

MIGRATION AND MIGRANTS-IDENTITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION*

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Abstract: *Migration has a potential risk for state security from perspective of social inclusion. Even if migration is not a new phenomenon, recent events have generated new challenges. In order to maintain the security climate is necessary for migrants to comply with the rules imposed by the host state and also is necessary to be included in social life (education, access to health care services, employment), which can be an extremely difficult process because differences of opinion, culture and education are significantly and from this point serious difficulties can appear. Managing a large number of migrants, generally those from conflict zones in the Arab area have tested state mechanisms for security both due to the very large number of people (which also involved the increase of certain illegal acts committed by migrants) and also created real challenges for the social inclusion of these people, having direct implications for state security. Effective management of migrants is closely dependent on ensuring a climate of state security and to achieve this goal we must not only think about security as police or military perspective but we must also approach the situation in*

* “Study realised through the project „Cercetare doctorală și postdoctorală de calitate, inovativă și relevantă pentru piața muncii”: POCU/380/6/13/124146, proiect cofinanțat din Fondul Social European prin Programul Operațional Capital Uman 2014–2020”.

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Anuarul Institutului de Istorie „George Barițiu” din Cluj-Napoca. Series Historica, LXI, 2022, Supliment, 1. Identitate și diversitate în Europa. Istorie, societate, relații internaționale. Lucrările conferinței internaționale, Oradea, 22-27 martie 2022, p. 601-609

terms of social inclusion and even medical/ public health security- in current epidemiological context, the management of large masses of migrants or refugees can generate considerable security risks.

Keyword: migrants, social inclusion, challenge, security, risk.

Introduction

Migration is not a new phenomenon, the European Union had to face this aspect since its establishment. Economic well-being, security, health and social care services, the prospects for a decent life and development make the European Union a highly attractive destination for migrants. Confronted with migration, both Member State and European level, measures have been conceived and implemented to allow the efficient management of this phenomenon, the exchange of data between states and the integration of newcomers because migration brings, especially nowadays a series of challenges: the efficient management of large masses of people, the provision of social and medical assistance, the protection of the host state citizens but also the social integration of migrants, without seriously affecting the balance and the existing local relations¹.

Migration can be the result of three causes²: *Firstly*, we are talking about migration caused by conflicts – in this case, immigrants arrive in host countries usually in large groups, unprepared, deprived of a minimum means of subsistence, being a humanitarian issue that requires urgent measures.

Secondly, there is migration due to the fact that people from certain states/geographical areas, especially developing countries, choose to move to countries where they find better opportunities for development and higher standard of living. In this case, migrants are motivated to find a better paid job, which offers them higher development opportunities than they had in the origin country and most of them aim to get back after a certain time, after they have managed to obtain a certain amount of money or a level of well-being.

Thirdly, there is a rather small category of migrants who leave their origin country not because they are fleeing the war or because economic conditions force them to do so, but as a personal choice, because they are looking for a

¹ European Commission, *Inclusion of migrants and refugees in cities*, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/eu-regional-and-urban-development/topics/cities-and-urban-development/priority-themes-eu-cities/inclusion-migrants-and-refugees-cities_en, 02.03.2022.

² UBB, *Migration Dynamics and New Trends in European (In)Security Conference Proceedings 2020*, available at: http://hiphi.ubbcluj.ro/Europe4Minorities/Files/Migration-Dynamics_Conference-Proceedings_2020.pdf, 24.02.2022.

change, a place of life more compatible with their personality, a better career opportunity or just for personal reasons³. This special category is not very numerous and can be neglected because it does not raise major issues.

Managing migrants efficiently

Managing a large number of migrants, generally those from conflict zones in the Arab area have tested state mechanisms for security both due to the very large number of people (which also involved the increase of certain illegal acts committed by migrants) and also created real challenges for the social inclusion of these people, with direct implications for state security. Effective management of migrants is closely dependent on ensuring a climate of state security and to achieve this goal we must not only think about security from police/ military perspective, but we must also approach the situation in terms of social inclusion and even medical/public health security – in current epidemiological context, managing a large number of migrants or refugees can generate considerable security risks.

Furthermore, I do not want to go into much detail about the policies adopted at EU or state level on migration and neither from the perspective of legislative packages or statistics related to migration (number of migrants, areas of provenance etcetera) but I would like to present an aspect that I consider very current: the social inclusion of migrants- challenges, particularities, vulnerabilities, and implications on national security.

Ensuring the states security involves a set of measures and activities in complex areas that go beyond the military or public order institutions and involve much broader areas, including social assistance and public health. Recent events have highlighted how important this aspect of health security is and when we talk about migrants, things can become very sensitive.

Social inclusion is a comprehensive and relatively new concept aimed at the access of marginalized people to opportunities and resources, which allows them to participate fully in the economic, social and cultural life of society. This approach is relevant for migrants, who are often in unacceptable situations of social marginalization, discrimination and exclusion. It is not only a matter of human rights but also of respect for the fundamental values on which the European Union is built⁴.

³ Anghel Andreescu, Dan Andreescu, Dan Bardas, „Efectul migrației asupra securității României și a Europei”, București, Edit. RAO, 2016, p. 27.

⁴ Daniela Tarnoschi (ed.), „Roma in Romania, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain, between social inclusion and migration”, Bucharest, Soros Foundation Romania, 2012.

Regarding the literature on the subject of migration and taking into consideration Romanian national strategy for migration⁵, the main challenges that social inclusion of migrants may involve a number of scenarios and security risks from the perspective of social inclusion.

1) Large cultural differences - opposition to change or laws

Managing a large number of people from different cultural backgrounds is not an easy task because individual has lived to that point according to certain patterns- which for him represented normality, his universe and is a real challenge (even a shock for some) to put aside everything he knew in a very short time and to adapt as he went to completely foreign situations and environments. The European Community encourages diversity, freedom of opinion and action, mobility- principles completely opposite to the societies from which most migrants come, whether we are talking about Eastern European countries or referring to those from conflict zones in the Arab world and the adaptation process involves significant changes for migrants.

2) Differences arising from religious belief (customs, usages, refusal of medical care or medical procedures for religious reasons or discrimination against women)

Also, religion can be a very important factor in social inclusion especially among migrants from the Arab zone, where religious values and principles are very strong. Beyond the daily manifestations and rituals, religious beliefs can be in the form of manifestations that involve the refusal of certain medical procedures (refusal to undergo treatments or surgeries, refusal to receive or donate blood even if it represents major risk for health) considered normal in today's society and which, together with other factors (COVID pandemic for example) can generate situations of vulnerability, difficult to manage and which may affect not only the person themselves but the entire community.

3) Immigrants who fail to adapt to Western life (do not adapt to work or do not want to work)

If we consider the large number of migrants from the Arab world, the principles underlying the Arab family versus the principles on which the Western family operates are completely different. Thus there are real difficulties in integrating women into work, for example, whether we are talking about the

⁵ HG nr. 884 din 19.08.2021 pentru aprobarea *Strategiei naționale privind imigrația pentru perioada 2021–2024, a Planului de acțiune pe perioada 2021–2022 pentru implementarea Strategiei naționale privind imigrația pentru perioada 2021–2024, precum și pentru modificarea Hotărârii Guvernului nr. 572/2008 privind constituirea Grupului de coordonare a implementării Strategiei naționale privind imigrația*, publicată în „Monitorul Oficial” nr. 839 din 2 septembrie 2021.

opposition of husbands – who although now living in the European community, want to maintain the traditional family, in which women's duties are very limited and do not involve activities outside the home, but in the same time for a woman who until the age of 30- 40 did not work or did not get out of his home, will be quite difficult to adapt to the new status, the new requirements and the new position in which has arrived.

4) Lack of information about people's past and lack of possibility to exchange information with the state of origin, in order to verify and discover possible rules violations

When we talk about migrants from outside the EU and especially about those from countries affected by war or states on whose territory are terrorist cells (Syria, Iraq) is very difficult for the security services to exchange data and information with country of origin, in order to be able to establish the profile of a certain person (migrant), possible criminal record, connections or membership in terrorist cells.

For security services is normal to have a certain reservation regarding the unknown past of a person, until certain suspicions are verified and removed, there is a risk that a person may be regarded with reluctance or may not have access to certain occupations in the host state, which can generate discrimination and marginalization.

Also, in my opinion, in order to have the highest chances of success when approaching a multi-ethnic problem, it is very important to know as much as possible about that problem and a smart approach would be to include in the team that manages that project, the members of that group (people who know that community, their habits and who have credibility due the minor group). On the other hand, this approach allows access to information, to the decisions that will be made and therefore it is necessary that people who are elected for working with the authorities to have a background check, which can pose particular problems if we are talking about people who come from conflict areas, where are no collaborative and diplomatic relations and this kind of situation may affect national security.

5) The existence among refugees of extremists or members of terrorist cells, which through their actions on the territory of the host state can affect social security⁶

Terrorism has become a permanent threat to European security and events that took place in recent period demonstrate this fact and in the activities of ensuring common security, migration is a phenomenon that must be approached

⁶ European Commission, *Migration and Home Affairs*, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/irregular-migration-return_en, 22.02.2022.

carefully because among people arriving in the EU as migrants, there may also be infiltrated people who have terrorist concerns or followers of extremist groups, who intend to commit hostile acts against the host state and its citizens. The information in the area of counterterrorism is very sensitive, it involves various activities carried out by the security structures (many of them classified, inaccessible to the public). The general public only knows the consequences of the actions of people with radical concerns (the terrorist result) and in the context in which many of the hostile acts against state security were committed (for example) by Muslims, the population tends to generalize. Terrorist acts have a special impact and seriously affects the feeling of insecurity so in the context of such events the public opinion will label a certain ethnic group and will automatically associate it with the actions committed by some members of that group/ minority. Even if in reality less than 1% of migrants with Arab origin actually have tendencies to radicalize, there is a risk of generalization and rejection against the migrants from this area, the reason being the fear of the host state citizens for possible illegal actions by migrants.

6) Adversity coming from citizens of the host state

Even if the European Community means education, civilization, culture, tolerance and openness to other community members, there may be situations in which it seems that the citizens of the host state reject the idea of the presence and acceptance the migrants. The reasons can be diverse- ideological, racial, religious, generated by the feeling of insecurity (especially if the locals were victims of law violation committed by migrants) but the central idea is that to achieve social inclusion of migrants it is necessary to collaborate with the local community. In this partnership, without local acceptance, the social inclusion of migrants is almost impossible.

Adapting to the requirements of the host state can be difficult, both from a mental perspective and from daily activities and in context of adversity from locals, the inclusion of migrants is much more difficult and at this point the state must intervene and try to involve the community and find problems with local or regional applicability⁷.

7) Feeling of insecurity caused by law breaking actions committed by immigrants⁸

Often, the presence of migrants in a certain area also leads to antisocial acts. In general, the feeling of security is affected, being normal for the inhabitants

⁷ British Council Romania, *Social inclusion*, available at: <https://www.britishcouncil.ro/en/programmes/society/social-inclusion>, 10.02.2022.

⁸ *România, te iubesc!*, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqzqmwacw6c>, 25.02.2022.

of a certain area to have certain fears of insecurity when a significant number of foreigners (who do not have their means of subsistence) arrive in an area. The reality shows us that with the appearance of migrants, a number of certain violations of the law increases (thefts, violations of social rules) and in such situations it is necessary for the state to intervene to discourage such behaviors coming from migrants and to strengthen the feeling of security for local population.

8) *The lack of experience for the host state regarding the management of situation and activities undertaken for social inclusion*

There may be situations when a host state has less experience in managing refugee issues or in managing certain categories of refugees (Muslims or Roma for example), situation in which standard policies will not work and appears the necessity to adapt social inclusion measures to particularities and beliefs of each managed group, so in each situation a very important role is played by the cooperation with the other EU states, in order to exchange information which can be implemented/adapted, so the best solution, preferably one that previously functioned to be implemented (being real situations, in which vulnerable people are involved, there is no time for experiments because the lack of concrete actions can lead to suffering). We should study already functional models, which only need to be perfected⁹.

Case study - social inclusion of Roma in the EU

The Roma minority (without referring only to the one from Romania) represented and still represents a minority group that migrated massively from East to Western Europe, especially in the highly developed countries of the EU and that generated and continues to generate real challenges, regarding social inclusion, with implications for the security of the Member States.

Although more than 20 years have passed since EU states confronted members of the Roma minority who migrated to the West, social inclusion measures have not yielded the expected results (in fact, many countries have real problems to integrate their Roma minority), possibly due to the following factors¹⁰: *a) lack of education; b) language barriers; c) mentality deeply rooted in conventional traditions and concerns (musicians, pastors, craftsmen) – which leads*

⁹ PROIS-NV, *Proiecte în curs de implementare*, available at: <http://www.prois-nv.ro/in-curs-de-implementare>, 12.02.2022.

¹⁰ European Commission, *Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion*, available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1274&langId=en>, 28.02.2022.

to the mismatch of available jobs; d) opposition to change and a certain opposition to work; e) discrimination.

One aspect that needs to be emphasized regarding to the European Roma population is the extremely high incidence of unemployment, in the sense that if for the 27 EU Member States the average unemployment rate is 8.3% in the case of this ethnic group the values are significantly higher – 47.1%, which represents a difference of 40 percentage points¹¹.

Percentage distribution according to the employment situation and the main indicators of the labor market

	Roma, Bulgaria	Roma, Romania	Roma, Italy	Roma, Spain	Roma, Europe	UE-27
Occupational situation	100	100	100	100	100	100
Employee	30,9	36,3	37,8	43,8	37,4	57,3
Unemployee	43,9	34,3	22,5	25,1	33,3	5,2
Unemployment rate	58,7	48,6	37,3	36,4	47,1	8,3

Source: EU-INCLUSIVE research

Conclusion

Migration is an ongoing phenomenon that poses significant challenges for the countries involved¹². Whether we are talking about refugees from conflict zones, citizens from Eastern Europe, temporary workers or asylum seekers, ultimately, the goal remains the integration of migrants into host communities. Here can appear a blockade generated by desire to keep as much as possible of their own identity and the need to adapt to existing requests and complete with the rules of the host state or local community.

To this end, EU countries take similar action when it comes to integration, all under the umbrella of European legislation, but for the success of the process it is absolutely necessary to take into account the individual particularities of each case¹³. Cultural and opinion differences, both on the part of immigrants and on the part of the local community where they arrive, can create different results, even if the state policy is identical.

¹¹ Daniela Tarnoschi (ed.), *op. cit.*, p. 31.

¹² Anghel Andreescu, Dan Andreescu, Dan Bardas, *op. cit.*, p. 29.

¹³ European Commission, *Migration and Home Affairs*, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/irregular-migration-return_en, 20.02.2022.

Is natural to exist a certain resistance to new and changing, a tendency to preserve the fundamental origins/ values of the environment/ group where from migrants came but in order to cope in the societies where they arrive, is obvious that integration is necessary, and it involves giving up part of the previous (own) identity.

I believe that a key factor for a successful integration of migrants is for host states to take into account the particularities of migrants and to implement programs that combine national legislation and social requirements but at the same time take into account the cultural and ideological background of migrants. I consider that there are no standard programs to ensure the social inclusion of a certain group of migrants, but each case must be analyzed in particular and adapted measures must be implemented and also, in order to increase the chances of successful social inclusion for minority groups it is necessary for the host state to know their particularities (religion, principles, values) and to try to involve in projects both the members of the local community and the members of the minority group.

Beyond the approach from the perspective of EU fundamental values and those related to non-discrimination and respect for human rights¹⁴, social inclusion significantly influences national security because one of the very important aspects is access to health services and health care and the current pandemic situation has demonstrated to everyone how a medical problem/ situation can have a particularly serious impact on national security. The existence of a significant number of people (migrants) who do not have access to adequate health care services can be a real vulnerability, of which states must be aware and the provision of health care must be the first priority of host states in managing the problem of migrants.

¹⁴ European Union, *Aims and values*, available at: https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/principles-and-values/aims-and-values_en, 14.02.2022.

