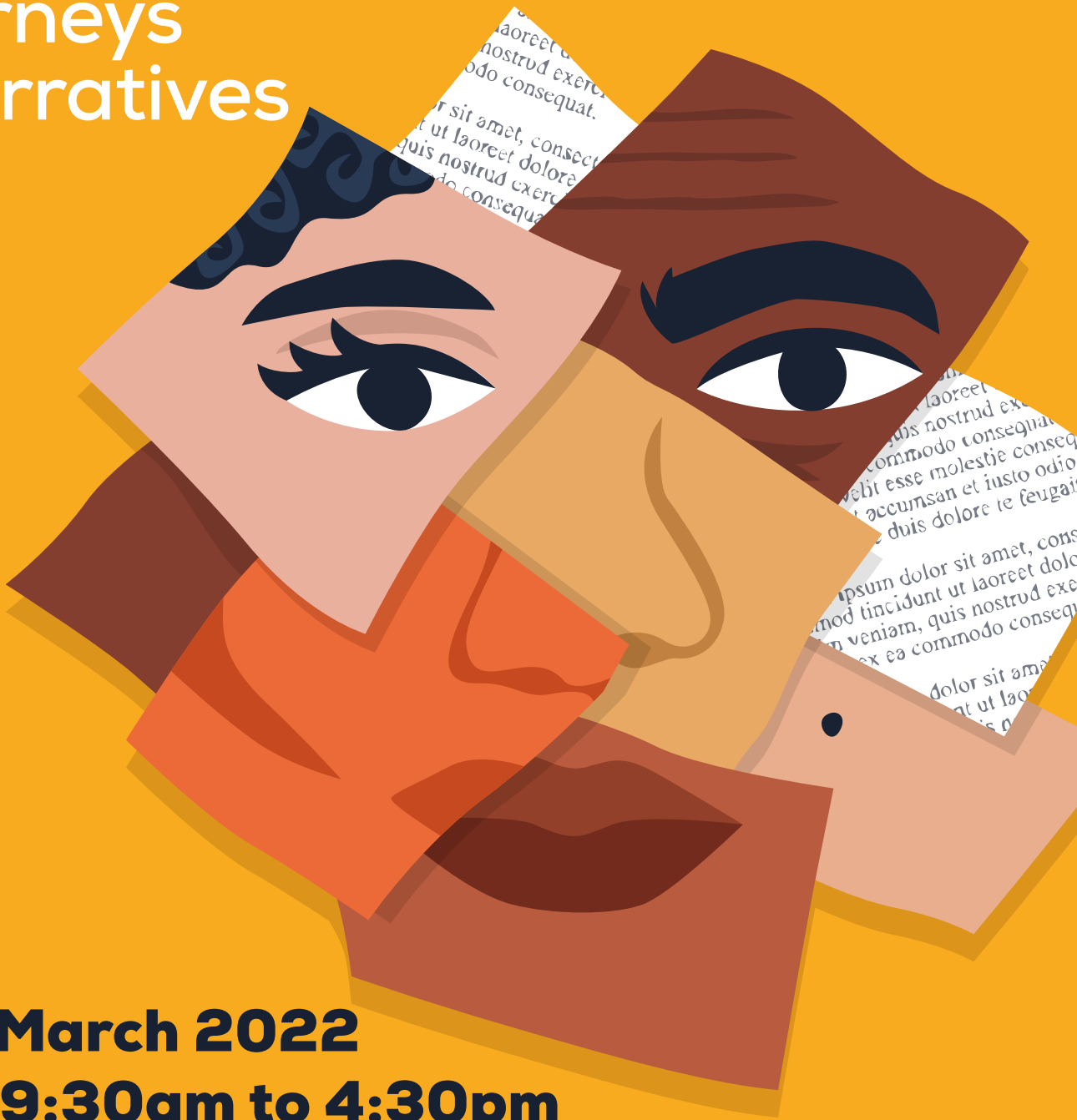


# Alternative storytelling on migration



Journeys  
& narratives



**30th March 2022**  
**From 9:30am to 4:30pm**

# Alternative storytelling on migration



## Journeys & narratives

The  
2 0 1 5  
"refugee crisis"

has left deep marks. It reinforces nowadays anti-immigrant discourses that are spreading fast. A growing part of the European political class transforms the question of welcoming migrants and refugees into a "migration crisis" that would be threatening national identity.

This question has become an important political and societal stake. It has a growing impact on relations between countries from the old continent and the other Mediterranean countries as well as Sub-Saharan African countries. This issue does not concern only the states. It also interests civil society, researchers and associations who are mobilised to bring an alternative narrative to today's dominant vision on migration.

The public event "Alternative storytelling on migration, journeys and narratives" introduces a debate for successful immigration and integration, based on dialogue. Indeed, these multidimensional cross-talks do not concern only northern stakeholders. They are fed with what transit and origin countries share. The idea is to gather and understand various narratives on immigration and integration by letting associations, migrants, institutions, researchers, people of reference and artists, speak up. It is in this context that Grdr and its European and African partners organise this international gathering in order to share their experience, actions on migration and integration.

## Opportunities, the project



The public event "Alternative storytelling on migration, journeys and narratives" is organised in the context of "Opportunities" project that brings together eight European partners from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Romania, as well as three African partners from Ghana, Senegal, and Mauritania.

The dynamics of current discourses on migration in the European public sphere undermine the project of European integration. To overcome this toxic debate "Opportunities", a Horizon 2020 project funded by the European Commission, strives to initiate a new, forward-looking debate, which is grounded on the principles of fair dialogue, multiperspectivity, and an ethics of listening. This project brings together scholars specialised in the fields of cross-disciplinary narrative research, intercultural studies, (social) media studies, statistics, as well as migration law and policies; NGOs experienced in migration action work; and a leading theatre company, which will help to increase the impact and visibility of the project by reaching out to wider national audiences. The main objective of our cross-disciplinary collaboration is to initiate changes in attitudes and perspectives on prevalent discourses on migration in the European public sphere.

Thanks to the transnational collaboration between European and African partners, this project not only offers a broad geographical and transcultural perspective on migration, emigration, and immigration, but it also gives insights into different migration policies in terms of countries of origin (Ghana, Senegal), countries of transit (Italy, Mauritania, Romania), countries of arrival (France, Portugal), and main destinations of migration (Belgium, Germany, Austria).

# DAY'S PROGRAMME

Hosted by Jonathan Stebig



## 10am – 10.30am: Opening

- ◆ Michel De Bruyne : Coordinator - Beweging / Opportunities
- ◆ Jean-Marc Pradelle : President – Grdr
- ◆ Rafaël Ricardou : Head of Department - Cité des métiers / Cité de la santé - Universcience

## 10am – 12am: Round table discussion ①

The notion of “migration crisis” : Why has the discourse on migration become negative and worrying?

- ◆ Sokona Niakhate : Departmental Advisor for the Val-de-Marne, Deputy mayor of Fontenay-Sous-Bois, President of the Coordination of French elected officials of Malian origin
- ◆ Haimut Ba : Jurist, Legal expert, former associative manager, Mauritanian Constitutional Council
- ◆ Khady Sacko Niang : Former president of Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform and of Forum of International Solidarity Organisations from Migrations
- ◆ Omar Ba : PanAfrican specialist
- ◆ Nadjma Kacimi : Writer, Philosopher

## 12pm – 13.30pm: Lunch break

## 13.30pm – 14pm: Documentary extracts on journeys and migration narratives

- ◆ “Bal mémoire” by Julien Meunier
- ◆ “Grand écart” by Moïse Gomis

## 14pm – 15.30pm: Round table discussion ②

Turning crisis into opportunities: What alternative narratives on migration and how can they be heard in contemporary debates?

- ◆ Tanya Cox : Concord Europe director
- ◆ Michael Hoare : Filmmaker, Documentarist
- ◆ Daouda Ndiaye : Education science researcher, member of Grdr's strategic orientation committee in Senegal
- ◆ Marie José Bernardot : Co-founder of the association Désinfox-Migrations, Vice president of the National Group of Citizen Initiatives and Actors
- ◆ Moussa Dramé : Head of the Network of Mauritanian Associations in Europe

## 15.30pm – 16.30pm: Conclusion and perspectives

- ◆ Pap Ndiaye : Golden gate palace Director - National Museum of the History of Immigration

# OPENING CEREMONY

Guest speakers:



## Michel De Bruyne

Coordinator - Beweging / Opportunities

Michel Debruyne studied sociology and political science. Throughout his career, he has worked on building new coalitions and alliances on the theme of empowerment of vulnerable and under-represented groups. He is currently the general coordinator for the "H2020 Opportunities" project at the European Union level. He also coordinates the "Alliances to Fight Poverty" informal European network, in charge of elaborating the positioning, orientation notes and publications. From 2015 to March 2019, Michel Debruyne has been the network coordinator for the "H2020 RE-InVEST" project ([www.re-invest.eu](http://www.re-invest.eu)). The aim of this project was to cross and disseminate knowledge between academic partners and NGOs. Up to 2021, he has also coordinated the REGAL project ([www.regalproject.eu](http://www.regalproject.eu)). In Flandre, he is the coordinator for "Decenniumdoelen", a Flemish alliance bringing together different organisations working on fighting poverty, social work, and syndicates. This alliance acts with political decision-makers in order to raise awareness about questions related to poverty and social inequality.



## Jean-Marc Pradelle

President of Grdr

Jean-Marc Pradelle has been the president of Grdr since July 2021. He has dedicated the majority of his career to cooperation with different African countries throughout his positions at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for the Sahel and West Africa Club, at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the French Development Agency. He has especially worked in Conakry (Guinea), Nouakchott (Mauritania) and Ndjamena (Tchad). He has taken part in community life mainly with Solagral "Act here for a united world" (now known as Oxfam France) and with Grdr.



## Rafaël Ricardou

Head of Department - Cité des métiers / Cité des de la santé – Universcience

Rafaël Ricardou is the director of the Cité des métiers of Paris-la Villette, executive director for integration, training and Universcience business, manager for the development of the "Cité des métiers" brand. Rafaël Ricardou has studied political sociology. He conceives and implements intervention and research programmes in the fields of social development in France and on an international level. The involvement of the "user" and the development of "communities of users and interests" are at the heart of his activity. He has managed several actions and research and established many educational content for training and animations, in the context of scientific mediation and academic and experiential knowledge dissemination. His professional path has allowed him to develop a strong 10 year experience on the topics of integration, international migration and fight against discrimination.

# ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION 1

## The notion of “migration crisis”: Why has the discourse on migration become negative and worrying?

*The notion of a “migration crisis” has been dominating the media since 2015. However, if there has indeed been a “crisis”, it is above all that one of “migrant welcoming crisis”. This semantic nuance has a major impact in the construction of a negative and anxiety-provoking dominant narrative that dehumanises migrants and their journeys. This is what we will address in order to give key ideas on analysing migration.*

### Guest speakers:

#### Sokona Niakhate

**Departmental Advisor for the Val-de-Marne, Deputy Mayor of Fontenay-Sous-Bois, President of the the Coordination of French elected officials of Malian origin**

Sokona Niakhate is the president of the Coordination of French elected officials of Malian origin. She has been a departmental advisor of Val-de-Marne since 2015, of which she was previously vice-president in charge of democracy and relations with users of the public service. She is also elected from the city of Fontenay-sous-Bois, in charge of youth since 2020. Strongly invested in the associative sector, she is a founding member of several associations whose social purpose is the sharing of culture. Apart from her electoral mandates and associative activities, Sokona Niakhate is an independent artistic director in the fashion sector for eco-solidarity brands.



for Development and International Solidarity, a framework for regular dialogue between the French government and development and international solidarity actors. Since 2009, she has been actively involved in the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. Expert - Consultant in “Migration, Gender and Development Policies”, Ms. Niang shares her expertise with several African countries on the engagement and mobilisation of their diaspora, seeking to ensure that migration is a tool for economic, social and innovation growth for sustainable development.

#### Haimut Ba

**Lawyer, legal expert, former associative manager, Mauritanian Constitutional Council**

Haimut Ba has been a member of the Constitutional Council of Mauritania since December 20, 2018. He was previously Associate Lecturer at the University of Rouen-Normandy, Head of the Assemblies and Legal Monitoring Service of the Mixed Syndicate for Waste Disposal Arrondissement in Rouen, former President of the association “Access to Rights and Integration” in Rouen. He graduated with a postgraduate degree in public law from the University of Nice.



#### Omar Ba

**Pan African specialist**

Omar Ba is a historian, expert and consultant in “diversity and inclusive policies”. He is the “focal point” and representative of the African NGO “AFRIKAJOM”. He was a founding member of the European Network of African Descendants and has been for years the voice of African communities in Flanders, Belgium and has been very active in various organisations, local, European and international, involved in issues related to migration policies, the negative perception of migrants and the integration of minorities. He is now an active member of various political and pan-Africanist think tanks within the diasporas.



#### Nedjma Kacimi

**Writer, Philosopher**

Nedjma Kacimi was born in Algeria in 1969 to a French mother and an Algerian father. After a childhood spent in Ain (France), she studied philosophy in Paris. Holder of a double master’s degree in French Literature and Philosophy, she lived and worked in India, Mozambique and Mali before moving to Zurich, Switzerland, where she still lives today. She is the author of the novel “Sensible” (Cambourakis edition) which addresses the question of integration, 60 years after the independence of Algeria and its belated awareness of the discrimination to which it has been subjected. This novel puts into perspective an often biased story and gives voice to many unknown parallel narratives that dislocate the official, oppressive version.



#### Khady Sacko Niang

**Former president of Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform and of Forum of International Solidarity Organisations from Migrations**

Evolving in the field of International Solidarity for several years, Ms. Niang co-chaired the “Migration and Development” working group of the National Council





# ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION 2

## Turning crisis into opportunities: What alternative narratives on migration and how can they be heard in contemporary debates?

*This round table discussion will aim to highlight alternative narratives on migration. It will show how these human mobilities can be perceived as an asset and an opportunity for the territories, whether they are territories of departure, transit, or destination. By repositioning the migratory journey at the heart of the debate, alternative narratives emerge and highlight the importance of sharing, cross-cultural backgrounds and above all human adventures.*



### Guest speakers:

**Tanya Cox**

#### Director - Concord Europe

Director of the network of European NGOs Concord (of which 2,600 civil society organisations are members), Tanya Cox is working to position this confederation of NGOs as a central interlocutor of political decision-makers and European institutions on issues related to international cooperation and sustainable development. She is particularly sensitive to gender equality, social justice and promoting a sustainable future for all.



**Michael Hoare**

#### Director, Documentarist

Michael Hoare, an English teacher, has intervened throughout his life in the field of Migrant Workers' Housing. He is the director of several films on the housing crisis experienced by immigrant families and social housing residents, but also on the problems of self-centred development in the Kayes region (Mali) or, more recently, on interethnic relations in Mauritania.



**Daouda Ndiaye**

#### Researcher in Educational Sciences

Daouda Ndiaye is a lawyer, with a degree in maritime activities law from the University of Western Brittany-Brest. He also holds a doctorate in Educational Sciences from the University of Paris 8, Vincennes-Saint-Denis and the UNESCO Chair in Educational Sciences from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. Former vice-president of the Grdr, he now lives in Senegal, his country of origin, and works there as a consultant in local development and public policies. He is a writer, author of 5 books and about fifteen articles.



## Marie-José Bernardot

**Co-founder of the Désinfox-Migrations Association, vice-president of the National Group of Citizen Initiatives and Actors**

Marie-José Bernardot co-founded the Désinfox-Migrations collective in 2018 and chaired the association since it was formalised in 2020. She is vice-president of the National Group of Initiatives and Citizen Actors and administrator of the Technical School of Social Work. She also led a working group devoted to integration policies within Terra Nova in 2016 (see report "To build a common world: the urgency of an integration policy" published in March 2017; [www.tnova.fr](http://www.tnova.fr)). She is the author of the book "Foreigners, immigrants: (re)thinking integration" published in 2019 by the EHESS press and co-authored the collective book "Ethics, secularism, commitment - social issues and social training" published in 2015 by the university press of Lorraine, on the initiative of the Technical School of Social Work. She also held responsibilities within the General Secretariat for Integration and headed the territorial, social and cultural integration office within the Population and Migration Directorate (Ministry of Social Affairs) as well as the Directorates in charge of integration at the Ministry of Immigration and then at the Ministry of the Interior between 2007 and 2015.



## Moussa Dramé

**Head of the Network of Mauritanian Associations in Europe**

Holder of a master's degree in biology, Moussa Dramé has the title of professional trainer in natural resource management with the National Conservatory of Arts and Trades in Paris. He is strongly committed within the Mauritanian diaspora as a "training and support officer" for projects of the Network of Mauritanian Associations in Europe. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Forum of International Solidarity Organisations from Migrations.

# CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES



## Pap Ndiaye

**Director - Golden Gate Palace  
National Museum of the History of Immigration**

Pap Ndiaye is a specialist of the social history of the United States, particularly of minorities. He is also interested in the situations of minorities in France (history and sociology of black populations). Graduate of Ecole Normale Supérieure, aggregate and doctor in history, graduate of the University of Virginia (M.A.), he taught in France at Sciences Po Paris, and in the United States (University of Pennsylvania, New York University, Northwestern University). We owe him in particular "The Black Condition", "Essay on a French Minority", "Black Americans", "On the March for Equality". He also co-edited the edition of the catalogue "The Black Model" (2019). His latest book "Black Americans, from slavery to Black Lives Matter" was published in October 2021. Since March 2021, he has been the general manager of the Golden Gate Palace (Tropical Aquarium - National Museum of the History of immigration).

# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

## The documentaries

### ◆ "Bal Mémoire" by Julien Meunier (2021)

"All the boys and girls of my age" is a theatrical and choreographic experience of the "Fictions collectives" company with people aged from 60 to 80 from different origins and living in Pantin and in the 19th arrondissement of Paris, around the collective memory of 1960s and their playlist from those years. The "Bal Mémoire", the final rendition of this project, was presented at the theatre "Le Vent se lève" in November 2021. Julien Meunier's film recounts this experience. A production of the company "Fictions collectives" - Directed by Julien Meunier.



### ◆ "Grand écart" by Moïse Gomis (2013)

Industrial cities in the Seine valley, villages along the Senegal River. Migrant Workers' Housing: places of transit, temporary places "in between" arrival and return, leaving and returning. A word, images to tell the time, that of exile and work, of returns and goings. Life paths, always between "here" and "there". The story of a Great Gap. This documentary by Moïse Gomis offers a look at the life journeys of migrants who have passed through or stayed in workers' hostels and experienced living in all kinds of "places" mentioned above.



### ◆ "La diaspora, l'autre visage de la Tunisie" by Barbara Arsenault (2022)

Through testimonies, "life stories" of Tunisians living in France, this documentary looks back on 50 years of commitment of the Tunisian diaspora in favour of its host and native territories. From the union struggles of the 1960s for the rights of immigrant workers in France, to the anti-racist marches in the 1980s, passing through the resistance to the Tunisian autocratic regimes then by the Revolution of 2011 and finally the fight against the effects of the pandemic since 2020, these Tunisians have pursued the struggle and changed history. Citizens from here and there have proven over the decades that human mobility helps to mobilise, to create bridges between territories and that they are an important factor in social progress.



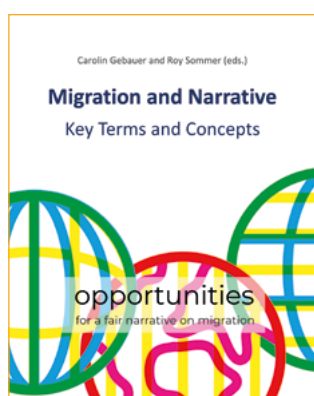
Available on the Grdr website and Youtube.

## "Opportunities" project resources

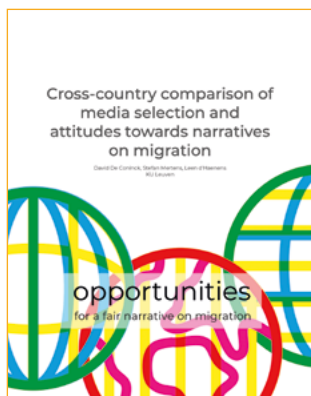
### ◆ "Migration and Narrative: Key terms and concepts" Carolin Gebauer and Roy Sommer (2020)

Available in English, this book offers a glossary in order to facilitate collaboration between partners aiming to establish common ground. It is the result of the collaboration between several structures and offers terminological consistency beyond theoretical approaches.

[https://www.opportunitiesproject.eu/media/attachments/2021/10/29/d2.1\\_glossary-of-key-terms-and-concepts.pdf](https://www.opportunitiesproject.eu/media/attachments/2021/10/29/d2.1_glossary-of-key-terms-and-concepts.pdf)







◆ **"Cross-country comparison of media selection and attitudes towards narratives on migration"**  
**David De Coninck, Stefan Mertens, Leen d'Haenens (2020)**

This book analyses the media treatment of anti-immigration, refugees and Islam in 4 witness countries, Austria, Germany, Hungary and Italy.

[https://www.opportunitiesproject.eu/media/attachments/2021/12/10/d46opp\\_attitudestowardsnarrativesonmigrationquestionnaire.pdf](https://www.opportunitiesproject.eu/media/attachments/2021/12/10/d46opp_attitudestowardsnarrativesonmigrationquestionnaire.pdf)

## Further reading by the Grdr

◆ **5 misconceptions to deconstruct on the links between migration and development**

"Poverty and migration are closely linked", "Leaving one's country means impoverishing it even more", "opening borders means jeopardising our economy", "migrant associations are not involved in local life in Europe", "migrant organisations only care about their families"... How many times have we heard these assertions based on prejudice? However, scientific studies and examples on the topic show us that each one of these preconceived ideas is false. This guide, produced by the Grdr, explains why.

[https://grdr.org/IMG/pdf/ida\\_c\\_es\\_5\\_reapues.pdf](https://grdr.org/IMG/pdf/ida_c_es_5_reapues.pdf)



◆ **Comic book "Work-life balance for precarious women"**

In France, a group of 12 "committed" migrant women met for more than a year to share their experiences as immigrant mothers. The Grdr gave them the floor to have a better understanding on how their different work-life balance is articulated on the basis of criteria related to identity, employment, and gender equality.

[https://grdr.org/IMG/pdf/bd\\_numa\\_c\\_risque\\_-\\_grdr.pdf](https://grdr.org/IMG/pdf/bd_numa_c_risque_-_grdr.pdf)



◆ **Kaédi, Nouadhibou, Sélibaby, Ryad Nouakchott (Mauritania), Mahrès, Beni-Khedache, Aïn Draham, Sbeitla (Tunisia): Migrant portraits**

How can migration issues be integrated into local development when you are a national of the diaspora, a local elected official in West Africa or the Maghreb or you work for the decentralised services of one of these countries? How to understand what migrants can concretely bring for the development of the territory? The Grdr has developed an original and innovative territorial animation methodology, based on studies and analyses of population dynamics, migration flows at the local level to facilitate territorial planning and better coordinate the projects carried out by migrant associations with local development priorities.

<https://www.grdr.org/Gestion-Locale-des-Migrations-GLM>

[https://grdr.org/IMG/pdf/riy\\_56p\\_profilmigratoires\\_bd-2.pdf](https://grdr.org/IMG/pdf/riy_56p_profilmigratoires_bd-2.pdf)

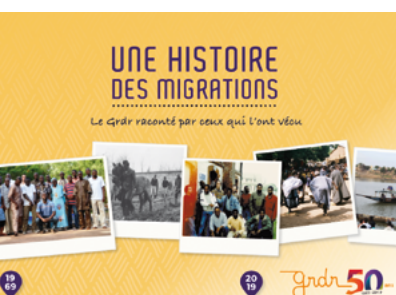
<https://grdr.org/Profil-migratoire-de-Selibaby>

<https://grdr.org/Profil-migratoire-de-Nouadhibou>

<https://grdr.org/Le-profil-migratoire-de-Kaedi-a-ete-elabore>

<https://grdr.org/Profil-migratoire-de-Mahres>





## ◆ A narrative on migration: Grdr through the eyes of those who have experienced it

What does really remain today in our memories and in our hearts of 50 years of Grdr action? This booklet traces the material achievements that have made it possible for half a century to change the lives of the people who have benefited from them, here and there, but also to trace the immaterial achievements, less visible, more difficult to perceive, but perhaps the deepest ones. Throughout its history, G.R.D.R., now Grdr Migration-Citizenship-Development, has been adapted to various developments in order to be able to continue to maintain high values always with the aim to work for bringing people close together, for peace and for local development.

[http://www.grdr.org/IMG/pdf/grdr\\_50ans-lelivre-avec-couv-pageapage-bd.pdf](http://www.grdr.org/IMG/pdf/grdr_50ans-lelivre-avec-couv-pageapage-bd.pdf)

## ◆ Integrating migration into the local planning of Malian communities

Migration is a factor of development in Mali, through multiple transfers, employment opportunities and their various actions that contribute to the fight against poverty. However, despite a significant migratory phenomenon, relations between local elected officials and migration actors are difficult and cooperation is rare, sometimes conflictual. This methodological guide is a planning tool for better local governance of Malian migration with the objectives of integrating the mobility factor into development strategies.

[https://grdr.org/IMG/pdf/grd-\\_guide\\_pdesc\\_a5-lowdef.pdf](https://grdr.org/IMG/pdf/grd-_guide_pdesc_a5-lowdef.pdf)

## ◆ But also on the theme of local development in West Africa "Canchungo, pôle urbain en devenir"

[https://www.grdr.org/IMG/pdf/atlas\\_-canchungo\\_paA\\_le\\_urbain\\_en\\_devenir\\_-2.pdf](https://www.grdr.org/IMG/pdf/atlas_-canchungo_paA_le_urbain_en_devenir_-2.pdf)

## "L'histoire des résiliences du Guidimakha"

[https://www.opportunitiesproject.eu/media/attachments/2021/10/29/d2.1\\_glossary-of-key-terms-and-concepts.pdf](https://www.opportunitiesproject.eu/media/attachments/2021/10/29/d2.1_glossary-of-key-terms-and-concepts.pdf)

## "Un littoral en mouvement"

[https://www.grdr.org/IMG/pdf/grd-\\_atlas\\_littoral\\_2017\\_bat-ld4-2.pdf](https://www.grdr.org/IMG/pdf/grd-_atlas_littoral_2017_bat-ld4-2.pdf)

## "La moyenne vallée du fleuve Sénégal, centre et périphérie"

[https://www.grdr.org/IMG/pdf/grd-\\_atlas\\_mvfs\\_80\\_pages\\_bd-3.pdf](https://www.grdr.org/IMG/pdf/grd-_atlas_mvfs_80_pages_bd-3.pdf)

And many other resources, guides, videos and more, can be found on our website [www.grdr.org](http://www.grdr.org)

# GRDR

## MIGRATION-CITIZENSHIP-DEVELOPMENT

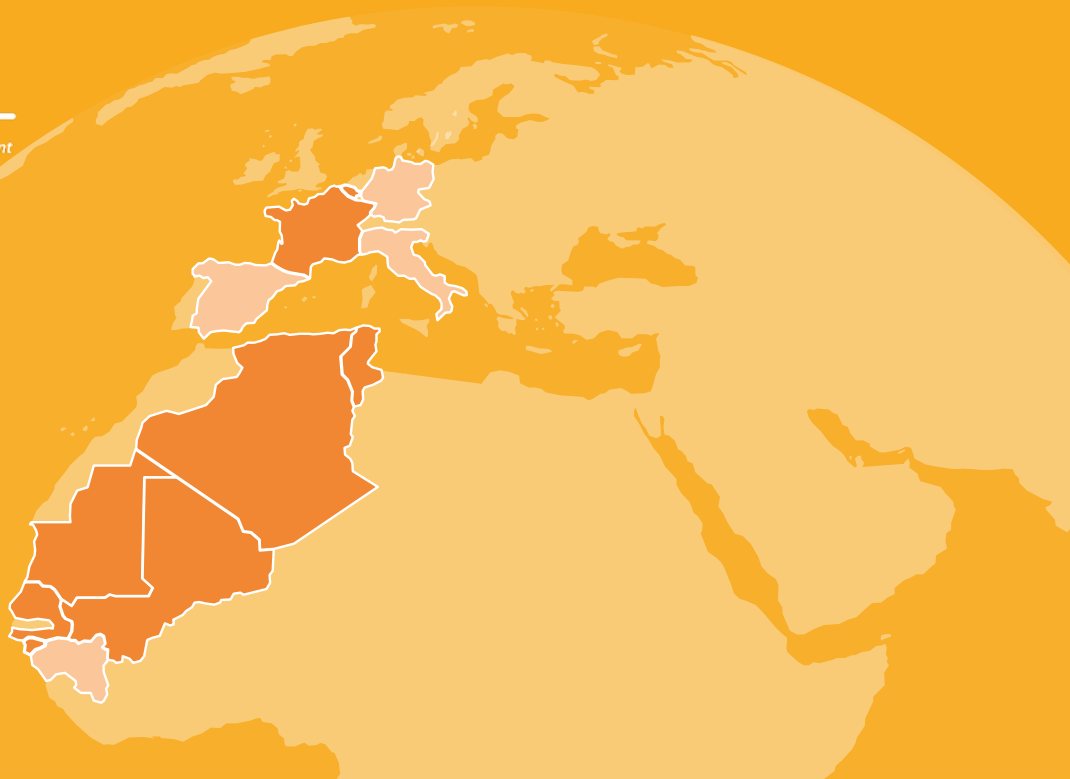
*The public event "Alternative storytelling on migration, journeys and narratives" is organised by Grdr Migration-Citizenship-Development, an international association under French law made of professionals (agronomists, economists, sociologists, geographers, urban planners, social workers, etc.) who put their know-how at the service of populations of the territories in which it operates.*

### ◆ 50 years of history and companionship alongside migrants

Grdr was created in 1969, by agricultural engineers eager to train nationals from the Senegal River basin (on the border between Mali, Mauritania and Senegal) who wanted to discover agricultural development techniques to reproduce them in their native country. Grdr supported them in their structuring into collectives and associations, including within migrant worker hostels. In the 1990s, a farm in Ecoubly made it possible to offer agricultural and mechanical training by reproducing agricultural reproduction conditions close to those of the Senegal River basin. From the 1980s and at the request of migrant associations, Grdr opened units in the Senegal River basin to support them on the spot in carrying out their local development projects. Since the early 2000s and the emergence of decentralisation in West Africa, the Grdr has been working alongside territorial authorities to support territorial planning while taking into account collective and individual projects and those of the diaspora.

### ◆ An association at the heart of dual space

Today, the Grdr works alongside its partners in 8 countries (Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia and France) which allow it to be present throughout the migratory journey. It is part of territorial planning logics that allow it to carry out projects on a whole range of diverse themes (management of natural resources, adaptation to climate change, promotion of sustainable housing, professional integration of women and young people, professional integration and citizenship of immigrants, etc.) according to the priorities of the partner territories. The interdependencies between territories are at the heart of the Grdr's associative project, alongside migrants who weave and mix territories, echoing the objectives of sustainable development.



# since 2010

In France, Grdr supports elderly migrants in order to access to their pension and health rights. In West Africa, Grdr is growingly working in favor of the professional integration of young people. Moreover, the question of the urbanisation of territories and their supply is becoming increasingly central. For the first time, Grdr is carrying out activities in the Maghreb region (Algeria, Tunisia).

## actions

In France, strengthening actions in favor of the economic integration of migrants, access to rights, especially for women.

In Africa, priority is given to collective projects, particularly linked to the development of access to water and agricultural sectors.

## organisation

Implementation of decentralised governance.

Opening of units in :  
Pas-de-Calais (2002),  
Normandy (2004),  
Kaédi in Mauritania (2004),  
from Cacheu in Guinea-Bissau (2009),  
in Ile-de-France (2009).

## context

Millennium Summit and definition of a poverty alleviation strategy for developing countries.

# 2000's

## actions

Development of actions at a regional level (mobilisation of financing, emergence of regional development actors).

Support for the associative movement of migrants, strengthening links between migrants and villages of origin.

Reflection on the development of future action zone programs.

# 90's

## context

Schengen Agreement, the basis of a policy of common European immigration.

In France, new laws generalise identity control and strengthen the entry control.

Ile-de-France and Nord Pas-de-Calais launch a cooperation with Kayes region.

## actions

Development of health-related actions.

Assistance on structuring of local associations of development, on the emergence of associative frameworks and on the on-site development of collective projects.

## organisation

Opening of an agricultural training center in the Ecoubly farm in Seine-et-Marne.

Opening of units: Bakel (1982), Ziguinchor (1988) in Senegal, Sélibabi (1989) in Mauritania and Kayes (1986) in Mali.

# 80's

## context

AIDS crisis.

Development of associations of African nationals.

Development of decentralisation in West Africa: more power to villages and inter-village groups on the issue of development. Kayes region.

## actions

Aid for the reintegration of African workers in their countries, through training in France, and on-site support for their projects.

Construction of support systems in Africa for development projects.

## organisation

Partnership with the Catholic Committee against hunger and for development, the Federal center for asylum seekers, the Foundation of France, the International Company of Rural Development of Bakel (Senegal).

First cooperation with the Malian and Mauritanian authorities.

# 70's

## context

Financial crisis in France and closure of borders to foreign workers.

Food crisis in Africa.

Creation of the Economic Community of West African States.

**Creation of the Grdr, on the initiative of a group of agricultural engineers and migrant workers from West Africa.**

# 1969