
THE EXTERNAL MIGRATION WITH ROMANIA AS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION – BRIEF ANALYSIS FOR 1998-2009 PERIOD

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Abstract

The external migration is a phenomenon that is present on the Romanian territory especially from the perspective that we are still a country of origin rather than a destination country. This article aims at sizing, based on Eurostat records, the scale of the phenomenon, as well as various characteristics related to the countries of destination. The time horizon considered is 1998-2009.

Keywords: external migration, Romanian emigrants, destination countries

Certainly one can say that between employment and migration is an interdependence. Internationally and in a broader historical framework, the external migration was manifested on the labor market structure in two ways which are closely related to the two streams of external migration: **immigrants** and **emigrants**. In terms of the impact that the flows of migrants have had on the labor market, I will mention only a few countries that were based (and some still do) on such resources: the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand. The last three countries listed currently practice a policy of receiving immigrants in close accordance with the needs of the labor market.

Almost always, from the perspective of the country from which they emigrated, outflows have been a real social outlet due to poor¹ economic level recorded at the local level. This was the situation regarding the Irish immigration flows from North America in the second half of the eighteenth century and nineteenth century (Dolan, 2008). The same economic motivation is deemed to have been the trigger that also developed the flow of Italian immigrants in the United States of America (USA). The most intense manifestation of this situation was 1880-1920 when more than 4 million Italian emigrants crossed the ocean to the U.S.A (Cavaioli, 2008).

In Romania, in the years after 1989, the migration flows has the political element (Ciucur, 2010) as the main motivator. The same effect, i.e. social outlet, also had the flows of Romanian emigrants after 1996. The lack (or the lower level of wages in the country) of employment induced by the restructures in the national economy generated a migratory

1. The economic context from the country of origin was not always the trigger factor. Many times, there were religious or political factors, or other elements related to the individual's personal choices from the country of origin.

movement that has grown on as the years passed, and has exploded in volume after facilitating (visa waiver or waiving the right of free movement within EU after 2007) the methods to cross the border towards the more economically developed European countries. The second tier in which the Romanian migrant flows have improved the national context which was economically unfavorable was the remittances sent to Romania.

Methodology and data sources

In terms of methodology, in the analysis of interdependencies between migration and labor market structure, I have considered an approach from simple to complex, from descriptive to analytical. Thus, I have applied the methodology that is specific to the descriptive statistics (including graphics).

The geographical area under consideration is limited to the Romanian space (in terms of country of origin). But as external migration also has a component (destination country) that exceeds the country's borders, references will be made in terms of the European Union.

The statistical information used was established based on data provided by Eurostat. The time horizon considered was 1998-2009. Databases so constructed were then processed using specific software (SPSS, Statistics, MapDecisions, e-Views or MS Office).

Data analysis

Unfortunately, statistical methodologies (even if they are harmonized) make it for the countries of origin a mission that is almost impossible, namely to count the emigrant flows. It is well known that during inter-census periods, one can appeal to the Civil Status Registers for the natural movement of population, and at the registers of the Computerized Personal Register Service (CPRS) for measuring the migration flows. If, in terms of the number of immigrants (at least those who legalize their status), the statistics are easily generated, it is not the same with the statistics of the flows of migrants. This is because much of the emigrant population (temporary or not) choose not to notify CPRS on the new change in the domicile or residence. But most times, in order to access various services in the destination country (social, health, education, etc.), the same people choose to register their presence¹ and, consequently, allow the National Statistical Institutes from those countries to achieve more accurate records than in respect of the country of origin. Table 1 presents the statistical information collected by the process called "mirroring"². The statistical detail for each year separately, in respect of the EU countries can be seen in Appendix 1.

1. It has to be noted that, following the fact that the recorded immigration was discussed, during this whole chapter, all the statistics that are related to the phenomenon refer to the legal immigration.

2. This case refers to the accession of statistical information published by other states related to the number of immigrants that have the citizenship of a certain country. In this case, reference is made to the statistics related to the immigrants with Romanian citizenship from the EU member states. Of course, there are other non-EU countries towards which the Romanian immigrants are headed (USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Turkey, etc.) and that the statistic listed in this table, obtained by the "mirroring" process is an underestimation of the reality. Even so, the difference is huge. In respect of the use of the "mirroring" process for the statistics, the following paper can be accessed: (Todorov 2000).

The Romanian emigrant flows during 1998-2009¹

Tabel 1

Year	Number of emigrants
1998	33.861
1999	43.726
2000	49.332
2001	58.617
2002	105.839
2003	190.742
2004	215646
2005	194.176
2006	215.605
2007	553.162
2008	325121
2009	164.757
Total	2.150.584

Note: The values had been obtained by summing up the statistical information from the EU countries, but there were enough states in respect of which the information was not available.

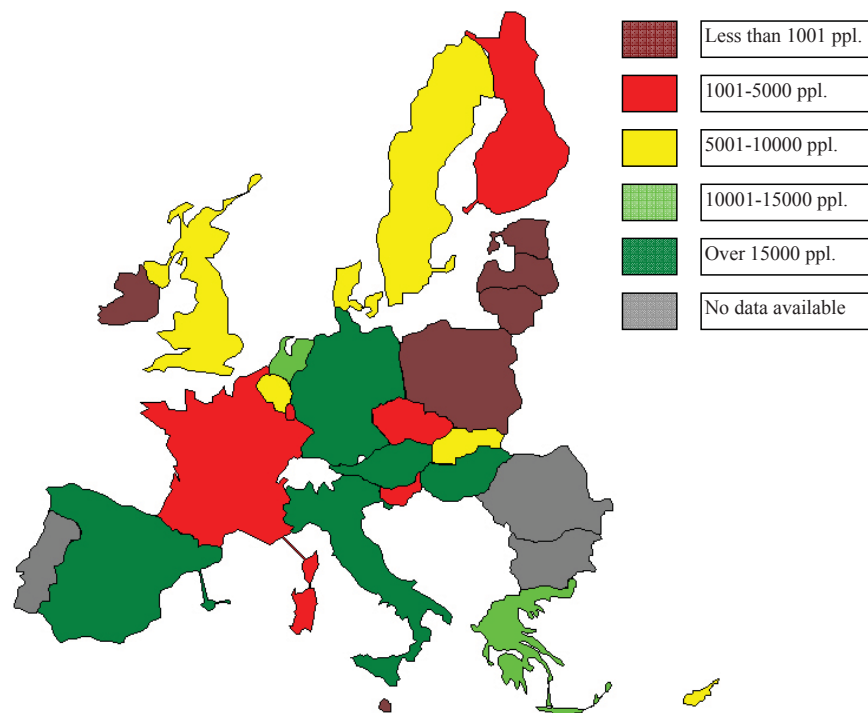
Figure 1 shows that there is a group of countries towards which the migrants with Romanian citizenship were directed by predilection. They are (in order of the size of the phenomenon): Italy (834 thousand people), Spain (824 thousand people), Germany (266 thousand people), Hungary (98 thousand people) and Austria (52 thousand people). In fact this group of countries has accounted for 96.6% of total².

1. It has to be noted that, in respect of the national statistics based on CPRS, the values for the Romanian emigrant flows in the EU space cumulated on the whole time horizon that has been analyzed are smaller than the ones obtained through the “mirroring” process with more than 2 million people.

2. Otherwise only Italy and Spain together have a share of 77.2% of the total.

The total number of immigrants that have Romanian citizenship, in EU destination countries during the period 1998-2009

Figure 1



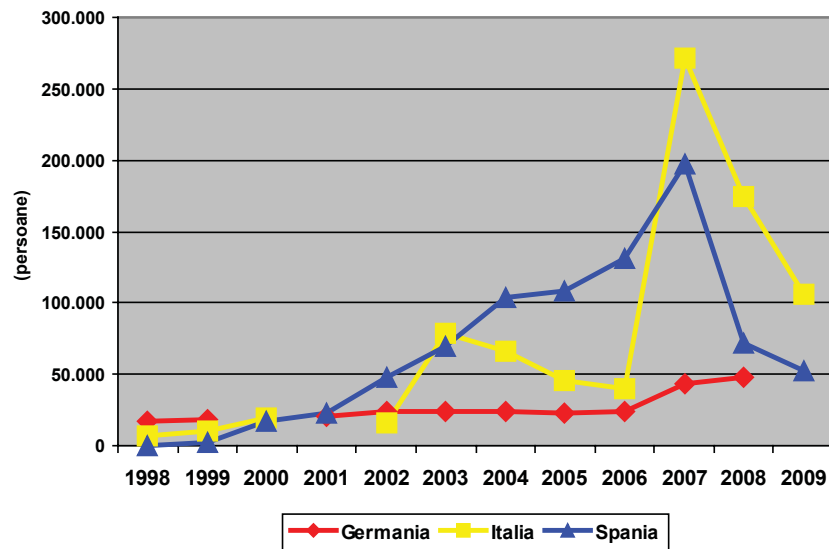
Source: EUROSTAT

Figure 2 presents an evolution of the phenomenon for the three main countries of destination. The descriptive analysis of statistical information shows that until 2001 the destination of choice for Romanian migrants was Germany. In the period before Romania's EU accession (1998-2007) the flow to Germany was slightly higher, with values ranging from 17 thousand people (in 1998) to 24 thousand people (in 2006). After Romania's EU accession, the volume of immigrants with Romanian citizenship in Germany has doubled, thus reaching 48 000 people in 2008¹.

1. This is the last year in respect of which data is available for Germany.

The evolution of the total number of immigrants with Romanian citizenship in Germany, Spain and Italy during the period 1998-2009

Figure 2



Source: EUROSTAT

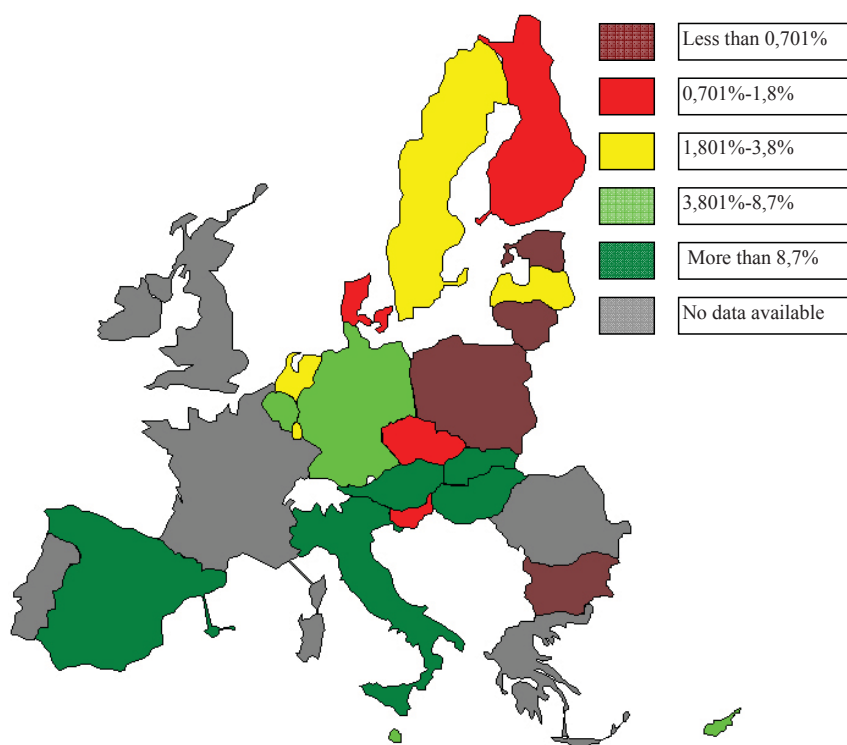
Since 2002 (Spain) and 2003 (Italy) showed an increase in the flow of immigrants of immigrants with Romanian citizenship. There were even periods when flows to those two countries turned into avalanches. Thus in 2004-2007 in Spain almost 541 000 immigrants with Romanian citizenship arrived, and in 2007-2009 a total of 551.5 thousand people belonging to the same social categories chose Italy as a country of destination. It should be noted that 2007 (the year of Romania's EU accession) was the year with the highest emigration flow in Romania: more than 553,000 people. It is possible that some of these people were already gone before in 2007, but Romania's accession to EU, the legalization of the status could be achieved more easily.

The absolute values of flows of Romanian emigrants to countries of the EU space have a high informational content. But it's worth discussing about various derived indicators. A first indicator of this kind - which allows accurate measurement of the position of Romania as supplier of immigrants in Europe - is the share of immigrants with Romanian citizenship to all immigrants. The statistical detail of this point of view is provided in Appendix 2.

Firstly, it's worth discussing the information related to the peak year in terms of external migration having Romania as the country of origin. Figure 3 shows the shares that immigrants with Romanian citizenship have recorded, as compared to all immigrants, in 2007.

The share of immigrants with Romanian citizenship in total immigrants categorized by European countries in 2007

Figure 3



Source: EUROSTAT

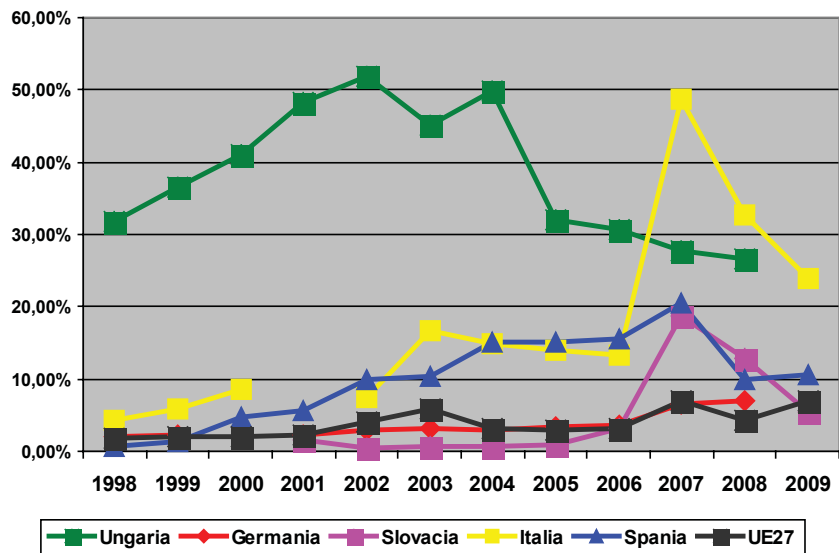
In the first category of the countries with the highest rates of Romanian immigrants fall the following: Italy (48.64%), Hungary (27.65%), Spain (20.62%), Slovakia (18.62%) and Austria (8.7%). Cyprus was very close to this threshold (8.45%) while the average for the EU27 was 7.05%. The position of Hungary¹ in this list is rather surprising, but given the geographical proximity and the large number of Hungarian ethnics in Romania, the situation is somewhat natural. Equally surprising are the presence of Slovakia² and the share value of Romanian immigrants in the total of immigrants in this country. Apart from the geographical proximity, another natural explanation does not work in this case.

1. Otherwise, the values for the whole period that has been analyzed for Hungary are surprisingly high: in 2002, the percentage of the immigrants with Romanian citizenship of all immigrants was almost 52%!

2. It has to be noted that, from the point of view of the absolute value, the number of Romanian immigrants in Slovakia is relatively low: a little over 30000 people in 2007, with an increase by 7.5 times, as compared to the previous year.

The evolution of the share of immigrants with Romanian citizenship in all immigrants in some European geographical areas during 1998-2009

Figure 4



Source: EUROSTAT

Figure 4 presents the evolution of the share that the Romanian immigrants had in some of the European countries, as well as the average at the EU27¹ level. The figure captures the high values over time for Hungary (minimum - almost 30% and maximum - around 50%), as well as the levels after 2007 for a destination that was not considered traditional for the Romanian emigrants: Slovakia. In respect of Hungary, the geographic proximity doubled by the existence of a large group of ethnic Hungarians in Romania explains the high level recorded. The levels recorded by Spain and Italy - countries that are the preferred destinations of almost 4 of 5 immigrants with Romanian citizenship - were expected and unsurprising.

Conclusions

It may be noted that almost 10% of Romania's population chose the exile (sometimes only temporarily) in the last 12 years. The phenomenon took a special scale (half of the total volume), especially after Romania's accession to the European Union. The main destination countries are Italy, Spain and Germany. But if one takes into account the share of the immigrants with Romanian citizenship in all immigrants,

1. This average was calculated for the EU27 states even when such states were not yet members.

the highest level is recorded (surprisingly) in Hungary. If this population “drainage” will continue with the same intensity, the labor market consequences can be extremely unpleasant, and without any measures / policies to (re)balance the situation on long-term does not look too good. Surely this analysis can continue by deepening the actual impact that this migration outflow has on the labor market in Romania.

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Appendix 1
Immigrants with Romanian citizenship categorized on European countries during 1998-2009

Country / Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Belgium											5,491		5,491
Bulgaria											0	0	
Czech Republic		99		44		342	360	329	442	449	909	634	3,608
Denmark	178	215	239	250	272	230	230	260	343	327	877	1,420	6,143
Germany	16,987	18,814		20,142	23,953	23,780	23,545	23,274	23,274	43,894	48,225		266,357
Estonia	0	0						9	2	5	8	10	38
Ireland												166	224
Greece	660								5,034	6,240			11,934
Spain	502	1,782	17,456	23,295	48,330	69,942	103,572	108,294	131,457	197,642	71,482	52,440	826,194
France	624	422											1,046
Italy	6,818	10,651	19,332		16,465	78,385	66,098	45,338	39,715	271,443	174,554	105,597	834,396
Cyprus	157		283	436	93	246	279	593	443	1,606	1,217		5,353
Latvia	0	1	0	2	4	1	1	3	1	4	64	190	344
Lithuania	0	2	0	1	1	4	1	6	6	6	4	3	33
Luxembourg	51	89	83	45	38	44	66	108	142	323	277	238	1,504
Hungary	5,504	7,845	8,894	10,648	10,307	9,599	12,129	8,895	7,872	6,735	9,987		98,415
Malta	0	0	0	0							277		277
Netherlands	425	385	579	659	583	657	649	513	705	2,345	2,411	1,907	11,818
Austria	1,543	1,866	1,986	2,393	4,769	5,664	5,511	5,056	4,526	9,273	9,260		51,847
Poland										10	5	103	118
Portugal													
Romania													
Slovenia	37	24	25	53	49	43	124	303	323	199	141	69	1,390
Slovakia				30	10	40	73	93	396	3,029	2,300	840	6,811
Finland	47	55	131	92	35	47	67	65	111	211	197	164	1,222
Sweden	286	246	280	287	363	329	338	352	337	2,587	2,544	1,829	9,778
Great Britain	42	1,230	0	284	225	1,371	2,593	498					6,243
Total	33,861	43,726	49,332	58,617	105,839	190,742	215,646	194,176	215,605	553,162	325,121	164,757	2,150,584

Source: EUROSTAT; Note: The sign "..." means that there is no data available

Appendix 2.

The share of immigrants with Romanian citizenship in all immigrants categorized on European countries during 1998-2009 (%)

Country / Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Belgium	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,75	.	.	0,42
Bulgaria	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,00	0,00	.	0,00
Czech Republic	.	1,00	0,56	.	0,77	0,60	0,62	0,73	0,66	0,87	0,81	.	0,72
Denmark	0,35	0,43	0,45	0,45	0,52	0,46	0,52	0,65	0,58	1,36	2,48	2,96	0,95
Germany	2,12	2,15	.	2,29	2,84	3,09	3,02	3,29	3,59	6,45	7,07	.	3,01
Estonia	0,00	0,00	.	.	.	.	0,82	0,14	0,22	0,21	0,27	0,10	0,19
Ireland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,26	0,16	0,03
Greece	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Spain	0,62	1,40	4,82	5,62	10,00	10,40	15,13	15,06	15,63	20,62	9,85	10,51	12,58
France	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,08
Italy	4,35	5,76	8,52	.	7,39	16,66	14,87	13,92	13,34	48,64	32,64	23,84	20,48
Cyprus	1,80	.	2,22	2,49	0,65	1,47	1,27	2,43	2,85	8,45	8,63	.	3,03
Latvia	0,00	0,06	0,00	0,14	0,28	0,07	0,18	0,05	0,14	1,81	5,48	2,75	1,28
Lithuania	0,00	0,07	0,00	0,02	0,02	0,08	0,02	0,09	0,08	0,05	0,03	0,08	0,05
Luxembourg	0,44	0,70	0,71	0,37	0,31	0,33	0,51	0,75	0,99	1,94	1,56	1,51	0,91
Hungary	31,87	36,62	40,94	48,23	51,91	45,01	49,92	31,97	30,59	27,65	26,62	.	37,36
Malta	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	.	.	.	.	.	4,12	.	.	1,04
Netherlands	0,35	0,32	0,44	0,49	0,48	0,63	0,69	0,56	0,70	2,01	1,68	1,48	0,84
Austria	2,12	2,15	2,43	2,66	4,41	5,06	4,50	4,42	4,59	8,69	8,41	.	4,41
Poland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,09	0,03	0,22	.	0,09
Portugal	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0,00
Romania	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Slovenia	0,80	0,49	0,40	0,68	0,54	0,46	1,22	2,01	1,61	0,68	0,46	0,23	0,78
Slovakia	.	.	.	1,48	0,43	0,61	0,70	0,99	3,14	18,62	12,91	5,37	6,85
Finland	0,33	0,37	0,78	0,49	0,19	0,26	0,33	0,30	0,49	0,81	0,68	0,61	0,50
Sweden	0,58	0,49	0,48	0,47	0,57	0,52	0,54	0,54	0,35	2,60	2,51	1,79	1,12
Great Britain	0,01	0,35	0,00	0,08	0,06	0,32	0,50	0,10	.	.	.	.	0,11
Total	1,77	2,06	2,04	2,28	3,96	5,76	3,17	2,96	3,13	7,02	4,32	6,89	4,05

Source: Personal processing based on EUROSTAT data; **Note:** The sign "." means that there is no data available