

# THE MIGRATION PROCESS OF ROMANIANS TO ANDALUSIA, SPAIN. FOCUS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

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## Introductory Remarks and Theoretical Basis

Former communist country, Romania plays an important role in the European Union (EU) in what concerns the migration phenomenon. Emigration represents an important part of the Romanian international migration. For example, a short descriptive analysis of the migratory flows in the EU member states between 2006 and 2010 accomplished by Grosu and Constantin (2011) revealed that Romania, along with Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland is an important provider of immigrants in the mentioned period for the EU countries. During the communist regime, emigration was practically the only form migration was manifested in Romania, and in present times this represents an important phenomenon with implications in all areas and at all levels – for example, families that suffer from separation, international problems associated to Romanian migrants in their countries of destination, etc. The instability of the political, economical, and even social environments in Romania determined and still determines more and more Romanians to search for better economical and social opportunities outside the borders of their country. During the last years, Spain and Italy were the most important receivers of temporary emigration from Romania. According to Suditu et al. (2013), Romania has signed a series of bilateral agreements on migration with Spain and both countries developed and implemented strong policies in the area. On the other hand, in Italy this aspect has not been accomplished, effects being strongly perceived in the dimension of the socio-economic effects – mainly negative and materialized in human traffic, ethnic conflicts, or black market development.

The fact that Spain and Italy are the most preferred countries for destination by the

Romanian emigrants is not very clear reflected in the official statistical data provided by the National Institute of Statistics in Romania, as this registers only data associated to permanent migration. However, more recent efforts are oriented towards emphasising the magnitude and the complexity of the international migration phenomenon in Romania. Both temporary and definitive migratory flows are aimed for registration. Based on the Population and Housing Census developed in 2011 and the Household Labour Force Survey, the most recent available data highlights that in 2012 the total number of emigrants was of 2.34 millions. Out of them, 46% were in Italy, 34% in Spain, 7% in Germany, 4% in the United Kingdom, 3% in Hungary, and 6% in other destinations (National Institute of Statistics, 2014). Also, an image closer to reality is reflected by the national institutes of statistics in Spain and Italy, as they register both temporary and permanent migratory flows. The data they provide outlines the importance Romania has among the main providers of immigrants for them. In both countries, Romanians are the most important community of immigrants.

During the last years, Romania along with Morocco represented the main suppliers of immigrants for Spain, and implicitly for Andalusia. In 2010 – the most recent data available at the moment when the research started – 831,235 Romanians residing in Spain were registered. They represented 14.46% of the total foreign population in Spain and 1.76% of Spain's population. In 2013, their number increased up to 870,258 (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, 2014); this was the most recent data available at the moment when the research ended in 2014. They are the most important community of immigrants in Spain. Andalusia, along with the Autonomous Community of Madrid, the Autonomous Community of

Valencia, Catalonia and Castilia-La Mancha is one of the most preferred autonomous communities for residence by the Romanians that emigrate to Spain. In Andalusia, in 2010, Romanians were on the third place among the foreigners residing in Andalusia, at a very short distance of the ones coming from the United Kingdom and Morocco. There were 93,169 Romanians, representing 13.23% of the total foreign population in Andalusia and 1.11% of the total population in Andalusia (Saseanu & Petrescu, 2011); in 2013 their number increased up to 102,352 (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, 2014).

In what concerns the pieces of research in the area provided by the scientific literature, it can be assessed that the phenomenon is not explored and researched to its real potential; many of its facets can be approached. Different investigation directions promoted in the scientific literature refer to motivation, networks, strategies, practices, migration policies, working conditions and other labor market implications, migration models, patterns of mobility and return, and social aspects (Bleahu, 2004; Ahonen et al., 2009; Elrick, & Ciobanu, 2009; Stan, 2009; Stanek, 2009; Marcu, & Gomez Nieto, 2010; Serban, & Voicu, 2010; Bradatan, & Sandu, 2012; Marcu, 2011, 2012, 2014; Moreh, 2014). Ones of the most researched autonomous communities are Madrid and Catalonia. Regarding Andalusia, pieces of research are in an incipient phase and they are mainly oriented towards the application of the Extended Model of Relative Acculturation, the relationships with education and consumption habits, and entrepreneurship (Navas Luque, & Rojas Tejada, 2010; Saseanu, & Petrescu, 2011, 2012; Saseanu, Petrescu, & Zgura, 2011; Dinu, Grosu, & Saseanu, 2015).

Based on a complex and comprehensive case study research carried out among Romanian immigrants in Andalusia, through this paper, we aim to provide a wide image on the migration phenomenon of Romanians to Andalusia and to bring a contribution to the enrichment of the scientific literature existent on this subject. Furthermore, in a framework characterized by the fact that "population growth and its consequences have a long-standing position at the centre of the scientific debate, with the primary goal of predicting trends and creating policies that reflect specific socio-economic conditions" (Škare, &

Blažević, 2015, p. 1036), we approach in this paper a series of socio-economic implications specific to the investigated phenomenon. In this context, we have structured the present paper in two main parts. The first one puts forward a series of methodological aspects associated to the carried out research and the second one outlines the main information resulted from its development. The paper ends up with a series of final considerations.

## **1. Methodological Aspects**

Based on a series of information obtained from a very complex and comprehensive case study research carried out between 2011 and 2014, we developed this paper with the main aim to highlight a series of socio-economic implications on both the sending and the receiving countries, specific to Romanians' migration to Spain, in particular Andalusia region. In this context, we intend to raise awareness among policy makers in relation with phenomenon's magnitude and complexity, for its proper management.

We have developed a descriptive case study as we mainly focused on describing this phenomenon and the real-life context in which this took place (Yin, 2003), but we were also oriented towards carrying out a series of explicative pieces of research that aimed to establish, outline, and explain causal relationships between the obtained variables (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2009). We have chosen this method for investigation in order to properly explore the phenomenon and to reveal its essence (Baxter & Jack, 2008).

The studied subject and the context in which this was placed referred to the Romanian immigrants in the autonomous community Andalusia, Spain. One boundary we have established for the study was in relation with the definition of the term "immigrant". We have based all our research on the definition provided by Eurostat (2011): "immigrants are people arriving or returning from abroad to take up residence in a country for a certain period, having previously been resident elsewhere. According to the 1998 United Nations recommendations on the statistics of international migration (Revision 1), an individual is a long-term immigrant if he/she stays in his/her country of destination for a period of 12 months or more, having previously been resident elsewhere for 12 months or more".

We developed the research starting from the basic question: *What are the main*

*characteristics specific to the migratory process of Romanians in Andalusia?* In addition, we also considered other secondary questions: *What is the general profile of the Romanian migrants to Andalusia? What are the main drivers associated with Romanians' migration to Andalusia? What is their working status in Andalusia, focusing on their entrepreneurial manifestations?*

Through the case study research we aimed to describe the fundamental characteristics specific to the migratory process of Romanians to Andalusia.

The present paper outlines information only in this sense, providing answers to the general research question and to the first two secondary questions.

Aiming to provide a wide image that may reveal multiple facets of the investigated phenomenon, we have used a variety of data sources and we have employed different methods of investigation. We carried out quantitative and qualitative pieces of research focusing our efforts on the following research techniques: questionnaire based survey, observations, semi-structured interviews, and informal discussions.

In what concerns the quantitative research, we carried out a questionnaire based survey among a representative sample of 270 Romanian immigrants in Andalusia – at a confidence level of 90%, out of a total of 93,169 Romanians residing in Andalusia according to the most recent data available at the National Institute of Statistics in Spain (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, 2011a) in 2011 when the research was initiated. As data could not be gathered for the entire population, the statistical inference based on the sample was necessary, and it was mandatory to have face-to-face contact with the respondents (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2009), respondents were chosen using the simple random sampling technique.

Participants in the sample were asked to respond to a questionnaire that we have developed after reviewing the existing scientific literature and various research projects on migration and after having a series of preliminary informal discussions with Romanian immigrants in Andalusia. Taking into consideration the very high level of reluctance that immigrants manifest towards their active involvement in research projects, we have designed the questions in a manner

to facilitate immigrants' answers. Afterwards, in order to improve the initial version of the questionnaire, this was debated along with scholars and experts directly involved in issues related to the migration phenomenon, mainly members of the organizations in charge with immigrants. In order to identify the necessary time for filling in the questionnaire, to test the explicitness of the questions, and to identify if there are any ambiguous questions, we applied the questionnaire on a pilot sample of five Romanian immigrants in Andalusia. The final version of the questionnaire was composed of four parts, the present paper being based on the statistical and econometrical analysis of a series of information obtained from the first two parts, referring to general information associated to the respondents and to general information related to the migration process.

The qualitative pieces of research we have carried out consisted of observations, semi-structured interviews, and informal discussions.

We observed Romanian immigrants in Andalusia in various environments and also during the time we carried out the quantitative research. We had both the roles of observer as participant and of participant as observer, by case. For example, in case of the observation of Romanian immigrants at their jobs, at the place where busses were leaving to Romania, or at the special offices for immigrants' registration, our role was of observer as participant. On the other hand, while observing the Romanian immigrants at church or at supermarkets, our role was of participant as observer.

We also carried out 24 semi-structured interviews: ten face-to-face and 14 by telephone. Even though, based on our research aim, we had elaborated an interview guide in both Romanian and Spanish, there were situations when the number of questions addressed or the order in which they were addressed varied, based on interview's way of development. We mainly interviewed representatives of the Romanian authorities in Andalusia, of the Spanish authorities in charge with migration issues in Andalusia, of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Andalusia, of organizations in charge with Romanian immigrants in Andalusia, and Spanish entrepreneurs with Romanian employees, active in agriculture. In general, we carried out formal face-to-face interviews at the offices of the interviewees, no disruptive factors appeared during their development, and

they lasted, in average, for 17 minutes. On the other hand, the telephone interviews lasted, in average, for 21 minutes and no disruptive factors appeared during their development.

Furthermore, we have held over 70 informal discussions, both face-to-face and by telephone, mainly with Romanian immigrants, but also with representatives of the Romanian authorities in Andalusia, of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Andalusia, and of the organizations in charge with Romanian immigrants in Andalusia.

During the observations, the interviews, and discussions, we have taken 157 pages of notes. We have mainly written information received from the persons with whom interviews and discussions were held, elements of nonverbal language, facts, and personal sentiments in relation with various aspects approached during the research. We outline in the present paper a series of information – related to the characteristics of Romanians' migration process to Andalusia, with focus on its socio-economic implications on both the receiving and sending countries – obtained from the qualitative pieces of research which are mainly processed and explained using the inductive approach.

## **2. Main Features of Romanians' Migratory Process to Andalusia**

In what concerns the sample's structure according to gender, this is quite equilibrated (55.6% females and 44.4% males). On the other hand, according to age, the sample outlines a remarkable presence of respondents aged between 26 and 45. To some extent, this aspect is not surprising as, in general – related to the migration process – the 26–40 age category is of high interest for the labor market and, in the same time, it is a category of already trained persons, with a developed working potential, innovative, flexible and easily adaptable to various conditions (Constantin, Vasile, & Nicolescu, 2004). Approached from the receiving country perspective, this category may generate, among others, two main implications on the labor market. One may be positive, respectively the vacant jobs in low skilled areas are occupied by this category, in general at low wages (lower than ever accepted by residents) and the other may be negative, respectively overcrowding the labor market, resulting in high rates of unemployment, mainly, among residents. In what concerns the sending country, the workers' migration negatively

impacts the labor market, mainly through generating vacancies in different branches.

Also, the migration of young people has a very important social impact on Romania. Children are left home by their parents and they are being cared for by their grandparents, or by only one of the parents in case s/he stays at home. Many of the children get involved in inadequate entourage, are abandoning school, etc. In the same time, young migrants leave behind their parents; many of them are old, living in the countryside with no other support. Being an important social problem that Romania faces, various TV campaigns have been developed by different national TV channels designed especially under the title of "Do you know what your child is doing? / Do you know what your parents are doing?" in order to raise awareness among migrants, Romanian citizens, and policy makers on this major social issues that can evolve to one of unprecedented dimensions.

Considering respondents' educational attainment, the vast majority of them (44.8%) has a high school diploma. Even if in Romania, according to the article 16 of the Law regarding the national education (Parlamentul Romaniei, 2011) "the general compulsory education is of 10 grades and it is composed of primary and secondary education", the majority of the respondents graduated 12, or even 13 grades. However, there are also respondents with a university degree (21.1%) or only with a primary education (16.3%). The migration of highly skilled individuals is a very important problem that Romania faces. Even if Spain is not among the major destinations preferred by the highly skilled Romanian migrants, there are many of them that chose this country. The poor working conditions and the very low level of the salaries, compared to other European countries, in different branches – for example education – determined and still determine many highly skilled Romanians to search for better job opportunities outside the borders of their country. This way, Romania loses important "gray" that could bring an important contribution to the country's development. Another issue related to the migration of educated persons is related to educational mismatch. Many Romanians with an university degree prefer to migrate to Spain in order to work in areas where higher education is not compulsory (such as agriculture – orange or strawberry harvesting –

housekeeping, child or elderly care, etc.) or in areas that do not have any relation with their education and training.

Taking into consideration ethnicity, the vast majority of the respondents (82.6%) are Romanians. However, it is important to remark the quite important percentage of 11.9 hold by the Rroma respondents. According to the information obtained from the qualitative pieces of research, Rroma immigrants from Romania represent an ethnic community with a different culture, with specific customs that needs a special attention and special conditions. No matter their ethnicity, 47.8% out of the respondents are married and 57.4% of them do not have children.

Respondents migrated from Romania, in general, in almost all the years subsequent to the fall of the communist regime until the moment when the research was carried out. Nevertheless, a higher share of migrants is registered in 2006. This fact may be correlated with a series of aspects specific to a prosperous period from economic perspective. The qualitative pieces of research revealed that 2006 was an auspicious year for the constructions and agricultural branches. Implicitly, the salaries in construction and agriculture in Spain were quite high, especially when compared to the salaries in Romania. In this context, many Romanians have decided to migrate to Andalusia to work in these branches in 2006.

The migration of the labor force caused a quite important disequilibrium on the Romanian labor market. For example, in 2006, a series of industries in Romania were confronted with a lot of difficulties in finding personnel for different jobs; constructions was one of the most affected. In order to meet the need for personnel, Romanian entrepreneurs had to hire immigrants, especially from China and Turkey (Horváth, 2007 quoted in Grosu, & Constantin, 2013).

Considering the geographical criterion, respondents emigrated from almost all the Romanian counties. Based on this geographical dispersion and diversity, we have grouped them according to the development regions in Romania. Thus, a higher presence of respondents (18.9%) form the South-East region (counties Brăila, Buzău, Constanța, Galați, Tulcea, and Vrancea) is remarkable. Based on the information obtained from the

qualitative pieces of research, many of the immigrants are coming from the countryside. Their migration, especially of the younger ones, lead – to some extent – to villages only with old population and, in some cases, even to villages depopulation and light extinction.

One of the reasons that could have led to the remarkable presence of immigrants from the South-East region may be represented by the fact that the South-East region is among the poorest regions in Romania. For example, according to the data provided by the National Institute of Statistics (2011), in 2009, the regional gross domestic product per capita was of 18,738.2 lei (lei is the currency of Romania). This way, the South-East region occupied the third place in a top of the regions with the lowest regional gross domestic product per capita, after the North-East region (14,649.3 lei) and the South-West Oltenia region (17,752.8 lei). According to the same source, in 2010, the South-East region took the second place in a top of the regions with the highest ILO unemployment rate in Romania, respectively 8.8%, after the Centre region (10.5%).

In what concerns the province of residence in Andalusia, half of the respondents live in the province of Seville. Also, an important share of the respondents (20.4%) has the residence in the province of Huelva, as outlined in Tab. 1. According to the information gathered through the qualitative pieces of research, the province of Seville was preferred by the majority of respondents as there is the capital of Andalusia, respectively Seville city. They considered that more vacant jobs could be found, especially in areas related to child care, elderly care, and housekeeping and in the agricultural sector – orange harvest. The province of Huelva was chosen for residence mainly for its job opportunities in the agricultural sector. Different from the province of Seville, in the province of Huelva, the harvest of strawberries was aimed; approximately 90% of the total production of strawberries in Spain is produced in the province of Huelva.

The previously mentioned statements related to the choice of the province of residence in correlation with the possibility to find a job – especially in the agricultural area – can be supported by the results outlined in Tab. 2. They advocate the fact that, in general, the first job of the Romanian immigrants in Andalusia was in the agricultural sector. With the main aim

**Tab. 1: Respondents grouping by the region of origin in Romania and the province of residence in Andalusia**

Region of origin in Romania	Absolute value	%	Province of residence in Andalusia	Absolute value	%
North-West	24	8.9	Almeria	10	3.7
Centre	35	13.0	Cadiz	13	4.8
North-East	34	12.6	Cordoba	23	8.5
South-East	51	18.9	Granada	12	4.4
South-Muntenia	48	17.8	Huelva	55	20.4
Bucharest-Ilfov	30	11.1	Jaen	3	1.1
South-West Oltenia	30	11.1	Malaga	19	7.0
West	18	6.7	Seville	135	50.0

Source: own representation based on the data obtained from the questionnaire

to statistically test the hypothesis according to which there is a correlation between the branch in which the job is and the province of residence – as resulted from the information obtained through the qualitative pieces of research – we have computed the nonparametric correlation coefficients Spearman and Kendall tau b between the two variables. For a significance level of 0.01, the correlation is significant (sig. = 0.000) and the correlation coefficients have a value of 0.220 (Kendall tau b) and of 0.242 (Spearman). The results highlight a positive,

direct relationship between the two variables, leading to the idea that the province of residence is positively correlated with the branch specific to their job.

In what concerns the working status respondents had in Romania before emigration, tab. 3 shows that the vast majority (43.7%) did not have a job. This was one of the main reasons for emigrating from Romania, as it will be presented in tab. 4. In Andalusia, at the moment when the research was carried out, it can be observed a relative equilibrated

**Tab. 2: Sample structure according to the branch specific to the first job in Andalusia**

Branch	Absolute value	%
Agriculture	96	35.6
Industry	10	3.7
Construction	24	8.9
Commerce	15	5.6
Hotels and restaurants	37	13.7
Transport	7	2.6
Education	6	2.2
Health and social assistance	22	8.1
Bakery	12	4.4
Cleaning / housekeeping	8	3.0
Auto	1	0.4
Alternative energy	1	0.4
IT	3	1.1
I came to Andalusia in order to study and not to work	28	10.4

Source: own representation based on the data obtained from the questionnaire



situation between the number of respondents without a job (31.5%) and the ones hired at a private enterprise (33%). Supported by the information gathered from the qualitative pieces of research, this aspect highlights the fact that affected by the economic crisis, enterprises have used redundancy as a survival means. Also, it is important to take into account the fact that when the research was carried out, Spain, and especially Andalusia were confronted with a very delicate situation in what concerns unemployment. According to Instituto Nacional de Estadística (2011b), in average, for the first two trimesters of 2011, in Spain the unemployment rate was of 21.09% and in Andalusia of 29.69%, this taking the second place in a top of the autonomous communities with the highest unemployment rate in Spain, after Canarias. An important economic effect associated to Romanian's immigration in Spain is strongly related to the labor market. Romanian immigrants were willing to take jobs that Spaniards were not interested in. For example, Romanians migrated to Spain and started working in agriculture in times when, in general, Spaniards were not interested in working in this area. Nevertheless, Romanian immigrants are perceived by many citizens of the host country as taking their jobs. Romanian immigrants are very appreciated as employees and many entrepreneurs do not want to fire them only to hire Spaniards instead. Also, they

have an important contribution to the revenues of the autonomous community through the taxation system. In general, Romanians are involved in legal activities and always pay their taxes with regularity.

Out of the respondents that before emigration were hired at a private enterprise, the vast majority was working in the commerce sector. The same field of activity was also preferred by the respondents that before emigration had a business in Romania. In Andalusia, the majority of the respondents hired to a private enterprise were working in the agricultural area. In what concerns the respondents that own a business in Andalusia or are in the process of developing one, the main preferred field of activity was commerce.

The main purpose for emigration from Romania to Andalusia was job seeking. This aspect may be in correlation with the fact that 43.7% of the respondents did not have a job in Romania when they decided to emigrate, as presented before. There is also a small share of respondents (6.7%) that immigrated in Andalusia for family reunification. The qualitative pieces of research revealed that this situation is mostly encountered in case of elderly people – that were retired and had children in Andalusia – or in case of the children that emigrated in order to follow their parents. In general, as a migration model we have identified that the female was the first to migrate;

**Tab. 3: Respondents' working status in Romania and in Andalusia**

Working status	Romania (working status before emigration)		Andalusia (working status at the moment when the research was carried out)	
	Absolute value	%	Absolute value	%
Hired at a private enterprise	71	26.3	89	33.0
Hired in a public institution	24	8.9	9	3.3
Hired at an NGO or at an association	3	1.1	7	2.6
Independent	20	7.4	42	15.6
Entrepreneur	5	1.9	4	1.5
In the process of business creation	2	0.7	4	1.5
Without a job	118	43.7	85	31.5
Student	16	5.9	19	7.0
Others (pupil and retired)	11(9+2)	4.1	11(8+3)	4.1

Source: own representation based on the data obtained from the questionnaire

the male was staying at home with the child. After a short period of time – in general, one year – after the mother succeeded in setting, to some extent, her new residence, the father along with the child emigrated from Romania to Andalusia in order to reunify the family. The case of the migrants for family reunification purposes is a very fortunate one. In general, migrants leave their parents and/or children in Romania generating important social problems, as mentioned in the beginning of this section of the paper. Also, there was a respondent that emigrated from Romania with the main aim to start a business in Andalusia. This is the special case of an entrepreneur that, urged by her friends – with a long living experience

in Andalusia – emigrated to Andalusia in order to start a business based on selling traditional Romanian food products as there was no other store in the area and the demand for such products was huge and unsatisfied (Saseanu, Petrescu, & Zgura, 2011). Unfortunately, entrepreneurship is not very pronounced among the Romanian immigrants in Andalusia, although the environment is very auspicious for the development of both opportunity and necessity driven entrepreneurship (Dinu, Grosu, & Saseanu, 2015).

Analyzing the main reasons for emigration from Romania, it can be assessed that the vast majority of the respondents emigrated as the money they earned in Romania were not

**Tab. 4: Main reasons for migrating from Romania**

	r1		r2		r3		r4		r5		r6	
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
0	29	10.7	98	36.3	106	39.3	26	9.6	206	76.3	11	4.1
1	4	1.5	14	5.2	24	8.9	0	0.0	15	5.6	1	0.4
2	7	2.6	18	6.7	23	8.5	5	1.9	9	3.3	3	1.1
3	14	5.2	12	4.4	21	7.8	5	1.9	12	4.4	2	0.7
4	18	6.7	18	6.7	24	8.9	18	6.7	12	4.4	15	5.6
5	40	14.8	23	8.5	13	4.8	45	16.7	6	2.2	32	11.9
6	158	58.5	87	32.2	59	21.9	171	63.3	10	3.7	206	76.3
	r7		r8		r9		r10		r11		r12	
	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%	abs.	%
0	122	45.2	120	44.4	205	75.9	226	83.7	134	49.6	116	43.0
1	36	13.3	20	7.4	14	5.2	17	6.3	9	3.3	15	5.6
2	30	11.1	19	7.0	3	1.1	6	2.2	10	3.7	32	11.9
3	31	11.5	41	15.2	8	3.0	13	4.8	11	4.1	32	11.9
4	12	4.4	21	7.8	11	4.1	2	0.7	21	7.8	37	13.7
5	13	4.8	15	5.6	7	2.6	2	0.7	22	8.1	16	5.9
6	26	9.6	34	12.6	22	8.1	4	1.5	63	23.3	22	8.1

Source: own representation based on the data obtained from the questionnaire

Note: abs. – absolute value

r1 – the money I earned in Romania were not enough for my sustenance or the sustenance of my family; r2 – in Romania, I was not finding a job; r3 – I was offered an employment contract in Andalusia; r4 – I wanted to earn more money; r5 – I was exposed to domestic violence; r6 – I wanted a better living; r7 – the job opportunities Romania offered to me, were very low compared to my expertise and training; r8 – I wanted to work in an environment where I could be appreciated to my true value; r9 – I wanted to study in Andalusia; r10 – I wanted to start a business in Andalusia; r11 – my family was in Andalusia and I wanted to be close to it; r12 – I had some friends in Andalusia and I wanted to follow them.

0–6 – Likert scale used in order to identify the intensity of the respondents agreement in relation with the provided affirmations (0 – total disagreement, 6 – total agreement)



enough for their / their family sustenance, they wanted to earn more money, or they wanted a better life. There are very few the situations when the respondents totally agreed with the fact that they emigrated as the job opportunities in Romania were very poor in relation with their training and expertise, as they wanted to work in an environment where they can be appreciated at their true value, or as they wanted to study in Andalusia (Tab. 4).

Considering the type of residence in Andalusia according to the time criterion, the vast majority of the respondents (83.7%) emigrated to Andalusia for an undetermined period of time. However, there are also respondents that emigrated to Andalusia for a determined period of time, in their case, this being somewhere between 5 months and 10 years. The information gathered via the qualitative pieces of research outlined that this is mainly the case of the persons that came to Andalusia with an employment contract or with a scholarship. However, no matter their type of residence, in what concerns their coming back intentions, it is a slight equilibrium between the ones that would like to come back to Romania forever, the ones that would like to come only to visit, and the ones that do not want to come to Romania anymore. By regrouping the respondents according to the positive character of the coming back intention, only 32.2% would like to come back to Romania forever, while the rest would like to stay in Andalusia. A similar situation is encountered in Karasavvoglou, Alexiou and Zomboulidis (2008) in case of a series of immigrants in Kavala, Greece that, in general, prefer to stay in Greece than to come back to their country of origin. The qualitative pieces of research revealed that even if, at the beginning respondents emigrated from Romania to work in Andalusia for a short period of time in order to raise money and to send money back home, after a while they did not have any intention to come back to Romania; furthermore they manifested intentions to bring their family in Andalusia – a part of it or the whole family. Remittances represent very important revenue for the families of the Romanian immigrants. In Romania, migration – especially through remittances – contributes to the reduction of poverty in different regions and, in the same time, to their development. Remittances encourage and sustain consumption; in general, the tendency

is to invest them mainly in education and in houses construction. Also, they contribute to the increase of the domestic savings. However, a factor with a more pronounced economic and social impact in Romania would be represented by the support of Romanian migrants' return. This could offer a competitive advantage to Romania, on the long run. Romanians that work in Andalusia became more specialized in various areas and they can bring new knowledge, skills, and competences developed in their country of destination that can be capitalized in different jobs in Romania or in entrepreneurial activities. Encouraging and fostering returnee entrepreneurship in Romania may lead also to developing a strong and very competitive country, generating important socio-economic positive impacts (Grosu, 2015), as entrepreneurship is widely recognized as "a key factor in the well-being of society and economic growth" (Tausl Prochazkova, Krechovska, & Lukas, 2015, p. 706) and as the "cornerstone of a modern competitive economy" (Tachiciu, 2015, p. 6).

As in the specific scientific literature, in general, gender and age are often encountered as significant variables in the migratory process, further on we have considered important their analysis and testing in case of the Romanian immigrants in Andalusia.

A review of the social research on the relationship between migration and immigrants' gender leads to the idea according to which immigrants' gender influences the main causes and consequences of the migratory process. There is a high interest among scholars in researching the characteristics of migrants according to gender, the adaptation process in the host country (in case of these two research directions, a special focus is put on female migrants), the main reasons that led to emigration, etc. (Curran et al., 2006). However, according to Mahler and Pessar (2006), in most researchers' outlook, gender is not investigated as a key constitutive element of the migratory process.

In what concerns migrants' age, the specific scientific literature provides different studies in which this is analyzed in relation with the migratory process from different perspectives. Among the most frequently encountered are the structure of immigration according to age (Greenwood, 2007) or the relationship between age at the moment of migration and immigrants'

educational attainment (Cortes, 2006; van Ours, & Veenman, 2006).

With the main aim to study the relationship between the different aspects related to migration as emigration purpose or the main reasons for migrating and gender and age, we have implemented a series of ANOVA analysis and we have tested the nonparametric correlation coefficients Spearman and Kendall tau b. The analyzed variables were established based on the questions in the questionnaire and they are presented and detailed in the next paragraphs.

Factor variables:

Gender – notation: *gender*; codification: 0 – females, 1 – males.

Age – notation: *age*; codification: 0 – under 16, 1 – 16–25 years, 2 – 26–35 years, 3 – 36–45 years, 4 – 46–55 years, 5 – 56–65 years, 6 – over 65.

Dependent variables:

Emigration purpose – notation: *purpose*; codification: 0 – work, 1 – studies, 2 – family reunification, 3 – business start-up.

Reasons for migration – notation: *r1, r2, r3, r4, r5, r6, r7, r8, r9, r10, r11, r12*; codification: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (for each one, according to Likert scale). Each reason for migration, from *r1* to *r12*, is explained and detailed in the notes specific to tab. 4.

After reviewing the statistical literature (Anghelache, 2004) we have established the following set of hypothesis specific to the ANOVA analysis:

H0: The variation of the dependent variable is independent of the factor, respectively the means are equal – the factor is insignificant.

H1: The variation of the dependent variable is dependent of the factor, respectively the means are not equal – the factor is significant.

Where:

dependent variable – purpose and *r1–r12*, by case;

factor – gender and age, by case.

Tab. 5 highlights the results afferent to the ANOVA analysis implemented for the dependent variables *r1–r12* associated to the reasons for migration and for the factor variable *gender*. H0 is rejected only in three cases (*r5*, *r10*, and *r12*). There are statistically significant differences between the different groups of respondents according to gender in what concerns a small share of the reasons they had for migration. For example, in comparison with males, females strongly associate one of the reasons for migrating with the fact that they were exposed to domestic violence. Furthermore, in order to support this statement, we have calculated the nonparametric correlations coefficients Spearman and Kendall tau b for the *gender* and *r5* variables. The obtained results showed that for a significance level of 0.01, the correlation is significant (sig. = 0.000), and the correlation coefficients have a value of – 0.224 (Kendall tau b) and of – 0.235 (Spearman). Furthermore, in case of the *r10* and *r12* variables, even though the differences are not very important – but statistically significant – between males

**Tab. 5: The reasons for migration from Romania to Andalusia. Average scores and ANOVA analysis – factor gender**

	<i>r1</i>	<i>r2</i>	<i>r3</i>	<i>r4</i>	<i>r5</i>	<i>r6</i>
Females	4.67	3.08	2.27	4.92	1.06	5.39
Males	4.83	2.78	2.57	5.08	0.40	5.51
<i>F</i>	0.466	0.902	1.020	0.528	11.560	0.536
<i>Sig.</i>	0.495	0.343	0.313	0.468	0.001(***)	0.465
	<i>r7</i>	<i>r8</i>	<i>r9</i>	<i>r10</i>	<i>r11</i>	<i>r12</i>
Females	1.53	1.97	0.91	0.26	2.51	1.79
Males	1.90	2.08	0.99	0.59	2.14	2.22
<i>F</i>	2.179	0.161	0.129	5.922	1.368	2.801
<i>Sig.</i>	0.141	0.689	0.720	0.016(**)	0.243	0.095(*)

Source: own computations based on data gathered from the questionnaires

Note: (\*\*\*) significance level of 0.01. (\*\*)significance level of 0.05. (\*)significance level of 0.10.

**Tab. 6: The purpose for emigration from Romania to Andalusia. Average scores and ANOVA analysis – factor age**

	purpose
Under 16	1.60
16–25 years	0.47
26–35 years	0.07
36–45 years	0.12
46–55 years	0.13
56–65 years	0.50
Over 65	2.00
<i>F</i>	15.277
<i>Sig.</i>	0.000 (***)

Source: own computations based on data gathered from the questionnaires

Note: (\*\*\*) significance level of 0.01

**Tab. 7: Main reasons for migration from Romania to Andalusia. Average scores and ANOVA analysis – factor age**

	<i>r1</i>	<i>r2</i>	<i>r3</i>	<i>r4</i>	<i>r5</i>	<i>r6</i>
Under 16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.80
16–25 years	3.59	2.86	2.51	4.20	0.57	4.86
26–35 years	5.04	3.18	2.46	5.42	0.87	5.64
36–45 years	5.28	3.09	2.57	5.46	0.86	5.64
46–55 years	5.47	2.84	2.66	5.41	0.75	5.75
56–65 years	4.63	2.69	1.50	4.19	0.75	5.13
Over 65	2.50	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	3.00
<i>F</i>	12.444	1.701	1.675	15.617	0.489	4.088
<i>Sig.</i>	0.000(***)	0.121	0.127	0.000 (***)	0.816	0.001 (***)
	<i>r7</i>	<i>r8</i>	<i>r9</i>	<i>r10</i>	<i>r11</i>	<i>r12</i>
Under 16	1.80	0.00	5.00	0.00	6.00	2.20
16–25 years	1.92	1.51	2.25	0.27	2.49	1.47
26–35 years	1.99	2.29	0.89	0.57	2.12	2.22
36–45 years	1.74	2.23	0.29	0.45	2.03	2.19
46–55 years	1.06	2.16	0.22	0.28	2.34	1.47
56–65 years	0.50	1.63	0.19	0.13	3.06	2.38
Over 65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	1.00
<i>F</i>	2.171	1.937	12.900	0.847	2.960	1.361
<i>Sig.</i>	0.046 (**)	0.075 (*)	0.000(***)	0.534	0.008 (***)	0.231

Source: own computations based on data gathered from the questionnaires

Note: (\*\*\*) significance level of 0.01. (\*\*) significance level of 0.05.(\*) significance level of 0.10.

and females, the first ones strongly associate one of the reasons for migration with their entrepreneurial intentions or with the fact that they emigrated from Romania in order to follow their friends. In case of the other analyzed variables ( $r1-r4$ ,  $r6-r9$ , and  $r11$ )  $H_0$  is accepted. Almost all the respondents, regardless their gender, emigrated to Andalusia as in Romania they did not find a job, money earned in Romania were not enough for their sustenance or the sustenance of their family, they wanted to earn more money, they wanted to work in an environment where they can be appreciated, more precisely, as they wanted a better life.

By assessing the results outlined in tab. 6 specific to the ANOVA analysis implemented for the dependent variable *purpose* and *age* as factor, it can be observed that  $H_0$  is rejected. There are statistically significant differences between different groups of respondents according to age, in what concerns their main purpose for emigrating from Romania to Andalusia. More pronounced differences can be observed between the category of respondents aged under 16 or over 65 and the category of respondents aged between 16 and 65, as, in general, the first ones strongly associate their main purpose for migration in Andalusia with family reunification, while the rest of the respondents mainly emigrated for working purposes.

After studying the results afferent to the ANOVA analysis implemented for the dependent variables  $r1-r12$  and the factor *age* outlined in tab. 7, it can be deduced that  $H_0$  is rejected in case of the variables  $r1$ ,  $r4$ ,  $r6-r9$ , and  $r11$ . There are statistically significant differences between different groups of respondents according to age, in what concerns a part of their reasons for migration. For example, respondents aged between 26 and 55 strongly associate their reasons for migration with the financial situation, respectively with the fact that in Romania the money they earned was not enough for their sustenance or the sustenance of their family and with the desire of a higher income. Even though the financial situation represents an important reason for emigration, the reason related to the desire for a better life is perceived in almost the same manner by all the respondents, regardless their age. Even if the differences are not very pronounced, they are statistically significant.

## Conclusions

The carried out research revealed that Romanians emigrated from almost all the parts of Romania in almost all years after the fall of the communist regime. However, a more pronounced presence is of Romanians from the South-East region and of the ones that emigrated in 2006. The latter aspect may be correlated to some extent with a prosperous period from economic perspective. In Andalusia, most of the Romanian immigrants live in the provinces of Seville and Huelva, mainly because of better job opportunities in agriculture, child or elderly care, or housekeeping. In this sense, most of the Romanian immigrants had their first job in Andalusia in agriculture. However, at the moment the research was carried out, a relative equilibrium between the Romanians hired in a private enterprise – active, mainly in agriculture – and the ones without a job was revealed.

The vast majority of the respondents emigrated from Romania for labor purpose. This mainly happened because most of them did not have a job in Romania. In addition, among the main reasons for emigration from Romania the following can be found: the lack of money for their/their family sustenance, the desire of higher incomes, the desire of a better life. Also, family reunification purposes were envisaged among the investigated immigrants. In general, this is the case of elderly people and/or of children that emigrated to Andalusia in order to follow their children/parents. However, no matter the purposes and reasons for emigration, if at the beginning Romanians left their country with the idea of migration only for a short period of time in order to find a job, to raise money, and to send money back home, after a while, an important part of them did not manifest any coming back intentions. On the contrary, they intended to bring their family – the whole, or a part of it – in Andalusia.

A lot of socio-economic implications – both positive and negative – arise from the migration process of Romanians to Andalusia, for the region of origin and the one of destination. Remittances and the fostering of returnee entrepreneurship represent important positive outcomes for Romania, while for Spain – mainly Andalusia – they may refer to the solving of shortages on the labor market or increase in regional and national incomes. Nevertheless, many negative effects in Romania are

related to social issues – children and/or old parents left behind, school dropouts, children involvement in dangerous entourages and/or in illegal activities, etc. – and also to economic ones, especially specific to the labor market – shortages, brain drain, etc. In Andalusia, labor market implications, such as the lack of job opportunities for the Spaniards may represent a series of negative impacts specific to the Romanians' immigration. However, a proper management of this migration phenomenon may bring an important contribution to the socio-economic development of Spain – especially Andalusia – and Romania.

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Abstract

# THE MIGRATION PROCESS OF ROMANIANS TO ANDALUSIA, SPAIN. FOCUS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

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*Based on a case study research carried out among Romanian immigrants in Andalusia, Spain, through this paper we aim to outline a wide image of the investigated migratory process. The focus is on the description of its fundamental characteristics and on its socio-economic implications for both the sending and the receiving regions. In this context, we aim to raise awareness among policy makers in relation with the magnitude and complexity of the phenomenon, for its proper management.*

*Statistical and econometrical analysis were developed in order to process the information gathered through the quantitative research, while the inductive approach was used in order to analyze the information obtained from the qualitative pieces of research.*

*The scarce financial conditions in Romania determined many people to search for job opportunities – in particular in agriculture, child or elderly care, or housekeeping – in Andalusia, especially in the provinces of Seville and Huelva. However, during the past period, the economic crisis was strongly putting a mark on the Spanish economy and many of the investigated immigrants were unemployed. Even though, in general, their coming back intentions were not very clear. Socio-economic implications – both positive and negative – arise from the migration process of Romanians to Andalusia, for both the sending and the receiving countries. Remittances, solving shortages on the labor market, or increase in regional and national incomes may fit in the first category, while the second category may be composed of examples such as families left behind, school dropouts, children involvement in dangerous entourages and/or in illegal activities, tensions on the labor market etc.*

**Key Words:** Migration, immigrant, Romanian, Spain, socio-economic aspects.

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