

THE INFLUENCE OF MIGRATION ON SOCIETAL SECURITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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The complexity and globalisation of migration are normal processes of functioning and evolution of contemporary European society, currently facing the COVID-19 pandemic that will exacerbate existing security risks by imposing on member states and the North Atlantic Alliance important integral decisions related to both the humanitarian crisis of refugees correlated with the provision of public health measures and their economic and social impact on social security.

There is a constant evolution of the issue of international migration within the EU, but also a concern for permanent improvement of its legal framework, migration bringing both benefits and costs for the area of freedom, security and justice of the EU.

In fact, migration is a fundamental threat to the cohesion and identity of society, the fundamental components of societal security. A concept developed by the “Copenhagen School”, migration can be considered the main source of societal insecurity as it can threaten society’s identity and change its composition.

Keywords: migration; societal security; legislation; European Union; mobility;

INTRODUCTION

An essential principle of community building, *freedom of movement* is one of the four fundamental freedoms enshrined at European level (Beșteliu, Brumar, 2010, p. 79). Although, initially, in 1957, in the *Treaty establishing the European Economic Community*, the free movement of persons was linked to the need to find a job in another state, European regulations guaranteeing a legal status only to migrant workers, later the scope of this concept became much wider, in 1992, through the *Treaty on the European Union (TEU)*, and in 2007, through the *Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)*, taking into account both the extended protection granted to the family members of the migrants and the various reasons underlying the decision to change the state of residence.

The importance of the migration phenomenon and the impact on the societal security of the European Union results from its complexity and from the implications it creates both at legislative level, through the need to adopt an effective normative framework in order to control migration and ensure a legal status capable of providing rights to migrants in the host state, as well as at the social and cultural level.

Currently, international migration is a real link between the member states of the European Union and with third countries, the phenomenon of globalisation having a decisive role in increasing migration.

If in the first treaties of the European Community there were different legal regulations in European states, which made migrants subject to the legal rules of the host state, with the creation of the European Union, unitary policies were adopted, applicable at the level of all member states.

In this context, the European Union adopts unitary measures to manage migratory flows in order to preserve cultural diversity and manage multiple challenges, while ensuring respect for the universal nature of human rights (Corlățean, 2012, p. 14). Thus, the analysis of the migration phenomenon, as a threat to the societal security of the European Union must be related to the evolution of community building as well as of the member states, taking into account the particular aspects of the society in which migrants live and work.

The complexity of the migration phenomenon determines the decision-makers to adopt measures in the field depending on the policies of the European Union, of the member states, but also on ensuring all the rights of migrants.

Although, traditionally, European regulations are comprehensive, they must be able to ensure the implementation of general principles leading to migration control, but also to combating illegal migration. These measures can be ordered only through effective international cooperation.

THE INFLUENCE OF MIGRATION ON THE LABOUR MARKET

Migration is the main source of labour force shortages in migrants' countries of origin. Thus, from the perspective of employers, the departure of labour force is a barrier in the economic development of certain regions, affecting the level of development of those areas, which is materialised in the inability to fully meet market requirements, by reducing production capacity.

Most migrants decide to leave their country of origin in general for financial reasons, to find a better paid job or to develop professionally, to ensure a better standard of living for the whole family.

The problems that determine migration are based on the low level of wages, the proliferation of undeclared work in certain sectors of activity, such as construction, and the lack of qualification to perform a certain activity.

Although references to migration have traditionally referred to the external dimension of this phenomenon, internal migration, which also has a strong impact on national and zonal security, must not be neglected.

In this context, bringing in foreign citizens to work in certain areas where the demand for labour is higher has much wider effects, by involving more states, so it is preferable for employers to initially focus on finding solutions within the same region in order to fill the staff deficit and subsequently on trying to hire emigrants. This possibility would have a lower impact in the social sphere, regarding the family life, in the conditions in which the international migration represents a strong disturbing element of the private life, by breaking the family ties.

Despite the fact that in many branches of activity the technological development tends to reduce the human deficit, the lack of personnel is a destabilising factor of the labour market.

It is also worth noting that employment is preferred to metropolitan areas to the detriment of underdeveloped regions, given the multitude of opportunities and the variety of areas in which a person with a clear qualification can find a job.

The benefits of migrants to the European Union as a whole must not be strictly related to economic progress and labour market benefits, but also to taking into account the social issue of integrating migrants in European countries, respecting the diversity, traditions and culture of the countries of origin, especially in the conditions in which migration is a reversible phenomenon, which can no longer be considered unpredictable.

Although in most cases, the labour market is viewed only from the perspective of finding a job, it is essential to address the educational issue, mainly the constant qualification for a certain job, especially in the context in which most migrants are young people looking for personal and professional development amid the lack of real employment opportunities in their home state.

Thus, it is noted that migration should not be reported exclusively to unskilled workers, but also to people who choose to improve their professional training in another state and occupy positions of high responsibility that involve a high degree of knowledge in the field, so it is of great importance is the recognition of qualifications and diplomas obtained in other states.

Closely related to the evolution of the migration phenomenon, discrimination must be analysed in the conditions in which migrants are often victims of factual and legal inequalities, but also of stereotypes, being difficult to accept them in certain social circles on the grounds of origin.

By virtue of respecting the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination, which are universally recognised (Muscalu, 2015, p. 289), the legal status of the different categories of migrants must be the same, regardless of the reason for the decision to work in another state; at the same time, migrants must have equal privileges with the citizens of the destination state, regarding the promotion possibilities, the general working conditions and the salary to observe the fundamental objectives of the International Labour Organisation, which aim to ensure equal opportunities for all employees (Ștefănescu, 2010, p. 672) as well as to respond to the need to protect fundamental human rights (Tofan&Petrișor, 2013, p. 14).

Labour force migration is a normal process for any democratic society, being absolutely indispensable for the smooth running of economic progress, being an opportunity for citizens of less developed countries. That is why the general trend is to migrate to areas with better industry, with more permissive social protection systems, which provide real premises for integration in the professional sphere as well as in social life.

THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON SOCIETAL SECURITY IN ROMANIA

Traditionally, Romania is not a host state, but a gateway to other European areas. From the statistics made in Romania (Peticilă, 2019), it turns out that the number of men leaving the country is higher than that of women, being generally young people who come from underdeveloped areas and who are looking for a better standard of living.

In this context, from a demographic point of view, the perspectives regarding the evolution of Romania show an aging trend of the population left in the country and the creation of an imbalance at the level of society, which doubled by economic difficulties in certain sectors, can affect security, all the more the number of immigrants in Romania is, according to statistics, 8.9 per 1000 inhabitants at the level of 2018 (National Institute of Statistics, Romania).

As in the European Union, in Romania, the management of migration issues is a challenge to state security both by the danger created on the cohesion of society and by affecting the cultural identity created by the departure of a large number of citizens to other states. Certainly Romania, as a full member state of the European Union, must have an approach to migration and societal security in accordance with European standards in the field, supporting the efforts of the European Commission to develop and implement a collective policy in terms of migration management and border security, for the effective monitoring of the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, with regard to health care and education to prevent loss of life and criminal activities of migration, to be actively concerned about the incipient nature of supporting labour market integration and employment opportunities for refugees, in the context of the labour market changes generated by the European Union's plans to combat climate change, the policy of promoting the circular economy and the digital society, to develop ways to consult and inform the population regarding the preparation of waste and water management infrastructure projects in hotspot areas, as an environmental protection measure in hotspot areas that face the greatest pressure of the migration phenomenon (Decision no. 24/8 September 2020).

Romania and the European Union cannot remain indifferent to humanitarian tragedies related to migration that occur within the member states, such as the fire on 9 September 2020 that burned the Moria refugee camp from the Greek island of Lesbos, a camp where there were about 12,600 refugees and migrants, given that the location has a capacity of only 2800 people (Deutsche Welle). In addition, considering the quarantine because of the coronavirus outbreak, the existence

and the way of managing this camp permanently produced the dissatisfaction of the locals.

The Moria tragedy hastened the adoption, on 23 September 2020, of the European Commission's proposal to implement the new *"European Pact on Migration and Asylum"* (EU Official Journal, 2020), which proposes changing the rules on asylum and migration by establishing efficient and faster procedures in the asylum and migration system and ensuring a balance between the principles of fair sharing of responsibility and solidarity for restoring confidence between member states and the European Union's capacity to manage migration.

This new pact provides for the introduction of an integrated border procedure that includes, for the first time, pre-entry verification, which involves establishing the identity of all persons who cross the EU's external borders without permission or who have landed as a result of search and rescue, performing medical and security checks, fingerprinting and registration in the Eurodac database (ESO, 2020). Each member state must contribute jointly in times of crisis, help stabilise the whole system, and support member states facing migration pressures. The solidarity mechanism will cover various situations, including the disembarkation of people following search and rescue actions, the pressure exerted by migration, crisis situations or other specific circumstances.

The paradigm shift in cooperation with third countries also aims to drive a common European return system, so that EU migration rules become more credible and to establish a common governance for migration, with better strategic planning to ensure the alignment of EU policies and national ones, as well as increased monitoring of migration management in the field, in order to strengthen mutual trust.

All the measures in the field of migration adopted by the European Union have a direct impact on guaranteeing the societal security in Romania, the fast way of implementation by the authorities being determined.

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON MIGRATION

The year 2020 is a benchmark in world history. It is the year in which all states face a significant global crisis, which began with a strong impact on health and which causes significant changes in the entire existence of human life.

The fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is not just a fight to defeat the virus, but a way to adapt to new world realities, to face a new global system that, in addition to the medical component, has also consequences for economic life, including in terms of migration.

Appearing at the end of 2019 in the Chinese city of Wuhan, the SARS-COV2 virus has spread quickly in all countries of the world, which led the World Health Organisation to establish the existence of a pandemic (Chappell, 2020), because of the very large number of countries where it has spread and the number of people infected, affecting the global health system.

One of the factors that favoured the increase in the number of people tested positive for COVID-19 was migration, given that many of the people who came from areas with a large number of cases had symptoms and there was a major risk of transmission in the family and communities of destination, considering that in Romania, according to the research carried out (GraphNets, 2020), the entry of the virus was facilitated by migration, the main source of epidemiological spread of the virus being Italy.

Therefore, gradual measures have been taken to try to limit the spread of the virus, depending on the number of cases of the disease.

The regulations imposed during the pandemic were similar in all European states, being considered absolutely necessary to protect public health in the international epidemiological context generated by the spread of SARS-COV2 virus, being exceptional and limited in time only for the period necessary to reduce the spread of the virus.

Regarding Romania, on 16 March 2020, Decree no. 195 (Sinteza, 2020) established a state of emergency in the country, which entailed, on the one hand, the restriction of several rights, including free movement and the adoption of measures with gradual applicability in the fields of public order, economy, health, labour market, justice and foreign affairs. At the same time, the same normative act required the closure of state borders, which obviously had direct consequences on migration and the isolation or quarantine of people from areas considered at risk, but also of those who had come into contact with them, for a period of 14 days.

Moreover, in the same context, in addition to the traffic restrictions imposed between European states, traffic restrictions were adopted between cities or even between neighbourhoods in the same city, leaving home being only allowed in exceptional situations, which obviously affected the mobility of citizens, including migration.

Failure to comply with the legal measures had as consequences both the payment of fines in high amounts and criminal sanctions, the facts constituting the crime of thwarting the fight against diseases provided by art. 352 of the Criminal Code.

Based on the Decree no. 195/2020, several military ordinances were adopted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which implemented specific measures, dosed according to the evolution of the number of cases tested positive for COVID-19.

Ever since the first military ordinance, on 17 March 2020, economic flights to and from countries with a large number of cases of people infected with the SARS-COV2 virus were suspended, the measure being necessary to limit the spread of the virus in Romania, which had a strong impact on migration.

In addition to the visible effect of affecting the free movement in European states to protect the general interest of public health, the measures adopted during the state of emergency and subsequently partially extended during the state of alert had a strong resonance on the worldwide economic sector (Forbes, 2020). Thus, the 2020 pandemic had as a side effect the suspension of the activity of certain sectors of activity during the state of emergency, which generated a large number of unemployed who did not come only from the directly affected state, migrants being included in this category. They worked mainly in the tourism sector (Lazăr, 2020), which suffered the strongest impact because of the traffic restrictions imposed by European states, the effects being felt in related activities, such as restaurants, in this industry being estimated (Albu) that 74% of activity will be closed, leading to 8.4 million jobs lost in Europe.

In this context, the European Union has established that funding needs to be allocated (Savu, 2020) to the member states for the protection of employees and employers affected by the pandemic, Romania receiving a grant of 4 billion euros in the form of a loan to maintain jobs until the full recovery of the economy (Văduva, 2020). As an effect of the pandemic on the labour market sector in relation to migration, there is also the development of telework activity, by digitising the activity. This applies to both domestic workers and migrants, in the context in which many multinational companies operating in fields compatible with online work have preferred since the beginning of the pandemic to no longer impose physical presence on employees at headquarters, but to encourage work at home, which leads to a substantial decrease (Marinescu&Căpuș, 2020) of the expenses made with the spaces in which the activity takes place, but also to an increase of the labour productivity.

Thus, workers have left for their home countries and continue to work online, which may represent a cost reduction for them and a total restructuring of the perception of migration in order to find a better job in another state, provided

that it is found that the activity can be carried out through telework, with a remuneration at the standards of the employer's state of origin, but without being uprooted from the family of origin.

CONCLUSIONS

Migration is a reality of today's European society that will continue to exist as long as there are economic and financial gaps between EU member states and non-EU countries, its fluctuations being closely related to the evolution of state development.

The essential component of the European concept of space of freedom, equality and justice, the phenomenon of migration focuses mainly on the integration of migrants in the destination states and on guaranteeing their equality with the citizens of the respective state in order to respect non-discrimination, matrix principle of international human rights protection (Sudre, 2006, p. 202).

Although several European measures have been taken over time to combat illegal migration, it remains a challenge for the European space, which undermines the social security of the member states.

In order to adopt efficient policies in the field, it is necessary to take into account the practical problems in the field of migration identified in European countries, the success of implementing measures certainly depending on the specific areas to be applied, in the context of differences between states as well as within the same state.

Although migration brings a positive contribution to the destination states, mainly from the perspective of competitiveness on the labour market, the negative aspects in the context of the special social impact (Roman&Voicu, 2010, p. 64) produced on the family life of migrants should not be neglected.

In the context of the pandemic of 2020 generated by the COVID-19 virus, the concept of migration at European level has acquired new values, the movement of people between states being strongly affected, and the massive impact will be felt over several years (Chapagain).

The effective implementation of migration measures must imply a shared responsibility between the European Union and the member states, with the development of decisions capable of ensuring the maintenance of European societal security and of respecting the indivisible link between civil and political rights, on the one hand, and economic and social rights, on the other hand (Renucci, 2009, p. 10).

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