

IDENTIFYING OF THE MIGRATION PHENOMEN FROM FOCSANI BY MEANS OF THE PILOT SURVEY

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Abstract

This research general scope is to identify the perception of the Focsani inhabitants as regards the amplitude, evolution and effects upon society that the migration might have.

The micro region of Focsani study has been conducted starting with identifying of the persistent problem of the primary young population labor migration force to Italy and Spain, with extremely complex effects (psychological, social and economic).

Keywords: migration effects; the determinants; pilot survey; external migration.

JEL Classification: F22; J61; J62

1. Introduction:

The labor force migration in Romania is centered on a series of psychological, social and financial migrant's reasons to increase their income and improve their life conditions in another country. In this article we started from the premise according to which the migration exodus is based on a series of causes: economic, financial and social; these being; on their turn, influenced by a series of determinants (economic, political, cultural, social and religious).²

In order to analyze the economic, social and cultural causes, a pilot survey has been conducted in Focsani, on a group of 90 persons, between the months of October and December 2016.

The micro region study has been conducted starting with identifying of the primary young population of Focsani labor migration force to the main destination countries: Italy and Spain. The migration effects upon the migrants and their

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² Cristian, Elena, Raluca; Moise, Elena; Dârzan, Mihaela, 2013, *A Contemporary Approach on Migration*, Vol.8, Special Issue 3.1 Review (REBE), Editura Pro Universitaria, București., pp.10-11.

families are extremely complex, with strong implications of psychological, social, economic and financial nature

2. Consequences of Push & Pull Factors

In the literature, the determinants influencing the external long-term migration are known as Push & Pull factors. The *Push & Pull* factors are of: economic, demographic, political, religious, and socio-cultural nature. These determinants of *Push & Pull* factors lead the migrants from their place or country of origin to new territories or country regions, favoring, in this way, the immigration „exodus”. The Push & Pull model is, at its core, a static model in which it is not specified how migration affects the structural, economic and social conditions from the destination country. The Push & Pull model focuses on the premise that the rejection and attraction factors from the destination country are in a relationship of close conditionality. An example of this is the one of big wages from the migrant's destination country considered as attraction factors, whereas the small wages from the migrant's country of origin are considered dominant impulse factors.³

From the Push factors highlighted in the economic literature, one can enumerate: the low labor productivity in various fields (construction, infrastructure, transportation, light industry and food), high unemployment rate from different parts of the country, poor financial conditions of the population in different regions; the absence of any real economic opportunities and vocational training in the migrants country of origin, especially for those who achieved undergraduate and post-graduate education.

The Pull factors are the ones considered as attraction for the foreign migrants that arrive to different countries which determine them to leave their country of origin for a period of time.

The Pull factors are the factors of attraction from a certain region, such as: professional opportunities, larger wages, a series of facilities (economic, social, professional) and better working conditions.

3. The objectives of the pilot survey

In order to identify a perception of the migration phenomena in Vrancea County, a pilot survey has been conducted having as main scope the perception of the Focsani inhabitants as regards the amplitude, evolution and effects upon society that the migration might have.

Between the migrants, the term *acculturation* is used more and more frequently, by this meaning a group of migrants from different countries, from

³ Cristian, Elena, Raluca; Baragan, Laura, Georgeta.,2015, *Identification of main economic and social causes of Romanian migration*, ECOFORUM, Suceava, Volume 4, Issue 2 (7),p.165.

different cultures that enter into a primary form of contact with the local population. As a result of this social contact, both cultures entwine and lend each other different basic elements: colloquial expressions, gestures, preferences, a taste for different types of service, products, bringing visible alterations in each and every participant's to this process behavior.

The pilot survey's objectives consist identifying the determinants influencing the labor force migration, respectively following some aspects:

- a. The migrants personal experience regarding the labor force mobility;
- b. The connection between the migrant's personal and social satisfaction and its decision to leave and work abroad;
- c. Verifying the intention to leave in the near future;

The group was made of 90 persons aged between 19 – 38 years old, of male and female gender, residents of the Focsani.

In order to collect and interpret the information, during the survey, a standard interview technique of 6 questions has been used.

3.1. Analysis of the pilot survey from Focsani

The interview method was made by means of a quantity research based on a questionnaire made in the same period of time (October-December 2016), monitoring: the respondent's financial situation; locality of domicile; present working place; accessibility to finding a working place in Focsani; the experience regarding immigration, the interviewed respondent's intention to immigrate; the migration effects upon society; verification of the Romanian migration „beaten path” theory.

The „beaten path” model considers that the ones remaining home will soon become future emigrants as long as within their entourage or in their families there are people who emigrated and experienced, for a period of time, the migrations phenomena.

In regards of perceiving the Focsani respondent's present situation, to the question „How satisfied are you with the way in which you and your family live?” the answers were as it follows:

Table 1. Distribution of the interviewed people function of the personal satisfaction degree

Variant of answers	Number of people
Very satisfied	15
Not so satisfied	37
Not at all satisfied	29
I do not know/it is of no interest to me	9
Total	90

Source: Own data processing

The personal satisfaction degree, for the Focsani inhabitants is presented like this, from the 90 respondents of the pilot survey, there were declared:

- Not so satisfied – 37 respondents
- Not at all satisfied – 29 respondents

The answers to this question are mostly due to the fact that Focsani does not offer financial and professional to its inhabitants, especially to the young undergraduates and post-graduates.

To the question (How satisfied are you with the accessibility in finding a working place in the Focsani from Vrancea County?)

Table 2. Distribution of the interviewed people from Focsani function of the accessibility in finding a working place

Variant of answers	Number of people
Working places are relatively easy to find	17
I am not so satisfied with the working places	21
There are not enough opportunities for the young people	47
I do not know/ this aspect is of no interest to me	5
Total	90

Source: Own data processing

On the other hand, a series of private companies from Focsani were not satisfied with the fact that there is an existing deficit of labor force due to the migration of a significant number of people fit for work, with secondary and undergraduate education studies

One of the proposed objectives of the pilot survey conducted in Focsani was to identify the migration or working force mobility experience degree of the residents, respectively verifying the „beaten path” theory. In this scope, we moved on to the question („How often did you went abroad, alone or with your family in the past 10 years?”).

During the pilot survey we have identified, from the 90 respondents a group of 18 people with domicile and residence in Focsani who immigrated to another country and that returned definitely and for good, to town.

As regarding traveling with friends and family during the holidays, 56 answers from the pilot survey respondents have been registered, on the opposite 7 respondents being situated, who, due to their financial situation have never left Romania, respectively, Focsani.

Table 3. Distribution of the interviewed people from Focsani function of their leaving the country in the past 10 years

Variant of answers	Number of people
I have never left the country	7
Only a few times during the holidays with the family	56
On occasion, travelling with work	9
I was abroad, but I have returned for good	18
Total	90

Source: Own data processing

Most of the respondents from Vrancea County have chosen to spend their holidays or to visit the countries where they have relatives/friends/acquaintances established abroad from quite some time.

The scope of this questions being to verify the „beaten path” theory model among the future emigrants from Focsani and, at the same time their predisposition regarding the degree of influence that the ones gone abroad have on the ones that remain at home.

It may be observed that, from the 90 answers, 57 of the pilot survey respondents declared that they have relatives/friends/acquaintances that immigrated to another country for a better living.

The „beaten path” model considers that the ones remaining are or will lately become future emigrants as long as within their entourage or family there are people who emigrated and experimented, for a period of time, the migrations phenomena. The decision to emigrate is not taken spontaneously or in relatively short period of time. From the studied literature it has been observed that the decision to emigrate in the near future is taken on long term, this being conditioned by many factors:⁴

- The family left at home (children, parents, close relatives);
- Marital status of the emigrants or involved individuals;
- Age and professional training;
- Professional situation and occupational status on the labor market;
- The financial situation of its family;
- The existence of some relatives or close friends in another country.

⁴ Hein de Haas (2009), *Migration transitions. A theoretical and empirical inquiry into the developmental drivers of international migration*, International Migration Institute, University of Oxford, pp.5-7.

Table 4. Distribution of the interviewed persons function of existing relatives/acquaintances/friends who emigrated to another country

Variant of answers	Number of people
Yes – I know	57
No / I do not know anybody	18
I do not know/ this aspect is of no interest to me	15
Total	90

Source: Own data processing

For the question (Do you know that the migration of the temporary labor force has any effect upon the society or the ones remaining at home?), the respondents from Focsani have answered like this:

- Going to work abroad has a series of positive effects on the ones remaining at home– 42 persons;
- The social/financial discrepancy between the ones remaining at home and the ones working abroad deepens -28 persons;

On the opposite, 7 respondents declared that, in their opinion, migration does not influence in a positive manner the situation of the ones left at home, its effects not being shown on short and long terms.

Table 5. Distribution of the interviewed people function of some existing migration effects

Variant of answers	Number of people
Positive effects for the families of the ones working abroad	42
The social/financial discrepancy between the ones remaining at home and the ones working abroad deepens	28
No main effect	7
I do not know/ this aspect is of no interest to me	13
Total	90

Source: Own data processing

For the question („If given the possibility, have you ever thought to emigrate abroad in the near future?") that had as main scope verifying the future intention to emigrate, the following answers have been registered:

- 38 respondents have declared that they have in their personal plan to emigrate to another country;
- 23 persons have declared that the decision to emigrate is strongly connected only to their and their family's future financial situation;

- 18 persons that experimented the migrations phenomena and that returned to the county do not intent to emigrate too soon;
- 11 persons from the interviewed ones declared that they are not presently interested in the subject.

The decisive and final role in stopping the migrations phenomena must be of the states involved in the migrations process. These are constrained by or have to take a series of measures in order to stop the migrations phenomena: ⁵

- Social politics adequate to the local labor force;
- Creating of new working places
- Encouraging national and foreign investors;
- Stimulating labor productivity;
- Increasing of the income and consume of the population.

4. Conclusions:

Many of the emigrants choose to live in other countries for better jobs, financial and professional significant opportunities, a lifestyle above the one from the own country. Migration is often linked to the economic and social situation in the country of origin of the emigrant. ⁶

Regarding the behavior adopted by the Romanian emigrants in the moment of their return to the country, it has been observed that they spend a lot and diversely: they invest in real estate (buying lands or different real estate properties), they build and furnish their houses, have fun with friends and family in the country during vacations.

Unfortunately for the states involved, the migrations phenomena does not present only benefits for the origin and destination country, the negative effects are felt at macro-economic level for each country affected by this phenomenon.

Migration causes competition of the labor market, causing social conflict between the streams of migrants and the native population of the host country.

An aspect to be taken into consideration is that the number of immigrants that do not have a working place and that are in the official registers of the state or host country lead to the „thickening” of the unemployment rate.

The main scope of explaining the causes that have determined or that continue to determine the migrations act is mainly given by the desire for accumulating a considerable income abroad and to transfer the eventually accumulated capital (remittent income), to the country of origin, this having

⁵ Cristian, Elena, Raluca; Baragan, Laura, Georgeta.,2015, *The Impact of the „Beaten Path” model on Romanian Migration*, ECOFORUM, Suceava, Volume 4, Special Issue 1,p.256.

⁶ Cristian, Elena, Raluca; Moise, Elena; Bărgan, Laura, Georgeta, 2013, *The Emigrant Identity in the Current Global Context*, Analele Universitatii Ovidius,Seria: Stiinte Economice,p..474.

different destinations (personal income, small real estate investments and the education of the remaining at home children).

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