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# Migration and settlement in Glasgow: Factors influencing migrant choice

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collaboration with  
Glasgow City  
Council

In order to conduct research for my dissertation I studied the theory behind migration, in particular I looked at how the field has evolved over the last fifty years. I also examined transnational theory which postulates that migration is a complicated process that cannot simply be attributed to economic questions. It emphasises that globalisation, the freedom of movement of people and the advancement of technology are all factors which are important in understanding migration issues. I conducted a literature review which examined specific studies on migration relevant to Central and Eastern Europe as well as the UK and Scotland in order to establish work had already been carried out in this area.

My research involved interviewing six A8 migrants (European Union accession countries in 2004). My participants were from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. My key questions were concerned with establishing what factors lead people to select a particular destination for migration and what leads these people to settle long-term in one place.

My research has showed that people move for a variety of reasons: seeking employment, moving to study or moving with a partner. Importantly, there was never only one motivation for moving and often chance dictated where the migrant ended up actually moving to.

In terms of the factors influencing long-term settlement there were also a variety of possible factors such as the provision of education for children or the possibility of a better job. None of the participants were actively looking for anywhere else to live but all kept the option open of possibility relocating if there was a better opportunity. The key findings of my research have further highlighted how complicated the process of migration is and how more research is needed on the issue in future.

I undertook the collaborative masters' project because I was interested in the research question and in the process of turning an academic dissertation into practical information that could be used by policy makers. I believe that the internship experience will be invaluable in securing employment in the future.