



Centre for Research on Settlements and Urbanism

Journal of Settlements and Spatial Planning

Journal homepage: <http://jssp.reviste.ubbcluj.ro>



Dynamic Aspects of Internal Rural-Urban Migration during 1998-2009 in Republic of Moldova

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Keywords: *rural population, rural-urban migration, Republic of Moldova*

ABSTRACT

The rate of rural population in Republic of Moldova is one of the highest rates in Europe. The majority of the population is engaged in the individual agricultural sector that is characterised by reduced productivity and small incomes generated by small salaries and small shares in the total incomes. High unemployment rate generates a high level of poverty which is higher than in urban areas. The stability of rural population depends on the economic activity in the respective zone, by creating conditions to attract young population in the agricultural sector and engaging women in non-agricultural activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

In Republic of Moldova migration of people from rural to urban areas is a voluntary migration motivated by several factors: economic, social, psychological. Lack of economic opportunities, unemployment and poverty are the main factors forcing rural people to go to urban areas for a better life, employment, bigger wages etc. Rural communities have lagged behind the urban ones regarding the main indicators of economic welfare, recording lower incomes, higher poverty rates, higher level of unemployment rate and lower health and education indicators.

As on January 1, 2011, the population in rural areas was equal to 2074000 people, representing 58.2% from the total population [1].

The share of rural population in Republic of Moldova is higher than in other countries from the region.

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

For the elaboration of this work paper we used qualitative approaches and statistical data of National

Bureau of Statistics. The first method consists from data collection and office research based on analyses of existing statistical data.

The second consists in creating a graphic and a chart about dynamic of rural migration and the age structure of rural migrants. The statistical data were reflected by a map which showed spatial aspects of rural-urban migration from Republic of Moldova.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The high level of migration has an impact on economic activity of the population from Republic of Moldova and particularly in rural areas.

In 1999 the rate of economical activity in rural areas was 62.6%, in urban areas 59.7%, as in 2006 to reach only 43.7% in rural areas and 49.7% in urban areas.

According to data from the State Enterprise "Register", the number of people who migrated from rural areas of the country to cities were 530 930 persons, in the period 1998-2009. Therefore, we can say that there was a phenomenon of depopulation of rural areas in the country. The largest number of migrants was registered in the years 2002-2008. In

2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007 the number of internal migrants from villages to cities exceeded 50,000 people.

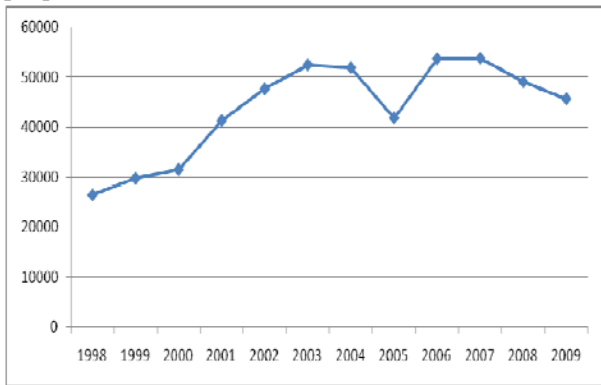


Fig. 1. Dynamics of rural-urban migration in the period 1998-2009 in Republic of Moldova.

Currently the flow is decreasing, mainly due to depletion potential migration of rural area (weight adults (students) aged 16-25 years has declined, already come to study fewer generations).

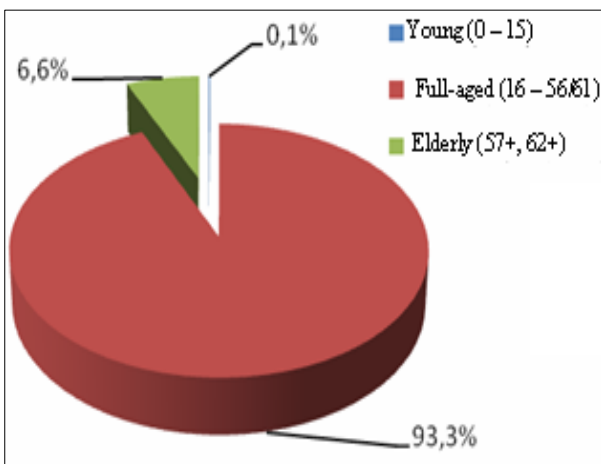


Fig. 2. The age structure of migrants.

In the age structure of migrants (fig. 2) adult population (93.3%) prevails. The working population particularly registered migration. In terms of age, the students are including in the same group. In this period their annual rate was about 40,000 people. Elderly share is of 6.6%, and the children - only 0.1%. Since 2008 the share of adults and the elderly has begun to fall whereas the share of the children has grown. This is explained by changing of residence visa, the parents (from abroad) preferring to locate their children in urban area due to more favourable living conditions, better access to infrastructure, etc.

In terms of territorial (fig. 3), the largest migration flow was directed to Chișinău – 59.7% or 322 451 persons. This is due to the numerous advantages of capital to other cities: the largest city, the capital city, major university centre, modern infrastructure, the presence of many jobs, etc. It should be noted that most

of those who come to the capital are young people who are studying first, then are attracted by these advantages. Among other cities stands the city of Bălți, which concentrates 8.7% of all migration flows.

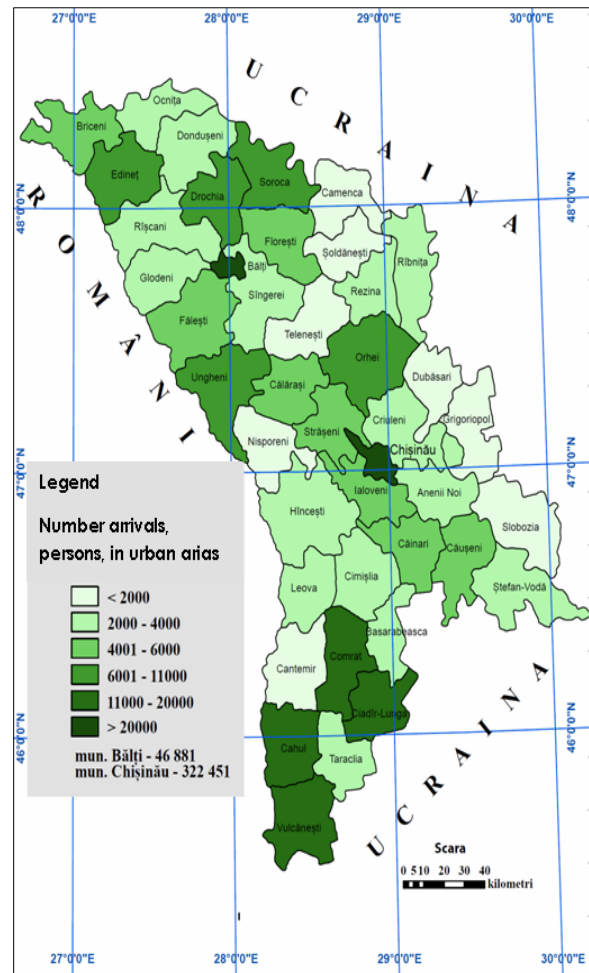


Fig. 3. The rural-urban migration in the period 1998-2009, in terms of territory

In general, in Bălți are the same causes, as in the capital, but his attractiveness is much smaller. Among regional centres of attraction of the rural population can be mentioned Gagauzia (in the past included districts Comrat, Ceadr-Lunga, partially Vulcănești, where with the creation of the autonomous administrative units increased the importance of some cities as Comrat (capital autonomy, university centre). In recent years also become attractive cities as Ungheni and Cahul.

A minimum migration flow on the rural-urban direction registered Cantemir, Nisporeni, Telenești and Soldănești (traditional rural areas that have a peripheral position to municipalities).

Minimum values occurred in some districts on the Left Bank of the Dniester (Camenca, Dubăsari, Grigoriopol and Slobozia), which is explained by the high share of urban population (about 60% by region), maintenance of rural infrastructure and possible restrictions from the authorities.

4. CONCLUSION

Generally the reducing rate of migration dynamics in recent years is caused by depletion potential of rural areas.

The large share of the working age population in the age structure of migrants leads directly to decreased the reproductive potential of rural areas.

The opening of the enterprises, the foreign investments in regional centres will blend territorially the migration.

The migration of the rural population is a binding phenomenon for Republic of Moldova, but also has negative consequences related to rural depopulation.

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