

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF WORKFORCE MIGRATION IN ROMANIA

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ABSTRACT:

MIGRATION HAS BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PHENOMENON WITH SINUOUS SOCIETAL IMPLICATIONS REGARDING THE POVERTY RATE OF THE NUMEROUS PEOPLE AFFECTED BY IT AND THE STATE'S BURDEN OF ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL EUROPEAN CITIZENS. THE PAPER INVESTIGATES THE LINKS IN TERMS OF PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF EUROPEAN UNION AND ROMANIA'S CASE, AS WELL AS THE EXISTING SHORTCOMINGS AND GAPS OF THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM AND EMPOWERING MEASURES. FURTHERMORE, WE EXAMINE THE STATUS QUO REGARDING THE IN COMINGS AND OUT COMINGS IN TERMS OF IMMIGRANTS AND THE BRAIN DRAIN PHENOMENA. CURRENTLY, MIGRATION IS STILL SEEN AS A SOURCE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC INCREASE FOR THE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.

KEY WORDS: MIGRATION, BRAIN, DRAIN, EUROPE 2020, SOCIAL POLICIES

INTRODUCTION

Workforce migration has become the most important component of migration in Romania. But, unfortunately, statistics cannot present all the implications of this complex phenomena. A recent study² presents an assessment of the level of unemployment and the employment of the population of the Member States in the mid-term implementation of Europe 2020. In these circumstances, there are some questions to be answered: „Is Europe still suffering because of the consequences of the crisis or the current situation is rather the result of failed policies? Or if, indeed, wrong policies were implemented, it is possible to consider appropriate alternatives?”. A possible answer is that policies are applied within the State inconsistently as an attribute of the principle of subsidiarity.

During 1950-1960, the workforce migration was considered as an essential element of development, based on the benefits of reducing the supplementary workforce in the origin countries and capital inputs and of the new workforce in the destination country as well. Many countries such as Morocco, Turkey, and Philippines have understood the benefits of emigration and encouraged the population to emigrate in Western Europe or United States of America, and later in oil countries in Gulf. But the results of immigration have not been so spectacular for the countries of origin because many immigrants remained in the adoption

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² Benchmarking Working Europe 2014, ETUI aisbl, Bruxelles, 2014, available at: [www.etui.org/.../file/14+BENCHMARKING+2014+A4+Web+version.pdf], last access: 23.04.2015.

countries for a longer term. As a consequence, many countries of origin instead to prosper and develop stagnated and became dependent on remittances from the immigrants³.

Currently, migration is seen again as a source of social development and economic increase for the countries of origin, considering the public policies on facilitating migration (although there are still restrictive measures for certain countries)⁴. Moreover, we can consider migration as a global phenomenon with global effects.

The main reason for workforce migration is an economic one: to obtain a higher income than in the country of origin. The income obtained in the destination country has in principle two uses: subsistence use and transfers in the origin country to their families. The remittances can be found in economies, investments or in durable goods (houses, automobiles, lands).

In Romania, after 1989, migration has become a worrying phenomenon because almost 15% out of Romania's population has left the country⁵. During the years the migration trend has increased⁶ from 7 persons to 1,000 people (1990 and 1995) and currently over 28 persons to 1,000 people. The destination countries are more or less the same: Germany, Spain, Hungary, and Israel, Great Britain or United States of America⁷.

The immigration to Romania has been low, generally involving people from poorer countries. But other problems have arisen here. Amid Romania's EU membership and a large influx of immigrants from Asian countries is such as China and neighbouring countries not belonging to the European Union, for example Moldova, had open the gates of illegal migration, most of the times.

In terms of methodological research, the research question is how the immigration in Romania has evolved during the last years after the accession to European Union. In this context, the work method is a combination of a narrative-descriptive research with quantitative analysis of available data from various information sources: from other studies, surveys, reports, to data collected by Eurostat and National Institute of Statistics.

MAIN TEXT

Emigration may be called a "survival strategy" and can lead to professional development opportunities, thus making it a complex phenomenon that requires continuous monitoring and analysis for social and macroeconomic impacts, causing investment in social and educational services or causing social imbalances, or the dependence of the families of those who left the country's remittances. At a societal level, it can cause vulnerability in terms of ensuring a skilled workforce. According to National Institute of Statistics, international migration is one of the factors that have reduced the country's population, along with family planning and mortality. Every year, in Romania, there is a decrease by nearly 104,200 people due to migration⁸. The main reasons to emigrate are: financial – living

³ Massey, D. S., Arango, J., Hugo, G., Kouaouci, A., Pellegrino, A. and Taylor, J. E., *Worlds in Motion, Understanding International Migration at the End of the Millenium*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998

⁴ Castles, C., *Development and Migration – Migration and Development. What comes first? In SSRC Migration & Development Conference Papers*, 2008, New York, available at la: [<http://essays.ssrc.org/developmentpapers/wp-content/uploads/MigrationDevelopmentSSRCConferencePapers.pdf>], p. 8, last access: 22.04.2015

⁵ Dănăică, D., Caracteristici ale migrației în România, *Analele Universității „Constantin Brâncuși” din Târgu Jiu, Seria Economie*, Nr. 2/2010, p. 190

⁶ Dănăică, D., Caracteristici ale migrației în România, *Analele Universității „Constantin Brâncuși” din Târgu Jiu, Seria Economie*, Nr. 2/2010, p. 190

⁷ In 2012, according to the report *International Migration of Romania*, by National Institute of Statistic, 2014, available at: [<http://www.insse.ro/cms/files/publicatii/pliante%20statistice/Migratia%20internationala%20a%20Romaniei.pdf>], last access: 22.04.2015

⁸ *International Migration of Romania*, National Institute of Statistics, available at:

standards and wage differs between countries, employment opportunities (pull factor) - gaps related to income, and governance and public services: poor governance, corruption, lack of health care services and education quality (push factor).

Further, we present in tabular form the social effects of migration:

❖ For the country of origin:

Negative effects	Positive effects
Affects the stability of the family	Transfer of civilization, technology, new ways of working
Qualified workforce deficit (brain drain – medical doctors, nurses)	Contributions to the development of the country of origin
Increase in school dropout and juvenile deviance	Remittances - contribution to capital input in the country

❖ For the destination country:

Negative effects	Positive effects
Enhances xenophobia and preconceptions	Multiculturalism - modernisation
Lead to inter-ethnic conflicts	Cheaper skilled labour and cheaper - it reduces the unemployment

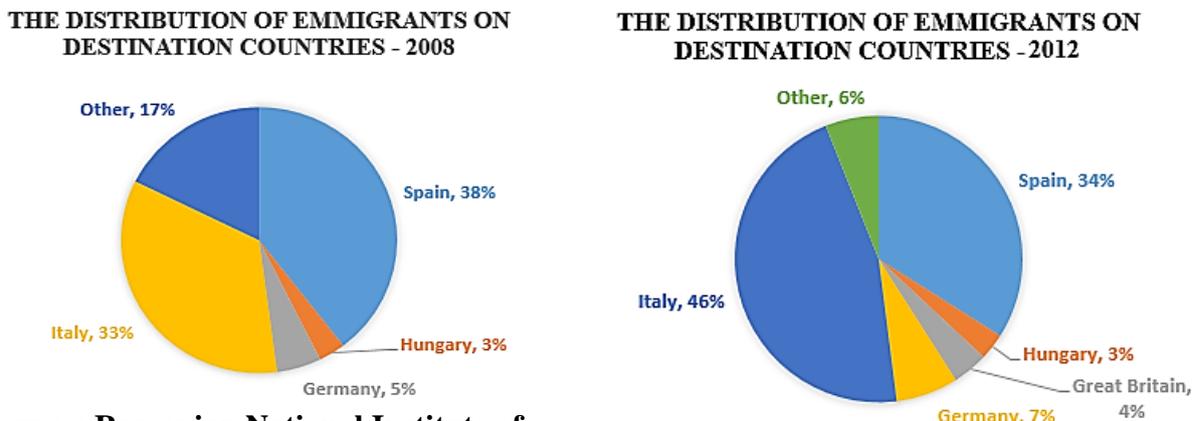
The (EC) regulation no. 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection requires that the number of immigrants in a Member State, namely immigrants, to be determined by the concept of habitual residence and the 12-month threshold. The migration analysis should begin by analysing migration laws, policies and institutions involved in migration. Referring to the European Union, the Treaty of Rome in 1957, provides four fundamental freedoms: free movement of goods, persons, services and capital. The legal support on which the free movement of persons within the EU consists of a series of articles of the said Treaty. In Romania the first initiatives for a new legislative framework in this area occurred in early 1990s. Then, once Romania joined the European Union, has determined the review of the existing legal acts to converge with European regulations aimed at ensuring adoption European acquis.

QUANTITATIVE ASPECTS OF MIGRATION

As stated, previously, Romania's migration situation is mainly characterised by emigration, especially after the accession to the European Union in 2007. The number of Romanians working abroad in 2010 is estimated to be around 3 million persons, but this is a complex issue, and there is a limited data on emigration of Romanian citizens.

In this context, we present a panoramic analysis of the immigration in Romania.

Figure 1. The distribution of emigrants on destination countries, 2008 and 2012

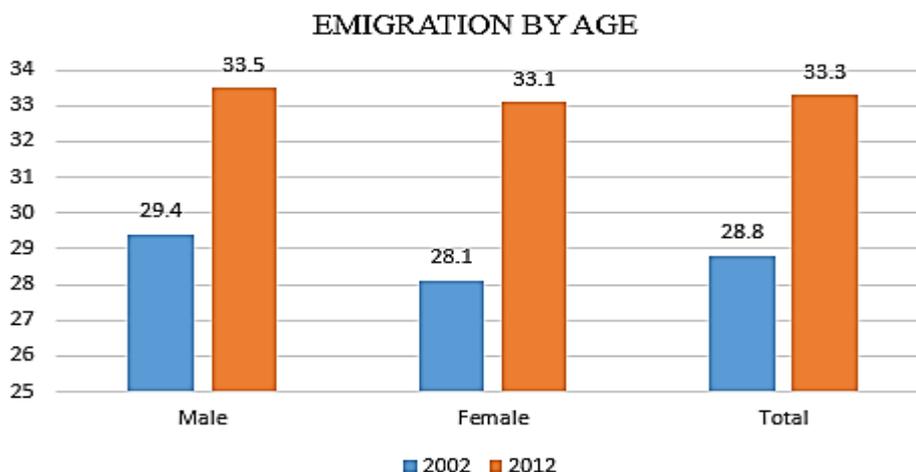


Source: Romanian National Institute of Statistics

The analysis of figures above, we can see that over 4 years 1st and 2nd most popular with interchange as destination countries, involving significant differences: Italy's share increased by 13% and Spain share fell by 4%. As for the other destination countries (Germany, UK, Hungary), the percentages have remained almost the same, significantly lower than the aforementioned countries.

As it can be seen in the figure below, most of those who emigrate are young, and their share is growing, and this affects age groups with high rates of fertility, thus reducing the potential for new-borns in Romania. All of this is in the context of a certain permanence of emigration. The analysis of the structure of emigration by gender reveals some changes so that immigrant women are becoming more numerous in recent years.

Figure 3. Average age at 1st of January in 2002 and 2012, by genres



(Source: Romanian National Institute of Statistics)

In the breakdown by age and gender, we can see a rise in average age from 29.4 to 33.5 for men and from 28.1 to 33.1 in women. Thus, the overall population, the average age has increased by almost 16%. As shown in the figure below, the average age of the population who emigrate fall within the active population aged 25-64 years, representing over 50% of the total population. The age category of 24-64 registered an increase of almost 12%, of which over 65% of people have emigrated (68% in 2002 and 76% in 2013).

CONCLUSION

Post-communist Romania has undergone a series of profound transformations that have changed the profile of social development: from a planned economy to a market economy, from job security to the flexibility of labour relations etc., who had both positive impact and negative in society. These changes had the effect of both changes in the financing of social sector and growth of various social risks. One of the most important issues on the development and implementation of social policies might be considered poverty, which until now Romania, was a product of underdevelopment, not as a development cost (involving financial resources in infrastructure, institutional restructuring etc.). Migration can be considered as a result of poverty and underdevelopment, in the context, of Maslow pyramid of needs, both primary needs (survival), and self-determination (succeeding in life).

During the nearly 25 years of transition, the creation, development and application of social policies were under the pressure aspirations align with Western European societies developed, while the legacy of underdevelopment influence was felt significantly from previous years. Thus, it is important to establish of a more effective system of social protection, and build the foundation for socio-economic development of the country. European Union has started an important process of convergence regarding education (diploma recognition), social system (migrants can receive pensions from their destination country) and the process of standardisation continues.

For short term, Romania, has only gain from migration, but the effects on longer term are difficult to predict, but they are foreseen as negative impacts.

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