

RESEARCH PAPER 6 ONLINE SURVEY

# Egyptians in Europe

Prepared by **Prof. Liam Kennedy**



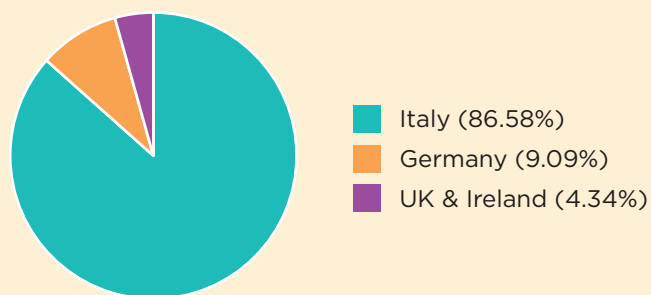
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October 2020

To supplement the research conducted to prepare Research Paper 6 (RP6) an online survey was created to obtain fresh knowledge about the opportunities and challenges facing Egyptians seeking employment in Europe and on the expatriate experience more broadly.<sup>1</sup> The survey focused on Egyptian emigrants between the ages of 18 to 40 years old living in Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and Ireland. It was carried out via Facebook from January to June 2020 and received 781 responses.

It is important to note that the survey responses were generated via social media and not via Egyptian organisations and service providers – only 3.72% of those surveyed are members of an Egyptian organisation or network. In this regard, the survey represents original primary information about the demographics and perspectives of Egyptian emigres in Europe. As detailed in RP6, the Egyptian emigrant community in Europe is not a homogenous entity and is segmented and fragmented in ways that can challenge state/diaspora engagements as well as tools of academic analysis. The challenge is significant for empirical research, as the researchers discovered in setting out to source and engage subjects who are dispersed socially, geographically and virtually, with few communal or connective elements. The use of an online survey underscores the importance of social media to Egyptian emigrants' communications and maintenance of community.

#### Country of residence



There is some regional skewing with the majority of respondents (86.58%) based in Italy, though we take this to simply reflect the demographics of Egyptian populations in Europe.

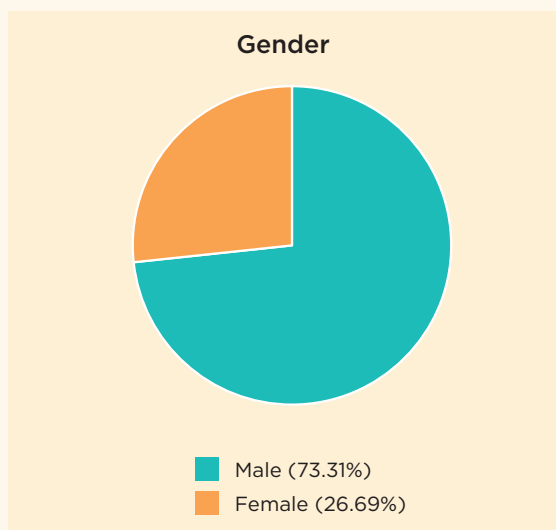
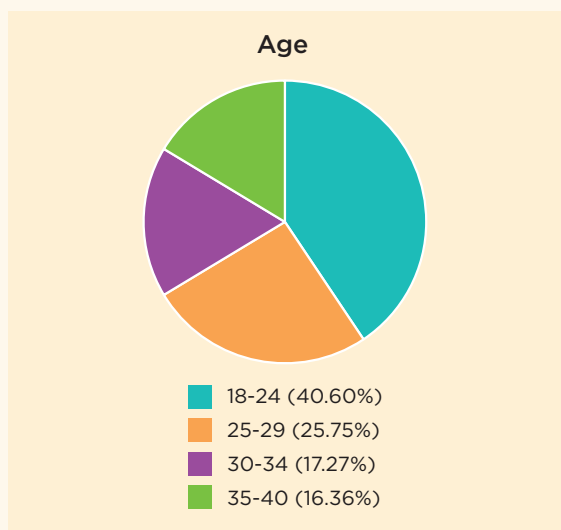
1. The survey was begun due to the challenges of interviewing Egyptian migrants in significant numbers, especially as the Covid-19 pandemic restricted fieldwork.

## METHODOLOGY

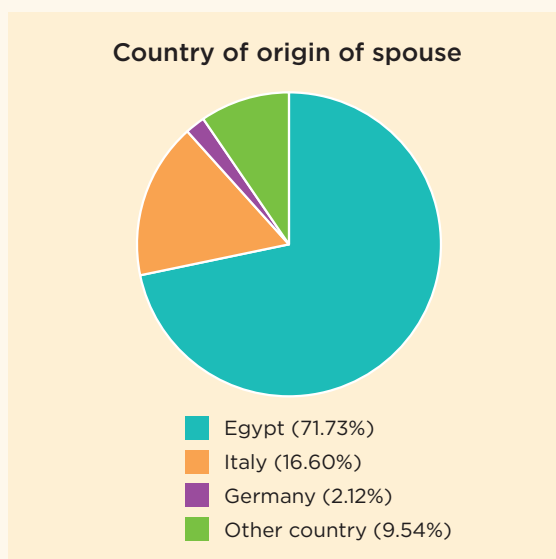
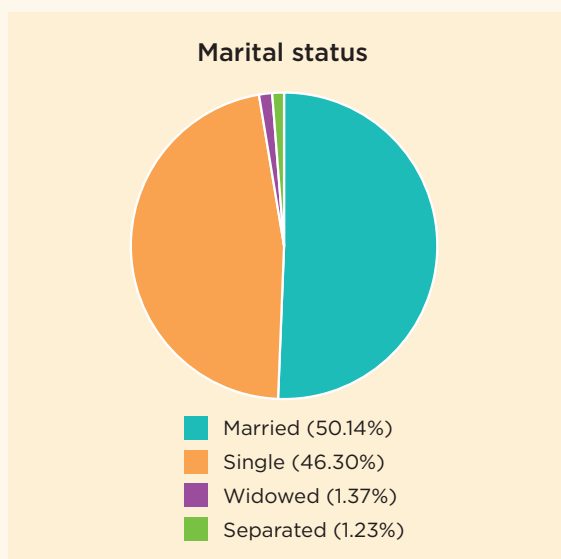
We designed and distributed an online survey via Qualtrics of 28 questions designed to capture information on demographics, organisations and networks, views on Egypt and sense of identity. In order to target 18-40 year old Egyptian emigrants through social media, the research team created an educational Facebook page titled “Egyptians in Europe Survey.” Through this page, posts were made to gain the interest of Egyptian emigrants with a link to our survey. The specific demographic of respondents that we chose to engage were people aged between 18 and 40, live in Italy, Germany, the UK or Ireland. Engagements from using boosts on the Facebook posts resulted in an increase of several hundred respondents to the survey. The survey received 781 responses in total. It has been analysed using statistical software once data collection was completed in June 2020.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

All respondents were between 18 and 40, as stipulated by the survey criteria, of which over 40% were aged between 18-24. Almost three quarters were male.

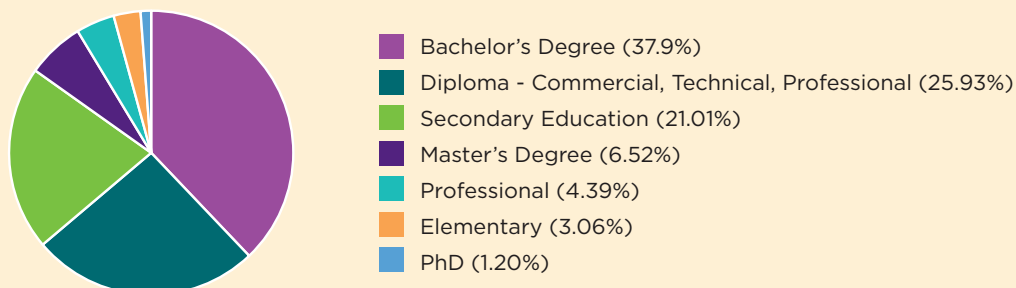


Half were married and over 70% of spouses are from Egypt.



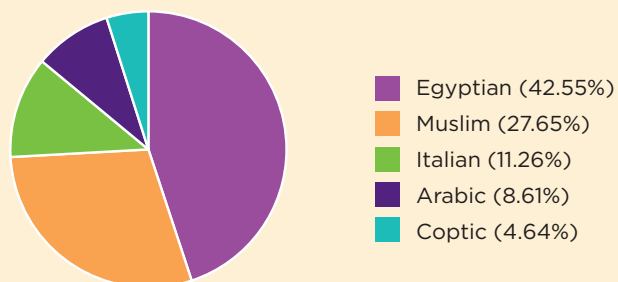
Asked, what is the highest level of education, over a third indicated they hold a first degree.

#### Highest level of education



As noted in RP6, Egyptians in Europe often have primary identifiers other than national origin, including religion, the nationality of the country of residence, and Arabic.

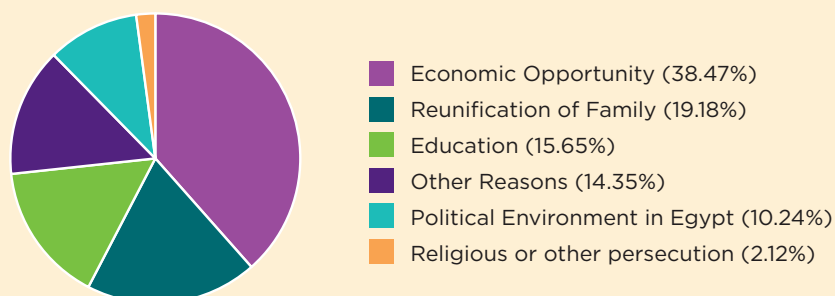
#### How do you primarily identify?



### MIGRATION

The survey sought responses on the emigrants' reasons for migrating to Europe, with economic opportunity clearly the most significant pull factor, nearly 40%, followed by family reunification, almost 20%. The push factor with the highest percentage, just over 10%, was the political environment in Egypt.

#### Reasons for emigration to Europe



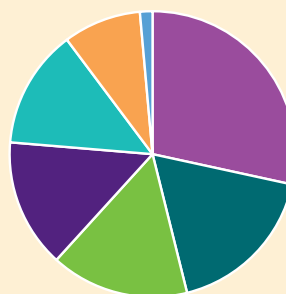
Asked about those who helped during the migration process, over 60% were close family or other relatives, reflecting the importance of familial ties in migrant networking. The emigrants received several forms of assistance, with help with obtaining a resident visa or permit the most common, over 28%.

**Sources of help during the migration process**



- Close family (48.83%)
- Other (26.21%)
- Friends (12.55%)
- Relatives (12.41%)

**Forms of assistance**

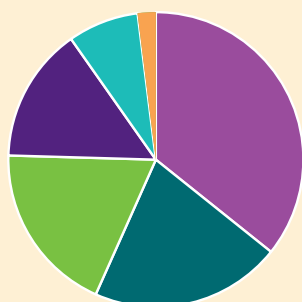


- Obtaining Residence Visa/Permit (28.41%)
- Food and Accommodation (17.71%)
- Travel Costs (15.63%)
- Job Search (14.58%)
- Other (13.45%)
- Search for Housing (8.81%)
- Loans (1.42%)

## EMPLOYMENT

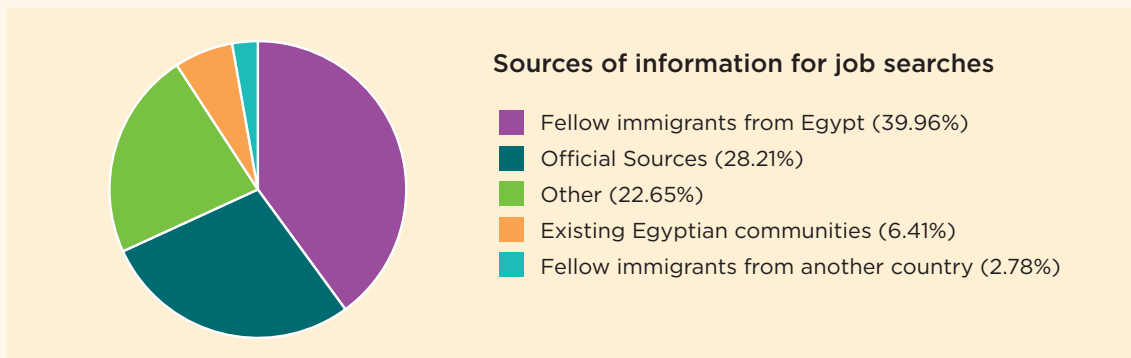
Over 50% of the survey respondents were employed or self-employed, just over 20% were students.

**Employment status**



- Employed (35.68%)
- Student (20.90%)
- Self-Employed (18.74%)
- Housewife (14.77%)
- Out of work (7.75%)
- Unable to work (1.98%)

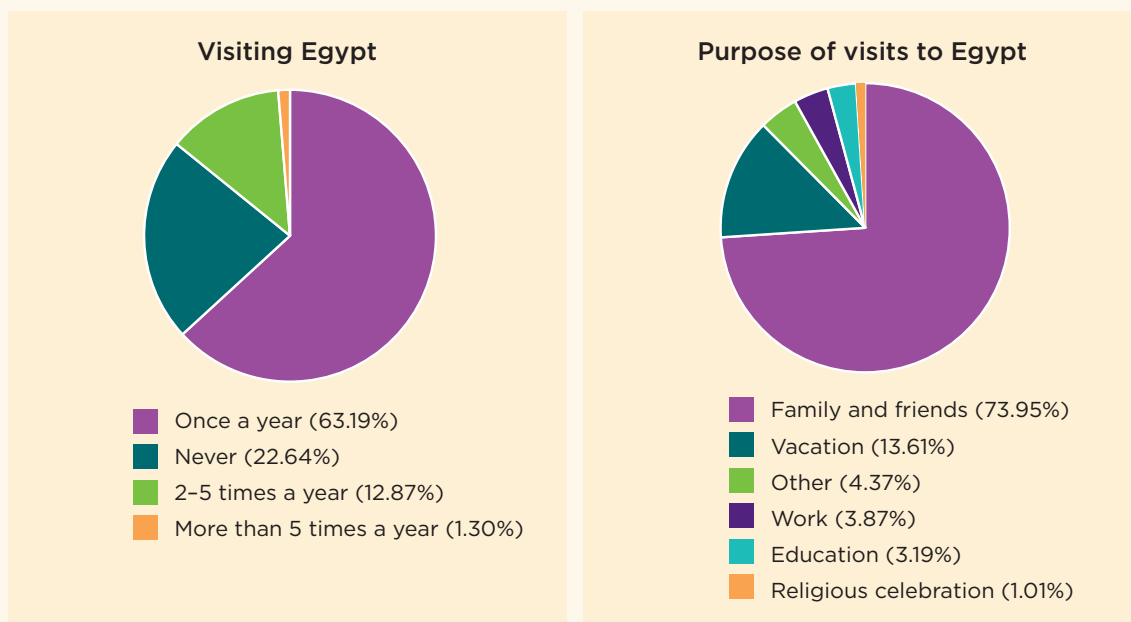
Fellow Egyptian migrants are an important source of job information, almost 40%, reflecting the significant role of bonding social capital in co-national networks.



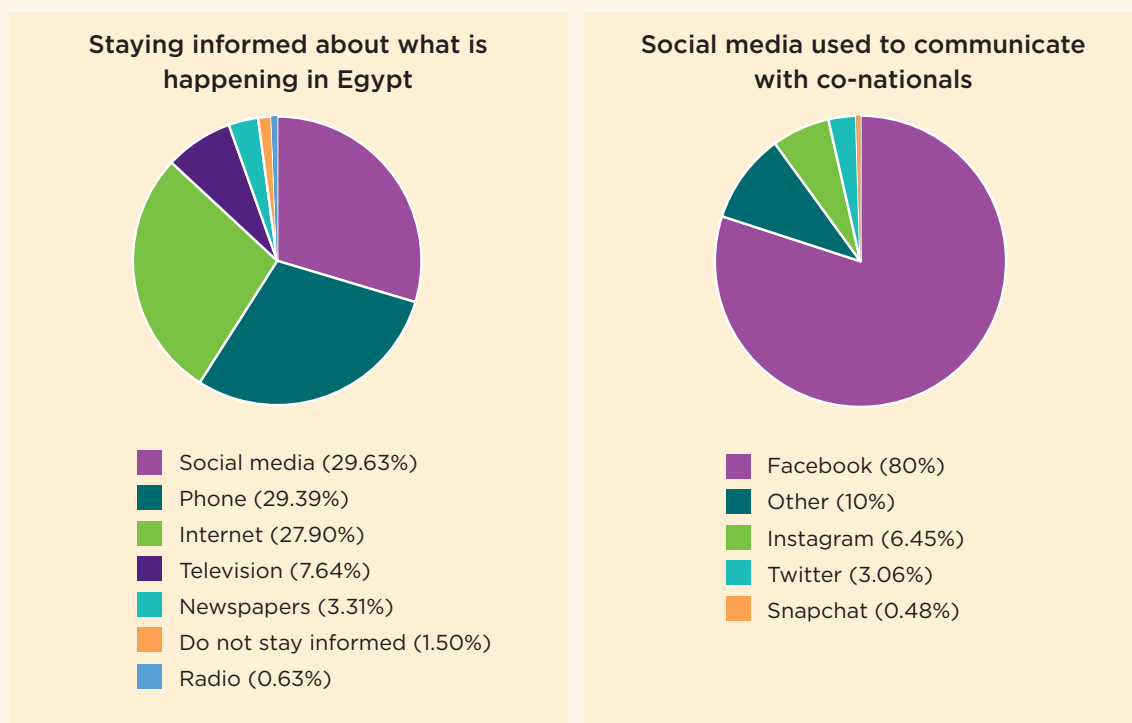
### ENGAGEMENT WITH EGYPT

The survey contained several questions focused on emigrants' interactions with Egypt, via travel, media and investment.

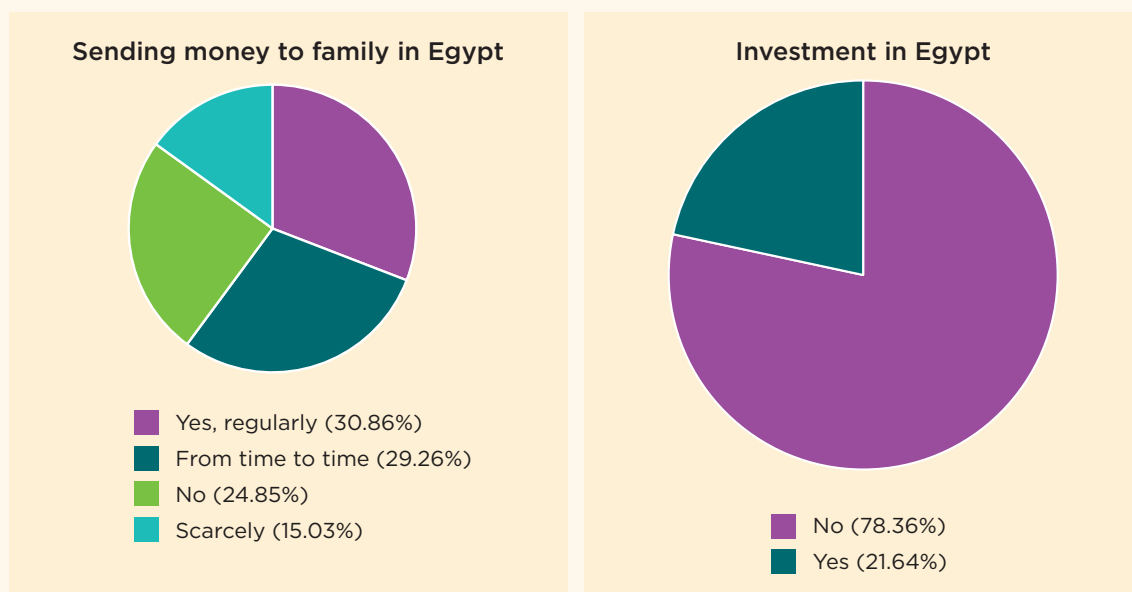
Over three quarters visit Egypt at least once a year, with meeting family and friends being the main purpose of visits.



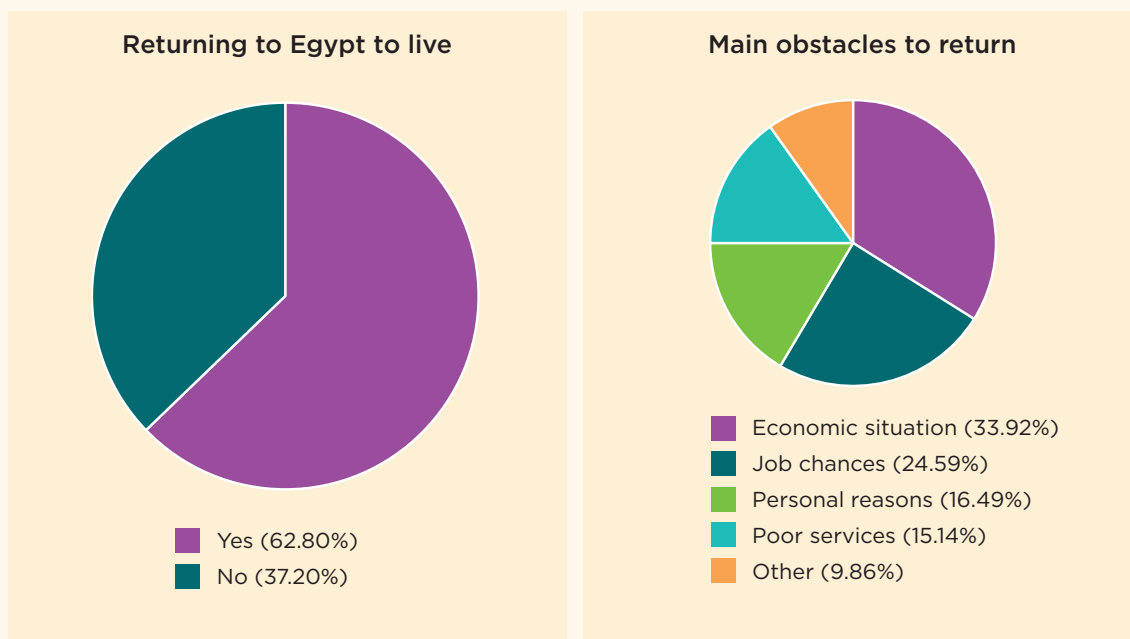
The vast majority of emigrants stay informed about Egypt, doing so through several media formats. For social media communications with co-nationals, Facebook is by far the most popular platform.



Asked about sending remittances to Egypt, 60% of survey respondents stated they do so, with just over 30% doing so regularly. The numbers investing in Egypt are smaller yet significant, with over 21% doing so.

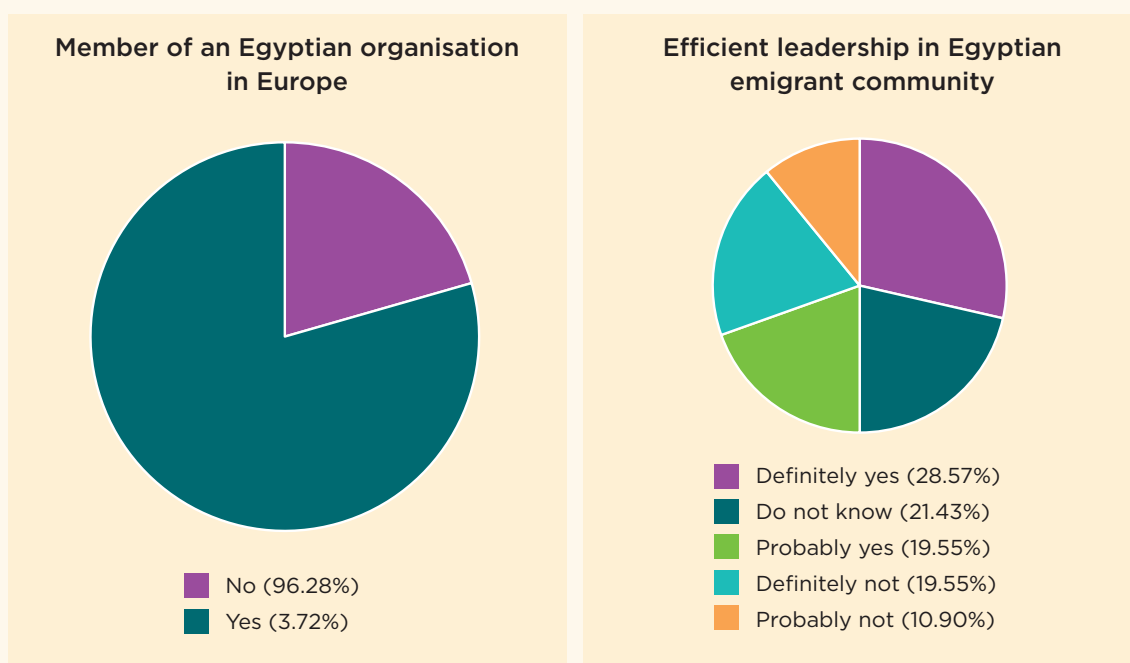


Almost two thirds of the emigrant respondents to the survey signified they would return to Egypt to live. The main obstacles to return are economic, with over 58% citing poor economic conditions and job opportunities in Egypt.



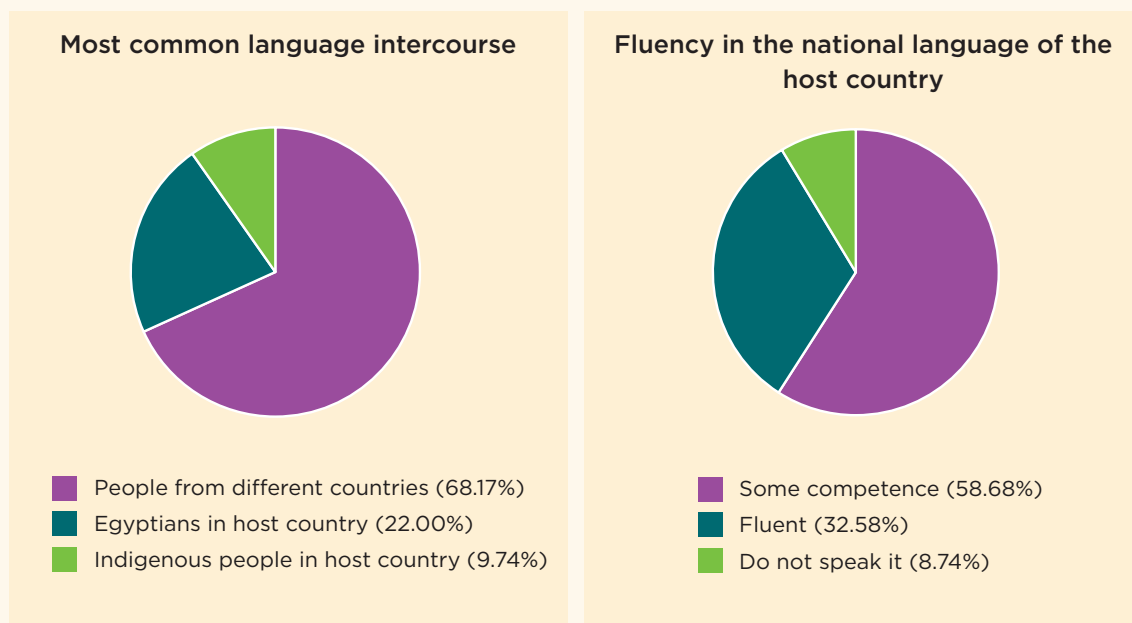
### EGYPTIANS IN EUROPE

As remarked upon in the Research Report, Egyptian emigrants by and large have no interest in established Egyptian organisations in Europe. Their views on community leadership and representation are mixed, with just under 50% perceiving it as efficient.



While rates of language intercourse and fluency suggest integrative engagement with host communities, there is evidence of disengagement, with 22% conversing mostly with fellow Egyptians and almost 9% not speaking the host language.





The closing question of the survey asked “What advice do you give Egyptians looking for work in Europe?” This was not posed in a statistical form but as an open question inviting statements. Here is a sampling of the statements:

*Do a lot of research and ask a lot of people if they know any places so you can go and leave your CV.*

*Get a good education – be flexible but choose your battles.  
Make yourself employable. Work on your education and skills. It does pay off.*

*Work hard on your CV before coming. Keep to your goal and do not deviate due to the negatives of Western society.*

*Be regular in your work, do nothing contrary and follow the laws.*

*I advise him to learn and master a craft well, and from now on he must learn the language of the country he wants to migrate to at a high level.*

*Europe is not a paradise or an ideal place to live.*

*Master the language of the country you want to go to and master the craft.*

*Master the language of the country in which you will reside.*

*If you have work, do not go.*

*Look and do not despair, as there are many job opportunities in the country.*

*Stay away from the forbidden, drugs and bad employers.*

*Build your future in Egypt better*

*Learn and integrate quickly, forget Egypt, forget social and cultural customs and traditions, but do not forget about religion, Muslim or Christian.*

*Fluency in the language, mastery of a specific craft, simplicity of speaking and accommodating all human beings and opinions.*

*Master the language and obtain an Italian license.*

*Fluency in the language of the country is essential to facilitate obtaining a job.*

*Sincerity at work and love for the work you do.*

*Diligence and honesty.*

*Investing in Egypt is much better than working outside the country, and success in your country is better than abroad.*

*Commitment to work, dates and work efficiency.*

*Serious research and education of host country laws.*

*Coping in Egypt with the poor economic situation and few jobs may be better than Europe.*

*Obtain all papers including the Italian license and obtain work experience courses.*

*To whoever wants to travel to any European country first, you must master the language of the country you intend to travel to. Try not to put all your trust in a friend because he will often mislead you. Try to ask a lot. Do not ask one person, but ask more.*

*To learn the language well so that they can learn about the culture and integrate into the new society.*

*I advise them to mix with the people of the country and stay away from Arab foreigners.*

*First, you must learn the main language of the country in which you reside for ease of communication.*

*Learning the Italian language is very important and indispensable because it helps in opening job opportunities, does not allow in any way for an employer to take advantage of you and does not give you full wages or try not to appoint you formally to guarantee your rights from taxes and social insurance.*

*Learn craftsmanship and patience for work and racism.*

*Formal or government education and training while learning different languages.*

*They must learn a good specialty before coming to Europe, and if they can learn at least the Italian language and read about the Italian culture.*

*Do your best to leave Egypt and reach Europe. Staying in Egypt is a waste of life and age.*

*Do not accept illegal work or accept a lower salary than it deserves. Raise your head, so no one has any favour over you.*

## Author details

**Professor Liam Kennedy** is Director of the Clinton Institute at University College Dublin. He has published widely in fields of American politics and culture, globalisation and Irish-US affairs. He is currently editing the *Routledge Handbook of Diaspora Diplomacy*, to be published in 2021. Professor Kennedy has been responsible for building the capacity and diversifying the activities of UCD Clinton Institute in the fields of diaspora engagement, globalisation and international affairs.





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