

NEW IMMIGRATION AT THE EUROPEAN UNION'S PERIPHERY SPECIAL GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES CONCERNING THE ROMANIAN CITIZENSHIP ACQUISITION WITHIN THE PERIOD 2000-2013

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Abstract—Immigration is one of the most fundamental realities of Europe's demographic last decades. From this point of view, it can be said that Romania, recently included in the European Union, tends to become a destination for flows of immigrants, even if the phenomenon is at an early stage. Since the mechanical movement study of the population has a quarrel scientific, social and even political importance, the analysis of these shifts is well to be carried out on their debut. Thus, our research, based on existing statistical information is trying to delineate geographical human characters of the population which has recently acquired Romanian citizenship. From this point of view I can analyze the dynamics of flows, their origin, and certain structural aspects.

Index Terms—Immigration, nationality, the European Union.

I. INTRODUCTION

European Union, as a whole, is a social-political construction including multiple challenges, visible on all of the plans. On this plan, immigration plays a particularly important role, but it adversely affects the different EU countries. Once with the reversal of de jure or de facto European historical border, doubled by creating Schengen (by signature of the Treaty of Amsterdam on 2 October 1997, entered into force on 1 May 1999), Europe has accepted a new challenge: the one for the management of some great mass of people, with an ethno-cultural variety. In this way, to old European melange population of various nationalities it is add, at present, a consistent population from outside Europe. Certainly economic offsets and the living standard existing in contemporary world have been shown to be able to break any barrier and legislation.

If for some countries this phenomenon is one with a historical character (France and the United Kingdom being the best examples), in other cases immigration has a recently character, just for a few decades. In this category are to be found those countries that have recently joined the European Union (which through this political accession have increased their attractiveness), including Romania, which became a member on 1 January 2007.

II. LEGISLATION, DATA AND METHODS

According to current legislation, Romanian citizenship can be obtained in three ways: by birth, by adoption or by request and it may grant the person without citizenship or to a foreigner who meets the following conditions:

- a) on the time of demand, was born and lives in Romania or, although not born on this territory, have been living legally on the Romanian territory for at least 8 years or, 5 years in case that is married and is living with a Romanian citizen;
- b) proved by the behavior, actions and attitude loyalty towards the Romanian state, does not take or support actions against legal order or national security and declares that in the past has not taken any such action;
- c) has reached the age of 18;
- d) has insurance in Romania, legal means for a decent life, in conditions established by law on foreigners;
- e) is known with good conduct and has not been convicted in the country or abroad for a crime that makes him unworthy of being a Romanian citizen;
- f) knows the Romanian language and has basic notions of Romanian culture and civilization, sufficiently to integrate into society;
- g) knows the Romanian Constitution and the national anthem.

It should be noted that the time limits can be reduced to half in the following situations:

- a) the applicant is an internationally recognized personality;
- b) the applicant is a citizen of a Member State of the European Union;
- c) the applicant has acquired refugee status according to the law in force;
- d) the applicant has invested in Romania amounts exceeding 1,000,000 Euros.

However, if the foreign citizen or stateless person who has applied for Romanian citizenship is outside the Romanian territory for more than 6 months in a year, that year is not taken into account in determining the minimum period of residence.

Another important provision states that the child born of foreign parents or without citizenship and who has not attained the age of 18 acquires Romanian citizenship together with his parents.

Considering the international migrations study the main impediment which rose is the one of the existence of certain accurate and adequate statistical information. Is the case of Romania, the country for which we have such quantitative information only after 2000, when the government started to make public the lists of the people who have acquired Romanian citizenship. Thus, in documentation stage, in order

to obtain the required statistical data to our research, we have had to consult 769 numbers of the "Official Gazette of Romania" which occurred during the period 2000-2013 which have contained such lists [1].

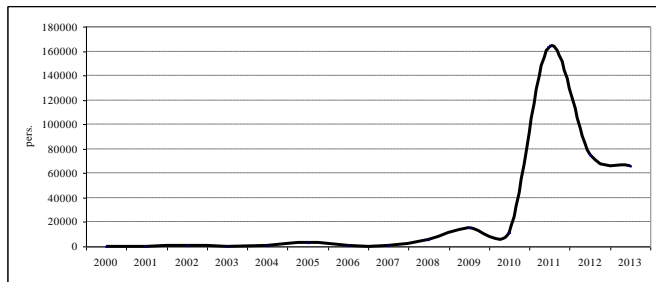


Fig.1. The dynamic servility of the Romanian citizens

To begin with, it must be noted that within the range for which the analysis has been carried out, a number of 344,654 people have acquired Romanian citizenship, but the temporal arrangement of these flights has had a very distinguished character, with a significantly maximum in the year 2011 (fig. 1). The explanation to this is not hard to find; it refers to legislative facilities granted in respect Romanian citizenship of the law 21/1991, republished in 2010.

Thus, all those who had Romanian citizenship and who lost it for any reasons or who lost their Romanian citizenship in a forced way, as well as their descendants to the 3rd level, may bring Romanian citizenship upon request. First of all, this was the case of the Moldavian Republic citizens, ex-Romania part (under the name of Bessarabia) until June 1940, when it was attached to the Soviet Union. Considering Moldavian state which is in a serious and long political and economical crisis after 1990, migration for work in Western Europe has been for the Moldavian people one of the life strategies to ensure their financial and material future. And even if by the year 2010 Moldavians emigration was illegal, after that occurred an easy chance to acquire the citizenship of a EU state, including Romania.

Effects of this law have been extensive not only at the national level, but also at European Union level, where, in the year 2011, Romania was seventh ranked in terms of the number of citizens granted, getting ahead of much more attractive countries for immigrants (but more restrictive), as well as Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands as it is observed in this table [2].

Tab. I. European top countries of granted citizenships

| Country | Granted citizenships in 2011 (thousands of persons) |
|----------------|--|
| Germany | 592.2 |
| United Kingdom | 498.0 |
| Italy | 350.8 |
| France | 327.4 |
| Spain | 304.1 |
| Poland | 217.5 |
| Romania | 163.3 |

In any case, the Moldavian's trend to obtain Romanian citizenship is a descendant one after time referred to and probably it would remain the same, as much as since this spring beginning the Moldavians can travel in the EU without a visa.

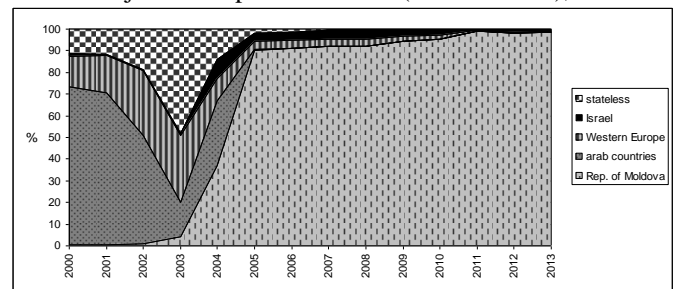


Fig. 2. A structural dynamic of citizenship granted by the Romanian state

Structurally, the new Romanian citizens flow has known significant variations (fig. 2). If, at the level of 2000 the Moldavians were almost absent (only 0.3% of the total), after 2003 their share has increased (amounting to 98.5% in 2013). They displaced the Arabian people, which accounted a quarter of the total immigrants citizenship, majority being those in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.

Almost entirely, the Arabian arrived in Romania before 1989, when the communist government, having good relations with the countries in the Middle East, offered scholarships to students coming from this region. After the 1989 revolution a part of them have preferred to remain in Romania (now Democrat), especially those who married, in the meantime, with Romanian citizens.

Astfel, la nivelul anului 2004, originea geografică a noilor cetățeni români era una cu un caracter destul de polarizat, având ca principale state de proveniență Republica Moldova, Iran și Siria (multe persoane originare de aici fiind, de fapt, refugiați palestinieni). The consistent presence of the natives of Germany and Sweden should not surprise us, since we are dealing with former Romanian citizens for political asylum in these countries before 1989 (Fig. 3). Secondary, is remarkable also exotic origins (at least for Romania), such as those in South America (Colombia, Chile, Venezuela), Asia (Mongolia, Vietnam, Afghanistan) and Africa (Nigeria, Somalia and Guinea).

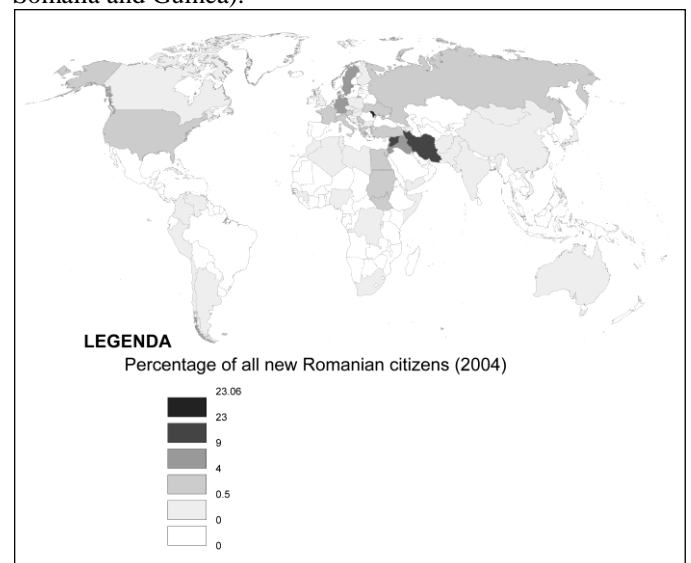


Fig. 3. Geographical origin of the new Romanian citizens

Stateless, relatively a new category of citizens, held in 2004 in second place with a share of 15.6%.

In their vast majority (98.4%), stateless people are of Romanian origin, as it was about people who had left the country illegally during the communist regime and which, until

obtaining a new citizenship chose to give up the old one [3]. This phenomenon of returning to previous citizenship is most relevant in the case of Romanians who emigrated in Nordic countries (Sweden and Denmark), connected probably by the fact that these Member States provides more difficult the citizenship title a newcomer person.

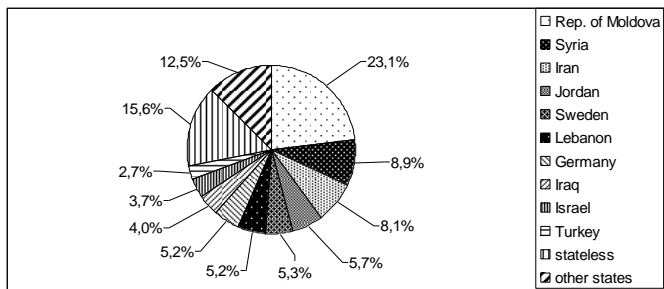


Fig. 4. A structure that includes stateless, "anyone citizens" (2004)

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

However, the Law No. 21/1991 was not an advantage only for citizens of the Republic of Moldavia, but also for descendants of Jews, who during the Second World War and immediately after the conflict have left Romania to Israel. Jew's returns have been stronger in total flows especially in the year 2004 (when represented 9.1%), mentioning that almost totally prefer to maintain their residence in Israel after Romanian citizenship. In their case, citizenship acquisition seems to be linked to rather recent refunds of properties confiscated by the nationalization carried out by communist state after 1947.

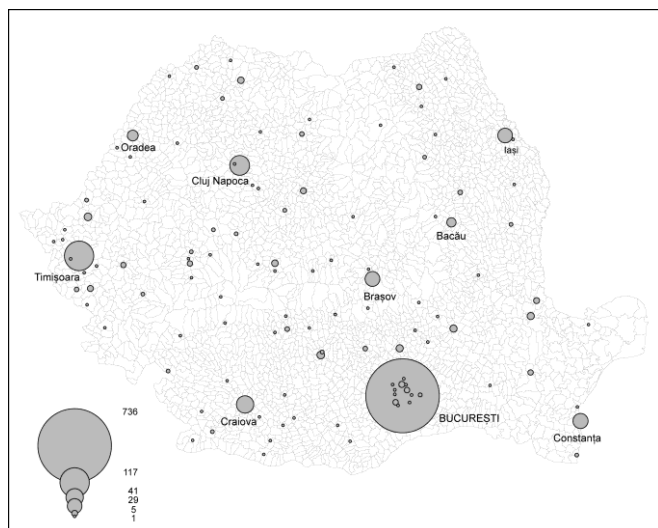


Fig. 5. Geographical distribution of the new Romanian citizens residing in Romania (2013)

Considering that immigration in the case of Romania is more than a phenomenon of legislative context and does not reflect a real attractiveness, it is observed including residence place analysis of the new Romanian citizens. From this point of view it is noted that only 4.1 percent of them are living in Romania, while the rest, represented in overwhelming majority of Moldavians, reside either in the Republic of Moldavia, either to other countries in Western Europe.

Anyway, the new Romanian citizens who have their habitual residence in Romania are attracted especially by the big urban centers, firstly by Bucharest, the capital and then the

main university centers: Timisoara, Iasi, Cluj-Napoca and Craiova (fig. 5). If in the capital case, in Timisoara and Constanta case (the main harbor of the country) we can talk about a certain economic attraction, in other cases we are dealing in particular with a marital immigration motivation [4]. Most of the times there was not a clear intention on the adoption of this life strategy at the time of arrival to study in Romania, the decision to take this judgment being later [5].

The fact noted above, that the acquisition of Romanian citizenship is not tied to a particular attractiveness for the country, but is rather a convenient approach in other ways, is demonstrated by the analysis performed on the geographical distribution of the new Romanian citizens residing abroad (fig. 6). Thus, it is noted that many of the new Romanian not leave their country of residence after obtaining citizenship, whether we refer to European or North American countries. In fact, they are a kind of normal social settings after a lengthy period of frustration and deprivation, gained in the communist period in Romania.

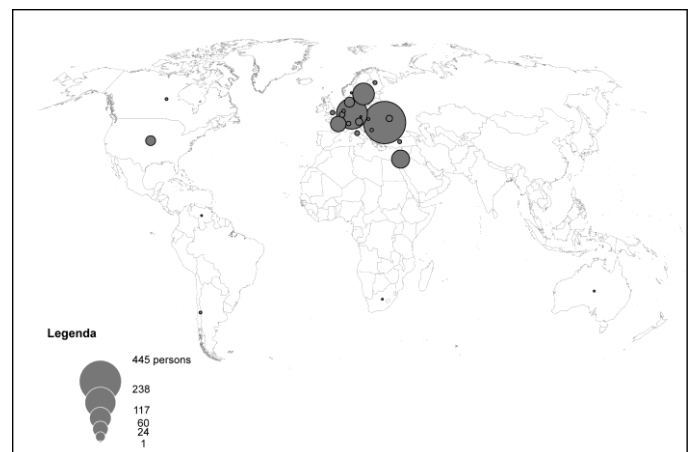


Fig. 6. The geographical distribution of the new Romanian citizens residing abroad (2004)

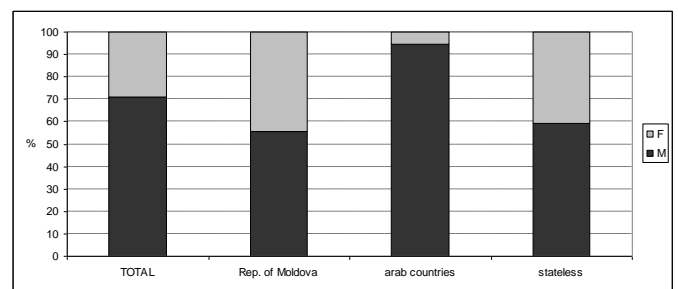


Fig. 7. Sex structure of the new Romanian

From the point of view of sex structure, immigrants from Romania are men, representing 71.1% of the total (fig. 7). This male domination is to be found even if we take a look at things broken down, according to the origin of the populations involved, with a maximum in the case of those of origin Arabic (94.5 %) - explainable by social characteristics of the Muslim world.

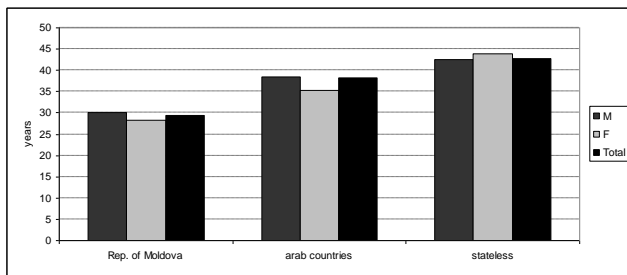
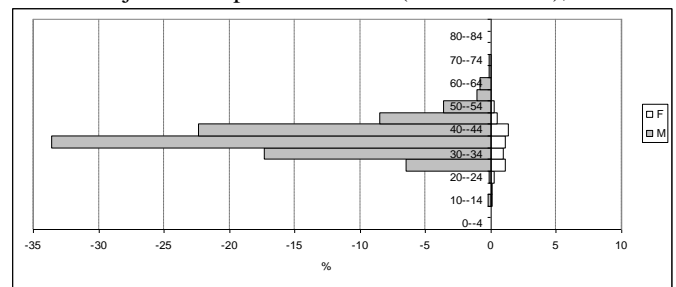


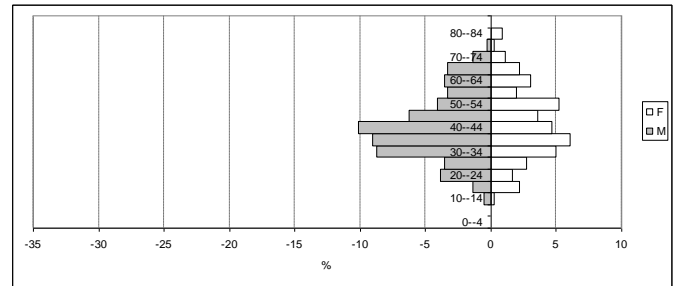
Fig. 8. Mean age at the time of Romanian citizenship acquisition

With regard to mean age at the time Romanian citizenship acquisition (fig. 8), this is 40,1years higher for women (40.9 years) and something less men (39.8 years). These features can be explained in part by the fact that a foreign person may acquire Romanian citizenship after a period of residence relatively high - eight years in normal mode or five years in the case in which he/she is married to a Romanian citizen.

The youngest people are Romanian with Moldavian origin (29.3 years), explainable including through youth demographic main country, and elderly are stateless people (42.8 years), as we have seen many of them are in fact Romanians return to home after the fall of communism.



b.



c.

Fig. 10. Group and sex structure of the new Romanian citizens according to origin (in order, Moldavians, Arabs, stateless persons)

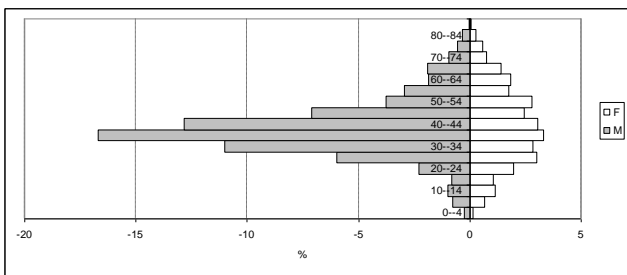
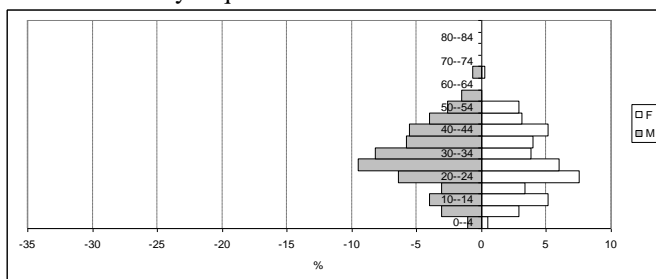


Fig. 9. Group and sex structure of the new Romanian citizens (total)

It is also interesting the structure on age groups and sexes (analyzed for the period 2000-2010, according to the available statistical information), with a pyramid looking as the national flag (fig. 9). If the female population age distribution is a little more well-balanced, for the average male is much more obvious, while young people (0-14 years) are weakly represented for both sexes.

At a further investigation (fig. 10 - a., b., c.) it should be noted that responsible for bow general pyramid population are Romanians by Arab origin, whose graphical representation is one completely disrupted, lower floors lacking, as is the case of stateless people. Only the pyramid of Moldavian origin is something complete, including the youngest one, linked to the legislative provisions of the Romanian State which automatically granted citizenship for children of the people who have already acquired it.



a.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Romania, as part of recent peripheral European Union, is faced with a new phenomenon (at least for the contemporary period), that of international migration. And if Romanians' migration to work abroad is a very well known and large-scale (involving approximately 4 million people), immigration has just an extensively character. It is influenced by the laws adopted by the Romanian state and - as we have seen - a certain attractiveness for Romania's foreign population.

This new challenge has to be a rigorous statistical documentation on immigrants, according to the Italian or American model, which will allow a scientific detailed analysis of the involved population. For now, the Romanian state has not developed such informal instruments, not being ready to face these new realities, which can lead to some undesirable social phenomena (such as, for example, "black" work). In a more dynamic growing world and more cultural globalized one, the study of international migrations is in a position to give us (even partially) an answer to an old and exciting question: Quo vadis, mundus?

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