62</sup> The fact that the information is scattered means that finding all the information needed can be time consuming, this is one reason why all interviewees advocated the creation of a European website with all the information needed (See below in *Suggestions*). It was also mentioned by FR4, female, 25, that not knowing the language of the country can make it even more difficult to do all the paperwork.

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<sup>61</sup> « Je suis toujours partagée entre l'idée de rester en France et de partir »

<sup>62</sup> « Je sais par expérience qu'on peut être un peu perdu car il y beaucoup de choses à faire »

To overcome this difficulty, interviewees look for information on the internet and ask their network living where they are planning to move for help.

### *Unknown language*

Three interviewees mentioned language as a barrier. FR3, female, 28, and FR1, female, 27, specifically pointed out that for them, knowing the language of the country well was key to developing relations and feeling more integrated. FR3, female, 28, is going to Amsterdam and the first thing she is going to do before looking for a job is learn Dutch. However, she is very worried because she thinks it is a very difficult language to learn. FR3, female, 28, also said that she knows people who do not move because they do not know how to speak English.

Both are also willing to learn the language of the country because it is an important element to finding work. When FR1, female, 27, was looking for a job in Germany, she noticed that not knowing how to speak German was a barrier to finding work.

### *Challenges to finding work*

Finding work is a major worry for the interviewees. FR3, female, 28, is particularly worried because she is going to Amsterdam without having a job and thinks that because of the area where she works, art, it is going to be very difficult to find one. FR1, female, 27, and FR4, female, 25, do not consider moving without having found a job first.

FR1, female, 27, mentioned a particular issue. She was looking for jobs in England and she found out that she needed to have specific certifications as well as her diplomas. This difficulty has led her to look less for a job in England. For her, it would be very useful to have a website with a list of the requirements for finding work for each European country.

### *Barriers to find a place to live*

One interviewee, FR2, female, 35, was worried about finding a place to live. As she is leaving without having a job, she worries that it will be a barrier for her to find a place to live. FR3, female, 28, who is also leaving without having found a job had found a place to live before leaving. With her boyfriend, she will sublet the flat of a person they know there. FR2, female, 35, is also considering asking people she knows there for help to find a place to live.

## **3.5. Suggestions**

### *Improve the access to information*

All interviewees mentioned that it would be very useful to have a website that gathered all the information that one needs to settle in a country, practical information, and information on administrative procedures. There could be information on how to find a job or a place to live and what is needed for that. For instance, FR1, female, 27, explained how she had difficulties finding a job in the United Kingdom because she did not know at the beginning that her qualifications were not sufficient and she needed specific certifications. This website could be divided between all EU countries and give the specificities of each country. Interviewees spoke about systematizing information to have the same level of information for each country. Although FR2, female, 35, mentioned that having such a website would be very useful, she explained that she herself did not need one because she had been able to find all the information she needed on the internet.

One interviewee, FR3, female, 28, put forward the idea of having an office where foreigners could go when they arrive in a country. There could be a kind of internship that would last for a week and during which newcomers would do all their administrative procedures. It would also have the advantage for newcomers of them being able to make friends.

It is interesting to note that the interviewees mentioned access to information as a suggestion to improve European mobility, but they do not perceive it as a main challenge for moving. On the contrary, Europeans who have moved to France clearly expressed the lack of information as a problem (see *C 5 Access to information*). We can interpret these differences by the fact that since for interviewees (both French and Europeans living in France) moving in itself is an easy process, they do not anticipate specific barriers but discover and deal with them once they move.

### *Welcome movers*

One interviewee suggested that there could be a welcoming programme for movers, it could last one week and during this week, all the administrative procedures would be done. It would help movers to settle but also help them to socialize when arriving in a foreign country where the person does not know anyone.

### *Finding work*

As work is seen as a main driver, it was suggested that a European website could be created with job offers accessible in different languages. It could give work-related information and explain the specifics for each country, such as the use of certifications in the United Kingdom.

## **4. VIEWS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF AUTHORITIES**

Four interviews were done with representatives of NGOs. NGO1 works for a French NGO and her job is to support movers from Romania and Bulgaria (usually referred to as 'Roma population') in the Parisian region and help them access their rights. NGO2 and NGO3 represent an NGO that helps Italian movers, but they also work in a network with NGOs that support Portuguese, Spanish and Polish movers, and they notice that the difficulties are the same for these different communities. NGO4 represents an NGO that supports Spanish movers and that is present in several European and American countries.

### **4.1. Information about free movement**

Movers do not have much information on how the systems work in France and it is very difficult to access information before leaving one's country. For all interviewees, what is key is to give access to information to movers so they can exercise their rights.

NGO2 explained that the main sources of information for young people nowadays are social networks, while before it was the family or members of the community who had already migrated. She noted that people about to migrate have the same worries, as they always ask the same questions. However, by using the social networks they get many different answers. NGO4 explained how movers are surprised when they are told about health and housing, they find it very complicated.

Some movers do not know French laws and think that it is the same law that applies in France and in their country of origin (*see SP6, male, 27, interview*). NGO4 explains on its website the differences between the Spanish and the French law so people can know and access their rights. They also help with translations and give legal advice.

To give better access to information, NGO2 and NGO3 are working on a website where there would be all the answers to specific issues such as administration, finding work, and finding a place to live. They have worked with experts to have accurate answers and worked on concise and easy to understand ways of explaining how the system works in France. They noted that there are already websites giving information, but on a European level. These websites are not sufficiently specific for each country.

## 4.2. Drivers

### *Leaving one's country*

For the NGO representatives, the key reason for leaving for young people is the economic crisis and the high unemployment rates. Also, social systems are deteriorating.

### *Culture and language*

Culture and language in Spain and Italy have the same roots as France. For these movers, French is easier to learn than German, for instance. For NGO4, when one leaves one's country, she or he wants to be close to its culture.

### *Going back to one's country*

For NGO4, although in the near future Spanish movers want to stay in France or migrate to another country, in general they are willing to go back to Spain in the long term. For her, the reason for this is that it is mainly political and economic migration. NGO2 also believes that young Italian movers leave for two or three years with the idea of coming back afterwards. However, she thinks that they make decisions on a day to day basis. She also underlined that there are very different patterns of migration between movers.

## 4.3. Barriers

### *Discrimination*

Discrimination was specifically mentioned by NGO1 who explained that there are many prejudices against movers from Romania and Bulgaria. Also, expulsions are mainly against these movers.

### *Language*

Many movers do not speak French when they arrive in France. One of the consequences is that it is very difficult for them to find a job, even more so a job that fits their skills, hence, many start by doing low-qualified jobs. Another consequence is that it is harder for them to understand how French administration works. One of the solutions given by the NGOs is to translate documents and give access to French classes.

### *Difficulties to vote*

One difficulty appears to be specific to Spanish movers: for them, voting while abroad is very complicated, if not impossible. NGO4 explained that in 2011 – 2012, when the migration of Spanish people started to be very significant, principal political parties reformed the rules for expatriates to vote to make it more difficult. Her analysis is that all these young people who were obliged to migrate because of the economic crisis are very critical of the main political parties. She explained that abstention rates for ex-patriots amounts to 95%.

#### 4.4. Practices that promote or hinder the right to move freely

##### *Practices that promote the right to move*

###### *Network in France*

For NGO4, one of the reasons for choosing France is that movers have family members in France.

###### *France is already known*

For NGO4, many of the young Spanish who come to France have done Erasmus studies in France, which makes it easier to come back.

###### *Social system*

NGO4 explained how some movers want to stay in France because they feel protected. However, if the social system were to worsen, they would leave. She also wanted to point out that for her, Europe is more and more precarious.

###### *Job opportunities*

Some migrate because they are looking for a job that fits their skills, which means that they do not chose the country where they migrate to but target places where there is a lack of employees in their profession. For instance, in the south of France there is a lack of physiotherapists, so physiotherapists chose to move there on this criteria. For NGO1, movers go to France because they think they will have more job opportunities there.

##### *Practices that hinder the right to move*

###### *Expulsions*

Movers from Bulgaria and Romania suffer from expulsions from France because of laws that say that after three months one needs to have enough resources not to be a burden on the French social system. However, most of the time, these movers do not claim their social rights. They are expelled on the basis that they 'could' be a burden on the social system. Usually, before being expelled, the police give them a questionnaire to know if they have been in France for more than three months to be able to expel them. Most of the time, there is not a translator to help movers understand the questionnaire. It is to be noted that a new law from March 2016 authorizes the expulsion of European citizens even if they have been in France for less than



three months. According to this law, expulsions could be accompanied by a travel ban within countries of the European Union<sup>63</sup>.

NGO4 explained that there are Spanish movers who are expelled from Belgium and Germany because of laws on social costs. However, she does not have any information stating that this has happened for Spanish movers in France.

### *Administration*

All interviewees stated that French administration is very complicated. For NGO3, French administration is a '*nightmare*'. It is very bureaucratic and the staff always ask for different papers. At the same time, it has very strict rules.

### *Right to health*

Access to healthcare is a major issue according to interviewees. For NGO4, many Spanish people have neither access to health in their country of origin or in France. When one leaves Spain for more than three months, he or she no longer has access to public health in Spain. In France, they do not have access to health when they are unemployed. When the NGO is notified of a person who was denied access to health, the NGO sets up a group to support them and negotiates with a health professional to give care to the person. NGO2 explained that in Italy, the health card can be directly used in other EU countries, which is not the case for the French health card.

Another issue for Spanish movers is that very often their European health card is not accepted because Spain does not always reimburse health costs. When the European health card is accepted, it only lasts 3 months, while in general, one needs to wait 8 months to have the French health card. NGO2 also pointed out that there is a very long wait to get the health card.

NGO1 explained that movers usually do not know their rights and do not claim them.

### *European cooperation*

Some students have issues having their grades recognized between France and Italy. For people looking for a job, it is sometimes difficult to ensure the recognition of their skills.

### *Access to housing*

It is very difficult to access housing in France because one needs French guarantors. To avoid this issue, NGO2 plans to create a special fund for guarantors. All NGOs mentioned this issue. NGO2 said that when looking for a place to live, one needs to provide many documents and pay slips. As a consequence, many movers live in places with no official contracts, which means that they cannot access social help given by the state to help pay the rent, which is very high in Paris.

Many movers from Romania and Bulgaria live in shanty towns. Very often, when they are expelled from their housing by the police, they do not have other housing to go to.

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<sup>63</sup> France, Law on foreigners n° 2016-274, 7 March 2016, available at: [www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000032164264&categorieLien=id](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000032164264&categorieLien=id)

#### 4.5. Suggestions

The key suggestion made by interviewees was to improve access to information by creating a website giving practical information on administrative procedures and everyday life matters. There are official guides, for instance from consulates, that give advice but the language used is too complicated and the information is too detailed. There are websites, such as Just landed, that give information, but since it is for all EU countries it is not detailed enough for each individual country.

The recognition of diplomas and skills between countries should also be enhanced.

The French health card should also be recognized in other countries as is already the case in Italy. In France, one needs to do his or her European health insurance card when travelling or moving.

Laws that are used in a discriminatory way towards Roma people or that can be interpreted broadly should be suppressed.

### 5. INTERIM FINDINGS

What appears to be key in all interviews is access to information. All groups advocated the creation of a website that could be found easily and that would be understandable. There is a need to figure out how to settle in a foreign country step by step, mainly regarding administrative procedures that are perceived as complex and time-consuming. For those who have already moved, knowing one's rights is a major concern. However, it is interesting to note that for interviewees, moving between EU countries is perceived as an easy process, the reason why in general, they do not look for their rights before moving.

Networks seem essential to prepare one's move and arrival in the destination country. Instead of consulting authorities or the administration, movers rely on people they know in the country. At the same time, it appears that integration is a major concern. People who are about to move worry that they will not have the same social relations as they had in their country of origin, and those who have already moved to France see creating friendships with French people as a main challenge.

For a great majority of young Europeans living in France, they felt that they were discriminated against, in administration, while looking for a job or a place to live, as well as in everyday life. Many pointed out that they always feel like a foreigner in France and language appears to be a specific barrier.

Finding a place to live is also a major issue, mainly for young Europeans living in France. Criteria for renting a place are very discriminatory for those who have just moved since, besides discrimination against foreigners, the need to have French guarantors and to already have a job are great barriers.

Regarding drivers, finding a job is key for moving even though it can be difficult to find one after moving. For young Europeans living in France, they have the feeling that French people are always preferred to them and pointed out that some employers do not know their rights as European citizens. Another key driver is moving with one's partners.

There are different profiles between those who travel a lot and those who have only lived in another country besides their country of origin. However, it seems that having moved once and knowing the country of destination is a great incentive for moving. What needs to be noted is that usually, several drivers lead to the decision to move and to choose a specific country.

## **PART D: ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Interviews and legal analysis give a different point of view on what is perceived as challenges for young Europeans who move. Young Europeans living in France and young French willing to move to another EU country do not perceive any barrier to the process of moving in itself. Barriers and challenges highlighted by young Europeans living in France are not related to the law for foreigners, but are related mainly to discrimination and lack of information. However, this overview needs to be balanced with the case of Roma people. For these, the application of the law is very different than for other young Europeans.

In our analysis, we also need to look at policies on youth that are related to free movement. We should note that the interviewees mainly benefited from Erasmus programmes before their arrival in France in order to find a job and research programmes.

### **1. SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

#### **1. Easy moving in Europe**

According to Article R 121-1 of the CESEDA, introduced by the Decree of 21 March 2007, any citizen of the European Union carrying an identity card or a valid passport is allowed into France, provided that their presence does not constitute a threat to law and order. Being able to move between EU countries with just an identity card seems to be well understood by young Europeans and French. As a matter of fact, we were able to point out that for them, moving was an easy process and they did not do research on how they could settle in France (except for those who moved when their country were still in a transitional phase for free movement, like Romania).

There are two main consequences, Europeans who move do not seek to contact national authorities of their country of origin or of their country of destination. In the main, young Europeans did not register in town halls in France and did not know they needed to do so. The majority do not perceive national authorities as a source of information.

What we can note is that although young Europeans do not know the laws around the duration of their stay in France, they all came to study and then to work, or initially to work. The two interviewees who are currently unemployed are both looking for a job. One after finishing their studies, the other after losing their job. Thus, all Europeans interviewed meet the criteria to stay in France. Two French people interviewed are planning to move without having found a job first. It is to be noted that none of them mentioned the possible limitation of stay to three months.

Interviewees did not mention having benefited from the Youth priority scheme set up by the government to foster voluntary schemes and civil service at the international level.

## **2. Main challenges unrelated to the law**

The interviews of young Europeans and French show that the main challenges and barriers they describe are not related to the laws on entry and stay of foreigners. The main difficulty for young Europeans is to feel integrated in France and to settle, they suffer from discrimination that does not come from the law.

### **2.1. Discrimination**

The main challenge for young Europeans living in France is that they are or feel discriminated against, in their everyday life and also in settling. The main barriers to settling are finding a place to live and finding a job, in both of these, they suffer from discrimination. To find a place to live, some landlords directly refuse to rent to foreigners, but the majority ask for French guarantors and high salaries, which is indirect discrimination since foreigners who have just arrived cannot meet these demands. Regarding finding a job, many interviewees said that they felt that French people would always be preferred to them.

### **2.2. Lack of information**

A major challenge that appeared in the interviews with young Europeans is the lack of information on French laws. We should note that this need for information is not on laws about foreigners but on French laws which could impact on anyone not knowing the law. The main issue is with labour laws. Some interviewees came from places where there are less protective labour laws and think it is the same in France. As a consequence, they do not claim their rights.

Regarding renting accommodation, to ask for French guarantors and a very high salary is not in the law, however, almost all interviewees testified that landlords made such demands of them. Some interviewees knew these demands were not within the law but they pointed out that they could not access their rights because it is so difficult to find a place to live in Paris.

However, we need to point out that interviewees knew about their right to be in France and knew how to claim it with administrative staff, or with employers who did not know of their rights.

### **2.3. Administration**

Administration is considered a major barrier for young Europeans to settle in France. The main claims are that it is time consuming, bureaucratic and complicated to understand. Also, there is a major issue with the health card that they wait a long time for. However, one can consider that these difficulties are general to the French administration and not particular to Europeans. Nevertheless, it appears that these difficulties are amplified with Europeans, for several reasons: young Europeans who arrive do not know the procedures or how the French administration works, the staff do not know the rights of Europeans and they can have difficulties to communicate when the young European does not know French well, or the staff do not speak English. Also, several interviewees suffered from discrimination from the staff in various administrations.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

In France, discrimination is forbidden by the law. Projects could be created to fight against discrimination in general, and in public administration and the work place in particular.

Staff in the administration should be trained on European citizens' rights. They could also learn other languages to be able to interact with Europeans who do not speak French. Special offices could be created to specifically welcome Europeans.

Information should also be made available for young Europeans arriving in France to help them understand how the system works, what the different steps to settle in France are, but also, to offer help on cultural differences.

The barrier to finding a place to live should also be tackled. This could be done by creating a special fund for guarantors for Europeans and monitoring the application of the law by landlords.

From our desktop research, we found that it is mainly young people with a Masters or more that moved, and this analysis was confirmed by our research, since the great majority of young Europeans or young French willing to move do have a Masters or a PhD. As a consequence, there should be more programmes set up for people who are not studying or who are not studying at university. As diplomas are correlated with social and geographical origin in the desk research, public policies should tackle this issue to give access to mobility to all social categories across European countries. Such policies could for example be to create exchanges between workers who do not work in areas where there are usually exchanges. It should also be tackled by improving the system of scholarships, since finance is a barrier to moving.

However, not all young people want to move. As a matter of fact, according to the *Generation what* survey, 28% of people between 18 and 34 years old do not consider moving. The concept of 'motility' is also very useful in understanding the fact that not everyone has access to mobility, not because of physical barriers but because not everyone can develop their skills for mobility. Not everyone perceives mobility as a possibility. As a consequence, there should also be policies that give the taste for moving to young people and allow them to perceive it as a possibility. What this means is that though mobility should be made easier, it is only one side of the coin. It should be taken into consideration that moving is not within the scope of everyone and thus, policies need to address this question if they are to foster mobility for different categories of the population.