

# Perspectives for Ukrainian and Brazilian migrants in Portugal in a context of economic crisis

International Metropolis Conference – The New Mobility: Managing Growth, Security and Social Justice, Tampere, 9-13th September, 2013

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# Outline

1. Introduction: research context and aims
2. The recent dynamics of international migration and economic change in Portugal (macro-factors)
3. The role of networks and feedback mechanisms in explaining the recent evolution of migration from the Ukraine to Portugal
4. Empirical findings
5. Concluding remarks

## Research focus

How the **feedback information** (endogenous and contextual; positive or negative) sent home by Brazilian and Ukrainian migrants living in Portugal,

1. **Transform the functioning of migrant networks (support)**
2. **Change the dynamics of migration from the Ukraine to Portugal in a macro context of deep economic crisis in Portugal**

# Research context

**THEMIS** project: **Theorizing the Evolution of European Migration Systems** (a four-year project - 2010–2013, **funded by NORFACE** transnational research programme on Migration in Europe)

**Project objectives** – The project focuses on the conditions that encourage initial moves to become established migration systems. Based on field research, its aim is to bridge the theories on the initiation and continuation of migration, and to integrate the concept of agency in the systems theory approach to migration.

## **Partner Institutions:**

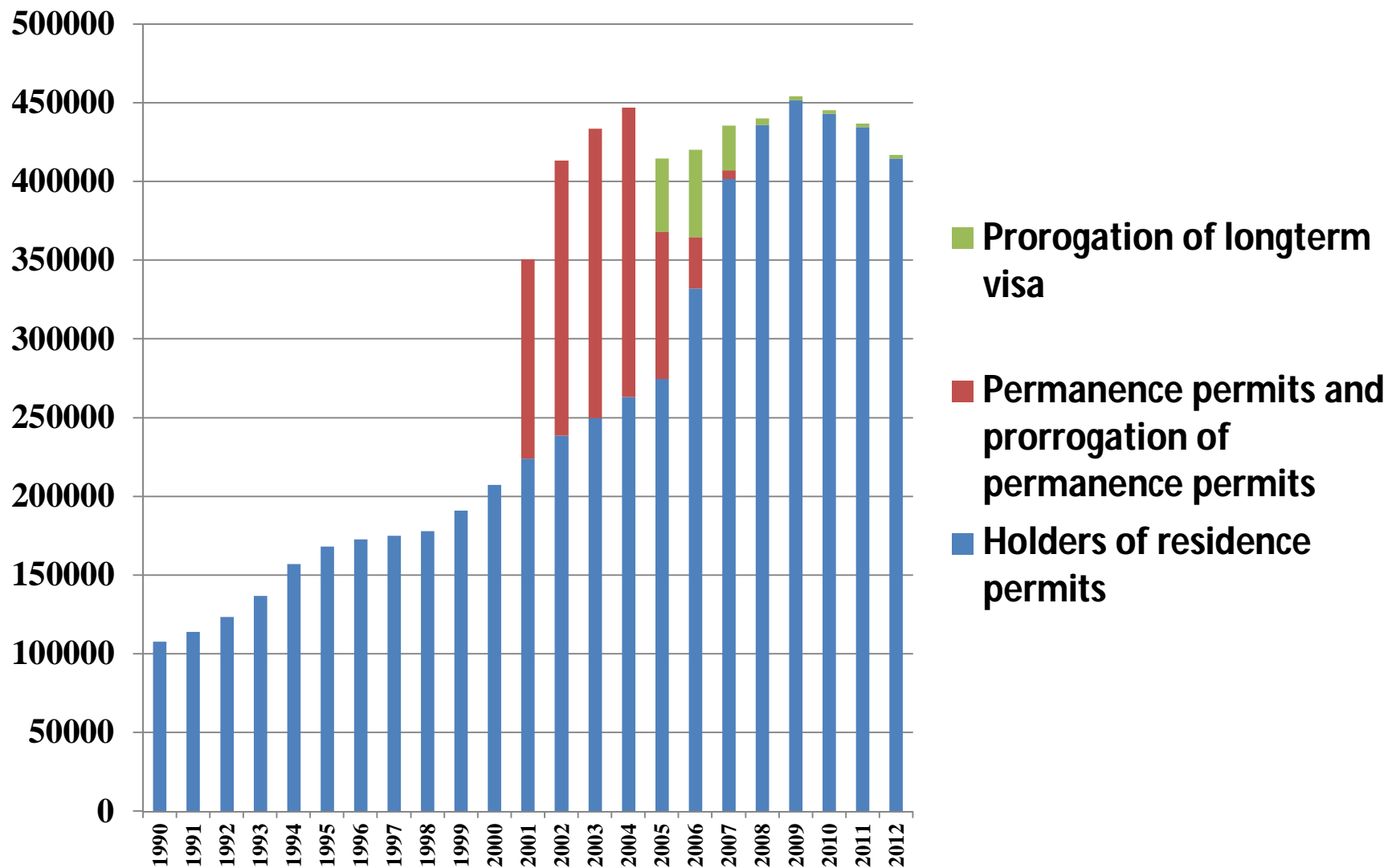
- **Coordinator: IMI, University of Oxford, UK** (Oliver Bakewell)
- **International Peace Research Institute (PRIO), Norway** (Cindy Horst)
- **CEG, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon (CEG/IGOT-UL), Portugal** (Maria Lucinda Fonseca)
- **Department of Sociology, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands** (Godfried Engbersen)

# Data and methodology

- **Analysis of semi-structured interviews** with 31 Ukrainian immigrants and 30 Brazilian immigrants in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area (2011).
- A survey conducted to 306 **Ukrainian** migrants and to 400 **Brazilian** migrants in the **Lisbon Metropolitan Area** (2012)

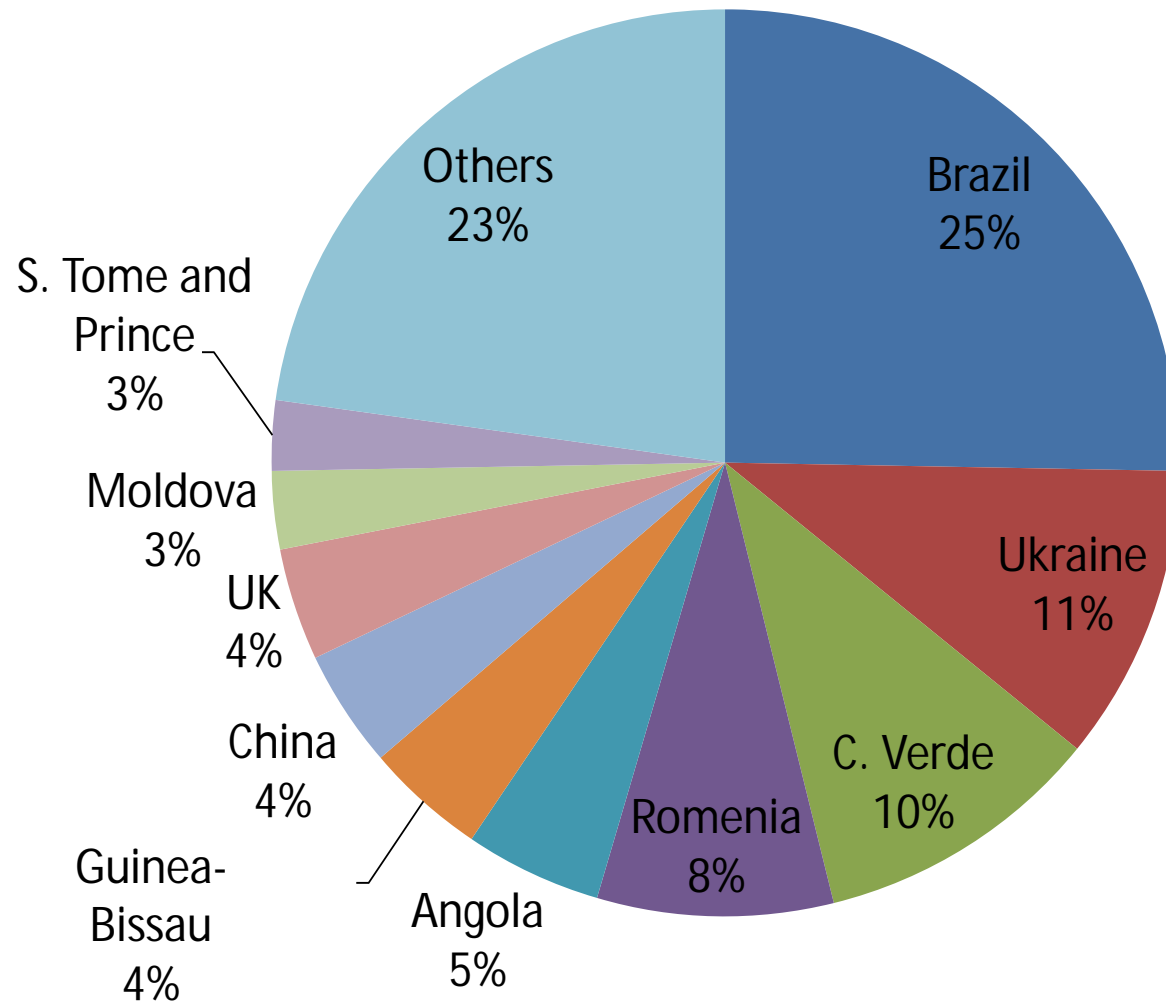
**THE DYNAMICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH IN PORTUGAL BEFORE AND AFTER  
THE CURRENT CRISIS**

# Evolution of the stock of legal foreigners (all categories), settled in Portugal, 1990-2012



Source: SEF – Aliens and Borders Office (Ministry of Internal Affairs).

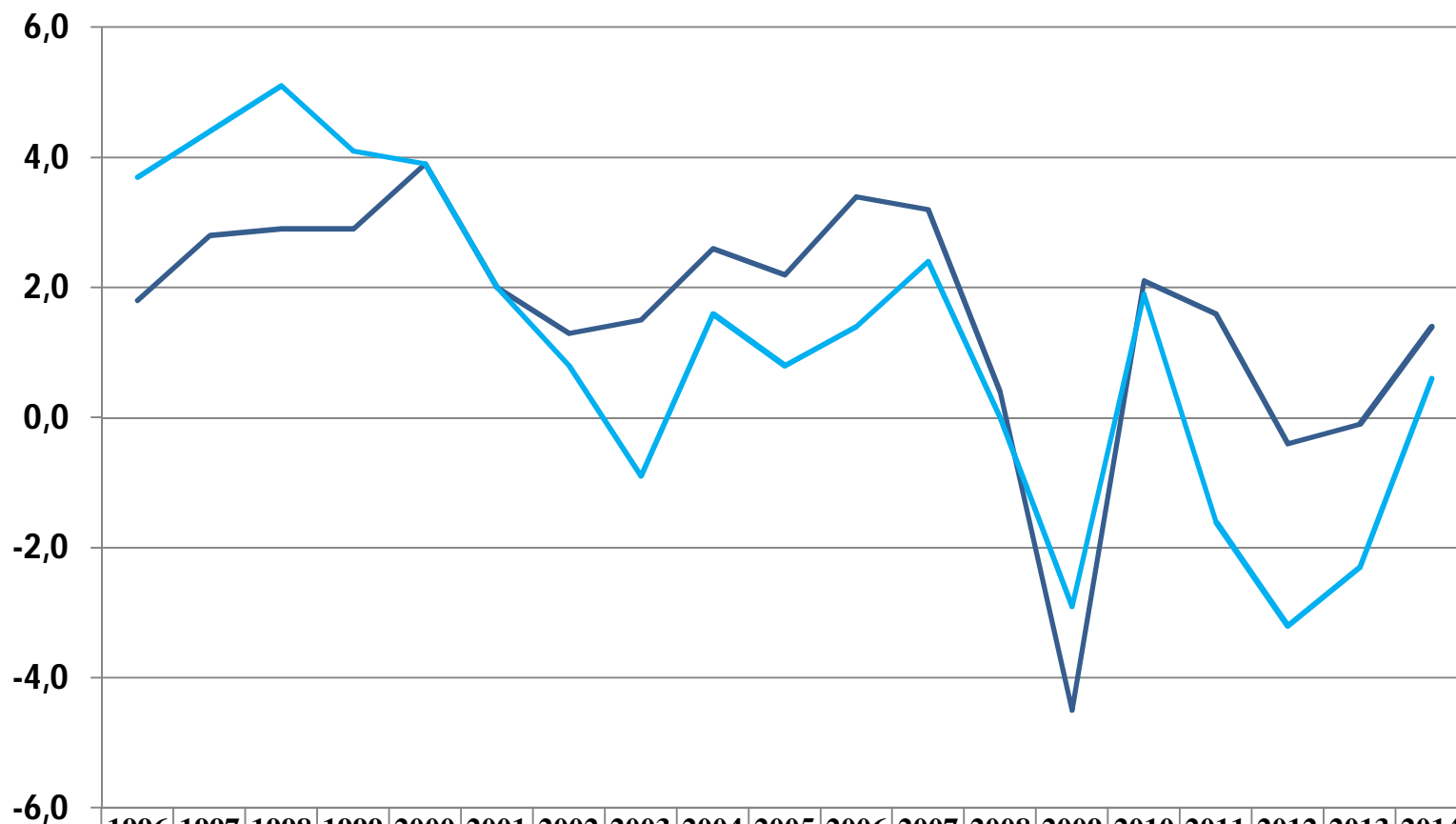
# Documented foreign citizens, residing in Portugal, according to the main nationalities, 2012



Source: SEF



# GDP growth: percentage change on previous period, 1996-2012 (market prices); estimates: 2013-14



European Union (27 countries)	1,8	2,8	2,9	2,9	3,9	2,0	1,3	1,5	2,6	2,2	3,4	3,2	0,4	-4,5	2,1	1,6	-0,4	-0,1	1,4
Portugal	3,7	4,4	5,1	4,1	3,9	2,0	0,8	-0,9	1,6	0,8	1,4	2,4	0,0	-2,9	1,9	-1,6	-3,2	-2,3	0,6

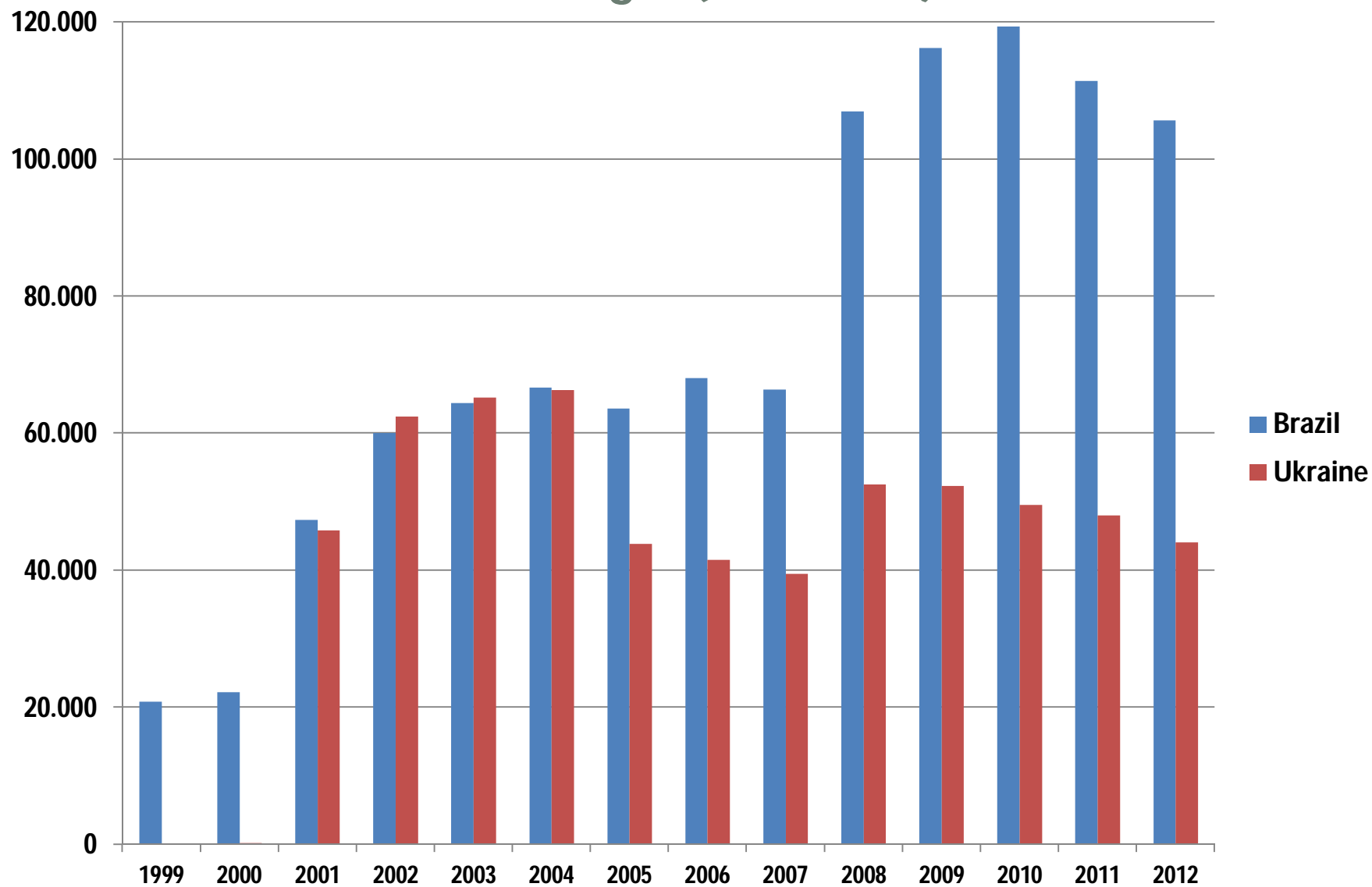
— European Union (27 countries) — Portugal

# Evolution of PORTUGUESE emigration, 2002-2012 (Source: [www.pordata.pt](http://www.pordata.pt); 2013-08-12)

Year	Total	Permanent	Temporary
2000	21333	4692	16641
2001	20589	5762	14827
2002	27358	8813	18545
2003	27008	6687	20321
2004	-	-	-
2005	-	-	-
2006	-	-	-
2007	-	-	-
2008	-	20357	-
2009	-	16899	-
2010	-	23760	-
2011	100978	43998	56980
2012	121418	51958	69460

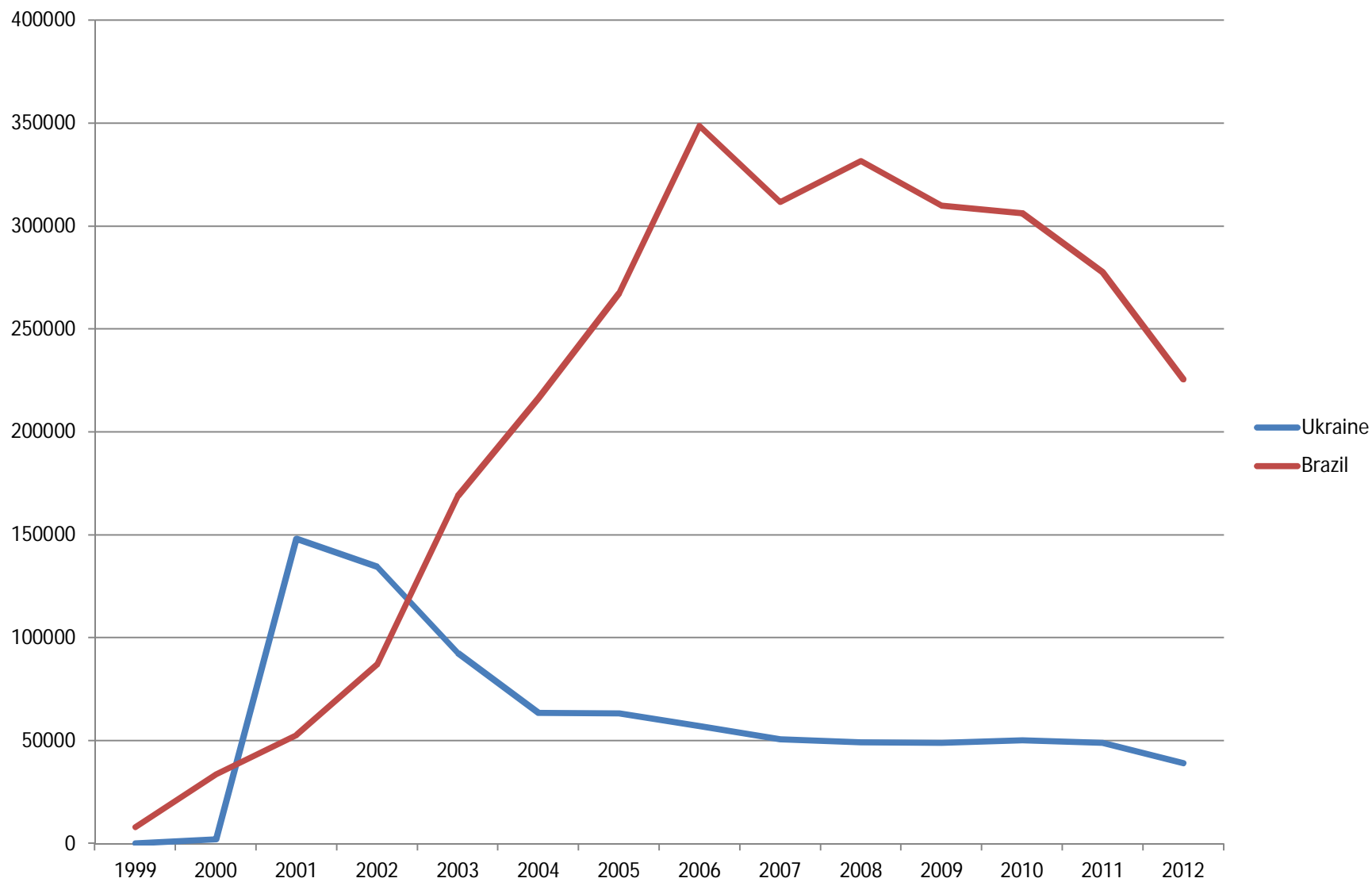
**Data Sources:** INE -  
Migratory exit  
movement survey  
(2000 until 2003)  
and Annual  
Estimates of  
Emigration (from  
2008 onwards)

## Stock of Brazilian and Ukrainian citizens residing in Portugal (1999-2011)



Source: SEF

# Remittances of Ukrainian and Brazilian immigrants, 1999 -2012 (1000 Euro)



Data Sources: BP - Balance of Payments' Statistics; Source: PORDATA

**THE ROLE OF NETWORKS AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS IN EXPLAINING  
THE RECENT EVOLUTION OF MIGRATION FROM THE UKRAINE TO  
PORTUGAL**

# Feedback mechanisms and the role of migrant networks

- ✓ Maintain & intensify **strong ties** with family and friends.
- ✓ To activate relevant **weak ties** that may be helpful for organizing the process of migration and integration (**Providing assistance:** Preparation of migration project ; Route/Journey; Upon Arrival).
- ✓ **Negative feedback mechanisms**; not providing assistance; gate-keeping.

**Massey (1990) - *Cumulative causation*** = increasing migration as a self-reinforcing process (positive feedback mechanisms).

**Engbersen (2011) - *Diminutive causation*** = declining migration as a self-reinforcing process (negative feedback mechanisms).

# **EMPIRICAL FINDINGS**

## Migrant networks - Assistance

Have Brazilians / Ukrainians who wanted to move to Portugal ever asked you for help with things such as documents, travel costs, employment, or housing?

	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
Yes	220	55.0	106	34.6
No	180	45.0	200	65.4
Total	400	100.0	306	100.0

Source: Themis survey



## Migrant networks: asking for respondent's assistance

### Helping obtaining papers, such as a visa or residence permit

	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
Never been asked	66	30.0	43	40.6
Always helped	70	31.8	42	39.6
Never helped	28	12.7	10	9.4
Helped in some cases but not in others	56	25.5	11	10.4
Total	220	100,0	106	100,0

Source: Themis survey

## Perception of the MACRO-CONDITIONS: In Portugal there are good economic opportunities

	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
Agree	159	39.8	127	41.5
Disagree	238	59.5	151	49.3
Don't know	2	0.5	28	9.2
Interviewer errors or question not asked	1	0.3	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	400	100,0	306	100,0

Source: Themis survey

## Perception of the MACRO-CONDITIONS: In Portugal the immigration policies are very strict

	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
Agree	211	52.8	54	17.6
Disagree	183	45.8	234	76.5
Don't know	6	1.5	18	5.9
Total	400	100,0	306	100,0

Source: Themis survey

## Perception of the **MACRO-CONDITIONS** – *negative feedback mechanisms*

- ✓ “Now, it’s not interesting to come to Portugal because our Ukrainians say they don’t have work, it’s difficult to find work. Many Ukrainian men are here in Portugal either without work, or enrolled in the Employment Centre, or they work for one month, then they stop for two weekends. It’s like this.”

**Olga, 54, born and lived in Stryi (near Lviv), arrived in PT in 2000**

- ✓ “Now I don’t know. Lots of people want [to leave the Ukraine]. But we don’t want to call them because we need to find a job and accommodation first, and now it’s very complicated. Now it’s not possible to find documents for them. “

**Symon, 51, born and lived in Probijna (near Ternopil) , arrived in PT in 2001**

## Feedback mechanisms - Have you discouraged people from Brazil / Ukraine to move to Portugal today?

	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
Yes	167	41,8	63	20,6
No	233	58,3	243	79,4
Total	400	100,0	306	100,0

Source: Themis survey

## Feedback mechanisms - In general, would you recommend people from Brazil / Ukraine to move to Portugal today?

	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
Yes	83	20,8	50	16,3
In some cases but not in others	44	11,0	56	18,3
No	272	68,0	194	63,4
Don't know	1	0,3	6	2,0
Total	400	100,0	306	100,0

Source: Themis survey

# Feedback mechanisms - Would you advise people from Brazil / Ukraine to move elsewhere?

	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
Yes	158	39,5	100	32,7
In some cases but not in others	14	3,5	3	1,0
No	228	57,0	180	58,8
Don't know	0	0,0	23	7,5
Total	400	100	306	100,0

Source: Themis survey

# Return and Re-emigration

Do you know any Brazilians / Ukrainians who previously lived in Portugal and left the country?

Left the country	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
Yes	388	97.0	258	84.3
No	12	3.0	48	15.7
Total	400	100.0	306	100.0

Source: Themis survey



# The effects of the crisis on return migration

- ✓ Not so long ago when we walked on the street one could only hear people speaking Portuguese with Brazilian accent. Now, forget it! It nothing like before. And it was all in six months! People started to hear that Brazil is performing better... Those who are returning, get there and say: "Look, it's not worth going! (*Elisa, Brazilian migrant in Portugal*)
- ✓ One of the motives is the crisis ... People don't have jobs, the internal market is very weak and this has been the situation for quite some time. From the professional point of view, I was working but I couldn't grow much more, there wasn't a position that I wanted because I had already been promoted and then I was demoted ... and Brazil, in economic terms, at least in theory, was growing... (*Francisco, Brazilian migrant in Portugal*)
- ✓ [...] I came to the conclusion that [in Portugal] I was going around in circles. We had a normal middle-class life there ... we were living a very quiet life there, we paid our bills... but we weren't able to send money home [Brazil]. It was useless because [at the end of the month] there was no money left. But I wasn't going through a hard time, I lived quite well, very well. (*Andrea, Brazilian migrant in Portugal*)

## Return and RE-EMIGRATION: number of people respondents know that have left Portugal

	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
5 or fewer	86	22.2	124	48.1
Between 6 and 10	70	18.0	65	25.2
More than 10	232	59.8	69	26.7
Total	388	100.0	258	100.0

Source: Themis survey

# Return and RE-EMIGRATION

Where did they go to?

	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
Returned to their home country	379	94.8	252	82.4
Moved to another country	43	10.8	40	13.1

Note: multiple answers were possible

Source: Themis survey

## Return to Ukraine...

“There were many more Ukrainians living here [Portugal] than now. I think that half of them went back to the Ukraine. They worked here for a while, saved some money and returned ...”

“... Some people started to go back to the Ukraine because they were tired of being here [in Portugal] and far away from the family, since 2006...”

“... And now, with this crisis, many more people are returning to the origin country.”

**Anatoliy, 34, born in Ternopil, lived in Vinnytsia, arrived in PT in 2001**

## RE-emigration

- ✓ “And there are others who try to go to other countries, to Spain, to France, where they can obtain the documents and move there. Because a friend of mine has already obtained his documents and has received the authorization. He went back to the Ukraine to reunite with his family, his children are grown up now and they are studying. He then wanted to come back here [to Portugal] but he didn't have the documentation. He's now working in Moscow. He worked in Kiev, in our capital city, but now he's working in Moscow.”

**Vasyl, 42, born in Nikolaev, lived in the Carpathian region, arrived in PT in 1999**

## Return and RE-EMIGRATION

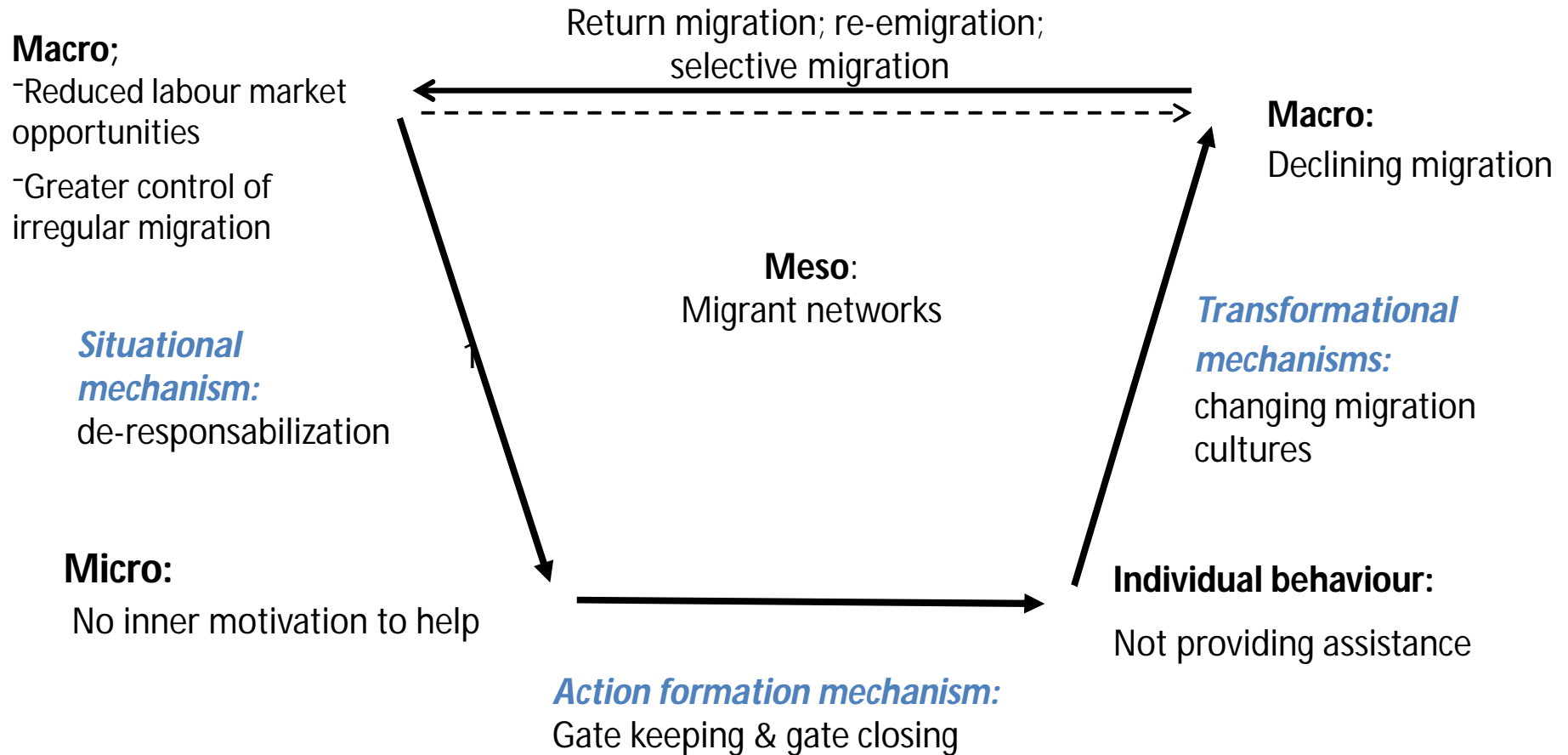
Since you came to Portugal, have you ever gone back to Brazil / Ukraine and lived there for at least 3 months?

	Brazilians		Ukrainians	
	N.	%	N.	%
Yes	53	13.3	62	20.3
No	347	86.8	244	79.7
Total	400	100.0	306	100.0

Note: multiple answers were possible

Source: Themis survey

## Diminutive causation: Declining migration (Engbersen; van Meeteren & Snel, 2012)



# Concluding remarks

- ✓ Strong association between immigration to Portugal and the mutual interactions of economic cycles and the role of migrant networks.
- ✓ Recession decreased inflows and increased out-flows (return and re-emigration)
- ✓ *Late nineties –early 2000´s - Economic growth/Job opportunities; favourable immigration regimes* that facilitate regularization - *active role of migrant networks* (facilitating migration by providing information and *assistance* to family members, friends and fellow country men) – *positive feedback* mechanisms (cumulative causation).



# Concluding remarks

- ✓ **2008 - Recession, lower job opportunities;** more restrictive migration policies - decline in assistance, ***negative feedback*** mechanisms - **diminutive causation.**
  - ✓ Migration decline
  - ✓ Return
  - ✓ Re-emigration
  - ✓ Circular migration

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