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## RESEARCH AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IMPACT ANALYSIS



# "The Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on Migrants and Young Professionals Working towards Migrants" Judiciary and Security Sector in France

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### Introduction



he COVID-19 hit the world at the critical time in terms of international migration. Just before the crisis, several countries experienced a record flow of immigrants. In addition, the number of immigrants and children born in countries has increased almost everywhere. Once the pandemic reached the world, it brought additional burdens and challenges for immigrant groups. While every country took protective measures against the pandemic, inequalities and injustices were deepened and reproduced during this time.

As in many other countries, the French government took harsh measures to eliminate COVID-19, which paved the way for human rights violations, such as excessive force use of police, formal gatherings, and the migrant rights. In addition, human rights advocates were also affected negatively by these breaches.

Indeed the right of asylum is a fundamental right recognized in many charters and declarations<sup>1</sup>. In France it's the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (*L'Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides* OFPRA) which grants refugee status to asylum seekers. It is also available for Refugees who are rejected to appeal to the National Court of Asylum (*la Cour nationale du droit d'asile* CNDA).

In this sense, Immigration Law was revised in France in 2018 with the promulgation of Law No. 2018-778 of September 10, 2018 for controlled immigration, an effective right of asylum and successful integration under the government of Edouard Philippe. The main goal of this law is to assure the improvement of the reception of migrants admitted for residence in accordance with their skills and talents, the reinforcement of the fight against irregular migration and the reduction of deadlines for asylum applications. However, it is also clear that there is also a lot of restrictive measures which is criticized as the facilitation of the expulsion from the territory of people whose asylum application file was rejected (with a shortening of the time limit for contesting).

<sup>1</sup> https://www.vie-publique.fr/eclairage/20174-droit-dasile-et-politique-migratoire

With regard to COVID-19, The French government introduced harsh measures firstly on March 17, 2020, which severely limited human rights such as free movement, formal gatherings. Although the government eased these measures in May 2020, this time new measures were introduced in October 2020 as a result of the high numbers of COVID-19 cases. However, the government introduced another lockdown on December 15, which urged people not to go out between 8 pm in the evening and 6 am in the morning.

Such circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic measures created further obstacles for people fleeing their homes to exercise their fundamental rights. The French government cancelled to process asylum applications during the curfew (Amnesty International, 2020). This meant further threat to the lives of migrants and refugees who informally settled within the country. Migrants living in informal places were evicted without any compensation for new accommodation during the pandemic curfew. For example, in Italy, law enforcement agencies exposed the migrants to constant harassment and violence.

In addition, French border police forced the asylum seekers to go back to Italy without considering their basic rights and needs. Furthermore, unaccompanied minors could not get any protection during the pandemic (HRW, 2020). According to HRW report (2020), the state council ordered a woman with her child to be sent back to Italy without checking any of their documents. Moreover, HRW criticized France and Britain that the two countries did not bear the responsibility to provide safe shelters for the people trying to cross the English Channel by boat (HRW, 2020).

In July, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decided that France violated the rights of 2 asylum seekers with the aid of using depriving them of fabric and monetary help to which they had been entitled and forcing them to be homeless in "inhuman and degrading residing conditions."<sup>2</sup>

France persevered to detain migrants in immigration detention facilities in the course of the pandemic, even though the French Ombudsman and the Controller General of Prisons known as for the closure of those centres in March, given the chance of Covid-19 contamination and the reality that deportations

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> AFFAIRE M.D. ET A.D. c. France, URL: https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng

couldn't be achieved in an affordable time body because of tour restrictions. In September, the authorities introduced that it had use a detention facility out of doors Paris for folks who examined effective for the virus that reasons Covid-19 at the same time as looking ahead to deportation.

Our intention is to make an overview to assess the impact of the pandemic on immigrants and professionals working in contact with them, taking into account advances in regulations and justice during the COVID -19 pandemic.

In this context, our main research question: How did COVID-19 affect the migrants and junior professionals (experts) operating with migrants in the field of law and justice? The purpose of this report is to analyse the assessment of the situation of migrants and young professionals working in contact with them in the context of pandemic. This report will focus only on the access to law and justice services in France, as a part of the YOUNGMIG project, supported by EU Erasmus Plus Programme.

We will focus on a few main questions for this report:

- How has the pandemic affected migrants in accessing justice and the law?
- What are the changes in the work process with the digitization of public services since the pandemic? What do the professionals think about? How migrants experience this change?
- What are the new challenges faced by migrants since pandemic in accessing public services?
- What are the new challenges faced by young professionals working with migrants since pandemic in the processing of cases?
- What are the general and basic approaches towards migrants in the field of law?

Through the field survey and the empirical data collected, the report analyses the problems related to the changes made in the process of processing asylum files and the regularization of migrants and the mode of operation and work of the staff working in public institutions and non-profit associations.

The report consists of introduction of the subject with literature review, the methodology and its limitations along with the discussion of findings and main points of the research and our recommendations.

#### Literature Review

The pandemic and its relatively recent consequences do not provide access to a very rich literature on the impact of Covid-19 on migrants and young professionals working with migrants. No empirical investigation has yet been published on the subject. However, it is possible to access academic work more focused on the legal consequences and the right to asylum.

The unprecedented Covid-19 situation has put health safety priorities and the rights of asylum seekers in dangerous competition<sup>3</sup>. The closure of prefectures and the suspension of the registration of asylum applications in Ile-de-France in March 2020, have affected their material conditions. In France, it is difficult to ensure the continuity of the right of asylum: when one of the links is failing, the whole procedure is blocked<sup>4</sup>.

When the administrative services enforcing the right to asylum closed one by one in March 2020, this constitutional right was no longer guaranteed. The Council of State, in its order of 30 April 2020<sup>5</sup> recognizes «a serious and manifestly illegal infringement», and orders the prefectures to resume the registration of asylum applications. Nevertheless, the procedure is far from returning to normal, and this is what worries jurists in their academic publications. The April 30, 2020 order states that priority would be given to those deemed vulnerable, but this criterion remains undefined<sup>6</sup>. In addition, the government takes the decision to reduce the applicable delays and the review of the judge of asylum, due to health security with an order of 13 May 2020<sup>7</sup>. The initial collegial formation to judge the decisions of the French Office

Fernandez, J., Graff, T. F., & Marie, A. (2020, 18 mai). Asile et Covid-19: l'effet d'aubaine? Libération. https://www.liberation.fr/debats/2020/05/18/asile-et-covid-19-l-effet-d-aubaine\_1788453/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Sanogo, A. (2020). La politique migratoire européenne à l'épreuve du Coronavirus : le droit d'asile en réanimation ?. Civitas Europa, 45, 185-205. https://doi-org.passerelle.univ-rennes1.fr/10.3917/civit.045.0185

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> CE. ord., 30 avr. 2020, reg. n° 440250 et 440253

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Castiel, C. (2020, 5 mai). Enregistrement des demandes d'asile en Île-de-France : condamnation de principe de l'administration. Droit fondamental et liberté publique | Dalloz Actualité. https://www.dalloz-actualite.fr/flash/enregistrement-des-demandes-d-asile-en-ile-de-france-condamnation-de-principe-de-l-administrat

Fernandez, J., Graff, T. F., & Marie, A. (2020b, juin 4). La crise sanitaire, prétexte à une fragilisation du droit d'asile. Le Club des Juristes. https://blog.leclubdesjuristes.com/la-crise-sanitaire-pretexte-a-une-fragilisation-du-droit-dasile/#1523463128576-b453af16-522e

for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) will be reduced to a single judge. Exceptional conditions and concern for efficiency, but lawyers and academics are worried about the consequences on the right of asylum and the quality of the procedure.

Lawyers and legal professionals are not the only ones to warn of the consequences of Covid-19 on the conditions of migrants. It is also the actors in more or less direct contact with civil society who account for this impact. Associations, non-governmental organizations, and research institutes sign articles, letters, advocacy, or recommendations to alarm the public authorities (Amnesty<sup>8</sup>, Forum Réfugiés<sup>9</sup>) or report on potential abuses threatening the right to asylum (IRIS<sup>10</sup>). Often in contact with migrants, they transmit valuable testimonies because they are informative but insufficient in scientific terms.

Newspapers, and more generally the media, are also relays of information and spaces of valuable visibility. Many articles cover the living conditions of migrants during a pandemic, such as difficulties in accessing care, shelter and housing. Here again, journalists interviewed a large number of staff in contact with migrants, social workers, doctors, members and employees of associations, lawyers, and migrant people directly (Euronews<sup>11</sup>, La Croix<sup>12</sup>, Le Parisien<sup>13</sup>). The media also play an important role in the interpretation of official data published by the administrative services and public institutions concerned by asylum applications. Many articles report on the decline in asylum claims in 2020 as a direct result of the pan-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> AmnestyFrance. (2020, 10 avril). Actualité France: nos cinq recommandations pour protéger les réfugiés et les migrants du Covid-19. https://www.amnesty.fr/refugies-et-migrants/actualites/france--nos-5-recommandations-pour-proteger-les-refugies

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Forum Réfugiés & Cosi. (2020, mai). L'impact de la crise sanitaire sur le droit d'asile en France. Forum Réfugiés. https://www.forumrefugies. org/s-informer/positions/france/691-impact-crise-sanitaire-droit-d-asile-en-france

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Chiron, P. (2020, 6 octobre). Covid-19 et migration : le reniement des droits. IRIS. https://www.iris-france. org/150365-covid-19-et-migration-le-reniement-des-droits/

Jamet, M. (2020, 5 juin). France : l'accès au droit des personnes étrangères malmené par la crise du coronavirus. euronews. https://fr.euronews.com/2020/06/03/france-l-acces-au-droit-des-personnes-etrangeres-malmene-par-la-crise-du-coronavirus

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Birchem, N. (2020, 28 mars). Le coronavirus impacte aussi le droit des étrangers en France. La Croix. https://www.la-croix.com/France/Immigration/Le-coronavirus-impacte-aussi-droit-etrangers-France-2020-03-28-1201086600

Tésorière, R. (2020, 22 avril). Coronavirus : en pleine épidémie, les demandeurs d'asile dans l'oubli. leparisien.fr. https://www.leparisien.fr/societe/coronavirus-en-pleine-epidemie-les-demandeurs-d-asile-dans-l-oubli-24-03-2020-8286654.php

demic and connect these abstract figures to the lived realities of those concerned (Le Monde<sup>14</sup>, France 24<sup>15</sup>).

The publications of official OFPRA data<sup>16</sup> are essential but they remain incomplete because they only concern asylum applications and do not indicate anything about the consequences in the processing of files for example. They reflect a 28% decrease in applications compared to 2019, a direct consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Unlike the European Union, the French institutions do not seem to have published reports or investigations on its administrative systems ensuring the right of asylum, or on the consequences of Covid-19 on its migration policy independently of EU's request.

The European Institutions and its various services in the field of migration have published many resources. Benefiting from a significant scale information network, the European Migration Network (EMN) has published a briefing note in collaboration with the OECD on the impact of Covid-19 on migration in EU Member States and OECD countries<sup>17</sup>. This summary provides interesting comparative information on the reactions of national governments and their material and immaterial adaptations to new circumstances. It was first carried out at national level to allow a European comparison.

The French Contact Point of the European Migration Network has therefore produced a report, which

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Melchior, M. (2021, 18 janvier). Immigration: « La crise liée au Covid-19 précipite des milliers de personnes dans un abîme de non-droit ». Le Monde.fr. https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2021/01/18/immigration-la-crise-liee-au-covid-19-precipite-des-milliers-de-personnes-dans-un-abime-de-non-droit 6066619 3232.html

France 24. (2021, 21 janvier). Sous l'effet du Covid-19, les demandes d'asile en France ont chuté en 2020. https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210121-sous-l-effet-du-covid-19-les-demandes-d-asile-en-france-ont-chut%C3%A9-en-2020

OFPRA. (2021, 21 janvier). Les premières données de l'asile 2020 à l'Ofpra | OFPRA. https://www.ofpra.gouv.fr/fr/l-ofpra/actualites/les-premieres-donnees-de-l-asile-0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> European Migration Network. (2021, avril). Impact de la COVID-19 dans le domaine des migrations dans les États membres de l'UE et les pays de l'OCDE. Ministère de l'Intérieur. https://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/fr/content/download/129287/1030406/file/1-Note-de-Synthese-Chapeau-sur-le-Covid.pdf

retraces the political and legislative developments regarding immigration and asylum in 2020 in France<sup>18</sup>. With regard to the pandemic, measures have been taken to prevent foreign nationals from losing their rights to stay and work in France on the one hand, and to avoid penalizing asylum seekers because of the lengthy procedures. This report again focuses on legislative and administrative changes but does not reflect the consequences of migration policy on migrants and asylum seekers.

As a result, the literature remains relatively poor on the impact of Covid-19 on migrants and the staff working with them. The publication of empirical surveys is particularly lacking to assess the longer-term effects of this pandemic on asylum policy in France.

Réseau Européen des Migrations France. (2021, avril). Rapport annuel 2020 sur les politiques d'asile et d'immigration. Ministère de l'Intérieur. https://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/content/download/128568/1025641/file/1-Rapport-annuel-du-REM-2020-rapport-de-la-France. pdf

#### Data Collection Method

o produce this report, an empirical investigation on the impact of Covid-19 on migrants and staff working with migrants was conducted. This investigation includes a series of semi-directional interviews as well as a questionnaire addressed to people with a migration background and to staff of institutions in the field of migration. This report therefore includes qualitative data, which allowed for more in-depth and precise responses, as well as quantitative data to trace trends on the consequences caused by the pandemic. The collection of data was possible thanks to a network of interlinkages first, then by the meeting of the persons concerned within the institutions and organizations.

Regarding interviews, not all requests were successful, sometimes not receiving a response to emails sent. Many meetings were also held remotely because of the sanitary conditions or impossibility of displacement. These conditions must be taken into account for the consequences they may have on the quality of interviews and the alteration of certain elements such as the perception of the body language of the respondents.

#### Survey Ground

he survey and interviews conducted with the staff working with migrants made it possible to clarify the data collected by the questionnaires. First, it is important to note that not all migrants interviewed had arrived before the Covid-19 pandemic. This can lead to discrepancies with staff responses and gaps in comparison with the post-covid situation.

The questionnaire was carried out among persons residing at the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers (CADA), thus already integrated into the migration system with a file under study but also with the help of acquaintance networks. They are run in these centres by the state institutions of SPADA, Structure of First Reception of Asylum Seekers, themselves funded by the French Office of Immigration and Integration (OFII). We also send online survey to some of the respondents.

The important role of staff in providing access to information on asylum procedures for migrants was highlighted in the interviews. When they arrive, migrants are given little information about the existence of official information bodies. It is above all the reception structure which guides asylum seekers in their procedures. Staff also explained that information is often passed on through "word-of-mouths" between residents by the testimony of their experiences.

#### Limitations

The psychological pressure they are under is significant. Staff note a certain level of anxiety and stress generated by the procedure and the positive or negative response to the refugee claim. They recognize their role of moral support: "They need us to reassure them." In fact, during the interviews to answer the questionnaire, the migrants interviewed often engaged in personal stories, with the need to talk and tell their stories. It was sometimes difficult to get respondents to answer the questions asked.

In addition, the difficulty of mastering the French language had an impact on the communication and understanding of the questions asked. Beyond that, language can be a source of complications in asylum procedures and a barrier to integration. In fact, the need for translators is not always met in the administrative and reception structures. A staff member interviewed explained that the residents "are there to learn French" but acknowledged the efforts made in language learning by migrants.

Also, a certain difficulty in approaching people was felt on the field investigation, because the populations concerned are relatively precarious and do not seem very confident.

Finally, regarding the impact of the pandemic and health measures on the processing of asylum applications, the interviews highlighted an element not expected. Staff report that teleworking has facilitated and accelerated the processing of files. Some procedures have been faster and fluidized because digitized. However, this has led to major changes for asylum seekers, sometimes faced with a cold digital interface and without human contact. The digitization of procedures also raises questions about the quality of case processing.

As a result, the empirical survey collected qualitative and quantitative data important to understanding the impact of Covid-19 on migrants and the staff working with them. All the limitations mentioned above make it possible to place these data in a certain context and to have details useful for their analysis.

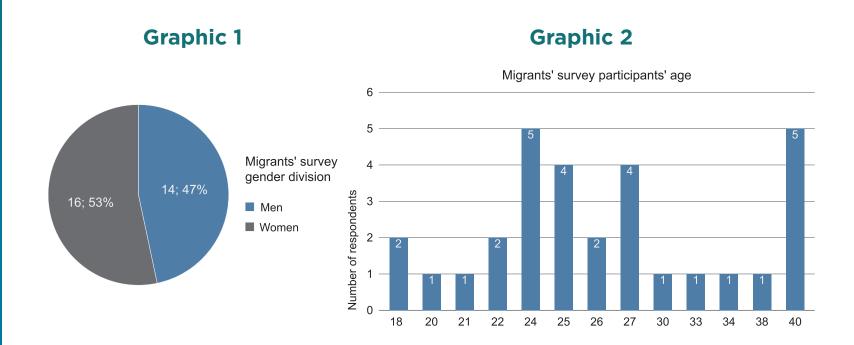
## Discussions on the Findings of Focus Group and Survey Data



#### A. MIGRANTS

#### 1. Demographics (Survey and Focus group)

he focus group was composed by 6 persons who answered the survey: 3 women of 18, 34 and 25 years old and 3 man of 26 and two of 40 years old. In the survey, we almost have gender parity with 16 women and 14 men. The average age is about 29 years for the questionnaire.



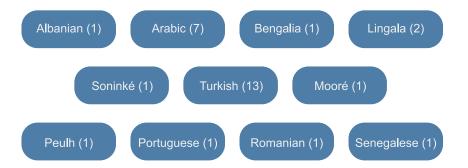
Even if we were able to interview a majority of people of Turkish origin (13), we still managed to obtain people from 11 different countries of origin in total: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Congo, Morocco, Romania, Senegal, Tunisia, and Turkey.

**Graphic 3**Participants' Countries Of Origin



Indeed, because of this diversity, the mother tongues of the respondents are very diverse. While some people answered that their mother tongue was one of the local dialects spoken in their country of origin, others indicated that their mother tongue was a language inherited from the colonial past as Portuguese (respondent originally from Angola). In addition, it would be interesting to note that some respondents (from different countries of origin) answered that they spoke the same mother tongue, namely Arabic for the Maghreb countries, while for some countries such as Senegal the answers were more varied, namely: Soninké, Senegalese and Peulh, due to the importance of certain dialects in these countries.

**Graphic 4**Participants' Mother Tongue



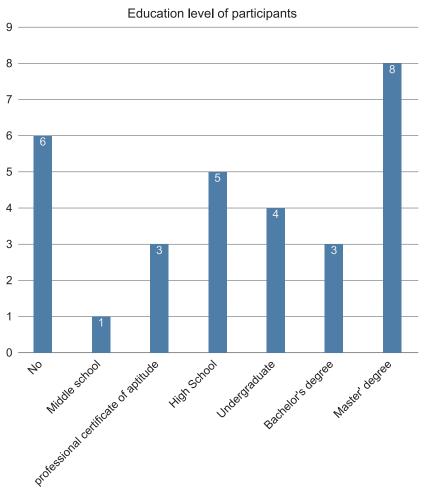
It would seem necessary here to remember that the participants had a varied level of French according to the profiles, but for the most part, we had some difficulties in communicating, especially during the interviews. A staff working at the reception centre for asylum seekers had testified on this subject "They do not all speak French correctly, of course, but we do not need a translator here. They have to learn French; we encourage them to do so".

Regarding marital status, the vast majority, about 60%, of participants are single, while almost 13% are married and 27% say they are in a relationship. Among them, 27% live alone, 13% with roommates, 20% with their spouse and their child(ren) and the others with either their parents or with their parents and their brother(s) and sister(s).

Thus, among these people of foreign origin and with a migrant background, 17% have succeeded in obtaining nationality by naturalization, 47% declare that they have the right to work, therefore in a regular situation with, for some, a residence permit. 23% declare their status as "asylum seeker", 10% are students and 3% are in an irregular situation, which means that they have no process to regularize their current situation.

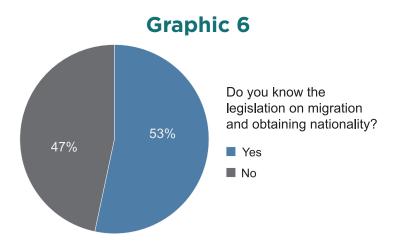
## 2. The Difference of Migrants' Responses According to Their Academic Situation





In order to better understand and analyse the data we can collect from our survey, we need to know the group interviewed. We have previously looked at the main socio-demographic characteristics before moving on to the analyses concerning their considerations on the French migration system as well as the Covid period, it is necessary to take a closer look at the level of diploma.

Our first observation is that the group interviewed is relatively educated. There is only 6 non-graduate. Taking this into account, here are the answers given to questionnaire 13 of the survey:



Moreover, among the people who answered yes, only 9 specified "very well". The others specified only "good" (5) and "not very good" (2).

We can see here that despite the high level of study and the fact that this is a subject with which the respondents are directly concerned, the rate of knowledge of the legislation is slightly above average. This can be explained by several things. First and intuitively, the pandemic period has brought about changes in immigration legislation and the regularization process. But in addition to that, these data lead us to think that this information remains quite opaque and/or not sufficiently made available to the public concerned.

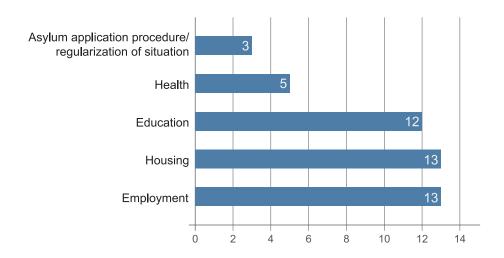
It should not be forgotten that these data remain to be put into perspective. For the survey passed directly face to face and which we helped to fill out, we felt quite strongly the interviewer-respondent relationship. In addition, we carried out the interviews in the premises of the reception centre for asylum seekers, which is why the interviewees had difficulty getting out of this framework and answering the questions asked frankly.

Being already in a rather precarious economic and social situation, the fact of answering "yes" allows them, among other things, to feel less downgraded in front of the investigator. We went to the field for several days, however we had to wait until the 2nd and 3rd day to have a few more people to interview because the individuals were quite reluctant at first, not necessarily understanding the reason for these interviews and questions. The misunderstanding of the presence of the interviewer and the fact of being seen with the staff of the centre indirectly placed a hierarchy and a balance of power with the respondents. Moreover, we can assume that the number of people who do not know these procedures are much more numerous than the number resulting from our database.

Thanks to the interviews and survey that we were able to do directly in the people's premises, we had the opportunity to observe the accommodation allocated to them by the centre (temporarily). For these interviews, people found it easier to engage, being in a private place away from curious eyes, whereas for the majority of the survey that we accompanied, this took place in the premises of reception of the centre, often in the presence of the staff. As a result, this presence may have prevented migrants from engaging directly and responding more frankly to the questions asked without fear of being judged or frowned upon by these people.

Indeed, before getting to legal problems and access to law, we find that migrants have other more problematic concerns for their daily life:

Graphic 7
In which area did you encounter difficulties during your integration in France?



#### 3. The Main Information Sources of Migrants

Actually, knowing the main sources of information of migrants is very important in order to understand their subsequent behaviour. Nevertheless, 43% of them declared that they have been helped by a structure in their administrative procedure. This would mean that a priori they do not need to know all the information as they are guided by the staff of the structures concerned for all that is filing and follow-up of the file as well as the possibility of approaching a professional, a lawyer for example, in case it is useful.

We initially would like to focus on the primary sources that migrants use for information. The answers to the question of "During the pandemic, in order to better assist you with your legal issues, have you (or someone acting on your behalf) obtained information from any of the following sources" are: Internet

(87%), television and radio (30%) and pamphlet, book and support guide (3%).

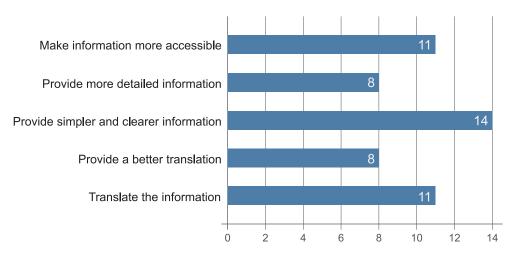
Internet then seems to be the most accessible source thanks to its blow and its frequency of use in the societies today in spite of the very important information pollution. The next source is television and radio, which are mainstream media very accessible even to people with the least economic capital. Regarding brochures, booklets and other guides, their use is less frequent. Indeed, in order to be able to consult them, you must first be aware of their existence and know the places to obtain them. In addition, you need a more advanced knowledge of French to understand them, which is not the case for the internet (immediate online translation) or television (which supports their point with images, videos and sounds).

Given the demand from migrants for easier access to immigration regulations and restrictions. In our interview, we have seen that people have a very shaky knowledge on this subject. In fact, when we speak with the staff after some of our interview, they said us: "here the information circulates very quickly by word of mouth. One will tell his experience to the other, who will try to take the same steps without asking the questions of the difference of his situation. Therefore, the information can sometimes be wrong but that's how it is. People need hope". In this regard, the essential source of information is actually unofficial.

In addition to this, with question "In order to better assist you with legal issues during the pandemic, have you (or someone acting on your behalf) ever obtained information, advice or benefited from legal representation from any of the following people or organizations" we notice that migrants mainly address organizations such as non-governmental organizations, associations, aid foundations, etc. or nobody.

**Graphic 8** 

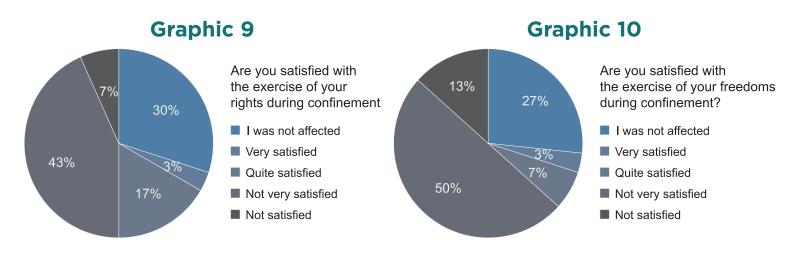
What could formal structures do to help people better understand immigration rules and restrictions?



When we look at the graphic above, we find that the major need is for clearer and simpler information. Indeed, the legal language is already a specific language. Migrants who have a sufficient level of knowledge of the language will find it difficult to grasp the concepts. Then comes the need for translation and access to information. The administrative and legal procedures being quite complex, it is quite understandable to face such a response. These responses once again show the usefulness of our project in facilitating access to information for these populations.

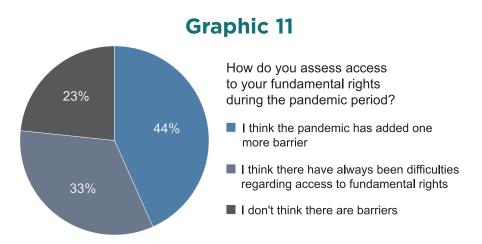
## 4. The Role of Digitalisation on the Process Of Asylum Application And Regularization of Legal Status

Before starting this part of the analysis, it should be recalled that only 10 of the respondents declared that their situation had changed after the pandemic period. Moreover, only 4 persons respond yes to "Have you experienced discrimination when accessing public services during the pandemic?".



Even if there are not many people who have experienced a change in situation during the pandemic and very few express having been the victim of discrimination, whether for the exercise of their fundamental rights or their freedom, the pandemic seems to have reinforced the barriers that already exist in these areas for these populations.

Even before the pandemic, migrants think that there were already difficulties in accessing fundamental rights in France according to their experience. But with the arrival of the Covid, this has accentuated inequalities and has reinforced the gap.



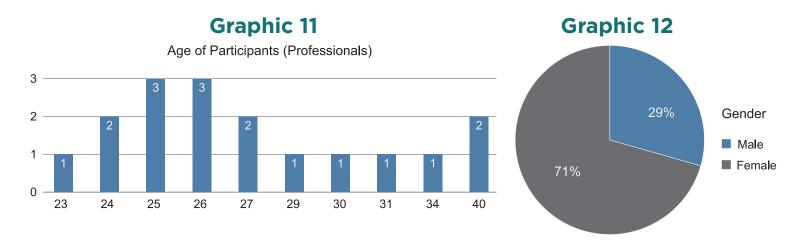
With this feeling of inequality and difficulty in accessing fundamental rights and freedoms, 73% of migrants believe that the government has not taken the necessary steps to improve justice during pandemic and 77% think that the government the government did not act for legal awareness during the pandemic.

On the other hand, when we ask if they had any legal problems during the confinement, only 27% answer positively. Besides, when we take a closer look at these answers, only 3 relate to public services, 1 to housing and 4 to employment.

Then, we note dissatisfaction about the government and the administration in people's discourse, whereas when asked about expectations in the interviews, the majority were not able to answer or suggest anything to improve.

#### B. PROFES-SIONNELS

#### 1. Demographics (Survey and Focus Group)



he main demographic variables that the survey focused on are as follows; age (18-40), gender, education, employment/profession and marital status. Overall, this part of the report included data from 20 professional migration participants who responded to the survey, but of these 20 participants, the 3 participants who did not meet the age criterion are excluded from the analysis. The focus group was composed by 4 persons who answered the survey: 3 women of 24, 26 and 27 years old and 1 man of 25 years old.

Although the majority of respondents identified themselves as "French", they also have diverse ethnic origins. During the interviews that we did, we noticed that some of the participants come from a family of immigrant origin and this situation motivates them to work on migratory issues in their professional life. We also have 3 foreigners in our sample. Participants come from a variety of educational backgrounds, professions and income groups. Apart from 4 student interns, most of our survey participants belong to middle income levels.

When we examine the socio-demographic characteristic of the participants in our sample, we first see that the average age of migration professionals participating in our survey is 28,3. Then, 29 % of our participants are men, and the remaining 71 % are women. When we look at the education levels, it is striking that 59 % of the participating professionals have a master's degree, 29 % have a bachelor's degree, and the rest have a two-year higher education background after high school. Finally, 82 % of these migration professionals are single and 18 % are married.

In the qualitative study conducted as part of our research, focus group interviews were conducted. In this study, purposive and snowball methods were used to approach a professional working in the field as a source. A total of 5 semi-directive interviews were carried out. Our exploratory interviews allowed us to find information that we cannot access with only a questionnaire. The research data was created using the focus group interview method, which allows participants to comfortably express themselves in the group, reveal new information by inspiring each other and discussing together of their experiences on the subject. In focus group interviews, where participants try to learn "information about their perceptions, mental schemas, emotions, and thoughts" about a topic<sup>19</sup>, deeper information can be obtained thanks to the interaction between participants<sup>20</sup>.

Focus group study and surveys were done via internet (through the Zoom). This situation constitutes an ironic example of the digitalization that came with the Covid-19 pandemic.

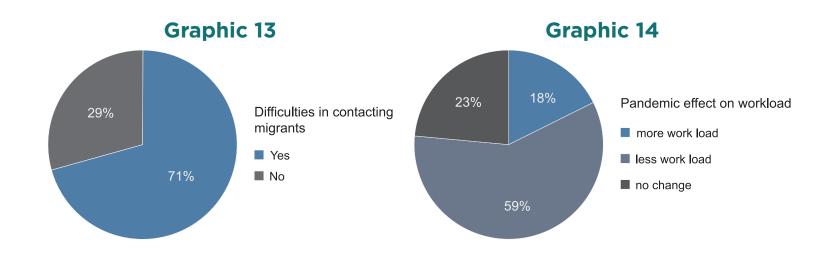
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Çokluk, Ö., Yılmaz, K. & Oğuz, E. (2011). Nitel bir görüşme yöntemi: Odak grup görüşmesi. Kuramsal Eğitimbilim Dergisi, 4(1), 95-107.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Kumral, O. (2010). Nitel çalismalarda odak grup gorusmesi. Çagdas Egitim Dergisi, 35(374), 16-22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Işık, E. & Semerci, Ç. (2019). Egitim alanı nitel araştırmalarında veri ucgenlemesi olarak odak grup gorusmesi, bireysel gorusme ve gozlem. Turkish Journal of Educational Studies, 6(3), 53-66.

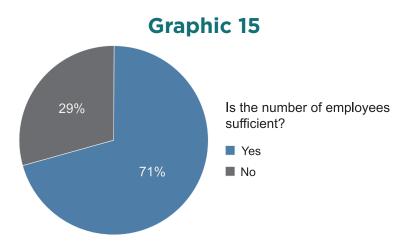
## 2. The Effects of Covid-19 on Junior Professionals

he Covid-19 pandemic has caused difficulties in many sectors and has also made the situation even more difficult for professionals working on migration issues. The responses of the migration professionals we interviewed and surveyed on this subject clearly show these difficulties. Especially with the restrictions, we see that the host countries are using the pandemic to toughen their migration policy<sup>22</sup>. For example, the French government either delayed or rejected asylum applications during the curfew.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Mabille, C. (2021). Les migrations à l'épreuve d'une pandémie. Revue Défense Nationale, H-, 25-30. https://doi.org/10.3917/rdna.hs05.0025

71% of participants surveyed in our research said pandemic-related restrictions have brought new challenges to contacting migrants. When we examine the impact of the pandemic on the workload for migration professionals, we see that 59% of the participants stated that they have less workload. When we ask the reasons for this, the answers we get show that, together with the curfew and lockdown, state institutions do not function and non-governmental organizations cannot do their jobs well enough due to restrictions. Most of the participants had fewer files to process because they had difficulty in reaching immigrants, some had more files because they were working on the accumulated files that were already ready.



In the responses we received to the question whether the number of people working in our participants' organizations was sufficient during the pandemic, most of the participants say that the number of employees is sufficient, some say that it is insufficient. We understand that the number of employees is sufficient because it is not possible for immigrants from reaching these non-governmental organizations because of the restrictions and we observe that those who have more files find the number of employees insufficient. However, this result clearly shows us that one of the groups most affected by the pandemic restrictions is immigrants. Immigrants have been kept away from legal proceedings and even find it difficult to reach non-governmental organizations that can advise and help them.

## 3. Law and Justice Sectors For Migrants During Pandemic

n France, the asylum application procedure was suspended and the reception, registration (SPADA and GUDA), interview (OFPRA) and appeal (CNDA) offices closed during the first lockdown. It is in this context that seven asylum seekers and seven associations, including the League for Human Rights and the Information and Support Group for Immigrants (GISTI), appealed to the Administrative Court (TA) of Paris on April 15, 2020 by a request and a memorandum mentioning the urgency of considering the impossibility of requesting asylum in France since March 22. The appeal was arguing a serious and manifestly illegal infringement of a fundamental freedom, which is the request for asylum<sup>23</sup>.

The judge ordered on April 21 to the prefectural authorities to restore the system for registering asylum applications "deleted in March" [...] and to reopen, under the sanitary conditions imposed by Covid-19, a number of GUDAs making it possible to process this flow"; the OFII "to proceed without delay with the reopening of the said platform"<sup>24</sup>. Additionally, the Administrative Court continued: "None of the provisions of the law of March 23, 2020, listing the provisions relating to the state of health emergency, nor any of the regulatory texts adopted for its application has the purpose or effect, to authorize the competent administrative authorities to stop registering asylum applications"<sup>25</sup>.

The Ministry of the Interior and the OFII requested the cancellation of the order of the TA of Paris from the

Dominique Kerouedan, La demande d'asile dans le contexte de l'état d'urgence sanitaire en période d'épidémie de la Covid-19 en France, URL: https://alternatives-humanitaires.org/fr/2020/06/17/la-demande-dasile-dans-le-contexte-de-letat-durgence-sanitaire-en-periode-de-pidemie-de-covid-19-en-france/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Tribunal administratif de Paris. Ordonnance du 21 avril 2020.

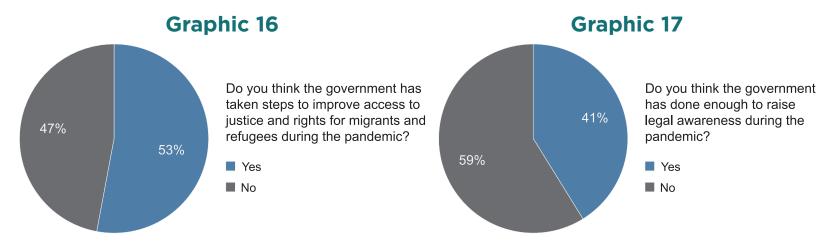
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Tribunal administratif de Paris. Ordonnance du 21 avril 2020.

Council of State. The Council of State, ruling in litigation, in turn, has issued an order on 30 April 2020<sup>26</sup>, giving a copy to the Defender of Rights, requiring the Ministry of the Interior and the OFII to restore the registration of asylum applications, under the health conditions imposed by Covid-19, noting that the failure of the State to implement the registration of asylum applications". This order constituted a serious and manifestly illegal violation of the right to asylum and justified the intervention of the judge.

Most of the NGO representatives and other migration professionals we were able to interview believe that the pandemic has created new obstacles for asylum seekers in accessing their fundamental rights. The right to asylum has been greatly impacted by the health crisis and confinement. In an internal Cimade<sup>27</sup> report that an interviewed NGO representative shared with us, during the confinement, practically no asylum applications were registered due to the closure of the counters of the prefectures and since then the number has been reduced by 40%. Thus, the number of first requests recorded during the first eight months of 2020 was 50,115 compared to 92,365 in 2019, a decrease of 45%. In Ile-de-France, many people need unfailing patience to get an appointment with the telephone platform of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII).

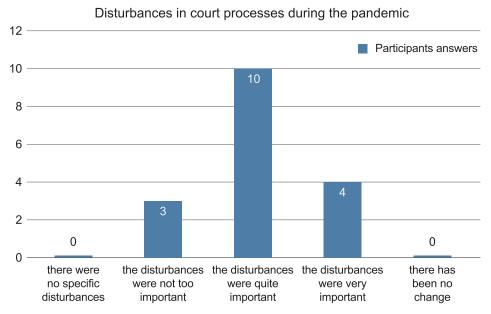
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Conseil d'État. Ordonnance du 30 avril 2020. URL : https://www.conseil-etat.fr/ressources/decisions-contentieuses/dernieres-decisions-importantes/conseil-d-etat-30-avril-enregistrement-des-demandes-d-asile-en-ile-de-france

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> La Cimade is a non-governmental organization in France. The person we interviewed shared with us an internal Cimade report on the subject.



Fifty-three percent of participants believe that the government has not planned any measures to facilitate the rights of immigrants during the pandemic period. The others state that the government has taken steps to facilitate action on this issue. When we ask about this in our interviews, we learn that this convenience is the automatic extension of authorizations for those whose residence permits have expired during the pandemic. Despite this, the majority of participants think that the government has not done enough to develop legal awareness.

**Graphic 18** 



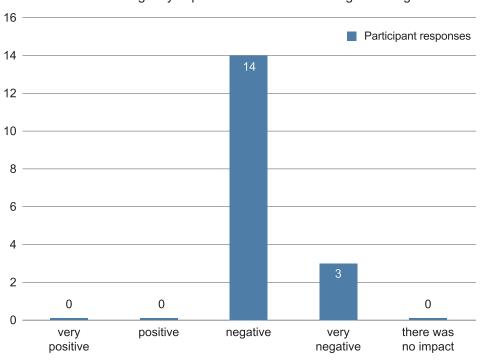
Most of participants believe that the disruptions in the judicial process with the various restrictions brought by the restrictions are significant. Prolongation of court proceedings is also a significant problem.

Until now, two states of emergency/lockdowns have been declared in France (March-May 2020 and October 2020-February 2021). The negative impact of the two states of emergency declared in France due to the pandemic on the exercise of the fundamental rights of immigrants draws attention<sup>28</sup>. In addition to the obstacles linked to the migratory journey, we have seen that the asylum application procedure was completely interrupted in Île-de-France for several weeks, and this at each of the stages: registration, interview, appeal to the CNDA against OFPRA's rejection decisions. When we look at how the pandemic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> La Croix, Le coronavirus impacte aussi le droit des étrangers en France, URL : https://www.la-croix.com/France/Immigration/Le-coronavirus-impacte-aussi-droit-etrangers-France-2020-03-28-1201086600

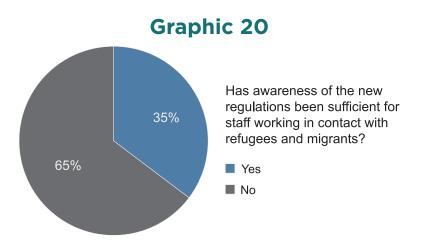
and restrictions affect asylum applications, we see that according to the data of the Ministry of the Interior, 81,531 first applications (including minors) and 11,733 renewal applications were registered in 2020, which is 38.4% lower than in 2019. The number of people protected in France decreased from 36,275 in 2019 to 24,181 in 2020<sup>29</sup>.

**Graphic 19**State of emergency impact on the fundamental rights of migrants



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Statistiques annuelles en matière d'immigration, d'asile et d'acquisition de la nationalité française, Ministre de l'Intérieur, URL: https://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/fr/Info-ressources/Actualites/Communiques/Statistiques-annuelles-en-matiere-d-immigration-d-asile-et-de-nationalite

It is stated that the pandemic process has created a new barrier to accessing legal services. As a result, while some of the participants were hopeful for government actions against improving access to rights, others were desperate for migrants seeking protection or asylum from the government. This issue has had a direct effect on professionals serving migrants.



According to our participants, the legal sensitivity of public officials working with immigrants vis-à-vis the new conditions and rules is insufficient.

In addition, our participants, with whom we conducted interviews, draw our attention to the closing of borders during the pandemic. Several borders between countries of the European Union have been closed, between France and Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, effectively prohibiting people "on the way" between their country of origin and France, to succeed in seeking asylum in France or in other European states.

## 4. Digitalization

mmigrants, as vulnerable people and as frontline workers or volunteers, play an important role in every country's response to the pandemic. Due to the challenges created by the pandemic, governments and all other parts of the world are intensively using innovative digital tools to tackle the psychosocial issues people are facing such as isolation, anxiety and depression. Despite containment measures, COVID-19 has increased the use of digital tools that also connect migrants with their families and relatives living in their country of origin.

It should be noted that the pandemic has increased the risk of exclusion for marginalized people, who were already excluded from society. Although digital tools made it easier to access government services, this was not the case for migrants. As the benefits were not fairly distributed, they did not have the opportunity to access online services or increase their digital skills. Government policies and related social interventions have remained weak to address the so-called "digital poverty" that exacerbates isolation and deepens inequalities among migrants. Professionals working with migrants have also suffered from this problem.

Although the pandemic has called for solidarity and support from all, it has also exacerbated misinformation, xenophobia and hate speech. Indeed, migrants do not have access to digital tools to access impartial and reliable information. Participants also indicated in interviews that they had tried to provide virtual advice to migrants to support traditional advice throughout the pandemic. However, due to restrictions, in-person counselling was limited or intermittent.

In this research, we affirm that digital platforms and tools have become very important especially with the Covid19 pandemic. First, the platforms and the digital tools started to be used in the public service including the migration. This facilitates access to public services for migrants. Second, these tools can allow the creation of an environment of dialogue between migration professionals and migrants. In this context, we see the desire of our participants to have different online trainings that support immigrants

and migration professionals. It is also important to note that most of the surveys and interviews for this research were carried out using the Internet and digital tools. Respondents in our survey agree on the benefits of using digital platforms for learning that provide flexibility in the use of their time with distance learning; convenience of pre-recorded sessions; the versatility of digital platforms in terms of various teaching methods. However, the lack of digital accessibility remains problematic, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged populations such as immigrants.

## Conclusion



he Covid 19 pandemic has caused a profound process of transformation in many parts of the world. In this process, states have taken many precautions such as restrictions, curfews and declarations of states of emergency to protect their citizens while battling the virus. However, the inability of state institutions to actively function in this process has also caused problems. Immigrants, one of the most disadvantaged groups in the pandemic process, have experienced many problems.

Access to justice for this group, already subject to numerous restrictions, has become even more difficult. As countries took action against the pandemic, inequalities and injustices deepened and recurred during this time. As in many other exemplary countries, the French government has also taken drastic measures, which have paved the way for violations of human and immigrant rights.

The policies of the French government during the pandemic period have not only made the lives of immigrants in the process of emigration much more difficult but have also disrupted asylum procedures for immigrants who have already arrived in the country. Many immigrants who work as fugitives to survive have been unable to work for months due to restrictions.

In this study, we assessed the restrictions linked to the Covid 19 pandemic and the difficulties encountered by immigrants in the field of law and justice. The surveys and interviews we conducted with young immigrants and young immigration professionals clearly showed us the difficulties encountered.

Our research data showed the pandemic-related challenges and needs of migrants and the professionals who work with them. On the one hand, most people were concerned about the pandemic, on the other hand, the government seemed to have lost sight of the ongoing structural injustice, especially in vulnerable communities such as migrants, refugees and claimants. of asylum. Some people argue that the pandemic has created an exceptional situation and therefore does not reflect general immigration issues. Others argue that the pandemic is an opportunity for the government to use the crisis to fast-track immigration policy and existing anti-immigration programs.

In the public service, migrants have difficulty accessing justice during the pandemic period. First with the

lockdowns the public service stopped after months it starts to work but still with restrictions. These difficulties have led to the rejection of immigrants by superficial investigations on issues such as their legal status, residence permits, and asylum requests, or that these legal processes have taken too long.

Ensuring the relationship between immigration professionals and immigrants in the form of open dialogue using digital tools will not only help immigrants access the law and justice, but also enable immigration professionals to carry out their activities during the pandemic period. Accordingly, the near future will prove the truth in terms of law and justice towards migrants and refugees.

### Recommendations

n order to ensure legal awareness, the government should organize trainings that target public service agents who work with migrants. Delivering these trainings through an online platform, developing programs for young immigrants and civil servants working in the relevant field, and providing trainings in a hybrid format will improve legal awareness.

Furthermore, the provision of these trainings to non-governmental organizations working on migration-related issues will help to raise awareness on the issue together among migrants, civil society and government officials. Moreover, these trainings could create an open dialogue between these three parts of migration issues.

The Covid 19 pandemic should not be turned into a tool of pressure on immigrants and should not be turned into an instrument by governments to suppress migration.

An open dialogue should be established between professionals working on migration issues and migrants, and information should be provided on the rights of migrants. In order to develop this dialogue, it is important to bring together immigrants, state officials working on the issue and representatives of non-governmental organizations. As people from these three groups get to know each other and learn each other's stories, it is likely that awareness will increase and humanitarian responsibilities will come to the fore.

For example, some workshop activities can increase the dialogue between these three groups. Studies should be carried out to enable immigrants to access digital tools such as computers and smart phones, which are needed today, and trainings should be organized so that they have the knowledge to use these tools.

Migrants must have access to more psychological support to accompany them in their process and support them in particular when their file is refused. More accessible tools must be made available to migrants with a simpler and more understandable language of the issues and the steps to be taken for each specific situation. Brochures should be prepared in the mother tongues of migrants and provide detailed

information on their rights as a migrant and officials should be trained to improve their legal awareness.

In addition, this report shows the lack of an online platform where immigrants and civil servants can receive training together and emphasizes the creation of such a platform. This can for example be done through a website, like the program this Project.

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# Apprendices



## Surveys

## **About Migrant:**





## BRIDGING YOUTH AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN A MIGRATIONAL CONTEXT VIA DIGITALIZATION

Projet no: 2020-1-TR01-KA227-YOU-098198

"Évaluation de l'impact de la Covid 19 sur les migrants et les jeunes professionnels travaillant au contact des migrants"

Chers répondants

Cette enquête vise à analyser l'opinion des différents participants (ayant un passé migratoire) sur l'impacts de la pandémie de Covid 19 en matière de droit et de justice. Les résultats seront utilisés pour développer des programmes d'apprentissage dans le cadre d'un projet multipartenaire soutenu par le programme Erasmus+ de l'Union Européenne ; visant à soutenir l'éducation, la formation, la jeunesse et le sport en Europe. L'objectif de cette enquête est de comprendre les principaux défis rencontres durant la pandémie de Covid 19 et de créer un contact entre les jeunes migrants et les jeunes professionnels travaillant en leur contact.

Les réponses aux questions demeureront confidentielles et seront utilisées uniquement à des fins scientifiques. Dans le questionnaire, Le noms des personnes ainsi que leur lieu de travail ne sont pas demandes. Par conséquent, veuillez ne pas préciser votre nom dans vos réponses (sauf dans les deux premières questions, qui demeurent facultatives, et qui seront utilisés afin de reprendre contact avec vous en cas de besoin dans le cadre de l'enquête).

Le questionnaire est composé de deux parties. La première partie comprend des questions descriptives concernant le répondant et la deuxième partie porte sur des questions concernant le point de vue et les opinions des répondant sur le sujet de recherche détaillé plus haut.

Merci d'avance pour votre contribution.

#### A. Informations descriptives

- 1. Nom (facultatif):
- 2. Numéro de téléphone ou e-mail (facultatif):
- 3. Age:
- 4. Genre: homme/femme/autre
- 5. Niveau de diplôme (dernier diplôme obtenu):
- 6. Situation matrimoniale: Marié/ célibataire/ En couple/ autre
- 7. Pays d'origine:
- 8. Depuis combien de temps vivez-vous en France?
- 9. Quel est votre langue maternelle?
- 10. Dans quelle ville vivez-vous en France?
- 11. Avec qui vivez-vous?
- 12. Quel est votre situation légale actuel?
  - a. Citoyen français

	b. Citoyen européen
	c. Situation irrégulière
	d. A le droit de travail
	e. Refugie
	f. Demandeur d'asile
	g. Autre (précisez):
В.	Connaissance générale au sujet de la politique migratoire française
13.C	onnaissez-vous la législation en matière de migration et obtention de nationalité?
	Oui
	Non
	onnaissez-vous la procédure pour la régularisation de votre situation en tant que migrant? / Con- aissez-vous la procédure de demande d'asile si vous êtes demandeur d'asile?
	Très bien
	Bien
	Pas très bien
	Pas bien du tout
	Je ne sais pas/n'a pas d'avis
15. C	Connaissez-vous vos droits d'appel contre les décisions prises par les autorités ?
	Très bien

Assez bien
Pas très bien
Pas bien du tout
Je ne sais pas/ Pas d'avis
16.Comment évaluez-vous votre expérience dans système d'immigration français?
Très bien
Assez Bien
Assez mal
Très mal
Je ne sais pas/ ne se prononce pas
17. Avez-vous déjà reçu de l'aide de la part des structures officielles concernant vos procédures ?
Oui
Non
18.Avez-vous fait une demande d'acquisition de la nationalité française ou pour une carte de séjour récemment?
Oui
Non
19.Dans quel(s) domaine(s) avez-vous rencontrez des difficultés durant votre intégration en France?
a. Emploi

b.	_ogement	r
$\sim$ .	_0901110111	-

- c. Éducation
- d. Santé
- e. Procédure de demande d'asile/régularisation de situation
- 20. Qu'est-ce que les structures officielles pourraient-elles faire pour aider les individus à mieux comprendre les règles et les restrictions en matière d'immigration?
  - a. Traduire les informations
  - b. Fournir une meilleure traduction
  - c. Fournir des informations plus simples et plus clairs
  - d. Fournir des informations plus détaillées
  - e. Rendre les informations plus accessibles

#### C. L'Analyse de l'impact de la Covid 19

21. Est-ce que votre situation légale a changé durant la pandémie de Covid 19?

Oui

Non

22. Faites-vous confiance à la protection sociale qui vous a été donne durant la pandémie concernant vos droits?

Oui beaucoup

Moyennement

Pas beaucoup

Non pas du tout

Ne se prononce pas/ n'as pas d'avis

23. Jusqu'à maintenant, deux états d'urgence ont été déclaré en France (mars-mai 2020 et octobre 2020-fevrier 2021). Êtes-vous satisfait de l'exercice de vos droits pendant le confinement?

Très satisfait

Assez satisfait

Pas très satisfait

Pas satisfait

Je n'ai pas été affecté

24. Jusqu'à maintenant, deux états d'urgence ont été déclaré en France (mars-mai 2020 et octobre 2020-fevrier 2021). Êtes-vous satisfait de l'exercice de vos libertés durant le confinement?

Très satisfait

Satisfait

Pas très satisfait

Pas satisfait

Je n'ai pas été affecté

- 25. Que pensez-vous du durcissement des lois et de la règlementation du ministère de l'Intérieur à l'égard des migrants et des réfugiés pendant la période de Covid 19 (contrôle des foules par la police, prévention contre les émeutes, contrôle d'identité)?
  - a. Je pense que la police a été spécialement dure avec les jeunes migrants/réfugiés durant la pandémie.

- b. Je pense que la police a toujours été dure avec les migrants/réfugiés.
- c. Je ne pense pas que la police cible particulièrement les migrants /réfugiés. Leur comportement est la même pour tout le monde.
- 26. Comment évaluez-vous l'accès à vos droits fondamentaux durant la période de pandémie?
  - a. Je pense que la pandémie a ajouté une barrière de plus
  - b. Je pense qu'il y a toujours eu des difficultés concernant l'accès aux droits fondamentaux
  - c. Je ne pense pas qu'il y a des barrières
- 27. Comment évaluez-vous l'accès aux soins et aux services de santé (logement, alimentation etc.) durant la période de pandémie?
  - a. Je pense que la pandémie a ajouté une barrière de plus
  - b. Je pense qu'il y a toujours eu des difficultés concernant l'accès aux droits fondamentaux
  - c. Je ne pense pas qu'il y a des barrières
- 28. Avez-vous été victime de discrimination durant votre accès aux services publiques pendant la pandémie?

Oui

Non

29. Pensez-vous que les femmes ont un accès limite à la justice en raison de leur genre?

Oui

Non

30. Pensez-vous que les migrants handicapés font face à des obstacles supplémentaires pour accéder au système judiciaire?

Oui
Non
31. Pensez-vous que le gouvernement a entrepris des démarches afin d'améliorer l'accès à la justice pendant la pandémie?
Oui
Non
32. Pensez-vous que le gouvernent s'est mobilisé pour la sensibilisation juridique durant la pandémie
Oui
Non
33. Si oui, par quels types d'initiatives? (Plusieurs réponses sont possibles)
a. Formation de sensibilisation juridique
b. Ateliers
c. Brochures et circulaires dans plusieurs langues
d. Émissions de radio et de télévision
e. Journaux
34. Avez-vous eu des problèmes juridiques pendant la pandémie?
Oui
Non
35. Si oui, quel genre de problème avez-vous eu? (Veuillez choisir parmi les catégories générales ci-dessous)

	a.	Logement	
	b.	Famille	
	c.	Sante	
	d.	Emploi	
	e.	Protection sociale	
	f.	Abus de la part des fonctionnaires	
	g.	Services publics	
	h.	Argent	
36. Si oui (à la question 36), ce problème vous a-t-il posé un problème dans les domaines s			
	a.	Santé	
	b.	Niveau élevé de stress	
	C.	Problème au sein de la famille	
	d.	Harcèlement, menace ou agression	
	e.	Dommage matérielle	
	f.	Perte d'emploi	
	g.	Déménagement forcé	
	h.	Perte financière	

i. Peur ou perte d'estime de soi

- 37. Pendant la pandémie, afin de mieux vous aidez dans vos problèmes juridiques, avez-vous (ou quelqu'un agissant en votre nom) obtenu des informations d'une des sources suivantes:
  - a. Internet
  - b. Brochure, livre ou guide d'assistance
  - c. Journaux ou magasines
  - d. Télévision ou radio
- 38. Afin de mieux vous aider dans problèmes juridiques pendant la pandémie, avez-vous (ou quelqu'un agissant en votre nom) déjà obtenu des renseignements, des conseils ou bénéficié d'une représentation légale auprès d'une des personnes ou organisation suivantes:
  - a. Un membre de la famille
  - b. Un avocat
  - c. Un conseiller professionnel
  - d. Un tribunal
  - e. Un organisme gouvernemental
  - f. La police
  - g. Une organisation (ONG, fondation, association d'aide etc.)
  - h. Une personne de confiance
  - i. Personne

### **About Profesionnals:**

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Merci d'avance pour votre contribution.

Si vous avez des questions n'hésitez pas à nous contacter.

#### **A- Informations descriptives**

- Nom (facultatif):
   Numéro de téléphone ou e-mail (facultatif):
   Age:
   Genre: homme/femme/autre
   Niveau de diplôme (dernier diplôme obtenu):
- 6. Situation matrimoniale: Marié/ célibataire/ En couple/ autre7. Quelle fonction exercez-vous au sein de votre structure?

- 8. Êtes-vous salarié ou bénévole? o Salarié
  - o Bénévole
- 9. Avez-vous rencontré des difficultés pour contacter les migrants et les réfugiés pendant les confinements à cause des restrictions sanitaires?
  - o Oui
  - o Non
- 10. Les restrictions liées à la pandémie ont-elles resserré votre champ de travail?

o Oui
o Non
11. Comment la pandémie a affecté votre masse de travail?
o J'ai eu plus de cas/dossiers à traitero J'ai eu moins de cas/dossiers à traitero Aucun changement
12.Le nombre de personne travaillant dans votre structure a-t-il été suffisant pendant la période de pandémie?
o Oui
o Non
13.Pensez-vous que le gouvernement a entrepris des démarches afin d'améliorer l'accès à la justice et au droit des migrants et des réfugiés pendant la pandémie?
o Oui
o Non
14.Pensez-vous que le gouvernent s'est assez mobilisé pour la sensibilisation juridique durant la pandémie?
o Oui
o Non
15.Si oui, par quels types d'initiatives? (Plusieurs réponses sont possibles)
o Formation de sensibilisation juridiqueo Atelierso Brochures et circulaires dans plusieurs langues
o Émissions de radio et de télévision
o Journaux

- 16. Avec les différentes restrictions apportées par la pandémie, comment évaluerez-vous les perturbations vécues dans les processus judiciaires?
  - o Je ne pense pas qu'il y a eu des perturbations spécifiqueso Je ne pense pas que les perturbations ont été trop importantes
  - o Je pense que les perturbations ont été assez importanteso Je pense que les perturbations ont été très importanteso Je ne pense pas qu'il y a eu dec hangements
- 17. Avec les différentes restrictions apportées par la pandémie, comment évaluerez-vous les délais de traitement de dossier dans les processus judiciaires?
  - o Je ne pense pas qu'il y a eu des délais spécifiqueso Je ne pense pas que les délais ont été trop importantes
  - o Je pense que les délais ont été assez importanteso Je pense que les perturbations ont été trèsimportantes
  - o Je ne pense pas qu'il y a eu de changements
- 18. Jusqu'à maintenant, deux états d'urgence/confinements ont été déclaré en France (mars-mai 2020 et octobre 2020-fevrier 2021). De quelle manière pensez-vous que cela a affecté les migrants et les réfugiés dans l'exercice de leurs droits fondamentaux?
  - o Très positiveo Positiveo Négativeo Très négativeo Jenepensepasquecelaaeud'effets
- 19. Comment évaluerez-vous l'accès aux services juridiques comme les conseils juridiques, la représentation légale, l'accès à la demande de mise en liberté sous caution, du recrutement des interprètes et des frais judiciaires pendant la durée de la pandémie des migrants et/ou des réfugiés?
  - o Je pense que l'accès aux services juridiques a toujours été couteux et difficileo Je pense que c'est devenu plus couteux à cause des nouvelles difficultés introduites par la pandémieo Je ne pense pas qu'il y a des obstacles spécifiques aux réfugiés et migrants

20. Selon vous, la sensibilisation aux nouvelles réglementations a-t-elle été suffisante pour le personnel travaillant au contact des réfugiés et des migrants?
o Oui
o Non
21. Si oui, par quels types d'initiatives cela s'est réalisé? (Plusieurs réponses sont possibles)
o Formation interne aux institutionso Atelierso Brochures et circulaires
o Supports techniques
22. Si non, quel type de support aurez-vous voulu avoir?
Précisez:

## Focus Group Questions

# "Évaluation de l'impact de la Covid 19 sur les migrants et les jeunes professionnels travaillant au contact de migrant" Guide thématique d'entretien

Chers participants,

La pandémie de Covid 19 a entrainé des restrictions importantes dans le fonctionnement des tribunaux et des cours de Justice Européenne.

Cet entretien a pour but de rassembler des informations pratiques sur les restrictions introduites depuis le début de la crise sanitaire en matière de droit d'asile et de régularisation de situation afin qu'elles puissent être analysées dans une perspective d'accès à la justice des migrants et de l'application des droits fondamentaux dans ce domaine.

Les résultats permettront l'élaboration de modules de formation dans le cadre d'un projet menés avec plusieurs partenaires et soutenu par le programme de l'Union Européenne, Erasmus+, visant à soutenir l'éducation, la jeunesse et le sport en Europe. Au cours de l'échange, nous aborderons plus en détails certaines questions de l'enquête par questionnaire.

Durant l'entretien l'anonymat des enquêtés sera garanti (cependant, de courts extraits ou certaines phrases pourront être utilisés avec le consentement des concernés). De plus, les entretiens seront utilisés seulement à des fins scientifiques.

Merci d'avance pour votre contribution.

Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter.

#### A. Informations descriptives:

- 1. Age:
- 2. Genre: Femme/Homme/Autre

- 3. Profession et secteur d'activité (Veuillez détailler l'emploi que vous occupez actuellement ou si vous êtes en arrêt, votre ancien poste):
- 4. Niveau de diplôme (le dernier diplôme obtenu):
- 5. Pays d'origine:

#### B. Guide thématique d'entretien

- → Pour les migrants et les refugiés
- 1. Des restrictions sont-elles imposées depuis le début de la crise COVID-19 concernant le droit de demande d'asile? / de régularisation de situation
- 2. Y a-t-il eu des restrictions de l'accès des avocats aux personnes qui cherchent à faire une demande de protection internationale?
- 3. Avez-vous eu des difficultés à accéder à des avocats pour faire une demande de protection internationale/ ou une demande de régularisation de situation?
- 4. Les recours concernant les protections internationales sont-ils maintenus durant la pandémie?
- 5. Si oui, des restrictions ont-ils été mises en place concernant le recours à ce droit (recours en ligne, distanciation sociale etc.)?
- 6. Quelles sont les difficultés que vous avez rencontrés dans vos démarches durant la pandémie ?
- 7. Qu'avez-vous fait ? Quel a été votre réaction
- → Pour les professionnels
- 1. Les entretiens/l'accès aux demandes concernant le droit d'asile se déroulent-ils dans le respect de la procédure de demande d'asile (2013/32 UE ou, le cas échéant, 2005/85 CE) durant la pandémie?
- 2. Des restrictions concernant l'accès à la représentation légale ont-elles été introduites concernant les

demandes de protection internationale depuis le début de la crise du Covid-19 ?

- 3. Y a-t-il eu de nouveaux flux d'immigration pendant la période pandémique? Si oui, comment cela vous a affecté dans l'exercice ce votre travail ?
- 4. Dans le cadre de votre travail, avez-vous eu recours à des outils numériques en ligne (Zoom, MS Teams, Skype, Webex) pendant la pandémie de Covid-19? Connaissiez-vous ces outils avant la pandémie?
- 5. Si votre réponse est non, dans quelle mesure avez-vous été soutenu par votre employeur pour/avezvous eu accès à des formations afin améliorer vos compétences informatiques ?
- 6. Qu'est-ce qui vous a causé le plus de difficulté dans votre travail durant la crise sanitaire ? Pouvez-vous expliquer ?
- 7. Si oui, qu'est-ce qui aurait facilité l'exercice de votre travaille durant la pandémie ? (Par exemple un meilleur encadrement, une connaissance plis fine des outils numériques, un contact plus direct avec les migrants etc.)
- 8. Quel bilan pouvez-vous faire de la période de pandémie ainsi que les restrictions qu'elle a apporté ?