Present features of the migration phenomenon in Romania

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Abstract—Migration causes many demographic changes with direct and indirect impacts in economic, social, political, cultural area. In Romania, the mutations in post-communist period have led to changes in internal migration. Internal migration to urban areas oriented toward rural areas as a result of mutations in industry. Because unemployment, the population concentrated in cities had to be returned to the villages. After Romania jointed has shown very large emigration of the population. Working age population emigrates in particular in Spain, Italy, France and Germany. However, the largest number of Romanian immigrants bound for Canada and U.S.A. European opening of Romania determined arrival in the country of new types of migrants. It is emerging Chinese community, Indian and other Asian countries communities, which don’t exist before here.

Keywords—changes, internal migration, international migration

I. INTRODUCTION

The fact that the demographic phenomena are strictly dependent on the natural and economic conditions, secondly on the cultural and religious ones, has been recorded in the specialty literature. The migration phenomenon has always existed, present in the transfer between fields and mountains, invasions, colonisations and crusades, or generally provoked by the attraction exercised by the richer regions on the poorer populations. From the demographic phenomena, the migration ones have a special place and they reflect the ability to move of the people, at a certain moment and on certain territory [1], [2].

According to the international bodies - UNO, WMO, the migration concept expresses a movement of a person or a group of persons, through the change of their stable residence, in the same country or to another country on the same continent or on another continent. Since the 20th century, the migration has become a global phenomenon, which has included more states especially following the two world wars.

According to information from the World Migration Organisation and the studies “The Borderless Work force” and „Relocating for work”, almost 190 million persons live outside the country of origin, representing almost 3% (2008). In other words, one of the 35 persons is a migrant, and their share shall increase with almost 3% each year. The phenomenon of recession has increased even more the tendency to migrate, especially from economic and social reasons [3], [4].

The typology of migration includes two main types, such as:
• The internal migration, unfolding between the borders of a state;
• External/international migration signifying the settlement in another state.

The international migration covers states issuing a larger number of migrants, as well as other states that receive the migrants, generally the economically developed states. This phenomenon unfolds on medium and long distance, not having a homogenous feature. The international migration has the powerful motivation connected to education, unifying families, and special professional formation, ethnic and linguistic integration [5].

The internal migration is connected to more than the type of inhabiting environment of the population (urban/rural) and especially by the degree of economic and social development of the human settlements. This type of migration unfolds on small and medium distances. The internal migration is connected to the continuance of studies, finding a work place, life conditions, medical assistance, all these being better [6].

Therefore, we may mention the following subtypes of internal migration:
• Migration from the rural to the urban environment;
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Its evolution, in time and space, has been determined by the existing political systems, by the economic development level, the fiscal systems applied, the ecological problems and the major natural/anthropogenic catastrophes, humanitarian aspects. Women migrate faster and in larger number than men and accept more easily the unqualified activities.

The international as well as the internal migration have a role in the development of the countries receiving the
migrants, the local communities, they develop the entrepreneurial spirit, the tolerance, the collective solidarity, produces the change of mentality and customs. On another level, migration may lead to the trouble in families, child abandonment, increase of unemployment, illegal traffic of persons.

In addition, in many countries, especially from Europe, despite some migration reduction attitudes, the economies need migrants to take over the workplaces that the local people refuse and to consolidate through the paid contributions to the social insurance systems from the receiving countries. The European developed countries can counterattack the demographic decline and the aging of the population through the preservation of a high standard of life and through the acceptance of an important number of migrants. The countries with emergent economies shall attract migrants through the reduced costs of living, carrier opportunities or larger earnings [7].

However, in the last decade, the reduction of natality in many countries from the Central and Eastern Europe shall reduce gradually the migration phenomenon from the European developed countries. Moreover, these countries shall not be considered a continuous reservoir of population to the west and north, and the acceptance of migrants from Africa, Asia shall increase numerically [8].

II. THE UNFOLDING PHASES OF THE MIGRATION PHENOMENON

As a manner of unfolding the internal and international migration, including certain compulsory phases for any person who has the status of migrant:

- The institutional approach and integration, through which the migrant is recorded officially and gradually receives a temporary residence document, then permanent;
- The acculturation through which any migrant must adapt and take over the legal norms, customs, attitudes, habits belonging to the local population;
- The affinity through which an integration level is crossed to the next one closer to the local community, with more powerful social and cultural relations.

The migration decision is taken individually or at the level of family, then the next step is to evaluate the information held. An essential role belongs to the persons who have already migrated and who return for short visits in the country of origin providing much information about the procedures, migration methods and official institutional integration.

There are four categories of migrants:

- The person who intends to change the country, the residence and finally the nationality;
- The person with a foreign worker status and is a temporary migrant;
- Persons who are expelled, who come back to the country of origin, who are chased from their country of origin from various reasons;
- The persons with a refugee status who do not have another solution than leaving the country of origin.

The unfolding of the migration process internally is easier because they preserve the spoken language, many of the religious and laic customs, and the adaptation is quicker. The major problems appear within the international migration phenomenon, because a linguistic barrier appears, thus of communication, but also a social and cultural integration one.

The availability to migrate and implicitly at the basis of mobility of the work force are the persons with high qualification and higher education. Mobility is more reduced at the level of qualified and unqualified workers.

In order to quantify the migration, the level and their directions mean a complex approach. Many countries in the world have different ways to measure the fluxes of migrants, which is why the definition of the word “migrant” differs. Some countries take into account the approach of registering the residence in which case the migrants have registered the residence change (in case of emigration or immigration) through the police departments and the migration offices. Other countries tend to take into account the records, the censuses or data from studies performed periodically. As a result, the correct comparison of these data is not always possible.

In the European Union, almost 42 million persons are international migrants or from the EU countries, of which 14 million are from the EU, 2/3 coming from the Central and South-Eastern Europe countries. Very many migrants came after World War II, after the application of the American Marshall program, after the fall of the communist regimes from the former socialist countries [9].

In Romania, during the last 20 years, we can determine several phases in the unfolding of the migration phenomenon, connected to political, economic and social problems:

- The phase between 1990-1995 corresponding to the opening of the migration possibilities to the countries of Western Europe, especially of the German, Hungarian people, but also of the Romanian people following the miners riots from the Capital;
- The phase between 1996-2001 constituting as an acceleration of the migration to Canada, USA, Australia and other countries of Africa and South America, the occurrence of illegal migration and of the traffic in human beings;
- The phase between 2002-2006 implying a reduction of the application of the Schengen visa system, resulting in the dynamic of the legal migration, but also the determination of a larger number of immigrants in Romania;
- The phase between 2007-2011 bringing in the limelight the effects of the economic recession with an intensification of the internal migration from the urban to the rural areas and of the external migration, the reduction of the traffic in human beings;

A less approached and studied aspect is the temporary migration to work, phenomenon known under the name of *euro-commuting*. From a statistical point of view, there is no accurate and current database. After 2001, it is estimated that...
once the entry visas have been annulled in almost all the European countries, hundreds of Romanians have left for the countries of the South and West of Europe in order to reduce the level of poverty for their own families. Thus, it is estimated that over 2 million persons (2010), coming from all the regions of the country, have chosen to work in other countries of the European Union or other countries on other continents, North Africa, North America, fact that proves the existence of a national phenomenon, through the dimension, the implication and the geography of flows origin [10].

The euro-commuting can constitute a phase of transition, before the persons decide to become permanent migrants. If, in the country, the economic and social conditions do not offer better opportunities for work, incomes and a decent life standard, then the euro-commuting people shall be interested to obtain the permanent residence in the countries they are working [11].

The phase of migration has shortened very much because of the use of the informational means. As a consequence, one may notice a better circulation of information and the migrants choose the destination country according to their own motivations and a thorough documentation. From this point of view, Romania shall have many distortions of the work force market, because of the external migration acceleration. On a short term, real benefits on the economy shall exist on a short term, but on a long term, the slow rhythm of the economic and fiscal reforms shall lead to the import of work force in our country.


Romania places the migration phenomenon at a world level, with a history marked by ascension and decline periods, based mainly on the internal economic, social and political conditions. The clearest dynamic may be emphasised lately, especially after the adherence of the EU since January 1st, 2007.

A. The advantages and disadvantages of migration for Romania

After the changes from 1990, the migration has been a positive phenomenon and Romania would have faced an economic and social crisis of unimaginable proportions, which would have had consequences on the entire Romanian society and even on the calendar of adherence of Romania to the EU. The migrants have left work places; have reduced the unemployment rate at a very low level for the economic and social status of Romania.

The 4-5 billion Euros entered annually in the country from the ones who are away represent an income source (in many cases the unique source) for other several million Romanians with an increased standard of life, have lead to the explosion of housing building and the sale of equipment and goods designed for the housing, for the number of cars, have created workplaces, have stimulated the internal consumption [12]. Another beneficial advantage of migration may be the fact that the Romanian migrants, living in countries with a high degree of civilisation, see and study the civic spirit around them, the respect of the law, order, cleanliness, the attitude for work, all these representing a great gain for Romania. This loss has therefore the reduction of the rhythm of economic growth or even the decline of the economic activity.

B. The following aspects give the advantages of external migration:

- The increase of the knowledge and professional performance level in the countries with a developed economy, through the application of new techniques and work equipments;
- The increase of individual incomes and family, the elevation of their own standard of life;
- The use of the financial resources to extend/modernisation of the household from the country of origin or the country of immigration, the purchase of consumption goods and cars;
- The development in time of the entrepreneurial spirit and the beginning of a personal business;
- The reduction in the countries of origin of the migrants of the expenses on medical assistance, social and unemployment contributions, benefitting from such services in the receiver countries;
- The convertible currency transfers to the country of origin; the estimates performed by NBR show that these transfers reach 1,753.5 billion USD in 2004 and 4,440.9 million USD in 2005, 7 billion EUR in 2007, with a share of 4-5% from Romania's GDP in 2005. The money transfers to the households represent direct sources of growth of their income, leading to the increase of consumption and implicitly to the temporary reduction of poverty. These sums have the ability to reduce the social polarisation through their effects of redistribution [13], [14].

C. The following aspects give the disadvantages of migration:

Together with the positive aspects from an economic, social and cultural point of view of the external migration, there are negative consequences from a demographic point of view of the phenomenon [15]-[17].

- The majority of the emigrants are young persons: Approximately 40% left during the period 1996-2006 and approximately 50% left during the period of massive emigration 2002-2006.
- The proportion of the unmarried is of 85% among the ones with ages between 15-24 years and of 24% among the ones with ages between 25-39 years. The postponing the age of marriage, between 30-35 years, and the age of women to have their first child;
- The reorganisation of responsibilities in the families who have remained in the country, in order to maintain and lead the household and the education of the children;
The appearance of unbalances in the relation between relatives and the children who have stayed behind, with implication at a psychic and behavioural level and many children are abandoned in the care of the state;

The high level of stress for the children with the parents in the emigration countries, as a consequence of the quick adaptation to another social and school environment;

In the country of origin, respectively Romania, distortions appear in the occupation of work places, the lack of specialists and qualified work force. A third of the total of emigrants represents the persons who have graduated only the primary school or the secondary school, and among these the children and teenagers who have emigrated with their parents hold a significant share.

The current economic situation and the still reduced ability of economy and Romanian society to generate opportunities to work and a corresponding remuneration that encourages the exodus of qualified and highly qualified work force.

IV. THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CURRENT MIGRATION

The status, which Romania has acquired on the adherence date to the European Union and the estimated economic development of our country in the postadherence period, shall certainly influence the existing migrating flows and shall transform gradually Romania in a destination preferred by the immigrants. This fact must not be seen as a negative aspect.

The migration may contribute significantly to the cultural exchange, the economic development and the progress of Romanian society, as it may bring benefits to the countries of origin and of the immigrant families. That is why, the migration must be seen as a process that must be managed, which should not be treated as a problem that must be solved. For this purpose, the main objective of the Romanian authorities for the period following the adherence is to maximize the positive effects and to limit the negative effects of the immigration for our country and, implicitly, for the Romanian citizens. Hence, the responsibility of the Romanian state is to clearly decide the categories of immigrants.

According to the latest demographic estimates, Romania shall confront, like the majority of the member states of the European Union, with the aging and the decrease of the population, so that it is estimated that the population of Romania should be 16 million inhabitants in 2050. The immigration is not a solution to the limitation of this phenomenon, but it may represent a part of a measure package, which may improve the situation.

Hence, it must grant a special attention to the qualities of the immigrants admitted and to their cultural integration and social measures. Lately, the lack of local work force is felt in certain areas of the country and in certain fields, being already taken into consideration as solution regarding the employment of immigrant workers from various states. This is only an example of the fact that the position of Romania, as a destination country, is shaped, and this fact may be emphasised by the need for a work force market, which supports the economic development of Romania in the following period.

A total change from the point of view of the applicable legal regime is produced for the citizens of the European Union and their family members, who enjoy the freedom of circulation and residence set forth by the Treaty of the European Community Setting since the date of adherence of Romania to the European Community, as one of the 4 fundamental rights of the European citizenship in a space of freedom, security and justice on the territory of member states. The Romanian authorities must ensure the proper frame for the exercise of this right on the national territory. This context may explain the following measures:

- The improvement of the evidence system of the external migration and the real evaluation of the migrating population;
- The constitution of institutions/research departments and the launch of special priority research and policy elaboration programs on migration;
- The increase of resources which may be allocated for the recovery of the phenomenon, the restructuring of the work force and the investment of the work force;
- The analysis of the volume and structure of occupation, at a national and regional level;
- The elaboration of policies targeted on ages and professional categories;
- The elaboration of a strategy on medium and long term on migration.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The Romanian authorities undertake to start all the necessary actions in the field of visa policies, migration, asylum, the control of frontiers and cooperation of the police departments for the preparation of Romania regarding the adherence to the Schengen space, especially those actions aiming at the creation of the proper institutional and legislative frame, as well as the technical facilities to interconnect to the Schengen Informational System.

The priority for the following period shall be the preservation of a balance between the compliance with the right of the asylum applicants the maintenance of the decision quality, under the condition of the solution of the asylum applications within a resonable period. On a short and medium term, a special attention shall be given to the essence of the institutional ability and the necessary logistic as a member state of the European Union, especially, through the participation to the mechanisms DUBLIN II and EURODAC, of the development of the mechanisms regarding the volunteer return or forced return with the origin countries, as well as the other form of cooperation to the level of the European Union.

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