Romanian ageing migrants going native in Switzerland

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This paper belongs to the Symposium 'Ageing migrants and care – formal and informal arrangements and the role of social work' (Submission Sequence 2060)This paper's overarching question is: what are the formal and informal strategies used by Romanian ageing migrants in Switzerland to fulfil their welfare needs? Based on this, there were elaborated and tested two hypotheses putting in relation the integration at the destination and the care used by migrants. With regard to care, there were taken into account both its locality – where care is accessed – and the types of care accessed – public, private, third sector or informal. The first hypothesis states that the more migrants are integrated, the more they are likely to rely on public welfare provisions. And the second hypothesis reads as: the more migrants are integrated, the more they are likely to use welfare from the country of destination.In Switzerland there can be identified four groups of Romanian ageing migrants:1. Persons who arrived as political refugees during the communist regime in Romania and have aged in place,2. Temporary visitors who come to Switzerland for less than 3 months in order to provide care for their grandchildren and be closer to their family,3. Persons who came to Switzerland based on family reunification,4. Return migrants to Romania who have ties to Switzerland.The analysis is based on fieldwork research in the canton of Geneva and Vaud, and in neighbouring France. There were conducted 25 in-depth interviews with Romanian migrants aged 60+ (one interview with a person aged 57).The different flows of migration towards Switzerland allow us to look deeper into the above-mentioned hypotheses and identify different cases of ageing migrants.