

MIGRATION PHENOMENON -A CURRENT CHALLENGE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES?

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Abstract: For the first time in history, the United Nations member states (without the US withdrawing last year of the agreement) agreed in July 2018 on a comprehensive global pact to better manage international migration, meet challenges, strengthen migrants' rights and contribute to sustainable development. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, considered unconstrained, would constitute, according to the UN Secretary-General, an unprecedented step to increase international cooperation on migration.

Subsequently, a number of states have announced that they are withdrawing from the process of adopting the UN Global Compact on Migration (Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, Poland, the Czech Republic) on the grounds that this compact, which should be signed at mid-December in Morocco, does not make clear the distinction between legal and illegal migration, that it would run counter to common sense and security resettlement efforts in Europe and the security interests of their countries. This compact would follow the largest influx of migrants in Europe since the end of World War II, many people fleeing from poverty and conflict in the Middle East, Africa and beyond, and would start from the premise that migration is a phenomenon that can not be avoided. In the context of these differences at the level of states, the issue of migration also poses a challenge to the world of sociology in view of developing a new theory on this phenomenon firmly inscribed in the world agenda that wants to be imposed as a "human right".

The theoretical approaches circumscribed to the understanding of the migration phenomenon were outdid by the dynamics of the societies in the process of globalization. The emphasis on interdependencies continues to bring about vast phenomena of territorial mobility, the extent of which affects all the constituent areas of social life and all kinds of social relations, from economic to political. From this point of view, one of our theses is that no branch of contemporary sociology can no longer dissociate itself from the sociology of migration, which must provide answers to the contemporary challenges.

Keywords: migration; migration theories; Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; territorial mobility; Globalization.

1. Introduction

The phenomenon of international migration has entered a new age, and in social sciences a new theory is needed to explain it in a more satisfactory manner than before, even if it can not include all the facts, nor from the point of view neither quantitatively nor in terms of its magnitude.

Also, a migration map is a simplification of the phenomenon, but also a very necessary guide in understanding its complexity, anomalies, and especially the discrepancies between the objectives at declarative level and reality that are more important than any other paradigm.

In the "Crash of Civilizations", Huntigton mentions that "in the new world, the most extensive, widespread and most dangerous conflicts will not occur between social classes, between rich and poor, or between different groups of economic criteria but

between peoples belonging to some different cultural entities,¹ "and the illusion of harmony in the world at the end of the Cold War in the early 90's quickly ended, as it did at the end of each war. In this context, can the new migration policy and the definition of migration as a human right contribute to sustainable global development?

2. Controversies on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

The UN, as a recognized organization, perhaps modernized, transformed, adapted, with a pivotal role of guardian of peace and democracy in the world, comes through the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration with proposals to solve the problem of migration that are rejected by many of the states.

The UN affirms that the Global Compact provides a framework for cooperation on migration in all its dimensions, a milestone in the history of global dialogue and international cooperation on migration and promotes international cooperation among all relevant actors in the field of migration, recognizing that no State can address migration on its own and supports the sovereignty of states and their obligations under international law ("it is a milestone in the history of global dialogue and international cooperation on migration and it fosters international cooperation among all relevant actors on migration, acknowledging that no State can address migration alone, and upholds the sovereignty of States and their obligations under international law).²

Many analysts believe that this compact, as well as the Euro-African declaration on migration, which considers that this is "a phenomenon that is necessarily only good and favourable and which obviously contributes to global development," comes with false, controversial and contradictory arguments since the countries that have accepted illegal immigration in the mass are facing serious social problems, increasing violence and crimes, most of the so-called refugees coming from areas not affected by war.

For the first time globally and officially, the Global Compact is trying to put an equal sign between the refugee and the migrant category, which would entitle any illegal immigrant to move anytime and anywhere: "Refugees and migrants are entitled to the same universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled at all times. However, migrants and refugees are distinct groups governed by separate legal frameworks. Only refugees are entitled to the specific international protection as defined by international refugee law. This Global Compact refers to migrants and presents a cooperative framework addressing migration in all its dimensions"³

Moreover, under Objective 3 of the Global Compact, states are committed to "developing migration policies that provide a high degree of predictability and certainty for all actors involved" and strive to help them select and choose their country of destination by comprehensive information about each of the countries in which they would like to settle.

Under Objective 16, the UN states that receiving countries must provide immigrants with all the means to help them integrate and socialize them, including "promoting mutual respect for the cultures, traditions and customs of the communities of destination and of migrants by exchange and implementation of best practices on integration

¹ Samuel Huntington, *Ciocnirea civilizațiilor și refacerea ordinii mondiale*, Antet Publishing House, Bucharest, 1998; p. 23;

²https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf, article accessed on 30.11.2018;

³*ibidem*;

policies, programs and activities, including ways to promote acceptance of diversity and facilitate social cohesion and inclusion".

At the same time, under Objective 17, countries must also engage in propaganda measures for the ideological education of their citizens, both through educational institutions and through the media, which must be materially sanctioned if it promotes discrimination against the migrant ("Promote independent, objective and quality reporting of media outlets, including internetbased information, including by sensitizing and educating media professionals on migration-related issues and terminology, investing in ethical reporting standards and advertising, and stopping allocation of public funding or material support to media outlets that systematically promote intolerance, xenophobia, racism and other forms of discrimination towards migrants, in full respect for the freedom of the media").

The UN reiterates that migration is a multidimensional reality of major importance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination, a source of sustainable development at almost all levels of society, without taking into account at any time the problems that might arise by encouraging this phenomenon on a planetary scale („we commit to assist migrant workers at all skills levels to have access to social protection in countries of destination and profit from the portability of applicable social security entitlements and earned benefits in their countries of origin or when they decide to take up work in another country”; „We also commit to promote the mutually reinforcing nature between the Global Compact and existing international legal and policy frameworks, by aligning the implementation of this Global Compact with such frameworks, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and their recognition that migration and sustainable development are multidimensional and interdependent”).

Hungary officially notified the United Nations on July 24 of its decision to withdraw from the process of adopting the Global Compact, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto, stating that it became clear that the differences between Hungary's position on migration and the UN approach is irreconcilable, and its country "will maintain its position and no global pact can change that."⁴ Hungarian officials say that a document that encourages migration will only benefit traffickers, as they will be able to persuade more people to leave their countries, saying they will be accepted under the World Pact. Hungary's position is that it would be unnatural to change the continent's population, and that instead global efforts should be made to stop migration. In addition, the migration pact also includes some obligations that Hungary is not willing to assume, such as the organization of migrant training sessions, the possibility for NGOs to help migrants make complaints, increase reception capacities and approaching the crossing of the border as a matter of human rights rather than of security, as Hungary introduced "exactly the opposite" to protect the security of citizens.

On October 31, Austria announced, according to the Austrian media agency APA, that it would follow the example of the US and Hungary, who withdrew from the Global Compact and will not sign the agreement on the rights of refugees and migrants, which will be adopted in the month December at the UN Conference in Marrakech (Morocco). "We believe that some points of the Pact on migration are extremely critical, such as the mix between the search for protection and economic migration," said Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, arguing that migrants saved in the Mediterranean

⁴<https://www.agerpres.ro/politica-externa/2018/07/24/szijjarto-ungaria-sa-retras-oficial-din-procesul-de-adoptare-a-pactului-mondial-al-onu-cu-look-to-migration-149898>, article accessed on 30.11.2018;

should not be brought directly to Europe.⁵ Both Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and Deputy Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache have expressed their fears over the UN Compact on Migration, arguing that this document will limit Austria's sovereignty that this pact does not result or can not result in any human right to migration and that there can be no dilution of legal and illegal migration.

One day after the announcement by Vienna officials, Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis said he wanted to withdraw his country from the agreement, and on November 12, Bulgaria, through the vice-president of the GERB party, Tsvetan Tsvetanov, announced that rejects the UN pact. Bulgaria, which is on one of the main migratory routes from the Middle East to Western Europe, says it is already taking steps to stop illegal migration and protect the EU's external borders. The next on the list of countries that left the Global Compact was the Czech Republic, and then Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that his country would not sign, as it is committed to overseeing its borders in the face of the arrival of illegal migrants. The number of migrants worldwide is estimated at 258 million, representing 3.4% of the world's population, and according to Israeli authorities, about 40,000 African migrants, especially Eritreans and Sudanese, illegally entering Israel live in this country.⁶ And Italy announced on November 28 that it joins countries that refuse to sign the Global Compact, although Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte had previously spoken in favor of it. Head of Slovak diplomacy Miroslav Lajcak resigned on November 29th as a reaction to Bratislava's decision to reject Global Copact after threatening to resign if his country does not support the document, when he was president of the UN General Assembly.

Synthesizing the withdrawal of Austria, Australia, Switzerland, Israel and most of the Eastern European countries, namely Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia.

UN Special Representative for International Migration Louise Arbor called the decisions to break out of the agreement as regrettable and wrong and said the pact is simply meant to improve the management of cross-border displacement of people.

Migrants have almost become a choking factor for stable peoples in their territory, and in many areas with highly developed tourism, locals feel disturbed even by the large number of visitors. "Tourists, go home!" Is the slogan that has met in recent years those who come to Palma de Mallorca (Spain) and which was written on a wall in a central area. It showed the growing frustration of the locals over the influx of foreigners, the island, home to a million people, being visited annually by about 10 million people.

In fact, we could see personally in the narrow streets of the cities of Andalusia (Sevilla, Cordoba, Granada, Malaga) countless people disturbed by the thousands of tourists from the old centers that occupied the streets entirely, making them almost impractical for the locals who were constantly shouting at seeing the crowd.

Given that the large number of tourists is not a reason for joy for everyone, the inhabitants of the affected areas complain of a series of shortcomings for this reason (rising prices for the sale and rental of dwellings), including the fact that tourism destroys the cities, opponents of Global Compact have serious arguments to reject this document.

⁵<https://www.agerpres.ro/politica-externa/2018/10/31/austria-se-va-retrage-din-pactul-global-privind-o-migratie-sigura-ordonata-si-reglementata--202351> , article accessed on 30.11.2018;

⁶<https://www.agerpres.ro/politica-externa/2018/11/20/israelul-nu-va-semna-pactul-onu-privind-migratia-anunta-premierul-benjamin-netanyahu--213954>, article accessed at on 30.11.2018;

3. Emigration and its effects: the case of Romania in relation to the former communist states

Besides talks on refugees coming mainly from the Asian or African continent, another issue in the international debate - both in academic literature and at media debates - concerns the immigrants from former communist countries to countries more developed. In fact, their massive emigration to the UK is often referred to as one of Brexit's generating causes. However, little is being brought to the debate about the consequences this form of migratory phenomenon has had on the countries of departure, insisting on the effects on the host states. In the European Union, policy has been formulated not only to achieve a high level of employment, but also to improve and modernize existing social security systems and to create a Community system to ensure the social protection of migrant workers.⁷

Among the advantages of labor migration, "European Union Migration Policy - Implications for the Labor Market" refers to facilitating economic integration and intercultural dialogue at global and regional level; providing labor force needs in developed countries and better use of labor in the countries of origin; generating transfers of cash flows to less developed countries; facilitating the transfer of knowledge and technology to migrants' countries of origin after their repatriation.⁸

Concerning the disadvantages, understood here as challenges that require resolution, reference is made to the issue of integrating immigrants and combating illegal migration. Eurostat data on the magnitude of the migration phenomenon is far too short and contradictory to those provided by national institutes to be analyzed in absolute terms. If we relate to the tendency of these data, one can notice the massive migration wave coming from Romania and Poland, with the last places being Estonia, Slovakia and Hungary. However, comparative analysis requires a lot of caution, taking into account the demographic particularities of these countries. With regard to national migration policy, Brexit attracted particular attention from the governmental program of Lithuania, entitled "Gribu tevi atpaka!" (I want you back!) And with two main dimensions:⁹

- a) a very strong PR campaign meant to attract emigrants to their native country. Amply displayed on social networks, television and print media, the campaign is based on a strong nationalist rhetoric: "We, the people of Latvia, have always been united, and in these troubled times we have to take care of each other, to take care of us as a nation. The time has come to say clearly that we want to see our brothers returned to their country. Even if at first only in the summer, Christmas or the 100th anniversary of Latvia. "
- b) a set of policies designed to make bureaucratic immigration procedures more difficult after graduation and fast employment for young people. There is also a counseling, consultancy and negotiation service for migrants wishing to return to

⁷Ritli Laszlo, *Dreptul la liberă circulație a persoanelor în Uniunea Europeană*, Faculty of Political Sciences and Communication Sciences, University of Oradea, 2015;

⁸*Politica de migrație a Uniunii Europene – implicații pentru piața muncii*, Europe Direct București, 2013, pg.6, available at <http://europedirectbucuresti.ier.ro/wp-content/uploads/Brosura-ED-Politica-de-Romania/migration-a-UE.pdf>, accessed on 30.11.2018;

⁹ Udo Bongartz, *Lettische Politiker zögern, Kinder im Ausland zur Rückkehr aufzufordern*, article available at <http://www.lettische-presseschau.de/politik/lettland/1027-pr-kampagne-des-lettischen-instituuts>, accessed on the date of 30.11.2018;

the country. The program was criticized for its nationalistic and isolationist character, but also because of the credibility of its founders.¹⁰

In Romania, according to data provided by INS, almost 208,000 Romanians went abroad in 2016, their number being slightly increasing compared to 2015. The number of emigrants in 2016 is the highest since 2009. Thus, the number of Romanian emigrants does not decrease, despite the fact that wages have increased significantly in recent years.

YEAR	TEMPORARY EMIGRANTS	PERMANENT EMIGRANTS
2008	302.796	8739
2009	246.626	10211
2010	197.985	7906
2011	195.551	18307
2012	170.186	18001
2013	161.755	19056
2014	172.871	11251
2015	194.718	15235
2016	207.578	22807

Tab.1. Number of Romanian emigrants in 2008-2016

Source: INS

One possible explanation for this apparent contradiction is the multiplication of people's departure opportunities, which have more and more relatives and knowledge that can help them go abroad. The theory of migrant networks is enviable in this respect. On the other hand, another possible explanation may come from the sphere of social representations: some people do not trust the way the system works, they no longer believe in the promise of the decision-makers. In a large study conducted in 2017 by KeysFin, based on the statistical data provided by the INS, CNP and Eurostat, related to the labor market over the past 10 years, many dysfunctional phenomena have been identified due to the massive emigration of the labor force. For example, the number of employees and the level of professionalism have decreased in recent years, a phenomenon that may increase in the future.¹¹

According to the researchers, the highest wages were recorded on average by those working in the financial intermediation and insurance sector (4,000 lei), where the gains advanced most in the last 10 years. Significant gain was recorded by those working in IT & Telecom, where the average wage level advanced from 2119 lei in 2008 to 3822 lei in 2015, mining employees from 2287 lei to 3454 lei, and those in the sector the provision of utilities (2389 lei versus 3077 lei). On the opposite side were employees from agriculture, construction, HORECA, trade and health, where the

¹⁰ *Ibidem*;

¹¹ Adrian Negrescu, *Care e profilul angajatului român, la 10 ani de la aderarea la UE?*, available at <http://keysfin.com/#!/Pages/News/NewsDetails&title=1-mai-ziua-internationala-a-in-> of work, accessed on 30.11.2018;

average salary did not yet exceed the equivalent of 350 euros.¹² Migration has also been felt in the labor force in agriculture, parallel to the continuous mechanization of agriculture. and combining exploitable agricultural land. Basically, fewer people have managed to manage larger areas. However, in 2016 over a quarter (25.8%) of the Romanian population was employed in agriculture, which places Romania in the first place in the European Union, where the average employed population in agriculture was 4.4%. In 2016, about 10 million people worked in agriculture in the European Union. Nearly three-quarters (72.8%) of the EU labor force was concentrated in seven countries: Romania, Poland, Italy, France, Spain, Bulgaria and Germany. However, Romanian agriculture remains one of the least competitive.¹³

Developed companies have undergone a process of modernization that has led to a shift from work to agriculture to employment in industry and services. Romania is the EU Member State with the highest rate of employment in agriculture, simultaneously with the paradoxical phenomenon that shows that many Romanian farms are facing a shortage of specialized labor force. There are already frequent discussions on the elimination of subsistence agriculture in the employment category. If such a decision is made, taking into account the high employment rate in agriculture in our country, then EU employment data will show even greater disparities between Romania and most of the Member States in terms of unemployment.

GEO/TIME	2007	2014
UE	5,5	5,0
Bulgary	17,4	14,4
Czech Republic	3,3	3,3
Estonia	4,6	3,7
Latvia	8,1	7,4
Lituania	10,1	9,2
Hungary	7,5	6,7
Poland	14,6	11,5
Romania	33,6	29,4
Slovenia	8,7	8,3
Slovakia	3,8	3,3

Table 2. Employment rate in agriculture

Source: Eurostat

4. Romania's position on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

¹²*Ibidem*;

¹³Păun Ioan Otiman, *Structura agrară actuală a româniei – o mare (și nerezolvată) problemă socială și economică a țării*, Revista Română de Sociologie, nr. 5-6, 2012, pg.339, available at <http://www.revistadesociologie.ro/pdf-uri/nr.5-6-2012/01-OTIMAN.pdf>, accessed on 30.11.2018;

And in Romania, the number of requests sent to the Bucharest Government to reject the Global Compact is on the rise, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 29 November submitted a response stating that it is "only a guidance document and has no legal or financial effects, maintains the sovereign right of states to determine their own policies in the field and their own legislative framework for its implementation, and Romania retains its decision-making capacity in terms of migration" According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the document does not create a new category of rights (migrants' rights), does not encourage or facilitate migration, contains provisions that discourage leaving countries of origin and facilitates returns and readmission, and so far 180 states in 193 they will ask him, the final decision being taken at the UN General Assembly, when he will be voting on the draft resolution on this issue¹⁴

The position of the MFA does not convince the opponents in Romania of the Global Compact, which they say is the document by which the national states will delegate on a supranational level the management of migratory flows and the crises generated by the influx of migrants as well as the illegal migration which contravenes the principle of sovereignty, enshrined in the Romanian Constitution and the article in the fundamental law of the country regarding the transfer of foreign populations on the territory of Romania. Liberal Deputy Daniel Gheorghe believes that with this pact, which the UN wants to implement a series of measures and a series of international norms that put the so-called right to migration above national sovereignty and the right of the state to - and manage our own borders, we will reach an internationalist concert, a concert that once existed in a certain ideological, borderless, stateless, without authority, without army, without laws.

"We can reach a national anarchy if we are going to sign this treaty. It is not by chance that the United States and six other EU members have refused to be part of this UN Negotiation Package on migration and have withdrawn on the grounds that it is against the fundamental right of any nation to manage its own interests.

I believe that Romania should not sign this pact on migration, which violates national sovereignty and turns migration to a value above the law, and will have negative consequences for the country. But I do not wonder, the PSD has shown lately that it is less interested in the return of Romanians left in their country, but to attract immigrants from all over the world. I am afraid that this irresponsible Government will sign this treaty, as it did with others I learned about later. So, I urge the Government of Romania to withdraw from the UN Pact on Migration "¹⁵

5. Conclusions and theoretical reflections

The presentation of the negative effects that massive emigration had on socio-economic realities in Romania after joining the European Union was aimed at illustrating the imbalances that massive and unregulated exodus generates on a particular social system. Far from being a source of sustainable development, internal migration (from the village to the city) and external migration (from underdeveloped to developed countries) gave rise to unprecedented social problems in history, the solution of which can not be achieved by encouraging irrational and undifferentiated migration, its transformation from the institution and social phenomenon into the "human right". The refugee crisis - frequently evoked for the relaxation of migration legislation - does

¹⁴ <http://www.mae.ro/node/47571>, accessed on 30.11.2018;

¹⁵ <https://romanalibera.ro/politica/video-deputatul-daniel-gheorghe-despre-pactul-onu-pentru-migratie-763244>, accessed on 30.11.2018;

not substitute the abolition of the notion of "territory" and the formulation of policies based on moral abstractions to theoretical reasoning based on empirical realities.

The drama of these migratory populations has to find their way in the countries of origin, and peace and development in those regions is far more rational than the displacement of millions of poor people, belonging to a culture radically different from that of the countries of arrival.

The solution is that the developed countries intervene firmly to put an end to the wars that grind the Middle East and Africa, not to become the collateral victims of these wars. Risks are multiple. First of all, there is a risk that there will be fundamental Islamists, terrorists and potential terrorists among the newcomers. More seriously, social integration will remain a problematic issue, favoring the crystallization of contracticles and even suburbs generated by segregation, as is already the case in major European capitals. They will remain a huge social problem with a higher explosive potential.

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration has the potential to generate more problems than it does. Abstracted from all that is known about migration, based on empirical studies and classical theories, the pact replaces scientific knowledge of ideological arbitrariness, without anticipating, at least tangentially, the risks to which signatory states might be exposed following the implementation of the pact and at least propose a strategy to manage these risks. It is the duty of the sociology of migration to offer new theoretical perspectives, new analyzes and researches that can normalize the international policy on migration on the scientific basis with the awareness of the decision-makers. From this point of view, through this article, we have the intention of drawing an alarm signal and formulating new theoretical hypotheses from which we can start in further research.

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