

DEMOGRAPHIC POWER- PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF THE CRISIS AMONG IMIGRANTS- ROMANIANS IN SPAIN

Sacalean Lucian

Abstract

Migration is as old as humanity itself. Causes may be different, but the most noticeable are the expectation of migrants to the welfare and social security. Eastern Europe's political and economical transformation had brought a new wave of permanent or temporarily immigrants in the most affluent and accessible regions of the old continent. Romanian migration phenomenon in Spain stands out, by the perspective of the huge immigrants volume and through integration in a society considered to be close in terms of cultural values, but liberalization of personal circulation within the European Union has made migration to become a burden on host countries.

Free movement of labor within the E.U. has simplified and enhanced migration and with it the problems raised by this phenomenon. How immigrants see this phenomenon, and in which manner they react in a country grounded by the economic crisis, are some questions we try to find answers for.

Key words: migration, romanian migrants,

JEL Code: J15, J61, J62

“ The impulse of migrating is inborn in the human nature – an instinctive and native disposition and inclination of questioning and searching for new opportunities and horizons. Indeed, the division of human species in its ethnical, cultural and linguistic multitudes and the racial groups was-and will remain- a result of the migration.” (L. L. Adler, U. P. Gielen, 2003)

Introduction

The phenomenon of the international migration is one of the oldest and the most complex processes carried on along history. The reasons that produced the population migration are varied, proliferating itself at a time with the mankind's historical evolution, but the most important aspect of this phenomenon is the nature of its acknowledgments over the societies which imply migrants. According to Ramón Tamames (Tamames, 2008) the phenomenon of massive migration from Romania towards Spain has to be integrated in a context of world-wide tides, generated by manpower need until the financial crisis. (Rafael Viruela Martínez 2008) The present migration seems to respect the 'laws of migration', at least concerning the establishment of a migration target, of the process of dispersion.

(Ravenstein 1885) In order to understand the migration tides, we have to consider the migrants as actors in a reality that articulates on more sections – the local networks, states, overnational and transnational organisms, respectively they are adopted and influence the norms and the regulations. (Culic, 2008) Concerning the reasons for choosing Spain as destination, they are many: legislation (optaining very easily a sitting licence), the lack of information or wrong information, the covering of some incipient costs, chain migration effects, discontents regarding the economical and administrative environment (Culic, 2008).

Migration, a complex process

Being a complex process, migration can be defined according to more parameters; depending on the borders' nature (*internal or external*); according to the temporary horizon (*temporary or final migration*). Moreover, taking into account the freedom degree that those who decide to migrate dispose, the migration can be *voluntary or forced*. According to the migrants' legal status, there are *legal or illegal migrants*. Furthermore, depending on the migration organization degree, this can be *spontaneous or stipulated by contract*. The period in which the whole migration process is included, makes a distinction between *the temporary migration or the final one*. These are defined according to the specialized international organisms. However, there are various obstacles that make the real classification to be impossible, mainly due to the administrative and legal system. So, the irregular migration volume is increasing and the migrants' origin countries do not dispose the right administrative registration means. Regarding *illegal or irregular migration*, this is not in accordance with the legal regulations of the states involved in migration. The authorities have restraints in legally accepting emigrants because of the financial and political costs implied by this status. On the other hand, certain segments of public opinion can have restraints regarding migration, limiting the liberalization of the migration policies. Here, policy is in a delicate situation: on one hand it does not want to assume the migration costs, but on the other hand it confronts with the manpower demand. So, “the states formally maintain a restrictive immigration organization, but from economical reasons they tolerate the irregular migration and this way one can talk about the so-called “structural hypocrisy of the states” (Horvath, Daniel, 2009).

However, the phenomenon of migration tends to develop by itself its own “perpetuance mechanisms”, this leading to “a duality between the migration control promoted by the state and the migration-migrants (Horvath., Daniel, 2009).

Migration was seen for a period of time as being the generator of human resources for the host country, respectively generator of financial resource, accompanied by the decreasing of the unemployment in the origin country. (Morcănaș, Costea. 2011) If at the beginning of the economical migration, states have opened their work market for the migrants, now the phenomenon turned an other way. The work market in the host countries is overburdened, a negative speech is being recorded about imigrants, those who are happy for a work, equal to an inferior salary, the imigrants become a political target in a moment in which prosperity is threatened with and policies do not find satisfactory solutions. The financial crisis and then the economical one, that propagated all over the world seriously affected the employees' situation, migrants becoming a vulnerable category. According to a Eurostat study (March 2012), 24,772 men and women from The European Union were unemployed in March 2012. Compared with February of the same year, the number of unemployed people increased with 193 000 in The European Union. By comparing this with March, the number of unemployed people increased with 102.000 and the most severe situations were Spain with 24.3% and Greece with%.(source: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>)

THE ROMANIAN MIGRANTS AROUND THE WORLD

There are two tides of external migration, temporary or final. The falling of the Communist regime, after centuries of apparently undefeated power brought a horizon with a high probability of social conflicts. On the other hand, the distance between thought and action reduces significantly and the action means power. (Anderson&Galinsky,2006) Therefore, Romanians act, the migrants proving to close friends and to community that it is possible. The period in which the final emigrations increased was between 1990-1992, when 30.000 people left the country. The volume of these departures decreases considerably down to 10.000 people in 2007. Then an explosion of temporary emigration for work produces and in the end of 2008 the volume reaches 2,8 million.(S. Dumitru, 2010) The final emigration from 1998 is reduced, dominating the temporary migration for work and having a huge growth after 2001. One can notice that in this period the emigration of men predominates, especially those who come from the urban environment. Leaving abroad for work is a new element in the Romanian Post-December context. (S. Dumitru, 2010) Two stages of the emigration for work can be distinguished: the first one is included between 1990-1995 and the second one between 1996-2001. In this period, the ones who leave the country are Hungarian and German ethnics straightening towards their ancestors' origin countries

(source: www.muncainstrainatate.anofm.ro), but also the ones who wish to have a better paid job, the final migration being predominant. An other characteristic of this period is the Romanian immigrants' contract with new European destinations, respectively the feed-back that generates new immigrants towards those respective destinations.

The balancing of the migratory process on sexes takes place after 2001, men being predominant sex up to that moment. Later, the percentages for the men who left the country in comparison with the women, reaching up to 55% respectively 45%. (S. Dumitru, 2010) **1995-2001**. This is a predominant period for economical motivation and temporary settlement for work. In this stage, the Romanians straighten towards the American continent, having as targets the USA and Canada. From January 2002, the migratory phenomenon amplifies and this is due to the access of Romania in Schengen. Between 1996-2006, the temporary departures to work abroad come to about 28 persons/1000 inhabitants with ages between 15 and 64 years. (S. Dumitru, 2010) The emigrants with high education represented 10-12% out of the legally emigrated people and the ones with industrial and technical education represented 9%. What is to be noticed is the fact that "a third from the total emigrants is hold by the people who finished only the primary school or the gymnasium, the children who emigrated together with their family being prevalent. (source www.muncainstrainatate.anofm.ro) Because of the economical recession from Romania that took place at the middle 90s, in the system of migration a double echo is formed and this reflects in the temporary emigration upward abroad and in the internal migration reorganization. After 1998, emigration suffers an accelerated increasing. (S. Dumitru, 2010) In 2006, Italy and Spain are the Romanians' favourite states for economical emigration. According to Sandu (2006) a third from the Romanian families have at least an emigrant member at work. After the adhering of Romania to the European Union emigration suffers a moderate growth. From the people who emigrated there are: doctors, professors, engineers, so those with high qualification, less people without qualification. Both in the case of Romania and Spain, we can use the model of contagion in order to explain the evolution and the effects of the crisis, being able to apply the economical model on the effects and the behaviour of the population that migrates (Bolos, Vladimir, & Marius).

Because the Romanians' income per inhabitant is way under the average of The European Union, emigration represents an opposition solution in the difficult economical climate. In short term it succeeds in generating positive effects by decreasing the pressure from manpower and decreasing unemployment, but in medium term, the maintaining of the migratory tendency will get to the impossibility of finding new jobs, lacking valuable

resources for its own development (M. Rădulescu 2005), respectively, the necessity to appeal to manpower from poorer countries. An other negative effect is the one that aims the image of Romania and that of the Romanians in general, generated by the migration of a category considered to be source for breaking of the law.

ROMANIANS IN SPAIN

Soon after the falling of communism, one of the most favorite countries for emmigration for Romanians was Spain. For example Catalonia, a region in the North-East of Spain, became one of the most attractive targets for the Romanian migrants. In 1st January 2009, the official statistics prove the existence of 96.448 Romanians in this area, meaning 8,1% from the foreign population from there. If at the beginning of 1998 in Catalonia were 277 Romanians, the immigration explosion took place starting with 2003. In 2009, after the adhering of Romania to EU, the Romanian immigrants got to 8,1% from the total foreign population that was present there. In 2001 there were 1.493 men and 854 women. In 2009 their number increased up to 51.251 man and 45.197 women.(source: www.genecat.cat) According to the official data, in 2011 865.707 Romanians have been registered on the Spanish territory, having the following age structure (source: <http://www.ine.es/jaxi/tabla.do>

Tab. 1:Foreign population by country of birth, age (five year groups), and sex in Spain, romanians, 2011(last data published:serie 2010-2011, 16th april 2012):

age	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29
	52.782	42.836	37.094	36.940	102.929	134.323
age	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59
	140.563	106.482	87.021	46.578	39.360	22.637
age	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89
	9.491	3.451	1.934	849	318	93
age	90-94	95-99	100/over			
	21	4	1		total	865,707

Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística

Corresponding to an official statement of the Spanish Institution of Statistics, at the beginning of 2012, there were 895.970 settled Romanians, representing 15,7 % from the total of foreign citizens. The same data showed that in 1st January 2012, Spain had a population of 47.212.990 inhabitants, out of which 5.711.040 (12,1 %) were foreigners.

The sounding that MetroMedia Transilvania realized in the spring of 2008, at the beginning of the crisis, in Spain, shows that 66% from the Romanian immigrants consider

that they have an insecure job, 35% sustained that they will be discharged in the following three months, 39% had been noticed to look for a new job for the same very reason, 72 had their salaries reduced in the last period, 66% had difficulties in finding a job and 30% work in constructions, a domain that has been severely affected by the financial crisis. (source: http://www.presidency.ro/static/CPARSDR_raport_extins.pdf) In Madrid, a third from the Romanians came alone and two thirds with their family or a part of it. Those who migrated in Spain with the husband or the wife represented 16% from the total of immigrants and those who brought other members of the family came to 27%. 46% from the couples want to return in Romania, and 385 from those who emigrated with other members of the family want to remain in Spain. The Romanians who left for Spain had and have certain purposes, such as: multiplying their incomes, buying various material good like flats, opening a business, giving a good education to their children, helping their families that remained in the country.

The Romanian migrants that wish to come back to Romania enumerated the following aspects: “they are displeased with the life in Spain, in comparison with their life in Romania; discontented with their health here; pleased with how much they have managed to gain in Spain; with a positive perception regarding the work offer in Romania; content with the way schools work in Romania, in comparison with Spain.” If according to MMT a great number of people who wanted to return was estimated, more than five years later Romanians from Spain seem to have adapted to the new economical realities. What has changed in these years? How do Romanian migrants perceive their life and their future? Which is their intention, to remain in Spain or to come back in Romania and what is the basis of this this intention? These are questions to which we tried to find an answer through the present research.

Methodology

In order to obtain the necessary for the data for the present research, I decided to use a methodological mix, in other words, the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods – focus-group, inquiry on a questionnaire. A number of 5 focus-groups have been realized, each having 15 participants, equal as sex, with the ages between 18- 55 years. According to these, the interest topics have been emphasized and the work conjectures have been confirmed. In order to corroborate these results, the qualitative data have been verified in a quantitative research on the basis of a questionnaire to which 473 people answered, out of which 234 being men, respectively 239 being women, divided into groups of ages between 18

and 60 years and more. The questionnaire comprised 12 items with default variants of response.

ROMANIANS IN SPAIN - 2012

As the result of the analysis 56% from the subjects know their rights as European citizens and they are ready to act when needed, 24% know their rights in a small measure, 11% know them less and 9% at all, these percentages inducing a certain type of behaviour both from the emigrants and the authorities. An other searched item was the one concerning the conditions in which the subjects would consider the returning in Romania. The major condition emphasized by the focus-groups and confirmed by the questionnaire was about the improving of the internal economical environment. On the second place was situated the reform of the political class, including here not only the political life but also the way in which the administrative institutions work (fig.1- the values are expressed in %). An other studied item was regarding the intention the final establishment in Spain (fig.2). The reply of the majority was a positive one (fig.2 - the values are expressed in %).

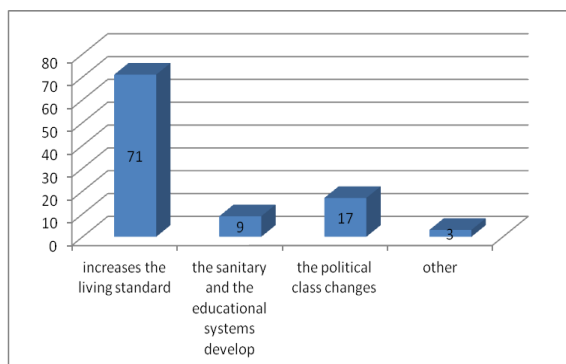


fig1. The motivation to return home

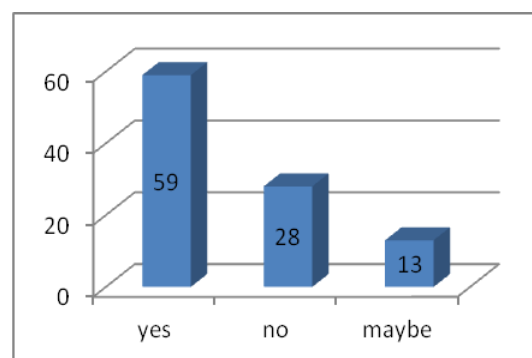


fig.2 The intention of final settlement in Spain

For the participants to the focus-group, we noticed the tendency of a bigger propensity for returning to Romania of the ones that have settled between 10 or more years and with the age over 45 years, having a more sentimental motivation. Moreover, for the subjects between 18-25, 26-30 years, there is a sure horizon of coming back to Romania and this can be because of nostalgia, because of the relationship with relatives (children, parents, husband/wife) or because of temporary maladaptation. 64% from these thought that in the case of a family reunion they would seriously decide to settle in Spain for good.

As well, there are big differences between the incomes in the origin country, respectively Spain, especially for the ones who live there for more than 10 years. Even if the recent emigrants' expectations had been bigger than what they had, the comparison

between the income potential from Romania and the one from Spain inclines towards the latter one. Although they said that in Spain the situation is difficult, because of the impact that the economical crisis had on their family budget and they had to think better how to use their money on expenses, the majority of those who were questioned declared they are relatively pleased with the income level, in comparison with what they could obtain in the origin country(fig.3). Concerning the present domain of activity and its correspondence with work, 46% from the subjects do not activate in the same domain, 9% work in the same domain (e.g. health), 18% in a related domain, 27% in a similar one. Here the situation is not relevant, being dictated by the reality of the Spanish work market. The understanding of the present economical conditions made the majority of people declare their availability to work in non-related domains than their ex-work. (fig.4).

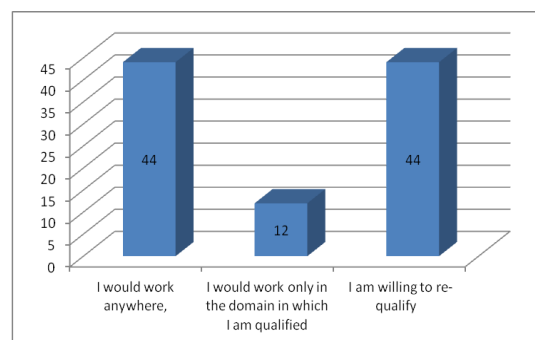
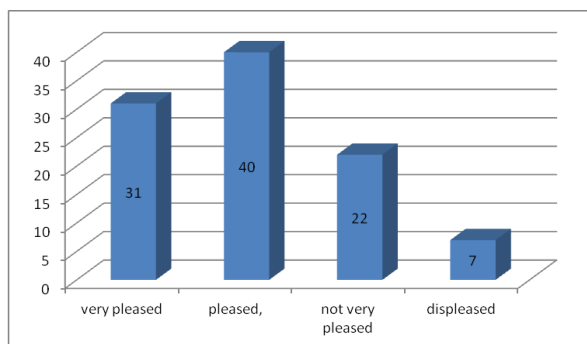


fig.3 The degree of content regarding the incomes level fig.4 Work availability

An other interesting aspect is related to selfmotivation in order to obtain a better veconomical situation. The entrepreneurial spirit is not represented enough but we can notice the tendency of opening a business from the ones between 25-40 years. (Do you hold your own business in Spain? fig.5). The most interesting age categories from this point of view are between 18-25, respectively 30-40 years. That is way the youngest are interested in the necessary conditions in order to have a business on their own, but they lack capital, experience, support and encouragement from the elder ones in the family. On the other hand, the second category is willing to take this step in the difficult conditions from Spain, having support from their family.

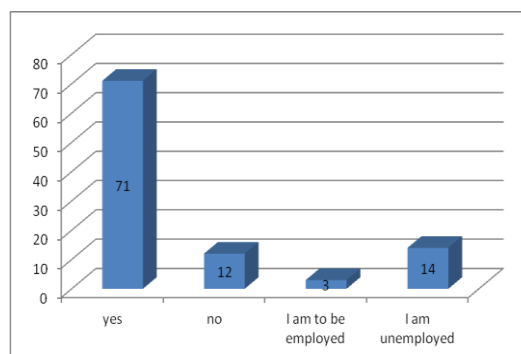
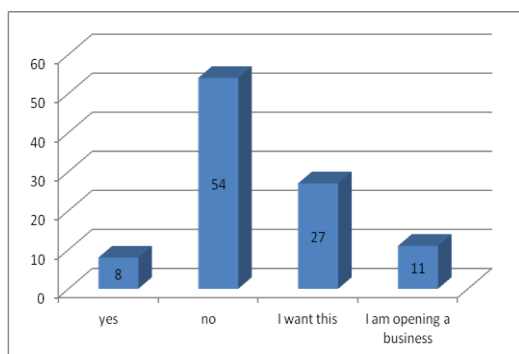


fig.5 Private initiative

fig.6 The situation in the work field

An other major element in the returning to the origin country is the active situation in the work field. For the majority of the subjects, seasonal work or similar types (which do not imply an official employment) represents an active self-location in the work field (fig.6). Analysing the initial motivation of the emmigration, we find the following situation (Which are your reasons for leaving Romania? (Fig.7):

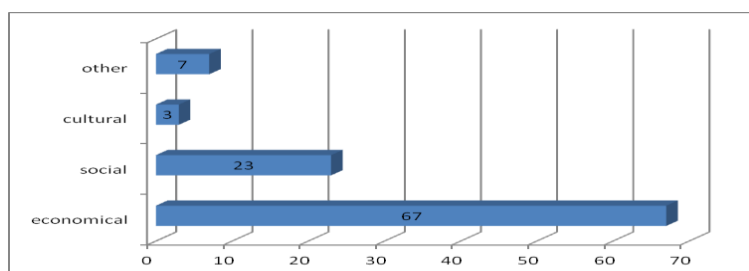


Fig.7 The reasons for emigration

In the subjects' opinion, this motivation did not disappear and they do not think it will disappear on short term. The majority of them identifies Spain as the country in which equality of chance is higher than in Romania. An other important aspect was the one of perception of political pressure reduced on the citizen, respectively the perception of a less corrupt system than in the origin country, arguments which were power enough to give a better position to the temporary/permanent adoptive country. The psichological motivation, the shame of failure for the ones in the origin country, is a good argument too.

Conclusion

The need of valuing and the fear of a negative reaction make Romanians that settled in Spain to try to survive to the present unfavorable economical context. For a very long period of time Romanians have been used to see in the political leader, respectively in the state, the main factors for economical welfare, perception that highly maintains up to now.(Cernat 2010°). Consequently, the perception on the power of the state is relevant when making decisions. An other important aspect is the group perception - we - thing that takes to less bias and a positive behavior. (Dovidio, Gaertner, Validzic, Matoka, & Johnson, 1997). The lack of a major political pressure, such as in Italy or France, on the Romanian communities, its dissociation from the gipsy community, even if they had the same statal origin helped defining in terms of common social identity, according to the theory of the social identity of the collective behavior (Drury & Reicher, 2000) but also to the specific action of this

background. A very important thing is the perception according to which Spain will recover sooner from the present economical conjuncture, even if it will not be true, the chances of gain, the living standard, will remain for a long time superior to those from our country, in other words an extra argument to remain here, waiting for a better future.

The Romanians from Spain, without an acceptable horizon in which concerns the political and economical evolution of the origin country, are willing to remain in Spain for a period that varies from 1 to 5 years (in the case of those who think at a potential returning in the origin country), even if the gained income from this period will not come up to the economical accumulation that they intended. On the other hand the adaptation to the new environment intervenes, being tempted to remain in an environment considered to be more stable than the origin one in the present, where the evolution of essential reforms seems to be way too slow, in this context. The alternative of returning is seen just as a last solution in the case of some evolutions that will not allow anymore the subsistence on the Spanish territory.

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Contact

Lucian Sacalean

Petru Maior University,

Sciences and Letters Faculty,

History and International Relations Department

lsacalean@yahoo.com