

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS
Doctoral Networks (DN)
EuroMedMig PhD Network
Call 2025-2028

***Boosting Research on Migration in the
Mediterranean***

**Call for 12 PhD candidates in 10 Mediterranean
Universities**

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01-01

1. What is and what are the objectives of EuroMedMig PhD Network?

EuroMedMig PhD Network is funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (Doctoral Networks), under the Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01-01. The PhD candidates will be incorporated in the respective PhD programmes in September 2025 for a duration of three years. It is an initiative of [EuroMedMig \(Euro-Mediterranean Research Network on Migrations\) – UPF](#), an independent interdisciplinary platform of researchers promoting multilateral knowledge production and exchange both between Universities and with Policy and Social actors.

EuroMedMig PhD Network seeks to promote a sound community of leading Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) in the field of migration and refugees in the Mediterranean region, offering a meeting point for a variety of methodologies, disciplines and levels of analysis, connecting the new generation of outstanding researchers from the South, North, East and West of the Mediterranean.

The core philosophy is to promote multilateral knowledge production and exchange, with 10 partner universities and 6 associate partners from all rims of the Mediterranean, which ensures a plurality of perspectives by incorporating the Mediterranean as a regional scale of migration research with shared epistemological principles, avoiding research generalisations and knowledge-centrism, and with intercultural and humanitarian values.

The main objective of *EuroMedMig PhD Network* is twofold:

- ⇒ to ensure an innovative research agenda on Mediterranean migrations for the coming years, and
- ⇒ to create promising avenues for further research by bringing together a community of top young researchers from all shores of the Mediterranean and from a variety of topics and research lines, disciplines and methodologies.

The *EuroMedMig PhD network* is structured around three main guiding principles

- **Pillar 1: Promoting Research Excellence:** *EuroMedMig PhD Network* promotes Mediterranean migration studies and seeks to be a platform of researchers sharing epistemological principles away from Eurocentrism and generalisations when researching migrations in the Mediterranean. It facilitates cross-discipline approaches, innovative policy frameworks related to Mediterranean human mobility, diversity management, integration principles, geopolitical thinking and advances migration governance frameworks.
- **Pillar 2: Developing Advanced Training** for ESRs interested in Mediterranean migration studies under the form of thematic and methodological training courses and lectures. It also seeks to develop advanced learning through interaction with policy makers, CSOs, media, consultants and experts specialised in Mediterranean Migration Studies.
- **Pillar 3: Fostering Policy and Social Dialogues:** Promoting evidence-based research and social/policy dialogue between practitioners and stakeholders and ESRs on Mediterranean Migration challenges.

This call looks at promising pioneering research projects with innovative research contributions in the following themes and following 6 Research Lines (RL). [see description of Themes and RLs in Annex]

- ⇒ **Theme 1:** Governance, policies and politics
- ⇒ **Theme 2:** Taxonomies of motions and drivers of migration
- ⇒ **Theme 3:** Social and cultural transformations
- ⇒ **Theme 4:** Economy and labour market

For further information: <https://www.upf.edu/web/euromedmig-phd-network>

2. 12 open PhD positions:

The following are the 12 PhD open calls. Candidates are encouraged to apply to the research topics that better suit their expertise and interest. **Candidates shall not apply to more than ONE research positions.**

Summary of the 12 open PhD positions and thematic distribution:

Research Scope	Governance, Policies and Politics	Taxonomies of Motion and Drivers	Social and Cultural Transformations	Economy and Labour Market
Open positions	PhD Candidates 1, 2 and 3	PhD Candidates 4, 5 and 6	PhD Candidates 7, 8 and 9	PhD Candidates 10, 11 and 12

PhD Candidate 1

Research scope: Governance, Policies and Politics

Description: This research project will seek to analyse the broad implications of migrations in the Mediterranean for governance, policies, and politics. This research project will focus on analysing the Mediterranean as a landscape of past and current treaties and geo-political agreements shaping North-South relationship today, and in shading light to why it is difficult to reduce the asymmetrical power relations in the Mediterranean. The complexity of relations, the uncertainty of political circumstances and the diversity of political regimes around the Mediterranean require a regional approach, while linking the past with the present through post-colonial lenses.

Host institution: University New York Tirana

Supervisor: Eda Gemi (edagemi@unyt.edu.al)

PhD Candidate 2

Research scope: Vulnerabilities and Governance, Policies and Politics

Description: This research project seeks to particularly focus on vulnerable migratory profiles in the Mediterranean and assess personal concerns and their interlink with governance, politics and politics. How does vulnerability operate? Which policies can be useful and more effective? How to implement policies for vulnerable communities? Among others, these questions will be addressed, against nationalist safe route's rhetoric.

Host institution: University of Catania

Supervisor: Stefania Panebianco (stefapnb@unict.it)

PhD Candidate 3

Research scope: Multiscale approaches to Governance, Policies and Politics

Description: The Mediterranean region is characterised by a number of complex geopolitical relationships in migration governance, involving a variety of actors. This research aims to gain insight into the local level and the ways in which Mediterranean cities are developing their governance capacities, opening new multi-scale spaces of relations that may contribute to Mediterranean thinking. We warmly welcome projects within the local turn debate in migration studies working on urban resilience and migration governance, with different clusters: policy innovation, proactive governance, governance activism, urban justice, cities network, city diplomacy and international relations. We encourage submissions from those engaged in comparative research.

Host institution: University Pompeu Fabra

Supervisor: Ricard Zapata-Barrero (ricard.zapata@upf.edu)

PhD Candidate 4

Research scope: Vulnerable populations and drivers of migration.

Description: This research project will focus on vulnerable populations on the move in the Mediterranean region. The gender dimension in addressing vulnerabilities is crucial, as women, children and LGBTQI+ people are particularly vulnerable in migration movements and face heightened risks and dangers, such as sexual violence or gender-based violence (GBV), trafficking, discriminations, or other forms of physical and psychological abuse. In fact, an intersectional perspective will be key in breaking to afore-mentioned cycle and advancing effective and innovative policies. Focusing on vulnerabilities is key when analysing complexities of population movement in the region. Ultimately, this research project would allow to identify best practices to break the cycle of abuse and exploitation of vulnerable populations.

Host institution: University of Liège

Supervisor: Hassan Bousetta (Hassan.Bousetta@uliege.be)

PhD Candidate 5

Research scope: Theories Revision, Taxonomies of Motion and Drivers

Description: This PhD research will investigate drivers of (im)mobility in the Mediterranean, focusing on diverse factors influencing decisions to move or stay. The project will examine how factors such as economic opportunities, political instability, social networks and environmental changes, family, investment, and governance structures (democracy/authoritarianism) shape (im)mobility patterns. Proposals should engage with key frameworks of debate, including development, governance and policy. Mobility and immobility are often seen as opposing phenomena rather than interrelated processes. Addressing this gap is essential for designing comprehensive policies on the full spectrum of migration dynamics in the Mediterranean. Applicants are encouraged to adopt innovative geographical methodologies.

Host institution: University of Lisbon

Supervisor: Maria Lucinda Fonseca (fonseca-maria@campus.ul.pt), Jennifer McGarrigle (jcarvalho@edu.ulisboa.pt)

PhD Candidate 6

Research scope: Multiscale approaches to drivers of migration

Description: Understanding the taxonomies of motion and drivers of migration in the Mediterranean is crucial. The aim is to assess changing dynamics (in terms of: origin, transit and destination countries; migration paths and migration practices; and the large migration infrastructure), as well as the reasons behind these changing patterns, and what their implications are. Furthermore, this research project seeks to study how political agreements (bilateral and multilateral agreements) targeting different dimensions of international migration impact people on the move's lives and paths. This research project could also assess how growing challenges (such as environmental crisis, for instance) may shape migration patterns and become great drivers of migration, as well as their interaction with multi-scale migration governance (or governmentally, for other scholars).

Host institution: University Pompeu Fabra

Supervisor: Lorenzo Gabrielli (lorenzo.gabrielli@upf.edu)

PhD Candidate 7

Research scope: Social and Cultural Transformations from a historical perspective

Description: How migrations contribute to social and cultural transformations in both transit and destination countries, but also in origin countries (which is often understudied) or cities/towns is worth analysing. This research project will provide valuable insights into the dynamics and impacts of migration on sociocultural systems, and will address a wide range of topics: socialisation processes, urbanization processes, including postcolonial approaches, identity-shaping processes, societal structure of opportunities, cultural practices, and collective memory dynamics. This also includes multi-scale citizenship and intercultural encounters. Finally, sectoral domains such as housing, public space management, culture, social planning can be included.

Host institution: Koç University

Supervisor: Ahmet İçduygu (AICDUYGU@ku.edu.tr)

PhD Candidate 8

Research scope: Social and Cultural Transformation at the urban and rural interface

Description: Socio-cultural and spatial change in the areas of origin, transit, and destination is complex and multi-layered. The interactions and connections between city and countryside make it possible to see the movements of people in a new light. In the globalized Mediterranean regions, rural areas are increasingly hosting international migrants and refugees. The role of agriculture in the Mediterranean regions remains important, while the urban-rural divide is no longer an obstacle. A more differentiated understanding of migration is needed, taking into account the spatial and environmental aspects.

Host institution: Harokopio University

Supervisor: Apostolos Papadopoulos (apospapa@hua.gr)

PhD Candidate 9

Research scope: Social and Cultural Transformations and trans-Mediterranean interconnectivity

Description: The need to re-interpret the Mediterranean in light of new patterns of trans-Mediterranean interconnections should be addressed. How these interconnections shape or condition social and cultural transformations is crucial. This may include exploring how diaspora frames the Mediterranean as a symbolic and activist space of relation of civic and humanitarian agents, refuting the conception of an enclosed, exclusionary Mediterranean. These new ways of interpreting the Mediterranean may also include trans-digital spaces of communication. Migrants' digital practices and the ways they portray the places they use add up to an ICT-supported imaginary fed by residents, migrants, and other visitors alike.

Host institution: University of Côte d'Azur
Supervisor: Yvan Gastaut (gastaut@unice.fr)

PhD Candidate 10

Research scope: Economy and Labour Markets in the framework of trans-Mediterranean interconnectivity

Description: Mediterranean migrations profoundly influence the region's economy and labor markets, driven by high-skilled migrants contributing to the global Mediterranean economy. The objective is to assess how mobility and migration shape Mediterranean economies, emphasizing trans-Mediterranean connections and their labor market impacts. It highlights the dual effects—economic opportunities and challenges—while focusing on migration's role in generating added value and jobs, particularly in North-South and South-North dynamics. Recent data will guide insights into entrepreneurial ventures and business creation, showcasing how trans-Mediterranean activities stimulate national, regional, and local economies. The need for reinterpreting Mediterranean economies through these transformative patterns will also be explored.

Host institution: Université Mohammed V Rabat (PhD student to be enrolled in at the Université Côte d'Azur but to be physically present at UM5R and to do secondment at UCA)
Supervisor: Boutaina Ismaili Idrissi (b.ismaili@um5r.ac.ma)

PhD Candidate 11

Research scope: Revisiting Theories of Economy and Labour Markets

Description: Focusing on migrations' implications for the economy and labour markets in the Mediterranean region, there is a need to explore new trends and practices in Mediterranean economies and labour markets. For instance, exploring the implications of climate change or of studying the economic impacts and reshaping processes of labour markets in countries of origin; that is, studying the effects of high emigration rates in origin economies. This is often under-studied in Eurocentric research agendas.

Host institution: University Pompeu Fabra with collaboration American University of Cairo
Supervisor: Ibrahim Awad (iawad@aucegypt.edu)

PhD Candidate 12

Research scope: Economy and Labour Markets at the Urban and Rural Interface

Description: This research project seeks to decipher the interconnectedness between Economy and the Urban and Rural interface. The Rural-Urban divide needs to be assessed when analysing economic impacts linked to migration, as well as subsequent labour market restructuring. How are agricultural zones also affected by migration? Regarding agriculture and other working spheres, informal economy will also be analysed, as well as the vulnerabilities it brings to migrants working under no protection.

Host institution: University of Sousse

Supervisor: Hassen Boubakri (hassen.boubakri@flsh.u-sousse.tn)

3. Terms and conditions of the contract:

- **Institution funding the contract, title and reference of the project Organisation:**
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Network (HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01-01):
 - EuroMedMig PhD Network.
 - REF: CPIS-PREDOC-2025-02
 - Official number reference: 101169465, European Commission
 - Program: Horizon Europe (2021-2027)
 - Research Line: Migration, Mediterranean and Governance
- **Wage:** wage is as stated by the European Commission for all Marie-Curie Doctoral Networks. For indicative wages, which will differ according to the country and whether the mobility or family allowance applies to the selected candidate, further indicative information can be found in the following Horizon Europe official MSCA document (please particularly check p.109 and p.140): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf Bear in mind that the indicated amounts are the total recruitment costs (gross salaries + the social security coverage to be ensured by the employer), and therefore cannot be equated to gross salaries.
- **Type of contract:** 3-year full-time (100%) contract as a university employee with full social security coverage.
- **Job location:** depending on which position candidates apply for, they will be required to be based at the host institutions above indicated (point 2).
- The intended **starting date** of the contract is September 2025.

4. General eligibility criteria

- Candidates should only apply for one of the positions on offer. **More than one will automatically be disqualified.**

- In order to be admitted as *EuroMedMig* Marie Curie PhD candidate, candidates must provide evidence that they have obtained or will have obtained an **accredited graduate/master's degree in the field of Social Sciences** which enables them to access a PhD programme in the host institution, before the beginning of the PhD.
- Candidates of any nationality are invited to apply, provided that they meet MSCA-DN mobility rules. These mobility rules stipulate that applicants will be ineligible to take up a position at a university located in a country where they have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the application deadline. In determining eligibility, the following periods are not considered: a) compulsory national service; b) time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention; c) short stays such as holidays.
- Candidates cannot already be PhD holders.

5. Application Materials and Assessment Criteria

To apply for these positions, candidates must send the documentation by Interfolio through the following link: <http://apply.interfolio.com/162869>

The following documents are to be uploaded:

- **ID card or passport**
- **Candidacy form** (to be found in the Interfolio platform)
- Copy of the **undergraduate and graduate degree/diploma or certification/proof of degree completion** (Bachelor degree and Master's degree). If you have not yet completed your graduate/master's studies when formalising application, you will need to provide us with the following documents: a **signed declaration** of obtaining your graduate/master's degree before the commencement of the PhD programme. ("Degree_Bachelor_Lastname,Name.pdf") & ("Degree_Master_Lastname,Name.pdf").
- A copy of the **official final grade transcript, both of bachelor's and master's diploma**. If the diploma or the academic transcript are not written in Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Portuguese or Italian, sworn translations in English should be provided. ("Grades_Master_Lastname,Name.pdf") & ("Grades_Bachelor_Lastname,Name.pdf").
- **CV** ("CV_Lastname,Name.pdf")
- **Research proposal** ("Proposal_Lastname,Name.pdf")
- **Motivation letter** ("Letter_Lastname,Name.pdf")
- **References for recommendation**, from different universities, (in the case of both letters being from the same university, they should be more different departments).
- **Proof of English language (B2)**. In order to be exempt from accreditation, being English your mother tongue or having studied in that language, it is necessary for you to upload a brief letter justifying the reasons why you request to be exempted from this requirement. For PhD Candidate

8, who will undertake a PhD in Harokopio university, a C1 certificate is requested.
("Language_Lastname,Name.pdf")

The following table describes the main documents to be sent and evaluated, as well as their evaluation criteria:

Documents	Description	% Grade
Curriculum Vitae	Complete CV including details of any information supporting the submission (e.g. links to papers produced during the masters' courses, publications, participation in seminars and research debates, etc.)	30
Research project proposal	Clearly indicate the position for which you are applying by ticking the appropriate box. Candidates can only apply to 1 position. The maximum length of the proposal is 3,000 words (excluding references). 1. Provisional title of the research 2. General literature review 3. Research questions, aims and main theoretical framework 4. Main innovations and contribution to migration Mediterranean studies 5. Research design, sources and methodology 6. Expected policy and/or societal contribution 7. Research schedule, including planned secondments to other partner universities and associated partners. 8. List of references	40
Motivation Letter	The maximum length of the letter is 1,000 words. Candidates are encouraged to include the following information: 1) Vision for academic career in the medium and long term. 2) Expectations for the training received to contribute to the advancement of Mediterranean migration studies. 3) Brief overview of your career achievements to date.	20
Letters of recommendation	Two letters of recommendation are required. In order to ensure the optimal treatment and security of the recommendation letters, it is the responsibility of the candidate to request them via the online application system. In doing so, the candidate is required to indicate the email address of the person or persons whom they wish to be recommended by. The individual in question will then receive an email notification indicating that the candidate has requested a recommendation letter from them. The referee will upload the letter to the online application system. It should be noted that addresses of a non-institutional nature, such as those ending in yahoo, gmail, hotmail, and so forth, will not be accepted.	10

Selection process:

The selection process will be divided in two phases:

- 1) The first stage is an assessment of the candidate's application
- 2) Shortlisted candidates (scoring above 70%) will be invited into for a virtual interview.

Composition of the 4 selection committees:

	Governance, Policies and Politics	Taxonomies of Motion and Drivers	Social and Cultural Transformations	Economy and Labour Market
President	Ricard Zapata-Barrero (UPF)	Maria Lucinda Fonseca (ULisbon)	Stefania Panebianco (UNICT)	Apostolos Papadopoulos (HUA)
Secretary	Eda Gemi (UNYT)	Hassan Bousetta (ULiège)	Yvan Gastaut (UCA)	Ahmet İçduygu (KU)
Members	Hassen Boubakri (US), Stefania Panebianco (UNICT), Hassan Bousetta (ULiège)	Boutaina Ismaili Idrissi (UM5R), Yvan Gastaut (UCA), Lorenzo Gabrielli (UPF), Eda Gemi (UNYT)	Ahmet İçduygu (KU), Apostolos Papadopoulos (HUA), Jennifer McGarrigle (ULisbon)	Boutaina Ismaili Idrissi (UM5R), Ibrahim Awad (AUC), Hassen Boubakri (US)
Evaluating	PhD Candidate 1, 2 and 3	PhD Candidate 4, 5 and 6	PhD Candidate 7, 8 and 9	PhD Candidate 10, 11 and 12

Tentative Timeline:

- **Call opening:** 03 February 2025
- **Application Deadline:** 28th February 2025
- **First stage selection:** suggested 20 days after deadline.
- **Virtual interviews with selected candidates:** suggested first week of April
- **Final decision:** suggested 2nd week of April
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Further information:

Project Website: <https://www.upf.edu/web/euromedmig-phd-network>

Link to euraxess: euraxess.ec.europa.eu/node/313712

Information about the selection process: <https://www.upf.edu/web/politiques/ofertes-de-treball>

Annex: Description of Themes and Research Lines

Description of Themes

- **Theme 1: Governance, Policies and Politics:** The issue of migrations in the Mediterranean has significant implications for governance, policies, and politics in the region. Some key points to consider are: migration trends (corridors and routes, border crossings, migration patterns, including relatively recent mobility patterns that are challenging EuroMed governance, such as climate migrations, mixed migrations, war, political instabilities and social insecurities in the region), political discourses and attitudes, political cooperation and humanitarian practices and challenges related to inequalities, power relations, ideologies, identity and national interests. Multilevel policies will also be addressed, including urban and rural governance, regional and State policies, politics of diversity, intercultural relations between societies and cultural policies, the role of cities. Regarding geopolitics, the Mediterranean region is characterized by complex geo-political relations involving various countries and CSOs, including international or supranational organizations, and the European Union. These relations encompass a wide range of issues, including diplomatic relations, EuroMediterranean policies or city networks, just to mention a few. In so, understanding the complex dynamics between migration and geopolitical factors is crucial for developing effective migration policies and fostering cooperation among Mediterranean countries.
- **Theme 2: Taxonomies of Motion and Drivers:** Understanding the taxonomies of motion and drivers of migration in the Mediterranean is crucial for comprehending the complexities of population movement in the region. Drivers of migration are the underlying factors that motivate individuals or groups to move from one place to another. These drivers can be diverse, including economic, social, political, environmental, and personal factors. Some common drivers of migration in the Mediterranean may include conflict and instability, economic opportunities, climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation, family reunification, asylum and protection, etc. Further research and analysis are necessary to delve deeper into the specific taxonomies of motion and drivers of migration in the Mediterranean, and about the interdependences between them. Assessing migration drivers opens up in turn the opportunity for frameworks of debate such as migration and economic development, democracy and authoritarianism.
- **Theme 3: Social and Cultural Transformations:** The study of how migrations contribute to social transformations can be analysed both synchronically and diachronically, considering short-term or long-term temporalities. This theme provides valuable insights into the dynamics and impacts of migration on societal systems at a multiscale level (state, regional and city levels). While specific information from the search results is limited, here are some key points to consider: socialisation processes, urbanization processes, historical context and collective memory of migrations including postcolonial approaches, social transformations in both sending and receiving cities, identity-shaping processes, societal structure of opportunities, cultural practices, and community dynamics. This also include multi-scale citizenship and diversity management, including intercultural encounters. Finally, sectoral domains such as housing, public space management, culture, social planning can be included.
- **Theme 4: Economy and Labour Markets:** Mediterranean migrations have significant implications for the economy and labour markets in the region. Some key points to tentatively consider include: shaping labour market dynamics (migrants contribute to the labour force, filling gaps in various sectors and often by engaging in low-skilled or manual labour, including agriculture, construction, and domestic work), high skilled migrants working for the global Mediterranean economy, positive and negative economic impact assessment (businesses creation and entrepreneurial trans-Mediterranean ventures stimulating national/regional/local economies), so-called irregular migrants and the informal economy (this may refer to work that is not regulated, lacks social protection, and often offers low wages and poor working conditions), or successful integration of migrants into the labour market. Jobs

and labour resources, including access to education, language training, and skills development programs enhancing migrants' employability will also be considered. Policies that promote the recognition of foreign qualifications and skills can also contribute to better labour market outcomes for migrants.

Description of Research Lines

- **RL1. Theories revision: Need to review traditional theories and explore new ones, according to new trends and practices, considering Med-thinking lens.** What becomes clear is that most theories that shed light on Mediterranean migration patterns have been constructed always from the point of view of countries of reception from an and Eurocentrist perspective, in terms of gains/benefits. There is a need to address the existing tensions between traditional theories and new migration dynamics in Mediterranean migrations that challenge mainstream theories. The need to theorize “black box” situations enhancing evidence-based research deficits and avoiding blind-shooting policies should also be addressed. Again, viewed from the countries of departure and from the point of view of new emigration policy configurations, some new migratory dynamics that request a theoretical revision should be explored.
- **RL2. Multi-scale approach: Need to follow a multi-scale reading of migrations in the Mediterranean, and beyond methodological nationalism.** There is a need for research following a critical path towards states as the only legitimate actors of knowledge production. These current research trends challenge the limits of the multilevel governance and the absence of southern Mediterranean engagement. Moreover, partly as a result of Euro-Mediterranean foreign policies and geopolitical negotiations, the countries of the South and East are themselves becoming countries of immigration, with consequences for their own political structures and democratisation processes.
- **RL3. Historical argument: The determining place of the historical argument in the research of Mediterranean migrations needs to be addressed:** The Mediterranean is a landscape of past and current treaties and geo-political agreements that must be considered to understand North-South relationships today. History also sheds light on to why it is difficult to reduce the asymmetrical power relations in the Mediterranean while also shapes the negative media and public opinion agenda and often explains their interlinks with the political debates. The historical argument also conditions the focus on the continuities and discontinuities of social transformations through migration. History also helps to understand how the images are constructed in relation to otherness. The fact that we must historically situate today's migrations within a postcolonial framework also has a critical dimension of vindication. There are also some meta-historical insights invitations, since there is also a selective list of historical moments that may influence and change current (im)mobility patterns. We can also take some other turning point dates such as European 2008 economic crisis, 2015 refugee mass migration arrival, and Ukraine's crisis more recently.
- **RL4. Rural and Urban interface: The rural-urban nexus is still a framework explaining human (im)mobility in the 21st century.** The traditional rural-urban geographical and sociodemographic frame has diverse functioning in understanding current patterns of Mediterranean migrations. For example, in some Southern countries, the internal rural-urban framework explains most initial human mobility patterns. If this is a traditional 19th century scenario, the reasons are rather evolving, since climate change and environmental constraints, together with socio-economic factors, influence today's rural-urban (im)mobility. The fact is that agriculture faces environmental constraints that were probably not so pressing factors in previous historical periods. Agriculture still holds an important position in the Mediterranean economy and society, while rural localities maintain productive functions and amenities that attract international migration. This means that Mediterranean migrations to rural areas have emerged as a major research field in the study of migrant labor in non-urban, peripheral, agricultural, or remote regions. Overall, the rural and urban divide cannot be considered in its traditional simple form, but displays a multiplicity of spatial angles, and cannot be disconnected from environmental change today.

- **RL5. Vulnerable population: There is a need to focus on particularly vulnerable migratory profiles in the Mediterranean:** Particular profiles, such as women, children, unaccompanied minors or individuals from the LGBTQ+ community are considered to be particularly vulnerable populations, and attention needs to be put in their vulnerabilities from an intersectional perspective. Other areas of interest include human trafficking, smuggling, sex-trafficking, or border gendered and racialised policies for instance.
- **RL6. New patterns of trans-Mediterranean interconnections: The need to re-interpret the Mediterranean considering new patterns of interconnections should be addressed.** There are new ways of interpreting the Mediterranean as a space of interconnection through human mobilities. This may include exploring how diaspora frames the Mediterranean as a symbolic and activist space of relations. This opens up the door for considering the activity of civic and humanitarian actors, refuting the conception of an enclosed, exclusionary Mediterranean. These new ways of interpreting the Mediterranean space may also include trans-Mediterranean digital spaces of communication, where time and space become unidimensional realities. Migrants' digital practices and the ways they portray the places they use - by posting, commenting, sharing, and leaving reviews online - add up to an ICT-supported imaginary fed by residents, migrants, and other visitors alike.