

International Workshop

Exploring Return Migration Pathways: Evidence and Reflections

March 19, 2026, CASTLE Centre for the Study of Transnational Families

Program

Format: Hybrid event (in-person + online)

Location: Babeş-Bolyai University, FSPAC2 building, str. Minerilor 85

Meeting link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/35209095395717?p=2tZNh1WGsj3KYe4i6t>

 09:00 – 09:30 | **Official opening**

Welcome speech – *Viorela Ducu* – CASTLE coordinator – BBU

Presentation of the ReMiReM project – *Áron Telegdi-Csetri* (project coordinator) – BBU

 9.30- 10.30 **Keynote Address**

What is decided return migration? The importance of voluntariness for policy effectiveness and sustainability – *Aida Ibričević* – Peace Research Institute Oslo
Global Fellow – Linköping University Postdoctoral Researcher

 10:00–10:45 | **Session I: ReMiReM**

 Moderator: *Mihaela Hărăguş* - BBU

When Return Becomes Real: Applying Qualitative Evidence to Improve Return Migration Policies in Moldova – *Stela Leonti* – ASEM

The Connection Between Some Current Challenges and Return Migration – *Marina Popa* – ASEM

Determinants of professional reintegration of returning migrants from the Republic of Moldova: an analysis of challenges related to migrant reintegration,

skills recognition, and existing policies – Dorin Vaculovschi and Raisa Dogaru – ASEM

 **10:45–11:00** |  **Coffee break**

11:00–12:00 Session II: ReMiReM

 Moderator: *Iulia-Elena Hossu* - ISPMN

"If you're not happy, you go back home with everything." The nexus between return migration and transnationalism on the EU periphery – Anatolie Coșciug and Ciprian Bernic – BBU

"The air of home": The affective dimension of ontological security in Moldovans' decision to repatriate – Telegdi-Csetri Áron – BBU

To return or to stay? Exploring the ontological (in)security of migrant children – Viorela Ducu – UBB

12.00 -13.00 Keynote Address

Migration – return – future migration? Post-Return aspirations for migration among Romanian returnees – Monica Șerban – Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy

 **13:00–14:00** |  **Lunch break**

 **14:00 – 14:45** | **Session III:**

 Moderator: *Viorela Ducu* BBU

Was it worth it? Temporalities of Return and the Moral Valuation of Migration – Olga Cojocaru – ISCTE, University Institute of Lisbon

Between Staying and Returning: Gendered Return Migration Trajectories among Romanian Women in Spain – Ioana-Felicia Marin – University of Valencia

Return Migration in Later Life: Gendered Narratives of Romanian Women after Decades of Care Work in Italy – Maria Sole Vettore – University of Salamanca

🕒 14:45 – 15:00 | ☕ Coffee break

🕒 15:00 – 15:45 | Session IV:

👤 Moderator: Marina Popa ASEM

**Care Chains and Return Migration in Romanian Transnational Families:
Migrant Women and Elderly Care** – *Denisa-Luciana Ursu* – BBU

Public Support for Policies to Encourage Return Migration to Romania
– *Alin Croitoru, Mara Birou, Cristina Mitrea* – Universitatea “Lucian Blaga” din
Sibiu , *Mara Birou* - CASTLE

**Home Sweet Home? Identity Formation, Liminal Belonging, and Language in
Return Migration to Romania"** – *Dani Roşca*– BBU

🕒 15:45–16:00 | ☕ Break

🕒 16:00–17:00 | Conclusions and final discussions