

PATTERNS OF EUROPEAN MIGRATION. MIGRATION AND THE INFLUENCE OF FISCAL POLICY

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Abstract

The migration process has always existed, varying in close accordance with the historical context, the interdependence between the countries of origin and those of destination, the evolution of the European integration process, as well as the historical context, the political, economic, demographic and social disparities that have manifested themselves over time between Central and Eastern Europe. For this reason, the European Union has developed an integrated and inclusive approach to the migration process. This was realized through a common approach to migration management. However, harmonizing the migration policies of the European states has become a challenge given the fact that European migration patterns have presented many particularities.

Keywords: European Union, fiscal policy, migration; policies, political disparities.

JEL Classification: J61, J68, R23

I. INTRODUCTION

Numerous migration flows supported the economic and political changes that took place in Europe during the 20th and 21st centuries. It is worth noting that these migration flows are well documented and highlighted in the economic and social literature, despite the lack of harmonization of data. In the first half of the 20th century, Europe was known as a land of emigration, the largest share of emigrants coming from America, but with the passage of time, this trend gradually reversed with the arrival of the population from other states of the world. Regarding the period immediately following the Second World War, which coincided with the arrival of immigrants that we find in the current period in European states, the main migration flows were mainly due to people displaced during the Second World War or following the civil war in Greece. In the light of what was previously discussed, it can be stated that the next wave was determined by decolonization, while the final wave was triggered by a series of political crises, such as asylum and ethnic migration amid the collapse of the communist regime in Eastern Europe.

It should be noted that since the 1990s, European regions have gone through important transitions, more precisely the southern European states were considered destination countries, as Central Europe and Eastern Europe stood out as a new source of emigrant labor, as well as a destination for non-European migrant citizens. Moreover, the economic-financial crisis demonstrated a similar effect on non-European migration flows as the oil crisis of 1973, as previously mentioned. In the case of the oil crisis, there was some decrease in immigration to Europe, but the rate of return was much lower, especially for non-European immigrants. It should be noted that the profitability ratio was higher in the case of intra-European immigrants who had free mobility rights. This highlights that migration characterized by free movement reacts much more strongly to economic cycles, in contrast to migrants who face much more severe immigration restrictions and would prefer to remain in their country of origin despite economic decline. The post-war migration regimes in Europe are partially characterized by the opening of internal borders that increase the mobility rights of citizens of the European Union member states, by convergence on immigration rules, but also by visa regimes that emphasize the regulation and restriction of access of citizens from outside the states European Union. In short, internal openness leads to high, but lower than anticipated volumes of intra-EU migration across the European continent, while the alignment of member states on border controls and visas does not coincide with a systematic decrease in the migration process of citizens who do not come from the European Union.

These measures and developments over time tend to reduce returns, interrupt the movement of people and encourage permanent settlement and migration based on family reunification. Therefore, throughout the European continent there have been migration patterns, influenced by various factors such as the historical context, family and friendship ties, the desire for professional development, political, economic, social and demographic disparities. For this reason, the present study focuses on highlighting the main trends recorded in Europe and the causes and reasons that influenced European migration patterns. More precisely, this article will

analyze the evolution of the number of emigrants, respectively immigrants, and the structural factors that shaped the migration process both in the countries of origin and in the countries of destination.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The migration process is globally recognized as an important mechanism through which the spatial distribution of people gradually changes over time, (Greenwood, 1997) Starting with the first scientific study by Ravenstein (1885), the movement of people in various areas has been researched as a particularly complex process involving both economic and demographic aspects.

Taking into account the information presented previously, it can be stated that this paper will provide a review of both the specialized economic literature and the empirical literature related to the migration process. In the mid-twentieth century, neoclassical economic theories were extrapolated to several dimensions of the social sciences, including migration (Massey, 1993). The neoclassical economics approach combined an individual perspective motivated by income maximization, this focusing on the microeconomic level with structural determinants at the state level with a perspective related to employment conditions in the labor market, macroeconomic approach. It is worth noting that this theory bases and underlines the reason for migration exclusively in the wage discrepancies that occur between countries and does not take into account other dimensions, such as legal restrictions, specific family problems or cultural differences (Arango, 2000). Neoclassical economic theories of migration have been developed from the perspective of young rather than old migrants. The neoclassical perspective reinforces the conceptualization of push and pull factors in migration that later theories, such as dual migration systems or the new economics of labor migration, have also incorporated into their postulates.

Migration research is, now, an under-theorized area of scientific inquiry specific to the social field, where the recent trend has been one of theoretical regression rather than progress. Previous studies related to this field of activity, such as: LEE's migration theory (1966), Mabogunje's migration systems theory (1970), Zelinsky's mobility transition theory (1971), Skeldon's (1990) work on migration transitions, neo-classical by Harris and Todaro (1970), Migration theory, Piore's (1979) dual labor market theory, Stark's (1978, 1991) new economics of labor migration and Massey's (1990) theory of cumulative causation wanted to provide an overview of the migration concept . Of course, there are a few exceptions (Carling 2002; Faist 2000; Hatton and Williamson 1998; Skeldon 1997), belonging to recent decades that have gradually tried to theorize the migration process, but the end result is not exactly as comprehensive as desired in economics contemporary. Massey and his colleagues who argued that most migration theories remain mired in 19th century concepts, models and approaches and not much has changed and evolved since then (Massey et al. 1993, p. 432) represent an eloquent example.

However, there are also conflicting opinions regarding the evolution of economic theories regarding migration. Over the years, migration flows became increasingly heterogeneous and complex, and various approaches emerged and developed until the end of the 20th century. The new economics of labor migration takes the neoclassical approach as its starting point and is a very important version (Stark and Bloom 1985; Stark 1991). The main characteristic of this perspective is that it looks at migration as a family, household decision, rather than an individual decision. Consistent with this perspective, migration enables the diversification of resources at the household level in the event of failure or risk to local sources of income. In other words, people who remain in the country of origin can benefit from the remittances sent by those who have gone across the border, thus ensuring the well-being of the family, especially in developing countries, where institutions do not always have mechanisms to support well-being (Massey et al. 1993). While the new economic theory of labor migration incorporates the consequences for countries of origin, dual labor market theory (Piore 1979) focuses on destination countries. It should be noted that this perspective moves from the microeconomic approach of previous theories to the macroeconomic approach of the structural factors that influence the evolution of migration flows. According to Piore's theory and understanding, a constant demand for labor constitutes for foreign workers an intrinsic characteristic of labor markets in the context of modern industrial societies. The structural demand for foreign labor is driven by a segmented labor market in which domestic workers refuse to fill jobs within segments of the occupational scale. Moreover, the aging processes in developed countries indisputably contribute to the perpetuation of a demand for labor related to the segment of personal care, health services for older adults, these being in most situations occupied by foreign nationals (Warnes and Williams 2006). Dual labor market theory has often been criticized for ignoring the importance of the role of push factors in the countries of origin and for failing to accept that most migration flows occur in the contemporary period outside of the processes of recruitment (Arango 2000). A third theoretical approach considered by Massey et al. (1993) as part of the initial theories of migration refer to world systems theory, which follows from the same assumption of permanent labor demand for low-skilled foreign nationals. It should be emphasized that this theory has its origins in the idea of a world market economy at the level of which capitalism in developed states gradually expands to non-capitalist peripheral countries, thus determining migration flows to the former regions (Portes and Walton 1981; Sassen 1988). . Taking into account the previously mentioned information, the idea

can be presented that the migration and intensive migration that is registered from rural areas to urban areas reinforces the aging processes of elderly people who, unfortunately, are left behind in less developed regions.

Another particularly important theory in economics and sociology is the theory of social capital, which refers to the concept of benefits provided to potential migrants who hold employment contracts in destination states. Consistent with this theory, migration becomes a much easier and less expensive and risky process over the years due to the ever-growing social networks in host communities. People belonging to the receiving communities share important information and fundamental resources with the future migrants, whether they are family, friends or people belonging to the same community, the main objective is to support the integration of the new immigrants in the market level and the search for suitable and expected jobs in the host states. These connections and implicit resources constitute a form of social capital that dramatically increases the likelihood of further migration among people with family or friends living abroad (Massey et al., 1987; Massey, 1990). Sociologists and economists consider these social structures and interpersonal networks as potential sources of social capital. Stark (1991) argues that the family significantly and decisively influences the migrant's risk-taking decision to move to another job abroad. In addition, Kurekova (2011) emphasizes the fact that with the accession to the European Union, the states belonging to the central and eastern area of Europe were able to test the neoclassical theory that suggests that migration is determined by differences in opportunities in the labor market. Moreover, Kurekova (2011) emphasizes the fact that in the community space, the migration process derives mainly from wage discrepancies between states that have heterogeneous degrees of labor market development. In accordance with this theory, migration is generated by the geographical differences related to supply and demand on the labor market, as well as by the wage differences between poorer and developed states.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present research is based on a mixed research methodology, because it combines both the descriptive analysis method used to introduce the current state of knowledge, and the dynamic macroeconomic analysis to identify the evolution of the number of emigrants, respectively immigrants in the European picture. Moreover, this paper also presents the measures that have been implemented by the European Union at the level of the member states in order to combat the negative effects and increase the number of benefits due to the existence of migration.

Regarding the period considered, it was decided to include the years 2007-2021 in order to identify recent developments in the economy. The main data sources were Eurostat, the International Organization for Migration, as well as the European Commission.

Finally, the research results are presented in the paper with the help of graphs and tables, and the theoretical information that is the basis of the scientific approach was taken from specialized works, such as books, articles, works and studies both at the national and international level.

IV. CASE STUDY

A. Measures implemented by the European Union to support migration

Table 1: European measures to support migration

Signing of the Schengen Agreement - 1985	Signing of the agreement by the governments of the states: Germany, the Netherlands and France. Against the background of the issue of migration and concerns related to ensuring internal security in the EU, the concept of "integrated border management" acquires a much greater significance, being considered a necessary premise for maintaining the integrity of the area of freedom, security and justice, emphasizing the concepts of "solidarity and shared responsibility" in the management of the EU's external border
Signing of the Single European Act - 1986	When creating an area of freedom, justice and security, the European Union ensures a guarantee for the free movement of people, the security of European citizens, as well as the differentiation between the internal border and the external border.
Maastricht Treaty 1992	Through the Maastricht Treaty, the formula of the three pillars was created. The third pillar focused on asylum policy and rules regarding the crossing of external borders and the immigration policy of European citizens
Treaty of Amsterdam- 1997	Asylum and migration policy has been one of the priorities of European Union policies and has been the subject of common responsibility and European cooperation.
European Commission Directive- 2000	In 2000, the European Commission proposed a directive on the conditions of entry and residence of immigrant citizens for economic purposes.
Treaty of Nice - 2000 The Hague Program - 2004	The acceptance of the Schengen acquis offered the possibility of laying common political bases on immigration and asylum.
Stockholm programme- 2010-2014	The Stockholm Program aims to offer and grant equality of rights between third-country nationals and citizens of European Union member states. The main theme of the Stockholm Program is building a Europe of citizens, including immigrants.
European Agenda for Migration - 2018	The European Commission is expanding the concept of controlled centers, as well as the short-term measures that could be taken to improve the processing of migrants who are disembarked at the level of European Union states.

Moreover, the European Commission has proposed a set of initiatives based on four pillars: (i) reducing incentives for illegal migration, (ii) strengthening border management, (iii) building a common and strong asylum policy and (iii) establishing an appropriate legal framework related to the migration process (OECD, 2016, page 47). The Commission proposed reforms on 6 April 2016, which include a corrective allocation mechanism to ensure a fair sharing of responsibility between member countries in line with the Lisbon Treaty, (OECD, 2016). Once a member state has been deemed responsible for 150% of its fair share, the corrective allocation mechanism is automatically triggered and asylum seekers are relocated between member countries below that threshold. Moreover, each member state's fair share is calculated based on each member state's population size (50% share) and GDP (50% share) in relation to that of the entire European Union, and the member state's compensation which took responsibility, at a cost of €250,000 per asylum seeker.

Table 2: Common Basic Principles (CBP)

1.	Integration is a dynamic and complex two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrant and resident citizens of the Member States.
2.	The integration of immigrant citizens is based on respect for the basic values of the European Union.
3.	Employment is a fundamental part of the integration process and is important for the participation and integration of immigrant citizens in host states.
4.	Basic knowledge of the language, history and institutions of the host society is indispensable to the integration process.
5.	Education is important in preparing immigrant citizens, and especially their descendants, to be participative and active in society.
6.	Immigrants' access to public and private institutions, goods and services in an equal and non-discriminatory way with national citizens is a fundamental element of the integration process.
7.	Frequent interaction between immigrant citizens and native citizens of Member States constitutes a fundamental mechanism of integration.
8.	The practice of various religions and cultures is protected and guaranteed, unless these practices conflict with other European rights or national legislation.
9.	The participation of immigrants in the democratic process and in the formulation of integration policies, especially at the local level, supports their integration.
10.	Integration measures and policies should be included within all relevant policy portfolios.
11.	Progress towards goals should be assessed regularly.

Source: Author processing based on data provided by the European Commission

The migration process driven by push factors affects the people and communities moved based on a complex, determined decision corresponding to the demographics that thus attract these communities to a certain area. Moreover, this decision is based on the whole identity of the emigrant and of course, the networks of people who contributed to this phenomenon.

Push factors are the reasons why people decide to leave their country of origin. In general, the main factors that influence the decision to migrate from the country of origin to the country of destination relate to underdevelopment situations, the inability to obtain a minimum level of survival, the impossibility of meeting basic needs, political and religious persecution, the lack of a stable job, difficulties related to personal fulfillment of the individual according to their aspirations.

Pull factors are the reasons why people move to a particular destination country.

In accordance with the recorded trends and the analysis previously presented in this paper, three main push and pull factors were identified.

Table 3: Determinants of migration

	Push factors	Pull factors
<i>Economic and demographic</i>	High unemployment Poverty Low wages High taxes Increased fertility rates Poor health systems	Job application The possibility of obtaining much more advantageous salaries Application for employment The possibility of obtaining much more advantageous salaries Potential to improve living standards Personal and professional development Strong economic growth Technology
<i>Policy</i>	Conflict Uncertainty Corruption Weak governance Human rights abuses Violence	Security and safety Rights and freedoms Political freedom
<i>Social and cultural</i>	Discrimination based on religion, gender, ethnicity, etc.	Network of friends Freedom from discrimination Family reunification

In accordance with the information presented in the previous table, the motivation for which migrant citizens decide to leave the country of origin are multiple, and the factors that support and help the adoption of this decision to leave or stay in the country of origin are: social, political, economic or ethnic. However, the

economic factor has had the biggest impact since ancient times, which was highlighted by the major salary differences between the country of origin and the country of destination. Therefore, the prospect of obtaining a much higher salary in the destination country positively influences a migrant's decision to leave that country.

The economic factor prevails compared to the other factors, given the fact that it is in close correlation with the improvement of the quality of life of the emigrant and implicitly of his family. In other words, getting a significantly better salary compared to the one in the home state is meant to ensure both security and safety and finally yet importantly, access to a better education for children. Moreover, a better salary offers better health systems, but also personal and professional development to individuals who decide to migrate.

Without a doubt, the economic factor, more precisely obtaining a higher salary is of major importance for the emigrant, but he also takes into account a number of social and political factors, such as respect for human rights and respect for the law and fundamental freedom. Because migration is defined as a spatial phenomenon, economic models that consider migration must include both regions, both the country of origin and the country of destination, in order to understand the impact of migration at a deeper level.

B. Contemporary migration patterns

B.1. The neoclassical model of migration

Todaro (1969) proposes a separate model that addresses the idea that potential migrants, before making the decision to leave their country of origin, inform themselves about the wages and possible jobs in the areas under consideration. Thus, the author Todaro aims at a model in which migrants compare the salary level in the country of birth with the potential income in the country of destination and take into account the costs of moving from the country of origin to the country of destination.

The model proposed by Michael Todaro and John Harris in 1970 is as follows:

$$y_{ii}^E > y_{ij}^E - C_{ij}$$

where, $y_{ii}^E = f(Prob(EM P_i), Y_i)$
and $y_{ij}^E = f(Prob(EM P_j), Y_j)$

In this model, the expected income in the country of origin y_{ii}^E is a function that depends on the wage rate, and the income in the country of origin Y_i and the probability of being employed in the country of origin $Prob(EM P_i)$.

The same variables are also taken into account when considering the country of destination. The expected income in the destination country y_{ij}^E depends on the wage rate and income in the destination country y_{ij}^E and the probability of being employed in the destination country $Prob(EM P_j)$.

Taking into account this information, Harris and Todaro (1970) propose the model of net migration NM_{ij} , a function that depends, in addition to the income in the destination country, on the unemployment level in the country of origin U_i , respectively that of the country of destination U_j .

X_i and X_j constitute a series of economic and non-economic factors determining migration, and C_{ij} takes into account the cost of travel from the country of origin to the country of destination.

The model is written:

$$NM_{ij} = f(Y_i, Y_j, U_i, U_j, X_i, X_j, C_{ij})$$

B.2. The model for estimating the determinants of migration is a model developed by Hatton in 1995 based on the concept of maximizing the utility of the individual, and migration is thus viewed from another perspective, a form of investment in human capital. For this reason, the economic relationship is described as follows:

$$U_i = \ln(W_d)_i + y(e_d)_i - \ln(w_h)_i - \mu(e_h)_i - z_i$$

where w_d , w_h , e_d , e_h are the incomes and the probability of employment in the countries of destination and origin respectively, and z is the cost of migration.

B.3. The gravity model and the modified gravity model

Regarding the gravity model, the main characteristic is represented by the relationship between the migration process and the distance between states, but also the relationship between the migration process and the population in the states of origin and destination.

The gravity model can be written in the following way:

$$M_{ij} = \frac{C_i^{P_i} P_i^{B_i} P_j^{B_j}}{D_{ij}^{\alpha}}$$

where C represents the constant, P_i is the population of the country of origin, P_j is the population of the country of destination, and D_{ij} is the distance recorded between the country of origin and the country of destination.

B.4. The human capital model is essentially an economic model, in which the economic agent considers the maximization of utility according to two arguments, namely: free time and income. In the simplest hypothesis, the individual offers his labor services in exchange for obtaining a higher salary, which may constitute the need to migrate from the place of residence.

B.5. The spatial model of job search is a model derived from the human capital model. It considers that in the context of choosing a new locality to migrate to, the individual adopts this decision following a research on the salary offers that can be found in the destination market, offers that could thus cover his needs at that moment. During this study, the individual sets his salary threshold, more precisely the lowest level he would accept in a potential destination. Therefore, the search for a job can extend to the context in which the individual obtains a salary at least equal to the level he initially set and which is in close correlation with other personal factors such as age, family situation, educational level, marital status or particularities of the region, such as: unemployment rate, poverty level, etc.

C. Analysis of migration at the level of Romania, Hungary and Poland

The mobility of people is an important challenge for all states in terms of establishing an optimal level of well-being. The reasoning of the migration phenomenon depends on the existence of certain divergent premises regarding both the protection measures of the states through migration policies and the free movement of people, in order to reduce the flows of migrants.

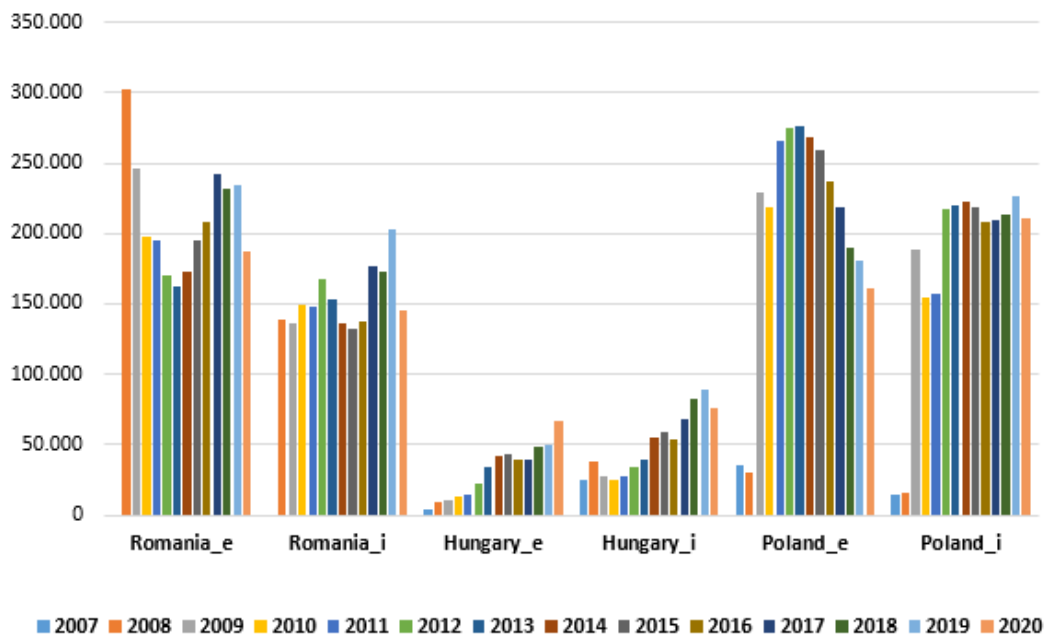


Figure 1: Evolution of emigrants and immigrants in the period 2007-2020 (number of people)

Immigration represents the action by which a person decides to give up his domicile on the territory of one state and establish his domicile on the territory of another state (for example, in Romania). With regard to the evolution of immigrants, according to the graphic representation attached (immigration is identified by the ending "_i" at the level of each state), the growth trend can be observed from the last years before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Hungary, which, however, registers the lowest level compared to Romania and Poland. Thus, Romania registered in 2020 (the last year available on Eurostat) a total number of 145,519 immigrants, compared to 202,422 immigrants in 2019, this population mobility being strongly affected by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictive measures of free movement. The same trend was recorded in the other analyzed states, Hungary and Poland.

Emigration is the action by which a person decides to give up his domicile on the territory of one state (for example, from Romania) and establish his domicile on the territory of another state. Regarding the evolution of emigrants, according to the graphic representation attached (emigration is identified by the ending "_e" at the

level of each state), an increase in this population category can be observed in Hungary and Romania and a reduction trend in Poland, starting from 2014. Thus, Romania recorded in 2020 (the last year available on Eurostat) a total number of 186,818 emigrants, compared to 233,736 emigrants in 2019, this population mobility being strongly affected by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and measures to restrict free movement.

It can also be seen from the attached graphic that after Romania's accession to the European Union, which implied the free movement of people, Romanian citizens made the most of this opportunity, and the wave of emigrants increased considerably.

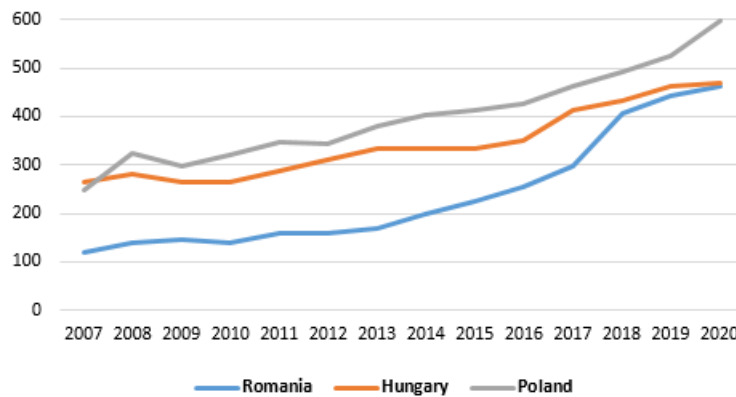


Figure 2: Evolution of the minimum wage in the period 2007-2020 (Euro)

An important factor of migration on the labor market of the destination country is represented by the salary level that immigrants, respectively emigrants, can obtain, and for this reason, the analysis of salary earnings has a significant contribution to the labor mobility decision. Salary earnings recorded an upward trend during the analyzed period, but the lowest level was recorded by Romania, followed by Hungary, while Poland has higher earnings. For example, the minimum wage increased from approximately 120 euros (2007) to 464 euros (2020) in Romania, from approximately 264 euros (2007) to 470 euros (2020) in Hungary and from approximately 247 euros (2007) to 598 euros (2020) in Poland. Thus, it can be observed that Romania registers the lowest level of the minimum wage among the three countries analyzed, which can highlight a lower standard of living compared to Hungary and Poland.

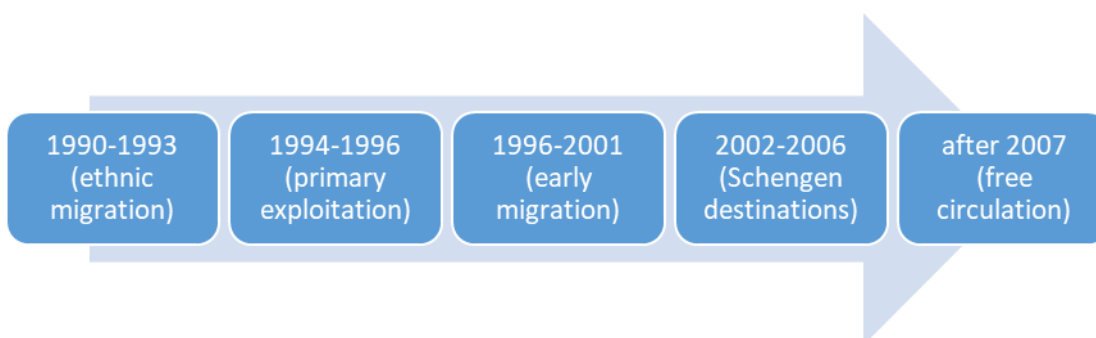


Figure 3: Stages of migration after 1989. The case of Romania

In addition, in order to highlight even better the stages of Romanian emigration after 1989, the attached graphic representation was made, as follows:

- the period (1990-1993) is characterized by the permanent and massive emigration of ethnic minorities (Hungarian and German), but also of Romanian citizens who chose this path due to poverty and political unrest, which determined the registration in 1992 of 116,000 requests for political asylum in the West
- the period (1994-1996) is characterized by a lower level of Romanian economic migration
- the period (1996-2001) is characterized by increased emigration and the development of several trends
- the period (2002-2006) is characterized by the elimination of Schengen visa requirements, which led to an increase in migration
- the period (after 2007) is characterized by the free access of Romanian citizens to the European market, which determined the increase in the number of emigrants

In this sense, a fluctuation in the number of people who decided to emigrate, respectively to immigrate, can be observed in the other European states analyzed, depending on the political context in the country of destination, the conditions of the labor market, the salary and the conditions of better life. Finally yet importantly, policy makers have a significant contribution to the migration phenomenon through the fiscal policy decisions implemented, which relate to the increase or reduction of fees and taxes, the ease of access to the labor market, the allocation of funds for the development of infrastructure and the stimulation of investments with a multiplier effect significant.

V. CONCLUSION

The migration phenomenon has existed since ancient times, but it recorded various fluctuations according to each historical stage, which determined the development of new forms. In addition, migration is one of the most important components of contemporary society, being both a factor in the globalization of markets and a tool for regulating existing imbalances in the labor market. One of the most dynamic forms of population movement today is migration for work. At the level of the European Union, the free movement of persons is one of the first rights recognized by the community legislation. In another vein, economic migration plays an important role in covering the needs of the European labor market. Thus, policy makers must take into account the need for a policy on economic migration at the level of the European Union, which also constitutes a challenge from the point of view of the common management of this phenomenon.

Finally yet importantly, fiscal policy decisions have a significant impact on migration, as wage earnings and the level and sustainability of the economic growth rate influence the latter.

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