

DMP title

Project Name LABOR-PAS plan (FWO DMP) - DMP title

Grant Title 12A9822N

Principal Investigator / Researcher Cecilia Vergnano

Project Data Contact cecilia.vergnano@kuleuven.be

Description The governance of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic brought to the fore the structural need of global supply chains for the cross-border mobility of low-cost labour. The EU agro-industrial sector, in particular, was among the most hard-hit during the first stage of EU border closures due to its reliance on seasonal, mobile migrant workers. At the same time, the governance of the pandemic has created new borders and frontiers: while unnecessary mobility is forbidden or strongly discouraged, migrants and racialized labourers are overrepresented on the frontline of infection risk, under the banner of "essential workers". This research project addresses the urgent question of the social life of the virus (and the social inequalities that underlie its transmission) by specifically focusing on the consequences that multifarious border regimes have on labour relations in the EU agro-industrial sector. LABOR-PAS comparatively focuses on three significant models of work organization in the Italian and Belgian agro-industrial sector in pre-, ongoing- (and, if possible, post-) pandemic scenarios: the (refugee-based) harvest of tomatoes in Borgo Mezzanone and the (posted-work-based) meat processing in the slaughterhouse of Anderlecht, Bruxelles. LABOR-PAS seeks to answer the following questions: 1) Which is the role of states in producing domestic labour shortages, on the one side, and ensuring the supply of low-cost foreign labour, on the other, in "normal" and "exceptional" (i.e. lockdown) times? (Research Objective 1, corresponding to WP1) and 2) How do workers during the Covid-19 pandemic engage in everyday politics and radical forms of care? How is their perception of infection risk elaborated, in comparison with other risks (such as job loss)? Which values and meaning sustain the discourses and practices of other relevant labour actors (employers, recruiters, labour inspectors)? (Research Objective 2, corresponding to WP2). Desk research (on policy texts, regulations, transcriptions of parliamentary debates, news articles, public statements from companies) will be complemented with ethnographic research. In the two fields, ethnographic research will be carried out among three main target groups: 1) migrant workers, 2) employers, 3) workers union representatives, labour inspectors, recruiters/intermediaries and other relevant stakeholders. Beyond traditional, face-to-face fieldwork, experimental, collaborative and multimodal ethnographies will be developed to overcome the limits related with the specific features of research fields themselves (workplaces, vulnerable workers). In particular, the researcher will engage with representatives of workers unions and migrant workers groups to design and carry out interviews, recruit participants among workers and elicit the production of data by workers themselves (photos, videos, vocal messages, diaries). In each case-study, approximately 15 workers will be engaged in digital data generation and 15 comprehensive interviews will be carried out with workers, employers, recruiters, labours inspectors and trade union representatives (30 workers engaged and 30 interviews in total).

Institution KU Leuven

1. General Information

Name applicant

Cecilia Vergnano

FWO Project Number & Title

FWO project number: 12A9822N

Labour relations and border regimes in a pandemic scenario. A comparative study of migrant labour in the EU agro-industrial sector (LABOR-PAS)

Affiliation

- KU Leuven

2. Data description

Will you generate/collect new data and/or make use of existing data?

- Generate new data

Describe in detail the origin, type and format of the data (per dataset) and its (estimated) volume. This may be easiest in a table (see example) or as a data flow and

per WP or objective of the project. If you reuse existing data, specify the source of these data. Distinguish data types (the kind of content) from data formats (the technical format).

Type of data	Format	Volume	How created
Typed field notes	.txt	4 MB	Daily notes written immediately after the stay in the field
30 interviews	Audio-recorded and stored in uncompressed WAV format; transcribed into MS Word format	2 GB	Interviews with migrant workers, employers, worker unions' representative and other stakeholders
Pictures	.jpg	100 MB	Generated by migrant workers and sent to the PI in a secured, password-protected way
Vocal messages	Audio-recorded and stored in uncompressed WAV format; transcribed into MS Word format	1 GB	Generated by migrant workers and sent to the PI in a secured, password-protected way
Videos	.mp4	5 GB	Generated by migrant workers and sent to the PI in a secured, password-protected way
Diaries	.txt	4 MB	Generated by migrant workers and sent to the PI in a secured, password-protected way
Signed informed consent forms	.pdf	2 MB	Scanned copies of paper, hand-signed documents or pds containing digital signature. Paper documents will be scanned immediately after the signature and deleted straight away.

3. Legal and ethical issues

Will you use personal data? If so, shortly describe the kind of personal data you will use. Add the reference to your file in KU Leuven's Register of Data Processing for Research and Public Service Purposes (PRET application). Be aware that registering the fact that you process personal data is a legal obligation.

- Yes

Privacy Registry Reference: [G-2021-4126](http://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk)

Short description of the kind of personal data that will be used:

- 1) Participants' names and surnames
- 2) Contact details (telephone number or email, or both)

Are there any ethical issues concerning the creation and/or use of the data (e.g.

experiments on humans or animals, dual use)? If so, add the reference to the formal approval by the relevant ethical review committee(s)

- Yes

During its plenary discussion (April 2022), SMEC has decided that my PRET application (reference number **G-2021-4126-R3(MIN)**) meets the standards for academic research.

In the application I declare that all respondents will be pseudonymized in the file names and typed documents (field notes and interview transcriptions). As a precautionary measure, contact information of any respondents, contact persons, meeting points or data on individuals approached during interviews, as well as the correspondence between pseudonyms and real names, will only be kept on a double-encrypted USB device, locked in a drawer in my office at KU Leuven. This means that real names and contact information will be separate from the rest of data.

Concerning interviews, original audio files will be deleted after transcription.

Concerning audiovisual files (audio recordings, pictures, videos), the PI is aware specific legal constraints exist for the use of images and audio recordings; she is aware as well that it is possible that some of the audiovisual data will enable to identify the participant himself/herself or other participants. However, the purpose for the collection of this specific type of data is mere analysis. This means that these data will not be disseminated. As such, they won't be made public nor shared with other parties. They will form part of the data on which qualitative analysis will be based. Files will be encrypted and securely stored on the KU Leuven network storage space.

Research publications may contain strictly pseudonymized parts of the data, in the form of direct or indirect quotes, or descriptions of human interactions in observed situations. Any research output will be systematically and rigorously checked prior to publication to ensure that research participants are not recognisable. Collected data will not be publicly available in any other form apart from such publications, and will not be part of any open data initiatives.

As regards informed consent forms, they will brief participants on data management procedures and will remind them that they are able to contact the researcher and ask their consent to be withdrawn and their data omitted. It will be indicated that such a request could only be handled until the point of submission to external publication. They will be signed by hand on paper and immediately scanned. Only the scanned copy will be stored, while the original copy will be deleted. If possible, they will be signed directly in digital form.

Does your work possibly result in research data with potential for tech transfer and valorisation? Will IP restrictions be claimed for the data you created? If so, for what data and which restrictions will be asserted?

- No

Do existing 3rd party agreements restrict dissemination or exploitation of the data you (re)use? If so, to what data do they relate and what restrictions are in place?

- No

4. Documentation and metadata

What documentation will be provided to enable reuse of the data collected/generated in this project?

For the interviews, details on the setting of the interviews, the informed consent process, the subjects discussed and the instructions given to interviewers will be documented in a Word document.

Transcription of interviews are going to be pseudonymised and corresponding audio recordings will be deleted after transcription.

The correspondence between pseudonyms and real names will be kept on an Excel file that, as stated in my answers to the point 3 (Legal and Ethical Issues), will be stored on an double-encrypted USB device that, in turn, will be locked in a drawer in my KU Leuven office. This means that the correspondence between pseudonyms and real names will be kept separate from the rest of data, to limit negative consequence of an (unlikely) data loss.

For each audiovisual file (audio recordings, pictures, videos), details on the location, the time and the pseudonym of the participant who generated it will be documented in a Word document.

Will a metadata standard be used? If so, describe in detail which standard will be used. If no, state in detail which metadata will be created to make the data easy/easier to find and reuse.

- No

5. Data storage and backup during the FWO project

Where will the data be stored?

Since we will be working with sensitive personal data that will only be anonymised at the end of the project, the data will be stored in the university's secure environment for private data. During the fieldwork it is possible that, in case of lack of internet connection, data will be temporarily stored in my personal computer (encrypted through BitLocker and PIN password authentication). They will be backed-up in my personal hard disk on the KU Leuven network (I: disk) as soon as Internet connection will be available.

How is backup of the data provided?

The data will be stored on the university's central servers with automatic daily back-up procedures.

Is there currently sufficient storage & backup capacity during the project? If yes, specify concisely. If no or insufficient storage or backup capacities are available then explain how this will be taken care of.

- Yes

What are the expected costs for data storage and back up during the project? How will these costs be covered?

Since the volume of data is relatively small, no costs are expected. Should expenses for storage of data arise, they will be covered through grant funds.

Data security: how will you ensure that the data are securely stored and not accessed or modified by unauthorized persons?

Since we will be working with sensitive personal data that will only be anonymised at the end of the project, the data will be stored in the university's secure environment for private data.

6. Data preservation after the FWO project

Which data will be retained for the expected 5 year period after the end of the project? In case only a selection of the data can/will be preserved, clearly state the reasons for this (legal or contractual restrictions, physical preservation issues, ...).

The only reason for which I will deviate from the principle of preservation of data will be the withdrawal of research respondents from the participation into the research and their request to delete all related personal data, as provided in the informed consent form. I will be responsible for handling this process for 5 years after the end of the research project.

Where will the data be archived (= stored for the longer term)?

For 5 years after the end of the research, data will be stored on the Microsoft OneDrive data cloud of the KU Leuven, which is a very secure cloud-based data storage space.

What are the expected costs for data preservation during the retention period of 5 years? How will the costs be covered?

There are no expected costs due to the relatively small volume of data.

7. Data sharing and reuse

Are there any factors restricting or preventing the sharing of (some of) the data (e.g. as defined in an agreement with a 3rd party, legal restrictions)?

- Yes. Specify:

Informed consent forms signed by research participants will explicitly state that data will only be available to the PI, no third party will be able to access data in which participants are recognisable.

Which data will be made available after the end of the project?

Research publications may contain strictly anonymized parts of the data, in the form of direct or indirect quotes, descriptions of human interactions in observed situations, or descriptions of the audio/video/written contents generated by participants themselves. Participants will be aware of this through the information provided in the consent form. Collected data will not be publicly available in any other form apart such publications, and will not be part of any open data initiatives.

Where/how will the data be made available for reuse?

Data will not be available for reuse, according to the specific conditions of the informed consent signed by research participants.

When will the data be made available?

- Upon publication of the research results

Who will be able to access the data and under what conditions?

My promotor prof. Karel Arnaut will be the only person allowed to access data, for the sole legal reason that he will be the responsible person for their preservation after the end of my fellowship at KU Leuven (see point 8, Responsibilities).

What are the expected costs for data sharing? How will the costs be covered?

Since data will not be shared, no costs are expected

8. Responsibilities

Who will be responsible for data documentation & metadata?

The PI is responsible for data documentation.

Who will be responsible for data storage & back up during the project?

The PI will be responsible for data storage & back up during the project

Who will be responsible for ensuring data preservation and reuse ?

My promoteur prof. Karel Arnaut will be responsible for ensuring data preservation.

Who bears the end responsibility for updating & implementing this DMP?

The PI bears the end responsibility of updating & implementing this DMP.