

Dealing with Crises and Liminal Situations: The Agency of Ukrainian and Syrian Forced Migrants in Three National Contexts

Project Team

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Research Questions

- How do forced migrants cope with uncertainty and precarity in their daily life and what kind of resources can they mobilize to face them?
- What role do forced migrants' personal networks play as vehicle of agentic resources when dealing with liminal situations?
- How are relations to solidarity activists contributing to forced migrants' agency processes?

Theory & Methods

The project draws on a **relational understanding of agency** (Burkitt 2016) and studies agency processes in **liminal situations** (Hartonen et al. 2021) induced through **crises** and characterized by instability, uncertainty, and phases of transition.

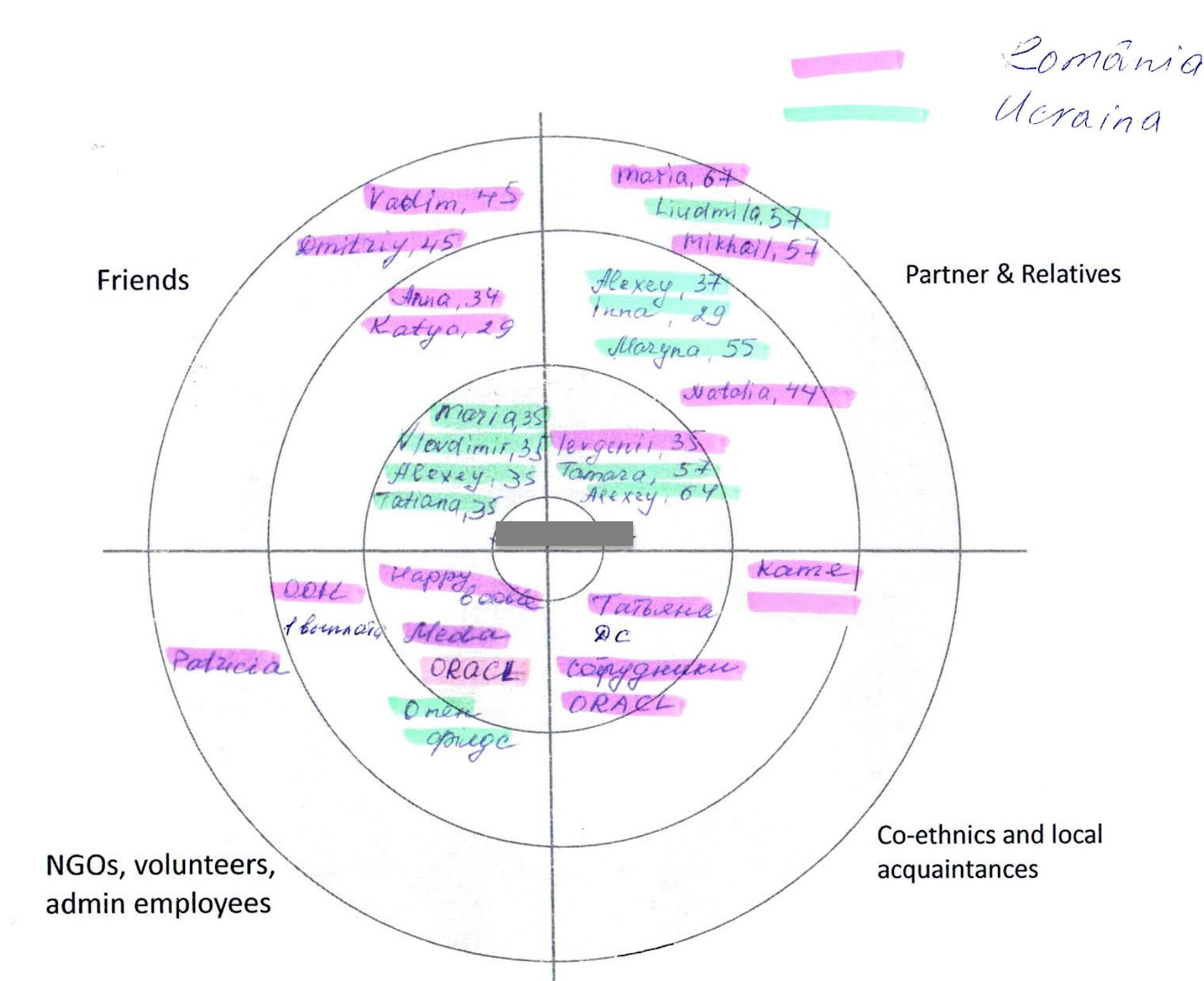
Forced migrants' **experiences** and ways of **coping with liminality** are studied through **interviews and qualitative network analysis**.

3 Case Studies

- Syrian migrants in Turkey
- Ukrainian migrants in Romania
- Syrian and Ukrainian migrants in Switzerland



Shop selling kitchen utensils and life jackets
Photo taken during fieldwork in Izmir, Turkey



Personal network of Ukrainian forced migrant
Sociogram drawn in May 2023 in Romania

Contributions to NCCR

- Develop a constructivist understanding of 'crisis migration'
- Explain relational agency processes within liminal situations in two contexts of 'crisis migration'
- Explore the interplay between political decisions and forced migrants' reactions to changes within (im)mobility regimes

Output

Soysüren, I. et al. 2023: De la complexification des rôles d'Izmir dans les mouvements migratoires. *Hommes & Migrations*. 4, pp. 93-99.

Tarkhanova, O. 2023: Displacement in Ukraine - A Longer Story. *nccr - on the move blog contribution*.

Izmir and Migration: Interdisciplinary perspectives on multiple migratory dynamics. Workshop, 7-8 December 2023, Yaşar University, Izmir.

Who, What and How Much Does Temporary Protection Protect? Temporary Protection Regime and its Application from a Comparative Perspective. Workshop, 9 Dec. 2023, Izmir Bar Association.

2 paper presentations at international conferences

Further planned:

- 6 journal articles, 1 blog series, 1 policy brief
- 6 conference talks, 3 international workshops

First Results

- Dynamic and evolving situations of liminality in the context of overlapping crises (e.g., for Syrian forced migrants after the 2023 earthquake in Turkey)
- Local & multi-actor support networks as key resources to cope with uncertainty and instability due to changing situations in origin and/or destination countries
- Importance of family relations for Ukrainian forced migrants' agency (e.g., as regards displacement decisions, strategic choice of destinations, enablement or prevention of making plans for the future)