

#Smartmigration

If you are thinking about migrating, take time to think about it carefully. Here are some questions to help you.

Who: Who is impacted by your decision? Just you? You and your family? Who could help you think about options?

What: What is motivating you to migrate or not migrate? What are you hoping the future will look like? What resources (like time, money, health, legal papers, etc.) do you have or would you need to migrate? What are the pros and cons of migrating and not migrating? Think through both the good and the bad.

When: When did you first start considering migration? When do you have to decide about migrating? By when would you need to apply for a visa or other documents?

Where: Where do you want to go? Do you know the place? The language? The culture?

Why: Why do you want to migrate? Be sure to have a very clear reason. Is this the best thing for all people involved? Are there other options at home that could also lead to a good life?

Regular and Irregular Migration

When someone who is migrating has all of the legally required paperwork, a valid visa, and a passport in hand before leaving, they are migrating regularly.

Irregular migration - also often called backdoor migration - applies when one or more of these things happens:

Irregular Entry: A person enters a country using false documents or without crossing at an official border point.

Irregular Residency: A person overstays their visa or residence permit time limit, thereby violating the laws concerning their right to be in the country.

Irregular Employment: A person works, despite not having the legal right to employment in the host country (although the person might have the right to residency).

Getting a Visa

To migrate regularly, you will need a visa, regardless of whether you are going abroad to work, study, or join family.

What is a visa? A visa is an official document that allows you to legally enter a foreign country. Visas are issued by the official embassy of the country you want to migrate to. You have to apply for the visa at the other country's embassy located in your country. Embassies are usually located in the capital city.

There are different types of visas that give you different rights of what you are allowed to do in the host country, such as live there, work there, or study there.

Here is the important thing: for most countries - and ALL European countries - the visa must be applied for and received BEFORE you leave home.



Identifying Disinformation Traps

Here is some help in identifying traps online:

What "facts" does it list? Why do you think someone is posting this information? Think about their motivation and search for more information about the facts - that might be lies - online.

Look closely at all images and see if you notice anything that seems wrong with the photo or obviously staged (someone standing in front of a luxury house or car is a good sign they are trying to trick you).

Are they offering something that seems too extreme: too good to be true, too much money to be earned, too easy to get to Europe? Those are red flags.

Truth & Lies

Which of these statements do you think are true and which are false?

Truth or Lie? You can work on a cruise ship, earn good money, and be dropped off in Europe.

Answer: Lie!
The truth: These jobs are fake. You always need a visa to enter the EU.

Truth or Lie? Once you arrive in Europe, even irregularly, you can send for your family, who can then enter the country without problems.

Answer: Lie!
The truth: If you migrate irregularly, your family will not have any rights to enter the new country.

Truth or Lie? The journey through Libya is easy and will only take one week.

Answer: Lie!
The Truth: The journey through Libya is dangerous, can take years, and many people die along the route.

Truth or Lie? Smugglers and human traffickers use social media to post dangerous migration offers.

Answer: Truth
Smugglers and human traffickers use social media to trick people out of money and endanger their lives.

Migration Warning Signs

If you see these things being offered, be careful! They are traps and not true.

- > Offering to take you to Europe for a fixed sum of money.
- > Promises of work that will pay you a lot of money.
- > Promises of arranging to get you a visa.
- > Scholarships that do not ask for your academic qualifications.
- > Travel agency offers that change based on what fee you can pay.
- > Anything that sounds too good to be true.

Human Trafficking & Social Media

Warning! Human traffickers and smugglers provide false information about migration in order to make money for themselves. They do not care about the people they are smuggling. Working with traffickers and smugglers is very dangerous. Traffickers and smugglers often target young people. They advertise their business in schools, religious centers, and neighborhoods.

Things to know:

- > Human traffickers are criminal groups and are very dangerous.
- > They lie about promising to escort migrants during the journey, having connections along the route, and being able to get fake travel documents.
- > They share fake photos and videos that pretend to show migrants happily living in Europe. These are not real.

Women in Migration

Almost half of all international migrants are women. As migrants, they face greater challenges, including discrimination, sexual violence, a greater risk of being trafficked, and limited access to healthcare.

Women and girls choose to migrate for reasons such as:

- > To earn more money
- > To further their education
- > To avoid early and/or forced marriages
- > To get away from female genital mutilation

Relatives and friends also push migration and promise women and girls good employment abroad. But these are often traps. So beware of all offers of employment abroad.

If you are thinking of migrating, talk to the embassy of the host country and other credible sources about your migration options. Choosing the regular path is always a much safer option than the irregular path, for everyone.

***920*45#**
Ghana

#MMN Resources

#MMN_USSD: The Migrant Media Network uses the USSD system to provide accurate information about migration. The system is free of charge, works on regular phones without internet, and is well known throughout the country.

For more information about #smartmigration, dial *1228# in the Gambia or 920*45# in Ghana.

#MMNApp: The #MMNapp works offline and allows users to access migration-related content and accurate information without the need to be connected to the internet (after installing it). The app can be downloaded free of charge and works on all android phones. It can be downloaded from the Google Play store.

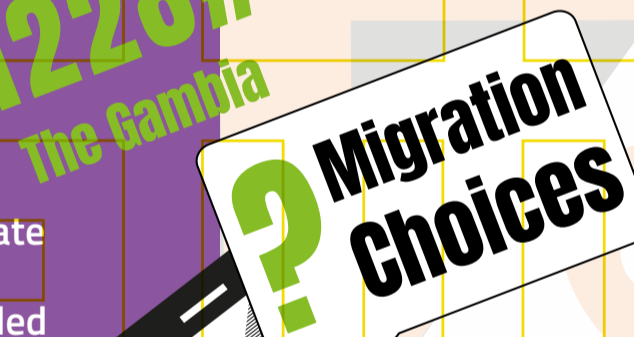
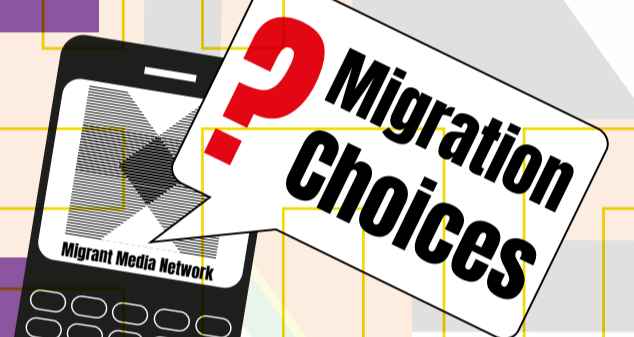
#MMN Podcasts: #MMN produced podcasts that discuss migration-related information. You can find links to these here:



podcast The Gambia



podcast Ghana



MIGRANT MEDIA NETWORK
<https://migrantmedia.network/>

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