

ACCESS TO THE ITALIAN LABOUR MARKET OF MOLDOVAN YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE SECOND GENERATION OF IMMIGRANTS

Ecaterina DELEU¹

Abstract

The difficulties of accessing at the Italian labor market of second generation Moldavian migrants is the aim of this research study. Young Moldovan immigrants, raised and trained in the Italian institutions, are facing more problems in their attempts to gain access to the labor market of the host country. Our objective aims at highlighting the real situation, risk factors, the results of the policies implemented. We present the results of a research study conducted between February and July 2015 in partnership with the Moldovan Embassy in Rome. Were surveyed 100 young Moldovan migrants aged 18-23 years who are in Italy. Generally, the opinions expressed by young people on the chances of finding a job in Italy according to their professional training, equal opportunities to accede to the labor market, their intentions to return to Moldova, or to change the migration country coincided with the views of international experts and Moldovan migrants who have children born in Italy or children born in Moldova. The qualitative research was complemented by a quantitative study: statistical data completes the problematic context in which young Moldovans (professionally trained in Italy) attempts to integrate, to be actively involved in the social life of the host country. They try to overcome the condition of the domestic worker, reserved to their parents and face labor demand reduced to low skills occupations.

Keywords: second generation, young migrants, labour market, social inclusion, integration policies.

Rezumat

Obiectivul cercetării noastre vizuează dificultățile pe care le întâlnesc tinerii migranți moldoveni, crescuți și formați în instituțiile italiene, în încercările lor de a accede pe piața muncii din Italia. Studiul de cercetare are drept scop reliefaarea situației reale, a factorilor de risc, a rezultatelor implementării politicilor. Prezentăm rezultatele unui studiu de cercetare realizat în perioada februarie-iulie 2015 în parteneriat cu Ambasada Republicii Moldova la Roma, cu 100 de tineri migranți moldoveni de 18-23 ani care se află în Italia. În mare parte, opiniile exprimate de ei privind șansele de a-și găsi un loc de muncă în Italia conform pregătirii lor profesionale, oportunitățile egale de accedare pe piața muncii, intențiile de a reveni în Republica Moldova sau de a schimba țara de migrație au coincis cu cele expuse în interviurile realizate cu experți internaționali și cu migranți moldoveni care au copii născuți în Italia sau copii născuți în Republica Moldova. Cercetarea calitativă a fost completată de cea cantitativă: tabloul statistic întregeste cadrul problematic în contextul căruia tinerii migranți din generațiile secunde (formați profesional în Italia) încearcă să se integreze/implice activ în viața socială din țara-gazdă. Ei

¹ PhD student, Institute of Juridical and Political Researches of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova. ©Delen Ecaterina, ecaterina.delen@yahoo.it.

încearcă să depășească condiția de lucrător casnic, rezervată părinților lor și refuză cererea de forță de muncă redusă la profesii low skills.

Cuvinte-cheie: generații secunde, tineri migranți, piața muncii, incluziune socială, politici de integrare.

JEL: J Labor and Demographic Economics

Code REL: 10G International mobility of the labour. Migration.

1. Introduction

The issue of integrating second generation immigrants is on the agenda of many countries. Globally, growth is not only the population involved in migration processes, but also the number of persons born outside the host country (OECD, 2015, p.11).

The concept of *second generation* appeared in the beginning of the XX in USA, the first theoretical terms were used by the Chicago School of Sociology. Further it was taken by European scientists and in the post-war period the second generation theories were already spread globally. In 1995-2000 debates were held on this topic in Europe, and mainly in France, Germany etc., countries where even today is registered an influx of immigrants. These countries have gained more experience as a result of confrontation with numerous problems on immigration and social adaptation of second generation immigrants. Even nowadays the process of adaptation is not complet and it remains as well difficult and complex one, being fed with new provocations and tendencies.

Generally, scientists consider children of immigrants born in destination country representatives of second generation (Ambrosini, 2011, p. 25). So we mean children with at least one parent migrant, who were born, grown up and educated in the host country. They are considered *migrants without migration* because they have not personal migration experience.

In broad sense, this category includes children aged up to 14 years old, who was born and started school in the origin country but later were forced to join their parents to settle abroad. In this case experts mention about *minor migrants* or *involuntary migrants* (Falteri, Giacalone, 2011, p.9). According to the decimal conceptual framework used by Ruben G. Rumbaut, we are able to talk about three important categories: *Generation 1.5* – those who started the process of socialisation and went to primary schools in their original countries and went on in the host country; *Generation 1.25*- those who migrate at the age of 13-17 years old, *Generation 1.75* - those who migrate at the preschool age of 0-5 years.

Another classification is divided into following: minor born in Italy, minor reunited with their families, unaccompanied minors, refugee minors, minors adopted internationally and children of mixed families (Ambrosini, 2004, p.5-6).

Republic of Moldova registered in 90s first waves of emigration towards European Union. Aspects of the situation of Moldovan migrants of second generations were approached tangentially. Phenomenon of *second generation* is considered to be a new dimension of migration processes that targets citizens of the Republic of Moldova.

2. Impact of the *brain waste* phenomenon and effects of low skill jobs for Moldovan migrants

The **brain waste** phenomenon represents unused/misuse of professional competences gained by migrant before he/she arrived to the destination country. This takes place when the labour market is not able “to absorb” the migrants according to their professional qualifications. The discussion is about migrants who were imposed to accept low skills professions, fact that imply the loss of the human capital, economy costs as well as dream/hope ruin of a migrant. Some economy characteristics had a major impact on situation of Moldovan migrants.

1. Economy crisis determined worsening quality of labor supply in Italy – the offer of qualified personal was reduced.

2. Italian economy is different from other countries' world economies which are oriented to attract qualified people, as there was not imposed the necessity in qualified staff. This fact proves how reduced is demand for highly qualified in the government that is not centred on innovation. In Italy there were a high demand for low skills professions (Comunità moldava in Italia, 2014, p.53).

3. There is an attested phenomenon of **brain waste** in relation to migrant workers. Italian officials state that there exists an asymmetry between duties migrants exercise and level of professional education that usually exceeds specific employment needs. In the field of household services and assistance, the immigrant population has a substitutive function by guaranteeing continuity of traditional system of welfare, mostly concentrated on family rather than public services (Mercato del Lavoro degli immigrati, 2014, p.52).

3. Particularities of Italian labour market employment by young migrants from the Republic of Moldova

In Italy, at January 1, 2015, there were 147.388 people coming from Moldova, with resident permits (IDOS, 2015, p.439). Of them, 34.5% are young people up to 30 years. Among those 118 thousand of Moldovan migrants that are registered on the Italian labour market, 85 thousand (71,7%) are working in public services, social services and personal services. About 17 thousand (14%) work in industry filed and 6 thousand (6%) - in agriculture. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, each fourth Moldovan employee is housework. The share of Moldovan citizens employed in Italian families is 10.8%, between migrant communities.

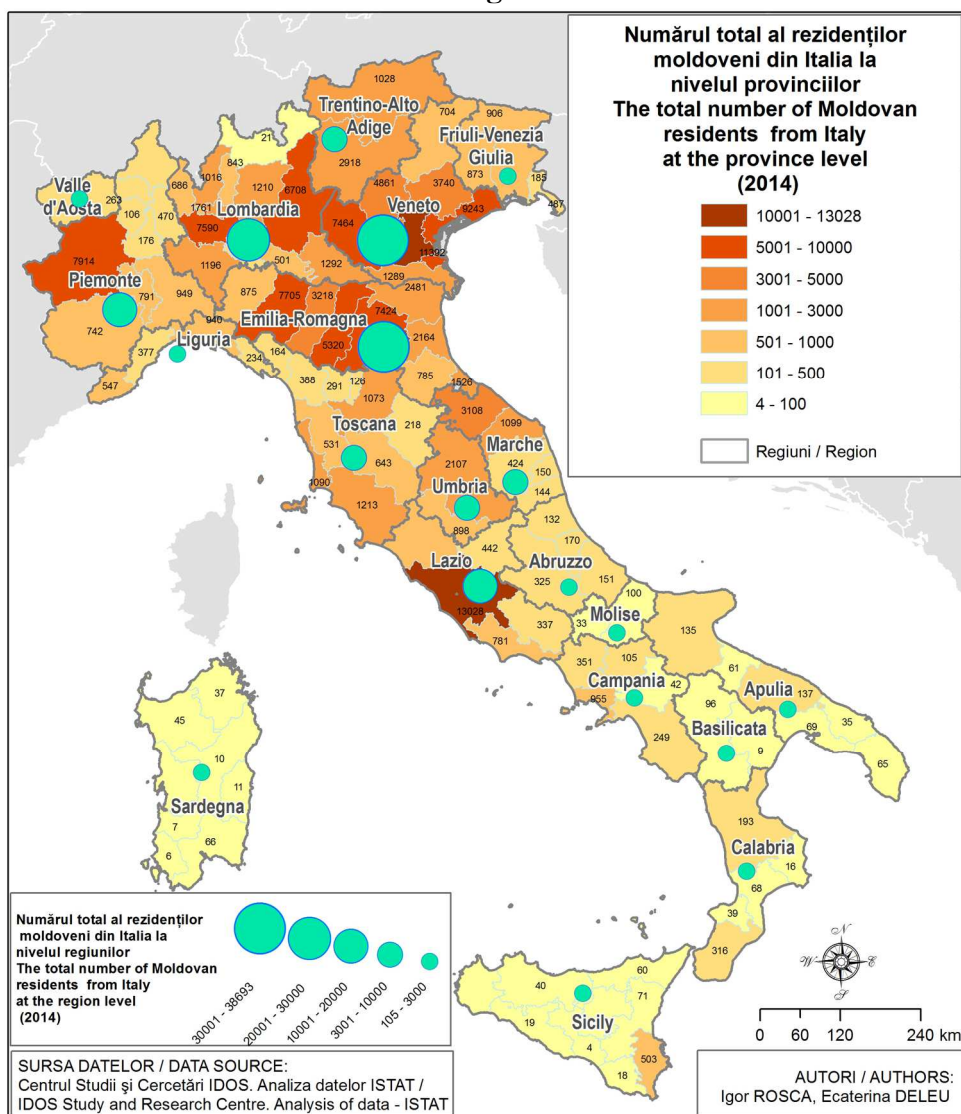
In Italy are registered 32 thousand of young people aged between 15-29 years old who are originally from Moldova. Of them, 30% are not employed, not engaged in formation or educational process, thus being considered young people NEET (*Not in Employment, Education and Training*). Half of Moldovan young people are unemployed - 23.2 % are not employed because of their family situation or health problems, 16,7 % are looking for new opportunities and 11,6 % - are disillusioned of the previous experience and took a break.

International experts have noticed also that immigrants with a higher level of education are losing qualification and professional competence as a result of their employment mainly in unskilled jobs. Only a very small percentage of migrants obtain a job according to their professional training. Others are forced to accept unfavorable social status. This fact amplifies the dramatic situation of people with a high degree of skill, left to work abroad.

Migration is considered one of the main causes of change society in countries of origin and host countries. At the same time, there is a close connection between migration and labor field. The dominant tendency in case of Moldovan migrants is migration determined by search of workplace. Considering this fact, national experts emphasize the necessity to study migration processes and their consequences as “extremely important factor for evaluating development prospects of Moldova” (Moraru, 2011, p.7-9).

4. Social integration policy of young Moldovan migrants in Italy

Fig.1



We conducted a research study to note the main characteristics of integration in Italy of Moldovan young people. In research which took place in February – July 2015 in partnership with Embassy of the Republic of Moldova in Rome, were surveyed 100 young Moldovan migrants aged 18-23 years old who lived in Italy at that moment of time.

The study aimed at assessing the employment opportunities of the labor market in Italy and in Moldova, the assurance of equal opportunities in employment. An important objective was to evaluate the intentions of returning to Moldova (identification of varieties of possible issues that a person may confront while returning back to his original country), to remain in Italy, transfer to another country etc. Young Moldovans are reticent regarding the chance to find a job according to their professional training. When asked if they have equal opportunities in employment, compared with their Italian colleagues, many of them said they are not sure of this. Some young people have heard about discrimination against immigrants. Some respondents were personally confronted with this problem.

Regarding the chances of finding a job in Italy in accordance with their professional training, 20% of respondents told they have small probabilities. Many of them have indicated great chances. More than 60% of respondents said they have reduced chance of finding a job in Moldova. In their opinion, this is one of the main problems that would face when returning in home country.

Many respondents intend to remain for long or forever in Italy (65%). However, it is large number who are tempted to emigrate to another country, more than 23%. Very few want to return to Moldova, only 7%-8%. The number of people decided do not return to Moldova is much higher. When asked what should realize the Moldovan government to attract young migrants, the respondents mentioned several options: to provide jobs and higher salaries, to support young migrants through programs and concrete projects, to reduce bureaucracy and corruption.

To underline some distinctive moments we will refer at two respondents. One of respondents is 22 years old. She has been living with her family in Turin (Torino) for 10 years. Earlier, for a period of five years she has lived with his grandparents in Moldova, because the parents were gone abroad (she was then 7 years old). Now she is a student at the Faculty of Economy of Turin. In the first months, she has faced in Italy with several problems: the knowledge of Italian language, the integration/adaptation in a new school, in society, acceptance of the fact that it was far from grandparents and other relatives in Moldova, difficulties of socialization with peers. It should be noted here the fact that lots of respondents who had been living in Italy for a period of time longer then 3-4 years told that they have confronted with discrimination in first months. She have reduced chances to find in Italy a job in accordance with professional training. At the same time, she considers it impossible to find a job in Moldova. She had applied to become an Italian citizen, having been living for 10 years permanently in Italy and has intention to emigrate after receiving citizenship and graduation.

The second respondent, aged 19 years old, also had been living in Italy for 10 years. She is a student at the Polytechnic University of Turin and considers that she has big chances to find a job, précising that 90% of graduates are employed in their first year after university. She affirmed that she had no chances to be employed in Moldova.

Conclusions

*When we are talking about Moldovan migrants in Italy, it is necessary to note the impact of **brain waste** phenomenon and the effects of labour demand reduced at low skills professions. These two problems had been mentioned at the official level in Italy. One of the consequences is the segmentation of the labour market. The migrant workers are mostly oriented towards specific sectors and professions. The employment of immigrants, including those from Moldova, is mostly oriented for the dependent jobs, mostly unqualified jobs, migrants being employed with schedule less convenient and for long hours.*

This phenomenon has a direct impact on the second generation immigrants, who had been grown up and educated in Italian institutions. They are less eager to accept the subordinate integration, as it happened with their parents. This impact is more accentuated in social inclusion because in most cases the hopes of young migrants are higher than the reality they face with. The delay of their accession to the labor market largely determines the delay of their inclusion in society of the country of migration. As a consequence, it increased the temptation to change the country of migration in search of better living conditions. Those who decide to remain in Italy for long, try to open their business (and their number is growing in last years).

The main risk factors are: the migration experience (increases the risk of accepting low skills occupations), gender (women have a higher risk), health problems/disabilities, level of education etc. In all circumstances, the highest level of education of people is an important factor - in the case of immigrants, young people NEET etc. Level of education presupposes a bigger level of flexibility in adaptation to specific conditions at the labour market. Experts warned us that human capital stock can degrade under the influence of poverty and can enter in a vicious circle, generator of permanent poverty. To break the vicious circle is not enough the individual effort (Moraru, 2010, p.53).

In conclusion, we emphasise the need for development and implementation of new integration policies that take into account the specificities of this population.

Notes

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