

Information for participants and declaration of consent to participate in the study:

Social cohesion and subjective well-being: An exploration of their dynamic interplay amongst migrants in Vienna and Budapest (WELLCOH)

Dear participant,

We would like to invite you to participate in the study *“Social cohesion and subjective well-being: An exploration of their dynamic interplay amongst migrants in Vienna and Budapest” (WELLCOH)*.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to participate without having to give a reason, or also withdraw your agreement to participate once the study has already started. There will be no negative consequences for you if you refuse to participate or if you withdraw from this study early.

This kind of study is necessary to gain new, reliable *academic* research results. However, your written consent to participate in the study is an indispensable prerequisite for us to conduct this study. Please take time to read the following information carefully, and do not hesitate to ask questions.

Please only sign the declaration of consent

- if you have fully understood the type and procedure of the study,
- if you are willing to give your consent to participate, and
- if you are aware of your rights as a participant in this study.

1. What is the purpose of this study?

WELLCOH is a sociological research project which receives funding from the European Union's 9th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (Horizon Europe) under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. The project is implemented by The Challenge of Urban Futures Research Platform at the University of Vienna (Project Nr.: 101066352, Website: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101066352>).

This project aims to understand what influences how happy and satisfied foreign-born residents feel with their lives, and how connected or excluded they feel from society in Vienna and Budapest. It looks at things like trust, social tensions, personal relationships, and feelings of belonging. The goal is to better understand how these issues are linked and to compare how they play out in the two cities.

The research uses a mix of different methods, such as reviewing existing studies and data, as well as collecting new information through focus groups, interviews, roundtable talks, and surveys with people living in Vienna and Budapest. The results will help improve current theories and support the creation of smarter, evidence-based policies in both countries.

We invite you to participate in a narrative interview!

2. What is the procedure of the study?

WELLCOH investigates the material and non-material drivers of subjective well-being amongst foreign-born people in Vienna and Budapest, with special emphasis on their social relationships. The purpose of quantitative survey is to gain an in-depth understanding of social cohesion in the two cities. By analysing patterns, the study aims to inform local policy strategies that promote social inclusion and improve overall well-being.

- Total number of participants: 1.
- Duration of the interview: ca. 20-30 minutes.
- Place of the interview: in Austria online (CAWI) or by phone (CATI), in Hungary online (CAWI) or personal (CAPI). In this case a quiet place with no distracting background noise would be optimal. This helps concentration on the part of both the interviewer and the interviewee. We want also ensure that you could share your opinions freely without fear of being overheard.

Procedure of the study in bullet points:

1. Preparation:

- Compiling the questionnaire (WELLCOH team)
- Contacting people and schedule a mutually convenient time for the interview (in case of CATI or CAPI) or send the link to the online questionnaire (Triconsult GmbH, Szocio-Gráf Kft)
- Providing the “Information for participants” and the “Privacy notice” sheets with the participants’ rights and all relevant data protection measures (Triconsult GmbH, Szocio-Gráf Kft)

2. Completing the questionnaire:

- The declaration of consent will be part of the questionnaire, and respondents will be able to read or listen to it before completing the questionnaire. By giving verbal consent or clicking the “Yes” button, they accept it.
- Using a quantitative questionnaire format with pre-defined questions.
- Choosing the option “I don’t know” and “I don’t want to answer” will be always possible.
- Respondents may pause or discontinue completing the questionnaire, and they have the option to resume it later. If needed (e.g., if a question is unclear), they can contact Triconsult GmbH in Austria, Szocio-Gráf Kft in Hungary, or the WELLCOH team using the provided contact information.

3. Post-interview follow-up:

- Providing the opportunity for participants to share additional thoughts post-interview.
- Providing the opportunity for participants to get information about further project development, e.g. inform them about subsequent publications and events where the research findings are shared with experts and the broader audience.

3. What are the benefits of participating in the study?

Participation in the quantitative survey may offer benefits for the interviewees as well. By sharing your experiences, you can contribute directly to research findings that may inform future policies on migration and integration. You have the opportunity to highlight some challenges of the city related to social cohesion and well-being, ensuring this perspective is represented in the study. Furthermore, you can access the study's results, gaining evidence-based insights into the social cohesion – subjective well-being nexus.

4. What are the possible risks of taking part this study? Could participants experience any discomfort or other side effects?

In the WELLCOH project participants' autonomy, dignity, and rights are respected in every interview stage so that the research does not cause any distress, anxiety, discomfort, undue pressure or even harm to participants.

5. Does participating in the study have any other effects on participants' lifestyle? What are the obligations resulting from participating?

It is very unlikely that the study has any effects on your lifestyle. There are no obligations associated with participation in the interview.

6. What should participants do if they experience symptoms of complaints, unwanted side effects and/or injuries?

It is very unlikely that you experience injuries or unwanted side effects. Nevertheless, in case of encounter any problems, we kindly ask you to get in touch with:

- Project leader: Univ.-Prof. Yuri Kazepov
E-mail: yuri.kazepov@univie.ac.at
Phone: +43-1-4277-49270
- MSCA fellow, data processor: Dr. Ádám Németh
Email: adam.nemeth@univie.ac.at
Phone: +43-1-4277-29305

Participants can complain to the Data Protection Office of the University of Vienna as well if they think their data has been processed in a way that violates applicable data protection laws.

Contact persons: Dr. Daniel Stanonik, LL.M. and Dr. Karsten Kinast, LL.M.
Address: Datenschutzbeauftragter der Universität Wien, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien
E-mail: verarbeitungsverzeichnis@univie.ac.at

7. In what cases is it necessary that participants withdraw from the study early?

Your participation is voluntary. You have the right to discontinue your participation without giving any reason for withdrawing. Interview participants can opt out of future messages that the project partners can send on related activities.

8. How will the data collected in this study be used?

- Data collection and analysis

Regarding data collection, the project uses a hybrid approach. The questionnaire can be completed online (in both cities), by phone in Vienna, or in person in Budapest. The interviewers work with electronic devices, such as tablets, so your responses will be automatically digitized once the questionnaire is finalized.

This is a table where each row represents a respondent (500 rows in Austria and 200 rows in Hungary). Based on this final spreadsheet the accumulated knowledge will be analysed using "traditional" quantitative sociological methods in a later stage of the project. Quantitative data analysis software like SPSS or R facilitates the processing, analysis, and visualization of large datasets. These tools help researchers identify patterns, test hypotheses, and generate statistical

reports efficiently. They are essential for making data-driven decisions and ensuring the reliability and validity of research findings.

- Data protection

The collection and processing of personal data will be implemented according to European and national regulations. Personal data is processed on the following basis: performing a task carried out in the public interest (by Article 6.1. of the General Data Protection Regulation, i.e. GDPR) is necessary.

No audio or video recording will be made during the interview. We will not record your personal data. However, during the communication, our research partners – Triconsult GmbH, Szocio-Gráf Kft – may get to know your contact, e.g. email address or phone number. These contact data or any other personal information will not be included in the spreadsheet in any way.

Your answers marked on the questionnaire will be automatically saved into a spreadsheet in a completely anonymous manner. In the final dataset each respondent will receive a generated ID code. It will not be possible to identify the respondents afterward, as the personal data cannot be linked to the spreadsheet. Therefore, in project deliverables the participants will never be – because they cannot be – mentioned by name. You will not be identifiable in any way based on the table.

The contact details will be stored securely by the above-mentioned institutions for six months, in full compliance with all relevant legal regulations. After six months, the contact data will be deleted, and only the anonymized dataset will be retained. After the project has ended, this dataset has to be stored for 10 years. Data will be deleted in September 2037. Finally, experts of the chosen repository, the Austrian Social Science Data Archive (AUSSDA) will also undertake data checks. AUSSDA archives only anonymised data. This requirement is based on the EU Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Austrian Data Protection Act.

- Ethical principles:

For the MSCA application procedure we already set the ethical principles of WELLCOH. After the 6th month of the project we elaborated the Data Management Plan (deliverable D.6.1), a living document, which has been following the Horizon 2020 guidelines, suggested by the European Commission. Chapter 5 of the DMP describes the security issues, including physical security and data security, while Chapter 6 provides more information about the ethical issues. The European Commission accepted the Data Management Plan.

The primary data collection methods, including the interviews, focus groups, roundtable discussions and the surveys, were under review by the Ethics Committee of the University of Vienna. The Ethics Committee has declared that it has no objections to the research project. For more information, please contact the project coordination: adam.nemeth@univie.ac.at, yuri.kazepov@univie.ac.at.

9. Will there be any costs for the participants? Will they receive reimbursement or remuneration?

The participants will not receive reimbursement or remuneration.

10. Possibility to discuss further questions

For your questions, we remain at your disposal. Please get in touch with us.

Researcher, study coordinator	Name: Dr. Ádám Németh E-mail: adam.nemeth@univie.ac.at Phone: +43-1-4277-29305
Principal investigator	Name: Univ.-Prof. Yuri Kazepov E-mail: yuri.kazepov@univie.ac.at Phone: +43-1-4277-49270
Coordinator	Name: Lisa Kilgus E-mail: lisa.kilgus@univie.ac.at Phone: +43-1-4277-29308
Data protection	Name: Dr. Daniel Stanonik, LL.M. und Dr. Karsten Kinast, LL.M. E-Mail: verarbeitungsverzeichnis@univie.ac.at

11. Declaration of consent

Colleagues from Triconsult GmbH / Szocio-Gráf Kft have provided me with clear and detailed information about the objectives, significance, and scope of the study, as well as about the responsibilities involved in my participation. If I had questions, the study coordinator has answered all of that clearly and satisfactorily. I had the opportunity to get familiar with the “Privacy notice” and the “Information for participants” sheets, including Section 4 (concerning potential risks, discomforts, or side effects). I had sufficient time to consider whether I would like to take part in the study. At this point, I have no further questions.

I agree to follow the instructions necessary for carrying out the study. However, I understand that my participation is voluntary, and I may withdraw without any negative consequences. If I choose to withdraw, I can do so by contacting Dr. Ádám Németh or Prof. Yuri Kazepov, either verbally or in writing.

At the same time, I consent to my responses being stored electronically in pseudonymised form and later analysed by the WELLCOH team using quantitative research methods. I also agree that my contact details (email address or phone number) may be stored by Triconsult GmbH / Szocio-Gráf Kft for six months, accessible only to them and protected according to current data security standards.

If I later wish to have my data deleted within ten days, I can request this by contacting Dr. Ádám Németh (email: adam.nemeth@univie.ac.at, phone: +43-1-4277-29305) or Prof. Yuri Kazepov (email: yuri.kazepov@univie.ac.at, phone: +43-1-4277-49270), either in writing or by phone, without needing to provide a reason.

I give my consent verbally (in the case of CATI) / by clicking the “YES” button (in the case of CAWI), and I agree to participate in the study by completing the questionnaire.