

Beyond the numbers

**Socio-cultural backgrounds and expectations of the new
Sardinian (e)migrants in the time of the crisis**

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The research questions

- *What is the socio-cultural background of the new migrants?*
 - *Why Sardinians decide to leave the island?*
 - *Are these permanent settlements or rather temporary moves?*
 - *At what conditions the migrants get to settle down in a foreign country?*
 - *At what conditions they would come back to Sardinia?*
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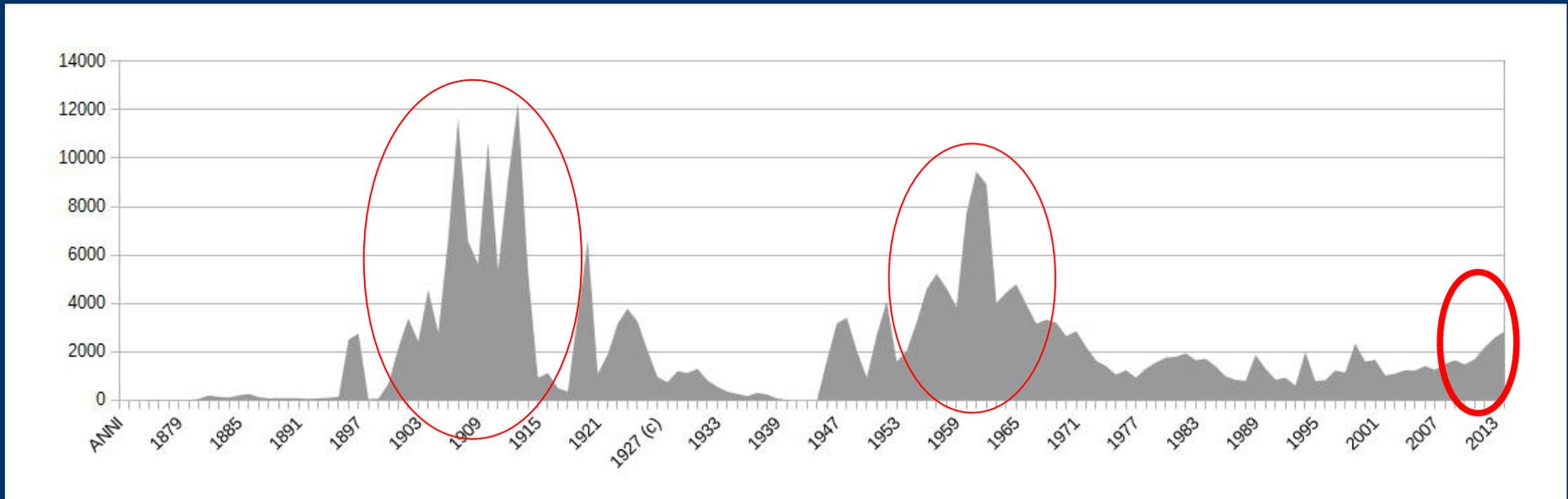
Overview

- An introduction to Sardinian emigration flows.
- The ongoing crisis and the rising of the “new emigration”.
- The results of the first 154 questionnaires completed [identified after an initial selection of the questionnaires received]



About Sardinian emigration

(flows and characteristics)



New trends in migration



- Fall in the number of foreigners (from 5,945 in 2010 to 4,361 in 2013).

- Increase in resident 'cancellations' (from 1,485 in 2010 to 2,593 in 2013).

“The Exodus. Yesterday the backs, today the brains”
 in *Il Messaggero sardo*, September-October 2011.

- Young people who left the island between 2010 and 2011 numbered approximately 6,600, were aged between 18 and 34 and came mostly from the Sulcis and Nuoro regions.
 - In Sardinia the demand for skilled labour decreases more than the overall labour demand (Unioncamere, 2015).
 - The main destination remained northern Italy (Lombardia).
 - The foreign country that attracts the highest number is Germany (28.6%), followed by France (23.7%) and Belgium (12.4%). Still in Europe, Sardinians move to Switzerland (7,9%), to the Netherlands (6.3%), and to the United Kingdom (6.3%).
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Our research

The survey is available on the CEDISE home page (<http://www.cedise.net/>).

This ongoing project started in June 2015 and it will be open until June 2016. It spread through the “snowball sampling” method.

The questionnaire consists of 50 questions divided in the following sections:

1. Personal details
 2. Education and employment status before departure
 3. Migration experience(s)
 4. Current employment status
 5. Previous studying and working experiences outside Sardinia
 6. Political participation
 7. **Comments and migration experience tale**
 8. Availability for a further interview
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The sample – Who and when

- The age of the people sampled is between 19-62 years-old.
 - The majority of the respondents left Sardinia from 1996 until 2015, the highest rates was registered since 2008.
 - 104 of the respondent are living in foreign countries
 - The majority has a medium-high level of education.
 - From 2002 the number of those who are in possession of a bachelor degree or a postgraduate title increased considerably.
 - The number of women has increased since 2008.
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The sample – Where

50 respondents are in other Italian regions, especially in the center-north Italy, **104** respondents are abroad →

Foreign Countries	%
UK	27,9%
Germany	15,4%
Spain	13,5%
France	6,7%
Ireland	4,8%
Netherland	3,8%
Argentina	3,8%
Australia	3,8%
Brazil	2,9%
Japan	2,9%
Others	14,5%

The sample – Why

	Motivational factors in departure (in order of preference)
1	Learning experience (studies, work experience, volunteer)
2	Work-related reasons (low pay, transfers, layoffs/terminations, etc.)
3	Desire to improve the standard of living
4	Spirit of adventure
5	Sense of frustration (family status, geographical limits, current Italian condition)
6	The wish to reconnect with family and friends already living abroad

“I left Sardinia when I was 22 during the University summer break. I was going to stay away for six weeks, to practise my English and go back to University in October. Within 1 week I found a job [...]. This city allowed me to achieve a lifestyle suitable to my needs and expectations” [F, 40, London].

Stay or go back to Sardinia (?)

49.4% of the respondent wishes to settle where is living nowadays, 25.3% plans to move to another Country, 20.8% plans to return to Sardinia

“I want absolutely stay where I am now. 1) Here I feel accomplished, I found a job in line with my studies, which is something impossible to achieve in Sardinia or in Italy. 2) Sardinians living in Sardinia are close minded, which penalizes them politically, socially and economically”

[M, 37, Barcelona]

“Even though I carry Sardinia in my heart, it doesn't assure me a decent life. Germany is providing me with support, social integration, hospitality and most of all, the opportunity for professional growth”

[F., 29, Berlin]

Employment status before and after departure

Employment status in Sardinia (154 respondents)	
Student	33,1%
Unemployed (Without work, seeking job)	34,4%
Employed	26%
Retired	1,3%
Other ?	5,2%
Current employment status (140 respondents)	
Student	4,5%
Unemployed (Without work, seeking job)	9,1%
Employed	69,5%
Retired	0,65%
Other	5,8%

Come back to Sardinia

“I prefer to live in Sardinia despite the sacrifices I’ll have to make” [F, 42, Aix-en-Provence].

“It’s unthinkable to spend a whole life in a foreign country, even if it’s beautiful, I will always feel like a stranger.” [M, -, Amsterdam].

“I didn’t think about long-term plans. From a sentimental point of view, I would like to go back to Cagliari but I doubt I would find a job suitable for my professional, economic and social needs” [F, 48, Melbourne].

“There is a world outside Sardinia that is very interesting, beautiful, big and that should be discovered. Living on an island means we need to cross the sea each time we want travel. However, just you cross the sea to leave the island, suddenly, you wish to go back by the same way. Something that make Sardinian migrants angries is that, often, migration is a constraint not a choice. This is not good. Therefore sometimes migration is so painful, because it is not possible to come back home whenever you want.” [M, 35, Milan].

Final remark

“And even though this need is not necessarily caused by a purely economic force, but may also be more or less tinted and integrated by other motivations and the contexts in which they develop, there is a general condition of backwardness and insufficiency behind the departures when conditions inhibit the satisfaction of needs and, when all is said and done, do not allow migrants to reach their goals in their places of origin”

(Rudas, 1974, p. 71)



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