

ASPECTS OF THE DIMENSIONS AND DYNAMICS OF THE ROMANIAN LABOR FORCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

*Brigadier General (ret.) Professor Viorel BUȚA, PhD**
*Andreea Mihaela RADU, PhD Candidate***

Abstract: *The migratory phenomenon of the 1980s in Europe is characterized by political and economic changes in the East-West region, which led to the emigration of the populations from the former socialist states to the countries of Western Europe, economically developed countries. In this context, the developed countries have taken restrictive measures. Regarding the migration of the 1990s, the analysis reveals that the form of migration from this time is a labor force and temporary migration called "pendular" in the EU countries, the situation being different from previous migrations that were predominantly permanent*

With regard to the mobility of the Romanian labor force in the European Union, finding a job is the main cause of emigration. On this background, it is noted that men are particularly focused in the construction sector, while women find a job easier in domestic services. This situation exposes Romanians, especially men, to an increased risk of unemployment.

Keywords: *transnational networks, diaspora networks, pendular migration, brain drain, cross-border pendularism, migratory flows.*

Introduction:

Following the political and economic changes of the late 1980s, East-West migration gained in Central and Eastern Europe. Given the magnitude of migration from the former socialist countries, the countries of Western Europe quickly reacted with restrictive measures. The most frequently cited reasons for the developed countries were the increase in unemployment and the level of social spending. The fundamentals of

* Academia Oamenilor de Știință din România, Academia de Științe ale Securității Naționale, e-mail: vbuta49@yahoo.com

** Școala Națională de Studii Politice și Administrative, e-mail: andreea_1206@yahoo.com

migration policies are based mainly on traditionalist theories, which means - somewhat simplified - that income gaps are the main explanatory factor, the gaps between GDP or income per capita differences are generally used as an indicator. Often, theoretical considerations show that migration is a permanent or lasting phenomenon. In the case of the East-West migrations of the 1990s, analyzes converge to the idea that, in essence, labor migration and temporary migration or to use a newer term, which will be discussed in the pendular "work in EU countries, the situation being different from previous migrations, which were predominantly permanent.

Contents:

The economic benefits generated by emigration are, unfortunately, accompanied by a series of difficulties both in the host country and in Romania.

Despite the problems raised in several EU Member States about housing and low incomes, the families of Romanian immigrants have mobilized to accelerate their integration process.

The family character of Romanian immigration is confirmed by the high rate of minors among them. Thus, while at the level of the entire population of immigrants in the European Union this rate is on average 17.8%, in some countries the percentage of Romanian immigrants under the age of 18 is between 20 and 25, respectively: 24.4 % in Belgium, 23.4% in Austria, 21.1% in France and 21.9% in Italy. Spain and Sweden, on the other hand, this rate is close to the European average (18.6% and 18.7% respectively), while in Hungary in Germany it is below average, 9.9% and 13, 2%.

Concerning this, Italian researcher Pietro Cingolani, referring to the anthropological aspects of transnational immigrant networks, notes that emigration, although effective in meeting economic needs, appears as a factor in fragmentation of family nuclei and family formation transnational, characterized by the separation of its members and situations of vulnerability, especially for the remaining partner in the country of origin, which risks seizing the temporary absence of the spouse as a definitive abandonment.

Referring to the situation of minors in immigrant families, noting that social and educational discomfort sometimes affects children - the true

victims of the so-called "exodus of those who care for them", who suffer psycho-emotional and behavioral disorders, whose expressions are in fact translated, in most cases, through cognitive delays and school dropout. All these problems can continue after family reunification in the country where parents work.

The search for a job was and remains for Romanians the main cause of emigration, the employment rate in different EU Member States being higher than the general average of immigrants.

Men easily accept the heaviest tasks, especially in the construction sector, while women find a job easier in domestic services. This situation exposes Romanians, especially men, to an increased risk of unemployment.

In an economically challenging period, one of the most common solutions to tackling job loss is creating your own business. According to Unioncamere, the Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce, 46,000 Romanians have their own business in Italy, mainly small construction companies, which, although more exposed to economic change, may start an activity with a low initial capital, followed by those in the commerce sector. The funds transferred to Romania, which are essential for the subsistence of the family members remaining in the country, have not been exhausted, even in the most economically difficult years, being fed by the savings of employees and entrepreneurs who usually have resources more consistent.

According to the World Bank estimates, Romanian workers have sent over 3.6 billion US dollars to the country. The value of these transfers has fallen due to economic difficulties, but also because the integration process in the country of residence has become more expensive: buying a home, educating children, etc. However, it should be recalled that the real value of the transfers is higher than the one recorded by the banking transactions, as many Romanians prefer to bring their own money, not by bank transfer, when they return to the country.

An interesting case to be analyzed is immigration from Italy and Spain, Italy being, as I mentioned earlier, the EU Member State with the largest number of Romanians, a sufficiently emblematic case for its interest to go beyond national borders at the point where some analysts tried to compare this situation with that of Mexicans in the United States. The number of Romanians present in Italy grew progressively, in 1990 it was only 8,000 in 1999, 50,000 in 1999, and in 2002, the year of a large

immigrant settlement process of 240,000, outnumbered by Moroccan and Albanian immigrants.

The abolition of the obligation to hold a residence visa for periods of less than three months in order to travel to the Schengen area in January 2002 favored "unofficial" (ie "temporary") flows even in pendulum. Since 2007, the year of Romania's accession to the European Union, the migration flows in Romania have increased due to the free movement of citizens and community workers, although, as I said earlier, it has been applied with some reservations. In 2013, the number of Romanians in Italy has reached almost one million people (to which between 100,000 and 200,000 unregistered people in municipal statistics should be added). In a decade (2002-2011), according to the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), the number of Romanian nationals leaving Italy was 84,403, out of which 33,762, deletions on the initiative of those concerned and 50,641 wipings conducted by ISTAT.

According to the same data, within 10 years, every Romanian who left Italy was replaced by ten who either entered Italy or were born in Italian territory by Romanian parents. The region with most Romanians is Lazio, with 200,000 registered people, meaning 20% of Romanians living in Italy. In other words, one in three inhabitants of the region is Romanian. There are Turin, Milan, Padova, Verona, Brescia, Treviso, Florence, Bologna and Perugia, where the number of Romanians is significant.

The percentage of workers with a higher occupation is high among Romanians and among Poles, Ukrainians and Filipinos: 37.8% of Romanian workers occupy medium-skilled jobs (workers, craftsmen) and 30.8% unskilled jobs, while management, entrepreneurship and technician positions are only 4.6%, with employees in the trade and service sectors accounting for 26.8%. Italy is an interesting case, not only because of the numerical weight of the Romanians, but also because of the attitude of the Italians towards the Romanians, characterized by the role that has often been attributed to them as "scapegoats". Initially, as it has been seen in many countries of the European Union, public opinion has expressed its full satisfaction with the collapse of communist regimes. Then this feeling was replaced by the fear of a significant increase in the number of immigrants from the former Soviet bloc, in the context of a weak economic growth or even a recession in 2008. In the conditions of a degraded economic

situation, "it was necessary" to find guilty and, as happened in the past, for Moroccans and Albanians, the Romanians were, in their turn, accused not only of worsening an already difficult economic situation, but also of prejudice to society because of their behavior.

In the collective mentality, the Romanians were associated with a "community of delinquents", without taking into account the observations of the informed analysts who, on the basis of crime statistics, highlighted the honest attitudes among the Romanian immigrants. The Romanians were thus the target of an incriminating prejudice, as was the case with the Italian migrants, both in Europe and beyond the Atlantic, as Gian Antonio Stella, documentarist, author of several papers on the issue of migration. At present, these negative feelings seem to have faded, and many Italians appreciate the work done by Romanian workers, stressing and expressing regret at the same time that within the European Union, including Italy, the xenophobic rhetoric at immigrants - including communities - perceived as the cause of all evils in Europe, are gaining more and more land. The phenomenon of rising migratory flows in Romania, and even saturation, manifested itself in other countries in Europe, which appeared to be more "welcoming" in terms of job offer and installation possibilities. One such case is Spain, where, since 2004-2005, the number of Romanians has been steadily rising, particularly in rural areas, which have recently been surplus, given that the local supply of activities stable was quite low.

As the situation became critical, instead of a retreat, given the decline in the global profitability of this destination, some adaptations of migratory and mobility strategies have occurred. In this context, the long-term establishment of new immigrants from Romania will be very difficult and less profitable, and jobs temporary and uncertain.

Thus, the premises for the development of circulatory practices in Spain, which will be based on the "grid" of the space formed by the Romanian social networks, have been established. Since employment opportunities have been increasingly diversified (activities and spatial location), Romanians and families of Romanians will constantly travel between different regions of the country, changing jobs, from agriculture, to temporary tourism, at different times of the year, thus combining activities to maintain their earnings under migratory conditions. For this purpose, they have used their long experience in the "art of coping" both in the process of

migration, accumulated over the years in Romania and in Europe, but especially the many contacts they have in the migration networks, social networks created when leaving Romania, but which over the years and waves of temporary emigration will be dispersed and expanded.

Starting with 2007, with the Romanians having access to the right to free movement in Europe, the migration of Romanians to Spain (which became the main destination country) alternated with periods of temporary activity in other countries, France, Great Britain or Greece, based on contacts created over the years and reorientations. Thus, punctual forms of unification of circular fields across the continent have been created.

Pendular migration phenomena

At one point, the situation of the Romanians was associated with the migration phenomenon, considered as a new (and desirable) form of international migration, used instead of the traditional terms of "emigration" and "coming back". These migratory movements (also called "circular") are today a form of non-institutionalized, short-term mobility that takes place for commercial, professional or business reasons, supported by large migrant networks (family, ethnic).

This type of migration has the advantage of allowing the migrant to work, gain experience, save, and then use it in the home country, thus avoiding the increase in the number of immigrants staying in host countries. It should be recalled here that a form of pendulum migration has been practiced and institutionalized long ago as a seasonal migration and that this "new theory" has not only not yet been sufficiently confirmed by statistical data, as demonstrated by the gradual increase of Romanian migrants in the other EU Member States, but it has caused some blurring, even in the conceptual plan.

More relevant indicator of "pendularity" could be, to a certain extent, the remarkable availability of this labor force to move and move to the host country's territory, depending on the needs of the labor market or the opportunities offered in terms of access to services or housing. But unusual is the "pendularity" of one Member State to another, although it is favored by the streamlining of legislation within the European Union

An interesting radiography of the quantitative aspects regarding the Romanian citizens living temporarily abroad shows that the number of Romanians identified as temporary residents in Italy was 169,766, which

represents almost half of the total of 385,729 Romanians living temporarily abroad. This confirms once again the persistence of a special relationship between Romania and Italy; in the other countries, the number of Romanians living temporarily was only 71,102 in Spain, 29,084 in Germany, 21,712 in France, 19,064 in the United Kingdom and 14,104 in Hungary. Obviously, these are only intra-Community flows. In any migratory experience, driven by needs and lived as a kind of exile, return is an ordinary perspective, but turns into a "myth" when conditions are not met for its actual realization.

According to a survey conducted by the Italian Center for IDOS Studies and Research, returning to the country is a present perspective in the minds of the interviewed Romanians, but often postponed because they are linked to their jobs, social services and the entire network of human relations on who have established it. So, returning to the country becomes a deceptive "myth," because the emigrant, returning to a context of unemployment and marginalization, is soon forced to leave the country. Even those who intend to start a business are facing difficulties because of increased competition - including from foreign companies - of their limited capital and insufficient support from the state. Unlike those who, once returned, are forced to resume the emigration, pensioners or people close to retirement age manage to overcome that moment of professional impediment, because they enjoy the contribution that the old-age pension entitlements provide.

On the other hand, the return of migrants to the country, especially of skilled migrants, through their social, human, scientific and economic capital, can help, if certain conditions are met, to develop the country. Indeed, that educated diaspora category can help strengthen the trade, intellectual and cultural exchanges between Romania and the rest of the world. So diaspora networks are becoming increasingly important actors in the development of communities of origin by financing projects and by supporting local initiatives.

As we have already shown, the specialized economic literature on the consequences of qualified emigration has repeatedly highlighted the negative effects of the brain drain. This emigration has been perceived by some as a theft of the skilled labor force of the least developed countries.

Recently, however, some studies have shown that qualified migration is not just a scourge, but can be accompanied by a brain drain.

However, a negative effect could probably materialize if a significant proportion of the population migrated or the level of education in the host country would fall.

Regarding pendular migration, specialized studies suggest that it may have positive effects on family members and migrants' home community, quoting some developing countries such as Egypt and Tunisia, where migrant returns have increased level of investments.

For some authors, such as Robert Lucas and Odet Stark, the intention to return to the country has the effect of increasing the funds directed to investing in fixed assets, such as buying houses, land or animals, and in so-called public capital, how would be relations with the family and the home community.

Conclusions:

Most of the comments made following recent data analysis indicate that home-based economic development reduces migratory pressures, especially when labor-market tensions arise as a result of development. The effects of migration on the economic development of countries of origin vary according to context. These effects depend to a large extent on the nature and composition of migration, the economic environment in the countries of origin and migrant experiences acquired during their stay abroad.

At the same time, in the great diversity of trans-European migration phenomena, we have seen that it is possible to distinguish: the movements of the repatriated people (repatriations) that have existed, but whose magnitude and concentration over short periods were significant after 1989, asylum seekers, an older phenomenon, but which tends to accentuate or change (the labor system of migrants) and new phenomena that have made their presence felt in the West but which existed in the East (migratory movements).

All the social categories of the companies in the countries of origin are involved in this new mobility. Indeed, migrants are growing in the urban area, and they are qualified, and the share of women is very important, largely exceeding the number of men in the majority of cases. As mentioned

above, labor migration analyzes are often brief, due to insufficient, even non-existent statistical data.

The most complex statistics are those about job seekers because, as we have seen, entry into the territory of a country is always limited or at least controlled. On the other hand, it is much more difficult to obtain data on labor migration, as governments do not consider it essential to control exit from the country for financial reasons.

Regarding the Romanian labor migration, the analysis presented in the pages of the paper makes it possible to draw conclusions to answer the general question of the existence of a visible relationship between the internal labor market and migration and, at the same time, to remove some traditionalist hypotheses by the phenomenon of migration. There is no direct link between unemployment and work abroad. Most Romanian migrants looking for a job abroad do not necessarily come from localities with a high unemployment rate. Studies have shown that the number of immigrants originating in more developed areas of the country would be even higher than those with a lower level. It can also be said that there are two types of relations between the labor mobility of the country and the work abroad studied the "pendularity" as an important means of adapting to the labor market. In this context, there seems to be a relationship between this form of "shuttle" and migration abroad, being perceived mainly as a complementary possibility. In fact, this form of pendulum migration diminishes the probability of definitive migration. In the case of cross-border "pendularism", it should be noted that this phenomenon has so far been unilateral, for example from Romania to Germany, it must be acknowledged that the actors of the same regional labor market are cross-border or domestic "commuters" . At the same time, the role of social relations, which was often mentioned in specialized papers as another reason, after the economic ones, was also demonstrated. For example, there is an obvious report that determines migration between the percentage of the German minority in a locality and that of its active inhabitants who will go to work abroad.



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