

Patterns of the social networks of Bulgarian migrants in Catalonia (Spain)

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In this paper we present the first results of a research funded by the AGAUR (Catalan research agency) about the social networks of Bulgarian migrants in Catalonia. We analyse the Bulgarian migrant social networks in two localities, Barcelona and Roses (a Catalan coast village), in order to assess the different patterns of adaptation or change developed in each locality for the Bulgarian population. The methodology used is the structured interview supported with an open-source program (Egonet⁴) for collecting personal network data, along with participant observation.

Drawing the Bulgarian migrant interpersonal relations we want: 1) to determine the Bulgarian migrant profile compared with other migrant populations; 2) to identify the structure and composition of their social networks; 3) to see how they adapt themselves to the Catalan society, 4) to observe their identity or/and identification patterns in Catalonia and 5) to identify their social and emotional demands as a migrants.

Also, we shall provide some information about the image of Bulgarians in Spain through the mass-media and a discussion about anthropological concepts like ethnicity and identity in a European framework.

Key-words: Bulgarians – migration – Social networks – personal networks – Identity.

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⁴ <http://sourceforge.net/projects/egonet/>