

"WORKFORCE DERURALIZATION" - A CONSEQUENCE OF MIGRATION WITH IMPLICATION OVER AGRICULTURE

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Abstract

This article captures another aspect of the countryside, where the migratory behavior "emptied" the rural area of its most important resource, which is man. With an area of over 200,000 km² of countryside, Romania is placed among the agrarian countries and, despite of the qualitative land that it has, the existing human capital is declining in this sector resulting in considerable differences concerning the economic performance of agriculture. Thus, we are witnesses of a dramatic phenomenon of "non-fruited" of a big opportunity, while the Romanian rural areas seem to be less attractive to young people, often lured by the mirage of big cities. Analyzing this situation from an economic perspective we can say that the rural workforce has adapted to current realities and identified another way to cover emerging needs. However, this change in the composition of rural labor has repercussions both locally and nationally accusing also a decrease in productivity. Migration not only leads to an aging population in the Romanian countryside, but, mainly due to young people migration, leads to a collapse of the agricultural economy by affecting the agricultural workforce. Although this workforce is oversized compared to other sectors is not evenly proportionately distributed in the territory and especially is characterized by improper use of production factors that determine the inability to secure a source of income to be able to rely. The directions of this article are evidenced by its title which draws attention on rural "workforce deruralization" as a consequence of migration, migration that is often named by many researchers as the third stage of globalization. This "deruralization" occurs rapidly and requires a recovery towards saving rural areas which has a huge potential, but often unused to its maximum.

Keywords: migration, deruralization, rural workforce, rural area.

Given the enormous pressure exerted on the individual, seen from the perspective of a resource that must contribute at some point, he just answered to subjective impulses and sought an emergency strategy that offers far greater material rewards in relation to effort. Caught in the whirl of "change and abandonment of a society where he cannot find a place he would like" (Voicu, 2004) he look for new cities, regions and even foreign countries. The place of origin is now seen only as a limit and turn to other "horizons" often seen as a salvation, a salvation that often does not come because the unknown is not necessarily better and adaptation is often hard. In modern times, this migration occurs invariably from underdeveloped or developing regions to regions that have an attractive economic development or at least seemingly attractive, but this leads to great economic disparities.

Placing individuals in rural areas, where agriculture is the main activity, it can be noticed a significant change in which concern occupational specialization and here we mean about the one of migrant. Stretching over a greater area comparing

with the urban area, and although it holds the highest number of people working in agriculture, that feature does only demonstrate a high level of hidden unemployment and a decline in labor productivity with large implications at the level of imports (Proiect cofinanțat din Fondul European de Dezvoltare Regională prin POAT 2007-2013-Sectorul Agricultură și Dezvoltare Rurală). This is due to the fact that the majority of those who are employed in this sector practice a subsistence agriculture and thus becomes a priority to supplement low incomes they obtain with income from non-agricultural activities. A first support for these activities is the lack of qualification of those who practice agriculture so finding very easy to decide to seek work elsewhere.

Despite government efforts to support disadvantaged rural areas, the Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture, or those with no income through social security benefits are not enough to cover all the gaps. Thus, these problems have an impact on "social space affected by a transition" of which ambivalent effects change perceptions and

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behaviors (Sandu D., 2003, p.15) to future generations and "deruralization" penetrate inside these spaces, causing a shortage of young human capital in agriculture.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

In order to achieve the goal of this approach, the first method is bibliographic documentation in order to deepen the concepts of migration and workforce "deruralization" and to identify the impact of migration over this phenomenon. For an exhaustive analysis of a phenomenon requires a rigorous documentation to allow updating the existing information on the phenomenon. Interpretive description was used in the interpretation and criticism of existing documents dealing more or less this problem. Another method used is the comparative one common to all sciences, useful for highlighting different cases depending on the deruralization and migration intensity.

For data interpretation were used mapping method and methods for processing statistical data from the website of the National Population Statistics, including methods for calculating the correlation coefficient, the rate of aging, etc. In order to solve our problems, methods of statistical analysis are necessary, given that we are dealing with a large amount of statistical data. For mapping were used Philcarto and Adobe Illustrator, and for data processing was used Microsoft Excell program.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Romanian rural areas have substantial resources for development but underused. With a predominantly primary rural economy, employment in the sector is facing numerous difficulties that hinder efficient use of land to achieve high yields and to ensure decent living.

If it would be analyze the evolution of the working age population from rural areas, on a 24 year, overall there is an increase, due to the many metamorphoses caused by the transition from a centralized economy to a market economy, by the radical developments of Romanian society that took into account the massive economic reforms, dramatic decreases in the number of workers in certain sectors of the economy through privatization of enterprises, bankruptcy of some and ultimately causing the return of a large rural population and increased temporary and permanent migration (National Reform Programme 2007-2010).

The situation is even more serious since migrants are young people who are part of active age (Teodorescu, 1996, Andria, Souche, 2007). This important segment of the population, by demographic factors that influence them, counts on the success of the previous and embark on a

journey punctuated by short-term benefits. An overlooking on the map give us a closer view and it can be noticed that the east and south is characterized by a large number of working-age population keeping the top over the 24 years compared to western and central Romania. Keeping the proportions, and in the two genders, masculine is detached by feminine in all 41 counties, thereby masculinity rural areas compared to urban areas.

What is not shown in this map is the structure by age of the working population since returning to the countryside of those who have lost their jobs due to deindustrialization in the 90's increased the number of population over 40-50 years.

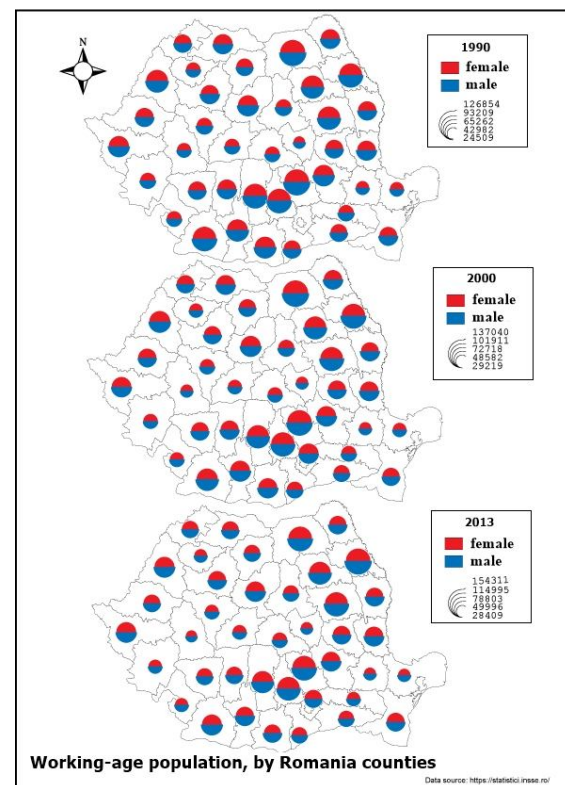


Figure 1 Working-age population, by Romania counties

The rural population undergo through a demographic decline, situation that appears quite bleak: the rural population declining and aging, aging that is seen as a major problem in the current period (Nemenyi, 2011). In the period 1990-2013 the rural population over 65 years increased with 294,793 person. The main factors of population decline in rural areas are natural decrease of population, with a steadily declining birth rate, and migration.

At the national level, analysis of population structure by age doesn't reveal differences as striking as the analysis of the rural areas situation,

where the rural population aging is more obvious. According to Trebici V. and other authors, population aging is "a game of shares" concerning the composition of a population on the three age groups: "young", "adult" and "elderly". To obtain aging indicator we considered the both categories of 0-14 years and over 65 years. If the increased number of elderly people, however great it may be, is followed by similar increases on the number of young people and adults, is not a process of demographic aging in the opinion of Balak M. (1998), but our analysis presents a typical situation of demographic aging: 0-14 years category registered a declining while the over 65 years category is maintained at progressively higher levels. As shown, rural aging manifests differently over territorial level, the most affected being the South-West and West.

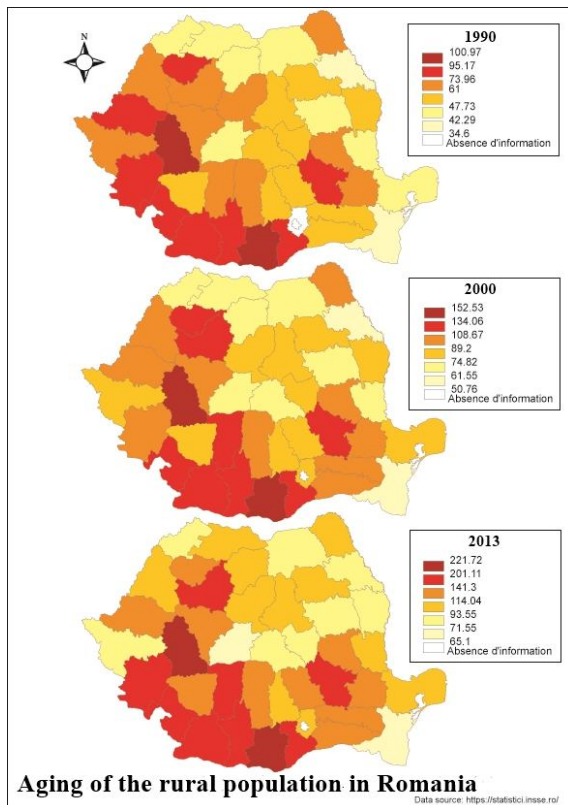


Figure 2 Aging of the rural population in Romania

On counties level are noticed Hunedoara and Teleorman, both confronting with a difficult situation, aging alarmingly occurring with significantly lower values of the younger population. Sibiu remains the opposite, but neither its aging rate is not without questions while analyzing the data we observe an increase of category over 65 years together with a decrease of 0-14 years. This aging of the population affected, as we will see, mostly by young population

migration has a nearly catastrophic impact on workforce "deruralization".

The migration from rural to urban negatively influence farm labor, with between them, as illustrated below, a strong negative correlation (0.697). Thus, while the number of people who choose to leave the rural areas in favor of urban increase, agricultural employment decreases strongly, which is understandable considering the fact that those who choose to leave the rural areas are mainly young people who are part of active population. This mobility of young people more and more intense and against rural areas leads to the so-called workforce deruralization. This is not about the problem concerning the number of individuals representing farm labor, we already know that it is more oversized compared to European standards, but the lack of specialization which leads to inefficient farming of the land, unskilled.

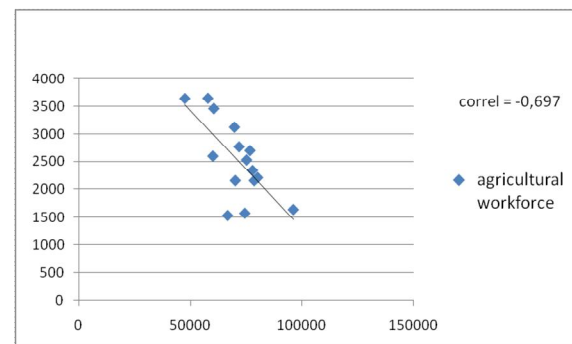


Figure 3 Departures from the rural to urban areas and the agricultural workforce - Correlation

Concerning arable land per capita, Romania takes the sixth place in the European Union, every citizen of Romania assuming the 0.65 hectares of arable land. Taking in count farmland the number increase significantly, but regardless of the value of these numbers, the agricultural lands are used not even at half of their real value. According to Eurostat, in Romania more than 30 percent of the population works in agriculture, from all regions of the country, and is unskilled rendering unskilled labor in general. Thus, in Romania there are not areas of labor supply in agriculture, and according to data provided by the National Institute of Statistics, Romania is still last in Europe when it comes about production per hectare. The productivity level is below 50% of the UE-27, unacceptable situation that shows untapped economic potential of Romanian rural areas. This can be explained both by the internal structure of Romanian farms (small size, fragmentation pronounced), misuse or improper inputs (including human capital) and the existing institutional framework and poor infrastructure

(Project co-financed by the European Regional Development by POAT 2007-2013, 2013).

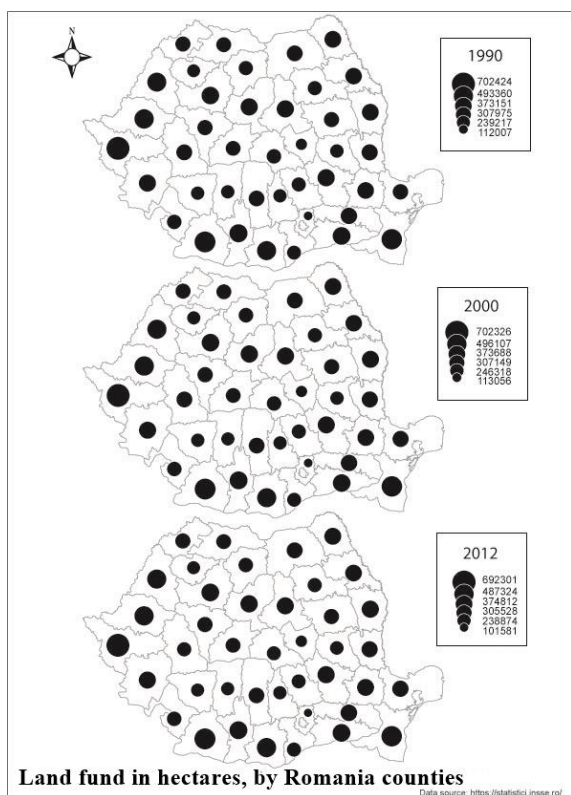


Figure 4 Land fund in hectares, by Romania counties

CONCLUSIONS

Even if used in a pejorative meaning, the "workforce deruralization" is a reality and it happens. Moreover this change, which considers the economic profile of the labor force in rural areas, there is a synergy to achieve the same purpose and economic benefits. Whether he work in construction, whether working as a laborer, waiter, maid, etc., individual acquires certain knowledge of each job, and once back home instead finds it difficult to adjust to those few satisfaction obtained from agricultural work.

In fact this "deruralization", we refer to, brings to the fore those "unemployed farmers' state supported that transit to future generations" this life strategy "(Sandu, 2000, p5). Despite government programs initiated to support young farmers or simply helping farmers in

disadvantaged rural areas, the "land" is not appealing to young people, and the majority have lost the battle with time. Each village in each region or county are facing this problem that affects on long-term agricultural sector especially the land fund. Despite the new trend manifested by the urban population in retirement age to retire in rural areas it will only thicken among the aging population.

Under these conditions, remain only two choices: either ignore the problems encountered with "workforce deruralization" or accept the reality and try to find solutions, if not for the elderly, even more for those young people who, for various reasons, leave rural areas in order to obtain faster financial gain and more secure in their opinion comparing with the practicing of agriculture.

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