

THE PHENOMENON OF MIGRATION IN ROMANIADA Ioana¹**Abstract**

This article presents the theoretical framework and the results of a secondary research about the phenomenon of migration in Romania, using data from the National Institute of Statistics. The main objective of the study aims to identify the factors that determine the migration of Romanians to other countries. According to the results, the top countries most attractive for Romanians as a destination are members of the European Union, which offers a series of advantages in the areas of: health, cumulative work experience, social protection. From the analysis of the secondary research data it appears that the satisfaction of physiological needs in the case of migrants determines accessing the higher level, that of security. In Romania, the main investments chosen by emigrants upon returning to the country are: investing in home improvement; improving living conditions; buying a home; purchasing a car and investing in children's education.

Keywords: expenses, living conditions, migration, standard of living, unemployment;

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Introduction

We choose to write this article because the phenomenon of migration has been common for years in Romania, the country we came from.

Migration is the phenomenon that consists of the movement of several people from one country to another, with the aim of engaging in for an activity and implicitly changing their residence. Most often the tendency is to migrate to other countries to find a better paying job that is enough to support a family (Cojocaru *et al*, 2006).

Migration is the phenomenon that consists of the movement of crowds of people from one territorial area to another, followed by a change of residence and/or employment in a form of activity in the arrival area (Zamfir&Vlasceanu, 1998).

Migration has two forms: *immigration* or internal migration – the totality of entries of citizens of another country into a given country and *emigration* – the totality of exits of citizens from a given country. With migration, both the home and the workplace, the culture and the social status of a person go to change (Zamfir&Vlasceanu, 1998).

Migration can be *permanent* or *temporary*. Romanians see this migration process as a chance for a better life, with fewer deprivations. But they do not always have the opportunity to move their entire family with them and then sacrifices appear. Or there is the possibility of not integrating into the new culture, climate, social or legal system (Sandu, 2010).

The jobs that Romanians find abroad are mostly seasonal (temporary migration), but there are also jobs for longer periods of time that also involve accommodation (such as permanent migration).

However, there is also the possibility that the workplace does not meet people's expectations or that there are cultural and language differences, which can lead to loneliness among those who have left home (Anghel&Horvath, 2009). Regarding other negative effects: relationships between spouses deteriorate, the number of divorces increases, relationships with children are disrupted (Ionescu, 2008).

With the 1989 revolution that ended the communist regime, migration began to have more and more followers. In our country before 89' there were two migration mechanisms: permanent migration which had its political and ethnic motivations and temporary migration to study or to work abroad. This was reduced and based on intergovernmental agreements between countries (Bulai, 2006).

After the revolution, there was a tendency for Romanians to escape from the former communist country rather than emigrate, Romanians trying to satisfy their need to see and experience something other than what was imposed to them (Anghel & Horvath, 2009).

After Romania enter in the Schengen area (1st of January 2002) and 5 years later in the European Union (1st of January 2007) Romanians began to emigrate to countries such as: Germany, Spain, Italy, Great Britain (Sandu, 2010).

Following the 2011 national data bases, a greater tendency for women than men to emigrate to Italy was found for jobs such as caring for the elderly or in factories, where the work is not as hard and the salary is much higher than in Romania (Ionescu, 2008). Men chose work in construction (Great Britain, Italy), agriculture (Spain, France) or in factories (skilled or unskilled workers).

Romanians have also chosen to leave for countries such as United States of America, Canada and Australia, but the emigration process is much more complex than for European countries. Migration to the USA is difficult due to the way visas are obtained, which was and is a difficult process, there were also opportunities such as visa lottery, better chances of emigrating.

Explanatory theories of migration

Regarding the explanation of phenomenon of migration, there are two types of theories: *macroeconomic* ones that emphasize the effect and balance that migrants bring to the labour force, and *microeconomic* ones that take into account the role of the family in making the decision to emigrate (Feraru, 2011). *Push-Pull Model* explained by the father of migration theories, Ravenstein believes that this “push” vs. “pull” process is found in most emigrants. First, there is one or more reasons that push a person to make the decision to emigrate, and second, there is the attraction to another country or city (Rotariu, 2009).

Everett argues that each destination is defined by positive factors – attraction, negative factors - repulsion and neutral ones- based on an indifferent attitude. Push factors (negative) are: lack of jobs, lack of opportunities, inadequate conditions, desire for more religious freedom, politics, illiteracy, inadequate medical care, hunger, drought, insecurity, lack of affection, natural disasters, pollution, poor marriage prospects, persecution, slavery, poverty, loss of wealth, death threats, harassment, wrong mindset, discrimination, war.

Pull factors (positive) are: demand for labour, employment opportunities, better living conditions, the feeling of having political and religious freedom, education, adequate medical care, attractive climate, security, family ties, industry, greater chances of marriage, free expression (Bădescu, 2013).

The *theory of cumulative causation* belongs to the category of *neoclassical theories*, which argues that migrants contribute to the economic development of the country to which they emigrated, especially when they are educated, qualified for the jobs they have and motivated (Myrdal, 1957).

Neoclassical economic theory (Sjaastad) says that migration is based on the demand and supply of labour. Countries that have vacant jobs, but not the necessary labor force, are the main attractions for residents of other countries that do not offer an equally high wage level (Bădescu, 2013).

Contemporary migration theories also include the theory of human capital, which represents the level of training, education, experience and knowledge of a person. It is said that people who have a higher income have also higher education or extensive experience in the field of which they work. For those with an average level of education, the salary level is much lower and difficult to change (Becker, 1994).

Neoeconomic theory argues that the family plays an important role in the decision to emigrate. The individual who wants to emigrate consults with family members about this issue or is pushed from behind to this kind of decision (Stark, 1993).

Social capital theory or network theory states that networks are formed among migrants that aim to provide support and help those who are new to the country. These networks can encourage migration by speaking the same language, creating friendship that can compensate for home desire and feelings of loneliness (Gurak & Caces, 1992).

The institutional theory focuses on the companies and institutions that offer migrants transportation, accommodation, telephone, internet and television services at acceptable prices. Many migrants use these services because they feel safer than if they had to solve all these issues on their own in a foreign country (Jennissen, 2004). The main reason why Romanians choose to leave their country is lack of money. This phenomenon can be explained based on Maslow's pyramid theory. According to Abraham Maslow's theory, human needs can be arranged in a pyramid depending on how urgent they are. At the base of the pyramid are the strongest needs, called *physiological needs*, which cannot be controlled. These are related to hunger, thirst, sleep, breathing, clothing.

Then comes the *need for security*, which includes financial and moral security, meaning having a place to live (a roof over your head), having a salary/income from which you can buy what you need, and at the same time, not having any forms of abuse in the family you live in, also to have health.

Interpersonal relationships and the *need for belonging* are next in Maslow's hierarchy, including relationships of friendship, love, and collegiality, having a loving family and relatives, to have privacy and sense of connection.

The penultimate place in this hierarchy is occupied by the *need for self-esteem and respect*, whether it is received from those around them or obtained as a result of one's own work. It can be obtained through academic and professional achievements and also by the need to be unique as an individual.

In last place is the *need for self-actualization*. This last level is quite difficult to reach, but it brings the individual enormous satisfaction, because this is the level that he reaches when he manages to achieve what he set out to do on his own initiative. It can include morality, creativity, spontaneity, acceptance, experience purpose, meaning and inner potential (Cosmovici, 1996).

According to Abraham Maslow's hierarchy and the tendencies of Romanians to emigrate, we observe an inclination to give up certain needs in favor of others. People who emigrate to have a higher material level temporarily give up the need for belonging, leaving the rest of their family in the country and leading to a completely different life from that it has at home, in a new and unfamiliar environment. The same happens with the need for recognition and self-realization in some cases, but most of the time, these needs can be fulfilled at

the cost of a lack of belonging. The lack of satisfaction of the need for belonging can be felt both by the person who migrates to another country and by the family members who remain at home. Migrants have two acquire goals, one of which is to satisfy personal needs and the other thing is to satisfy the needs of family members. In addition to the needs in Maslow's hierarchy, children, for example, need the best possible education, and parents who work abroad try to provide them with all the conditions to be able to learn and not abandon their studies due to the need to have an income that can help with household needs.



Figure 01: Abraham Maslow Pyramid
 Source: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html>

The need for security is usually satisfied when the migrant finds a well-paid job and has a place to live. In Romania, on the other hand, on a minimum wage, a worker cannot afford to live a decent life without any debt, so many choose to go to work abroad because the salaries are much higher than in our country.

In addition to a more affordable salary, many employers abroad also offer Romanians accommodation during the period they are employed there, which is a great advantage, in the sense that the money they would have paid for accommodation represents money saved that can be spent on family or other expenses, such as food or other necessities.

Many Romanians employed in the country have gone abroad in the past and experienced working abroad, at much better salaries, but most of them returned because of homesickness and family. It is also known that many Romanian emigrants leave with their entire family, but here we are talking about permanent migration that allows them to accommodate their family members in a new culture. If we talk about temporary migration for work, we focus on the idea of sacrifice of one of the parents to offer their children a better life from a material point of view, but with emotional shortcomings.

Money are the main reason why Romanians emigrate temporarily to other countries, but many of those who emigrate permanently do so because other countries offer a different lifestyle and the system is very different. The

opportunities for those who settle in more developed countries are much greater, and the fact that many of those who emigrate end up living a decent life there, without deprivation and with more chances to evolve professionally, brings them much greater satisfaction compared to living in Romania. The children of those who settle in other countries have better chances of a better education and better-paid jobs than in Romania (Șerban & Toth, 2007).

Migrants increase the demand for goods and services, strengthen national production and, in general, bring more income to the state, through taxes, than they receive through social assistance (Rotariu, 2009, p.64).

The change in the demographic structure of Romania is a negative effect that migration has on the country, as a demographic aging trend is observed. This is due to the migration of the young population (aged between 20 and 40 years) which leaves the elderly behind (Sandu, 2010).

Economically, we are faced with a decrease in the labor force in Romania, especially in cases where emigrants represent unskilled workers who would have been a major labor force in the country's factories. Although the labor force decreases, there is also a positive effect on the economy, namely the money invested by emigrants in the country of origin. Once the money received for working abroad is sent to relatives in the country, they invest it in the construction of a house, the purchase of a vehicle, pay taxes and duties to the state, and this is a plus for the Romanian economy, even if the emigrant's workplace is not on Romanian territory. (Cojocaru, et all, 2006).

Also on the economic level, negative effects are caused by the stay of Romanians in the country they emigrate to. The problem is not that they move their residence there, but that a large part of them settle in other countries illegally.

A negative effect that appears on the emotional level is that of loneliness of emigrants. This happens in the case of those who emigrate alone and have no one there to spend their free time with, or, even if they do, the language often prevents them from communicating (most often those who go abroad have colleagues who, like them, emigrate from their country and live with people of another nationality). This happens in the case of those who are offered accommodation by their employer, but for those who find a home on their own, loneliness has a different face. When a person has roommates, even if they fail to communicate, they have company, but in the case of those who live alone, the company they have is only the virtual one with their family (Ionescu, 2008).

This is the most negative effect that temporary migration has, relationships with family go through various changes, and the absence of a family member is felt by everyone else.

As research questions:

1. What are the factors that determine migration?
2. What is the number of job vacancies by national economy activity?
3. How is the standard of living of Romanians compared to that of citizens from other European Union member countries per capita?

Research design

The research we conducted is a secondary analysis on data bases from Romania from National Institute of Statistics and Romania in Numbers. It aims to describe the phenomenon of migration taking into account factors that may determine it. The data analysis is based on the entire population studied according to the following characteristics: permanent or temporary emigration, age and gender, registered unemployed by residence area (urban and rural) and gender, average household income by income categories, expenses, number of live births, average usable area per person, housing occupancy status, average annual rate and average annual number of job vacancies by activities of the national economy, standard of living in EU countries in relation to per capita consumption.

The objectives of this paper aim to:

1. Identifying factors that can determine migration;
2. Identifying employment opportunities by activity sectors;
3. Comparing the standard of living of Romanians with citizens of other European Union countries.

Results and Discussion

Migration is a phenomenon that has demographic, economic, social and cultural effects in Romania. It has positive effects (it contributes to economic growth through labor and consumption, enriches cultural diversity, etc.), but also negative effects (it can cause pressure on public services, social tensions, and changes the demographic

structure by age groups due to the massive departure of the young and qualified population, leading to demographic decline and imbalances on the labor market).

In the last five years, emigration to Romania has had an upward trend according to the table below.

From the table 1 below, we can see the upward trend of permanent emigration in the last five years. It can be seen that compared to 2020, in 2024 the value of emigration from Romania is more than double, increasing from 21031 in 2020 to 51062 in 2024.

Table 01: Permanent Emigrants by Gender, Macroregions, Development Regions and Counties of Departure

Sexes	Development macroregions and counties	Periods				
		Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024
		UM: Number of people				
		Number of people	Number of people	Number of people	Number of people	Number of people
Total	TOTAL	21031	34341	48438	48612	51062
Male	TOTAL	9610	15955	23195	23276	25301
Female	TOTAL	11421	18386	25243	25336	25761

Caption: ':' – missing data; 'c' – confidential data; 9999,00 - normal – definitive date; 9999,00 – bold underlined – significant data; 9999,00 - bold – revised data; 9999,00 - underline- provisional data

Source: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#!/pages/tables/insse-table>

As with permanent emigration, temporary emigration has shown an upward trend over the past five years. It can be seen that the number has increased from 186,818 in 2020 to 229,180 in 2024, with a higher rate of temporary emigration among males.

Table 02: Temporary Emigrants by Age Groups and Ages, Sexes

Ages and age groups	Sexes	Period				
		Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024
		UM: Number of people				
		Number of people	Number of people	Number of people	Number of people	Number of people
Total		186818	216861	202311	239244	<u>229180</u>

Male	107275	131038	118653	149357	<u>131967</u>
Female	79543	85823	83658	89887	<u>97213</u>

Caption: ':' – missing data; 'c' – confidential data; 9999,00 - normal – definitive date; 9999,00 – bold underlined – significant data; 9999,00 - bold – revised data; 9999,00 - underline – provisional data
 Source: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

From the analysis of secondary data from the National Institute of Statistics, in the table below it can be seen that the unemployment incidence in 2024 is higher than 30%, which means that these people do not find an employment opportunity according to their qualifications and no job that does not require a qualification (according to Tab.3).

Table 03: Incidence of Long-Term Unemployment¹⁾ (%) as Percentage of the Total Unemployed¹⁾

	Year 2024	
Total (12 month and over)	33,4	<i>Total (12 months and over)</i>
Male	33,4	
Female	33,4	
Urban	41,3	
Rural	29,8	

Caption: According to the international definition (ILO - International Labour Office).

Source: Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS).

Another cause that influences the migration phenomenon is represented by the difference between the average total monthly income per household (Tab.4) in relation to the monthly expenses per household by macroregions (Tab. 5).

Table 04: Total Average Monthly Income per Household, by Income Categories and Main Social Categories, by Macro-Regions and Development Regions

ABF – Income categories, cash and in-kind income	ABF – The main social categories	Macroregions and development regions	Period					
			Quarter I 2020	Quarter I 2021	Quarter I 2022	Quarter I 2023	Quarter I 2024	Quarter I 2025
			UM: Lei, lei RON (starting with 2005)					
Lei								
Total revenue	Total	TOTAL	5118,93	5491,73	6227,22	6981,27	8049,39	<u>9147,97</u>

Caption: ':' – missing data; 'c' – confidential data; 9999,00 - normal – definitive data; 9999,00 – bold underlined – significant data; 9999,00 - bold – revised data; 9999,00 - underline – provisional data

Source: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

Table 05: Average Monthly Total Expenditures per Household by Expenditure Categories and Main Social Categories, by Macro-Regions and Development Regions

ABF Expenditure categories, cash and in-kind outlays	ABF Main social categories	Macroregions and development regions	Period					
			Quarter I 2020	Quarter I 2021	Quarter I 2022	Quarter I 2023	Quarter I 2024	Quarter I 2025
			UM: Lei, lei RON (starting with 2005)					
			Lei	Lei	Lei	Lei	Lei	Lei
Total	Total	TOTAL	4269,25	4655,89	5323,93	5974,1	6843,42	<u>7666,55</u>

Caption: ':' – missing data; 'c' – confidential data; 9999,00 - normal – definitive data; 9999,00 – bold underlined – significant data; 9999,00 - bold – revised data; 9999,00 - underline – provisional data

Source: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

The data shows that the amounts left after expenses are small. Therefore, the quality of life can be influenced because the remaining money is not enough for the monthly payment of a loan or for buying a home or paying the monthly rent. This fact can determine a series of changes such as: the impossibility of starting a family (postponing marriage or consensual union), the increase in the age at which young people can afford to access a loan to acquire a housing space, the decrease in the birth rate due to the increase in the age at which couples plan to conceive a child.

Table 06: Difference between Income and Expenses

	Quarter I 2020	Quarter I 2021	Quarter I 2022	Quarter I 2023	Quarter I 2024	Quarter I 2025
	UM: Lei, lei RON (starting with 2005)					
	Lei	Lei	Lei	Lei	Lei	Lei
Income	5118,93	5491,73	6227,22	6981,27	8049,39	<u>9147,97</u>
Expenses	4269,25	4655,89	5323,93	5974,1	6843,42	<u>7666,55</u>
RON remaining	849,6	835,8	903,3	1007,2	1206	1481,4
1 Euro = 1,05 RON						

Caption: Calculation made by the authors of the article based on official data from the INSS.

Source: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

According to the data in the table 7, a decrease in the birth rate can also be observed for the age segment between 15-44 years, an increase in the birth rate in 2020 for the 45-49 year old segment, a decrease in 2021 and then a return to growth between 2022 and 2024.

In addition to income, the size of the living space of the home can also contribute to the decrease in birth rate. According to the data, the number of square meters is reduced, which creates discomfort. The argument is based on the data in the table below, which shows the average useful area for one person. Therefore, the addition of additional people leads to an even greater decrease in the number of square meters/person.

Table 07: Live Births by Father's Age Groups and Mother's Age Groups, Macroregions, Development Regions and Counties

	Period
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Mother's age groups	Macroregions, development regions and counties	Year 1990	Year 2000	Year 2010	Year 2020	Year 2021	Year 2022	Year 2023	Year 2024
		Number of people							
Age mother	TOTAL	314746	234521	212199	211273	203418	182083	164004	<u>148916</u>
under 15 years old	TOTAL	580	529	732	760	766	751	648	<u>594</u>
Between 15-19	TOTAL	47326	31764	21775	18372	17916	16070	14714	<u>13222</u>
Between 20-24	TOTAL	140573	86285	52649	39709	38728	35889	32372	<u>28730</u>
Between 25-29	TOTAL	66617	69747	62843	57894	55731	49025	44158	<u>40536</u>
Between 30-34	TOTAL	38980	35032	51070	59946	57101	49346	42696	<u>37574</u>
Between 35-39	TOTAL	16501	8579	19051	27379	26537	24705	23576	<u>22838</u>
Between 40-44 ani	TOTAL	3952	2452	3965	6748	6238	5865	5365	<u>4954</u>
Between 45-49	TOTAL	217	131	111	431	360	405	445	<u>424</u>
Over 50	TOTAL	:	2	3	34	41	27	30	<u>44</u>

Caption: ':' – missing data; 'c' – confidential data; 9999,00 - normal – definitive data; 9999,00 – bold underlined – significant data; 9999,00 - bold – revised data; 9999,00 - underlined – provisional data

Source: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>

The lack of opportunities to purchase a larger home is quite low, as the percentage of homes that are personally owned is low.

Table 08: Average usable area per person, by household size

The size of the household	Period					
	Year 2000	Year 2001	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005
	UM: Square meters					
	Square meters	Square meters	Square meters	Square meters	Square meters	Square meters
Total	20,07	20,73	20,47	20,69	20,63	21,12

Caption: ':' – missing data; 'c' – confidential data; 9999,00 - normal – definitive data; 9999,00 – bold underlined - semi-defined data; 9999,00 - bold – revised data; 9999,00 - underlined – provisional data

Source: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#!/pages/tables/insse-table>

A possible option for changing the living space can be a bank loan. Granting it requires those who purchase a home to have a down payment to obtain the credit/money. For those who already have a home, it is easier, because they can sell it, have the down payment and buy a larger home. Unfortunately, their average, according to data reflecting the number of those who are owners, is 13.97%.

For those who rent, it is difficult to pay its value and also save money for their own home.

Table 09: Average Living Area per Person, by Housing Occupancy Status

Occupancy status of the house	Period					
	Year 2000	Year 2001	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005
	UM: Square meters					
	Square meters	Square meters	Square meters	Square meters	Square meters	Square meters
Personal property	13,73	14,09	13,78	13,95	13,99	14,33
Rented from the state	8,66	9,85	8,53	10,14	8,17	8,54
Rented from commercial companies or institutions	11	11,19	10,21	11,23	9,09	11,23
Rented from private individuals	12,28	11,43	12,53	12,33	11	11,27
With free cycle	11,06	10,12	10,83	11,87	12,11	10,94

Caption: ':' – missing data; 'c' – confidential data; 9999,00 - normal – definitive data; 9999,00 – bold underlined – semidefinite data; 9999,00 - bold – revised data; 9999,00 - underlined – provisional data.

Source: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#!/pages/tables/insse-table>

What is the number of job vacancies by activity in the national economy?

A job vacancy is a position in an organization that has become available, either because it is newly created or because it has been vacated by the termination of a person's employment or service relationship. Employers are required by law to communicate these vacancies to the National Employment Agency (ANEF), in order to facilitate the finding of candidates.

The availability of jobs on the labor market is an important factor in the decision to emigrate. According to the data in the table below, it can be seen that their percentage is low.

Table 10: Average Annual Rate and Average Annual Number of Job Vacancies by Activities of the National Economy

Economic activities (section CAEN Rev.2)	Average annual job vacancy rate			Average annual number of job vacancies	
	- % -			Year 2024	Year 2023
	Quarter 2025	Year 2024	Year 2023		
Total economic	0,63	0,70	0,78	35945	39934
<i>A: Agriculture, forestry and fishing</i>	0,53	0,43	0,46	490	525
<i>Total industry</i>	0,59	0,76	0,94	9758	12187
<i>B: Extractive industry</i>	0,23	0,21	0,29	95	130
<i>C: Manufacturing industry</i>	0,55	0,70	0,91	7649	10017
<i>D: Production of supply of electricity and heat, gas, water and air conditioning</i>	1,61	1,56	1,39	812	717
<i>E: Water distribution, sanitation, waste management, decontamination activities</i>	0,68	1,23	1,36	1202	1323
<i>F: Building</i>	0,46	0,42	0,33	1921	1476
<i>G: Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles</i>	0,48	0,52	0,60	4203	4796
<i>H: Transport and storage</i>	1,03	0,98	0,98	2632	2629
<i>I: Hotels and restaurants</i>	0,39	0,50	0,47	1254	1146
<i>J: Informations and communications</i>	0,75	0,73	1,00	1688	2328
<i>K: Financial and insurance intermediation</i>	1,20	1,23	1,60	1001	1299
<i>L: Real estate transactions</i>	0,30	0,32	0,85	51	140
<i>M: Professional, scientific and technical activities</i>	1,10	0,65	0,80	1004	1249
<i>N: Administrative service activities and support service activities</i>	0,68	0,72	0,86	2293	2684
<i>O: Public administration and defence, social insurance in the public system^{*)}</i>	1,38	1,36	1,45	3712	3952
<i>P: Education</i>	0,29	0,41	0,37	1487	1333
<i>Q: Health and social assistance</i>	0,56	0,86	0,82	3278	3089
<i>R: Entertainment, cultural and recreational activities</i>	1,20	1,44	1,35	1047	947
<i>S: Other activities and services^{**)}</i>	0,22	0,26	0,33	126	154
^{*)} exclusively armed forces and assimilated					
^{**)} includes various associative activities; computer repairs, personal and household items; other activities and services					

Comparing the standard of living of Romanians with citizens of other European Union countries

In addition to low incomes, limited living conditions, lack of jobs, Romania's status as a member of the European Union offers better opportunities for a higher quality of life, starting from income, housing and others. In Romania, after the 1989 revolution, there was a predisposition to emigrate to the West. Later, the establishment of the

European Union opened the borders for Romanians to other countries considered attractive due to their standard of living.

Consequently, this gap has increased both temporary and permanent migration, as can be seen from Romania's place in the ranking of EU countries regarding per capita consumption.

Actual individual consumption is based on household consumption and is presented as an index relative to the EU average.

Table 11: Standard of Living in EU Countries: per Capita Consumption

Standard of living in EU countries: per capita consumption	
Category	Per capita consumption
Bulgaria	63.3
Hungary	67.8
Latvia	75.9
Croatia	76.9
Slovakia	77.2
Greece	79.6
Romania	80
Estonia	80.4
Poland	81.9
Malta	83.8
Czechia	84.5
Portugal	88.4
Spain	89.2
Slovenia	89.9
Lithuania	92.5
EU (reference value)	100
Ciprus	100.4
Italy	104.5
France	107.1
Finland	112.4
Sueden	113.2
Ireland	113.7
Germany	114.7
Belgium	119.9
Austria	121.5
Denmark	122.8
Netherlands	124.1
Luxemburg	159.7

Source: https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/facts-and-figures-european-union_ro

Conclusion and recommendations The emigration process is influenced by the factors that we mentioned in the secondary analysis. Therefore, the ratio between expenses and income, the low number of jobs, unemployment, useful living space per person are decisive factors that influence the identification of new opportunities for building financial stability and satisfying human needs found in Maslow's Pyramid.

According to data from the National Institute of Statistics, the top countries to which Romanians emigrate are: Italy, Germany, Spain.

A limitation of the research is the lack of availability of data at the national level on the number of immigrants, that is, those who have emigrated to Romania in the last 5 years for each country.

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