

# Migration and Sustainable Development in the Context of Globalization

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## *Abstract*

Globalization represents for some people freedoms, while for others it is a destiny to be rewritten through great human sacrifices. As a result of globalization, migration has triggered political tensions in many parts of the world, which has led to the need to sign an act aimed at integrating migrants, strengthening their rights and clearly delimiting legal and illegal migration. The controversial act in Marrakech signed in 2018 by over 150 countries is considered a factor that has the role of encouraging the migration phenomenon worldwide. Currently, there are approximately 258 million migrants in the world, which represents 3.4% of the world's population. Of these, approximately 80% are migrants with legal forms. Given that the social factor is one of the three pillars of sustainable development, in this article we will address the migration factor in Romania, developing a critical analysis on the developments undertaken in this regard. We will approach the migration phenomenon, both from the point of view of the indigenous population that leaves Romania, and from the point of view of those who enter and stay in the country, to conclude, in what way, this phenomenon folds under the conditions of sustainable development. We propose that this paper analyze the economic links between the migration phenomenon and sustainable development in Romania, in the context of globalization through an econometric analysis. This econometric model will determine whether or not there are influences on globalization.

*Keywords:* migration, sustainable development, globalization

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## Introduction

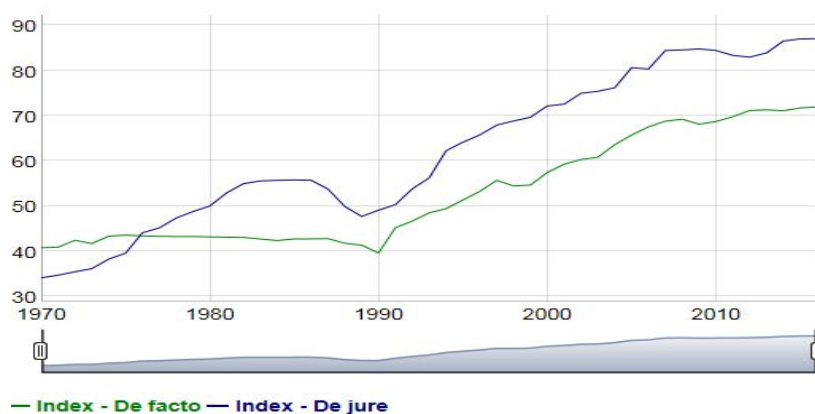
Globalization is a phenomenon that is constantly expanding as a result of economic freedom, according to which capital, labor and goods move without constraints anywhere in the world, starting from the freedom of each individual to work and create value, in the spirit of a healthier society, with a cleaner environment and without poverty.

Given that globalization is a rather complex process, since many factors are involved and implies the existence of many variables, it was necessary to find a form of measurement, of indicators that would allow monitoring and modeling of globalization.

These indicators are in a continuous dynamic, as is globalization itself, being constantly improved and revised as a result of the factors involved and the studies and researches carried out in this regard.

In this article we will address some of the globalization indicators. Thus, based on the data on the number of emigrants and the number of immigrants, we will try to determine the correlations between variables and other indicators that measure the level of sustainable development of the country, the factors that influence the migration phenomenon and the links between them, between 1994 and 2017, in order to identify those causes that determine the positive changes of migration in our country, from year to year.

**Figure 1. KOF globalization indicator - Romania - evolution 1970-2018**



Source: KOF Swiss Economic Institute [26]

The globalization index (KOF) is an indicator that "reflects the degree of economic, social and political globalization of a country, without making positive or negative evaluations on the result" [26]. In addition to the three main variables of globalization, the KOF indicator calculates the sub-variables related to real economic flows, economic restrictions, data on information flows, personal contact data and cultural proximity data, in total 23 variables, this being a composite indicator. In 2016, Romania occupied the position 36 [26], out of a total number of 207 countries, for which this indicator was calculated, which shows that Romania is a country open to the outside, through all three fields, economic, social and political, taken in the calculation of the indicator, as well as variables.

The Human Development Index (IDU) is a comparative measure of life expectancy, literacy, education and standard of living [29]. Thus, this indicator is used to compare the level of development of a country, to the detriment of GDP per capita, which measures only material prosperity and not other socio-economic indicators.

Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is a composite index, which is based on corruption data from specialized surveys conducted by several leading independent institutions. It reflects the views of business people and analysts around the world, including experts from the countries being evaluated.

The Economic Freedom Index (ILE) documents the positive relationship between economic freedom and a variety of positive social and economic goals. The ideals of economic freedom are strongly associated with healthier societies, cleaner environments, per capita wealth, human development, democracy and poverty eradication [30].

### **1. Migration in the world and sustainable development**

Globalization has also determined the increase in the demand for workers, by displacing the labor factor, which has led to the emergence of economic migrants leaving from poor countries to developed or developing countries in order to obtain income necessary for survival. Some of these revenues are sent back to the countries of origin. Outside the globalization phenomenon, people migrate because in their countries of origin there are conflicts, violence, major human rights violations, unfavorable climatic factors or for the reunification of families (the case of family members from former colonies located in North Africa).

Migration brings economic benefits, both, to the host countries and to the countries of origin. In the host countries, vacancies are covered and economic growth is supported, and, in the countries of origin the problem of unemployment and financial sources is solved, as a result of the incomes that are returned. Equally,

a number of disadvantages can be generated. If we look at the host countries, the migration phenomenon can have a negative impact on public services, earnings, unemployment, increased crime, human trafficking, etc. If we look at the countries of origin, they lose young people, qualified people (the phenomenon of brain drain) and a series of social problems caused by the elderly and the children who remain abandoned in the countries of origin. "The children left behind suffer emotionally because of the lack of parents with consequences on their educational performance and their emotional development" [1].

Generally, the vast majority of migrants travel over short distances and, as a rule, they return to their countries of origin, compared to those who migrate over long distances. Returning to the countries of origin implies the bringing of capabilities and economies along with certain somewhat improved cultural manifestations.

In order to create a common framework of reference to regulate the global problem of migration, the United Nations has initiated the generic migration agreement, the Marrakesh act, taking into account the Euro-African declaration adopted at the Moroccan conference that migration it is "a necessary positive and favorable phenomenon contributing to global development" [31]. However, as this agreement was signed, it starts from the idea that migration is a right, with no distinction being made between the rights of refugee migrants and those of illegal migrants, because their protection and support, both, in the country of origin and in the country of destination must be different.

The migration phenomenon, as it is manifested today, is somewhat in the opposite direction with the premises of sustainable development, because sustainable development means much more than economic growth. Sustainable development, intensely promoted in recent decades, means the coexistence of three pillars, economic, social and environmental, to which, recent research also adds the cultural pillar. The cultural integration of migrants requires huge efforts, both, for the state of destination (substantial expenses to provide support for integration), for the native population of the host country, regarding xenophobia, and for the migrants themselves, who bring with them the specific culture and customs of the countries where they come from. The concept of sustainable development, in the context of the migration phenomenon, becomes a challenge, given the difficulties caused by mobility and the fact that something stable can be built only on a solid foundation and not on an extremely volatile environment.

This is the reason why a significant number of European countries have not signed this agreement, given the associated risks for, both, the countries of origin, transit and destination, so this agreement starts from the premise of cooperation in order

to optimize the benefits that global migration could bring and mitigate the risks associated with this phenomenon.

## **2. The migration phenomenon in Romania. Does it conforms to the principles of sustainable development?**

### **2.1 Theoretical approach**

Global problems need global solutions. Thus, the 2030 Agenda, together with the 17 strategic objectives, was created and adopted at the United Nations Summit for Sustainable Development [27]. The European Union is committed to play an active and responsible role in achieving the goals of sustainable development, guaranteeing to its citizens that "no one will be left behind".

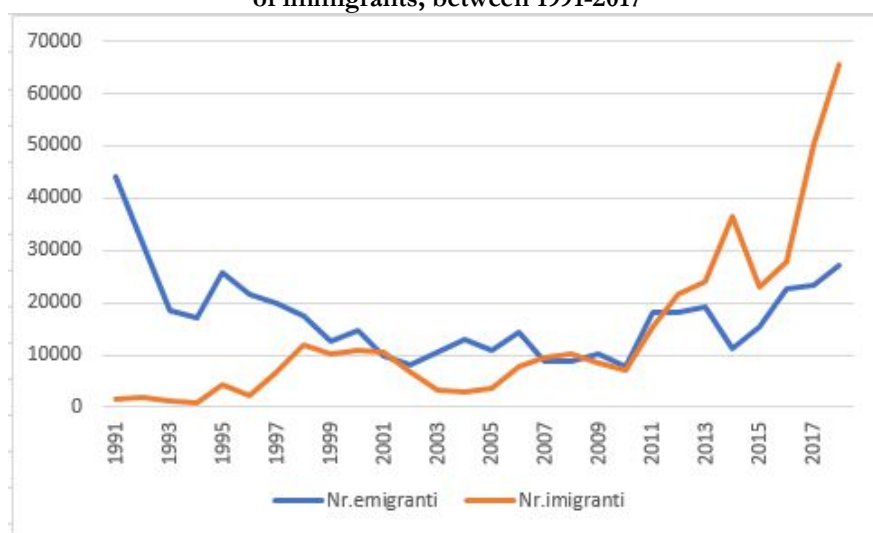
For its part, as a member of the international community and of the European Union, Romania participates in the joint effort to promote sustainable development by implementing, step by step, each objective set in the agenda.

One of the main objectives of Romania concerns the development of social capital. The declining population is a major problem and affects the sustainable development of the country and society as a whole. This decrease is due to both, the negative natural increase and the migration phenomenon that has grown in the last two decades. For every thousand inhabitants, the natural increase of the population decreased from 3, as it was registered in 1990, to -1.4 in 2008, reaching -3.1, in 2017. In the interval between 2005- In 2015, between 3.5 and 4 million Romanians left the country, the vast majority of those left being represented by the active population, at the age of reproduction. In this way, the phenomenon of population aging and the decrease of the total number of people is recorded. If in 2015, the population of Romania was about 19,511 million inhabitants, the forecast for 2030 is about 17,639 million inhabitants and for 2050, around 15,205 million. [23]

As can be seen in Fig. 2, the number of emigrants has exceeded that of immigrants, starting in 2011. The phenomenon of "brain drain" has increased, as a result of the exit of the highly qualified workforce, with higher education, and the entry into the field of work in Romania of persons with lower qualifications.

For these reasons, Romania needs a coherent migration policy that attracts specialized workforce and promotes circular migration (departure of population to acquire knowledge and skills and return to the country to bring experience, new skills and innovation, with participation to the state to stimulate them from a financial point of view and to the recognition of diplomas obtained abroad). Only through a coherent and sustained policy Romania will be able to transform this phenomenon of "brain drain" into "brain gain".

**Figure 2. Evolution of the number of emigrants, compared to the number of immigrants, between 1991-2017**



*Source: processing of authors based on Eurostat data*

In particular, in the medical field, the effects caused by this phenomenon are major (increasing the mortality rate among newborns, increasing the number of citizens who do not have access to medical services, etc.) and in total disagreement with the goals of sustainable development.

The amounts that were spent for the training of the 20,000 doctors, who emigrated from Romania, amount to about 400 million EUR, money that was lost by the Romanian state [4]. Roman and Goschin [6] analysed the intention of this segment to return to the country and only 24% of those interviewed through an online questionnaire gave an affirmative answer.

Without limiting ourselves only to the medical sector, in order to reduce the number of Romanians leaving the country, to find a better life, Romania needs a major change of approach regarding young people and members of the diaspora. Investments are needed for quality education that is correlated with the need for labor force, coming from the economic environment. Moreover, it is necessary to consider a certain system of financial incentives for the recruitment of young graduates and internship. Regarding the diaspora, the Romanian state could encourage those established abroad, through certain incentives, to involve them in domestic affairs by supporting Romania's interests (for example, for attracting foreign investments).

## 2.2 Empirical approach

From 1991 until now, Romania has experienced several periods that have favored major changes and ultimately led to a rather high migration flow.

The population of the country in 1994 was 22,750,000 inhabitants [23]. After the communist period, the flow of migrants was very high, choosing to move to developed countries for a better life. The vast majority of emigrants left Romania in order to find a better paid job than in their country of origin. Many residents also emigrated for studies, considering that the country of destination can reserve a multitude of non-existent fields in Romania.

At the same time, the index of human development from that post-communist period, shows us the situation of the inhabitants of Romania who have a life expectancy of about 60 years, the degree of literacy and the level of schooling is of average level (high school - day/remote/evening courses), and the standard of living is considered modest.

The corruption perception index and the economic freedom index are two indicators that we have tried to estimate, but knowing exactly if the estimated data are correct, our analysis will start from 1994, where the estimated data are lower and will continue until the year 2017.

**Table 1. The number of emigrants, immigrants and globalization indicators of Romania for the period 1994-2017**

Year	No.emigrants	No.immigrants	IDU	KOF	IPC	ILE	CSN(E)
1994	17146	878	0,681	49,41	3,40	41,8	72,16
1995	25675	4458	0,687	51,33	3,41	42,9	80,38
1996	21526	2053	0,695	53,22	3,42	46,2	83,14
1997	19945	6600	0,696	55,67	3,44	50,8	78,12
1998	17536	11907	0,698	54,44	3,00	54,4	104,34
1999	12594	10078	0,704	54,63	3,30	50,1	93,45
2000	14753	11024	0,709	57,41	2,90	52,1	107,19
2001	9921	10350	0,715	59,27	2,80	50,0	116,01
2002	8154	6582	0,724	60,28	2,60	48,7	121,23
2003	10673	3267	0,734	60,80	2,80	50,6	128,87
2004	13082	2987	0,746	63,57	2,90	50,0	147,70
2005	10938	3704	0,755	65,71	3,00	52,1	205,88
2006	14197	7714	0,767	67,52	3,10	58,2	245,71

Year	No.emigrants	No.immigrants	IDU	KOF	IPC	ILE	CSN(E)
2007	8830	9575	0,781	68,78	3,70	61,2	312,23
2008	8739	10030	0,795	69,22	3,80	61,7	355,45
2009	10211	8606	0,798	68,11	3,80	63,2	328,28
2010	7906	7059	0,797	68,70	3,70	64,2	330,41
2011	18307	15538	0,798	69,76	3,60	64,7	340,73
2012	18001	21684	0,795	71,14	4,40	64,4	338,20
2013	19056	23897	0,8	71,29	4,30	65,1	357,32
2014	11251	36644	0,807	71,09	4,30	65,5	381,81
2015	15235	23093	0,813	71,70	4,60	66,6	418,22
2016	22807	27863	0,815	71,92	4,80	65,6	455,60
2017	23156	50199	0,816	72,11	4,80	69,7	511,81
Total	480696	386092					

Source: database created by the authors, by collecting data from several sources

Based on the data in Table 1, we performed several statistical and econometric analyzes to demonstrate the economic links between the migration phenomenon and the sustainable development in Romania, the context of globalization.

**Table 2. Correlations between globalization indicators**

	No. emigrants	No. immigrants	IDU	KOF	IPC	IL E
No. emigrants	1					
No. immigrants	0,016058009	1				
IDU	0,363758245	0,693957361	1			
KOF	0,504690058	0,658814074	0,97142833	1		
IPC	0,177353255	0,773987714	0,69302770	0,57714014	1	
ILE	0,399338593	0,760146992	0,95171692	0,94881130	0,68892217	1

Source: processing of authors in Excel

A first analysis consists in correlating all the factors that are encountered in globalization. Thus, it is observed that IDU has an indirect and low intensity connection with the number of emigrants, which shows that they do not start from considerations related to the low level of schooling or life expectancy, but from the desire to evolve socially and professionally, to discover in other developed



countries another level of human development. In the same way, if we look at IDU in correlation with the number of immigrants, we can see that the connection between the two indicators is direct and of medium intensity, which shows that our country is also competitive in terms of human development, in the context of globalization.

The globalization index (KOF) largely retains the IDU principles, with an indirect link, of medium intensity with the number of migrants and a direct link, respectively, of the same intensity with the number of immigrants. On the other hand, the connection between KOF and IDU is direct and of very high intensity, which shows that these indicators directly influence each other.

At the index of corruption perception we can speak of a paradox, because it does not directly influence the number of emigrants, but it directly influences the number of immigrants. We can refer to this, the fact that our inhabitants do not migrate due to the corruption and the heavy legislation and are not updated at the level of global standards, although in the countries of destination the perception of corruption can be much clearer and at the same time lower, and from the point of view of immigrants, they pay close attention to everything that is unclear, which may be subtracted from the law, or which may influence certain illegal events.

The index of economic freedom has seen a constant increase from 41.8, to 69.7, during the analyzed period, less in 2002.

The net gain in the euro also experienced an increase, with certain decreases caused by the parity of the leu-euro exchange rate.

**Table 3. Regression Output**

ANOVA						
	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Significance F</i>	
Regression	3	2190717663	730239221	13,253911	5,43791E-05	
Residual	20	1101922599	55096129,95			
Total	23	3292640262				
	<i>Coefficients</i>	<i>Standard Error</i>	<i>t Stat</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>Lower 95%</i>	<i>Upper 95%</i>
Intercept	-46379,012	30582,66213	-1,51651323	0,1450371	-110173,3271	17415,3035
IPC	9247,5024	4464,350619	2,071410429	0,0514706	-64,96977681	18559,9746
ILE	453,7204	600,3983773	0,75569891	0,4586383	-798,6886695	1706,12947
CSN(E)	3,1210124	42,55280668	0,073344453	0,9422606	-85,64258696	91,8846117

*Source:* processing of authors in Excel

It is observed that the number of immigrants is influenced by the CPI, ILE and CSN (E). Based on this observation, I performed a regression equation with which the influences of these factors (Significance F) are further highlighted.

The mathematical form of the regression equation is:

$$\text{No. immigrants} = -46.379 + 9247,5 \text{ IPC} + 453.7 \text{ ILE} + 3.12 \text{ CSN(E)}. (1)$$

The model is valid considering that Significance F has a value of 5.43791E-05 and is lower than the significance threshold value 0.05.

### 3. Conclusions

Although Romania announced the signing of the Global Compact (as it was called in the official documents the Marrakesh Pact), it finally abstained from voting. According to the MFA statement "Romania chose to vote abstention in order to have a balanced approach, taking into account the lack of a consensus at European level, in the context in which the quality of the future Presidency of the EU Council determines this neutral position" [28].

In the midst of the migrant crisis, according to the EU decisions of 2015, Romania had been allocated a number of 4,180 illegal migrants, who came through Italy and Greece, but in reality the actual number of those who entered our country was much smaller. , due to the fact that the actual number of migrants was also lower than initially estimated. It is worth mentioning that there were countries in the EU that refused to receive refugees (Austria, Hungary, Poland) or who stopped cooperating within this relocation mechanism (the case of the Czech Republic), as well as signing the Global Compact, there were quite a few EU member countries that refused to sign the pact.

Given that there is no consensus at European level regarding the migration phenomenon, although the European Union has committed itself to play an active and responsible role in achieving the sustainable development goals contained in the 2030 Agenda, it is difficult to estimate to what extent each country will could achieve these goals, especially when we refer to the social pillar.

For these reasons, certain aspects concerning the social component of sustainable development, and in particular the migration phenomenon, should be very carefully considered. In this regard, in the following articles, we will focus our study on the priorities with which the objectives should be approached so that the four pillars coexist in a balanced way.

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### List of figures

Figure 1. KOF globalization indicator - Romania - evolution 1970-2018

Figure 2. Evolution of the number of emigrants, compared to the number of immigrants, between 1991-2017

### List of tables

Table 1. The number of emigrants, immigrants and globalization indicators of Romania for the period 1994-2018

Table 2. Correlations between globalization indicators

Table 3. Regression Output