

The Migration Conference
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The role of place-based factors in the international migration of health workers – experiences from Hungary

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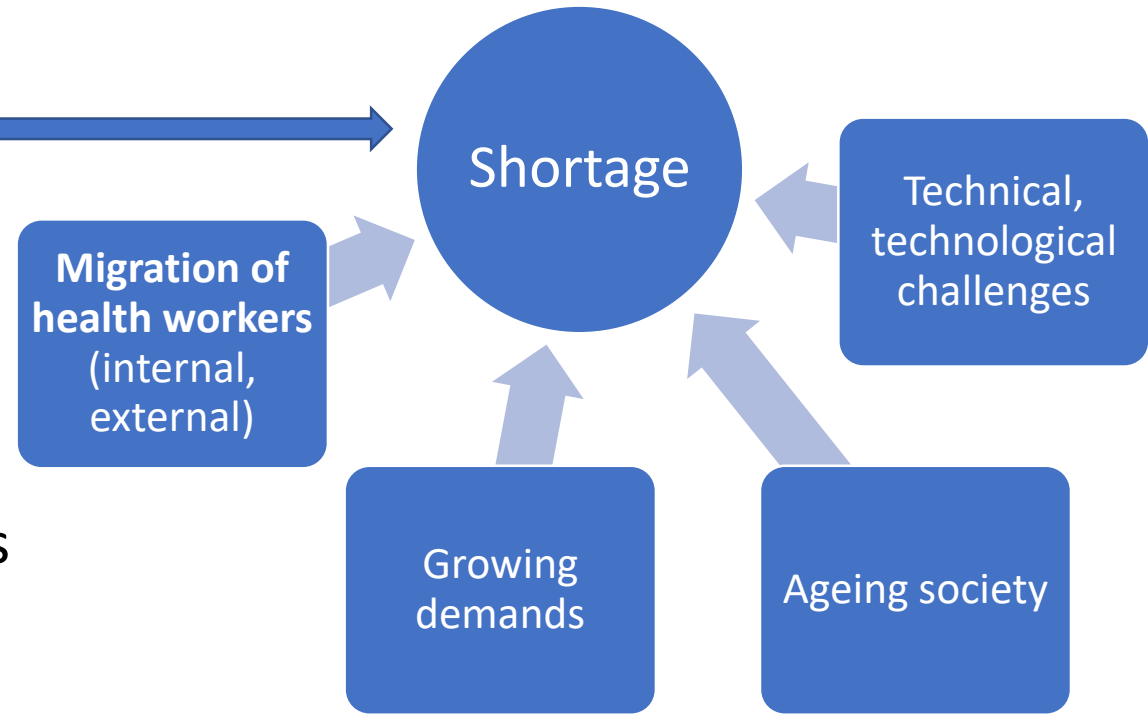
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This presentation is financed by the Hungarian National Research, Development and Innovation Office within the frameworks of research projects “Geographical aspects in the migration of the Hungarian health care professionals” (pr. nr.: K124938) and „The Role of Access to Health Care in Health Inequalities in Hungary” (pr. nr.: K119574).



Problem statement

- Global shortage of health workers
- Causes of shortage: 
- Migration of health workers 
 - Global phenomenon
 - Traditional direction: North – South
 - “New” direction: East – West
 - Main destinations: economic core areas
 - Impact on health inequalities
 - In Hungary:
 - Relatively new phenomenon
 - Both internal and external migration 



Many research so far but limited knowledge on the:

- motivations of migrants
- geographical aspects of migration

Background of the research



Project title	<i>Geographical aspects in the migration of Hungarian health-care professionals</i> (nr.: 124938)	<i>The Role of Access to Health Care in Health Inequalities in Hungary</i> (nr.: 119574)
Financing authority	National Research, Development and Innovation Office, Hungary	
Duration	01.09.2017 – 31.08.2020	01.10.2016 - 30.09.2019
Aim	to analyse reasons, motivations and consequences of migration of Hungarian health care professionals	to analyse the role of access to health care in health inequalities
Focus	spatial aspects, the role of place and geographical factors	spatial aspects, the role of accessibility and availability
Web, more information	eszmob.hu	egeszsegugyihozzaferhetoseg.wordpress.com

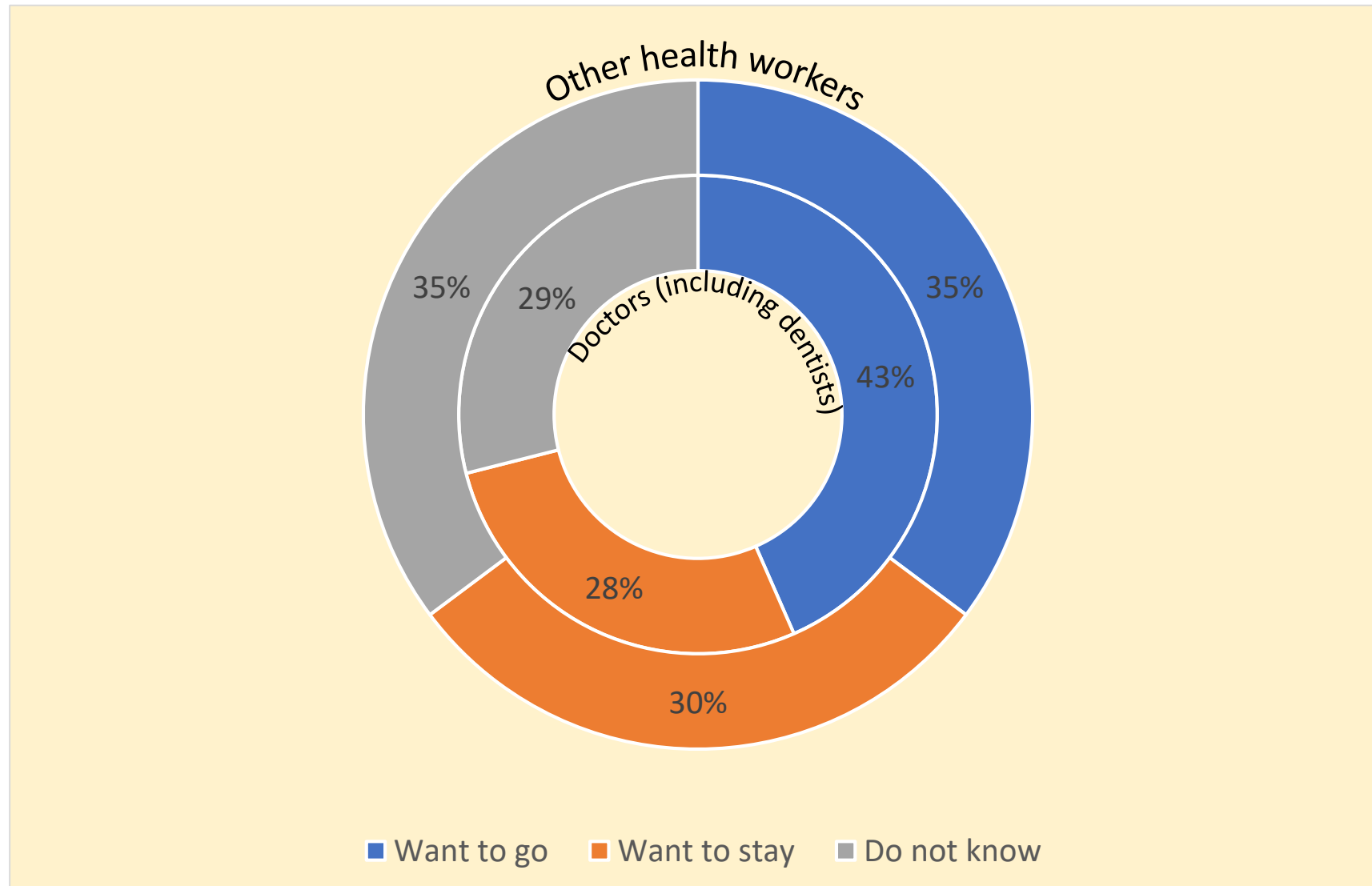


Research questions

- Problem re-statement:
 - shortage of health workers at various spatial scales (e.g. local implications)
 - migration → impacts on workforce supply (inequalities)
- 1) How do geographical factors (especially the characteristics of geographical places) influence the migration decisions of healthcare professionals?
- 2) How can this knowledge about geographical factors be used to support evidence-based policy making?

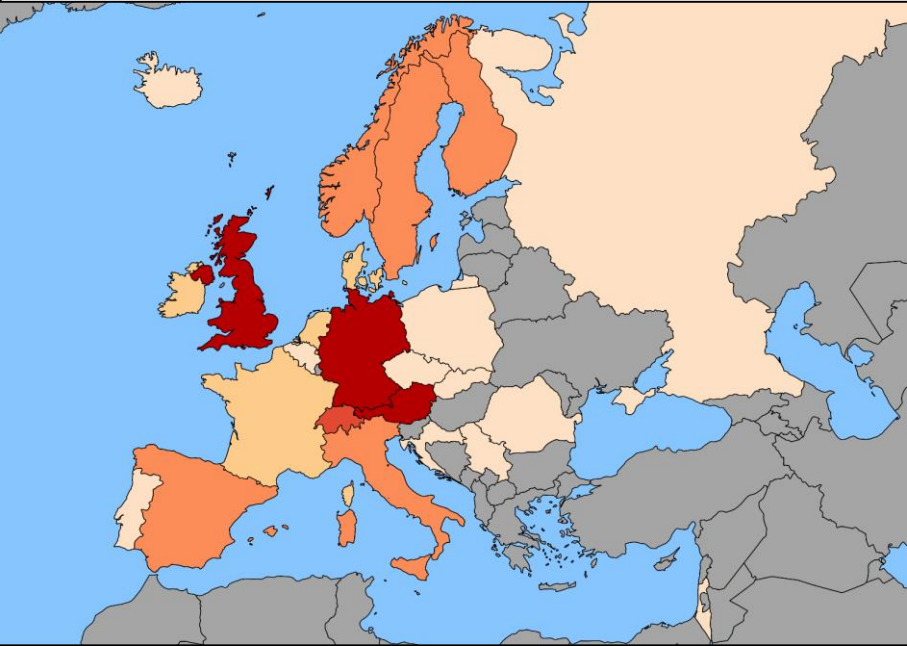
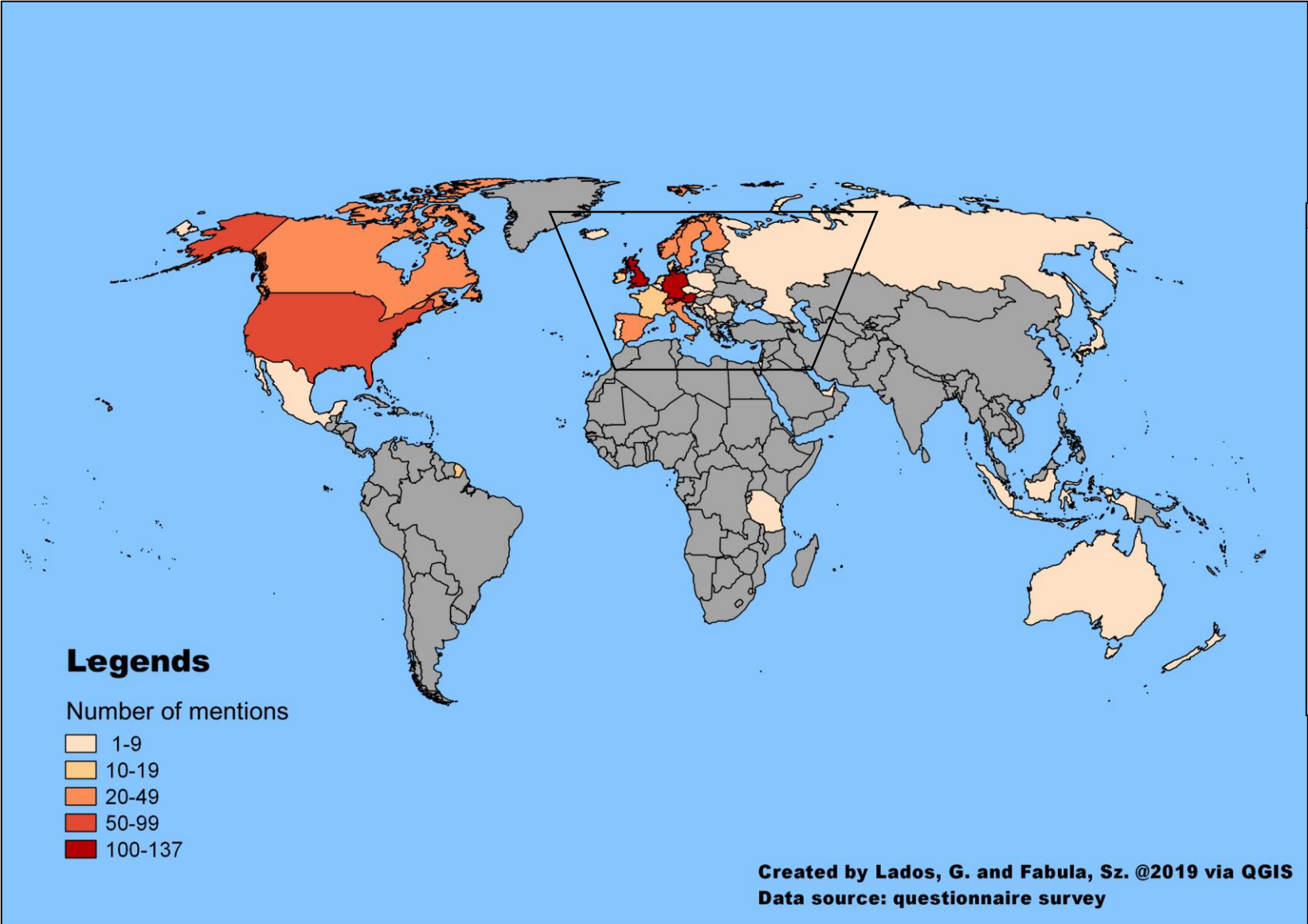


"Do you plan to work abroad after graduation?"





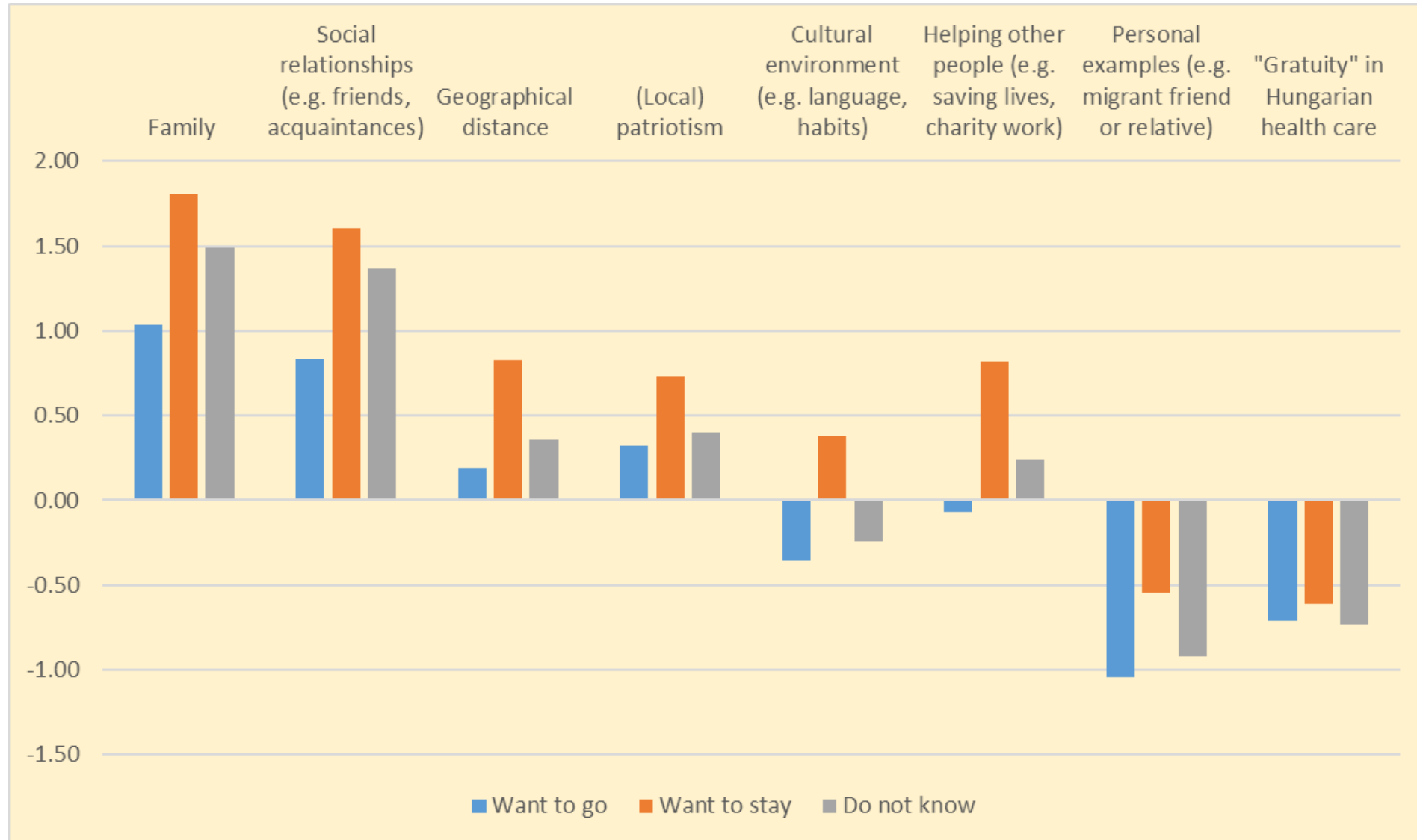
Main (planned) destination countries of the respondents





"Do the following factors encourage you to stay in or to migrate from Hungary?"

(2 = definitely a stay factor; -2 = definitely a push factor)



The role of geographical factors – in media discourse

- Appearance of locality
 - Problems of specific hospitals
 - "Sensationalism"
 - Hospital of Ajka 12 articles, 5 webpages
 - Honvéd hospital 15 articles, 7 webpages
- Peripheries, rural space
 - Symbols of underdevelopment
 - The supply of these areas is in jeopardy

"Chaos can come: 112 doctors quitted at the Honvéd hospital, who will not do overwork for free." (hvg.hu, August 30, 2018)

"Due to the lack of professionals, it happens that a doctor is forced to work in more districts at the same time. Most of the unfilled practices are in Borsod County." (hvg.hu, July 17, 2018)



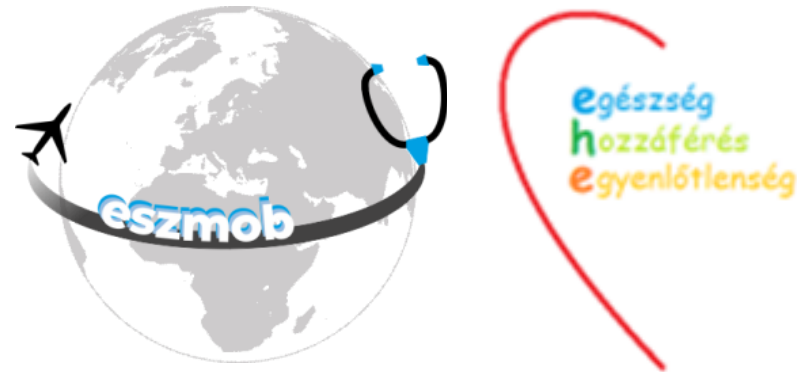
Policy recommendations

- Besides income, there are several other incentives for health workers to migrate or to stay (further research is needed)
- Future health workforce strategies can build on (potential) migrants' opinions about
 - Strengths (stay-factors): offensive strategy; profiting from favourable situation
 - Weaknesses (push-factors): improvement, mitigation
- In poorly supplied peripheral areas: focusing on health workers who are willing to work there
- Improving local-level healthcare policy making → mitigation of health inequalities
 - Identification of local needs and resources
 - Challenging passive attitude and paternalism



eszmob.hu

www.researchgate.net/project/Geographical-aspects-in-the-migration-of-Hungarian-healthcare-professionals



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