

The quality of life and the migration of people in The Republic of Moldova

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Abstract - The article represents a small study concerning the migration problem of the citizens of Moldova and the factors that influence it. Taking into account the evolution of population in The Republic of Moldova based on the dates fixed in two censuses, the analysis of the income per head, the state of health and longevity of lives in Moldova etc., the author makes the conclusion that the migration is particularly conditioned by the social-economical situation and represents an evidence of the bad quality of life in the country. This fact is also confirmed by the Index of Human Progress (IHP), computed by UNO every year and according to it, during this decade the Republic of Moldova has moved from the 75th position to the 104th on the list of the 174 states included in this classification.

Index Terms – quality of life, indicators for assessing the quality of life, migration, migration policy, transition.

During the transition period the moldavian labor market suffered profound transformations caused by economical reforms, which gave rise to direct influences on the human factor. Moreover, the social conditions determined the reduction of the natural population growth and the spreading of migration phenomenon, which caused in turn a constant decrease of population and implicitly of active population.

By analyzing the structure of active population divided in age groups there can be observed obvious tendencies of aging. The largest quotient belongs to people with ages of over 35 years old. During the period 2000-2005, the number of employed people in The Republic of Moldova decreased with 190 thousand people, which is 12,5%, reaching in 2005 the level of 49% for the activity rate and 45% for occupancy rate, which is less with 20 and respectively with 18% in comparison with EU-25 average [1].

According to the data in the two censuses (from 1989 and 2004), in the evolution of population in RM divided in age groups it can be noticed that the group formed by the active population (15-60 years old) doesn't grow proportionally with the decrease of young population (0-14 years old) and with the growth of the elder one (60 years old and elder), therefore the incomes for social programs can increase only by the means of an enlargement, over the usual values of the, productivity of work.

The situation concerning the population of RM is very difficult, but it is not unique. Most of European states had been passing through the period of demography transition for over 200 years, meaning the transition from a reproduction regime

of large type, when the number of population had risen intensively, to a new reproduction regime, when the number of people had slowly risen or decreased. For example, France and Switzerland passed to the new reproduction regime at the beginning of the XIX -th century and finished this transition at the end of the XX-th century. In RM this transition was different: it started in the middle '50's and ended at the beginning of the '90's, which means it lasted only 35-40 years.

The birth rate continues to decrease. The natural population growth during the last 10 years had been constantly decreasing and it's quotient in 2005 was 1.9. The average life expectancy is 66,8 years, inclusively 62,0 years for men, 70,4 years for women, being one of the lowest in Europe. The hope of life at birth is much lower than in the European Region.

Here are mentioned two well-determined reasons:

- 1) an essential reduction of birth rate and an increase of mortality;
- 2) the essential consequences of migration.

There exist a direct correlation between the number of people able to work and the increase of incomes.

In case that the active population group is dominant, a significant growth of incomes can be noticed. The quotient of this group in the entire population of RM (with the exception of Transnistria) is 43,7%. Therefore, we cannot talk about a significant increase of people's income, because the economical active labor force in RM

doesn't form even a half of population. In addition, if we observe the evolution of population according to the same age groups we will notice the modification of the variable "the age dependence": in 1989, 35 young people and 25 old people were being dependent on 100 adults, while meantime, in 2004, was being registered a dramatic decrease of the number of young people (23) and a moderate increase of the number of old people (29).

Certainly, the decrease of young population will be reflected, in future, in the decrease of the adult population, and this will inevitably influence the economical growth. Also, the growth of the percentage of adult people recently (with over 2%) in the total percentage of population will lead to a growth of persons with age of 60 years old and more, which will significantly modify the analyzed variable. We cannot exclude the fact that these tendencies could generate other negative effects mirrored mainly in: the decrease of the life level of the group formed by people of 60 years old and elder (the number of those people that can maintain from the financial point of view the social category of pensioners becomes less); the reduction of labor force, and the considerable rate of unemployment on long terms (here we take in consideration the fact that those people which work abroad will come back home sooner or later, and respectively will exert directly or indirectly pressure on the labor market; the rate of unemployment will grow), the decrease of GDP in Moldova and other consequences.

The economical theory proves that the economical growth creates an increase of working places due to the modernization and new technologies in the firms, due to internal and external investments etc. Still, The Republic of Moldova demonstrates a visible contra performance; the economics is rising in a relatively high rhythm, but meantime the work places are reduced.

In comparison with the 1999 year, the number of paid employers in 2005 was with 20% smaller (in agriculture – with 50%, inclusively for women-with 53%, but in constructions- with 30%).

The negative dynamics of work places will have in future a negative influence on the productivity and economical growth, because the

salaries have the greatest quotient in people's income [5].

Meantime, the local labor market becomes less attractive. This situation is also confirmed by the diminution of the activity rate among the population of age between 15 years and more: from 60% in 2000 to 49% in 2005. In the same time, the occupancy rate of population decreased from 55% in 2000 to 45% in 2005 (the data for 2006 shows that this rate diminished to 43.7%), for men significantly more than for women.

Notwithstanding the governmental declarations concerning the support of the local labor market, the budget for 2007-2008 doesn't approach us to European goals, but contra it makes them unreachable. This fact doesn't encourage work; it is more of a social assistance budget that encourages only the politics of social help. The expenses provided for the stimulation of labor occupancy represents only 0.3% of Moldova's GDP, while the European average is 2.3% of European countries GDP.

If the government continues to encourage unemployment in annual National Budget Laws by offering social help and will not accept the increase of the minimum salary up to a level that would allow the employers to cover at least their primary expenses, the great projects concerning the infrastructure provided in the budget won't be implemented in life because of missing human resources. If in the '90's the migration had a political aspect, during the years '94-'95 the migration had only economical reasons. People were going in European states in order to find jobs. The problem is that a lot of specialists were leaving: engineers, teachers, doctors. In this context, we can talk not only about the depopulation of RM, but also about the loss of scientific, economical and human potential.

Migration persists in other countries, too, but in Moldova it is more emphasized. In European states like Polanyi, Chechnya, Hungary it had been recorded a veil of migration after the dissipation of the socialist system, but it stabilized soon. But in our country this migration veil lasts a decade and the end can't be seen. Contra, each year, the number of people that want to leave abroad becomes greater.

The pollster performed by The Institute of Public Politics (IPP) [2] in 2006 with the purpose of finding out which are the tendencies of migration in Republic of Moldova (1000 families from all districts, exclusively Transnistria), showed that 25% of population still has the tendency to migrate. Among these, 10% want to migrate in towns of Moldova, and 15% - abroad, to study or to find a well-paid job. The main reason for migration is miserable income.

The middle class that can be considered prosper because of relatively good income, doesn't exceed 10% of the total population. According to the estimations performed by The Department of Statistics and Sociology (in 2004) the quotient of underprivileged population is 88.3% and the quotient of poor population - 56.9%.

Nowadays, the minimal capital consumption computed is 1400 lei, which is minimum indeed. The IPP pollster shows, that if the person is satisfied with his/her salary, he/she won't leave abroad. For example, in the engineering domain, there had been established organizations that render salaries not less than in Russia, which motivates the population to remain in the country. If this strategy was implemented also in other domains, the migrants would be motivated to come back home and they wouldn't bring only money, but also new visions on economical development, new experience gained abroad, concerning business relationships.

On the other hand, according to statistic data, the real disposable income per head in 2005 increased with about 18% in comparison with 2004, and the main factors that caused this were salaries, succeeded by social wages, income from agriculture and other transfers. Meantime, the average salary for economics in Moldova, increased in nominal terms with 20% in comparison with 2004. According to some pollsters, the increase of the salaries represents a positive phenomenon in economics.

The difference between the salaries paid in private sphere and the one paid for those that activate in the budgetary sphere has been reduced a little bit, from 78% in 2004 to 75% in 2005. Also there have been recorded some changes in the budgetary categories. For example, lecturers and doctors have salaries that exceed the average salary

in the country [5]. Nowadays, among the people that migrate with the purpose to find a better job, can be counted every third citizen of Moldova, able to work.

If recently the main tendency was migration in CIS in order to find jobs, especially in Russia, at the present moment besides the traditional migration to East there is a tendency of extending the migration vector in Occident and South-Occident. In addition, we can say that there had been a reorientation of migrants to "the old neighborhood". Among the most attractive countries for moldovian migrants are: Italy, Portugal, Greece and Spain.

The extension of the Occidental migration vector is based on the equal distance between The Republic of Moldova and Occidental countries, Moscow, Russia, and also on the knowledge of the Romanic group of languages, the knowledge of Turkish group by people who speak Turkish, of Slavic group by those moldovians who speak Russian, the net created in Germany by the Jewish community, in Israel and in other countries. We mention, that nowadays the ambiance of people that speak Russian is a popular phenomenon in a lot of countries. The salaries in Occident are much higher in comparison to Russia, besides a very important aspect- the criminality, uncontrolled and bureaucratic police in EU can't be even compared with the situation in Russian Federation, which is the main consumer of Moldovian migrants in CIS.

The Moldovian migrants become familiar not only with the neighbor countries, but also with the countries that are far away from Moldova, where there are no Moldavian communities, no communities of relatives, of production relationships with Republic of Moldova.

According to the researches performed by IPP, the citizens of Moldova work basically in all European countries. The presence of Moldovian migrants is more pronounced in the following countries: the basic consumer of Moldovian migrants in CIS, and also in the global context- Russia. Among other countries we can mention: Italy, Portugal, Greece, Czech, Turkey, Spain, Israel, Ireland, Germany, Cyprus, Romania, etc [4]. The statistics based on the number of people that left abroad are contradictory: some sources claim that there is 1 million of people abroad, other-

500.000, the census on 2004-280.000. The Parliament, Government, the President should be preoccupied about these people. But they are not. This is why, we need a organization that will handle all the demographic problems in our country.

UNO evaluates every year the Index of Human Progress in countries, which has a complex a type and is based on statistical indices of estimation of the average level of population's health, of average level of studies and on the average income per head in each country.

The Index of Human Progress represents a tool used to estimate the progress of human development on a long term. Every year, UNO studies the dynamics of this index for all the countries in the world. Judging by the IHP, in conformity with UNO's classification, The Republic of Moldova, during a decade performed a displacement from the 75th place to the 104th place in the list of the 174 states of the world included in the classification, which confirms the average level of life in the state (table 1).

Year s	he hope of life at birth	The rate of literacy among adults	The rate of enrollment t in primary, secondary schools and in universitie s.	DP per head (200 5 PPP \$USA)	HP
1990	7,6	97,5	72,6	4,052	0,740
1995	6,9	98,3	69,2	1,634	0,684
2000	7,2	98,9	71,2	1,473	0,683
2004	8,2	99,1	70,1	1,955	0,703
2005	8,4	99,1	69,7	2,100	0,708

Table 1 The IHP tendency of The Republic of Moldova (based on recent data)

The state of people's health represents an integrated index of social development in the country, it reflects the social, economical and moral prosperity of people, a decisive factor of influence

on the economical, cultural and human resources potential. As we can see from table 1, the hope of life at birth in Moldova has a very slow tendency of growth.

Anyway, during the last decade in the republic has been created a unfavorable medical - demographical situation. One of the fatal tendencies is the growth of mortality among elder population that is still able to work. The main reasons for this are the maladies of the cardio-vascular system, the malign tumors, accidents and traumas, diseases that attack the respiratory system.

A warning situation has been created concerning the outspreading of the social-conditioned maladies: HIV/ AIDS, infections transmitted sexually, alcoholism, drug addiction, tuberculosis, all these remain main problems for the public health. In 2005 there have been recorded 315 new cases on HIV infections (8.73 persons per 100.000 population), in 2004 - 227 cases (6.29 per 100.000 persons). According to the situation on January the first, 2006 there have been found totally 2230 persons infected with HIV , which exerted epidemic influence on all administrative territories.

The low birth rate and high mortality rate in Moldova, could cause premises for the disappearance of Moldavian nation in 50 years, declared during a conference the academician

Gheorghe Paladi, AŞM. The conditions of poverty in Moldova are favorable for the process of demographical aging in our country, which forces the young generation to ignore the birth rate.

Aleksandru Sidorenco, the chief of the Programm concerning the problems of aging in the UNO Comission, mentions that if the Institutions of Governing doesn't find ways to stimulate the birth rate and to stop the migration, in several years there won't be any persons that could deal with problems in our country. According to A.Sidorenko, the aging phenomenon in Moldova could be considered, in a certain manner unique. The main reason for this situation is the migration of those people that are able to work.

The author of the above hypothesises, mentions that by elaborating an adequate politics concerning migration, the estimated problems could be solved. The Moldavian state has the

tendency of finding new ways that could allow to manipulate migration.

The State Migration Service elaborated the concept of the migration politics that was adopted by the Parliament in October, 2002. Besides this, there has been prepared a new redaction of the law: „Concerning the migration”. The national legislation has the tendency to line up with international standards.

Moldova adhered to the international documents that regulate the migration processes.

The European Convention concerning the legal state of the migrant-labourer; the European social charter, the European Convention concerning the social assistance; the agreement concerning the collaboration of Moldavian Government with the International Migration Organization(signed on May, 2002, ratified by the Parliament in October, 2002). The Republic of Moldova adhered (2001) to the Convention(1951) and the additional Protocol (1967) concerning refugees. Generally, Moldova ratified over 20 international normative acts concerning the protection of human rights, migrants-labourer and refugees. The Parliament adopted on July, 2002 the law: „ Concerning the refugees”. The law had been legitimized on January, the first 2003.

The Republic of Moldova had the initiative to sign the intergovernmental agreement with Italy, there are palavers between Moldova and Spain on this subject.

When Moldova was a part of CIS, it participated actively in elaborating a lot of other documents concerning the regulation of migration among labor resources. Among it we can mention: the programm of action for the development of CIS for the period until the end of 2005, the section: „creating conditions for free displacement of labor resources”.

The collaboration with Russia is enlarged. The decision of the RM Government (nr.21 on January, the 10th 2002 „Concerning the initiation of the agreement project between the RM Government and the Russian Federation Government concerning the regulation of the repatriation and protection of the refugee’s rights”.

The State Migration Service had adressed similar suggestions to Italy, Portugal, Kuwait other countries.

There are made efforts concerning the tendency to line up the migration legislation of Moldova with international and European standards, the improvement of penal and administrative legislation exerted on persons implicated in human traffic etc. The migration problem is included in the Action Programm „The Republic of Moldova- European Union” as one of major importance. In order to allign the institutional base of migration to the European standards, in 2005 the denomination of the specialized migration structure of RM has been changed, today it is called The National Agency of RM concerning migration problems.

The concluding lines are the following:

- ✓ one of the most fatal and up to date problems in Republic of Moldova remains the migration of labor force, in which takes part not less than a third of the population in RM;
- ✓ conditioned by the social and the economical situation, reflecting the existent reality, the migration represents an index of the low quality of life in the country;
- ✓ the migration with the purpose of finding jobs represents an attempt of improving the financial situation, the situation in family, in conditions of social transformations of great proportions accompanied by a high social price;
- ✓ the migration of people in the context of globalization of the national economics represents an inevitable consequence in a lot of countries, but for a small state like Moldova it may cause catastrophic demographic consequences;
- ✓ the unqualified management at state level concerning the problems of monitoring the quality of life in RM represents one of the most important reasons that provoke the migration among people;
- ✓ the public authorities that have the right of monitoring the migration problems in RM are liable for estimating as real as possible the

created situation and to collaborate more intensively with international actors with the purpose to elaborate and perform an adequate migration politics.

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