



One Research Assistant to conduct qualitative fieldwork on Romanian migrants' social protection strategies (100% FTE, 1 year- possible extension)

Université de Liège (Belgium), Faculty of Social Sciences (FaSS), Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM)

CEDEM is seeking to appoint one Research Assistant for the collection, processing and analysis of qualitative data on Romanian migrants' social protection strategies within the framework of the ERC-funded project *Migration, Transnationalism and Social Protection in (Post-)Crisis Europe* (MiTSopro). Data collection will involve spending varying periods of time in different European countries for fieldwork. The contract will have a duration of 12 months (extension possible, depending on funding).

Application deadline: 21st February 2020 (participants should be available for a Skype interview during the week of 24th February 2020)

Start date: As soon as possible

About the MiTSopro ERC Starting Grant project

Migration, Transnationalism and Social Protection in (post-)crisis Europe (MiTSopro) is a project financed by the European Research Council Starting Grant No. 680014 (2016-2021) awarded to Dr. Jean-Michel Lafleur, Associate Director of the Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM) at the University of Liège. MiTSopro articulates social policy and migration studies' approaches to 'transnational social protection' defined as migrants' cross-border strategies to cope with social risks - such as health, unemployment, financial hardship or old-age. It examines their entitlements to host and home public welfare policies as well as market-, family- and community-based practices. This study combines large-N analysis of social protection policies and programs that home and host countries make accessible to immigrants and emigrants (EU-28 + 12 non-EU countries) with multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork to qualitatively assess the informal social protection strategies used by migrants and examine their interaction with formal host and home state social protection provisions.

Subproject summary: The MiTSopro project involves conducting multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork with Romanian migrants, their family members and other state and non-state actors involved in migrants' access to social protection in the home and host country. The Research Assistant will collect and process a large amount of qualitative data on specific social protection dimensions (e.g. social assistance, unemployment or family benefits) in different European cities. Parts of the data collected by the Research Assistant will be merged with that of other researchers for comparative purposes. Overall, the subproject aims to contribute qualitatively to a better understanding of the articulation between formal and informal social protection strategies and how they materialize across borders.

Research environment:

The Faculty of Social Sciences (FaSS) of the University of Liège is a small and dynamic faculty committed to the development of research that spans beyond Belgian borders, as shown by its two ERC grants and its involvement in numerous FP and Horizon 2020 research projects. Researchers hired to work on the MiTSopro project will be part of its Centre for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM), one of Belgium's pioneering and leading research centres in the field of migration and a founding-member of the IMISCOE Research Network.

Main tasks of the Research Assistant:

- Develop her own small-scale research project on transnational social protection strategies of Romanian immigrants
- Spend extensive periods of time conducting fieldwork in two or three EU Member States (including Romania)
- Prepare the data in way that allows cooperation with other team members
- Document the research findings and cooperate with the MiTSopro team in the preparation of two co-authored publications

Profile needed:

- MA (with demonstrated research experience) or PhD in Social Sciences (e.g., Sociology, Social Policy, Anthropology, Political Science)
- Experience conducting ethnographic fieldwork and willingness to conduct field research in 2/3 European countries (including Romania)
- Strong analytical and writing skills
- Language skills: excellent proficiency in Romanian and English. Knowledge of any additional EU official language is an asset
- Ability to work independently, take initiative, self-manage and contribute intellectually to the overall project
- Ability and interest to work in a team (including sharing data)
- Research experience in social policy and/or migration is an asset

What we offer:

- Attractive salary
- Resources to conduct fieldwork in different European cities
- Opportunities to publish in high quality journals and participate in conferences

How to apply?

The selection process occurs in 2 steps. Applications must be submitted electronically in English to mitsopro@uliege.be by 21st of February 2020 with the message subject, 'MiTSopro Research Assistant'. The following documents must be attached to the email:

- A motivation letter specifying how you meet the requirements of the post (no longer than 2 pages)
- An updated CV (no longer than 5 pages)
- One writing sample that demonstrates your research and analytical skills (e.g. a chapter of MA dissertation, a PhD dissertation chapter, an article, a conference paper, etc.) (no longer than 12,000 words)
- The names and contact details of two people available for recommendations

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to participate in a Skype interview to further discuss their profile and qualifications, as well as their research strategy to conduct ethnographic fieldwork exploring Romanian migrants' formal and informal social protection strategies.

**For more information, please contact the MiTSopro team: mitsopro@uliege.be
<http://labos.ulg.ac.be/socialprotection>**