

# FORMATION OF THE NEW ROMANIAN COMMUNITIES

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**Abstract:** *Within the context in which the international migration is a rather new phenomenon within the contemporary societies, the emigration from Romania reveals deep implications. The relation between the demographic changes and the policies on migration, including the migration of highly-skilled people, will be an important problem in the near future; some member states are expected to prefer the migration of specialists and to develop regulations and procedures which facilitate it. The paper shows the five great migratory periods from Romania and the trends revealed by the post-December period in terms of emigration. The low employment opportunities on the labour force market in Romania and the consistent discrimination of the wage income lead to new forms of emigrants and the Romanian communities from abroad aggregate organically by preserving some specific traits of the national identity. The paper launches the challenge to make a comprehensive analysis by organising the indicators specific to the demographical, social-economic, cultural-educational and religious dimensions; this will be an important approach for the knowledge of the Romanian identity resources in a period of strong globalization crisis.*

**Keywords:** *communities, migration, population, crisis, labour market*

## 1. Introduction

The total movement of a population consists of the natural movement and the migratory movement. The population of a country or of an administrative-territorial unit changes its number not just due to the ups and downs due to births and deaths, but also due to immigration and emigration. The movement can be outside a locality,

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between countries, they may be shorter or permanent, which requires a detailed classification of the different types of migration. Being part of the total movement of a population, migration is of interest not just for demography, but also for sociology, which studies phenomena of adaptation or acculturation of the migrating persons, the influence of migration on the structure of population, on the social institutions, etc. (Roşca, D, 2009, pg. 96).

The migration of the population is the main form of the geographic (spatial) mobility of the population, which consists in the permanent change of the stable residence between two properly defined administrative-territorial units. It is also called residential migration because the person involved in such movement changes its residential status. Therefore, the notion of migration of the population doesn't include trips, seasonal movements, the different forms of commuting etc. Hence, it is important to define correctly the geographical or territorial-administrative units and the types of population movements (Roşca, D, 2009, pg. 97-98).

From the perspective of the contemporary sociological theory, the effects of migration are analysed from three angles: effects of migration on the country of origin, on the population of the target country and on the migrants. It is therefore necessary to investigate the small communities which the immigrants left and the communities where the immigrants enter, particularly within the current global economic-financial crisis.

## ***2. Migratory flows within the context of globalization*** ████████████████████

To understand better the phenomenon of migration interconnected with the process of globalization we need a conceptual delimitation of the notions of migration, geographical mobility, populations.

The international migration is a rather new phenomenon for contemporary Romania, its specific trends being revealed hardly after 1998 (Sandu et al, 2004).

In a broad meaning, migration is defined as the "mass displacement of tribes or populations from one territory to another, determined by economic, social, political or natural factors". At the level of the social sciences we may retain the opinion of Professor V. Miftode who considers that "migration is a spatial expression of the social mobility" (Miftode, 1984, pg.154). Migration is not a mere displacement in the territory and the process is not just a physical one presuming only the change of the natural setting: this is a complex process with social effects. A classical definition of migration is given by the sociologist Jan Szczepanski, who defines the social mobility as the "series of phenomena which presume the displacement of the individuals or groups from place to place in the social space" (Szczepanski, 1972, pg. 402). Of great actuality too, are the approaches regarding migration as a *life strategy*, a "perspective of the sustainable relation between assumed goals and the means. They are rational

structures of action, rather sustainable at the level of the agent adopting them” (Sandu, 2000, pg. 6) or a form of protest „against the changes and of abandonment of a society where they don’t find the place they would like” (Voicu, 2004, pg. 2).

In relation with the official borders of a country, migration can be: a. Internal migration – totality of the movements, accompanied by the permanent change of the usual residence within a country, between the territorial-administrative units; b. International (external) migration - totality of the movements, accompanied by the permanent change of the usual residence, between two countries.

In terms of the international security, migration is of interest particularly under its external aspect. The international migration takes place currently under several forms (Sarcinschi, A, 2008, pg. 9): migration of the ethnic minorities towards the countries of origin; labour force migration; family migration (migration of the families towards the workers who migrated previously) according to the right to the family reunion which is guaranteed by the international legislation; migration forced by natural disasters, by political, religious persecution, by war etc.

These types of migration can be further classified according to the following criteria: **legality** – legal (it is done observing the applicable norms) and clandestine (it is done breaching the applicable norms, which makes it difficult to evaluate; motivation – voluntary and involuntary, forced; **duration of stay in the country of destination**: temporary, long-term, permanent.

Other types of migration are (Sarcinschi, A, 2008, pg. 9-10): **migration based on ethnic affiliation** – the state has the right to decide whom it accepts and to whom it grants the right to stay; **post-colonial migration**, in the case of the colonizing countries which set strict rules for the immigrants from their former colonies; **economic migration** which is one of the most frequently forms observed during the past decades. It is motivated by the differences between countries in terms of access to resources and jobs and by the crisis of some professions. Thus, many of the developed countries “recruited” assiduously immigrants and continue to encourage the migration of the high skilled workforce from the poorly developed countries; **asylum seekers and refugees**, which are the second largest group of legal immigrants, after the labour force. Like the family migration, this type of migration is protected by the international legislation; these people **have the right to remain on the territory of a country**, where they are not national citizens only if their only alternative is to go back in an area where they are afraid of inhuman or degrading treatment or of properly defined penalties.

Migration has two flows: *emigration* – movement towards the exterior, and *immigration* – movement towards or within the specific unit; these terms are small innovations of the Romanian language for more precision (Rotariu, T, 2009, pg. 15).

The literature gives several causes determining the migratory movement of the population (Roşca, D, 2009, pg. 99-100), among which:

- An essential case resides in the **processes of overpopulation** featuring a break between the size of the population and the resources whose effects are the decrease in income and the impossibility to meet the consumption. Overpopulation can be determined by the excess of births which dominate the index of mortality, aspect specific particularly to the less developed countries. Such increase characterised the Western Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the reduction of mortality compensated the lower fertility rate.
- In some countries, the intensive rearing of animals favoured the **unemployment of the workforce**, which emigrated afterwards.
- In other situations, the development of the communication routes facilitated the **dispersion of industries**, which needs work force drawing thus part of the population within the migrating flow. The maritime transportation and the railways transportation, to a smaller extent, favoured the intercontinental migration.
- The migratory movements can also be determined by **historical, religious or political reasons**, which can be considered accidental and actual causes. The cataclysms and maladies also can be accidental, and they may determine massive and sudden emigrations.
- The **psychological causes** regard the fascination of specific places, forms of relief or landscapes. Thus, the locations chosen by a group of population can be attractive for compatriots, such as Barcelonette – colony in Mexico – became a classical case, same as the colony-districts from the USA and Western Europe.
- The **ecologic causes** determine the so-called ecological migration. This presumes movement of population from the areas affected by environmental or anthropic transformations towards other regions. Thus, Mexico City, Milan and Athens are cities extremely affected by pollution and they may be centres of discomfort and migration of the population.

The migratory movements have deep implications for the contemporary societies; there are three levels (Vlăsceanu, L., Zamfir, C., 1996) at which the migrations cause important effects: effects of the migration on the population of origin, on the population of destination and on the immigrants themselves. According to the sociological studies there are numerous consequences which the migrations produce at these three levels of the society, but it is difficult to identify the most important and relevant ones regarding emigration.

A migration which draws a large number of people, young people generally, may cause in the population of origin a deficit of workforce, thus weaker activities, lower birth rates, demographic ageing.

Globalization opened widely the framework of the international collaboration, providing opportunities not existing until now for the circulation of people, goods, capitals and services. “*Emigration is a dynamic phenomenon which includes a large number of actors. All the countries have the common interest to approach multilaterally the problems regarding the direction of the migrating processes, which will ensure the security and dignity of the immigrants. They contribute in a positive way to changing the face of the society at the global level. The key is not preventing the mobility, rather directing it as efficient as possible*” said Brunson McKinley, General Director of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Because the migratory flows can affect particular groups of people in terms of age and gender, migration modifies not just the size of the population, but its gender and age structure too. After the end of World War Two, the European countries experienced four main periods of migration (Garson, Loizillon, OCDE, 2003 in Tudorache, C., 2006) which coincided with the changes in the European architecture: **1. Migration of the labour force and reconstruction of Europe: 1950-1970; 2. Period of the economic crises: 1970 – first half of the 1980 decade; 3. Diversification of the host and origin countries and increase of the asylum seekers, refugees and ethnic minorities – 1980 decade; d) Migration of the “preferential” workforce, after 1989.**

The link between the demographic and political changes regarding immigration, including the immigration of the highly skilled people will be an important problem in the near future. Some member states are expected to prefer the migration of specialists and develop regulations and procedures facilitating it. However, as Marc Verwilghen, the Belgian ministry of cooperation and development noticed (2004), the European Union will also have to identify the solutions to limit the adverse effects produced by the “brain drain” on the development of the countries of origin.

According to Eurostat data (2011), Spain was the country which received the largest number of immigrants in 2008 (726.000), while Germany, the Great Britain and Italy also scored half million immigrants each in 2008 (these four state receive 67% of the total EU immigrants).

A significant aspect refers to the fact that most EU member states reported that immigration was higher than emigration, except for Germany, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and the three Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia). 15% of the total immigrants in EU member states are citizens of own countries (for instance, emigrants who return home or citizens born abroad who immigrate for the first time) and 85% are not nationals of the country of immigration.

**Table 1 - Immigration by groups of citizens, EU 27, EFTA and the candidate countries, 2008**

Country	Total		National people Own citizens		Non-national people Not own citizens					
	thousands	thousands	%	thousands	%	Of which				
						EU citizens		Non-EU citizens		
						thousands	%	thousands	%	
EU-27	3.800	600	15	3.200	85	1.400	43	1.800	57	
Iceland	10,3	2,8	27	7,5	73	6,4	86	1,1	14	
Lichtenstein	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Norway	58,1	6,4	11	51,7	89	32,2	62	19,5	38	
Croatia	14,5	12,5	86	2,0	14	0,5	27	1,5	73	
Macedonia	1,1	0,2	21	0,8	79	0,1	15	0,7	85	
Turkey	:	:	:	19,7	:	6,0	30	13,7	70	

Source: Eurostat (2011)

### 3. Recent migration of the Romanians

Historically, the Romanian emigration displays five large migratory periods:

- 1. The first wave of emigrants (1848-1928)** is of the people who went to America; most of them were peasants, with no education, going for the new opportunities from the land of promise.
- 2. The second wave of emigrants (1929-1945)** consisted mainly of relatives or friends of those who had been living in America for a long period.
- 3. The third wave of emigrants (1945-1965) had political motivation** and belonged to the social categories which were in opposition with the communist ideology.
- 4. The fourth wave of emigrants (1965- 1989) were people who took refuge from the repressive measures centred on a nationalism fuelled by the communist regime.**
- 5. The fifth wave of emigrants (1989-present) consists of Romanian citizens in a state of economic, social and cultural deprivation or who are seeking opportunities for professional accomplishment within the context of a transition packed with domestic crises.**

In the post-December period the point of inflexion of the foreign emigration appeared with the free circulation of the Romanian people to other countries, to EU member states (Sandu D., Radu C., Constantinescu M., Ciobanu O., 2004, p. 6).

New Romanian communities formed abroad depending on the level of similitude of the country of destination (language, social behaviour, socio-economic conditions etc.); however, one cannot know, and it is impossible to determine accurately the number of Romanians living abroad scattered in different countries, closer or farther. After having left some generations ahead in far-away countries, many Romanians obtained the citizenship of the country of adoption so that they are no longer registered distinctly in the statistics of those countries as minorities. According to IOM research report for the preparation of a national-scale campaign of information “Risks of illegal migration in EU member states 2003-2005: What changed?” (IOM, 2005), released in March 2005, almost 15% of the adult population of Romania worked abroad at a particular moment after 1990. Of them, about 50% were working on the basis of an informal contract, gentlemen’s agreement or with no contract at all. The same source mentioned the destinations for work: Italy (25% of the total of the Romanian people working abroad in 2003 and 19% in 2005), Germany (18% of the total of the Romanian people working abroad in 2003 and 13% in 2005), Spain (12% of the total of the Romanian people working abroad in 2003 and 10% in 2005). In this classification, in 2005, Hungary, new EU member state, was on the fourth position with 14% in 2005, compared to just 5% in 2003. The average duration of the stay abroad was 23 months. In 2005, most of the potential migrants, the most interested in migration, continued to be the people with no experience of migration. The opinion of the general public is that in 2005 one could use quite successfully the illegal migration. Presently, over two million Romanians work abroad. The population of Romania decreased by 1.6 million people between 1992 and 2006. The main countries in which the Romanians work are Italy, Spain, Israel, Germany and the Great Britain.

In the attempt to supply valid data on the Romanian citizens living abroad we take into consideration the evidence of the Office of IT registration of the people in order to measure the migrating flows using the “mirror” procedure (Ciocănescu E. A., 2011a) (Table 2)

**Table 2. Flows of Romanian emigrants, 1998-2009**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of emigrants</b>
1998	33.861
1999	43.726
2000	49.332
2001	58.617
2002	105.839
2003	190.742
2004	215.646
2005	194.176
2006	215.605

Year	Number of emigrants
2007	553.162
2008	325.121
2009	164.757
Total	2.150.584

Source: Ciocănescu E. A., 2011a.

The distribution of the Romanian emigrants by gender shows a prevalent male migration in 1998-2004, a relative balance in 2006 and a predominant feminine migration in 2009 (54.5%) (Ciocănescu E. A.a, 2011b). (Table 3).

**Table 3. Dynamics of the Romanian emigrants by gender, 1998-2009**

Year	% Males	% Females
1998	51.4	48.6
1999	51.9	48.1
2000	55.2	44.8
2001	55.4	44.6
2002	52.4	47.6
2003	51.6	48.4
2004	52.7	47.3
2005	49.6	50.4
2006	50.0	50.0
2007	51.7	48.3
2008	49.9	50.1
2009	45.5	54.5

Source: Ciocănescu E. A., 2011b.

This trend of balancing of the migratory flows by gender shows a trend of family reunion abroad by the emigration of women during the last year of the survey.

The recent Eurostat data (2011) show that the Romanians are the largest group of immigrants from the European Union, followed by Polish and Germans, the same classification resulting if the own citizens (national citizens) are excluded from the analysis. Thus, the EU member states received more than 384,000 Romanians, followed by 266,000 Polish citizens and 91,000 Bulgarians.



**Table 4. Top 10 immigrants of the EU member states, 2008**

EU citizens (including the national, own citizens)		EU citizens (excluding the national, own citizens)		Non-EU citizens	
Country (citizenship)	thousands	Country (citizenship)	thousands	Country (citizenship)	thousands
Romania	384	Romania	384	Morocco	157
Poland	302	Poland	266	China	97
Germany	196	Bulgaria	91	India	93
Great Britain	146	Germany	88	Albania	81
France	126	Italy	67	Ukraine	80
Italy	105	France	62	Brasilia	62
Bulgaria	92	Great Britain	61	USA	61
The Netherlands	81	Hungary	44	Turkey	51
Spain	61	The Netherlands	40	Russian Federation	50
Belgium	48	Portugal	38	Columbia	49

Source: Eurostat (2011).

In terms of the destination countries, 65% of the Romanian went to Italy (46%) and Spain (19%) (Eurostat, 2011). A survey was conducted in March-April 2008 among the Romanian communities from Spain which aimed to identify the social conditions, the values and expectations characterizing the Romanian immigrants from Spain. The survey completes the results of another survey of the Romanian community from Italy, conducted in November-December 2007. The comparative analysis of the two sociological surveys shows significant differences in the socio-demographic profile and in the social condition characterizing the Romanian emigration in Spain and Italy.

The emigrants working on EU territory sent, in 2006, to their countries of origin, 26 billion euro, 13% than the previous year, the most important source of cash remittances being Spain. However, 2009 was the first year when the remittances of the migrating workers in the EU decreased.

**Table 4. Remittances of the migrating workers within the EU (billion Euro)**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total remittances	19.4	23.7	28.4	31.3	31.8	29.6
Intra-EU flows	7.9	10.2	11.6	11.3	9.3	8.1
Extra-EU flows	11.5	13.4	16.8	20.0	22.5	21.5

Source: Eurostat (2011).

The year 2008 was a record year for the remittances of the Romanians working abroad, while in 2009 the value of remittances was lower than in 2005 (before the accession of Romania to the EU).

**Table 5. Net financial flows,  
billion Euro**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Romania	1316	3031	4337	4780	4921	2852

Source: Eurostat (2010).

An analysis by De Zwaeger N., Petrescu G. (2011) shows that at an estimated 2,910,000 Romanian emigrants (or about 1,329,000 households), the total estimated level of the savings during 12 months, calculated up to September 2010, was 11.981 million euro, which show the effects of the financial crisis, as well as a trend to use the resources in the new states of emigration, where the Romanian communities crystallize on different social, economic, cultural and religious coordinates.

#### ***4. Romanian communities formed during the post-December period***

A correct analysis of the migration monitors the effects which it has both in the area of origin of the migrants, in the destination area and on the migrants themselves. Depending on a specific context and on a complex of factors which intervene during the process, the effects of migration can be evaluated as positive or negative and they affect very different fields of the economic, political, cultural, social areas of the society, which shows the utility of aggregating the existing data along the demographic, social, economic, cultural-educational and religious dimensions.

The **demographic dimension** – in terms of demography, in the opinion of many researchers, the most important and visible effects of migration characterising the Romanian space after 1989 are represented by the demographic ageing because the migrating population consisted mainly of young people (aged 20-24), professionally active; changes in the evolution of wedding, fertility; changes in the structure by gender which reflect a slow, yet continuous process of demographic ageing; changes in family dimension; overcrowding of the receiving areas and depopulation of the emitting areas.

The **social dimension** – the interpretation of some changes in the social life of a community as result of migration may also start from the effects which the urbanization, due to the migration of the rural population, imposed in the communities.

The **economic dimension** – in terms of the economic effects, migration may contribute to the increase of the incomes available to the population, providing jobs, improving the standard of living, decreasing the unemployment rate in some areas of activity, orientation of the migrants towards specific economic sectors with deficient stock of labour force at a particular moment. On the other hand, there also are negative effects (situations observed in Romania too, particularly after 1990), such as the “brain drain” – migration of the educated and qualified workforce from the poor countries towards the wealthy countries, where these people seek professional acknowledgement and higher pay, these conditions being satisfied in the developed countries (S. Stănică, 2007, pg. 110).

The **cultural and educational dimension** – the cultural influence over the family, acquired by migration, can also be noticed in the reconsideration of the family size of the relations between the family members, of the roles assumed by each member of the family, of the personal values and creeds.

The **religious dimension** – there is a close connection between the influence of religion and the control which it exerts on the parishioners and the effects which migration has on them. One must not understand that the migration of the population determines changes in the religious fundamentals, dogma and rituals of the different confessions. The migration will influence, however, the attitude of the people towards the religious communities in which they want to integrate (temporarily or permanently), particularly if they are different from the communities to which they belong and in which they grew influencing the participation in the religious life of the new community (not just by the presence at religious services and church events, but by keeping the relation with the divinity). An important role in migration is played by the migration networks organised through churches, their activity presuming destinations different from those from the country of origin.

Deciphering the migration from this perspective is a preferred and actual trend of many researches and the phenomenon has a dynamic character; almost any individual included in the circuit increases the possibility for the future occurrence of a similar event. The community networks ensure the access to information for the migrants, provide assistance in finding a job, a dwelling, means of living in other places than the native ones, also facilitating the connection between the migrants and their families.

## 6. Conclusions

On the background of the economic crisis, one can notice a interesting flow of the Romanian migration: the emigration from Romania after December is determined mainly by the economic, social, political and cultural deprivation which appeared due to the changes in the Romanian society; the Romanian communities from abroad form function of the level of similitude of the country of destination (language, social behaviour, socio-economic conditions, etc.). Within the context of the low employment opportunities in Romania and of the consistent decrease of the wages, migration displays increasing trends and the Romanian communities from abroad aggregate organically by preserving some specific characteristics of the national identity. The accomplishment of a comprehensive analysis by organising the specific demographic, social-economic, cultural-educational and religious indicators will be an important approach for the knowledge of the Romanian resources of identity in a period of dramatic globalization crisis.

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