

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION A WIN OR A LOSS

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ABSTRACT

My article refers the issues of international migration and it's important on the actual migrants that are coming for work in Romania and their role in the economy of Romania. International migration especially labor migrants had been studied by many that are in close relation with international law, European law, international trade, international economies and so on. In recent years, Romanian economy was boosting and it is important for everybody especially economist to understand this issue and they should not ignore it. For the future, it is very good to understand the factors that help to boost economy of the country and also to analyze the international migration (labor migrants) level. Usually labor migrants go to develop countries for better income, better life condition, good education, better health system, security and so on. Bellow I have focused more, to know if international migration is lose or win.

KEY-WORDS: *International migration, labor migrant, economy, international trade*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of migration existed all the time and it became more popular since people started to move in other places / countries rather their place / country of origin. Recently rich areas / countries attracted more people from less develop or poor countries.

I tried to find out the exact influence of international migration on countries and their economies but it is quite hard to know the exact result because there is not available data and information related to international migration in host countries. However, it is not necessary for all countries to provide reports on migrants' activities and their roles in each country and their implication in economic development.

Moving of people from one place to another with the willing to settle, that can be permanently or temporarily at a new place. This moving can take place over long distances such as from one country to another and in some cases internal migration is also possible. Migration can take place in groups, family and individual.

This phenomenon is quite complex because it is not only the movement of the people but also involves various aspects that can be approached by several disciplines (sociological, cultural, anthropological, historical, psychological, economic, demographic, geographical, methodological, religious and ideological, legal and political), diversified due to the goals pursued by migrants (work, education, business, family), which generate negative views (racism, xenophobia, discrimination, segregation, social marginalization, poverty and trafficking) and also positive visions (cooperation, development through remittances, pluralism, diversity, tolerance, growth and mobility).

In the last years in some parts of the global, like Europe, the US migration has experienced significant flows, the issue of international migration is a short-term concern for many countries. In the European, the movement of people, capital and labor is very important, the enlargement of the EU in successive waves, the demographic aging of the population of developed European countries are in rise and the huge economy of the European Union needs more young workers to drive it forward. These are the main reasons for the circulation of people especially migrant labor.

Nowadays, the demographic concern reappears due to the risks it poses in the manifestation of crises at local, zonal, continental or global level that influence the social order, or in the triggering of disturbances of ethnic or religious balances.

Within the population flows, the circulation of the labor force registers increasing dimensions, both of intensities and of the number. On a global scale, migration is relatively low, approximately 3% of the world's population migrate to work. Although significant migratory flows occur in a relatively moderate number of countries around the world. In each country international migration existed and all economies are got used with this phenomenon. These states are either the country of origin or the country of transit or destination for migrants, but they can also hold all three attributes listed above simultaneously.

2. THE CURRENT STATE OF RESEARCH – LITERATURE

The specialized literature approaches synthetically and integratively the phenomenon of labor migration looking for new meanings in approaching the phenomenon of international migration.

Legal migration must be the result of the common will of the migrant and the host area / state, for the benefit of both parties, and even more so, for the benefit of the country of origin, this is in the context of circular migration. Thus, as regards of the framework of the common European policies and the application of the related acquits, each Member State must decide on the conditions for the admission of migrants into its territory. Romania applies a specific immigration policy, depending on the needs identified at the national level, but at the same time concerted, taking into account the impact that this policy may have on other EU countries, while ensuring fair treatment of immigrants and balanced integration in the host company. In 2018 and 2019, Romanian authorities issued work visa for many migrant workers because more people left Romania and they migrated in other countries and the created gap should be filled somehow by other workers.

Romania is exposed to both legal and illegal migration routes from and to other European countries, especially from eastern and southern countries, these newly comers having origins in the states of the Middle East, Southeast Asia or Africa. Although in some EU Member States there were migration trends from Central and South American states, they were not felt in Romania, probably due to the geographical position and low attractiveness for citizens of these states.

Migration is a phenomenon that involves several consequences such as demographic, social, economic and political consequences. The phenomenon has increased significantly since 1989, and the desire to analyze this process has intensified in recent years and has covered all regions of the globe, is present it is an international problem.

Highly skilled international labor migration is a current feature of labor migration, and is also known as the “brain drain” which clearly evokes a loss of intellectual capital for countries of origin.

Migration is defined as the mass movement of populations from one territory to another, determined by economic, social, political or natural factors. The International Organization for Migration defines the term migration as the process of population movement within a state (internal migration) or across borders (international migration). The phenomenon can also be analyzed, studied from the point of view of their two specific elements: time and space. "Migration involves the territorial relocation of people between two or more states" the latter being the way of viewing the migration phenomenon of the United Nations. The two organizations claim in terms of area, that migration is the movement beyond the borders of a country.

In international migration, we face two closely related processes: immigration and emigration. It is very difficult to differentiate migration and immigration because their reasons can match in many ways.

Immigrations can take place for personal motives as well like mirage, family reunification, and family integration and also it can take place for other reasons such as sex, age and cultural differences. People are running from their countries to avoid prison or arrest and in some cases war criminals are asking for protection and introduced themselves as victims of war.

Immigration is defined as the receipt of persons or labor displaced in the country of destination for a temporary or permanent period. The main characteristics of the host country for immigration from the economic point of view are the following: relatively higher degree of economic development; high demand for labor, compared to national availability; low share of the able-bodied population in the total population.

Emigration is defined as the movement of persons or labor between residence (country of origin) and country of reception (place of work). Thus, the country of origin is characterized by a lower degree of economic development, with a high share of youth and in general, workforce availability is very high but there are not enough jobs for everybody. At the same time, the country of origin, from which the persons or the labor force leave, is called the country of emigration.

The balance of international migration is represented by the difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants, in the reference period (year t);

The resident population includes all people that are present in the country and have their legal residence in Romania, for a period of time, at least for 12 months. The types of migrations encountered so far, both in Romania and in the rest of the countries, are based on certain criteria:

- according to the duration and nature of the leaving we distinguish definitive migrations, temporary / seasonal / rhythmic and diurnal;
- according to the residential conditions migrations can be: rural-urban, urban-rural, and interurban;
- according to the administrative criterion migrations can be: internal and external;
- migrations can be individual or in groups;
- according to their activities migrations can be: organized or unorganized;
- by purpose migrations can be: economic, tourist, pilgrimage, etc.

Migrations are selective - this gives them a disruptive role; as an exception, they are organized and carried out according to certain rules and programs. Due to the selective character, the de-structuring of the communities takes place, which requires the analysis of the phenomenon by age, by sex, by profession but also by the social environment.

The reasons that determine at this moment the international migration of the labor force are based either on the economic conditions in the respective country, or on the general conditions of political, religious, cultural, ideological, national, geographical or other nature. People leave an area either in search of better opportunities and a better socio-economic level, or take refuge in another area because of calamities or disasters, wars, religious or political persecution.

At the macroeconomic level, migration leads to the destabilization of the labor market, by creating either a surplus in certain areas or a labor shortage in certain sectors, for certain periods and in certain areas.

At the microeconomic level, both positive phenomena appear, by increasing the standard of living, satisfaction, the feeling of job security, and also negative ones, which aim especially related to their relationship with the group of origin.

The impact in Romania means affecting some sectors (construction, services, production) that were facing a labor shortage, currently there is lack of employees in Romania and the government is under pressure to allow more people to come to Romania in fill the gap. The decline of the active population is also influenced by direct loss and effects over time, due to the imbalance of age structures and as a result of the migration of the young population.

Countries are concerned with identifying and implementing measures that foreshadow some tendencies to avoid secrecy or to bring it to the lowest level. In Romania in the 1990s, it was based on an asylum application, the asylum seeker was not allowed to work until the asylum application was resolved, later it was changed and an asylum seeker was able to work after passing one year from his application but in 2018 it was modified again and now asylum seekers can work after 3 months of asking asylum. Other ways are: leaving the country with a tourist visa, followed by illegal employment in the destination country, migration mediated by the state and leaving the country of origin by identifying potential employers in the destination country even by the migrant.

3. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The management of the migration phenomenon is based on the participation of all interested institutions with competences in this field, through a participatory management and through inter-institutional, national and international cooperation.

The current normative framework that regulates the regime of foreigners in Romania, the citizens of the EU member states and of the European Economic Area, as well as the legal norms that regulate asylum in Romania, is mainly conferred by law no. 194/2002 on the regime of foreigners in Romania. It was republished, with subsequent completions, law no. 102/2005 regarding the free movement on the Romanian territory of the citizens of the member states of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, approved with modifications and completions by Law no. 260/2005, with subsequent amendments and completions, Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, with subsequent amendments and completions and law no. 56/2007 regarding the employment and staying of foreigners on the Romanian territory, approved with modifications and completions by Law no. 134/2008.

Romania's membership in the EU has led, in recent years, to substantial changes in the legal rules governing the regime of foreigners in Romania, the citizens of EU Member States and the European Economic Area, and the legal rules related to asylum seekers in Romania, in order to ensure compliance with European legislation in this field and with other legal instruments of an international conditions to which Romania is part of them. For the full application of the provisions of the Schengen acquis, from the date of adoption of the Council decision in this respect, the general framework was created by adopting legislative, institutional, administrative-technical measures in order to implement the relevant acquis. The regulation of the migration process is ensured by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). By promoting international cooperation on migration issues, IOM believes that regulated migration benefits migrants and society alike.

IOM opened its office in Romania in 1992 to collaborate with the Romanian authorities and to provide information and counseling related to emigration. The IOM Constitution gives explicit recognition of the relation between migration and economic, social and cultural, as well as people's right to free movement.

4. METHOD AND TOOLS OF ANALYSIS

In public administration different data collection methods are used, methods that can be included in the qualitative or quantitative or even mixed ones, this group being formed by the cumulation of the first groups, the most common in this field are: observation, experiment, document analysis, individual or group interview, opinion poll and case study.

In social research, the most common method for analyzing migration flows as well as possible is the opinion poll. Opinion can be understood a predisposition or a state towards a certain referent. Beliefs and skills are forming the opinion.

The fundamental aspects that we must take into account when we talk about public opinion are: the intensity of the opinion, the importance of the subject, the establishment of opinions.

It is very important to take into account these three fundamental aspects because if the opinion does not have a wanted intensity, the importance of the subject is very low and the opinions are unstable then it is wrong to take into account the public opinion.

The study has as a basic tool that is based on a questionnaire that can be completed only when we know exactly how the problem is presented. The questionnaire has an introductory part, a part that aims to gain the trust of the respondent. In this part it is written who makes the questionnaire, and how it can help him. Then follow the questions that must be clear and formulated in accessible language. Mainly short questions are used that can be opened, each to give an answer but there can also be closed questions, which will be answered, yes or no.

For this study, in addition to the results obtained from the interpretation of the answers received from the application of the questionnaire, statistical data were used from the Eurostat website (statistical office of the European Union) which promotes the following values: respect and trust, promotes innovation and information services.

5. RESEARCH RESULTS

The main statistical results show that the population of the European Union in terms of demography and migration is estimated to be growing - 513,154,880 people in 2019 compared to 511,698,062 people in 2018. In Fig.1 we see estimated data for 2021: Germany is at the top of the ranking with an estimated total population between 69,400,001 and 83,195,677 people. Next in the ranking are: France and Italy with the islands related to it, with a population that is estimated between 55,610,001 and 69,400,000 people. In terms of Romania, it is located between 14,240,001 and 28,030,000 along with the Netherlands. The rest of the EU countries have an estimated population between 443,544 and 14,240,000, these being all Nordic countries, Central Western countries (Austria, Hungary, Croatia, etc.) but also southern countries (Portugal, Greece and Bulgaria).

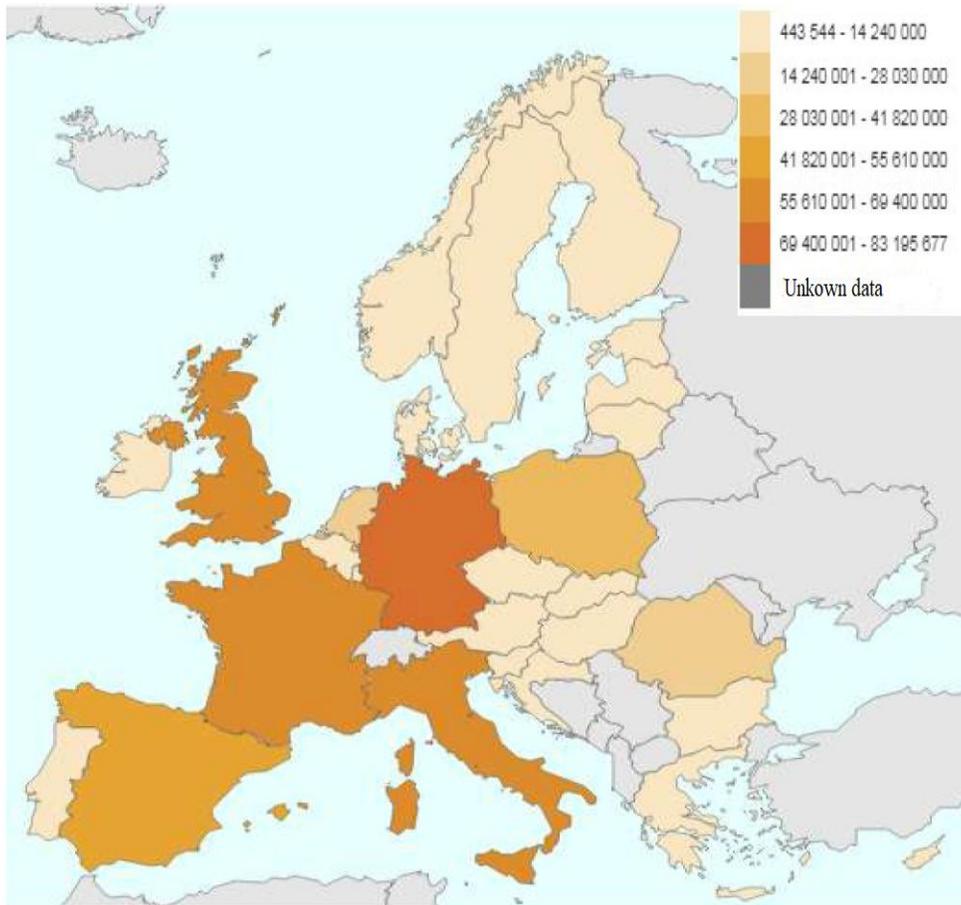


Fig. 1. EU population in 2021 - demographics, migrants and projections (estimation)

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/Eurostat/web/population-demography-migration-projections/statistics-illustrated>

Although migration at EU level shows an increasing trend, for some member states the number of migrants is increasing, and for others it is decreasing. Table 1 shows that countries such as Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Romania, Finland and England show a slight increase in terms of emigrants, and countries such as Spain and Portugal fall from about 400,430 people, respectively 49,572 in the year. In 2016, the number was 327,325 people and 38,273 people, respectively, even if both countries register a decrease in 2017, but this is much smaller compared to 2018. This can be easily seen in Fig.2. Romania in 2016 registered 172,871 emigrants, a value that increased in 2017 by 21,847 people. And compared to 2016 in 2017, and it shows an increase.

Table 1. Migration population in 2016 - 2018

Country/ Period	2016	2017	2018
Germany	324221	347162	533762
Spain	400430	343875	327325
France	308775	295911	309805
Italy	136328	146955	157065
Austria	53491	56689	64428
Portugal	49572	40377	38373
Romania	172871	194718	207578
Finland	15486	16305	18082
England	319086	299183	340440

Source: <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

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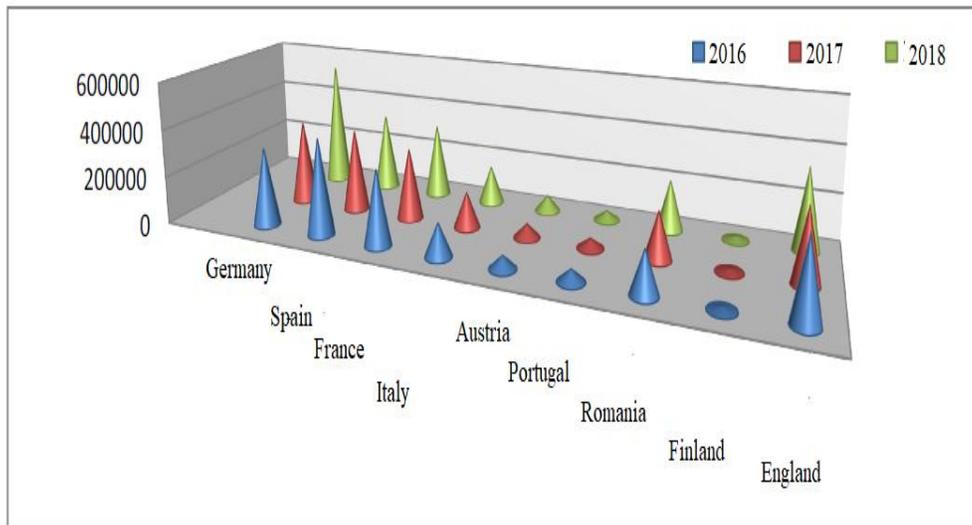


Fig. 2. Migrant population

Source: <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

The immigrant population increased between 2016 - 2018 considerably in countries such as Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Austria, Portugal, Romania and Finland, in England it decreased since in 2016 the immigrant population was 631,991 people, but in 2017 it fell by 539 people, but in 2018 they reached 558993, the difference between 2016 and 2016 is 42998 people. I consider that this visible decrease between 2017 and 2016 is also due to the fact that England wants to say EU and it happened.

Romania, according to the data in table 2, it registered an increase, in 2016 the immigrant population was 136035 people, in 2018 it reached 137455 people, however in 2017 it had a decrease of 3240 people. All the above can be seen best in Fig. 3, where all the data in Table 2 are represented graphically.

Table 2. Migration Population between 2016 -2018

Country / Period	2016	2017	2018
Germany	884,893	1,543,848	1,029,852
Spain	305,454	342,114	414,746
France	340,383	364,221	378,115
Italy	277,631	280,078	300,823
Austria	116,262	166,323	129,509
Portugal	19,516	29,896	29,925
Romania	136,035	132,795	137,455
Finland	31,507	28,746	34,905
England	631,991	631,452	588,993

Source: <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

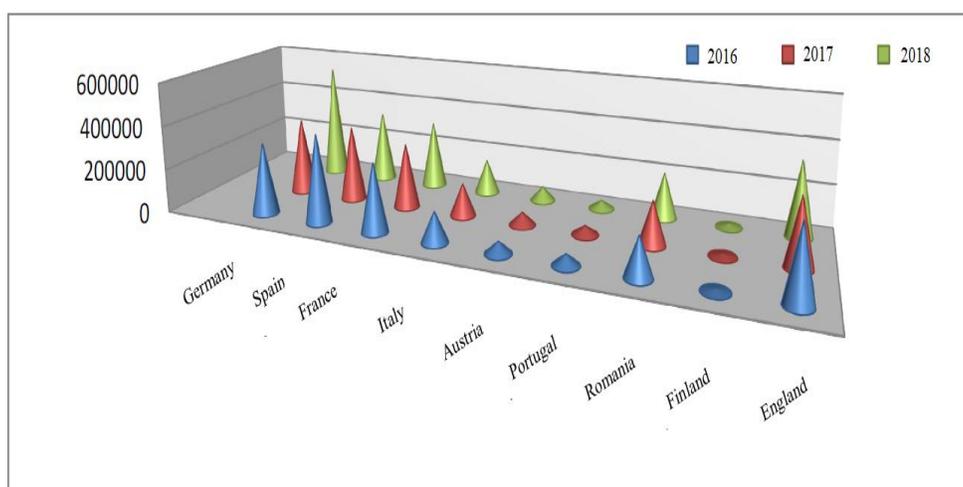


Fig. 3. Migration Population

Source: <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do>

275 person took part in the questionnaire and currently working abroad. The questionnaire included 15 questions, questions that were formulated with both open and closed answers. Out of 275 questionnaires, we took into account 250 (represents the number of respondents employed that are paid for their activities) and 50 (represents the number of employees who have working abroad with salary).

Results of the questionnaire: approximately 33% of participants are between 26 and 35 years old, and the lowest number are those over 46 years old that is only 18%, between 18 years old and 25 years old the percentage is 23% and between 36 years old and 45 years old the percentage is only 26%. The age at which they went abroad varies between 18 and 45 years and only 16% are those who have decided to leave at the age of over 46.

After the centralization of the data, it is observed clearly that the share of females is 33% compared to the share of males, which is 67% of the total number of respondents. This result does not support the fact that men are more willing than women to go abroad to work or that their role in the family is easier to fill, but it results from the fact that hard physical work is the one that requires coverage and can be performed only by men. 55% of the surveyed males are employed in construction (construction sites, stone quarries, and wood processing plant), 35% in agriculture and 10% in services (IT, health, and transport). 75% of the female is employed in services (health, housekeeping, including care for the elderly or disabled), and 25% in agriculture. Italy ranks first as a destination for females, and Spain as a destination for males; next is Germany (as a choice for women) and England (as a choice for men).

The participants of the respondents is varied and they are from different part of Romania: 27% from western Romania, 53% from the east and 10% from the central area. These weights are not relevant with the number of people crossing border and the fact that in order to avoid congestion, less frequented crossing points are sought, especially during the holidays (for example those in smaller localities). In addition, due to the introduction of low-cost flights in the main routes that connect Romania with the destination countries. They transport the labors from Romania to other countries, low-cost flights are more preferred, which offers comfort and time savings.

The results obtained after centralizing the answers: Spain is the main destination of the workforce (27%), followed by Italy (23%), then Germany (20%), France (18%) and less chose England (12%). The total of 250 respondents: 87% are legally employed, 11% work occasionally/ seasonally. Only 2% wanted to answer to this question, if they were involved in trade / services before leaving Romania. 23% of them had businesses or they were working in other domains for providing services but after leaving Romania they started to work in the field of construction. Only 8% of them were working in industrial area. The lowest numbers are those who worked in health and that is 5%.

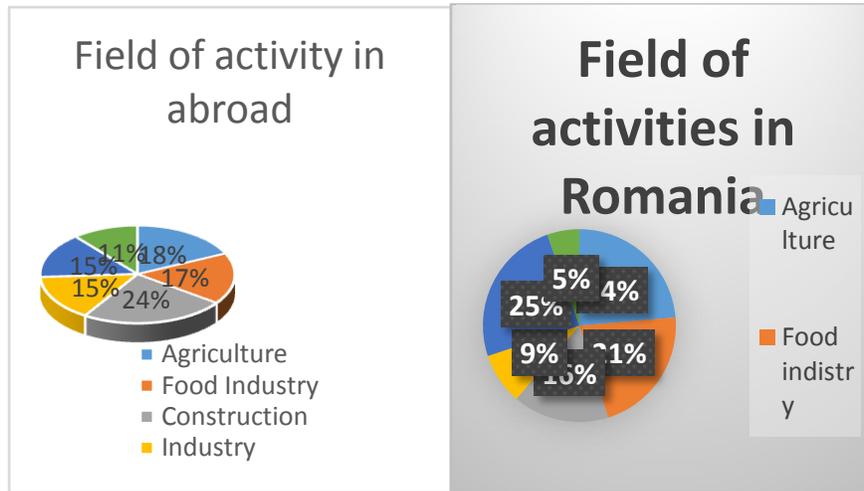


Fig.4. <http://un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data>

Those who chose to go abroad previously earned between 1000 lei and 1500 lei, and 33% of them currently earning in Euro and that is more than 2500 lei and it is almost 80% more than what they were earning in Romania. 97% currently have the opportunity to save from their monthly income. Even for a lower income, they preferred to go abroad in hope that in time their income will increase and will have better life and possibilities.

Unfortunately, most of them, around 88% are left alone abroad, leaving their family in the country. Most of them (around 35%) are graduated of secondary school, 5% of them did vocational schools and only 28% are with higher education. 75% of them, said that they will return, if certain things changed in the country's leadership. Around 68% of them are coming from urban areas and only 32% from rural area.

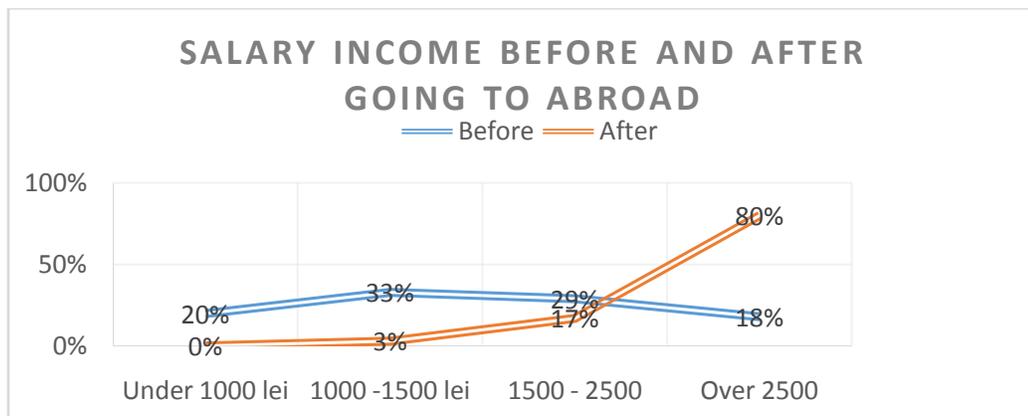


Fig.5. Romanians income inside the country and abroad.

Source: http://www.unicef.org/statistics/index_24302.html

CONCLUSIONS

After conducting this study, my conclusion about the concern that we have related to an economic and social point of view such as: international migration - a win or a loss? The results indicate that international labor migration is a short-term gain for the country that provides the workforce but over a long period of time this win becomes a lose because when the skilled labor force does not return to the country of origin to exercise their skills, the population that remains in the country will get old, and the country of origin will face problems from this point of view. The unemployment rate is rising because many people are giving up their studies and they will not have the necessary skills to be able to replace the aging workforce. But for the host country, the one that receives the labor force is a win for a longer period of time because they will benefit from the apt and well-prepared labor force, but in addition to the gain brought, some problems will appear because the population will be more and more and there will be high the demand for jobs and many people will not be able to get a job.

Most of immigrants are not qualified and they don't have high education, they usually work as unqualified workers and some of them start small businesses such as shops, take-away (fast-food), restaurants, supermarkets and so on and they are directly involved in economic development of host country. I applied macroeconomic models on each country's data, instead of regional collected data. I used each country's data to understand better, migrants and immigrants' role and their involvement in European Countries economics.

Based on my research, I found the short and long term influence of migrants / immigrants that may differ in size and have strong relation between employees and available money and also the labor market flexibility to adjust in short and long term. Theories show that migrants and immigrants create uncertain situation for host countries and also for the origin countries. In host countries, migrants / immigrants fill the gap created for shortage of labor (these jobs can be qualified or unqualified), they influence economic development, they create more opportunities, they bring culture diversity, they invest in host country, they bring power to drive the economy. They play very important role in host countries economic development.

From my point of view, migrants and immigrants play very important role in economic development of host countries and later we will discuss about how migrants/immigrants influence creating more jobs, opportunities, more revenue, better education, high life standard and many more. My main point is to discuss about GDP/capita, because GDP is very important and play essential role for creating better life condition and more revenue. I took into consideration longer period of time to understand better link between rapid and long term economic growth.

Based on my estimation, immigrants and migrants flow have positive impact on host countries economic development. They bring major changes in labor market outcomes for native and foreign workers and lead to GDP / capita increase.

Refugees produced good effects on European countries economy. Many people were thinking that mass influx of Syrian refugees in Germany will have negative impact but German economy started to grow and the refugees had positive impact on German economy. Germany needed workforce to drive its economy and the Syrian refugees were the best option to fill this demand. Most of these refugees were from middle class and they wanted to get a job and to work.

Labor migrants integrate faster than refugees in host countries. Refugee teenagers integrated very fast in host countries society and work market in long period they had positive result on host countries economy and output. Refugees role were very important in low rung jobs and they produced positive outcome in host countries.

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