Migration and Democratic Diffusion: Comparing the Impact of Migration on Democratic Participation and Processes in Countries of Origin (MIGRADEMO) is a 5 year research project (2018-2023) financed by the European Research Council Consolidator Grant. The project is based in the Department of Political Science, Autonomous University of Barcelona. The Principal Investigator is Eva Østergaard-Nielsen. The project will be carried out by a team of 5 postdoctoral and predoctoral researchers.

Summary
The objective of MIGRADEMO is to unravel the impact of migration on democratic participation and processes in countries of origin. We are interested in how migrants influence democratic participation in their homelands through the remittance of money and ideas about democratic practices and norms from afar or through return. In particular we want to generate comparative both systematic and in-depth knowledge how these processes intersect with broader economic, social and political transformations in countries of origin. Moreover, we want to develop a nuanced conceptualization of what kind of political ideas circulate and are negotiated among migrants, return migrants and non-migrants in countries of origin.

The research is an ambitious long-term comparative research strategy to analyse and theorize the scope and dynamics of processes of democratic diffusion through migration. The research strategy of the project is innovative in combining analysis of democratic diffusion through migration across three levels of democratic participation and processes in countries of origin:

- The electoral and non-electoral political engagement of individual citizens,
- The proliferation, agendas and activities of civil society associations
- The democratic outlook and activities of the political elite

In order to explore processes of democratic diffusion through migration in different contexts, the research design is comparative with the tentative cases of Morocco, Turkey and Hungary/Romania. The research strategy combines quantitative and qualitative research methods and forms of analysis. The project will analyse already existing aggregate data on remittances and political behaviour and, importantly, generate new comprehensive datasets based on, among others, household surveys and in-depth qualitative research among non-migrants and returnees in countries of origin. Together the different research strategies will allow for synergies between the more systematic evaluation of democratic diffusion and the interpretative analysis of how this diffusion is negotiated.

By comparing the content, scope processes of democratic diffusion, we will generate new empirical data which will contribute to our theoretical understanding of the conditions under which migration can influence democratization and democratic practices relevant to the broader fields of democracy studies, migration and citizenship. Both the empirical and theoretical contributions are relevant to researchers, policy makers and activists concerned with the broader implications of international migration and processes of democratization in migrant countries of origin.