

The Romanian Community in the Netherlands

The migration process has been studied by different researchers and there has been made an analysis from different perspectives (i.e. Demographics, Geography, Economics, Sociology), elaborating, thus, schemes and theories that try to make explicit the extent of this phenomenon. Regardless of the time, migrations from one area to another have been achieved and aimed at through goals, and motivations varied intensities. The migration phenomenon in itself raises many issues, just as their prospects are multiple spelling. Migration or territorial mobility of the population is not limited to travelling from one region to another, but it is a much broader process, bringing into the equation more components, and regardless of the mechanisms that make them functional or influencing their manifestation, it generates a variety of effects.

Furthermore, all the changes occurred are seen in the economical, social, political, cultural and religious life. They reveal themselves both at the place of origin, where potential migrants move on from, as well as at their destination. On one hand, there stands a "hole", as missing those left is something natural between the family members and the local community, too, and, on the other hand, integrating the new-comers amongst the destination communities triggers problems regarding both housing and employment.

The defining of the migration from Sociology perspective shows us the fact that this is based on economical, social and cultural arguments. A.G.Johnson defines migration as " a physical displacement of people inside the social systems and between them". Whatever is its destination, the migration of the Romanians is a topic point, having the power to influence the social life from Romania nowadays. In the last quarter of the century, most Romanians chose to live in Italy, where there live over 1,000,000 of Romanians, and, in Spain, where they live over 700,000 people. Other foreign countries with a large number of Romanian immigrants are Germany and The United Kingdom. In comparison to these countries, the number of Romanians who live in Holland is very modest, i.e 23,020 people.

The scientific approach is structured in 2 essential steps: first of all, the general issue of the international migration was analyzed under the appearance of the historical dimension,

through the conceptual theoretical framework, through the enunciation and the analysis of the main theories on the migration phenomenon, and analyzing the effects and consequences of the migration phenomenon from Romania. Furthermore, there was introduced the methodology of empirical research, the history of the migration and the actual mobility of the Romanians in Holland, and the structure and the history of the Romanian-Dutch relationship. Secondly, there were exposed the results of the empirical research dedicated to the knowledge and analysis of the Romanian community in Holland, where we have deepened the arguments of the Romanian migration towards Holland, the characteristics of the Romanian community in this country as well as the way the Romanians are integrating on the labor market, and in the social-cultural life from there. Also, we have presented the main institutions of the Romanians, as well as the Romanian online frame, adding some successful careers of the Romanians living in Holland, which we have extracted after some detailed interviews with the Romanians there.

The general targets of the research are related to the knowledge of the dimension and characteristics of the phenomenon of international migration and the movement of the population in the contemporary world, as well as the disclosure of significant data about the Romanian community from Holland. In this way, there have been followed the deciphering of the life and work conditions, and their own integration in the social and cultural Dutch life. In close relationship with the general objectives, there is a series of objectives specific to the research: the research of social, economical, and professional profile of the Romanians from Holland; the finding of the resorts which led to the displacement of the Romanians in Holland; the identification of the main reasons for which the Romanians have chosen to work in this country; the knowledge of the type of job which Romanians have in Holland, their monthly income and the investments that have been made; analyzing the relationships which Romanians from Holland have with their family from Romania, with the Dutch, and with other Romanians from Romania; the identification of the degree of satisfaction of the Romanians, regarding the living and work conditions in Holland.

For a detailed exposure of the dimensions of the Romanian community from Holland, there has been appealed to an empirical research, based on the use of some methods, both quantitative and qualitative.

Statistical method and the opinion survey based on sociological applied questionnaire,

there have been used the investigative methods in order to obtain quantitative results. In this way, I have applied a questionnaire in Romanian, composed out of 67 questions, 9 of which are open-cloze, and 58 are closed questions. Among the indicators which stayed at the base of the questionnaire developed, we include: sociodemographic data, the main reason for living in Holland, the type of job performed, the difficulties in obtaining a job, monthly incomes, relationships with families from Romania, with Dutch, as well as with other Romanians from Holland, studies that they have attended in Holland, the future perspectives after graduation, life satisfaction in there, religious contribution, traditions and customs kept or adopted in Holland. The questionnaires were applied online, by a form designed in Google Drive and face to face through the operator. The average necessary time of a questionnaire completion was of 45-50 minutes. And then, the research data were download and processed in the program IBM SPSS Statistics 20, having a total of 73 variable.

Some of the qualitative methods used in there, we can mention the analysis of documents and the case study. Using the case study method, I have sketched 9 (nine) succesful careers of the Romanians from Holland, known through my experience and direct contact, in the nine months spent in Holland, to complete the research. Also, I have appealed to structural, comparative and historical analysis, studying documents and other statistical data from official sources (CBS, INS, OIM) and from others specialty papers. The official statistical data obtained in Central Statistical Office from Holland indicates a number of 23,020 Romanians in Holland, of which 13,188 are women and 9,833 aremen, who have settled in here, mainly after 1990. The sample used in this research included a number of 387 Romanians, who live in 79 cities from Holland , aged over 18. Also, it has proven effective the online questionnaire application for the Romanians who live and work in cities from the center of the country (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Haga, Delft), but ,also, for other cities where the Romanians from Holland are spread over, as they have not settled in closed communities or enclaves, compared to other nationalities in Holland (Indonesians, Turks, Polish).

The empirical research has been realized in Holland, in the main cities of this country: Zundert, Rotterdam, Delft, Utrecht, Maastricht, Alkmaar, Leiden, Eindhoven, Tilburg, Amstelveen, Almere, Haarlem, Groningen, Breda, Zoetermeer, Amersfoort, Rijswijk, Vilssingen, Drachten, during the period April 27th, 2015- June 27th, 2015.

The Romanians migration to Holland has been developed on basic migrant networks and, after Romania`s integration to the European Union in 2007, the number of the Romanians who head to Holland increased considerably, although the Dutch state it has taken some restrictive measures regarding Romanians acces on the labor market. If after 2007, the number of the Romanians who emigrated in Holland was of several hundreds per year, and, after the labor market liberalization from Holland (January 2014), the Romanians number increased to 5,000 per year. Regarding the main reasons for which the Romanians chose to leave in Holland, in the first period (-2000), they emigrated mainly for the reuniting families, as a result to the mixed marriages between Dutch citizens and Romanian citizens, and, in the next period (2001-2010), the main reason becomes that of finding a job in Holland. Out of our research, there has resulted that 38,7% of surveyed Romanian have chosen to leave in Holland to work.

The Romanians are spread all over the Netherlands territory, without settling enclaves, and most of them live in large urban concentrations, in the central areas and in the South: Amsterdam (21,7%), Haga (11,6%), Zundert (10,8%), Eindhoven (8,5%), Rotterdam (4,5%).

The Romanian community from Holland is a very well-placed community, from the of cultural perspective, taking into account the fact that, from their professionalism point of view, most Romanians from Holland have higher education (63,9%) studies. Holland is a target-country to the brain drain, due to several issues, i.e. the characteristics of the Dutch society: its material, technological and high living-standards, as well as issues regarding the climate of the country or the official language.

Keywords: immigrant, Romania, Holland, migration, mobility.