

Informed Consent Form

New Voices: Migrant Survey Project

Explanatory Note

You are invited to participate in the study titled **“New Voices: Migrant Survey Project.”**

Your participation is entirely voluntary, and there are no negative consequences if you decide not to take part. You may also withdraw from the study at any time without providing a reason, before submitting the survey. After submission, your data cannot be withdrawn because it will be anonymised and cannot be traced back to you.

This consent form explains the study, its procedures, and how your data will be handled. Please take time to read this document carefully before deciding whether to participate. If you have any questions, you may contact the researchers or supervisors listed below.

This consent form and the survey are available in multiple languages. You are encouraged to choose the language in which you feel most comfortable.

Title of the Study: New Voices: Migrant Survey Project

Researchers:

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Supervisors:

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Research Group / Department:

Brussels Institute for Social and Population Studies (BRISPO), Department of Sociology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

Purpose of the Research

The Migrant Survey Project investigates inequalities in different aspects of life for newly arrived migrants in Belgium. These include health, healthcare access, labour market participation, social networks, living conditions, and overall well-being.

This research adopts an intersectional perspective, considering how socio-economic status, migration history, and personal characteristics influence migrants' experiences of integration and access to services.

Particular attention is given to newly arrived migrants who have come through irregular channels and may face additional challenges, including legal uncertainties, limited access to services, and social exclusion.

The results of this study will help to develop evidence-based recommendations for policies and services that promote equality, inclusion, and social cohesion.

1. Responsible Data Controller

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels

Company number: 449.012.406

2. Description of Risks and Benefits

There are no physical or psychological risks expected from participating in this study. However, some questions may address sensitive topics, such as health, legal status, or social networks. You may skip any question you do not wish to answer.

Participation in this survey includes the opportunity to take part in a **reward system**:

- After completing the survey, you will be asked if you want to take part in a reward system.
- If you opt in, you will be asked to guess how many people will complete this survey by the end of May.
- After submitting your answer, you will receive two unique numerical codes. The first number will be published on our website so that the winners can identify themselves. You will be asked for the second number if you win the prize, during the prize collection process, to verify your identity.
- The codes will be stored in the survey system. You should also record them somewhere (screenshot, note down).
- 20 participants whose guesses are closest to the actual number of survey respondents will win a €200 voucher for IKEA or Bol.com.
- Winning codes will be published on the BRISPO website (brispo.research.vub.be) on 15/06/2026.
- Competition participants should check the BRISPO website to see if their number is among the winners.
- Winners can claim their prize at the BRISPO office (Brussels, Pleinlaan 5, 2nd floor) by showing their two unique codes and collecting the voucher.
- Your identity will not be linked to your reward. Vouchers will be processed anonymously.

3. Confidentiality

We will keep the collected data confidential and respect the privacy legislation, including the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Your privacy will be protected at all times.

No personal identifying information (name, address, or contact details) will be collected during the survey. For this research we will collect only IP addresses. We will anonymise your data as soon as possible after you submit your survey. This means that it will no longer be possible to identify you by means of the data.

In all publications and reports, results will be presented in anonymous and aggregated formats. Individual participants will never be identifiable.

VUB will act as the data controller.

4. Data – Purpose – Retention Time – Transfer

The data collected will include responses related to health, social networks, living conditions, and integration experiences. No directly identifying data will be collected.

Survey data will be used exclusively for the purposes of this study and stored securely on password-protected servers at VUB, in compliance with GDPR regulations.

Data will be retained for a maximum of **ten years** after the end of the project. After that, it will be securely deleted.

No data will be transferred outside the European Union.

5. Citations

Without your explicit consent, you will not be cited in any publications. Any quotes or examples used in publications will be fully anonymised.

6. Security

The storage of your data will offer a high degree of protection, in accordance with the guidelines of VUB (VUB Charter of the Researcher, ICT Security policy). All data will be stored on secure, password-protected servers managed by VUB and subject to regular security audits. The data management process is supervised by Johan Surkyn (johan.surkyn@vub.be), the designated data manager for this project.

7. Your Rights

You have the right to:

- Withdraw from the study at any time **before submitting** your survey.
- Contact the research team or VUB's Data Protection Officer if you have concerns.

Once the survey is submitted, your data cannot be modified or deleted because it is anonymised and cannot be linked back to you. The withdrawal of consent does not affect the legality of any data processing done before your withdrawal.

8. Contact Information

If you have any questions or wish to exercise your rights, contact:

- The researchers or supervisors (see contact details above).
- Data Protection Officer (DPO): dpo@vub.be

9. Complaints

If you wish to file a complaint about how your data is handled, you can contact:

- The researchers, supervisors, or DPO (see above).
- Or you can contact the Belgian Data Protection Authority:

Drukpersstraat 35, 1000 Brussels

Tel: +32 2 274 48 00

Email: contact@apd-gba.be

Website: www.dataprotectionauthority.be

10. Declaration of the Researchers

The undersigned researchers confirm that the participant has received a copy of this document and that all their questions have been answered.

Researcher Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

11. Participant Consent Statement

Please confirm your consent by ticking each box:

- I confirm that I fulfil the conditions to participate (I am a newly arrived migrant in Belgium, over 18 years old, and have arrived within the last ten years).
- I have read and understood this consent form and had the opportunity to ask questions.
- I voluntarily agree to take part in this study.
- I understand that I can withdraw from the study at any time before submitting my survey.
- I understand that after submission, my data cannot be deleted because it is anonymised.
- I consent to the processing of my anonymised data for scientific research purposes, as described in this form.
- I understand that I can contact the research team or the Data Protection Officer if I have questions about how my data is used.