

# Internal and External Migration

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**Abstract:** The economic and social evolution of Romania over the last thirty years, marked by an increasingly sharp decrease of the national economic potential and, implicitly, of the incomes of a large part of the population, concomitantly with the liberalization of the labor market globally, has determined a large number of Romanians to turn their attention to employment in developed European countries.

Migration is a complex process, with social effects that involve long-term consequences, a global phenomenon that has acquired very large dimensions, contributing to the formation of the states population. Migratory flows influence, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the demographic, social and economic security of all countries.

This article aims to analyze the phenomenon in both directions, of the internal rural-urban as well as urban-rural but also external migration, in the context of Romania being in the top five countries of the EU with the largest number of migrants. There are certain phenomena appearing such as ruralisation and suburbanization, characterized as natural processes, going through or have gone much of the world cities. Finally, this paper aims to provide an overview of the Romanian migratory phenomenon in perspective compared to Poland and also which are the main causes of the significant difference between the two countries. The positive and negative effects of internal and external migration on the migrant's household, poverty reduction and increased access to infrastructure are also highlighted.

**Keywords:** *migration; ruralisation; disparities; rural-urban migration; external migration.*

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## 1. Introduction

In this article, we propose to analyse the situation of the Romanian migratory phenomenon of the last 30 years.

The first chapter includes an overview of the Romanian migratory phenomenon, in order to provide a more accurate definition. In the second chapter, we presented the internal specificities of the Romanian migration phenomenon, both rural-urban and urban-rural, but also the external migration. At the same time, we presented how migration flows influence, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the demographic, social and economic security of the country. These migration flows have a very important role in the functionality of the world economy and have appeared in response to the uneven development of national economies and the increasing disparities in the economic development of different groups of states. In the third chapter, we presented the evolution of the migration phenomenon, in Poland and Romania.

The purpose of this comparative analysis is to identify similarities and differences between the two former communist countries. The end of the chapter captures the phenomenon of return migration, considered to be a less problematic stage, given that the migrants who choose to return to their country of origin do not encounter difficulties, it was not considered as an important aspect of the migration phenomenon. Unfortunately, Romania does not give particular importance to the return migration, as opposed to Poland, which initiated various campaigns aimed at bringing Polish immigrants back home.

## 2. Problem Statement

Migration is a global phenomenon which has become very large, contributing to the formation of the population states. Migration flows influence, both quantitatively and qualitatively, demographic security, social and economic development of all countries. These migration flows have a very important role in the functionality of the global economy and appeared in response to uneven development of national economy and the disparities in economic development of different groups of countries.

Migration is a spatial expression of social mobility "(Miftode, 1984: 154). The process is not just a physical one, involving only a change in the natural, but a complex process with social effects. A classic definition of migration is given by sociologist Jan Szczepanski, who defined social mobility by "series of phenomena residing individuals or groups traveling from place to place in the social space" (Szczepanski, 1972: 123-134). The

approaches to migration as a life strategy represent "a perspective of the sustainable relationship between assumed goals and means [...] They are structures of rational action, relatively sustainable in the medium that they are adopted" (Sandu, 2005: 76–108) or as a form of protest "in the face of change and abandonment of a society in which they can not find there place that they would like" (Sandu, 2005).

Migration is probably best defined (in general terms) as crossing the spatial limits by one or more people involved in relocation. Although, this definition seems rather simple, actually at its core lies a complex problem and a very long theoretical debate. The concept of "spatial separation" refers to the boundaries of a "defining area of migration", which may be a policy area (country, province or local government) or an administrative unit (such as the achievement of the census).

The restriction on "the defining migration" was strongly criticized by many researchers. Shryock considers that migrants should be defined as those persons who move in relation to areas where work activities take place (Shryock, Stockwell, & Siegel, 1976). So defining migration zone boundaries should be defined when the distance to work is too expensive and too time-consuming so a change of residence is required.

When we talk about migration, we distinguish different types of migration, as the following (Anghel, & Horvath, 2009):

a) if we refer to a given population (or adopted) are two types of migration:

- immigration (the activity to enter in a country other than your own, for you to live there);
- emigration (the act of leaving one's own country to settle down in another country);

b) *if we refer to external events*, there are two types of migration:

- voluntary migration;
- forced migration (are certain external events such as natural disasters, war, internal conflicts, etc.);

c) by way of migration there are two types of migration:

- individual migration;
- mass migration;

d) by the time period there are two types of migration:

- temporary migration, the movement is for a fixed period of time (from 9 months to 5 years), after which the individual migrants returns to their home (which usually keeps home and family); It is also called circular migration;

- permanent migration (over five years);

Rural-urban migration was one of the key factors in demographic change in the last three decades not only in Romania but also worldwide. Such population movements can be viewed from two perspectives: microeconomic and historical structure. Historical perspective explores the factors leading to changes in production organization and follow explicit mechanisms by which social forces, economic and political impact on direct and indirect demand for labour.

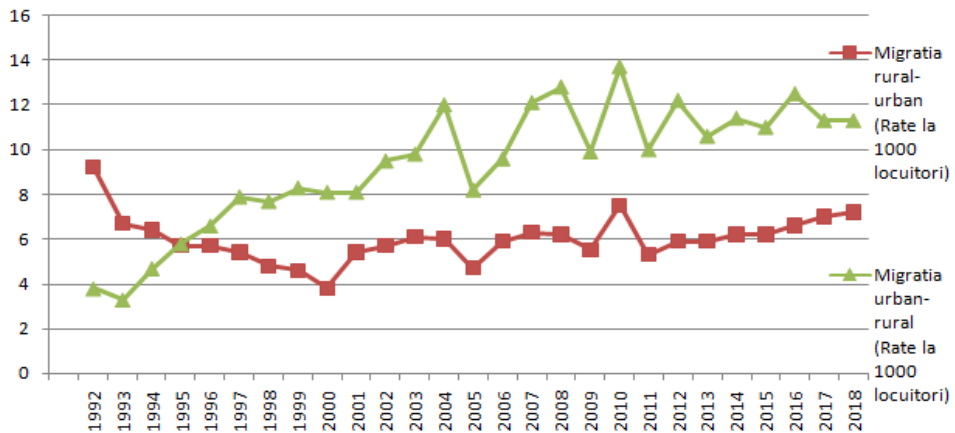
### **3. Research Questions/Aims of the research**

The labour market in Romania, for the last almost 30 years, has been strongly influenced by the economic, political and social transformation and the end of the 1960s marks the beginning of the industrial expansion in Romania, a process that is accompanied by its corollary urbanization.

The causes of the migration phenomenon expansion are no longer this time a strong socio-economic development as in the 1970s but a quasi-generalized crisis that determines the rural refuge of those who cannot survive in the big or small cities that have sheltered them until now and an expanding external migration. The years of maximum internal migration were 1972 and 2004, and the year of minimum internal migration was 1989. The main feature of the post-December evolution regarding the internal migration is the spectacular increase of the urban-rural migration, especially through retro migration.

Therefore, migration has become a global phenomenon affecting most countries. After 1990, in the context of the restructuring of the economy, the loss of jobs, the reduction of wages, the dominant form of migration became the urban-rural one, a completely new thing in the history of modern Romania. In this case, the illusion that the relocation of agricultural properties worked, previously nationalized by the communist state, can create "economic support for survival", according to sociologist Dumitru Sandu (2010). This trend seems to remain constant over the next few years, as can be seen from Figure 1.

**Figure 1:** Flows of urban and rural internal migration, determined by the change of domicile



Source: own compilation based on INSSE dates

Suburbanization is a natural process, through which a large part of the cities of the world pass or have passed. The same tendency is observed in Romania, only as in lower rhythms. Every year we observe the emigration of the villagers in the rural areas over a radius of about 25-30 km from the city. The phenomenon of urbanization comes not only as a stage of city development, but it's seen also as a solution to the overcrowding of the city and the environment pollution. Unfortunately, the migration from the center to the periphery is only for the benefit of people with high incomes, given the lack of public transportation accessible to the large sections of the population.

However, these changes are not only due to the urbanization but also to other processes such as suburbanization, the decrease of the natural growth of cities, international migration, even though they have influenced the decrease in a not very high percentage. The emergence of suburbanization (Szczepanski, 1972: 123-134) is a definite proof of the fact that, in the post-socialist period, the transition is not only made at the economic level but also at the social level, practically changing the urbanization model from that characteristic of the socialist system to that characteristic of the capitalist system. It does this by appearing characteristic elements of the western model, a typical example being that of suburbanization.

During the decade 1991 - 2000, the meaning of the internal migration was urban-rural, which can be explained by the mass layoffs of the employees as a result of the restructuring of some industrial branches. The

dismissed employees, who are especially middle-aged, are facing a professional reorientation, and then, unable to find a new job, are heading for rural agriculture.

Even after 2000, this trend has not changed, so that in 2010, the flow of urban-rural migration reached a maximum value of 14.9% compared to 5.7% as the reverse flow. The flow of urban-rural migration (11.3% in 2017) remained at a net level higher than the rural-urban migration (7% in the same year).

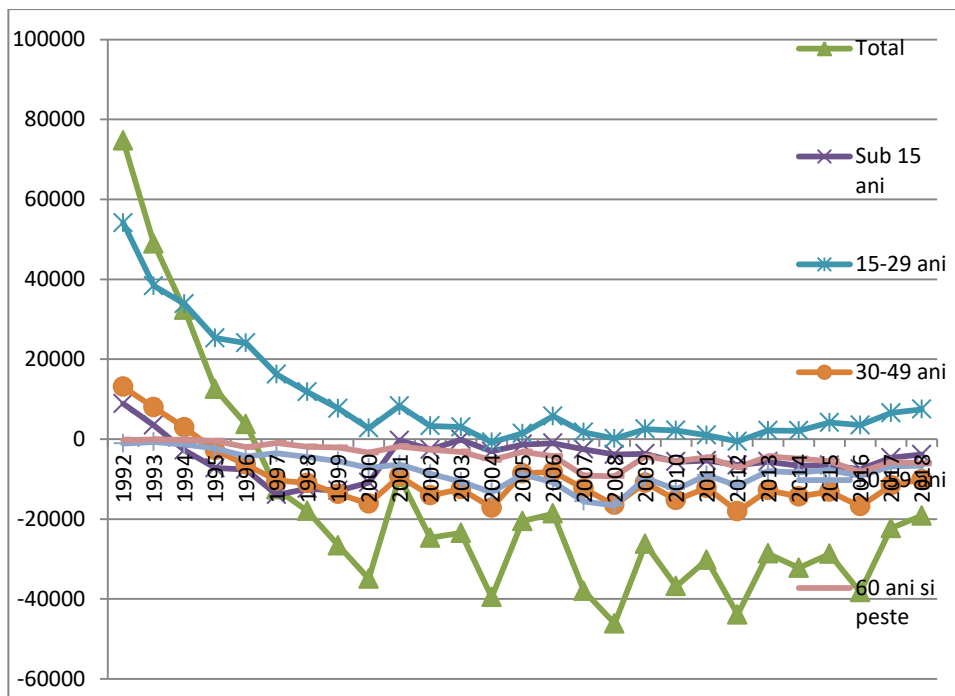
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The elements that transformed the Romanian economy and society from the first post-communist years contributed to the change of the direction of the migratory flows from rural-urban to urban-rural: the privatization of the industry, the impossibility of professional reintegration of some categories of the available population, as a result of the restructuring of some branches of industry. Regarding the balance of the changes of domicile in the urban area of people aged between 15 - 29 years are the most active (about 2200 people in 2010 while in 2017 there were over 6500 people), while the population aged 60 and over recorded a negative rate (of -5574 persons in 2010 and -5735 in 2017).

It can also be pointed out that the balance of changes in the domicile of people aged 30-59 is much lower than in those under 15 years (in 2010, the difference was over 20,000 people aged 30-59 years compared to 5600 persons under 15 years). This evolution can be accounted for by the high mobility of the young families that train and the increase of the territorial mobility of the children. The average age of those who settled in another locality increased in the first 10 years analysed and after 2000 the general trend was decreasing, as shown in Figure 2.

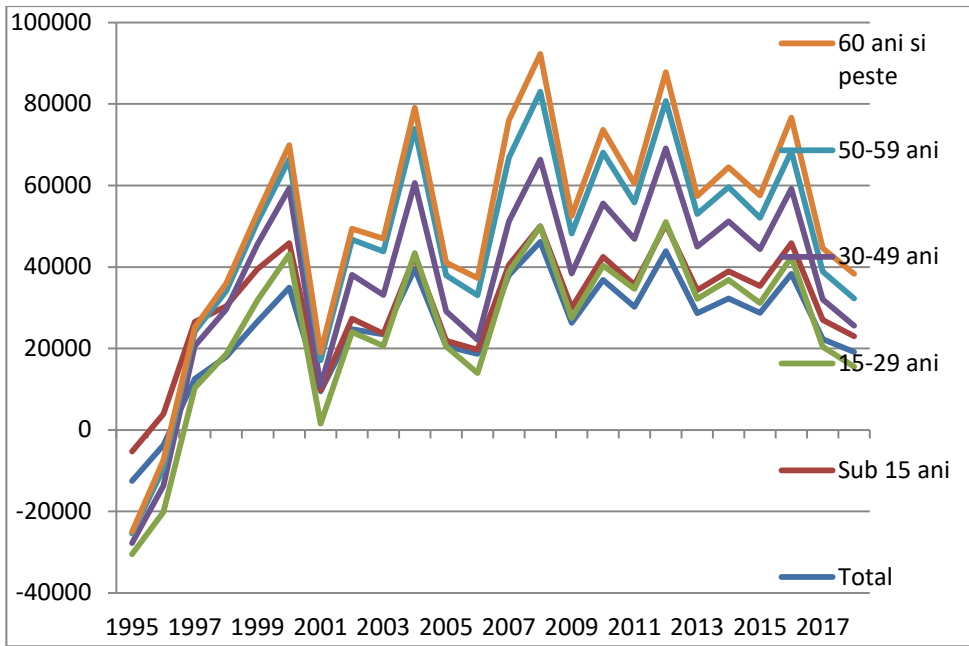
**Figure 2:** Balance of changes of domicile in urban areas by age groups



Source: own compilation based on INSSE dates

Statistics show that the balance of migration to rural areas increased 3.3 times in the years 1991 - 2000 compared to 1990 - 1991 (National Institute of Statistics). Research has shown that the shock of post-communist economic restructuring was mainly due to pendulatory migration. The reduction in the number of jobs in the urban state sector mainly affected commuters, the rural labour force working in the urban area. But, the loss of jobs affected the urban population with roots in the rural, which also contributed to the increase of the urban-rural migratory flow, as shown in figure 3.

**Figure 3:** Balance of changes of residence in rural areas by age groups



Source: own compilation based on INSSE dates

Rural localities located in peri-urban or tourist areas have positive demographic developments, determined in particular by the urban-rural migratory movement of the last 29 years. On the other hand, in the isolated localities, but also in those located at greater distances from urban centers, negative demographic developments are registered (MADR). It can be considered that, in general, the evolution of the rural population follows the socio-economic evolution of the rural communities.

Regarding the distribution by age groups, it can be stated that the most intense migratory movement is in the age groups 15-29 years and smaller in the older age groups. The accelerated process of aging of the population is based on the future reduction of the segment of young people (the share of young people will decrease significantly to values of 0.14 - 0.24 young people / adults) and the increase of life expectancy, this process being highlighted by the increase of the index of aging from about 97 (for Bucharest-Ilfov is 117) to 235-240 in the perspective of 2050 (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2017).

The phenomena of internal migration and especially of emigration are shaped in the pre-existing context of the development disparities

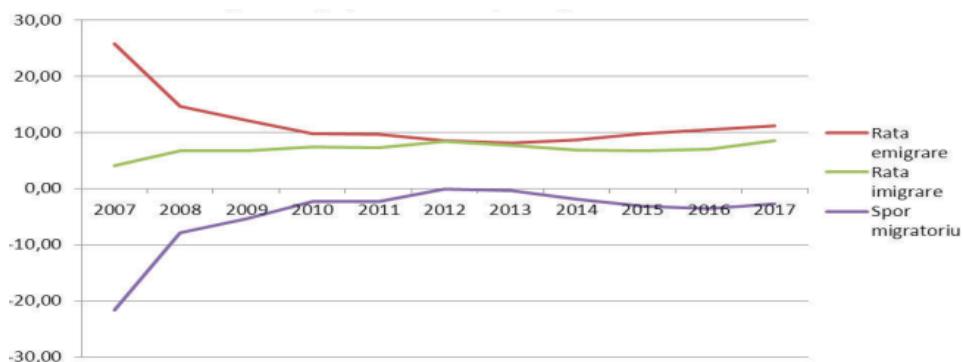


between the different regions of the country, as well as between urban and rural. The regions of Romania characterized by high loss due to internal migration are at the same time regions of origin for considerable flows of external migration. The three regions with the highest net loss of population due to migration are North East, South East and South. These are predominantly rural regions, characterized by high rates of employment in the agricultural sector, relatively high rates of poverty (including those active in the labour market), regions over which the spectrum of rapid aging of the population is planned, generally having a low level of development infrastructure and managing to produce a GDP per capita that is well below the national average (50-60%).

In addition to the negative consequences, Romania also benefits from a considerable volume of remittances. It is estimated that around 60% of the emigrated Romanians regularly send money to the families left at home; the share of GDP of remittances is around 8% of GDP in 2016, being the major source of "investment" in the economy.

Another positive effect of emigration is the social and human capital accumulated during the migration: skills, knowledge, entrepreneurial and innovative spirit. The economies of the Romanian emigrants are estimated to be around 12 million euros annually, representing an important potential resource that could contribute to the dynamisation of the economic and social development of Romania in the long term.

**Figure 5:** Evolution of the emigration rate (%), immigration rates (%) and the migratory increase (%) in Romania for the period 2007-2017



Source: own compilation based on INSSE dates

As can be seen from Figure 5, starting with 2008 there was a downward trend of temporary emigrants, in 2012 the lowest migration

balance was recorded, the difference between emigrants and immigrants being only 2920 persons. In 2017, the number of temporary emigrants is at the highest level registered after 2009, although the average monthly net nominal salary in Romania has registered a constant increase in the last years. Thus, starting from a nominal monthly average net salary of 1042 lei in 2007, it reached 2629 lei in December 2018 (INSSE), which means an increase of approximately 130% compared to the moment of joining the European Union. Regarding immigration, about 20% of the total number of temporary immigrants is represented by students due to the increasing number of scholarships outside the country's borders (Zaharia, Ban, & Popescu, 2017: 67-73).

**Table 1:** The structure by age categories of Romanian temporary emigrants, 2007-2017

Anul	Grupa de vârstă 0-19 ani	Grupa de vârstă 20-29 ani	Grupa de vârstă 30-39 ani	Grupa de vârstă 40-49 ani	Grupa de vârstă 50-59 ani	Grupa de vârstă Peste 60 ani	TOTAL
2007	99257	189145	135248	79130	33928	7365	544074
2008	55240	105266	75270	44039	18882	4099	302796
2009	48448	84704	54038	36349	18181	4906	246636
2010	38947	68432	41966	28836	15039	4765	197985
2011	39807	67251	41584	27036	14630	5243	195551
2012	34672	56916	33446	25377	14399	5376	170186
2013	33248	52156	30569	24265	14787	6730	161755
2014	28787	55923	42004	26034	14249	5874	172871
2015	30340	79811	45730	23203	10316	5318	194718
2016	35531	75781	45819	32963	11374	6110	207578
2017	40476	69240	47137	35051	17700	9723	219327

Source: INSSE

If we analyze the structure by age categories of the emigrants, we notice that the most important weight is represented by the 20-29 years and also 30-39 years persons (Anghelache, Anghel, Dumbravă, & Ene, 2018).

#### 4. Research Methods

My research is based on collecting data from specialized sites (INS, Eurostat) and processing them in the form of tables or graphs so that I can make a better comparison. Also, I tried to highlight certain data and to do an extended analysis of them, especially in the case study where I approached the phenomenon of migration, both in Romania and Poland, explaining the causes that triggered the high level of migration in the two countries.

## 5. Findings

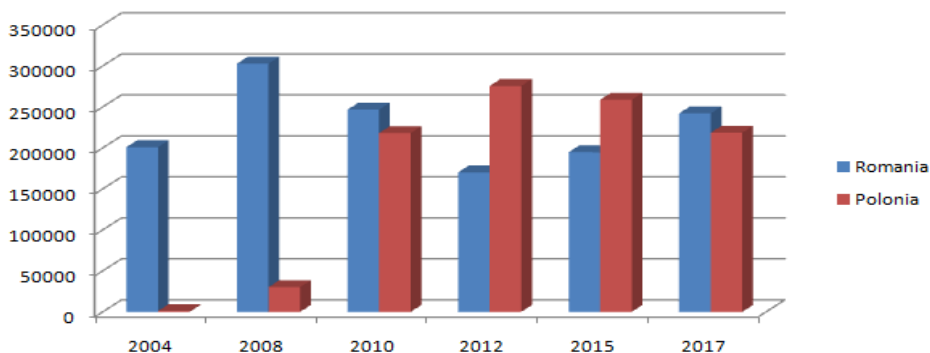
The Romanian migratory phenomenon in comparative perspective: the case study Romania - Poland

In Romania, the phenomenon of migration was brought to the forefront only when it became profitable for the media, when the image of Romania was affected by crime and begging, or in crisis time, marked by the flight of people whom the Romanian state prepared and continues to use. "export". Bringing this issue to the forefront only reinforces the problem of sensitive migration in the case of Romania, which, together with Poland, over the last twenty years, has sent most migrants to the labour market in Europe.

Because Romania and Poland have many points in common, we have expanded our research by analysing the migration phenomenon in Romania in comparison with the situation in Poland. But the evolutions of the two former communist countries were slightly different. The purpose of this research is to be able to observe the differences and similarities of the Romanian and Polish migratory phenomenon.

Romania and Poland rank fourth and two respectively, in a world ranking of countries providing migrants, according to National Institute of Statistics in 2017. However, in terms of diaspora growth, Romania ranks second (with an annual growth of 7.3 %) and Poland the third (with an increase of 5.1%). From this point of view, of the money sent home by citizens from other countries, Romania occupies the third place in the EU, being surpassed in 2014 by Portugal and Poland, by 3.6 billion euros, respectively 2.6 billion.

**Figure 6:** Evolution of the number of migrants from Romania and Poland, 2004-2017



Source: own compilation based on Eurostat dates

The causes of Poland's migration were similar to those of Romania and this phenomenon appeared as a prompt and lasting reaction to the economic situation in the country on the one hand and to the advantages that migration in a developed country can offer. The majority of the population who migrated from Poland went to the UK or Germany.

However, precisely in order to reduce the proportion of the population leaving the country but also to attract the migrants already established in other countries to return, Poland has initiated various campaigns. Unlike Poland, Romania does not seem to attach particular importance to return migration.

After over a million Poles left to work in the UK and other Western European countries, since the country's accession to the EU in 2004, the Warsaw Government is trying to bring them back with a well-developed plan to make the economy more innovative and less based on foreign investments. Specifically, the Polish authorities are trying to attract companies, from the financial services field but also from other fields, in connection with the relocation of their workforce from the UK, after Brexit. Thus, the Polish people who were heading to London are "forced" to return home because a large part of their companies will relocate their workforce to Poland. The unemployment rate in Poland, with a population of 38 million, has reached a record low of 8.3% and it is expected that by 2020 unemployment will fall further as new jobs will be created.

Moreover, the government has started a special program to encourage birth, by a direct grant: 500 zlotys per month for each child starting with the second child, until they turn 18 years old. In addition, Poland increased the maternity leave up to 20 weeks and the one for raising the child to 32 weeks. However, in order to stabilize the population at the current level of 38 million inhabitants, the government would have had to implement a re-popular policy. As the state refuses to copy Brussels' immigration policy, a dramatic drop in population cannot be avoided, especially as the Warsaw Conservative government, to scandalize EU leaders, accepts only European immigrants.

## **6. Conclusions**

The negative implications of the fact that the urban-rural trend is stronger than the reverse one, for a relatively poor society in the European context, is a specific characteristic of the Romanian society that seems not to have overcome the difficulties of cumulative transitions (towards the market economy and the Union model). European);

The sense of internal migration that characterizes the period before 2000 is from rural to urban; after 2000, this tendency has changed, so that the internal migration is from urban to rural, the tendency that has been preserved so far;

Suburbanization is a natural process, which characterizes Romania. The emigration of the people in the rural areas within a radius of about 25-30 km from the city as a solution to the overcrowding of the city and the pollution of the environment. But this is the characteristic only of the high income people;

Public policies are needed to correct the migration trend. All types of migration, internal and external, village-town and town-village, etc must be put in the context of micro- or macro-regional development. The objective of migration of any kind is not the reduction, but the optimization of it. It is necessary to identify the institutional mechanisms that increase the advantages and reduce to a great extent the costs related to the space mobility for work.

To reduce the risks of poverty, Romania should promote a vision that integrates migration and development at the level of public policies (and in all relevant areas). An important focus should be on using the positive consequences of migration, including remittances and other financial flows generated by emigration (savings, assets, investments), to be invested in the infrastructure of areas with high migration loss, which will not only develop the methods of cultivation of the land, agro tourism and other sectors, but also education, social and health services will become more accessible to those left behind.

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