



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/join/35209095395717?p=2tZNh1WGs3j3KYe4i6t>

09:00 – 09:30 | Official opening and Session I:

Moderator: Iulia-Elena Hossu - ISPMN

Welcome speech – Viorela Ducu – CASTLE coordinator – BBU

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

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

🕒 10:30–10:45 | ☕ Coffee break

10:45–11:45 | Session II: 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

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

🕒 **11:45–12:00 Coffee break**

🕒 **12.00 -13.00 Keynote Address**

Migration – return – future migration? Post-Return aspirations for migration among Romanian returnees – Monica Şerban – 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 Cojocarui – 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