
Academic international mobility and intra-European highly skilled migration are consolidated trends. Strongly stimulated by EU policies, the opportunities are highly dynamic, and circulation through different jobs and countries is a striking feature of the academic community. However, for a fragile economy and scientific system as the Portuguese ones, those trends are synonyms of brain drain, particularly in times of Eurozone crisis. In order to question the place of the economic crisis on scientists’ migration decision-making process, and considering that academic mobility is often associated with individual career perspectives and encouraged by European policies, five individual portraits are analysed.