

# MAFE



Migrations  
between Africa  
and Europe

[www.mafeproject.com](http://www.mafeproject.com)

## Why focus on Afro-European migration?

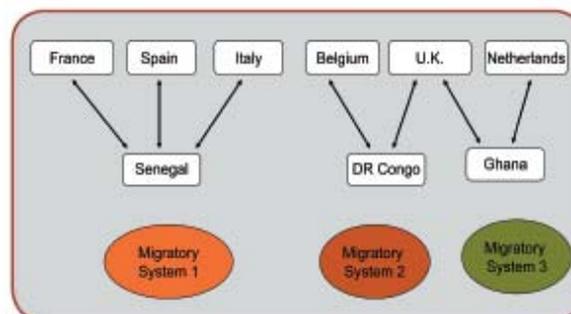
The MAFE project is a major research initiative focused on migration between Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.

Despite massive media attention, there is surprisingly little hard evidence on why and how Africans come to Europe, whether and when they return, and what the consequences are for source and destination countries.

The MAFE project aims to overcome this lack of understanding by collecting unique data on the characteristics and behaviour of migrants from Sub-Saharan countries to Europe.

The key notion underpinning the project is that migration must not only be seen as a one-way flow from Africa to Europe. We argue that return migration, circulation and transnational practices are significant and must be understood in order to design better migration policy.

The MAFE project focuses on migration flows between Europe and Senegal, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ghana, which together account for over a quarter of all African migration to the EU.



## Theme One

### Accounting for Changing Migration Patterns from Africa to Europe

MAFE investigates:

- The typical characteristics of migrants, such as age, education level, marital status, and gender.
- Migration routes to Europe from Sub-Saharan Africa, and how they evolve in parallel to policies.
- Overall trends, including the probability of emigration, return and circular migration.



## Theme Two

### Reasons for Emigration and Return

- For departure, these include poverty, pursuit of education or the wider policy context.
- For return, these include the role of remittances, integration conditions and ties to country of origin.

## Theme Three

### Impacts of international migration on work and livelihoods

MAFE looks at:

- How migrants' skills are used at home and abroad.
- What investments migrants make, compared to the non-migrant population.



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## Theme Four

### Impacts of international migration on families

The data collected by MAFE is also used to study the interactions between family formation and international migration, especially issues such as:

- What changes does migration create with regard to family formation?
- What is the impact of time spent abroad, on family behaviours?
- What is the impact of gendered migration flows?

## Research Methods

A biographic questionnaire, identical in all countries, is being conducted with 5,700 individuals.

In sending countries, the MAFE project is interviewing both return migrants and non-migrants to draw out key differences between these two groups.

In receiving countries, the project is interviewing current migrants, both documented and undocumented.

MAFE is also conducting household surveys and is assessing how institutional and structural contexts in research countries impact on migration.



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## Disseminating Research

The MAFE project will actively identify key stakeholders in both the African partner countries and the EU in order to carry out consultations, and to make stakeholders aware of the project's findings as research is completed.

The MAFE web-site sets out research objectives and findings, and will include a series of policy briefings tailored to the needs of policy audiences, particularly in government and international organizations.

## Research partners

The MAFE project is a partnership of nine academic institutions led by the Institut National d'Études Démographiques (Ined), with :

- Belgium – Université Catholique de Louvain la Neuve
- DR Congo – Université de Kinshasa
- France – Institut National d'Études Démographiques
- Ghana – University of Ghana
- Italy – Forum Internazionale ed Europeo di Ricerche sull'immigrazione (FIERI)
- Netherlands – Maastricht University
- Senegal – Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
- Spain – Universitat Pompeu Fabra
- UK – University of Sussex

## Contact MAFE

<http://www.mafeproject.com>

Projet MAFE / MAFE project

Institut National d'Études Démographiques •  
133 boulevard Davout • 75980 Paris cedex 20 •  
France • Tel : ++3(0)1.56.06.20.34 •  
Email : [info@mafeproject.com](mailto:info@mafeproject.com)



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