**Experiences of Social Security and Prospects for Long Term Settlement in Scotland amongst Migrants from Central Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Union.**

**ESRC PROJECT - ES/J007374/1**

**Data Storage Guide**

This studyprovides longitudinal qualitative research into perspectives and experiences of ‘social security’ amongst East European migrants and the ways in which these impact upon longer term settlement across a range of locations in Scotland.Theproject uncovers and documents the lived realities and experiences of migrants – something which has been highlighted in policy reports, and by service providers, as a significant gap in existing understandings of migrant settlement and a barrier to effective improvements in policy and practice.

Specific methods of data collection and analysis were used to facilitate the study, and a multi-faceted approach to understanding migrant experiences of social security and prospects for longer term settlement in Scotland was employed. Integral to the methodological design were methods which engaged not just the migrants themselves, but also policy-makers and practitioners, so to draw out practical insight, facilitate dialogue and develop policy and practical responses. These methods included:

* expert interviews with policy-makers, service providers, employers, representatives of NGOs and other key figures
* in-depth interviews with migrants, following up with photo/video diaries from a subset of migrant interviewees,
* Participatory Action Research (PAR), including a number of community initiatives working together with local people and relevant stakeholders to address key which emerged from the research (difficulties in accessing support for language learning, loneliness and isolation, lack of community spaces especially in smaller and more rural settings).

**Field sites and data deposit**

The field research relevant to the project’s data deposit took place over a period of 3 years, and consists of interview transcripts from interviews carried out with both migrant (n207) and expert (n59) participants.

For data storage purposes, migrant participants are organised by their location, i.e. whether they were living and working in a **Rural** (n144) or **Urban** (n63) setting. The expert participants are grouped together as one, however their location (rural or urban) can be ascertained in the deposit data list. The interview transcripts for which we have obtained permission to archive have themselves been arranged into 3 zip folders along these categories, i.e. migrant (rural), migrant (urban) and expert.

The data list spreadsheet in each zip folder provides users with additional demographic data on all participants.