

## Concentric-circle interview guide

### MO-TRAYL instruction sheet: concentric circle interview

The researcher shows the concentric circle (see next page) and explains that **ego** (i.e., the participant) is in the middle. After this, the following steps should be followed:

- 1) Ask the participant to: **“Write down the names of all of the people that are important to you on this sheet, inside these three circles. The more important they are to you, the closer to the centre they should be.”** Don’t define what ‘important’ means and don’t specify a time period. If the participant does not know how to make sense of a (changing) relationship (e.g., when someone used to be important to the participant but suddenly lost contact with this person), he/she will still be encouraged to put the name in one of the three circles. Ask for and write down the location (country/region/city) of each person identified.
- 2) Ask the participant to **“Write down the names of people you have difficulties with or a difficult relationship with in the circle in the bottom right corner of the page.”** Ask for and write down the location (country/region/city) of each person identified.
- 3) After arranging the names according to importance in ego’s life, the researcher uses the following probing questions to gain information about the names in the circle and elicit more names in specific areas of interest:

Mobility trajectory	Resilience	Aspirations	Educational trajectory
1) How do you stay in touch with people who live far away? How often are you in contact? Through what means? ( <i>Go in-depth on a few examples</i> )	Who do you go to for support/how do you get support (about school, family, friends, the future, and choices after school)? ( <i>Prompt to see if there is more than one. Address these different categories one by one and colour-code them</i> )	Can you tell me about someone you admire/ a role model? What do you admire about them? Why? ( <i>Prompt to see if there is more than one.</i> )	1) Who do you go to for help with your homework? ( <i>Prompt to see if there is more than one.</i> )
2) How often are you in touch with them?			2) Who gives you advice/provides guidance related to your education/career?
3) Who do you stay in touch with most? Why?			3) Who attends your meetings with your teacher/mentor in school?
4) Have you seen/visited them? If yes, when, and why?			

\*Differentiate between names added in the first round (in response to the general question) and those added through probing questions. The researcher should take separate notes about participants’ reasoning/explanations (of placement of names) and responses to probing questions.

- 4) If the participant did not mention the people in the small circle during the interview, ask the following probing questions for each person: **“Why have you placed this person in this circle?”**
  - a. Has your relationship with that person always been like this?  
If yes, why do you think that is?  
If no, how was it before? And why do you think it changed?