

THE MIGRATORY DYNAMICS IN THE RURAL AREA OF CONSTANȚA COUNTY

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Abstract: The main purpose of this paper is the analysis of the migration dynamics of the rural area from Constanța county. This study comes to sustain the relevance of nowadays context which is marked by a series of social and economic changes at the level of the rural area presented. Moreover, the complexity of this area can be observed also due to the multiple relations which occur between Constanța county and its adjacent area. Constanța municipality is characterized by an enhancement in the build-up space between its administrative boundaries, fact which determined a considerable part of the population to migrate towards rural villages situated in the metropolitan area, due to the favorable living conditions. This aspect has favored the urban to rural migration in the last few years. Also, there are migration flows which go beyond the county's boundaries, shaping international migrations, specific to the rural areas of the county that can be characterized by an unfavorable socio-economical evolution.

Key words: rural population, urban-rural migration, spatial dynamics, Constanta County,

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INTRODUCTION

The migration phenomenon is one of today's most controversial and debated subjects, constantly being present on the social agenda (Moraru et al., 2015) and also political and/or public political debates at an European and international level.

The complexity of the migratory phenomenon implies multiple way of defining. Thus, most of the authors define migration as a departure in and between different social systems (Szczepanski, 1972; Johnson, 2007; Guran-Nica et al., 2011) seen as a switching of population between two areas: the leaving and the receiving Vert, 2001; Dimitriu et al., 2013).

Moreover, migration also implies the seasonal, temporal or permanent changing of the living area (Vert, 2001; Erdeli & Dumitrache, 2006). The complexity of the migrating phenomenon consists of not only in the influence upon the demographic balance but also in the intensity at which it happens, causing changes in the structure and in the spatial distribution of the population, equally in the leaving and receiving areas.

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The complex characteristic of the migration is given by the vast motivational pallet (Sandu, 2000). As a result of the multiple produced effects, migration is seen as a fundamental ax of contemporary functionality and social dynamics (Thumerelle, 1986). Due to this, migration implies more than changing a living area; it implies a change in the social, cultural and professional area (Vert, 2011).

Migration influences the variation of the number, structure and special distribution of a population, and at the same time generating effects on a social, demographic (Zamfîret et al., 2011; Guran-Nica & Sofer, 2011; Șorcaru, 2013; Șosea, 2013) and economic (Stașac & Bucur, 2010; Guran-Nica & Sofer, 2011) level.

In Romania, in the past two decades, the population dynamics has played an important role in the economic, social and political life of the rural space (Stașac et al., 2010; Guran-Nica et al., 2010).

The purpose of this work is to analyze the migration dynamic from the rural area of Constanța county. Migration had and still has a major role in the demographical evolution of the analyzed territory, defining demographical patterns which are the result of a cumulus of factors (historical, political, social, and cultural).

Due to the favorable natural factors, the evolution of the studied territory, has established a great mass of allochthonous population even from ancient times, followed by Romanian population, marking different stages of evolution, each of which having specific population movements and varied motives.

Because the analysis is based on the spatial mobility recorded in the last years, a predominant regressive migration can be seen (town-village) and an international one as a result of the recent socio-economic evolution and of the motivating changes that have interfered in the migratory plan.

The socio-economic evolution of Constanța county offers the status of a development pole for the South-Eastern Region, fact that has determined an intensification in the building area, between its administrative boundaries, which comes as a justification for the majority of the population that has decided to move their home, to choose rural villages that are located outside the metropolitan area, due to the favorable living conditions.

Also, the migratory flows, that surpass the county's boundaries and are considered as international migrations have to be mentioned. They mainly consist of the population from the rural regions of the county and are characterized by a disadvantageous socio-economic evolution.

METHODS

The dynamic analysis of the rural area of Constanța county has been made by calculating data gathered from the National Institute of Statistics. The raw data had been processed using the formula of migration rate represented as the difference between the immigration rate and the emigration rate, calculated for 1000 inhabitants. Migration data were processed and mapped by means of GIS soft and later on they were interpreted from the perspective of the factors that influenced the evolution of the migration for the study area.

The statistic data have been collected for the period 1990-2011, which was divided into two phases for a better understanding of the causes and changes that took place in the mobility of the population between these periods of time.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

By analyzing the net migration at the level of the rural space from Constanța county, a fluctuating evolution can be seen, mostly due to the action of the economical factors. Thus, it can be observed that, at the beginning of the studied period, the migration has a negative value (-646 persons in 1992) as a result of the switch from a centralized economy to market economy. This situation has generated at the beginning of the '90s a difficulty in adapting to the new economical context (figure 1)

Subsequent, the migratory phenomenon has recorded a considerable increase, as a result of the high value of arrived people, reaching its first peak in 1998 (2,341 people), followed in 2014 by a second high increase (namely 2,488 people) and in 2008 the highest value of net migration will be reached (namely 2,899 people).

It can be said that, although there is a fluctuation in the net migratory evolution in the rural space from Constanța, a negative value will not be reached until the end of the period.

The fluctuating evolution of net migration from the analyzed rural space is the immediate result to the population's level of adaptability to a economical context characterized by a relatively high instability, meaning that most of the times, the population chooses for a living space which can provide a better life style (that implies an assured working place which is better paid).

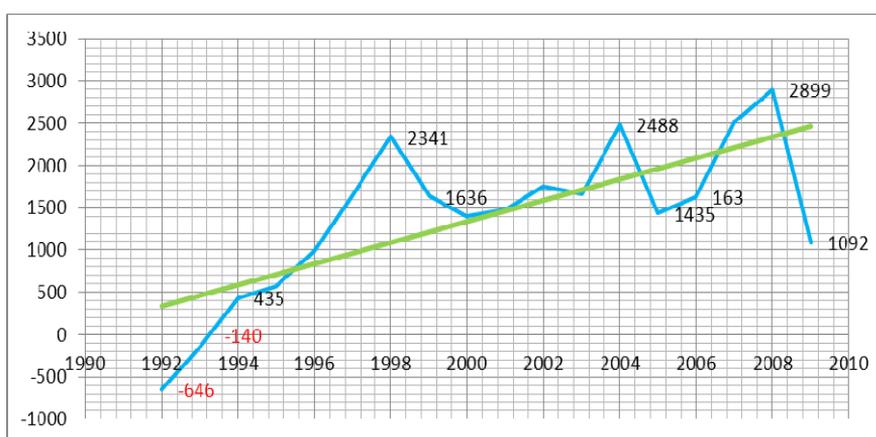


Figure 1. The migratory dynamics from the rural space of Constanța
(Data source: National Institute of Statistics)

In the analysed period the lowest value of the migration rate was recorded in Oltina (-14%), and the maximum value is of 32% in Cumpăna village (figure 2).

Negative values of the migration balance were recorded in the villages from the southern part of Constanța: Lipnița (-21%), Saligny (-10%), Rasova (-9%), Siliștea (-9%), Ciobanu (-6,5%), Seimeni (-6%), Crucea (-5%), Ciocârlia (-4%) (figure 2). These villages are characterized by a less favorable socio-economic status in which the main economic activity is agriculture affected by the restrictive physical geographical conditions (prolonged drought, limited water resources).

A positive migratory rate can be observed at the rural level and in villages from Constanța, resulting in administrativ-teritorial units with higher values localized in the Metropolitan area of Constanța: Cumpăna (32%), Lumina (21%), Corbu (19%) sau în zona litoralului: Agigea (23%), Limanu (16%) (cu mici excepții: Costinești 1%); acestora se adaugă comunele cu valori medii: Valu lui Traian (10%), Mihail Kogălniceanu (9%), Castelu (8%), Tuzla (8%), Nicolae Bălcescu (5%), Cobadin (5%).

These villages are characterized by high attractiveness for the migrating population due to the socio-economic conditions and to a good connectivity to the transportation network, fact that facilitates the commutation period for those working in the polarizing center (figure 2).

Based on the analysis of the tendencies of evolution of the migratory increase la the level of villages from the rural part of Constanța county, there have been indentified more typologies:

- linear ascending configurations that are characteristic to villages which, during the period 1992-2008 have recorded superior values for arrived people compared to the number of people that left. This type of configuration is very frequent in the case of villages that are situated in the Metropolitan Area of Constanța county and are characterized by a constant positive evolution in the last years (e.g. Cumpăna, Valu lui Traian, Limanu, Corbu) (figure 3).

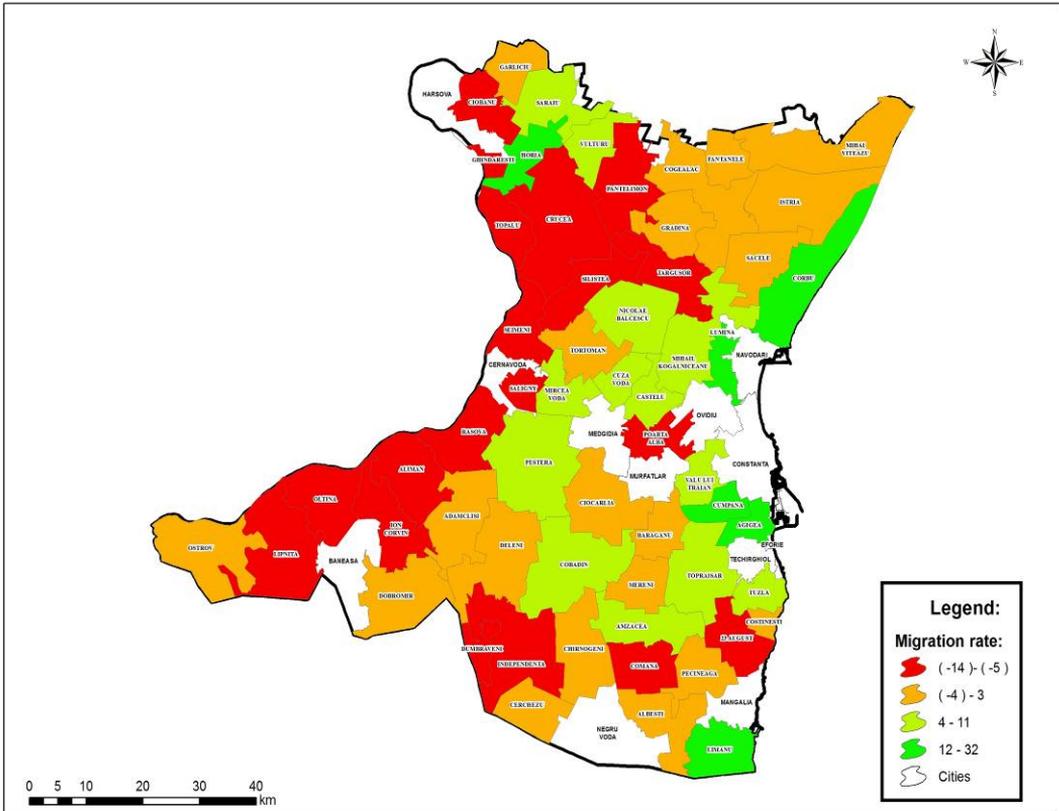


Figure 2. The migration rate in the rural area of Constanța County
 Source: National Institute of Statistics

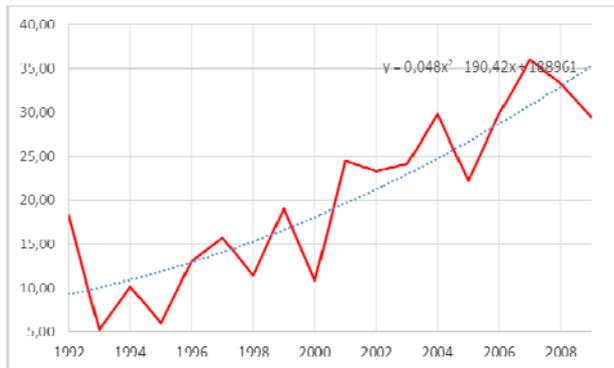


Figura 3. The increase in the migratory evolution in Cumpăna village
 (Data source: National Institute of Statistics)

Villages characterized by a slightly ascending evolution in which the migratory increase records positive values when talking about the number of arrived people that maintains itself by higher and slightly growing values compared to the number of people that left are also included in this category (e.g. Pecineaga, Castelu) (figure 4) or those where there is a stagnation (characterized by a balance between the immigrant number and the people that arrived (e.g. Costinești, Grădina, Saligny).

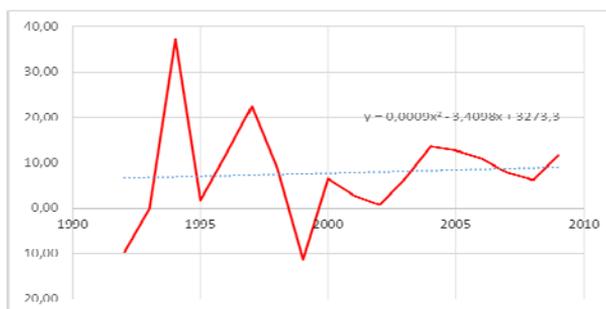


Figure 4. The increase in the migratory evolution in Pecineaga (1992-2008) a village
(Data source: National Institute of Statistics)

- configuration with at least one convexity, is specific to villages that record fluctuations during the studied period represented, in most of the situations, by the instable socio-economic evolution and also being marked by short recovery periods (e.g. Chirnogeni, Dobromir, Dumbrăveni, Oltina, Ostrov, Saraiu, Silișteea) (figure 5).

It can be observed that in some villages characterized by an obvious economic downfall, the number of people that left has consecutively recorded considerable increase.

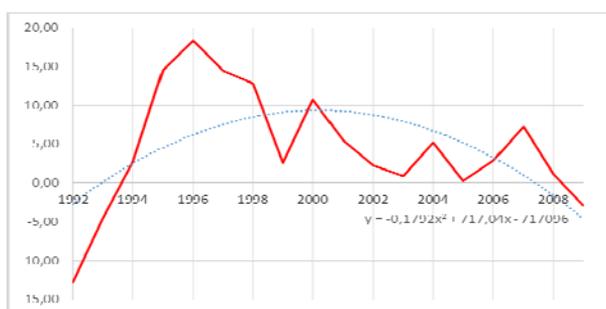


Figure 5. The migratory increase in Chirnogeni village (1992-2008)
(Data source: National Institute of Statistics)

- linear descending configuration, characteristic to villages which have recorded negative values of the migratory increase throughout the studied period (mainly the numbers of arrived people are inferior to those of the people who have left the villages for more years in the studied period) (e.g. Mihai Viteazu, Mihai Kogălniceanu, Cobadin) (figure 6).

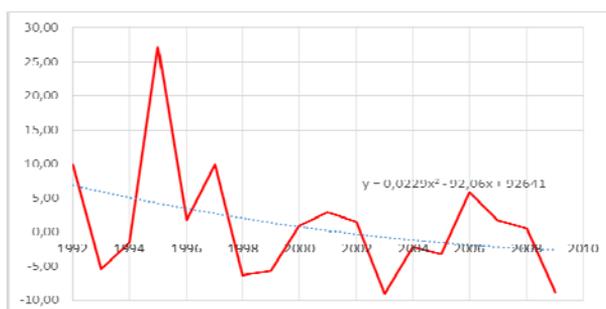


Figure 6. The evolution of migratory increase in Mihai Viteazu village (1992-2008)
(Data source: National Institute of Statistics)

CONCLUSIONS

The phased migratory analysis at the level of the rural area of Constanța County shows the fact that every interval has specific population movement. The studied area has known, since ancient times, important mobility flows of population (foreign population colonized for political reasons) which generate multiple effects on a demographical plan (from the increase in the population number to the change of etnical and religious structure etc.)

The migratory analysis in the rural area of Constanța County between 1990-2011 was necessary in order to reflect the changes that took place on multiple levels (demographic, social, economic).

The economic and social development of Constanța county and the relationships' intensification with the neighboring rural space were the main factor in the urban-rural migration increase. The preference of living in the metropolitan area of Constanța county is justified by the need of having individual houses in a less congested and more airy area (a lower density of build space, low-rise building: P+1 or P+2, presence of green areas).

Villages set in the Metropolitan area of Constanța County are part of the administrative-territorial units which have the highest increase rates at a county level, this being mostly due to the population afflux that settles in the rural area and not so much to the natural dynamic.

In Constanța county there are villages that are characterized either by a reduced level of socio-economic development or by the consequence of less favorable living conditions (mainly the villages situated in Dobrogea plateau characterized by an arid climate which narrows the agricultural development), or as a result of isolation (villages placed too far from the main communication network). This village category is characterized by a demographic downfall, on one hand determined by the decrease in the natality rate and on the other hand, part of the negative migratory balance.

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