

Migration from Moldova

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The migration and remittances issues have become salvation for our economic system and destruction of our moral values. In this article we will bring benefits, but also some drawbacks of migration.

Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe. After gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, like other republics of the former USSR, Moldova initiated social and economic reforms aimed at the country's transition to a market economy. A series of relevant social changes were achieved in Moldova but, contrary to initial estimates, they failed to provide the expected results. Moreover, this phase led to a deepening economic crisis, and subsequently to a catastrophic decline in living standards, the depreciation of moral and ethical norms, and insecurity. The departure of a large part of the labour force abroad, in search of jobs, has considerably diminished Moldova's human resources. Year by year, the emigration of the country's intellectuals has intensified. More and more higher education graduates, academics, school teachers and scientific researchers emigrate. No systematic and detailed studies of brain drain in Moldova exist, as the phenomenon has not been monitored at national level. There has been noticed growth of international labor migration, both to Russia and other CIS countries, and increasingly to Western Europe [1].

Most immigrants work in low- to medium-skill positions. For instance, in Italy and Turkey Moldovans tend to be female and usually work in the service sector. Males are more common to such destinations as Russia and Portugal and work in labor-intensive sectors such as construction, industry, and mining. The average migrant is 35 years old but age, length of stay, gender, and occupation differ with destinations.

Remittances is another important issue connected with migration. For Moldova, money transfer from abroad has become one of the largest and stable sources of finance for households. Through remittances from its own citizens from abroad, Republic of Moldova receives more financial aid than from foreign investments into its economy [2].

Migration has some advantages and disadvantages. So, the benefits are:

- economic migration decreases unemployment
- it boosts the purchasing power of population due to remittances
- it had replaced the government effort in fighting poverty

The consequences are:

- it has reduced substantially labour force
- there is occurring an uncontrolled brain drain
- it indirectly supports corruption
- stimulates inflation
- threatens national security and the possibility of increasing a healthy nation with high moral values.

How can we fight with this problem? The recommendations are:

- Policies based on limiting migration are unlikely to be successful in the short term, although emphasizing job creation in Moldova is sensible in that it widens the range of choice open to Moldovan workers.
- Another specific recommendation is that incentives should be developed for migrants to contribute to the state pension system [3].

Bibliography:

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