

THE MIGRATION PROCESS IN THE CONTEXT OF ROMANIA'S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract. This article aims to analyze the migration phenomenon in Romania in the context of Romania's accession to the European Union. Migration is a key- issue for Europe and, implicitly, for Romania, due to the deep movements giving a new shape to the geopolitical structure of the old continent.

In the current conditions of globalization, migration can not be described as an isolated phenomenon, its global footprint being more and more visible. Taking this into account, it can be anticipated that after accession, the dynamics of migration in Romania and its level will not depend exclusively on domestic policy factors such as the state policy in the field, the developments in the economy and society as a whole, but external factors will have to be taken into account.

To be more precise, the phenomenon of migration from the perspective of EU membership can be explained and appreciated only when taking into account regional migrational phenomena inside the EU and in conjunction with what is currently happening worldwide, because in the context of globalization, no aspect can be treated in isolation, everything requires a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach.

Keywords: exile, migration, diaspora, reintegration, migrant' profile

1. Introduction

The phenomenon of the Romanian mass departure to other lands dating from the second half of the nineteenth century, when under the tightening conditions of the Austro-Hungarian rule, a large number of Transylvania Romanians went to the U.S. and Canada [1]. For the early years of the postwar period, information on migration is very poor. Most often, the idea was spread after 1939 that Romania has become the most important place of embarkation for Hebrew illegal immigrants, many refugees from Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Germany and Austria, Hebrew who sought ways to reach by sea in Palestine.

Since the early '40s, after the territorial dismemberment of Romania to the East, West and South, and the institution of the Antonescu-Legionary regime, other Romanians chose to remain in countries where there were official missions (diplomats and ambassadors). End of World War II forced the abdication of King Michael I, and especially the transformation of Romania into a fiefdom of Moscow, reason for which thousands of Romanians were urged to choose the path towards the West.

The period after 1948 is dominated by terror, the label "enemy of the people" being extended to all those who did not share the beliefs of the Communist regime. As a result, prisons have become overcrowded. The "Humanization" of the Communist regime in Romania, since 1964, led to the release of a large number of political prisoners, many of them managing to reach the West.

Most of them have opted for traditional exile immigration countries: France, USA, Canada, Germany. Others have chosen as their destination more remote countries such as Australia, Argentina and Venezuela.

After 1990, external migration has become a social phenomenon that grew significantly. Migration in this period took on many forms: from the family reunification migration, and that ethnic migration (the Roma who sought asylum in various countries of Europe or the Hungarians in Hungary), or business migration (including the small border traffic) and being developed by an increasing international mobility of

the students, an amplification of the brain drain (particularly of those in the IT field) and ending with the work migration.

Some researchers believe that the main channels through which migration exercises a positive developing impact on countries of origin are the returns and repatriation of the accumulated know-how of the migrant workers while in host countries. Increasing the volume of migration will also increase the return. Particularly favorable implications on development result from the fact that, as Uri Dadush puts it [2], remission is the most stable source of foreign exchange for poor countries, which is their main destination.

2. Materials and methods

The proper understanding of the socio-cultural dimension and its implications for migration management policies need to refer to multiple sides of this phenomenon, so as to provide answers to some basic questions: what is the profile of migrants, how are migration flows perceived - emigration, immigration - in Romania and the country of destination / origin, how the integration of migrants takes place, which is the attitude towards return migration, particularly for specific groups, etc..

This research is based on a study conducted in 1995 (along with the official request of Romania's accession to the European Union) and 1 January 2007, when Romania joined the European Union. According to this study, university graduates represent about 10-12% of all legal migrants, and over a quarter of them are high-school education and post-secondary education graduates. Immigrants with vocational and technical education represent about 9%, while less than a third of all migrants are people who have completed only primary school or secondary school.

From the perspective of migration as a social phenomenon that directly affects a significant proportion of the population and has complex implications on the society, it is important to know and reveal the *profile of the migrant* - the immigrant from Romania as well as immigrants to Romania. This enables proper orientation to manage migrational measures for offering assistance to migrants.

Within the *dominant national tendency* – work migration, a category that is now more representative of *young males* (18-35 years), with the average level of education, skilled workers from large cities and the capital, Bucharest. One should not neglect any potential migration of the villages, on which Dumitru Sandu suggests the metaphor of "river system" ("Migration source is the community) and the transition from the factorial approaches to the structural typology, identifying the types of villages according to the dominant cultural profile and international circular migration experience. On the basis of studies concluding that "communities with maximum experience of temporary migration abroad are specific to the high proportion of Hungarian villages, communities with average specific migratory experience of immigrant villages (with population arrived from other cities) communities in the early stages of the migration process are present in the external circulation, especially in modern villages with a large potential for education; communities with no migration experience are typical for traditional villages, with a low potential for education and a high degree of isolation."

Were also made a series of assumptions about *selective migration flows*, according to which ethnic or religious minority groups have a higher degree of mobility than the majority population of Romanian Orthodox religion. It was thus proven the role of ethnic, religious networks, in the early stages of circular migration, offering as examples, models of migration to Germany, Hungary or the traditional support from host countries for certain religious groups (such as neo-protestant population). In circular migration process there have emerged some models, specific cases based on countries of destination, such as the German case, the French or Italian cases (Diminescu, 2004). These highlight the special circumstances to be taken into account, situations often different from the "classical" patterns of migrants moving around (entrepreneurs, recruited workers, students, trainees).

A challenge with multiple meanings for the Romanian society is the *reintegration of the Romanians who return home* after an experience of migration, with special emphasis on certain categories, such as Romanian students who have attended universities abroad, Roma, persons that were subject to trafficking in human beings (THB), Romanian unaccompanied minors, expats etc.

Despite the important positive role they can play inside the Romanian society, *students* returning to the country after being trained at foreign universities face many difficulties in the reintegration process, from the cultural shock experienced after getting familiarized and living in societies with other economic and social standards, to the problems related to the recognition of diplomas/certificates (complicated procedures, for example in this regard it is relevant to remind the prolix bureaucracy to be accomplished in order to recognize the title of PhD (in some cases being necessary to repeat the studies) and the lack of job enthusiasm in terms of wages and working conditions offered by the employers.

Consequently, measures to provide appropriate treatment are necessary, based on serious reintegration programs and incentives for return, so as to limit as much as possible the phenomenon of brain drain, youth drain.

3. Discussion

In recent years, the EU has made remarkable progress in addressing the migration issue in a concise and organized manner. Before 1992 the issue of migration and refugees was a mere Member States' concern, but with the Maastricht treaty and later with the Amsterdam one, policies on asylum, freedom of movement of persons, visa, immigration and rights of member nations have become the Community responsibility [3].

One of the major dimensions of the democratization of Romanian society was the attempt to modify and adapt the legislation in order to be consistent with international human right regulations. The questionnaire sent by the EU on visa issue, has pointed out that Romania has made important steps towards a scientific policy on migration [4].

If in the first years of democratic changes, Romania was known as country of origin for asylum seekers, currently it is seen in terms of asylum, a transit country which, in the short term, will become a destination country because most applicants submit their applications for refugee status in Romania, as an intermediate measure when they lack the means and opportunities to reach other European countries.

The liberalization and democratization experienced by the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, including Romania have resulted in the field of migration, into two main streams with precise developments. The first of these relates to the migration of their own citizens to Western Europe and the American continent, the other being the immigration of citizens from countries of the Eastern African and Asian countries, Romania becoming a country of transit and waiting. The share of foreigners associated with foreign or mixed companies is taken by citizens coming from China, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran. Many of these foreigners use the legal residence period to prepare their "launch" to their emigration to the West. But one should not forget the category of foreigners residing in Romania who are integrated into society from the family, social and professional point of view.

The effective exercise of the free movement right of persons over the territory of Romania led to rapidly placing our country in a new context of migration caused by economic, political, demographic and cultural factors. Although in all institutions and authorities with responsibilities in the field of migration there has been a constant concern to bring our legislation to the European standards, one has not fully succeeded in creating the necessary mechanisms for a national system capable of taking decisions on migration.

The population growth due to immigration and EU enlargement does not pose a problem in itself. Currently, the European Union gives a great importance to the effective use of human resources. Therefore, EU policy focuses particularly on the labor market and the social integration of migrants legally residing in the Member States. Regarding the right to practice a profession in a Member State, although there has been progress in this area, there are still plenty to do on equal treatment between migrant workers and citizens of that state.

At Community level, there is no policy on migration, there is common policy on certain aspects of migration. In practice, migration is regulated by national laws, which are updated according to economic needs. State are trying to manage the factors grounding the phenomenon of migration: poverty, unemployment, underdevelopment and persecution [5].

Romania's integration into the EU requires, among other things, an increase of population within the union with about 22 million (the second country after Poland as a human potential), and a significant amount

of labor resources, relatively young, but not fully used and exploited. To this one should add an economy in full transformation / adaptation that has not yet fully defined its lines of development. From this perspective, the integration of Romania is a real challenge and migration is a major issue. Worldwide, one in 35 persons is a migrant (IOM, World Migration, 2003) and total annual flows include 5 to 10 million people. In Romania, the proportions are much lower, but they are difficult to assess as a whole (partial statistical evidence). Taking into account only the number of input / output-immigrants / migrants (Final) during 1991-2003, it included the 25 000 people annually. Still evolving, the number of migrants decreases and that of immigrants increases. The total emigration rate (per 1000 inhabitants) is reduced to about 2 migrating people to almost a thousand people in 1999 and 0.64 in the last year of analysis. There is a significant reduction in two stages: first in 1991-1993, when departures were targeted (return to home areas (Germans, Hungarians, Hebrews), and the second between 2000 and 2003 (and still continuing), the final migration is reduced in importance, temporary migration being preferred (this period corresponds to the liberalization of the movement of the Romanians travelling into the Schengen area).

The flows of persons across national borders can not be estimated unless we know the population evolution trends. Highlighting the contribution of migration to overall population growth and employment potential of Romania one can determine by benchmarking and combined growth the rate of natural and migration increase.

According to data, in the period between 1991-2002, 2.87 million children were born and 3.2 million people died. Reducing the total population by approx. 330,000 people was amplified by migratory flows which over this entire period have been negative. Annual developments are negative and declining for the migration flow and oscillating and more important for the population growth.

4. Conclusion

Finally, besides the integration / reintegration on the territory, Romania should be concerned about certain aspects of the integration of Romanian emigrants in the host - countries. Romanian migrants are generally grouped into homogeneous communities, so as to maintain cultural identity and contributing to socio-cultural diversity of the host-country. But living in homogeneous groups can create barriers to integration, generated by poor communication with members of the host-country society and their reserve towards Romanians to some extent determined by a stereotyped image (The Roma behavior).

It is precisely the role of Romanian authorities to help create and sustain a proper image, objectives on the entire Romanian Diaspora, which may have a valuable contribution to enriching the cultural and scientific heritage of the host-countries as well as to maintain links with the mother - country .It is a well-known fact that the Romanian diaspora is, unfortunately, divided and often sounds reluctant to communicate with the Romanian authorities, fact that is fueled by suspicions of manipulation for political purposes.

A special aspect is related to the support that the Romanian state must and does provide to large Romanian groups living outside the country, for historical reasons (in the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia), which, in addition to the support for preserving the cultural identity, also need international support for the recognition of their rights in those respective countries.

5. References

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