ArGeMi Conference in Moscow

CONCEPTUALIZING AND MEASURING TRANS-BOUNDARY MIGRATION

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The ArGeMi Research Project I

OUT-MIGRATION FROM ARMENIA AND GEORGIA

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Coordination: Free University Berlin
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Partners: Academy of Sciences of Armenia
          Georgian Centre for Population   Research
          Russian State Social University, Moscow

SOCIAL RELEVANCE

- Trans-boundary migration is a highly relevant
     social phenomenon
- Needs of advanced economies
- Head hunting for the best and brightest
- Misery in large parts of the world
- Criminal networks
- Adaptation of migrants
- Interethnic relations, etc.

COGNITIVE RELEVANCE

- Trans-boundary migration:

> A phenomenon rejecting
> methodological nationalism

- Trans-boundary migration:

> A phenomenon rejecting
> monocausal explanations

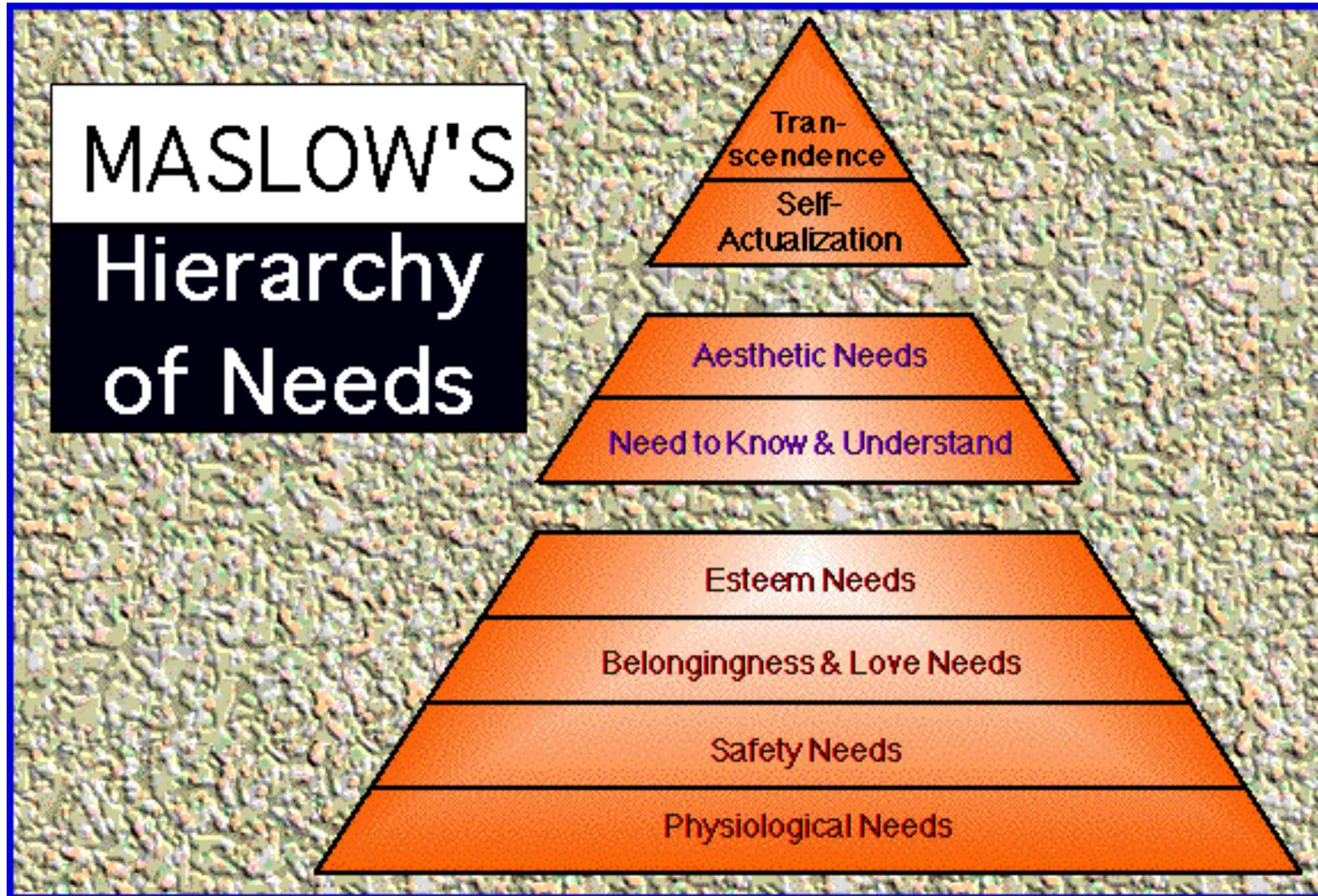# HOW TO CONCEPTUALIZE TRANS-BOUNDARY MIGRATION?

-Large varieties:

- Labour migration

- Family matters (marriages, unification…)

- Study, medical treatment, etc.

-Large variety of moving forces:

- Segmentation of markets

- Organizations and networks

- Personal motivations
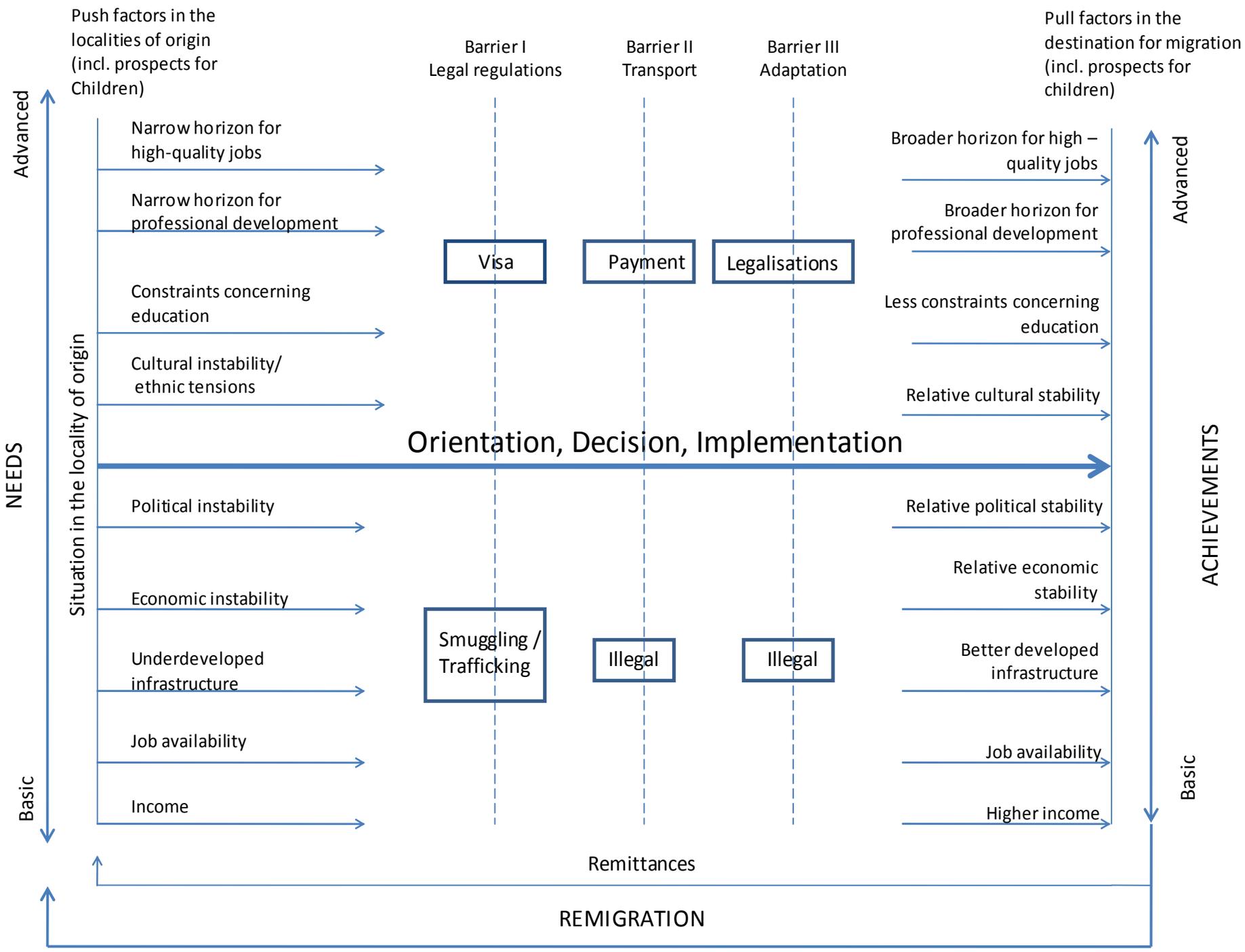
Searching for help by MASLOW AND SOROKIN

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND I: HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND II: SOCIAL MOBILITY

Change of position in the social structure

by individuals or groups

-Territorial mobility

-Horizontal mobility

-Vertical mobility

      -Intragenerational mobility

      -Intergenerational mobility

Push factors in the localities of origin (incl. prospects for Children)

Pull factors in the destination for migration (incl. prospects for children)

Barrier I — Legal regulations

Barrier II — Transport

Barrier III — Adaptation

Advanced

Basic

NEEDS

Situation in the locality of origin

Narrow horizon for high-quality jobs

Narrow horizon for professional development

Constraints concerning education

Cultural instability/ ethnic tensions

Visa

Payment

Legalisations

Orientation, Decision, Implementation

Political instability

Economic instability

Smuggling / Trafficking

Illegal

Illegal

Underdeveloped infrastructure

Job availability

Income

Broader horizon for high – quality jobs

Broader horizon for professional development

Less constraints concerning education

Relative cultural stability

Relative political stability

Relative economic stability

Better developed infrastructure

Job availability

Higher income

ACHIEVEMENTS

Advanced

Basic

Remittances

REMIGRATION

Macro-social dimensions of the international migration of labour

-of economic nature
  - -cleavages between national labour markets
  - -segmented national labour markets
    - Theory: Labour market equilibrium, centre/periphery
-of political nature
  - -open policies or isolationism at national level
  - -supranational policies
    - Theory: Modalities of market regulation
-of cultural nature
  - -compatibility of value-normative systems
  - -compatibility of communication means (language)
    - Theory: Cultural proximity/ cultural distance

Meso-social dimensions of migration and conceptual schemes

-of economic nature
- -economic actors facilitating or hindering
    international migration
        Theory: Mini-max
-of political nature
- -political and civil actors facilitating
    or hindering international migration
        Theory: Ends-means calculations
-of cultural nature
- -cultural actors facilitating or hindering
    the adaptation of migrants
        Theory: Social frameworks of acculturation

Micro-social dimensions and conceptual schemes

-of economic nature
      -rational choice calculation of gains
        and losses of migration
         Theory: homo oeconomicus
-of political nature
      -balancing personal interests and social
        responsibilities
         Theory: homo sociologicus
-of cultural nature
      -dynamics of socializations
         Theory: Identity building/ Identities building

The ArGeMi Research Project

-Started in September 2008 (first meeting in Yerevan)

-Overview on the research carried out (October 2008)

-First draft of the research tools (November 2008)

-Final decisions on research tools (January 2009)

-Field studies (01. February – 30. April, 2009)

-SPSS files+interviews+monitoring of events (31 May)

-Second meeting of the team (IIS World Congress)

-First round of data processing + brief report (July)

-Extended report (November)

-Second (controlling) round of field study (01.02.-30.04)

METHODOLOGY: TRIANGULATION

-Armenia and Georgia:
      -Interviews with returnees from Moscow;
      -Interviews with returnees from other destinations;
      -Interviews with would-be migrants.
          Background information:
          -Interviews with experts;
          -Monitoring of related events;
          -Statistical information.
-Moscow
      -Interviews with migrants from Armenia after 1990
      -Interviews with migrants from Georgia after 1990
          Background information:
          -Interviews with experts;
          -Monitoring of related events
          -Statistical information.

Monitoring of out-migration / immigration related events (applied 2009-2010)

- Aim
- Concepts
- Instruction

A. Block "description of an event"

A1. Report N, brief definition of event;

A2. Source and date of the publication (document);

A3. Author (authors) of the publication (document);

A4. Issues concerning immigration as dealt with in the publication (document),

A5. Background reasons for the preparation and publication of the information;

A6. The intended or actual audience of the information;

A7. What the publication (document) obscures or what goes unmentioned;

A8. Intended and actual effects of the publication (document);

A9. General and more specific significance of the publication (document).

B. Block "structured analysis of event", multiple selections possible

B1. Type of publication:

B2. Area (areas) of the event:

B3. Participants in the event:

B4. Scale of the event;

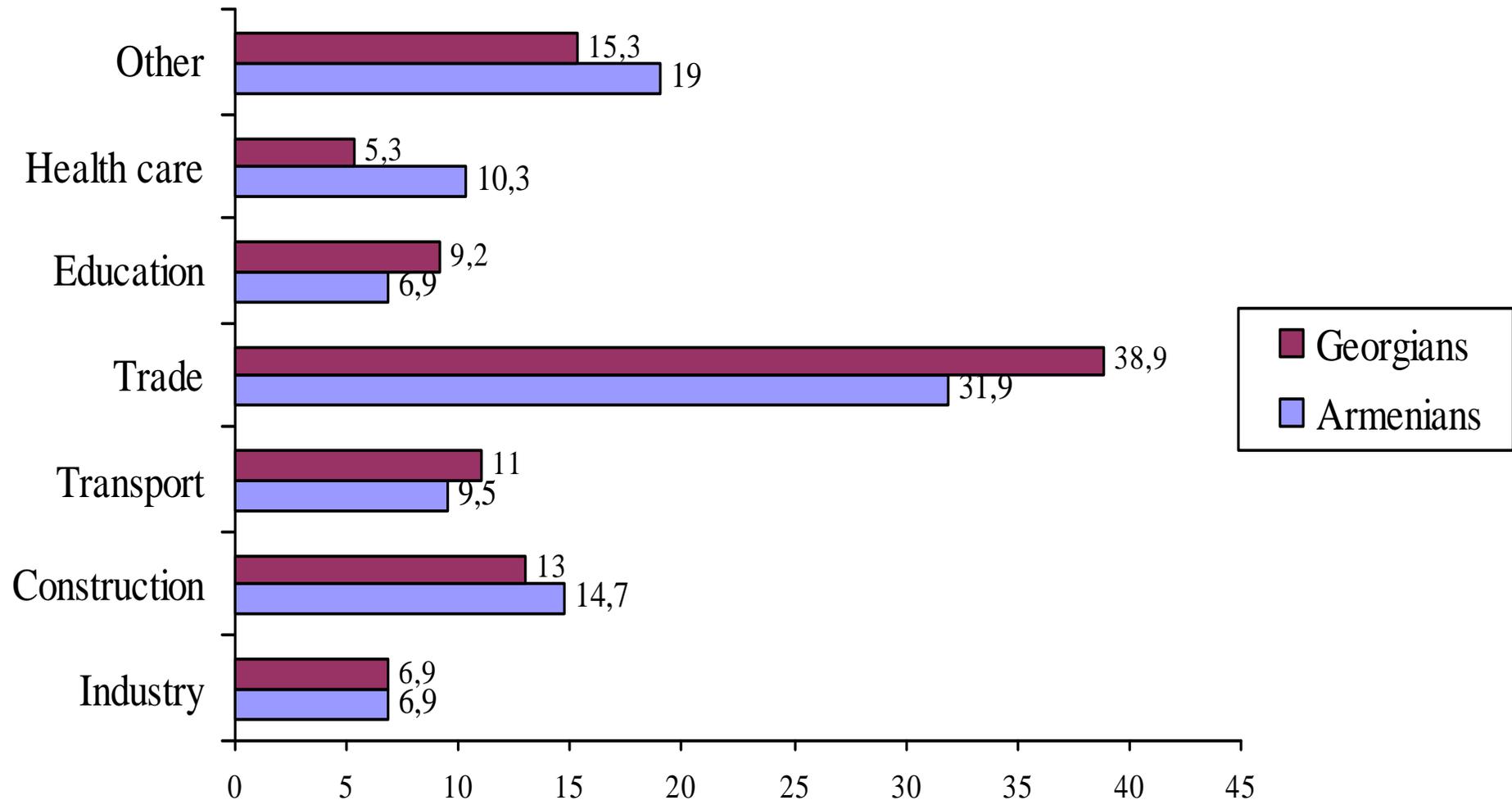B5. Duration of the event:

B6. Frequency of the event:

B7. Relationship of the event to the *status quo*:

B8. Level of risk for Armenia, Georgia or the
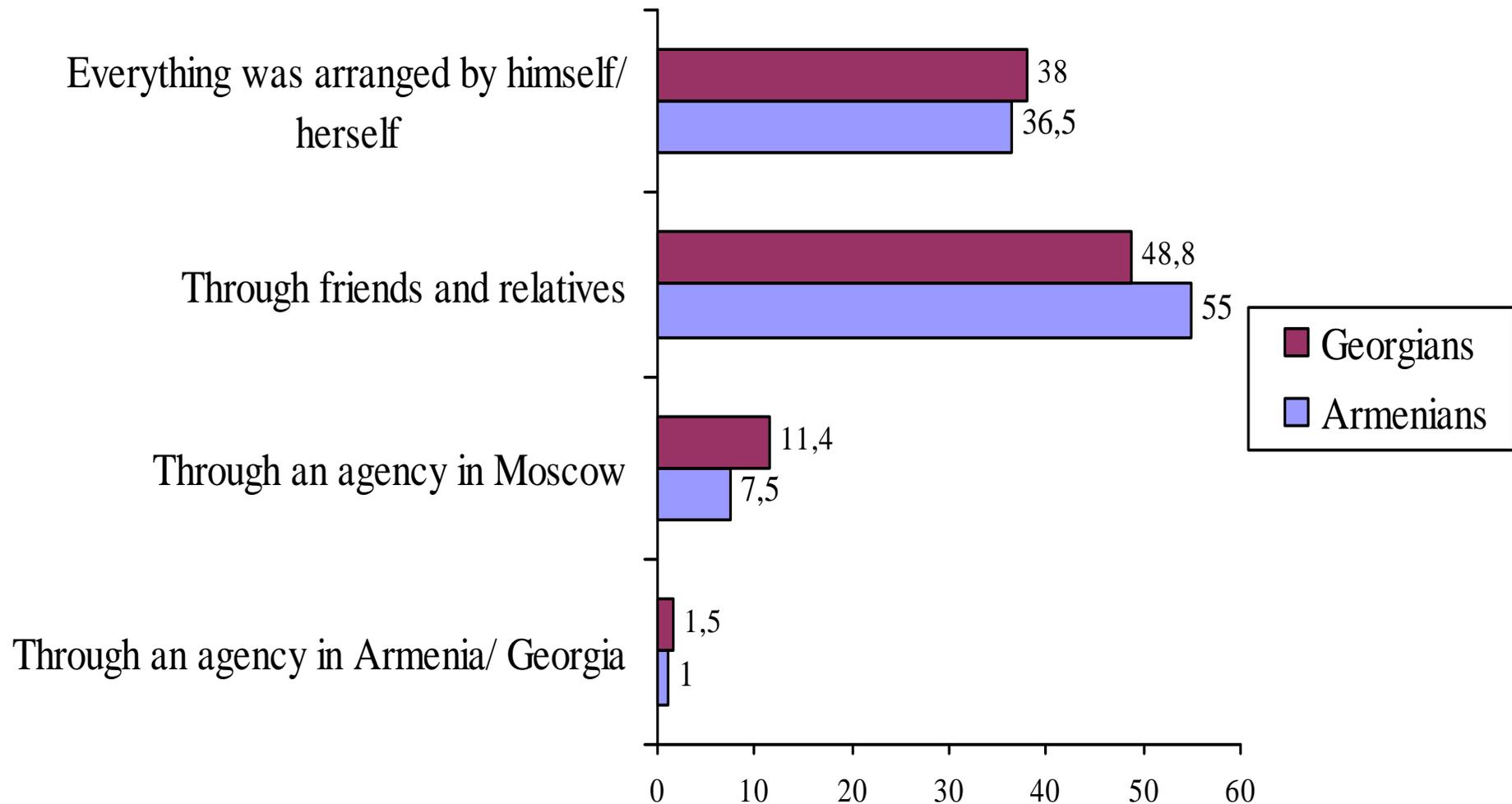   Moscow community

FOR VERIFICATION
(OR FALSIFICATION)

- Out-migration from Armenia to Moscow shows rather different patterns as compared to out-migration from Georgia to Moscow, since:

   -The local situations in Armenia and Georgia are rather specific;

   -The relationships between Russia and Armenia / Russia and Georgia have been and currently are different.

-Ergo: One may expect rather different patterns of immigrants and immigration from Armenia to Moscow and from Georgia to Moscow.
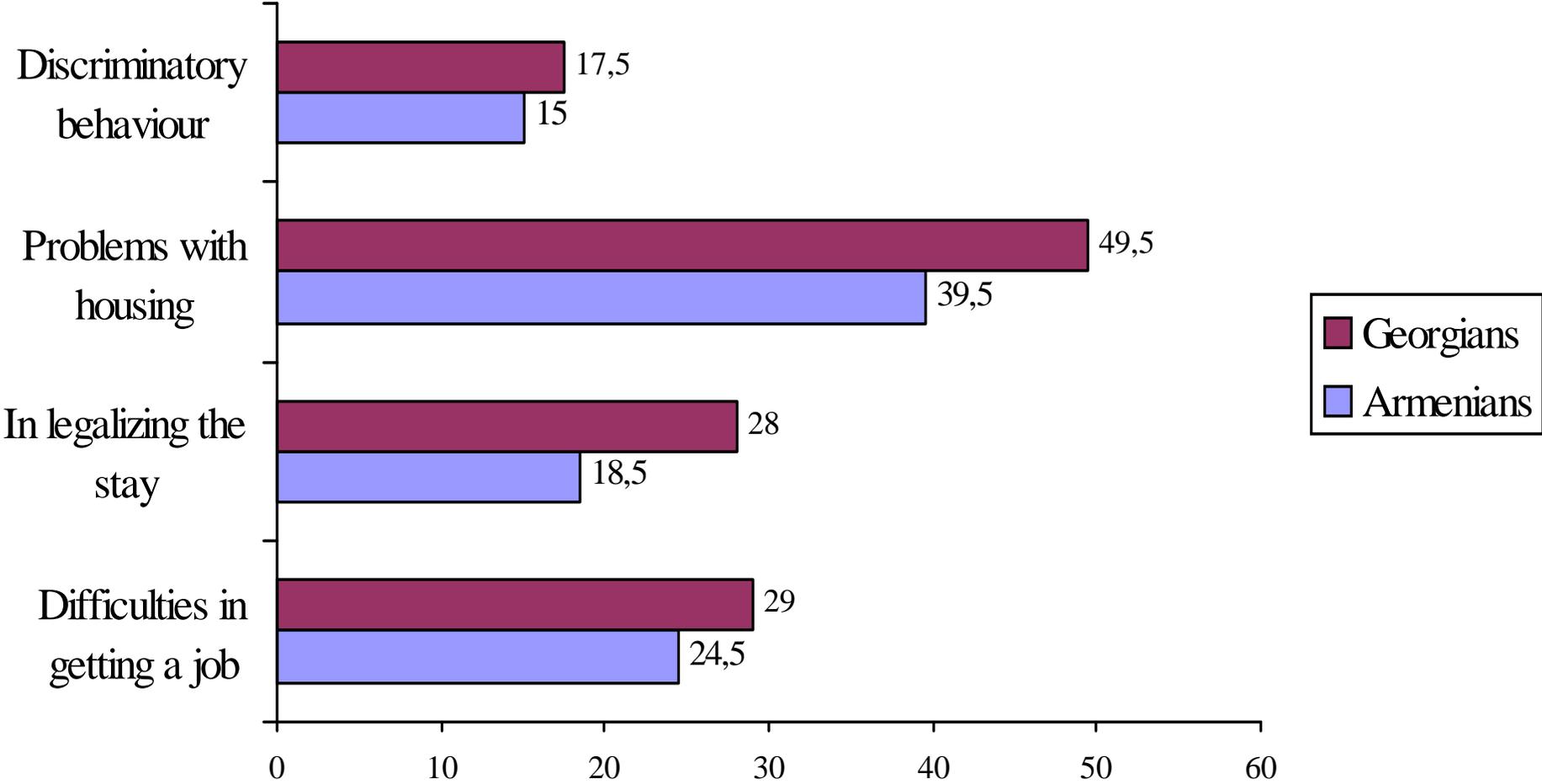
EMPLOYED IN SECTOR?

Sector	Georgians	Armenians
Other	15,3	19
Health care	5,3	10,3
Education	9,2	6,9
Trade	38,9	31,9
Transport	11	9,5
Construction	13	14,7
Industry	6,9	6,9

HOW DID YOU ARRANGE YOUR EMPLOYMENT/ SELF-EMPLOYMENT?

ANY HARDSHIPS EXPERIENCED IN MOSCOW?

CONCLUSIONS

-International migration is necessary and
    unavoidable;
-International migration is problematic for all
    participating actors;
-There is no all-encompasing explanatory
    scheme for international migration;
-So far, only partial explanations are
    possible;
-In order to make even partial explanations
    possible, careful triangulation of information   sources
    and explanatory approaches is needed.