

"THE COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTION AND THE EXTENSION TOWARDS EASTERN EUROPE." CASE STUDY: THE PROFILE OF THE ROMANIAN EMIGRANT

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Abstract: Migration heads significant financial resources towards poor countries, it solves the problems of high unemployment and it evens the balances of payment of the states. Also, at the level of the families of the immigrants, migration causes the increase of the standard of life and it limits the poverty of the population. Migration represents an essential aspect for Europe and implicitly for Romania because of the profound movements that modify the geopolitical structure of the old continent. In the actual conditions of globalization, migration cannot be seen as an isolated phenomenon anymore, the global footprint of this phenomenon being more and more visible. Taking this aspect into account, after the adherence, the dynamics and the level of migration in Romania DID NOT DEPEND exclusively on factors of internal order as the state policy in the domain, the evolution of the economy and the society in general but the external factors must also be taken into account.

In more trenchant terms, the migration phenomenon from the perspective of the adherence at the European Union can be explained and appreciated only if one takes into account the regional migration phenomena at the level of the European Union and corroborated with what is happening globally because in the context of globalization no aspect can be treated singularly, it all supposes ample and interdisciplinary approaches.

Key words: Migration, globalization, adherence, exodus, diaspora.

INTRODUCTION

After 1990, the external migration becomes a social phenomenon that gains amplitude. In this period, the migration put on multiple forms: starting as migration of reunification of families, then as ethnical migration (of the Roma people that asked for asylum in various countries of Europe and the Hungarians in Hungary), or the migration for business purposes (including the traffic of frontier) and it developed by the increase of the international mobility of the students, the accentuation of *brain-draining* (especially of those from the IT domain) and ending with the migration through work¹.

Starting with 2002 the Romanians' migration gained mass dimensions. For a few good years, the Romanians' migration was celebrated as an important source of incomes for population, as an outlet that solved the problem of unregistered unemployment from Romania partially and „it

¹ Sabo Helena Maria and Vendelin Glazer, - *The migration process in the context of Romania's accession to the European Union*, 2011, International Conference on Environment and Industrial innovation, IPCBEE vol.12, p. 200-204.

solved” the balance of payment of the Romanian state. The coming of the economic crisis in the countries of the European Union began to break this after-1989 myth.

For a few good years, the migration of the Romanians was celebrated as an important source of incomes for the population, as a vault that partially solved the problem of unregistered unemployment from Romania and „it solved” the equilibrium of the balance of payment of the Romanian state. The coming of the economic crisis in the countries of the European Union began to smash this after-December 1989 myth. The media and the authorities began to understand that the emigrants' commitments were in sudden decrease, that the Romanians once left do not necessarily return in Romania and, finally, that the massive migration has consequences of long term in the Romanian society. The migration of approximately 2.500.000 persons did not leave the Romanian society unaltered².

Migration heads significant financial resources towards poor countries, it solves the problems of high unemployment and it counterposes the balances of payment of the states. Also, at the level of the immigrants' families, migration produces the increase of the standard of living and it limits the poverty of the population. At the same time, migration perpetuates the dependance of the under-developed states and just the commitments themselves are not capable to generate sustainable economic increase or to solve the chronic problems of the countries of origin. This ambivalent relation is also to be found in the Romanian case where in spite of the general favorable context, the European funds and the belonging of the country at the European Union, significant positive effects do not appear. The integration in the European Union brought an immense benefit to the Romanians that could immigrate freely but the mass migration generated new attempts that were often difficult to surpass³.

A final remark is extremely actual for the Romanian case: in the context of the ambivalent economic effects that I mentioned, the policies of the states are essential in trying to sustain the positive effects of migration and minimize the negative ones.

DISCUSSIONS

Around 2,3 millions of Romanians, over 100.000 each year, decided to leave abroad after 1989, as shown by the data of the National Institute of Statistics. So, the residential population of the country decreased at the beginning of last year at the level registered in 1969, of approximately 20 million inhabitants. The most significative “Wave” of migrations registered itself in 2007, once with the adhesion of Romania at the European Union, the main destination at that date being Spain. Presently, most Romanians that left the country for a period of at least 1 year chose Italy. “During 1989-2012 the stable population of Romania reduced itself with 3,1 million inhabitants. More than 77% of the negative rate of residential (stable) population from this period was determined by “immigration” is shown in a release of the Statistics.

If in 2008, most Romanians oriented themselves towards Spain, four years later, the most looked for destination amongst the Romanians that decided to leave the country was Italy (46% of

² Horváth, I., Anghel, R.G., 2009. “Migration and its Consequences for Romania” *Südosteuropa* 57(4), p. 386-403.

³ Portes, A., 2009 ‘Migration and Development: Reconciling Opposite Views,’ *Ethnic and Racial Studies* Vol. 32, No. 1, p. 5-22.

the total number). At the same time, the number of Romanian that left in Germany increase during the years 2008-2012, from 5% of the total immigrants to 7% according to the pieces of information from the report of Statistics. In 2012, Great Britain aroused on the list of states chosen by more and more Romanians and it adjoined 4% of the total immigrants from Romania.

Most of the people that left or intend to leave did it through informal networks. These channels are used at the expense of the institutions abilitated in handling the migration of the workforce from Romania to work abroad. The institutions abilitated to handle the migration of the workforce from Romania are aimed at rather by men (59%), persons with average studies (48%) and professional school (15%), and they represent only a partial correlation with the profile of those interested to work abroad. The leaving with the help of the informal networks is a clue that a great part of those who leave arrive on the market of work from the country of destination in illegal jobs, and as they work they try to obtain the status of legal immigrant. "The Romanian institutions should handle the putting in practice of the right of free circulation of the European Romanians more efficiently! One needs services to answer the citizens' needs of informing in this domain and a bigger concern towards their problems."

THE IMMIGRANT'S IMAGE / PROFILE

The image of the Romanian immigrant was always visible on the segment of the gross workforce. "The migration of muscles" lead to the apparition of the Romanian "strawberry picker", the person that under the pressure of money leaves for the Western countries to collect harvest of other countries. Engineers, qualified workers, teenagers, persons that are prepared or without too much base on studies and professional experience aligned themselves at the western border and left, most of all in Spain and Italy. Together with the migration of muscles, another category of Romanians decided to emigrate: professionals, graduates with superior studies and with a high preparation. They were seeking wages that matched their competences and a system in which they could feel appreciated and valued, they put Romania in balance with other opportunities and in the end they packed their stuff, choosing what was better for them. So, they entered the row of almost 3.000.000 Romanians that currently live abroad. Unlike the general priorities of the Romanian workers that go abroad to raise a certain sum of money and then return home, the Romanian professionals migrate for a longer period of time and they take into account the definitive settling in other countries. They point out special situations that must be taken into account, situations that often differ from the „classical” figures of the immigrants that circulate (entrepreneurs, workers recruited by the Office for Recruiting Workforce).

A series of hypotheses were formulated regarding *the selective influxes of migration*, according to which the minority ethnical or religious groups present a degree of mobility that is more increased than the majority population that is Orthodox. So, the role of the ethnical, religious channel was demonstrated in the first phases of the circulatory migration, one offering as examples the models of migration towards Germany, Hungary or the traditional support from the host-countries for certain religious categories (as the neo-Protestant population); but also certain *models, cases specific to the various countries of destination* as the German case, the French case or the

Italian case were also outlined⁴. They point out special situation that must be taken into account, situations that are often different from the „classical” figures of the immigrants that circulate (undertakers, workers recruited through the Office of the Workforces, students, trainees).

”The migration of brains” has impact on the economy, as well as “the migration of muscles” but at different levels. A great number of Romanian specialists that decide to migrate is part of the medical system. In this moment the economic context offers an even greater impulse to go abroad to those who graduated a university of profile at the expense of the employees that work for state. One talked about the exodus of the Romanian doctors even before the reducing of the salaries with 25% but especially after this moment. The value of the Romanian school of medicine is appreciated abroad and the generous offers that come from other countries, with wages that are even 5 times higher than at us, are convincing. For example, in the United Kingdom a nurse can earn up to 2.000 pounds and a doctor has double wage.

CONCLUSION

The Romanian state was and still is a passive actor in the mass migration of the Romanians, indifferent in face of the precarious element of the Romanian migration: the Romanian institutions did not do almost anything to support the Romanians from abroad or to help their relatives in the country. This passivity, indifference and lack of professionalism in approaching migration is at least debatable. The perverted effect is that although Romania is member of the European Union, it will probably have a positive context on medium period, the effects of migration will be the same as in the case of some countries found in a worse structural situation. I find it at least a disputable approach for the least keeping into account the dimensions of the Romanian migration reported at the population.

The role of the Romanian authorities is to contribute at the creation and sustainment of a correct, objective image on the entire Romanian diaspora that can have a valuable infusion at the improvement of the scientific and cultural heritage of the host countries as well as to maintain the connections of the diaspora with the home-country. It is well known that the Romanian diaspora is, unfortunately, divided and it manifests often holdback towards the communication with the Romanian authorities, fed by the suspicions regarding the manipulation of the diaspora for political purposes.

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⁴ Dobre D., 2006, *Romanians in exile, emigration and the diaspora*, Pro Historia Publishing, Bucharest, p.134

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