

***THE PENSION OF THE RETIRED RETURN  
MIGRANT IN THE MAGHREB:  
A DEVELOPMENT FACTOR?***

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***Mig<sup>o</sup> from Magh/Eur started in 60's, post-indepdce period***

***As/result, this begng millennium witnessed return/thstds migrts, who have now reached retirmt age, to Mor, Alg, Tn***

***Study examines how the pens<sup>o</sup>/retired return migrts are used. 2 main possibilities exist:***

- used for conspt<sup>o</sup> (inc. purchasing of houses)***
- reinvested partly in the local economies***

***If we consider that there exists a consistt wage and pension differentials between home/host employmt markets, then we can assume that the pens<sup>o</sup>/retired returnee can constitute a factor/sustnble dev in the reg<sup>o</sup>***

A black and white photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, two people are sitting on utility poles. The person on the left is seen from the back, wearing a dark coat. The person on the right is wearing a light-colored trench coat and a hat, looking towards the left. The background shows a busy street with cars, including a dark sedan and a light-colored van, and multi-story buildings with many windows. The word "DATA" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow, italicized serif font.

*DATA*

***Data used stem from a field survey carried out in 2016 in the framework of the MIREM project (Collective Act° to Support the Reintegrat° of Return Mig in their Ctry of Origin)***

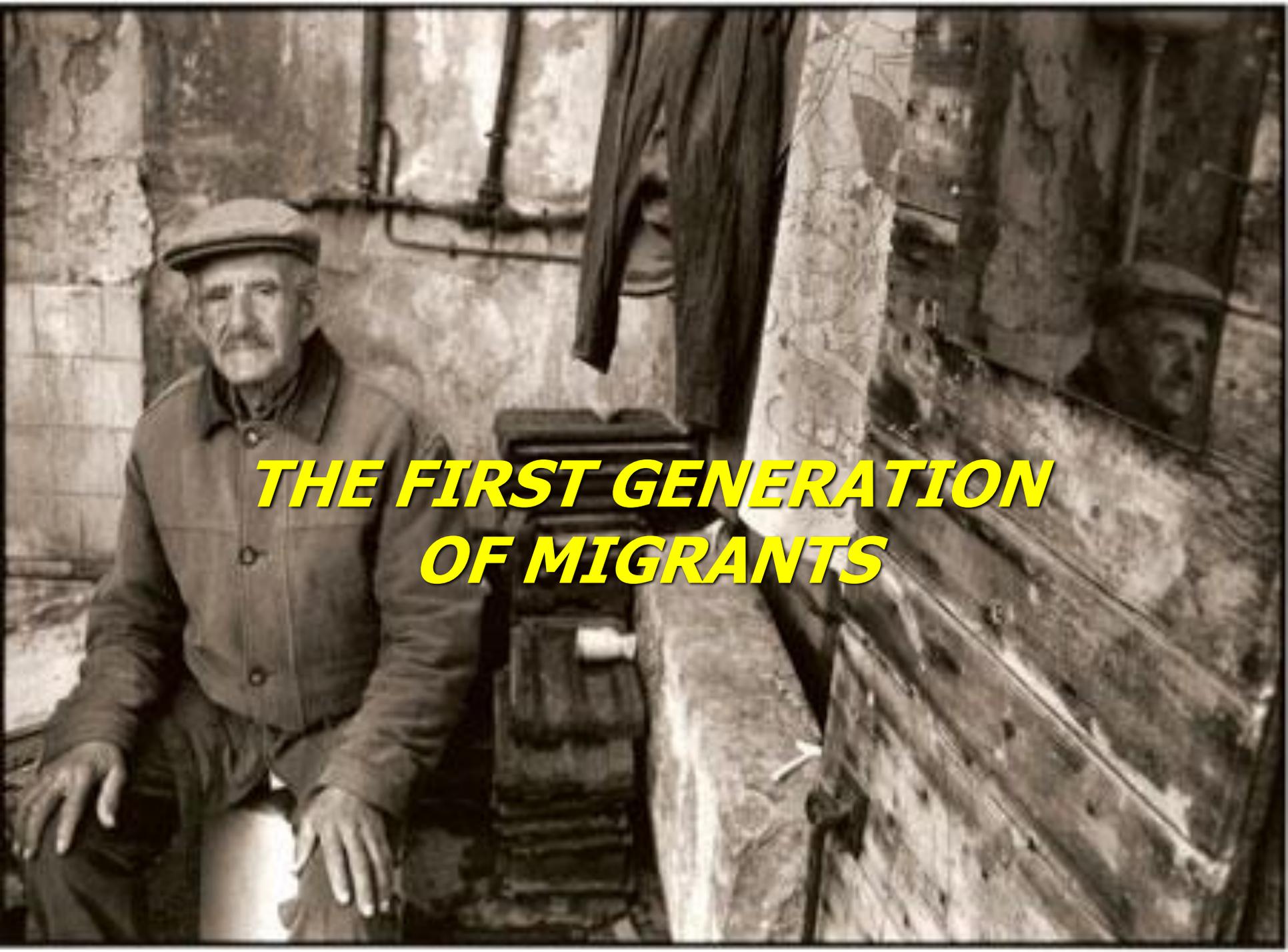
***<http://www.mirem.eu>***

***based at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, with financial support of both European Union and European University Institute***

***Sampling frame for this survey was stratified into 3 countries of Maghreb, with a total sample of 992 migrants dispatched as follows:***

- 330 Morocco***
- 332 Algeria***
- 330 Tunisia***

***Only data concerning those return migrants who have freely decided to come back home were considered in this study, excluding those expelled***



***THE FIRST GENERATION  
OF MIGRANTS***

***Process/eco transit° that followed the independces durg 60's in the Magh led to a global mig°/yg men, mainly to Fr (former colonial ctry), It (nearest ctry with emplmt opportunities)***

***Since that period, Magh gov considered emig°/mean of xportg unemplmt and poverty, and way of mportg wealth, through remittances***

***Today, mig° is still a paramt issue in Magh, and migrts are considered as key persons contributg to the local eco dev***

***Mor: remittces represent +8%/GDP and permit to gov to cover 50% of the balce/paymt deficit***

***Today, expatriated Magh community includes 2<sup>nd</sup>, even 3<sup>rd</sup> gen<sup>o</sup>, but the most important is that 1<sup>st</sup> gen<sup>o</sup> is composed/individuals who have just reached retiremt age***

***Many returned home, or are seriously thinking about comg back and enjoyg an old age in the home land***

***Spendg the last days of life in motherland, and buried near the father is common in the Muslim culture***

***Buried in a non-Musl cemetery is a great fear amg Musl expatriated in Eur/US***

# ***SOME FIGURES***



***Retiring is the 1<sup>st</sup> motivat°/returning back home, familial pb in home ctry being the 2<sup>nd</sup> reason, with respectively 14.4% and 8.9% of the responses***

***Seniors = 18% of the Magh return migts, while 21.9 % are officially retirees***

***During the last 10 yrs for instance, +90 000 Alg left Fr to benefit their pens° in Alg, at a rhythm of 9 100 migrts/yr***

***Nber/Mor retirees leavg Fr is around 1400 departures/y***

***As a result, savgs and pens° of the retired returnee became suddly an eco factor of major importce***

# ***METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES***

***2 opposite approaches for the analysis/pens<sup>o</sup> of the retired returnee, dependg on the vis<sup>o</sup>/his eco capital***

## ***ENDOGENOUS MIGRATION MODEL***

***migt's behaviour based on altruism and the satisfact<sup>o</sup>/persons relying on him, and in particular the family at home***

***retired migt affects his pens<sup>o</sup> for consumpt<sup>o</sup> purposes, either for himself or his family***

***Immediate welfare is paramount to any idea of rates of return of the pens<sup>o</sup>, as the utility of the migt is directly linked to the utility/family in the home country***

***This model does not consider the migrants transfers, savgs and pensions as an engine of local employmt and eco growth***

# ***PORTFOLIO MODEL***

***remitting aims at guaranteeing a reward when coming back to the home ctry***

***this "selfish model" considers that at least a part/pens<sup>o</sup> is invested in businesses***

***projects are of micro dimens<sup>o</sup>, and the pens<sup>o</sup> is often used to reimburse a bank loan (project)***

***consider remittances, savgs and pens<sup>o</sup> as a major source of capital for sustnble dev in home land, as they create productive assets and reduce unemploymt***

# ***OPTIMAL DURATION OF MIGRATION***

***close relationship between the period of time spent abroad and the returnee's willingness to invest in the home market:***

- Duration too short: migrant will not have the time to acquire necessary experience to create and manage a project in home country***
- period spent outside too long: migrant will lose contact with the home society, and will be so disconnected that he will no longer have sufficient knowledge about behaviours, markets and economic mechanisms to be able to create a profitable project***
- if the returnee is too aged, his health will no longer permit him to manage effectively his business***

***There exist a theoretical, optimal period of time spent abroad that influences the possibility/investment back home***



***TYPOLGY OF THE  
MAGHREBIAN RETIRED RETURNEE***

***Was 25 years old when he left Alg in 1960***

***Travelled by boat to Sthrn Fr (95%)***

***Holds regular documts (99%), working permit (63%)***

***Is 65 years and decided to return home after havg spent in average 40 yrs abroad***

***Poorly educated (95%), was livg in rural area (59%) before settlg abroad***

***Although was employed before migratg (62%), his financial situat° was precarious (87%) and did not benefit help from the family (66%)***

***Left Alg single (70%) and had no close family in Fr (96%)***

***Once in Fr, did not benefit help from family or friends (75%), but found a job before 3 mths (82%), and did not find difficulties in integratg local sty***

***Althgh did not improve his educat°al level (95%) and had no access to profess°al traing (90%), improved his financial situat° durg his career (97%)***

***Kept links with Alg and used to send once a year 1000€ to Alg (80%) to help the family (school expenses), build a house and contribute to social projects, (mosques)***

***Used to bring to Alg facilities, refrigerators, cars (88%)***

***Had regular contacts with the consular representat°***

***When comg back/Alg, owner of his house (98%) and lives in urb area (73%)***

***Althgh thinks about stayg definitely in Alg (75%), kept his documts in order to have the possibility to return to Fr (84%)***

***Felt poorly assisted by the Alg gov when coming back, and despite pb/reintegrat° of Alg sty, thinks that life in Alg is better/Fr (68%)***

***Now transfers monthly 500€ to his bank acct in Alg (55%), for family expenses and to build a house***

**BOUCHERIE MUSULMANE**

بوتيرة اسلامية

BOUCHERIE MUSULMANE  
**Rôtisserie**  
Poulet Cordon Rouge 10  
Cordon Rouge 6  
Poulet Cordon Rouge 30  
Avec  
Sauce de Tom 20

***ENTREPRENEURIAL BEHAVIOUR OF THE  
MAGHREBIAN RETIRED RETURNEE***

***Does not seem keen on investg back home (90%)***

***Invested in small and medium projects:***

- ❑ employg less than 10 employees***
- ❑ tourism and commercial sectors***
- ❑ amts varying from 3/90 000€***

***Has capacity/invest amts that relatively high regardg/local eco and level of dev***

***Main source /financ was the pens<sup>o</sup> and savgs, with no assistance from local bk***



***RETURN VS NON RETURN:  
THE SOCIAL PROTECTION AS A KEY FACTOR***

***When mig<sup>t</sup> reaches 65, he must take a major  
decis<sup>o</sup> concerng last stage of his mig<sup>o</sup> cycle:***

***Stay there or come back home?***

# ***STAY IN THE HOST COUNTRY?***

## ***RANGE OF MEDICAL SERVICES***

***Retired mig is by nature +65, has specific health needs***

***Magh health syst does not offer high stdrd qual/svces***

***Magh health system still does not provide specific svces such as geriatrics or psychological assistance for the elderly (but Tn)***

***Return migrt knows that if he decides to come back home, he will be obliged to travel regularly to benefit good medical sces in the previous country of immig<sup>o</sup>***

## ***REIMBURSEMENT***

***Mig used to benefit a social protect<sup>o</sup> system that reimburses a consistt part/medical expses, especially if he was expatriated in Eur or Gulf, where high standard social systems are available***

***Mig knows that in his origin ctry, the social protection system is still poor, and he will have to spend consistent amounts of money to cover by himself his health expenses, with no hope of reimbsmt***

## ***TWO-SPEED MAGHREBIAN HEALTH SYSTEM***

***Med services offered/pb sector are bad: disorganised reception, lack of hygiene, delays in treatmts, overcrowded rooms***

***On the other side, pv sector provides a better quality of health services, but at a very high cost***

***Tn: private clinics xpts their svces (Brit patts have surgical op<sup>o</sup> because cheaper comparing to the UK, no waitg lists)***

***Retired returnee aware that, if settling in his home ctry, he must affect a consistt part/pens<sup>o</sup> to health care, while he can benefit from it freely in the previous immig<sup>o</sup> ctry***

***For all these reasons, all related to social protect<sup>o</sup>, the retired mig is reluctant to come back home definitely***

***Most retired returnees keep updated the official documts they were handling when living in host ctries***

***They travel every 6 mths to previous immig<sup>o</sup> country to prove that they are still alive and update their social protect<sup>o</sup> cards***

# ***RETURN TO HOME COUNTRY?***

***Paradoxically, main factor pushing the retired Magh mig to return home is also related to the social system***

***Huge difference in salary levels between host and home employment markets***

***As calculated based on last salary, pensions are higher in the host country***

***Pensions/retired Tn operator returning from Germany = salary of a General Manager in private sector in Tn***

***In addition, differentials in gross salary levels, exchange rates between Magh currencies and Euro/Dollar are favourable to the return migrant***

***Fluctuations in exchange rates push regularly pensions up, compensating inflation rates in home country***

***Possible economic effect/migrant pensions is multiplied and afford to him to live in very good conditions in his home country***

***"live like a Bey in my home country"***

# ***Dilemma:***

***Should he come back home to enjoy his pens<sup>o</sup>, benefitg from its multiplied value?***

***Or should he stay in the host ctry, benefitg a high stdd soc protect<sup>o</sup>?***

***In both cases,  
social prot<sup>o</sup> mechanism appears as a  
key elemt in makg decis<sup>o</sup>***

# ***RETIRED RETURNEES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP***

***Only little share/pens° is used in productive investmts, mainly small and medium businesses***

***Despite of this, M°€ are invested in local economies, and this contributes certainly to the sustnble dev/Magh***

***Returnee entrepreneur hardly ever contracts bk loan when investg***

***Savgs accumulated in host ctry constitute the great source of financg projects when coming back home:***

- 76% of return Magh mig fince their project with their own savg and pens°***
- 13.9% of them contract bk loans (15.3% in Mor/Tn, 9.5% in Alg)***

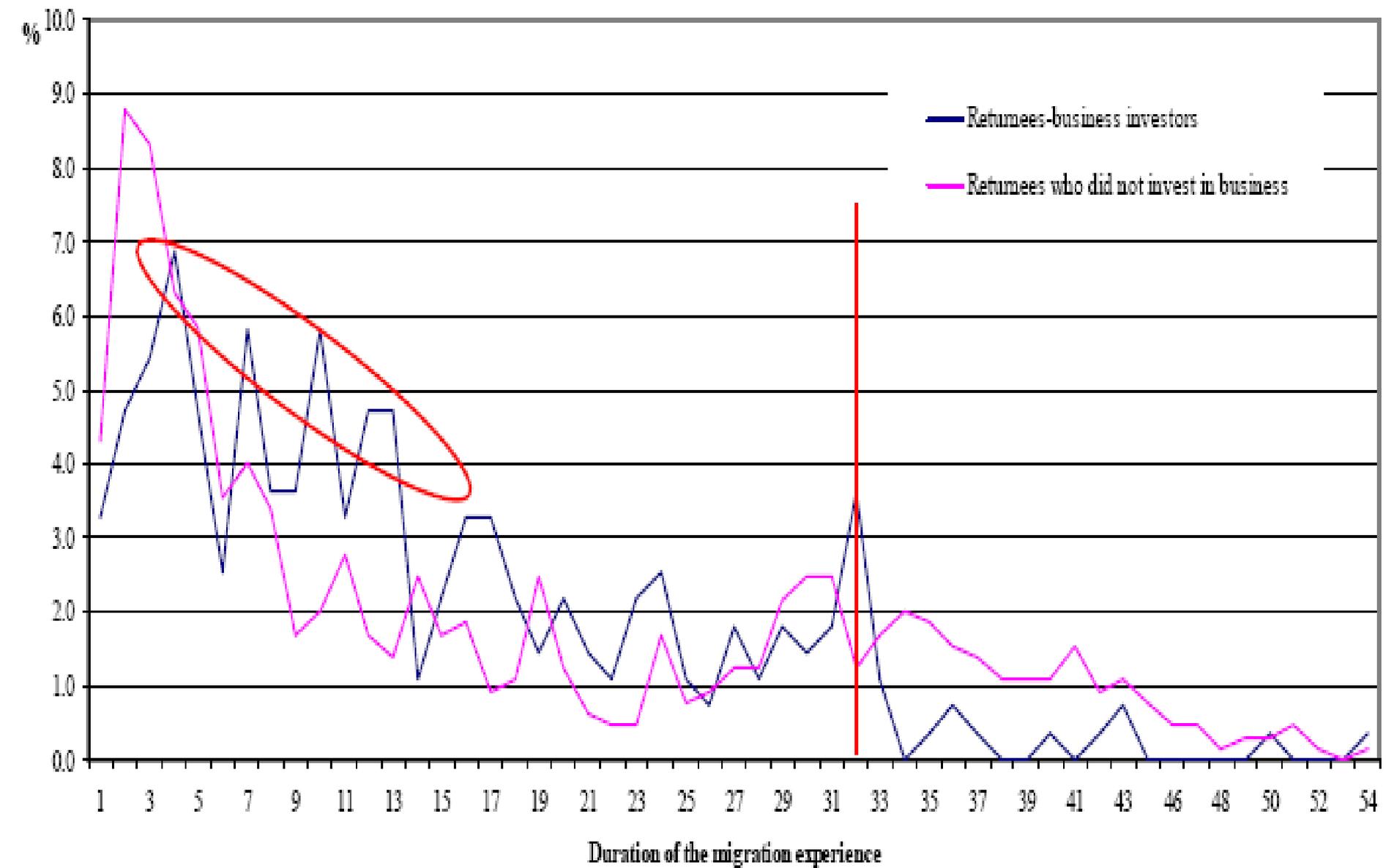
# ***Reasons explaining the autonomy-behaviour***

- 1. Mig has saved sufficiently during his career/financed a complete project by himself***
- 2. Mistrust between the migrant and the local banks:***
  - Mig has a very bad view of the local banking system***
  - But this lack/confidence is also expressed by the other side, as local banks consider the retired returnee's projects as low-return and risky investments:***
    - return migrant, after having spent mid-life outside the country, has a poor, wrong knowledge of the local market***
    - has then great difficulties in managing the human and financial assets in the home country***
    - advanced age: banks use to give loans more likely to young entrepreneurs than to retirees***

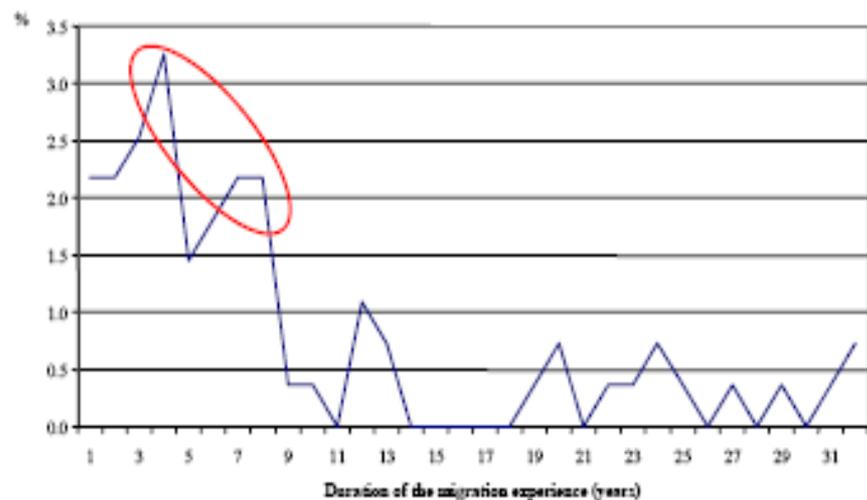
***The quest/age is also related to the theory of optimal period of time spent abroad***

***MIREM survey showed the following:***

**Graph 2: Duration of the migration experience of the returnees who invested back home (N=296) compared with those who did not (N=696)**

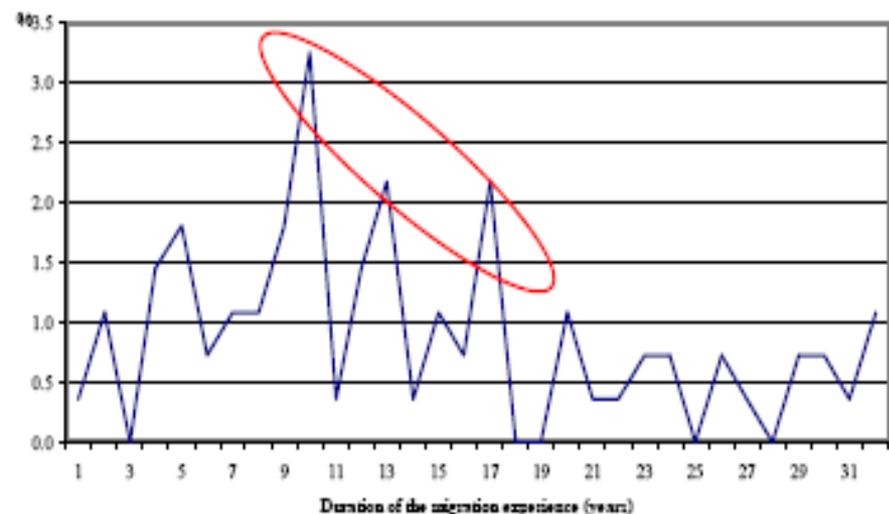


**Graph 3: Algerian entrepreneur returnees, N=74**



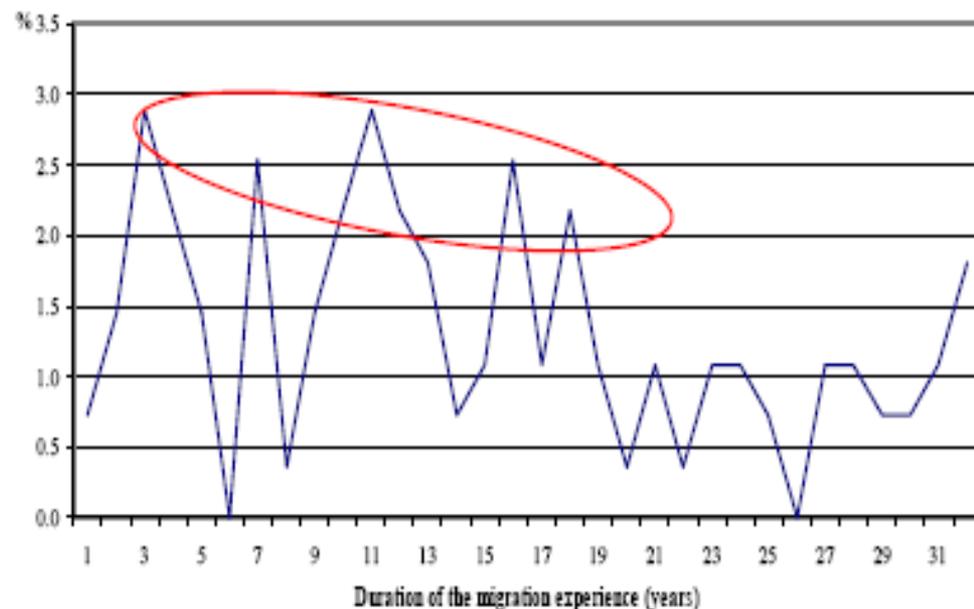
Source: MIREM, © EUI

**Graph 4: Moroccan entrepreneur returnees, N=98**



Source: MIREM, © EUI

**Graph 5: Tunisian entrepreneur returnees, N=124**





# ***RECOMMENDATIONS***



# ***CONSTITUTE A DATABASE***

***Decis<sup>o</sup> makers suffer lack/data concerng  
behaviour/return mig***

***Particularly true concerning the retired returnee, as the  
phenomenon is relatively new***

***Need to widen the knowledge base on the  
motivat<sup>o</sup>/retired return mig, their projects, their needs  
and the pottial they can offer to home ctry***

***Conduct surveys and make studies on mig/seniors***

***As Magh ctries have not capacity/fince such complex  
studies, they should think about partnerships with Eur/US  
academic institut<sup>o</sup>, NGOs, IO (IOM)***

# ***RESTORE FAITH IN HOME COUNTRY ADMINISTRATION***

***Mig afraid/lost an entire life of ghorba and savings in a bad business***

***Fear reinforced/lack of knowledge of the origin story and culture***

***Fear/corrupt°, bureaucracy; misunderstood***

***Diplomatic representatives in Eur must do further efforts in communication in order to offer +positive view°/return back home and the investment in productive projects in the origin country***

***Message must be convincing, because the idyllic image presented by the embassy's officers may contrast with what the mig hears about his country, through official media (Eur TV and papers, @) and non official channels (family, friends)***

***Fear reinforced when he has already experienced problems with local administration° (customs, border police)***

# ***SUPPORT THE RETURN MIGRANT***

***Create ministerial agencies to help the retired expatriate who wants to invest back home***

***Provide mig with accurate info/investment procedures***

***Most/them ignore last bankg reforms  
(hold current accts in convertible local currencies)***

***Incentives/invest: tax exempt<sup>o</sup> and off shore areas,  
where investors can install exportg project***

***Help retired mig in conductg market studies, play a  
mediat<sup>o</sup> role to help mig obtaining a local bank loan, or  
negotiatg with the local admin<sup>o</sup>***

# ***IMPROVE THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT***

***Poor infrastructure: roads, electricity network, industrial estates zones, web and telephone network, public equipmt***

***Small markets: Mor 30M, Alg 30M, Tn 10, small demd/goods and sces, severe compet°***

***Offer to retired mig specific inctives/projects when returng home***

***MIREM's survey: 88.8% of Magh return mig had not benefited any assistce from local admin° durg the comg back process, nor the investmt procedures***

***Data show marked differces betwn 3 cttries, as 80.8% of Tn returnees said they have not been assisted/own gov, while this proportion is 90.9% amg Mor and 95.1% in Alg***

***Lack/custom and tax inctives, low educ° level of the local human capital and reluctce/local bks to give loans***

*Key factor that influences the behaviour of the retired mig:  
social mechanism in home country*

# ***IMPROVE SOCIAL PROTECTION IN HOST COUNTRY***

*Help retired returnees in regulatg their situat° regardg to their social rights, as pens° and health coverage, with the host countries administrations*

*Keep updated doc (residce permit)*

*Statute/retired mig may be changed by the rect decis° taken in many Eur cntries that are closg doors of immig°*

*Create specific taskforces in charge/follow new legislat° in host ctries, and interfere if necessary in order to make it easier for the returnee to benefit his social rights*

# ***IN HOME COUNTRY***

***Improve ql/med sces offered to the return mig***

***Pv clinics should offer special rates to retired returnees, who can in return pay in hard currency***

***If retired migr can have access/acceptable health svces in his home ctry, that will certainly encourage him to settle back home and then to invest locally***

***Specific assistce/return mig to make them benefit soc protect<sup>o</sup>in their origin ctry***

***Assistce to widows and orphans who returned home and wish to benefit their social rights, as perceiving the pens<sup>o</sup>/spouse in home ctry***

***Legal assistce to surpass the juridical pbms with soc security adm<sup>o</sup>***

***CONCLUSION***



***Social mechanism=key issue in the mig process in Magh***

***Reliance on the pens<sup>o</sup>/savgs of retired returnee may be one engine of sust dev for ctries as Mor, Alg, Tn***

***Clear necessity for Magh gov to settle strategies to attract these pens<sup>o</sup> and inject them in local eco, in the framework of micro projects***

***Need/conduct deeper research to understand soc/anthropological factors behind eco behaviour/retired returnee***

***Knowledge/motivat<sup>o</sup> behind return/retired return mig and the use/his pens<sup>o</sup> is without contest the key to positive mig policies***

## Vieillir en Tunisie

Le vieillissement ? Qu'il s'agisse d'Alzheimer, du problème des retraites, de la déprime, tout le monde en parle. Toutefois, l'information est souvent incomplète, déformée, biaisée par les stéréotypes, voire complètement erronée.

Accessible à tous, ce livre, écrit par un démographe de formation et d'expérience, propose des réponses claires aux nombreuses interrogations que soulève ce phénomène, en prenant comme terrain de recherche un pays qui découvre brusquement que, comme les autres peuples du monde, il vieillit...



*Sofiane Bouhdiba, Professeur de Démographie à l'Université de Tunis, est un spécialiste mondial de la mortalité. Il a enseigné dans de nombreuses universités en Europe, en Afrique et aux États-Unis, et participé à un grand nombre de conférences internationales sur les thèmes de la mortalité et de la morbidité. Consultant international aux Nations Unies sur les questions de mortalité et de morbidité, il a eu l'occasion d'observer de près les grands changements démographiques qui ont affecté la population mondiale. Sa fascination pour la mort le conduit parfois à s'intéresser, comme ici, à l'une des conséquences majeures du recul de la mortalité sur les sociétés contemporaines : le vieillissement démographique.*

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