

THE SEDUCTION OF MIGRATION WITH REGARD TO ROMANIAN WORKERS

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Abstract: *The shock of the transition from a centralized type to a free market type economy and the fall of barriers with regard to migratory labor force in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, after the fall of communist regimes in the early 1990s, have led to national companies modeling, producing a new configuration of Europe, under the banner of cooperation and common values. If in the case of Romania before 1989 we were dealing with migration restriction in the forthcoming period communism we are witnessing a massive flow of migration of the labor force, its own citizens leaving national territory in favor of establishing either temporary or definitive in Europe or in countries outside the European Union. The term migration has exceeded the strictly considered academic environment, becoming a popular subject, commonly used by the media and the population, but largely minimized by the Romanian political class. Given its particular importance on the socio-economic, cultural and political development, the purpose of this study is to get a better understanding of the magnitude of the Romanian migration and the causes that have led to its genesis and stimulation. Why people choose to emigrate, which are the motives which cause them to adopt this behavior, which are the countries of destination and which are the clichés faced by Romanian migrants there, what are the consequences of such a process, these are the questions to which we want to have an answer. Literature in the field, rigorous studies of visiting scientists from the various areas, the statistical data from the various publications by the National Institute of Statistics and online media sources have been given a picture of the phenomenon being investigated, and which have been added to the data collected as a result of the application of a questionnaire in the Romanian community from the United Arab Emirates. This will highlight a reaction in the group, namely the run away from the Romanian state, which is perceived as a passive/reactive player on the chessboard of the European Union. The conclusions of the study indicate the need for the State involvement in efficient management of Romanian migration – in particular, the migration of highly and medium qualified workers, granting importance to the reverse migration, namely the return back-home.*

Keywords: migration, migratory labour force, brain drain, Romania, United Arab Emirates.

JEL classification: J100

1. Several considerations.

Motto: “The second component of the demographic dynamic is the international migration [...] The immigrations have the same signification as births, while emigrations represent losses ...” (Trebici, 1991)

In the context of globalization the world becomes more alike a “global village” and we tend to agree with the fact that “the XXI’st Century will be the migration age” (Schatzer, 2001). Migration has existed since ever as human nature feature, playing an important role in

states and society evolution, enriching therefore the cultures and civilization. In base of these considerations, migration has become a fragile topic and strongly commented, especially in the receiving countries of immigrants. As a result, the world's states attention was concretized in a series of conventions and agreements in the field, of which we remember the most important ones: Geneva Convention on Refugees, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention 143 of the International Labor Organization: migrant workers, Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, the Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by sea , air or land, etc.

With the collapse of communism in Central and Eastern Europe and the former communist countries in the EU integration have imposed the liberalization of capital markets engaging in a decisive way, not only the free movement of goods and capital, but also of people, information and ideas. If before 1989 Romanian citizens left their territory either for political or ethnic reasons or family reunification, invoking either to study or work abroad, based on governmental agreements between Romania and other countries, today the main motivations of migration were transformed into reasons, predominantly economic.

In one of the last interviews given by Nicolae Ceausescu he had justified in a polite and complicated way the fact that Romanian citizens cannot travel freely abroad, even if the free movement is guaranteed by Constitution. "His answer was a perfect example of Stalinist sophistries...it's true, the Constitution guarantees the freedom of movement, but also guarantees people's right to a safe and prosperous home. Therefore we have a potential conflict between rights: if Romanian citizens were allowed to leave the country freely, the prosperity of the country would be threatened and they would compromise the right to a homeland. In this conflict of rights, there is a choice to be made, and the right to a safe and prosperous country clearly enjoys priority ... "(Zizek, 2014: 29). It seems that the same spirit of Stalinist sophistry courts the intellectual and political incompetence of elites of today Romania, who failed to get out of the pitfalls of the ideological discourse providing many reasons of population dissatisfaction. The lack of perspective, incoherent governance, public morality degradation and poverty explains the emphasis of Romanian migration phenomenon. Then it is about expanding corruption, which initially manifests itself here and there, and then extends everywhere, as the Head of German Federal Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Hans - Ludwig Zachert states (Coker and al., 2011), in various fields such as education, healthcare, scientific research, which does nothing but to affect the standard of living, the quality of life and increases social discrepancies. Do not think that other countries have bypassed the problem, they're far from it!

In the recent decades Romania has experienced important immigration variations of its citizens abroad. In 1990, permanent emigration was dominant, followed by temporary migration for work abroad in early 2001, and came as a reaction of dissatisfaction unto social - political status and increasing in 2007 and 2008 along with the membership of European Union (EU). With an aging population, a declining birth rate and leaving young labor force, the political class should be aware not only of the positive effects of migration, but also of its drastic effects. Despite the generally favorable context, European funds and the country's membership to the EU, Romania continues to be a country with a relatively low standard of living and unemployment that records an uptrend, topicality that led to the migration of about 4 million people (Ciolos, 2014). Moreover, the media and the specialized agencies warn that remittances are not capable of generating sustainable economic growth and solve the chronic problems with which Romania is facing, but the Romanian state continues to adopt the same passive, indifferent position, demonstrating the incompetence of controlling and managing the mass migration of Romanians, not involving itself actively in supporting migrants and their investments.

2. Manpower migration

One of the key factors that shape our world is migration, also called migratory movement of population. According to the Dictionary of Human Geography, migration is "a process by which people change temporarily or permanently their place of residence." In the same dictionary, as concise, clear and properly defined, the term of international migration "involves crossing a border, an official political boundary, regardless of the traveled distance."

Quoting Professor Miftode (1984: 154), which defines migration as "a spatial expression of social mobility", it is obvious that it brings significant social and political adjustments with social and economic policy implications and does not only mean a simple movement in the territory. A classic definition of migration is given by the sociologist Szczepanski (1972: 402), which defines it as a "series of phenomena that resides in individuals or groups moving from place to place in the social space".

The complexity of the phenomenon and the multiple and different consequences that it causes on individuals and states determine us not to have a single point of view on migration and the methods of data collection is not so satisfactory in order to provide a complete picture of the reality of migration flows. Considering two of the defining variables of migration, namely space and time, we can speak of internal migration (between different regions, located within the borders of a country) and of an international migration (external), of a temporary and a permanent migration. Approach to migration varies depending on the context in which it is placed: political, economical, social or cultural.

Professor Sandu draws attention to an important feature of migration today, namely that it does not resemble that of a century ago and that European countries have shifted in the last Century from country of emigration, which provide migrants, to country of immigration, which turned into host or transit countries. Thus, now the distinction between country of origin, transit and destination has become increasingly confused, a country that can have all the three characteristics. Migration affects almost all regions of the world and its motivations are more numerous today than they were once. We mention a few of them, namely: increasing regional disparities, demographic pressure, global crisis of jobs, segmentation of labor markets in developed countries, climate change, the discovery of new natural resources, deteriorating political environment in some countries, armed conflicts and ethnic clashes.

Labor migration has become a topic of major concern in today's world, together with the spectacular and unpredictable changes, which came in avalanche, amplifying the contacts and interdependencies between countries. The revolution of the new technologies of communication and transport, the existence of immigrant networks that provide access to information and offer support, and the possibility to travel from one end to the other of the world are contributing factors of international migration.

Taking into account migration specialists' opinion and certain statistics (UN, OECD, IOM, CGMC) we can say that we have entered a new phase of migration of women. If in the past immigrant women followed their husbands or partners, today they choose to migrate independently, often becoming financial supporters of their families at home. In the same context, global economic competition has intensified efforts of developed countries to attract highly skilled workforce everywhere, the benefits of "brain drain", as known in specialty literature, is still very popular. You can note that certain areas such as medical, computer science and research absorb an increasingly high percentage of Romanian migrants. Stănică (2007:110), citing various sources, shows that the meaning of the concept of brain drain expresses in most cases "educated labor migration from poor and qualified countries to the rich ones", attracted by better conditions of pay, professional recognition and a superior standard of living of the absorption country.

Legislation in force on the entry, residence, access to the labor market after the joining of Romania to the European Union on 1 January 2007 and the preparation level of the

migrants make Romanian migration know different directions, ascertaining for example that in Italy and Spain dominate low-skilled migrants, while in countries such as Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, France, UAE attract highly qualified migrants among the Romanians.

3. Consequences of labor force migration

Because both countries, of origin and the destination of international migration, are very different in terms of cultural, historical, ethnic composition and characteristics of the labor market, any attempt to generalize the effects of migration on them would be difficult to assess, as long as the evolution of international migration changes according to circumstances. Many developing countries governments, as is the case of Romania, encourages their labor migration by balancing its undeniable positive effects, such as reducing unemployment and the pressure on the system of assistance and social protection in these countries and the importance given to migrant remittances, which have contributed substantially to the national GDP in the past few years. But widespread emigration has its costs. The negative effect of labor migration increases with the loss of highly skilled and qualified labor for the home country, while recording in the host country "economic growth through human capital outstanding the creative ability of immigrants" (Zaman and Basil, 2005: 59). According to International Monetary Fund experts there is an increase of brain drain from less developed countries to the most developed ones (about 12.9 million people, of which 7 million in the US and 5.9 in other OECD member states) and a majority and well known trend to remain in the country of destination. Recent conducted research illustrates an increase in the size of the permanent international migration mainly at young people which will result in the medium and long term problems concerning birth rate and fertility (Ghetău, 2007). Consequently it's being distinguished the aging population of the countries of emigration. In Romania there are disastrous social consequences of migration, especially in rural areas. They make changes in family roles and among traditions in family life. An increasing number of school dropouts is registered among children who migrate to work abroad, even if temporarily. Of course there are positive aspects to immigrant and his family. As for the effects on host countries, they are significantly favorable, it is estimated as an increase in population through migration; it is associated with economic growth, workforce deficit reduction and mitigation of demographic aging process. One beneficial size to migration is the diversification of most contemporary societies, which creates prerequisites for a continuous development of human society.

4. European migration policy

If at declarative level, according to EU regulation no. 1612/68 EU citizens have the same rights as local ones, in terms of conditions of life and work, in practice things are different. Currently the EU has no functional strategy on migration, the member States policies having more like a reactive and defensive character imposing measures aimed at border control and implementing selective programs about accepting immigrants. The need for an integrated approach at EU level related to migration policy was considered in the following discussions and the conclusions of the Tampere European Council in 1999 was reinforced in 2004 by the Hague Programme, which invited the European Commission "to present a policy plan on legal migration, including admission procedures capable of responding promptly to fluctuating demand for migrant workers in the labor market before the end of 2005". In 2005, the Commission issued the Communication on Migration and Development. The European Council of 2007 reaffirms the principles of the Tampere stressing the need for a renewed political commitment on immigration as a fundamental priority to answer the challenges and opportunities of globalization. Looking ahead, says Rusu (2003), European policy regarding labor immigration will be

characterized by the following features: we will see differentiated policies on labor, depending on the area of origin, skills/ abilities they possess, the prospects of integration into the society of destination; as concerning the areas of origin of immigrants, although unreported, people coming from areas with highly extremist potential or those with a different western culture will be treated rigorously. It is about that Islamic blanket that leaves his own country in mass.

The experience of the recent years obliges the Member States to introduce and implement integrated, durable and effective policies in order not to point out short terms. We should not forget that importing labor, we import people and speaking about integrated policies begs the question: How and in what way? To answer, it is useful to call on all concepts expressing states and processes of living together, for example: incorporation, inclusion, assimilation, acculturation, diversity, separation, disintegration.

5. Method

To identify the Romanian immigrants perception about their reasons to emigrate, the authors conduct a questionnaire survey in UAE Romanian community. Are Romanians interested in coming to the UAE? From here started the 20 questions in our questionnaire, which were drawn using the free platform esurveyspro.com, being promoted exclusively in Romanian communities in UAE virtual space. 85 people answered this questionnaire. Most of the respondents taking part in this study ranged in age from 25's up to 39's and have a Master's degree.

6. Results and discussion

In the context of quitting the visa requirement for citizens of member states of the European Union, with effect from 22nd March 2014, temporary migration for work in UAE was boosted. The number of Romanians currently living in UAE is difficult to know, especially as there is not enough official statistics of the host country. Out of the whole research population 42,35% reside in UAE with their families, 23,53% live in UAE with their spouses, but without their children, who are left behind in Romania and 34,12% were single, without family responsibilities. Surprisingly, 65.68% of the people who emigrated in UAE are female, young people without health problems, with a higher educational level and income over average (53.01% occupying managerial positions), mainly in urban areas . This percentage can be explained if we consider highly developed tertiary sector in this country with a tradition of international migration.

From the perspective of our first question "Do you think that life in Romania is more difficult now than before 1989?" there are many reasons for the dissatisfaction of Romanians; 62.35% believe that it is fueled by the lack of perspective, the government incoherence and organization's disorganization, the extent of corruption and degradation of public morality, poverty and involution can be detected and quantified in various areas: demographics, standard of living, quality of life, education, scientific research, health care, increasing social disparities, marginalization and geopolitical isolation.

The factors in choosing the country's attractions are mentioned much higher living standards and opportunities for professional growth incomparably better by 61.18% of participants, while 20% admit that the lack of jobs in Romania was the major factor in their decision to emigrate. Also, 23.53% of immigrants show their availability to fill a job that local citizens would not accept, below their intellectual level, giving importance to short-term gains at the expense of social status.

Based on the results derived from the question "What sources of information you used when you decided to emigrate?" 53, 61% of the respondents say that previous immigrants had an important role in the choice of the destination country. But the entire survey underscores the limited nature of the support for these networks, explaining the lack of unity and support by the Romanians (18.90%). It is one of the problems that they are

facing in the host country with the lack of support from the Romanian authorities (39.37%), discrimination (10.24%) and stereotypes, not always friendly (18.90%). Discrimination in employment based on race, ethnicity or nationality is common in UAE and thus getting a job is easier for local people.

It was noticed that immigrants tend to socialize rather with their fellows and interact less with the citizens of the host country and that they are confronted with situations and adapting problems and integration to a new social environment. Eventually this attitude is understandable, people need roots in a transnational world, they need language, religious and cultural communication, they feel the need of national roots, the need to belong to a local community.

Romanian emigrants have no motivations to return home. The argument of wage income is no longer valid, they considering the importance of health and education system quality. The 100% unfavorable responses to the question "Do you think that Romania gives great importance to return back-home migration?" highlights the unfavorable position of the immigrants to the Romanian state, which continues to lose ground in chapter trust. Meanwhile, 89.41% believe that Romania is basically exporting specialists and scientists, becoming extremely vulnerable on multiple fields and having as a result a loss of strength, vitality and future of our country.

A reaction group is outlined (for example the run from the Romanian state), which is seen as a passive and reactive player on the chessboard of the European Union. The conclusions drawn from the research brings into question the need for state involvement in the effective management of Romanian migration, particularly migration of highly qualified people and giving importance return migration.

7. Limitations and suggestions for further research

The research study does not cover a sufficiently large volume of respondents and cannot validate certain patterns of thought or perception. The results provide a starting point for more extensive future studies.

8. Conclusions

Globalization and ultra-liberalism generated mostly negative effects for Romania under the pretext of transition to a market economy, resulted in increased social inequalities, reducing social aid, diminishing health and education services, transforming jobs in more like temporary jobs, unemployment explosion and demolition of national culture, which led to human capital, a valuable resource that could have made a difference at a time to catch up the economical gap that still separates Romania from the developed countries of the world. The loss is even greater as those who left, who represents the young wing of Romanian population, do not want to come back in Romania, aiming at rebuilding lives in another society.

After the fall of the communist regime, in Romania international migration for work took place in three stages: "The first stage falls in 1990-1995 and is characterized by a emigration rate of 5 %, the second stage, from 1996 to 2001 has an emigration rate of 6-7% and the last stage, the mass exodus of 2002-2006 reached the highest level, with emigration rates between 10 % and 28 %."(Sandu, 2006)

The world is changing rapidly, and most of the times these changes are unpredictable. We are witnessing the fall of borders and a fierce global competition, where old answers no longer fit new realities. We are known by what we show, foreigners judge us by our leaders and by people who are cheaply bought, and after the behavior of those who represent us across borders and their ability to communicate. The political elite could play better the card of the future ... adopting a pragmatic attitude and putting above the interests of internal understandings and the indispensability to comply with various international bodies and organizations (World Bank, European Union) of Romanian citizens' welfare. We are

not pleased with ideological discourses. We need effective and sustainable policies to support the positive effects of migration and minimize the negative ones; and not the last to promote the return and reintegration of migrants in their home country.

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