**Panel proposal**

1) title:

**Aspirations to migrate to the EU:**

**A comparative perspective from Southeast and East Asian countries**

2) conveners:

Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot Sofia Gaspar

Université libre de Bruxelles (Belgium) CIES-iscte, Lisbon (Portugal)

asuncion.fresnoza@ulb.be sofia.gaspar@iscte-iul.pt

3) chosen format:

This panel will be composed of two sessions and will be chaired by the conveners who will also act as the discussants of the presentations. There will be at least 6 presentations (3 per session), which can be either single-authored or co-authored. Each presenter will have 20 minutes to discuss their research results, which means one hour in total for at least 3 presentations in one session. The remaining 30 minutes will be allotted to discussions: first, between the discussants (the panel conveners) and the presenters, and second, between the audience and the presenters. All presentations will be PowerPoint assisted and will be in English.

4) abstract of the panel:

East and Southeast Asian regions have been one of the major places of origin for migrants to the European Union (EU). People from these regions enter the EU through different visa channels, notably related to tourism, work, family reunification, studies, and investments. Despite the administrative and socio-economic hurdles involved in entering and staying in the EU, migration from East and Southeast Asia persists. Why is this the case? What inspires people from these regions to come to the EU? This panel aims to address these questions against the backdrop of ongoing global challenges linked to wars, economic crises, and political instabilities in many countries. It will unveil the results of selected qualitative case studies conducted either in the aforementioned regions or in the EU among East and Southeast Asian migrants. Adopting a comparative approach, it will reveal the migration aspirations of people from the said regions and will identify their similarities and differences. By doing so, the panel will contribute fresh insights to the conceptualisation of migration connecting East/Southeast Asia to Europe.

5) double sessions (2 x 90 min.): at least 6 presenters

Names of panel presenters and the abstracts of their presentations will be sent later to EuroSeas.

6) discussants:

The conveners of this panel proposal will act as discussants.