Migration and Transnationalism between Switzerland and Bulgaria

Filling out the questionnaire takes about 20 minutes. Where not indicated otherwise, tick only one answer.

**Part A: Personal Data**

1. **Gender:**  
   - [ ] Male  
   - [ ] Female

2. **Age:**  
   - ................. (Years)

3. **Marital status:**  
   - [ ] Single  
   - [ ] Married / Cohabiting  
   - [ ] Divorced  
   - [ ] Widowed

4. **What is the highest level of education that you have achieved?**  
   - [ ] No education  
   - [ ] Primary  
   - [ ] Basic  
   - [ ] Secondary – general  
   - [ ] Secondary – vocational  
   - [ ] Higher (Bachelor)  
   - [ ] Higher (Master)  
   - [ ] Specialization (e.g. internship)  
   - [ ] Scientific degree (Ph.D., doctor of sciences)

5. **What is your place of origin?**  
   - ............................................. (Place and province (oblast))  
   - Type of settlement?  
     - [ ] village  
     - [ ] town  
     - [ ] city/district centre  
     - [ ] Sofia

6. **What ethnic group do you affiliate yourself with?**  
   - [ ] Bulgarian  
   - [ ] Turkish  
   - [ ] Roma  
   - [ ] Other

7. **What is your religion?**  
   - [ ] Orthodoxy  
   - [ ] Islam  
   - [ ] Catholicism  
   - [ ] Protestantism  
   - [ ] Judaism  
   - [ ] Armenian-Gregorian  
   - [ ] Other  
   - [ ] I am not religious

8. **What is your citizenship?**  
   - [ ] Bulgarian  
   - [ ] Swiss  
   - [ ] Double citizenship (BG and CH)  
   - [ ] Other

   *If you are not a Swiss citizen, what type of permit do you have?*  
   - [ ] L: Short-term  
   - [ ] B: Mid-term  
   - [ ] C: Residence  
   - [ ] Other  
   - [ ] I don’t have a Swiss permit

9. **How many people live currently in your household in Switzerland?**  
   *A household consists of people who share income and expenditure, like in a family.*  
   - Number of children (0-13 years): ...............  
   - Number of children (14-17 years): ...............  
   - Number of adults (18 or more): ...............  

10. **What is approximately the average monthly income of the whole household at the moment in Switzerland?**  
    - ......................... CHF  
    *Total from all members and from all sources: wages, salaries, honorariums, pensions, social benefits, scholarships, etc.*
11. Which of the following types of properties do the members of your household possess (in the form of private, family or company property)?

**PLEASE GIVE ONE RESPONSE AT EACH ROW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing property in Bulgaria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing property in Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle(s) in Bulgaria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle(s) in Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets in Bulgaria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets in Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural land/animals in Bulgaria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural land/animals in Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. How do you assess the change of material status of your household in Switzerland since you arrived?
- [ ] It has worsened.
- [ ] There is no change.
- [ ] It has improved.

13. If you have a household in Bulgaria: how do you assess the change of economic status of your household there since you arrived in Switzerland?
- [ ] It has worsened.
- [ ] There is no change.
- [ ] It has improved.
- [ ] I have no household in Bulgaria.

**Part B: Migration Experience**

14. When did you first arrive in Switzerland? .................. (Year)

15. Did you arrive directly from Bulgaria? [ ] Yes [ ] No

16. What was the initial purpose of your first arrival to Switzerland?
- [ ] Work
- [ ] Study
- [ ] Family reunion
- [ ] Tourism
- [ ] Other

17. Why did you leave Bulgaria?
- [ ] Higher living standard in Switzerland
- [ ] Higher payment in Switzerland
- [ ] Better professional realization in Switzerland
- [ ] To support my family or friends in Bulgaria
- [ ] To ensure the desired education for me and/or my children
- [ ] Marriage/Partnership
- [ ] To visit relatives and/or friends
- [ ] To accompany spouse, partner, parents, children
- [ ] Foreign citizenship for me and my family
- [ ] I just do not want to live in Bulgaria anymore (lack of perspectives, unclear regulations, bad public environment, crime, corruption, etc.)

18. When you arrived in Switzerland for the first time, how did you travel?
- [ ] Airplane
- [ ] Train
- [ ] Bus
- [ ] Private car
- [ ] Other

19. How do you usually travel when you go to Bulgaria?
- [ ] Airplane
- [ ] Train
- [ ] Bus
- [ ] Private car
- [ ] Other
20. Who gave you support for moving to Switzerland?
   MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE
   ☐ Bulgarian administration/authorities   ☐ Bulgarian embassy/consulate in Switzerland
   ☐ Swiss embassy in Bulgaria               ☐ Swiss administration/authorities in Switzerland
   ☐ Employer in Bulgaria                     ☐ Employer in Switzerland
   ☐ Friends in Bulgaria                        ☐ Friends in Switzerland
   ☐ Relatives in Switzerland                   ☐ Relatives in Bulgaria
   ☐ Travel agency                             ☐ Recruitment company
   ☐ Other

21. How many times have you visited Bulgaria during the last 12 months? ........... (Number)

22. For how long have you been in Bulgaria during the last 12 months (in total)?
   Number of months: ...........
   Number of weeks: ...........
   Number of days: ...........

23. What are your plans for the future?
   ☐ To stay in Switzerland
   ☐ To return to Bulgaria
   ☐ To continue travelling back and forth
   ☐ To move to another country
   ☐ I don’t know / I cannot say at present

Part B: Life in Switzerland

24. Where did you start your life in Switzerland?
   Place: ..................................................  ZIP-Code: ...............................
   Canton: ..................................................  ZIP-Code: ...............................

25. Where do you live now?
   ☐ In the same place
   ☐ In another place, where?
   Place: ..................................................  ZIP-Code: ...............................
   Canton: ..................................................  ZIP-Code: ...............................

26. What was your last main activity in Bulgaria?
   ☐ Work: .......................................................... (please describe)
   ☐ Education
   ☐ Taking care of family members
   ☐ Other

27. What was your first (main) activity in Switzerland?
   ☐ Work: .......................................................... (please describe)
   ☐ Education
   ☐ Taking care of family members
   ☐ Other

28. What is your current main activity in Switzerland?
   ☐ Work: .......................................................... (please describe)
   ☐ Education
   ☐ Taking care of family members
   ☐ Other
29. Who gave you support for settling in Switzerland?
   (e.g. finding work, finding a place to live, dealing with the administration)
   MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE
  ☐ Friends in Switzerland ☐ Friends in Bulgaria
  ☐ Family ☐ Associations
  ☐ Bulgarian authorities ☐ Swiss authorities
  ☐ Bulgarian employer ☐ Swiss employer
  ☐ Other

30. Who do you spend most of your free time with?
   MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE
   ☐ Bulgarian friends ☐ Swiss friends ☐ Family ☐ Others

31. Do you speak the local language?
   ☐ Yes ☐ More or less ☐ No

32. Did you face any of the following obstacles at work in Switzerland because you are a foreigner?
   MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE
   ☐ Had a lower chance to get a job compared to the local people
   ☐ Got a lower payment for the same job compared to local people
   ☐ Got a job and a position lower than my qualifications and skills
   ☐ The attitudes of the employers/superiors at work were bad/rude

33. Have you experienced any of the following practices while working in Switzerland?
   MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE
   ☐ Working without a contract
   ☐ Fuly or partially not paid insurance contributions from employers
   ☐ Increased working time / overtime / shift work / night work without compensation
   ☐ Insults, physical/psychological abuse

34. Have you looked for and been rejected access to any university services or educational opportunities because you are a foreigner?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No

35. Have you experienced any discrimination while studying in Switzerland?
   MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE
   ☐ From university administration officers
   ☐ Academic staff/lecturers
   ☐ Other students
   ☐ Local community
   ☐ I have not studied in Switzerland

Part C: Transnational Practices

36. How do you keep contact with Bulgaria?
   MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE
   ☐ Phone or VoIP ☐ Video communication such as Skype
   ☐ Letters ☐ E-mails and other text messages
   ☐ Facebook and other social networks ☐ I don’t keep contact

37. How often do you travel to Bulgaria?
   ☐ Every month
   ☐ Several times per year
   ☐ Only once a year
   ☐ Less than once a year
   ☐ I don’t travel to Bulgaria

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38. Do you send money to Bulgaria?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No

39. Do you receive money from Bulgaria?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No

40. Are you involved in some kind of activity in Switzerland concerning Bulgaria?
   MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE
   ☐ Supporting a sport club in Bulgaria
   ☐ Supporting a political organization or party in Bulgaria
   ☐ Supporting a religious community in Bulgaria
   ☐ Supporting an association in Bulgaria
   ☐ Having a business in Bulgaria or with Bulgarian partners
   ☐ Voting in Bulgarian elections
   ☐ Following the news
   ☐ Other
   ☐ None of these

Part D: Impact of Migration Policies

41. How do you keep track of changes in migration legislation in Switzerland and Bulgaria?
   MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE
   ☐ Newspapers ☐ TV ☐ Radio
   ☐ Internet ☐ Swiss authorities ☐ Bulgarian authorities
   ☐ Other ☐ I don’t

42. Did you experience any changes in migration policies since you have been living in Switzerland?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No

43. Do the migration policies impact on your daily life?
   (e.g. better access to jobs because of new foreigner status; more checks and controls at the borders
   because of the Schengen legislation implemented by Switzerland (transitional arrangements), etc.)
   ☐ Strongly ☐ To some extent ☐ Slightly ☐ Not at all

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND YOUR PATIENCE!

You have contributed substantially to the research project “Migration and Transnationalism between
Switzerland and Bulgaria”! We would like to complement this questionnaire with personal interviews. If you
agree to participate in such an interview, please leave us your email address and we will contact you with
further information.

E-mail: ……………………………………………………………

Please return the questionnaire with the provided envelope. If the envelope is missing, kindly return the questionnaire to:
M. Richter; Soziologie, Sozialpolitik und Sozialarbeit; Universität Fribourg; Rte. des Bonnesfontaines 11; 1700 Fribourg