

## ROMANIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATIONS FLOWS

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**Abstract:** *This article treats in the first stage the terminological aspects concerning Migrations, analyzing under report the theoretical factors generator of migrations. The objective of this papers is to make an overall assessment of the various aspects of Romanian emigration. The emigration of Romanians by years, depending on the country of destination, from the development regions and depending on age groups. The main reasons that Romanians go abroad are for economic reasons, searching for a service with a salary higher than in the country of residence. The largest number of emigrants, was in 2007 once with accession of the Romania to the European Union and the preferences depending on the country of destination were Italy, Spain, Israel, Germany and the United Kingdom. At first who emigrated were engineers, technicians, doctors in the US, Canada and France, computer scientists, economists and teachers. Lately, we are witnessing a migration from the unqualified persons or the less qualified. According to a report on migration in the world 3.4 million Romanians are living in another country. External migration of the Romanians from perspective of development regions, confirm an emigration of the population of the areas where the share of persons of other nationalities is greater or where there is a lower level of economic development. International migration (voluntary or forced) became an important part of global existence. The number of women who left the country is higher than that of the men who chose to emigrate. Migration has effects both in the country of origin how and in the country of destination. Romanian migration is characterized as follows: migration especially of the young, capable and able to work. This leads to a crisis in the labor market, in the direction where there is pressure on employment is higher than Romanian workforce potential and capabilities. Changes in population age and gender groups, corroborated with decreased fertility rates lead to a process of continued demographic aging.*

**Keywords:** *Mobility; qualified work force; economic and demographic factors; free movement; economic effects.*

**JEL classification:** *J61; J62.*

### 1. Introduction

Migration is a form of mobility of persons, involving the spatial differences (change of residence) and temporal differences as a rule the movement for extended periods of time than it is to be assumed in the case of daily mobility (Willis, 2010).

In the specialized literature the forms of migration are:

- Internal migration, this takes place inside of country and aims rural-urban migration.
- International migration, involves the movement of persons beyond the borders of their own country. International migration has two phenomenon: immigration when it has in view the entry of foreigners in the territory of a country and

emigration, when the flow is out of people from one country to another country (Ghetau, 2007).

International migration can be:

- temporary, when the residence of the person who emigrated does not change and expect that person which has moved from place of residence to another country to return to the country of domicile;
- finally, involves the change of residence of the emigrant;
- individual, when the decision of travel affects the individual or his family;
- mass migration, when migration flows has in view the large groups of people (Sandu, 2006).

The migration terminology is particularly complex and dynamic. Lately, there are attempts to replace terms associated with migration (emigration, immigration) with mobility and movement because of negative connotation and geopolitical changes of the last decades but also because of their associated policies.

It is the case of European Union to ensure the free movement of persons as a fundamental freedom of the single market even that until now, The European Union is a space characterized by the broad liberalization of the movement of goods, services, capital and less, the labor (Badulescu, 2007).

In the European Union for some time it is used to living in a country and work in another country, to change jobs between several countries, with or without changing home, to study in a country and then to work in another country, benefiting from the facilities offered by a single internal market.

But changing the terminology so instead of migration within EU borders with mobility, does not change the status of these people, the positive or negative effects on the economies of source or destination country, as it has not changed national or international statistics, which operates with the same terms. Migration, in its legal and organized forms, and especially in its dramatically crossing of the border, often illegal, is a costly act in economic, cultural and human terms (Iancu et al, 2017). According to Recchi (2015), even authors who talk about labor mobility in the EU defines mobile workers as "... migrants who are protagonists of migratory innovative projects, due to the complexity of the factors that motivate and the policy framework in which they organize their lives "(Cohen & Sirkeci, 2011).

According to the International Organization for Migration, categories of migrants are:

- international migrants for work (migrant workers, called in some studies as economic migrants), represents the majority of international migrants;
- highly qualified international migrants, people in management positions, specialists in international organizations or multinationals and changes his place in the internal market of transnational or international organizations; The current pattern of labor migration, known as "brain drain"- represent for countries of origin a loss of intellectual capital;
- illegal international migrants who enter in a country without legal documents necessary to access the country, these feed black market labor;
- refugees, those who leave their country of residence and cannot return because of fear that they will be persecuted because of religion, nationality, political or their opinion;
- asylum seekers, people who, for reasons of safety of life, leave their country of origin;

- forced migrants, people who are forced to leave their country because of natural disasters or industrial projects that destroy habitat;
- returnees, those who, after a while, they return to their home countries (OIM, 2014).

## 2. Romania and emigration

Migrations have effects on destination countries as well as on countries of origin.

### For the country of destination

Economic effects: Immigrants cover the labor gaps, but they can also compete with the local population. In general, the effects are beneficial for all parts.

Demographic Effects: Immigrants contribute at population growth.

Social Effects: The cultural diversity of emigrants is observed in culinary art, shows, and sports competitions.

### In the countries of origin

Economic effects: Emigrants send money to their families. These funds are equivalent to cash earned on exports.

Another positive effect is that when returning home, former migrants are qualified or have developed a certain skill.

Demographic effects: Specialists have found that the population of migrants is less significant in relation to the total population.

Social Effects: Migrations cause change of husband-wife, parent-child relationships.

Usually the returning member brings with him vices in the family.

Romania, like other less developed countries in the EU, is confronted with the phenomenon of international migration to the developed European countries, due to job mobility, in search of higher incomes and better working conditions, but also for the purpose of receiving higher education services than national ones.

Official data show that 3.4 million Romanian living and working abroad.

Unofficial data say they would be more than 4 million Romanian immigrants.

According to the National Institute of Statistics, the largest number of immigrants was recorded in 2007, when Romania joined the European Union, which marked the disappearance of more than 544,000 Romanian of the population.

In 2008 have left over 300,000 Romanian, while in 2009 there have been 250,000.

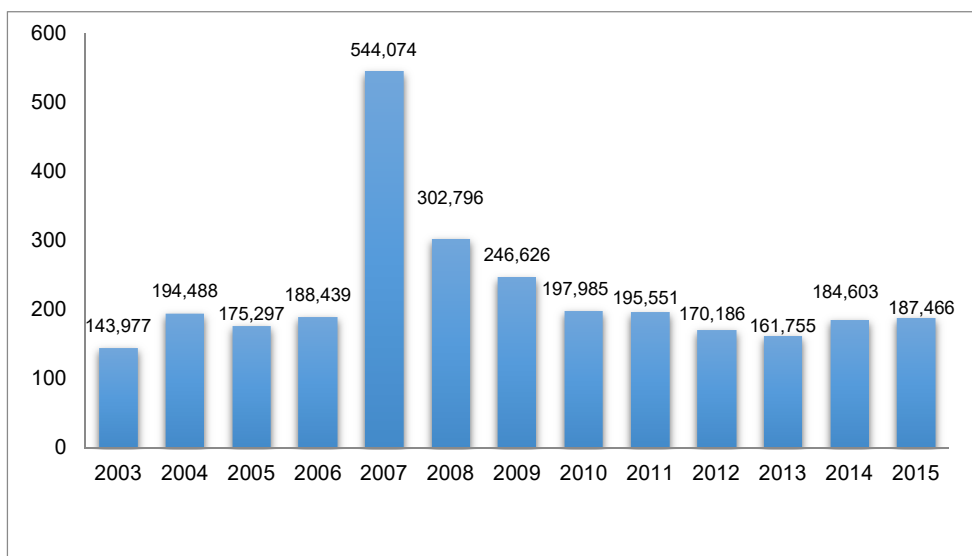
In the coming years the number of migrants has declined significantly, but in 2014 increased again, reaching 184.603 people and 187.466 in 2015.

An explication of the increasing number of migrants in recent years is the liberalization of labor market in states such as Austria, Germany, Netherlands and the United Kingdom (INS, 2015).

According to a report by the United Nations on Global Migration, Romania ranks fourth in the rankings on the number of people working abroad, after the United Kingdom (4.9 million immigrants), Poland (4.4 million), Germany (4milioane) and ranks 20th worldwide (ONU, 2015).

At the beginning have emigrated the unemployed, those who did not have superior qualifications, and those who have become unemployed following the closure of factories. The restructuring of the Romanian economy (and especially the industrial sectors), which lasted for almost two decades, as well as the recent economic crisis, has led many unemployed people to abandon the search for a job close by their

qualification (Badulescu, 2006). They turned either to the rural area or to emigration, and therefore the official figures of unemployment are not as high as they seem at first glance. However, the specialists are cautious about considering emigration as a solution to temperate the short- or medium-term unemployment.



**Figure 1. Evolution of the number of Romanian immigrants (2003-2015)**

Source: author representation using National Statistics Institute [statistici.inse.ro/shop/?page=tempo2&lang=ro&context=12](http://statistici.inse.ro/shop/?page=tempo2&lang=ro&context=12)

According to the International Organization for Migration, migrants with secondary education represented the largest share of Romanian migrants who have gone to Spain and Italy.

Lately, there has been an increase in the segment of migrants with higher education and skills, which opt for the Nordic countries or destinations such as Germany Britain and Switzerland.

In these countries has increased the migration of highly qualified people, highly educated, well-informed (OIM, 2016).

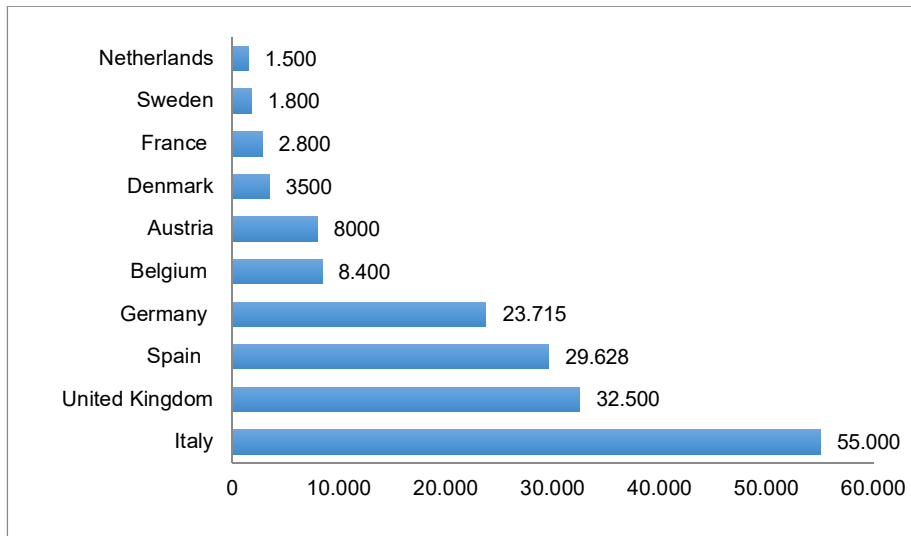
The causes of migration are many:

- Looking for a better paid job;
- Hunger and living conditions;
- Political and religious persecution;
- Ethnic discrimination;
- Unfavourable climatic conditions, natural calamities.

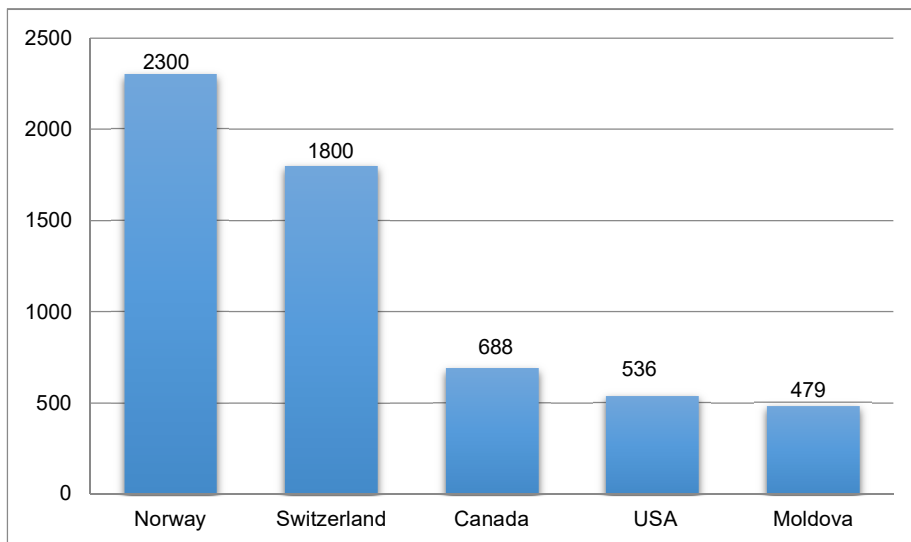
### 3. Romanian immigration by country of destination

In 2015, the Romanians' preferences regarding the country of destination have been Italy (55,000 Romanians), United Kingdom (32,500 Romanians), Spain (29.600 Romanians), Germany (23,700 Romanians), Belgium (8,400 Romanians) Austria (8,000 Romanians), Denmark (3,500 Romanians), France (2,800 Romanians),

Sweden (1,800 Romanians) and the Netherlands 1500 Romanians according to the Eurostat.



**Figure 2.** Top 10 Romanians' preferences on European Union countries in 2015  
 Source: author representation using Eurostat data  
[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/Migration\\_and\\_migrant\\_population\\_statistics/ro](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics/ro)



**Figure 3.** Top 5 preferences of Romanian immigrants for outside European Union countries (2016)  
 Source: author representation using Eurostat data,  
[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/Migration\\_and\\_migrant..r](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant..r)  
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The preferences of Romanian emigrants about countries outside the European Union are: Norway (with 2,300 Romanian immigrants), Switzerland (with 1,800 Romanian immigrants), Canada (nearly 700 Romanian immigrants), USA (nearly 540 Romanian immigrants) and Moldova (almost 500 Romanian immigrants) (EUROSTAT, 2016).

#### 4. Emigration of the Romanians concerning the development regions

From the perspective of development regions, emigration of the population had been confirmed in areas where the share of people of other nationalities is higher or where is a lower or higher degree of economic development respectively.

The main areas are:

- Center and West- regions where the weight of Hungarian and German population is higher;
- Bucharest-Ilfov- the region with the highest degree of development offers important opportunities on the labor market abroad;
- North-East- the poorest region of Romania where people chose in large proportion to go abroad to seek work;

According to the National Institute of Statistics in the period 1990- 2014, 27.5% and 22.6% of emigrants have gone of the Central and the West regions.

In Bucharest-Ilfov region 16.4% and in the North West Region 14.3% of the population had left the country (INS, 2014).

Migration in the counties of the emigrants highlights that there are several centers which support with migrants the labor market abroad.

The counties that focus a large number of people who have migrated to foreign especially in the early years, are the counties of west and central Romania (Sibiu, Brasov, Cluj and Arad), while other areas have much lower weights.

#### 5. Emigration of Romanians by age groups

An analysis on the age groups of Romanian emigrants in 2015 show that 57% of them have the aged between 25-54 years, hence it follows that most have gone in the active period of their lives in which they develop their professional life.

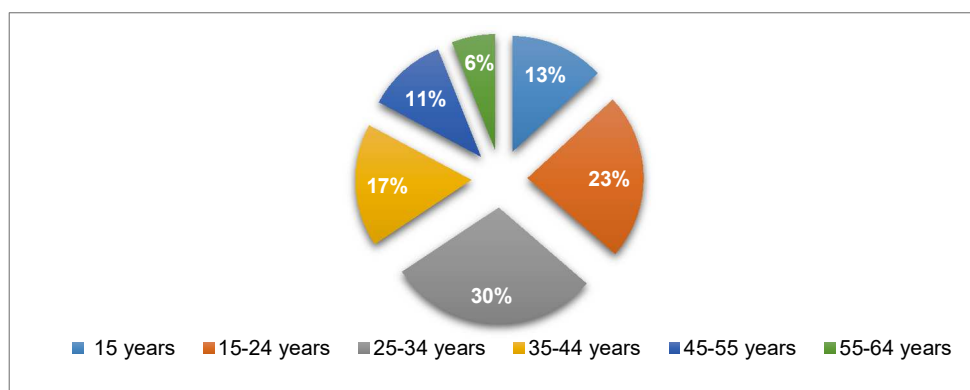


Figure 4. Proportion of immigrants by age

Source: author representation using National Statistics Institute  
[www.insse.ro/cms/files/publicatii/.../Migratia\\_internationala\\_a\\_Romaniei\\_n.pdf](http://www.insse.ro/cms/files/publicatii/.../Migratia_internationala_a_Romaniei_n.pdf)

Emigrants under 15 years in 2015 were 13% it means that those who have left in the past want to settle in those countries and want to reunite their family.

According to the International Organization for Migration in the first 10 years after the revolution, the share of women in total emigrants was 52.3%, after the year 2000 the emigration flow is characterized by a high degree of feminisation, their share reaching at 59.8%.

It also show that the share of women in all people who have decided to leave is growing, the share increased by 10.9 percentage points (OIM, 2016)

## 6. Conclusions

Migration has evolved over time from a regional process, determined by economic, social, natural or political factors, in a global phenomenon. The year 2017 means for Romania, a decade after joining the European Union. According to the National Institute of Statistics, the forecasts for the total population of Romania in 2050 are pessimistic, estimates of population reduction ranging from a minimum of 15 million people to a maximum of 18 million people. A decisive factor in the decline is migration, our country faced with a phenomenon of mass migration. And because of the economic differences between our country and the developed countries in the European Union, emigration will not decrease, so from Romania will disappear temporarily or permanently persons qualified or less qualified. Another concern is the aging of the population. Romania is experiencing a slow but steady population aging.

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