

MIGRATION OF THE ROMANIAN WORKFORCE IN THE PERIOD 1989-2006 STAGES AND TENDENCIES

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Abstract: The paper is about evolution of migration of the Romanian workforce in the period 1989-2006. The paper is based on data evidence from National Institute of Statistics. People in the communities which were exposed to migration discovered the well fare of their neighbors and the microbe spread easily due to the improvement in the way of life of the people which experienced migration or the families of these people. This gives a positive aspect for the Romanian economy together with the negative one for the low number of able for work people in comparison with the increasing number of retired persons.

Key words: migration, workforce, emmigration

Data collection.

There are two main types of recorded international migration data: stocks of foreign nationals (either resident or resident and working) and migration flows to and from a country. Stocks are recorded through a system of residence permits, a population register, a census or a survey such as a labour force survey. Stocks of foreign workers are measured using work permits and labour force surveys. Censuses too, rely on people returning a completed questionnaire and on the whole are only carried out once every five to ten years. Labour force and other surveys tend only to take a comparatively small sample of the population and so the sampling errors are large

Current trends in international migration in Europe.

The countries of the region both send and receive migrants. As controls have tightened on the borders of Western Europe and steps have been taken to curb illegal migration (including smuggling and trafficking), what were “countries of second choice” for migrants from further afield have become ones of first choice (Kraler and Iglicka, 2002). Enlargement of the EU eastwards and acceptance of the *acquis* by countries of Central and Eastern Europe is leading to the creation of a new buffer zone beyond their boundaries in Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine and Croatia. These countries are likely to have to cope with larger numbers of migrants in transit to the west and are likely to become the new “vestibules” of the EU.

Analysis of the Romanian Emigration in the period 1989-2006

According to the study realized by the Soros Foundation „Locuirea temporara in strainatate, migratia economica a romanilor 1990-2006” these are the six forms of major questions regarding temporary migration for working abroad - the Romanian migration after 1989. In other words the study focuses on:

- number- how many leave and how many return;
- social profile – what social typology are people who migrate
- the way things happen – the leaving, the hiring, integration in the new social medium
- the space – where are they going from(regional migration), where to
- motivation and consequences
- time – variations in terms of stages of emmigration for all the aspects mentioned before.

Categories of population:

The percentage of the adult persons, alive at the moment of the inquiry, who worked abroad in the last 17 years, was of at least 10%. Yet it is a great possibility that the percentage is bigger.

The decision to go work abroad has had a considerable variation in terms of categories of population:

- there left to work more young persons compared to the old ones;

- more men than women
- regarding the men aged between 18-59 the rural population has more representatives
- regarding women, we have two trends: those between 18-29 more from rural medium than from urban; instead for those aged 30-59 more from urban medium than from the rural one.

As a conclusion, to work abroad are going more:

- men compared to women
- young persons compared to the old ones
- young women from rural medium compared to those from the urban
- mature women from urban medium compared to those from rural medium

To go and work abroad was an innovation for the Romanian society after 1989, and had an initial period, followed by a maximum of social contagiousness. First stage: 1990 -1995: the rates of annual emmigration for the period did not overpassed the level of 5‰ - we could name it the exploration period in search for work. The second stage: 1996-2001 – the emmigration rate reaches values of 67‰. during this period. After 2002 (the right to have access to the Schengen space) the process becomes even more intense. The work abroad becomes a mass-phenomenon, with an emmigration rate between 10‰ and 28‰

Where from/where to:

The emmigration direction changed in time. At the beginning of the 90's Israel and Turkey were the main centres of attraction for work. Italy, Germany and Hungary had a second place. Almost 1/5 of the total amount of departures were towards Israel. Afterwards, from 1996 to 2001 Italy becomes leader of attraction for the Romanians who want to work abroad. Israel goes to a second place. During the third period, starting with 2002, the hierarchy changes again: the maximum of attraction being both Italy and Spain. Towards Italy there is an amount of departures of 50% and towards Spain 25%.

Destination:

We could identify a reduced number of countries towards which the Romanian concentrate in their quest for work:

- during the first stage (90-95) there had been 5 destination with a percentage of 7% of the total departure amount: Israel, Turkey, Italy, Hungary, Germany.
- during the second stage (1996-2002) we could add Canada and Spain
- starting with 2002 the Romanians decide mostly for Italy and Spain

We also have a change in the number of departures-double compared to 1990-1995, and after 2001 there is a triplication of the number of persons who go for work abroad. During the period from 1996 to 2001 in terms of the three main Romanian regions the departures were equal. Afterwards Moldavia becomes the most important exporter of work force, followed by Muntenia and Transilvania. West and South West regions of the country (Crisana, Maramures, Banat, Oltenia) were on a third place. Dobrogea and Bucharest had, no matter what period, the lowest rate of emmigration. During 1990-2001 the orientation of the work force is differentiated according to regions:

- Moldavy oriented towards Italy and Israel
- Dobrogea towards Italy and Germany
- Transilvania - Hungary
- Muntenii - Turkey
- Oltenia - Canada;
- Bucharest - Greece

After 2001, for eight of the historic regions of Romania, Italy becomes the main destination. With the exception of Muntenia, oriented towards Spain. A few specific destinations maintain after 2001 – Transilvania towards Hungary and Dobrogea towards Germany. Spain imposes as main destination for emmigrants in Moldavia, Oltenia and Crisana-Maramures.

Approxitatively 11% of the Romanian population would like to go and work abroad in the next year – so more than a million Romanians (1400000) want to emmigrate for work.

This simple intention is also very differentiated from a social point of view The role of relationships is the most important if one wants to find a workplace abroad. Most of the persons who worked abroad didn't have a work permit.

Conclusions:

- Romanian people after 1989 discovered a new world - one which was forbidden if not hidden before.
- People in the communities which were exposed to migration discovered the well fare of their neighbors and the microbe spread easily due to the improvement in the way of life of the people which experienced migration or the families of these people. This gives a positive aspect for the Romanian economy together with the negative one for the low number of able for work people in comparison with the increasing number of retired persons.
- The future of migration from Romania is influenced by three aspects CHANGE, WELL FARE AND EDUCATION. More and more people are attracted by the mirage of the abroad life.

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