

ROMANIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION REGARDING THE DYNAMICS AND EFFECTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE GLOBALIZATION ERA

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Abstract

In contemporary society, the extent to which migration occurs, the multiple and diverse consequences that it generates have determined a deeper and interdisciplinary concern of researchers for the study of this phenomenon. However, some of the social, political and cultural values that migration implies have not been studied enough.

The present paper aims to analyse the young people's level of knowledge as regards the evolution and causes which trigger the migration phenomenon in contemporary society, as well as the social, political and cultural effects that it generates in the origin and host countries. In the present paper we also intend to reveal the Romanian young people's perception as regards the way immigrants are treated in the host country by answering questions like: are they discriminated?; if yes, are there categories that are more discriminated in comparison with the others?

Last but not least, the present research is meant to identify the degree of tolerance that Romanian young people have in relation to different emigrant categories.

Keywords: migration, Romanian young people, perception, discrimination, tolerance.

1. Introduction

Nowadays globalization is the framework within which the international migration process occurs and it triggers major effects on the patterns of our contemporary society. Globalization is the cause and the effect of international migration; it is a process which more and more defines the world we are living in through its dynamics and complexity. The statistical data that we are going to refer to illustrate the amplitude of international migration at present: in 2010, about 3.1 millions of people migrated into one of the EU member states. In 2010 the UK reported to have the highest number of immigrants (591, 000), followed by Spain (465, 200), Italy (458, 000) and Germany (404, 100); these four member states together comprised 61.9 % of all the immigrants settled in the EU member states¹.

The multiple and controversial effects induced by international migration over all the involved actors – source countries, destination countries and the immigrants themselves – have drawn the attention of a large and various number of researchers: sociologists, psychologists, economists, political analysts, etc. Migration and its effects are subjective concepts – according to Nazli Choucri – and their perception depends both on the subject that defines the terms and on the ones that benefit from the definition of these terms in a certain manner².

On the other hand, the way in which these concepts are conceived lays a mark on the present and future reality. In other words, even if international migration is rooted in the structural realities of the international economic system, the way in which migration is perceived influences its effects and evolution. Under these circumstances, it is fully justifiable to undertake a deeper and more complex research into this phenomenon and its effects. A part of the research which has been made so far points out that 76% of the Europeans consider that, for their countries, the increase of the immigrants' number is an important and highly important threat. This perception is reinforced by the feelings of uncertainty and anxiety which they have as regards their future and which may be identified throughout Europe - being mistakenly associated with immigration³.

The present research attempts to analyse the Romanian young (aged 15-19) people's knowledge and perception over the phenomenon of international migration and its effects. We consider that such an analysis is fully justifiable since Romanians represent a more and more significant percentage of the total number of immigrants located in Europe. According to the data offered by Eurostat 2011, the group of foreign citizens that live in the EU and whose number increased the most during 2001-2011 was the one of the Romanians; thus, their number was eight times higher in ten years: from 0.3 million in 2001 to 2.3 million in 2011. The young people who are aged 15 -

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¹ Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz) and United Nations, Human Development Report (Raportul privind dezvoltarea umană), 2011.

² Nazli Choucri, "Migration and Security", in *Some Key Linkages, Journal of International Affairs*, vol. 56:1, p. 98-122, 2002.

³ Marcel Canoy, Ricklef Beutin, Anna Horvath, Agnes Hubert, Frédéric Lerais, Peter Smith, Myriam Sochacki, *Migration and public perception*, Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) European Commission, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/policy_advisers/publications/docs/bepa_migration_final_09_10_006_en.pdf, apud: Ionel Stoica, "Migrația Internațională și Securitatea - Noi Provocări [International Migration and Security – New Challenges]", in *INFOSFERA*, 2nd year, no.1, 2009, p.: 48-51.

24 form the most numerous group of Romanian immigrants. In 2012 the Romanian immigrants who were aged 15-24 amounted at 86, 020 men and 68, 741 women⁴. According to statistical data, about 4, 000 young people annually leave the country to further their studies abroad. 51% of the Romanian young people who are aged 18 - 30 have a job and 10% of them work abroad⁵.

2. Content

The sociological research we have made in this paper is part of the project entitled: *“Let us talk globally about education for global development, migration and citizenship”* (Project: DCI NSA-ED/2012/280-770).

The purpose of the research is to analyse Romanian young (high-school students) people’s perception as regards the features, causes and effects of the migration phenomenon in contemporary society.

The main objectives of the research are: identifying the degree to which high-school students are informed as to the characteristics and evolution of contemporary migration; young people’s perception as to the degree of tolerance/intolerance that the host country manifest in relation to the different categories of emigrants; identifying the degrees of tolerance and acceptance that high-school students have in relation to emigrants; identifying the degree of involvement of the different socialization agencies in informing students as to the contemporary migration phenomenon.

The research **method** we have used in the present paper is the social inquiry and the instrument that we have used is the survey.

The investigated **population** includes high-school students from Romania, aged 15 – 18.

The high-school students selected to take part in the project are teenagers that were involved in the project: “Parlez-vous global...” and that come from the following areas of Romania: Bucharest area, Prahova are, Constanta area, Buzau area. The number of the surveyed students per affiliation institution comprises: 886 students from the “Mihai Viteazul” National College of Bucuresti, “Ovidius” High-School and Fine Arts High-School of Constanta, “Nichita Stanescu” and “I.L. Caragiale” High-Schools of Ploiesti, as well as the Fine Arts High-School of Buzau.

For accomplishing this study we have considered the following **hypotheses**: a) there is a positive correlation between the volume of information on the migration phenomenon and the tolerance level manifested towards emigrants. We have found that younger people who are better informed tend to be more tolerant in relation to emigrants in comparison with the young people who are poorly informed; b) the level of information is correlated with the residence environment: young people living in the urban area tend to be better informed as to the migration phenomenon in comparison with the ones coming from the rural area; c) young people tend to manifest different degrees of tolerance in relation to the different categories of emigrants; we suppose that tolerance is lower for the Roma emigrants; d) in our analysis we also appreciated that tolerance in relation to emigrants is different depending on gender (male-female). Girls – in comparison with boys - tend to be more tolerant in relation to all categories of emigrants.

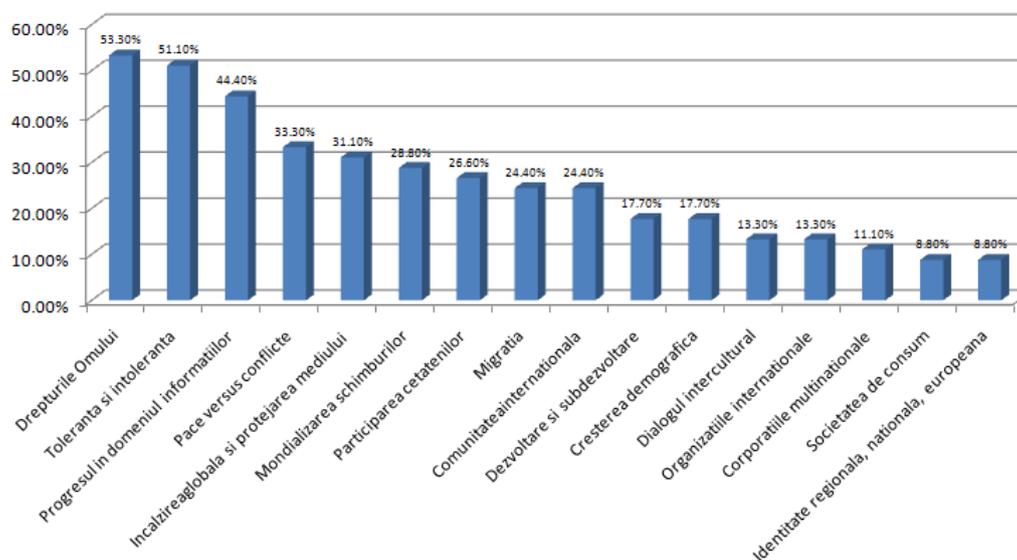
The statistical processing of the data collected on the spot – and presented below – reflects the level of knowledge, feelings and attitudes which Romanian high-school students have in relation to the international migration phenomenon under the present conditions imposed by the ever increasing globalization of the world.

For the beginning, we would like to bring into evidence the fact that high-school students have a sufficiently realistic perspective over the most important characteristics of globalization. Thus, according to the interrogated high-school students, the first 5 main characteristics regarding globalization, which are worth being debated upon, are (see Chart no. 1): the observance of human rights - mechanisms and institutions (53.3% options); tolerance and intolerance (51.1% options); progress in the area of information (44.4% options); peace versus war (33.3% options), global warming and environmental protection (31.1% options). The subjects gave a lower but sufficiently enough high score to the globalization of exchanges, of markets and of economic inter-connections (28.8% options), as well as to the citizens’ participation in political and social life (26.6% options), the migration phenomenon (24.4% options) and the development of the international community, as well as of the world consciousness (24.4% options).

⁴ <http://www.inse.ro/cms/files/publicatii/pliante%20statistice/Migratia%20internationala%20a%20Romaniei.pdf>.

⁵ Popa, Mădălina, *Politica de migrație a Uniunii Europene- implicații pentru piața muncii*, Bucharest, Alpha MDN, 2013.

1. THE MOST RELEVANT TOPICS REGARDING GLOBALIZATION – ACCORDING TO HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS



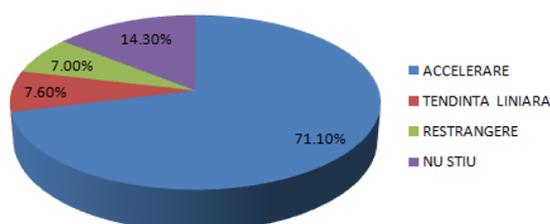
	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
Human rights	53.3%
Tolerance and intolerance	51.1%
Progress in information area	44.4%
Peace versus conflicts	33.3%
Global warming and environmental protection	31.1%
Globalization of exchanges	28.8%
Citizen participation	26.6%
Migration	24.4%
International community	24.4%
Development and under-development	17.7%
Demographic growth	17.7%
Intercultural dialogue	13.3%
International organizations	13.3%
Multinational corporations	11.1%
Consumption society	8.8%
Regional, national, European identity	8.8%

Most of the interviewed students (71.1%) consider that today, given the globalization of the world, the migration phenomenon manifests an accelerated growing tendency; only 7.6% of those interviewed consider that this phenomenon will remain within the same limits, while 7% appreciate that this phenomenon will come to a decline; the remaining percentage represents non-answers (see Chart no. 2).

In contrast, the provisions of the International Organization for Migration reveal that ever since 2010 migration will significantly decrease at global level.

2. OPINIONS REGARDING THE TENDENCIES MANIFESTED IN THE MIGRATION EVOLUTION

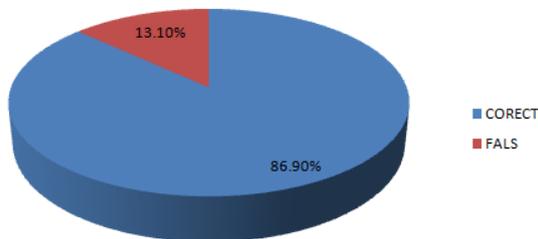
	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
ACCELERATED GROWTH	71.10%
LINIAR TENDENCY	7.60%
DECLINE	7.00%
I DO NOT KNOW	14.30%



Most of the high-school students (86.9%) know the meaning of the terms emigrant and immigrant. Only a small percentage, 13.1%, mistake the two terms for each other (Chart no. 3).

3. THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN EMIGRANT AND IMMIGRANT

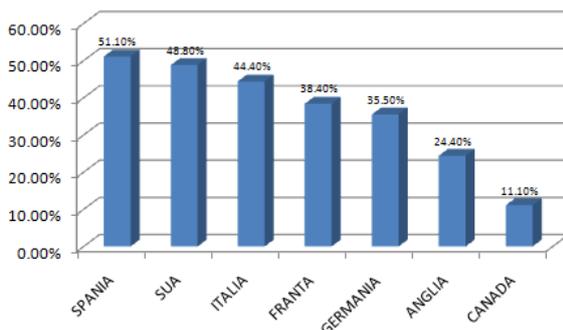
ANSWER	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
CORRECT	86.9%
FALSE	13.1%



Most of the interviewed subjects include the following countries in the category of states with the highest number of immigrants: Spain (51.1%), USA (48.8%), Italy (44.4%), France (38.4%), Germany (35.5%), Great Britain (24.4%) and Canada (11.1%) - according to Chart no. 4. Data recently published by the United Nations, according to Huffington Post, show that the first 8 countries with the highest number of immigrants are: USA (45.8 million), Russia (11 million), Germany (9.8 million), Saudi Arabia (9.1 million), the United Arab Emirates (7.8 million), Great Britain (7.8milioane), France (7.4 million) and Canada (7.3 million). One can notice that there are certain inconsistencies between the opinions shared by high-school students and the real situation existing in the countries with the highest number of immigrants.

4. COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF IMMIGRANTS (OPINIONS)

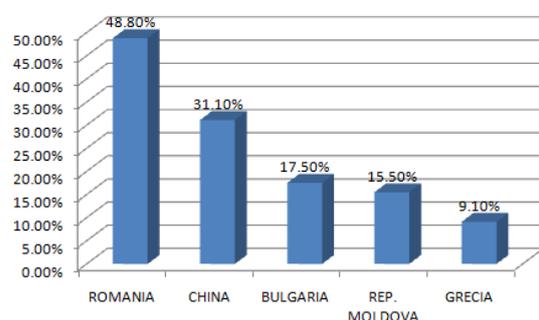
COUNTRY	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
SPAIN	51.10%
USA	48.80%
ITALY	44.40%
FRANCE	38.40%
GERMANY	35.50%
ENGLAND	24.40%
CANADA	11.10%



Most of the interviewed subjects (48.8%) consider that Romania is among the countries with the highest percentage of emigrants, being followed by China, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova (see Chart no. 5).

5. COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS (OPINIONS)

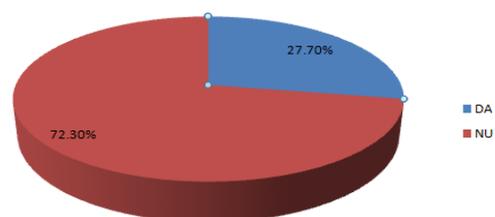
COUNTRY	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
ROMANIA	48.80%
CHINA	31.10%
BULGARIA	17.50%
REP. MOLDOVA	15.50%
GREECE	9.10%



High-school students have a low level of subjective knowledge as regards the situation of immigrants that exist in Romania. Most of the interviewed subjects (72.3%) declare that they do not have information on the situation of immigrants living in Romania; only 27.7% of them declared that they have such information. (See Chart no. 6)

6. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IMMIGRANTS LIVING IN ROMANIA?

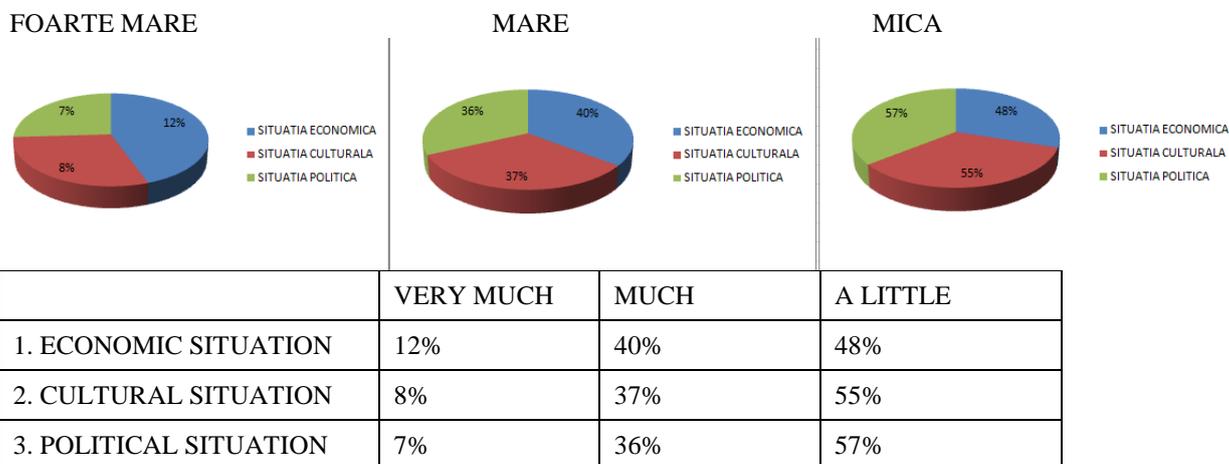
	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
YES	27.7%
NO	72.3%



Of those who declared to have information on the immigrants living in Romania, over a half (i.e. 52%) stated to have much and very much information as to their economic situation. Less than a half of those who assess themselves as being informed have much or very much information about the immigrants' cultural characteristics (45%) and about their political situation

(43%); the other ones declared to know a little about this topic (Chart no. 7).

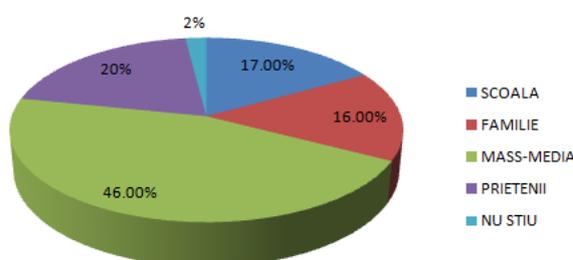
7. SELF-ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AS TO THE IMMIGRANTS' SITUATION:



According to Chart no.8, subjects who declared to have information on Romanian immigrants have mentioned the following sources as the main socialization agents that provided them such information: mass-media (46.0%), friends (20%), school (17%) and family (16%). The conclusion is that school should be more involved in the debate of these topics.

8. THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF IMMIGRANTS

	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
SCHOOL	17.0%
FAMILY	16.0%
MASS-MEDIA	46.0%
FRIENDS	20%
I DO NOT KNOW	2%

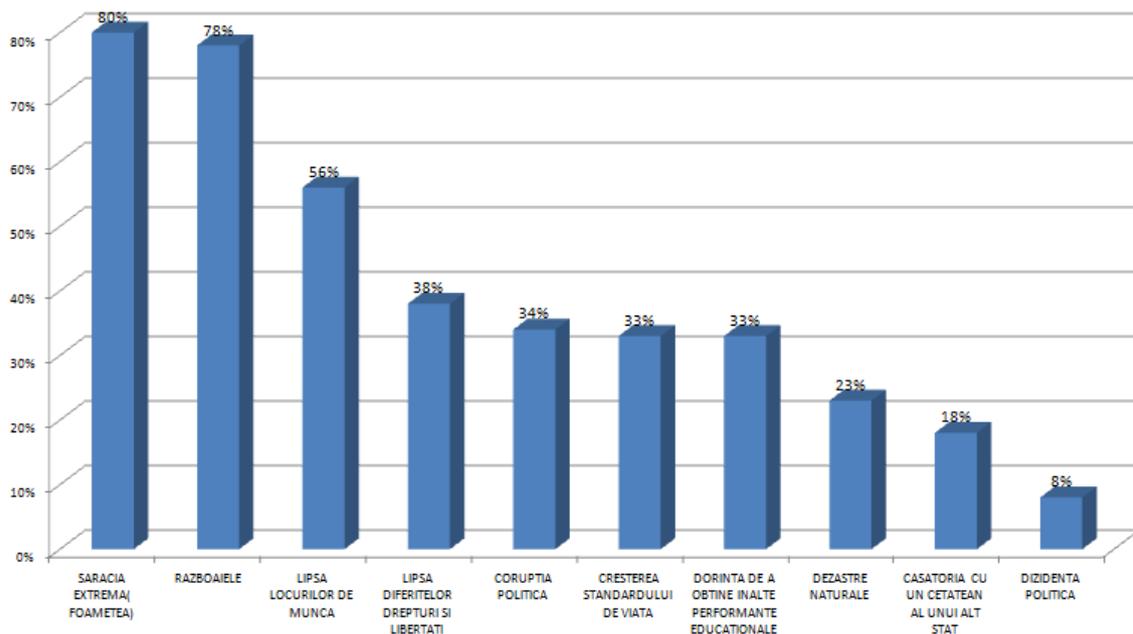


According to Chart no. 9, most of the high-school students believe that the main 5 reasons (causes) that could determine a person to emigrate are:

extreme poverty (80%), wars (78%), as well as: lack of workplaces (56%), lack of rights and freedoms (38%) and political corruption (34%).

9. THE MOST FREQUENT CAUSES OF EMIGRATION (OPINIONS)

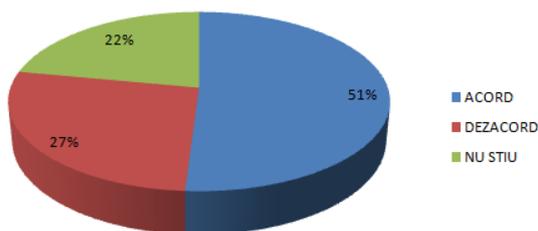
	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
EXTREME POVERTY (FAMINE)	80%
WARS	78%
LACK OF WORKPLACES	56%
LACK OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS	38%
POLITICAL CORRUPTION	34%
INCREASE OF THE LIVING STANDARD	33%
THE WISH TO OBTAIN HIGH PERFORMANCE IN EDUCATION	33%
NATURAL DISASTERS	23%
MARRIAGE WITH THE CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE	18%
POLITICAL DISIDENCE	8%



Over a half of the interviewed young people (i.e. 51%) appreciate that emigrants are discriminated in the EU; only 27% reject the existence of this phenomenon (Chart 10). The percentage of recorded non-answers is quite high for this question: 22%.

10. ARE EMIGRANTS DISCRIMINATED IN THE EU?

	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
AGREE	51%
DISAGREE	27%
I DO NOT KNOW	22%

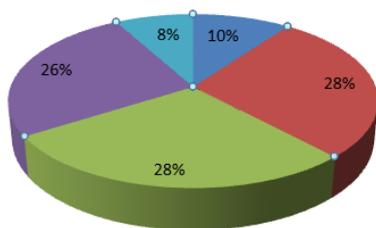


High-school students appreciate that the degree of discrimination to which emigrants are subjected in the host EU countries largely depends on the social and ethnic groups they belong to; this opinion is illustrated in Chart no.11. These students appreciate that the most discriminated category is the one of the Roma population. The subjects – who are 87% - consider that the Roma people are discriminated to a high or very high degree by the host population. They are followed by Afrikaans and Romanians who are also discriminated to a high or very high degree - according to 61% and 57% of those interviewed.

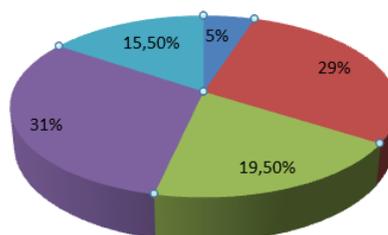
11. IMMIGRANTS ARE DISCRIMINATED (survey)

	VERY MUCH	MUCH	TO A MEDIUM EXTENT	A LITTLE	LITTLE
ARABI-ANS	10%	28%	28%	26%	8%
INDI-ANS	10%	34%	30%	14%	12%
AFRICA NS	30%	31%	16%	14%	9%
TUR-KISH	3%	9%	24%	44%	20%
RROMA	69%	17%	7%	4%	3%
BULGA RIANS	5%	29%	19.50%	31.00%	15.50%
RUSSI-ANS	4%	16%	19.50%	35.50%	25%
PEOPLE FROM ASIA	7.50%	15.50%	27.50%	24.50%	25%
ROMA-NIANS	30%	27%	21%	14%	8%

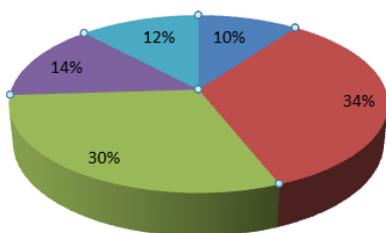
ARABII



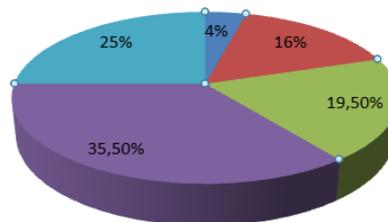
BULGARII



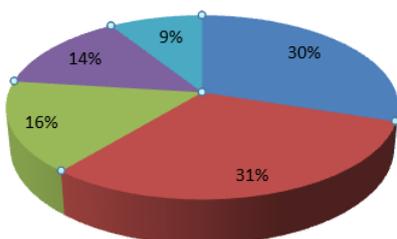
INDIENII



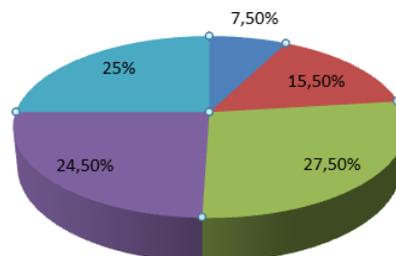
RUSII



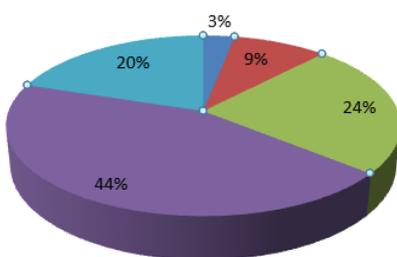
AFRICANII



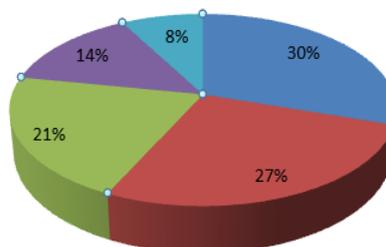
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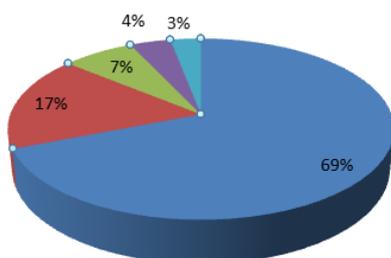
TURCII



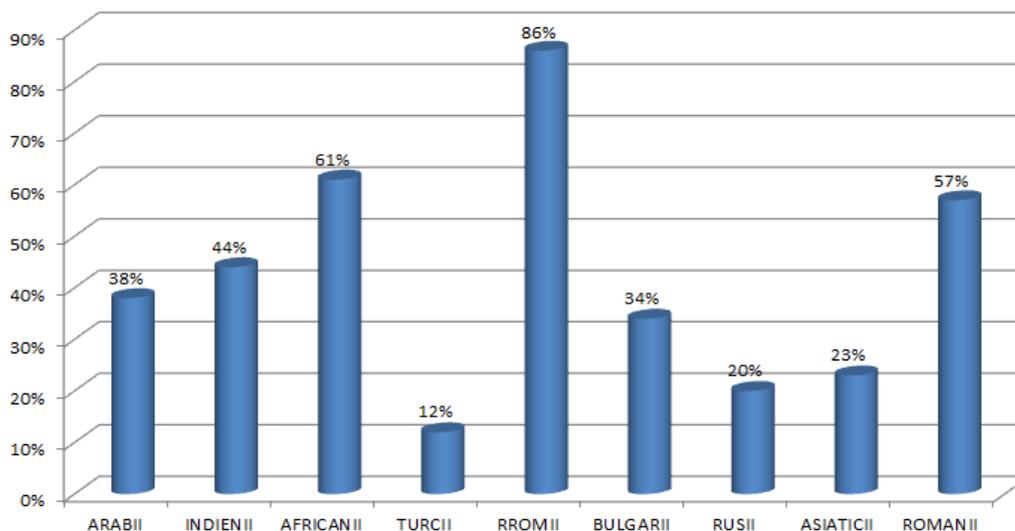
ROMANII



RROMII

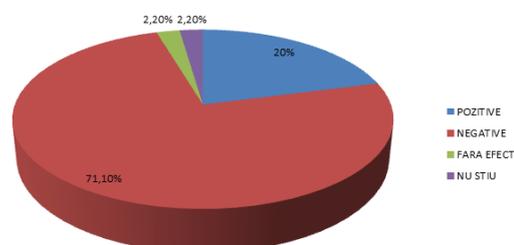


IMMIGRANTS ARE DISCRIMINATED TO A HIGH AND VERY HIGH DEGREE (OPINIONS)



The effects of the parents' emigration over the children who remained at home – according to most of those interviewed, i.e. 71.1%, - are negative (affective problems, educational failure, etc.); a small number, i.e. 20% of the high-school students (Chart no.12) consider that the emigration phenomenon generates positive effects (increased living standard, the possibility to study abroad, etc.).

TOTAL RASPUNSURI %



12. THE EFFECTS OF THE PARENTS' EMIGRATION OVER CHILDREN

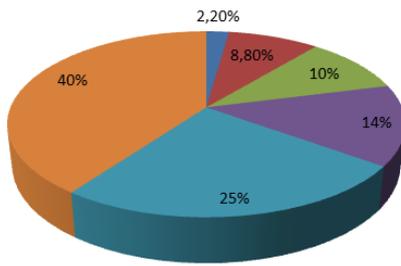
	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
POSITIVE	20%
NEGATIVE	71.1%
WITHOUT EFECT	2.2%
I DO NOT KNOW	2.2%

The data reflecting the high-school students' tendency to discriminate or tolerate immigrants are included in Charts no.13, 14 and 15. According to these charts, most of those interviewed declared that they would not be disturbed if their neighbour were immigrants, no matter their ethnic origin. There is an exception: the Roma population; being a neighbour with them is not accepted by an important percentage of those interviewed, i.e. by at least 37.6% of those interviewed; only 12.8% declared to have nothing against being neighbours of a Roma emigrants' family (Chart no.13).

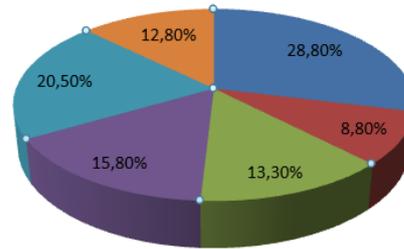
13. THE DEGREE TO WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE REFUSE TO HAVE AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY AS NEIGHBOURS

Origin of the neighbours	TO SERIOUS EXTENT	MUCH	TO MEDIUM EXTENT	A LITTLE	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
ARABIANS	2.20%	8.80%	10%	14%	25%	40%
INDIANS	6.20%	6.30%	11.50%	9%	25%	42%
AFFRIKAANS	11.10%	2.20%	16.50%	18.90%	18.30%	33%
TURKISH	6.60%	4.40%	11.30%	18.80%	23%	35.90%
ROMA	28.80%	8.80%	13.30%	15.80%	20.50%	12.80%
BULGARIANS	2.40%	2.40%	10%	9.80%	27%	48.40%
RUSSIANS	2.20%	2.50%	13.30%	12.40%	22%	47.60%
ASIAN PEOPLE	2.50%	8%	14.30%	15.50%	25.40%	34.30%
ROMANIANS	4%	5%	4%	15%	12%	60%

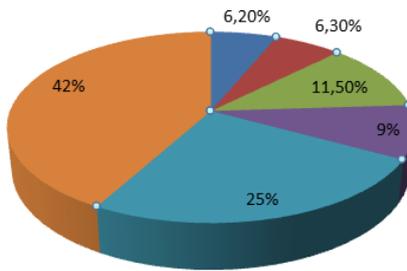
ARABI



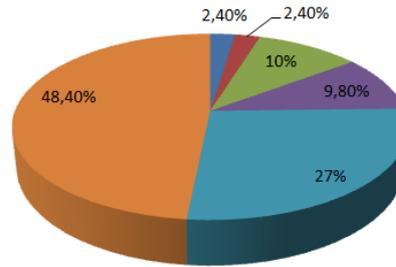
RROMI



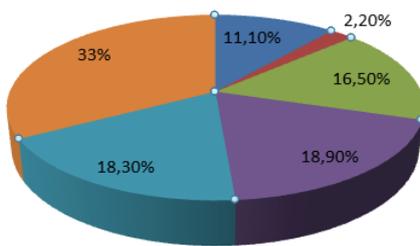
INDIENI



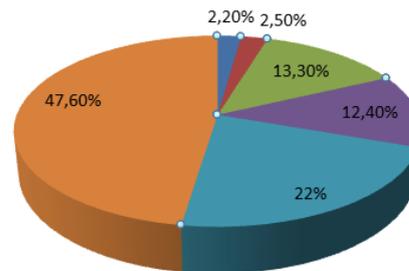
BULGARI



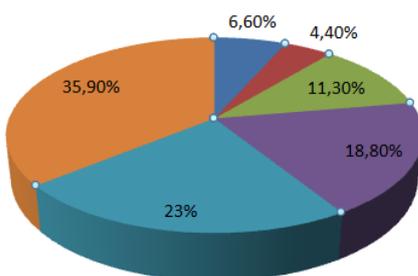
AFRICANI



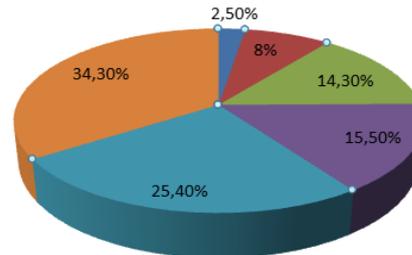
RUSI



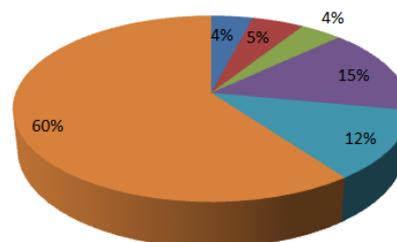
TURCI



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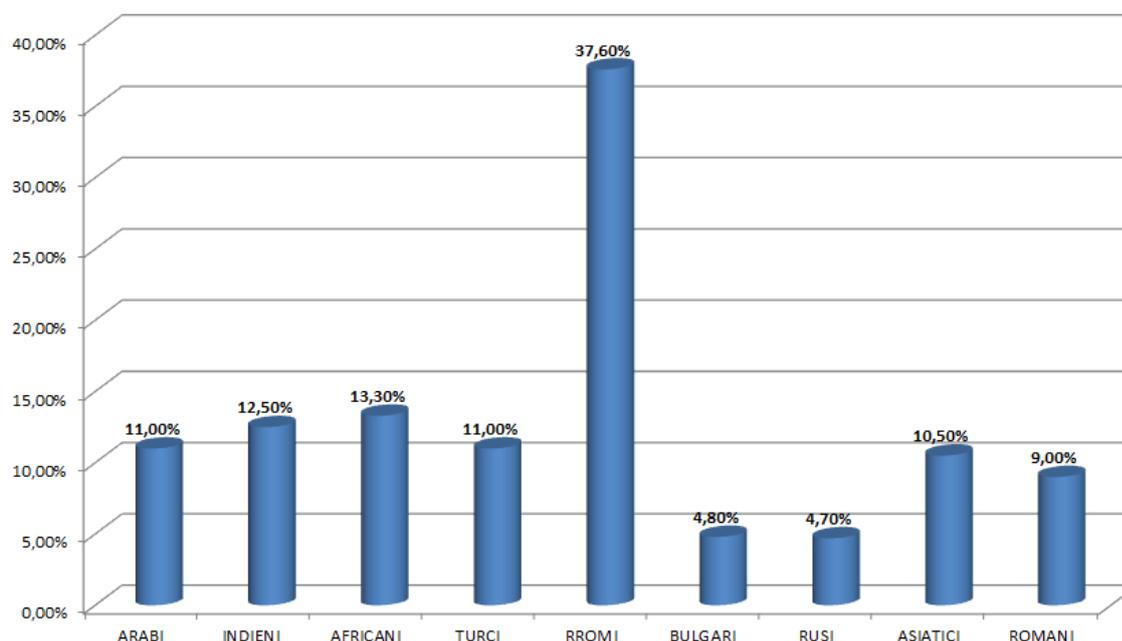


ROMANI



YOUNG PEOPLE DO NOT ACCEPT BEING NEIGHBOURS WITH AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

FOARTE MULT + MULT



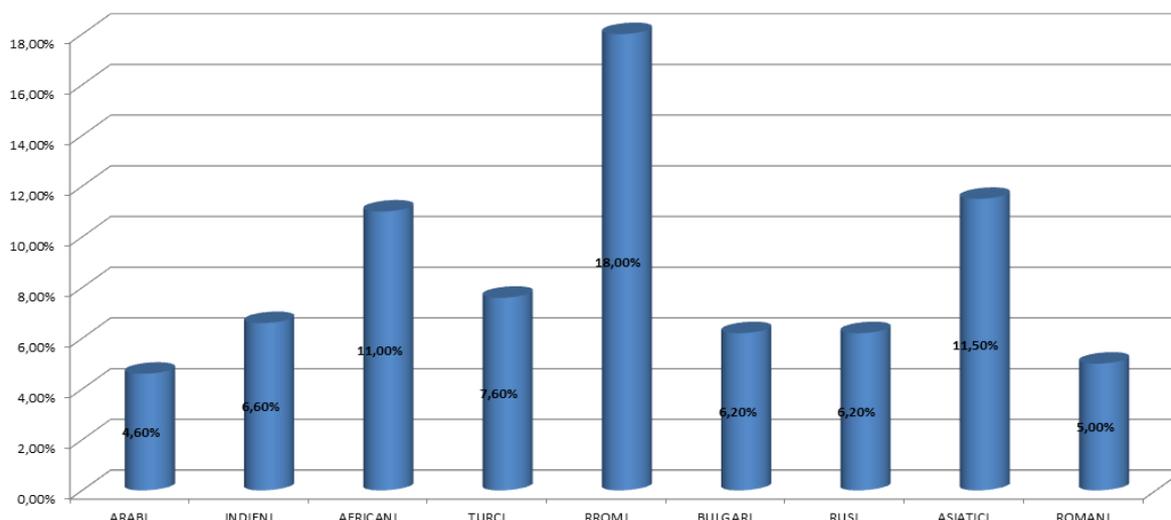
According to Chart no.14, a reserved attitude towards the Roma immigrants is less frequent than the reserved attitude manifested towards those neighbouring Roma emigrants. We can notice a higher degree of tolerance towards the Roma colleagues than to the Roma neighbours. We can notice that 18% of those who answered the questionnaire manifest a

reserved or very reserved attitude towards the Roma colleagues in comparison with a percentage of 37.6% subjects that manifest a reserved attitude towards the Roma neighbours. However, the Roma population is not preferred as a group of colleagues in comparison with other emigrant ethnic groups, on the contrary.

14. THE EXTENT TO WHICH A RESERVED ATTITUDE IS MANIFESTED TOWARDS IMMIGRANT COLLEAGUES

	VERY HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	A LITTLE	QUITE A LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
ARABIANS	2.40%	2.20%	13.30%	8.60%	23.30%	50.20%
INDIANS	4.40%	2.20%	15.50%	6.60%	23.30%	48%
AFRIKAANS	4.40%	6.60%	11.10%	8.80%	21.10%	48%
TURKISH	1%	6.60%	8.80%	10.10%	19%	54.50%
ROMA	8%	10%	11.50%	10.50%	35%	25%
BULGARIANS	2.20%	4%	4.50%	8.80%	17%	63.50%
RUSSIANS	2.20%	4%	4%	11.10%	17.70%	61%
ASIAN PEOPLE	2.50%	9%	14.30%	15.50%	24.40%	34.30%
ROMANIANS	2%	3%	4%	10%	14%	67%

THE TENDENCY TO MANIFEST A RESERVED ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE IMMIGRANT COLLEAGUES IS GREAT AND VERY GREAT



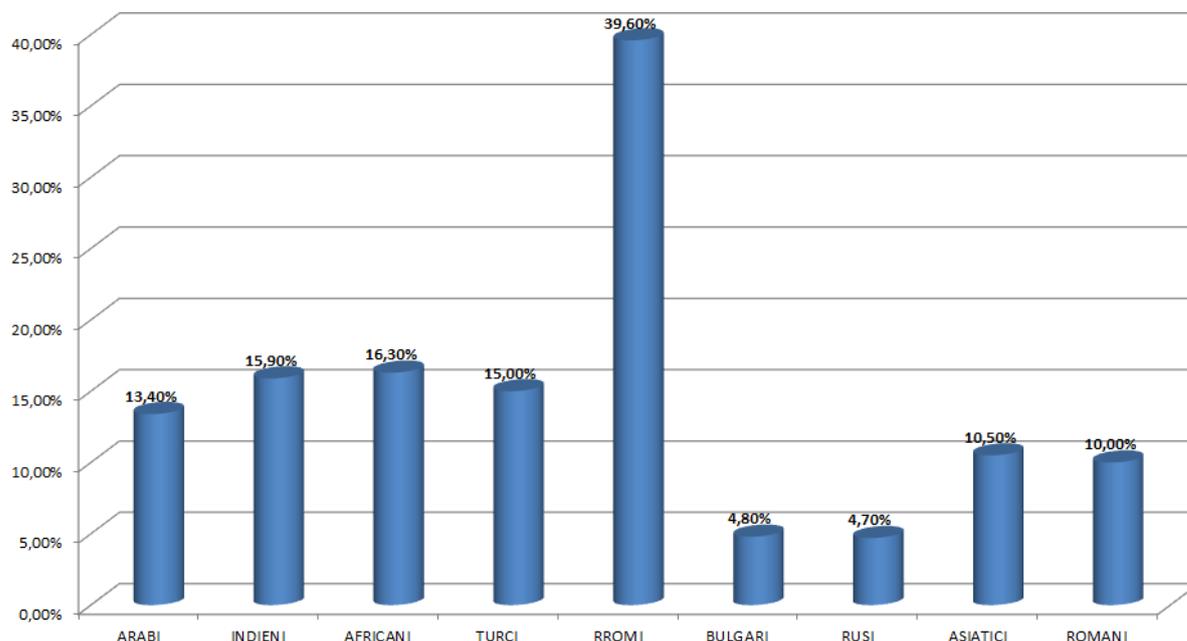
According to Chart no. 15, the data illustrating the rejection of establishing friendly relationships with the Roma immigrants are even higher than in the previous cases. The rejection of the Roma friends is manifested to a high and very high extent by 39.6% of the interrogated ones. An illustrative situation as

regards the Romanians' level of solidarity is represented by the fact that a significant percentage of them, i.e. 10%, have declared that they manifest a reserved attitude towards establishing a friendly relationship with Romanian emigrants.

15. THE EXTENT TO WHICH ESTABLISHING A FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH IMMIGRANTS IS REJECTED

	VERY HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	A LITTLE	LITTLE	NOT AT ALL
ARABIANS	4.40%	9%	15%	20%	36.10%	15.50%
INDIANS	6.60%	9.30%	15.40%	17.70%	25%	26%
AFRIKAANS	11.10%	5.20%	15.50%	18.90%	29.30%	20%
TURKISH	8.60%	6.40%	16.30%	19.00%	25%	24.70%
ROMA	28.80%	10.80%	18.30%	16.80%	14.50%	10.80%
BULGARIANS	2.40%	2.40%	10%	10.80%	26%	48.40%
RUSSIANS	2.30%	2.40%	12.30%	13.40%	21%	48.60%
ASIAN PEOPLE	2.50%	8%	14.30%	15.50%	24.40%	35.30%
ROMANIANS	4.50%	5.50%	4%	15%	12%	59%

REJECTION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS WITH IMMIGRANTS IS HIGH AND VERY HIGH



Most of the high-school students, 71.1%, perceive the effects of emigration over their country of origin in a

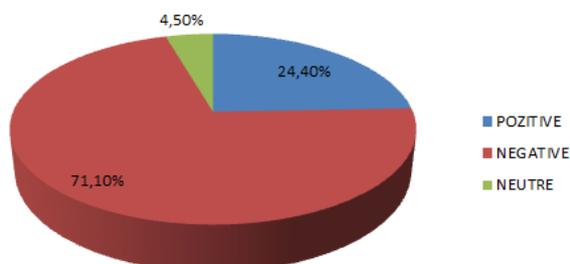
negative way. Massive emigration has even negative side effects on the country of origin,

according to 58.8% of those interrogated. Most of the interrogated ones (62.1%) appreciate that political effects of emigration over the country of origin are neutral (see Chart no.16).

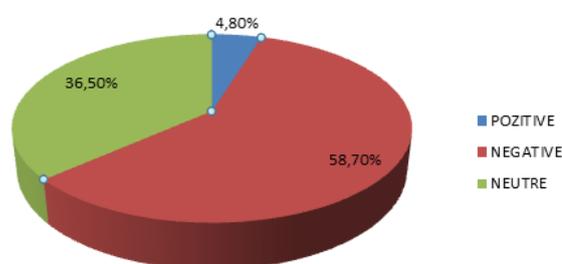
16. THE EFFECTS OF MIGRATION ACCELERATION OVER THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NEUTRAL
1. ECONOMIC EFFECTS	24.40%	71.10%	4.50%
2. SOCIAL EFFECTS	4.80%	58.70%	36.50%
3. CULTURAL EFFECTS	15.50%	40%	44.50%
4. POLITICAL EFFECTS	5.80%	32.10%	62.10%

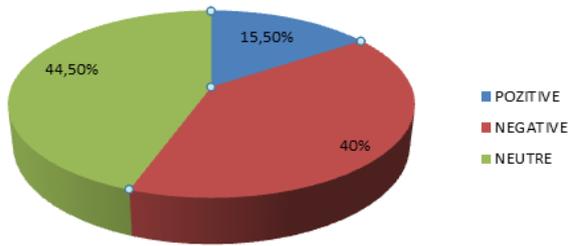
1. EFECTE ECONOMICE



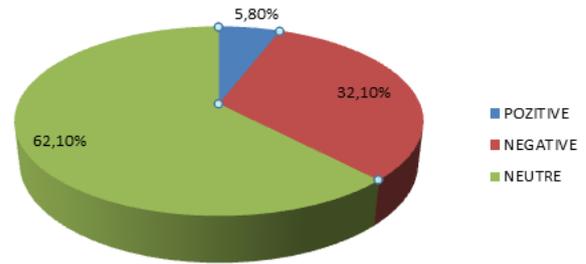
2. EFECTE SOCIALE



3. EFECTE CULTURALE



4. EFECTE POLITICE

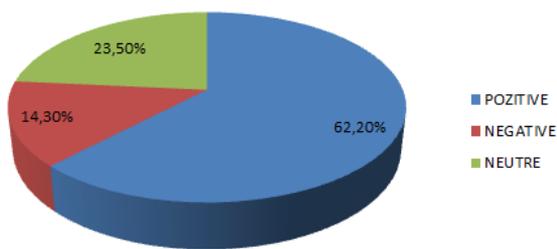


The effects of accelerated migration over the country of origin are negatively perceived, while this phenomenon is perceived in a positive way by the host country. Most of high-school students (62.2%) consider that the intensification of migration brings economic benefits to the host country. Most of the interrogated ones appreciate that migration generates neutral effects on social life (47.2%), as well as cultural (54.3%) and political life (59.7%) of the host country (Chart no.17).

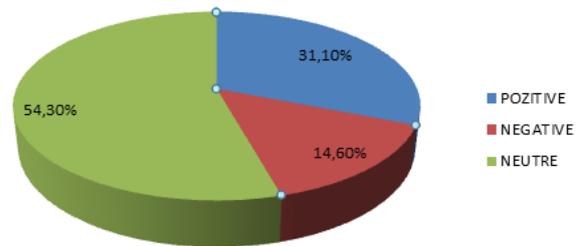
17. THE EFFECTS OF MIGRATION ACCELERATION OVER THE HOST COUNTRY

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	NEUTRAL
1. ECONOMIC EFFECTS	62.20%	14.30%	23.50%
2. SOCIAL EFFECTS	37.50%	15.30%	47.20%
3. CULTURAL EFFECTS	31.10%	14.60%	54.30%
4. POLITICAL EFFECTS	24.50%	15.80%	59.70%

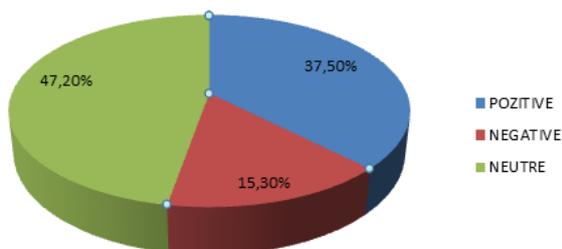
EFECTE ECONOMICE



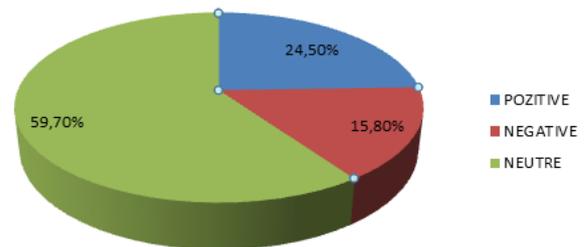
EFECTE CULTURALE



EFECTE SOCIALE



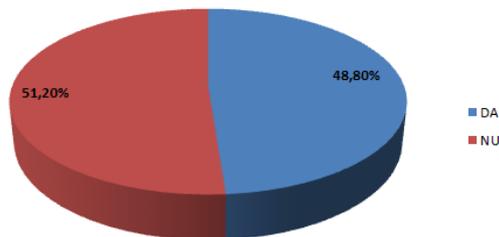
EFECTE POLITICE



According to Chart no.18, more than a half of the interrogated high-school students (51.2%) declared that they do not have any contact with Romanian immigrants; in consequence, they do not know the situation of these immigrants directly.

18. THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE WHO HAVE CONTACTS WITH IMMIGRANTS

	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
YES	48.80%
NO	51.20%



According to Chart no.19, high-school students who declared that they have contacts with immigrants mentioned that they established these relations through their friends (51%), through the school environment (27%) or mass-media (22%). In most cases, one can notice that friends represent the most important factor that made it possible for establishing a relationship between high-school students and immigrants.

19. AGENTS THAT FACILITATED CONTACT WITH THE POPULATION OF IMMIGRANTS

	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
SCHOOL	27%
FRIENDS	51%
MASS-MEDIA	22%

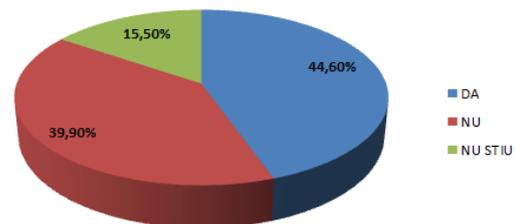
21. CITIZENSHIP SHOULD BE GRANTED TO IMMIGRANTS

	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED	7.60%
LIMITED	60%
UNLIMITED	32.40%

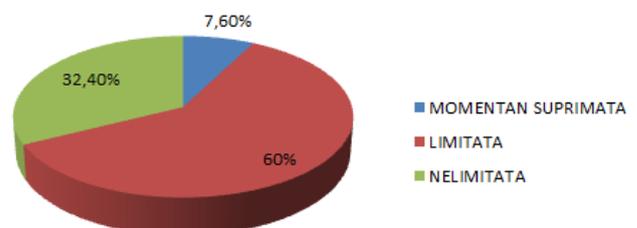
Chart no.20 illustrates the fact that in the opinion of most of those interrogated (i.e. 44.6%), the massive increase of the immigrants number leads to an increase of the criminality rate in the host country. One can notice the existence of significant percentage differences between those who appreciate that immigration generates negative social effects (15.3%) and those who consider that immigration leads to the increase of the criminality rate (44.6%). Somehow it is paradoxical the fact that not all 44.6% of those who consider that immigration increases criminality rate also appreciate that there are negative social effects in the host countries due to the intensification of migration.

20. MASSIVE INCREASE OF IMMIGRATION FAVOURS THE INCREASE OF CRIMINALITY RATE

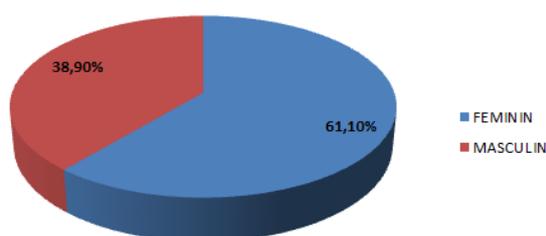
	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
YES	44.60%
NO	39.90%
I DO NOT KNOW	15.50%



Most of those interrogated (60%) appreciate that, due to the massive intensification of migration, host states should grant citizenship to immigrants within certain limits. On the other hand, according to 32.4% of those interrogated, citizenship should be granted to immigrants in an unlimited/unconditional way. A much lower number of interrogated subjects declared that granting citizenship to immigrants should be temporarily suspended (Chart no. 21).

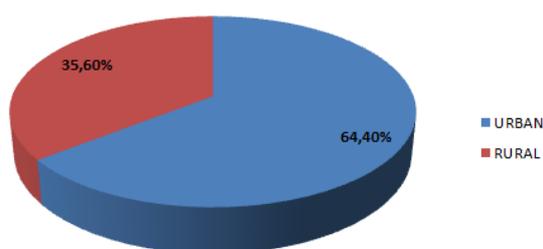


22. SEX



23. THE RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT

	TOTAL NUMBER OF ANSWERS %
URBAN	64.4%
RURAL	35.6%



3. Conclusions

a) The level of knowledge that Romanian high-school students have as regards the process of migration during the globalization era

Firstly, I would like to mention that high-school students have a realist perspective as to the *main characteristics that define the globalization process*. In their opinion, the first 5 fundamental characteristics of this phenomenon – which should be debated upon by all socialization agents – are: observance of human rights - mechanisms and institutions (53.3%); tolerance and intolerance (51.1%); progress in the information area (44.4%); peace versus war (33.3%), global warming and environmental protection (31.1%). High-school students answered in high percentage in favour of other characteristics that define globalization, i.e.: globalization of exchanges, markets and economic exchanges (28.8%), citizen participation in social and political life (26.6%), migration phenomenon (24.4%) and development of the international community and of global consciousness (24.4%).

Most of the high-school students (86.9%) know the *meanings of the terms: emigrant and immigrant*. A small percentage (13.1%) does not make a difference between these two terms.

When asked about the immigrants' countries of origin and the host countries that they prefer, most of the Romanian high-school students enumerated the following countries as being *the countries with the highest number of immigrants*: Spain (51.1%), USA (48.8%), Italy (44.4%), France (38.4%), Germany (35.5%), Great Britain (24.4%), Canada (11.1%). The data recently published by the United Nations, according to Huffington Post, show that the first 8 countries with the highest number of immigrants are: USA (45.8 million), Russia (11 million), Germany (9.8 million), Saudi Arabia (9.1 million), the United Emirates of Arabia (7.8 million), Great Britain (7.8 million), France (7.4 million) and Canada (7.3 million). One can notice that there are certain inconsistencies between the opinions shared by high-school students and the reality existing in the countries which have the largest number of immigrants. Most of the interrogated subjects may have nominated some countries as having the highest number of immigrants because they thought of Romanian immigrants in particular and the countries which the latter prefer. This may be the reason why the interrogated subjects included in this category countries like: Russia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

As to the classification of countries which have the highest number of emigrants, most of the interviewed subjects (48.8%) consider that Romania is in the top, being followed by China, Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova. Studies indicate that "we are not the nation which exports the highest number of emigrants, though we occupy a top position globally. However, we occupy an unhappy top position for the largest number of emigrants who have higher education studies, i.e. 18.5% of the total number of emigrants, in comparison with the European average of only 5%. Considering that Romania has the lowest number of university graduates, a fifth of them prefer to work for other economies."⁶

When asked if they know anything about the situation of immigrants living in Romania, the present study indicates the existence of a significant deficit. Most of the asked subjects (72.3%) declare that they do not have *information on the situation of the immigrants living in Romania*; only 27.7% declared the contrary.

Of the 27.7% who declared to have information on the immigrants living in Romania, more than a half answered that they had a lot or much knowledge of their economic situation. Less than a half of them perceive themselves as being informed to a high or very high extent as to the cultural characteristics of immigrants and their political situation (43%); the rest

⁶ <http://www.amosnews.ro/suntem-tara-care-export-cei-mai-multi-emigranti-cu-studii-superioare-2013-12-30#sthash.AYLqEb8.dpuf>

appreciated that they have little knowledge about this aspect.

In fact, more than a half of the questioned high-school students (51.2%) declared that they do not have any contact with Romanian immigrants; thus, they do not directly know the situation in which these immigrants find themselves.

High-school students who declared that they have contact with the immigrants in our country stated that they established these relationships through their friends (51%), school (27%) or mass-media (22%). One can notice that, for most cases, the group of friends played the most important role in the creation of such relationships.

The present research points out that the main agents of socialization who provided pupils information on the immigrants in Romania are: mass-media (46.0%), friends (20%), school (17%) and family (16%). It results that school should be more involved in debating these problems as to migration and immigrants.

We can conclude that the level of knowledge that high-school students had as to the actors and complexity of the migration process requires corrections and that it is necessary to get involved all socialization agents (from school to NGOs and mass-media) in accomplishing this objective.

b) Opinions, attitudes, feelings toward migration, immigration, emigrants

Most of the interrogated high-school students (71.1%) consider that under the intensification of the globalization process, migration will increase. Students appreciate that *the main 5 reasons* (causes) that could determine a person emigrate are: extreme poverty (80%), wars (78%), lack of workplaces (56%), lack of rights and freedoms (38%), as well as political corruption (34%).

A large number of students consider that the effects of emigration over the country of origin are negative from an economic point of view. According to the interrogated subjects, the effects of emigration on children and their parents are also negative.

Thus, the effects of emigration on the children who remain in their country of origin (according to 71.1% of those interrogated) are negative (causing affective problems, educational failures etc.). Only 20% of the high-school students consider that this phenomenon produces positive effects (the increase of the living standard, the possibility to study abroad, etc.).

Most of the high-school students appreciate that massive emigration, besides the negative economic effects which it produces, also has social negative effects over the country of origin (population ageing, lack of balance as regards gender, brain and talent migration, etc.).

Young people's opinions confirm the latest research in the area, which shows that "migration flows may more easily affect states that are already vulnerable (due to their non-performant economy, weak social cohesion, non-performant public institutions or an immature political system) in comparison with the ones that have a solid administration".⁷

The effects of accelerated migration over the country of origin are negatively perceived, while the effects of this process over the host country are regarded as generating positive effects. Most of the high-school students (62.2%) consider that the intensification of migration brings economic benefits to the host country. As to the other dimensions of the social system (the social, cultural and political consequences) most of the interrogated high-school students appreciated that migration generates neutral effects in the host country.

Young people's opinions as to the effects of migration over economy are realistic. Recent studies have revealed the fact that host countries are those that mainly benefit from migration. Migration does not have side effects on the economies of these countries, on the contrary: the value of the paid taxes is higher than the value of social services that immigrants receive from the host country.

Joakim Ruist, researcher at Goteborg University, has calculated the income-cost rate generated by immigrants for the Swedish economy (Bulgarians and Romanians have worked in this country since 2007), as well as for other 14 EU member states before the enlargement towards the former Eastern Bloc. "My conclusions – he states – clearly show that fears which currently manifest in other European countries as to the heavy burden that the welfare state would be obliged to carry due to the unlimited restriction of immigrants coming from Romania and Bulgaria are not grounded."⁸

The present study shows that a large number of young people (44.6%) consider that a massive increase in the number of immigrants would favour the increase of the criminality rate in the host country due to the intensification of the migration process.

As to the host states policies regarding the granting of citizenship to immigrants as a consequence of the massive increase in the migration process, young people have a reserved attitude. Most of the interrogated ones (60%) consider that host states should grant immigrants the citizenship of their state only under strict conditions.

High-school students positively correlated the intensification of migration both with the criminality rate and the frequent discriminatory behaviour in the host country.

Over a half of those interrogated students (51%) appreciate that *the immigrants' discrimination is a*

⁷ Ionel Stoica, *Migratia internationala si securitatea-noi provocari*, **INFOSFERA, Anul I, Nr.1, 2009**.

⁸ *Imigratia din Romania si Bulgaria sunt contributori neti si nu reprezinta un cost pentru Occident - studiu suedez*, 14 Ianuarie 2014, www.hotnews.ro/stiri-diaspora-16407492-imigratia-din-romania-bulgari.

reality in the EU countries; only 27% of them reject the idea that such a phenomenon exists.

Most of them consider that immigrants are discriminated to a different degree in the EU host countries, depending on their ethnical and national origin: the most discriminated ones are the Roma population. Subjects - 87% of them – appreciate that the Roma population is discriminated to a high or very high extent by the host country. This ethnical group is followed by Afrikaans and Romanians who, according to 61% and 57% of the interrogated subjects, are also discriminated to a high or very high extent.

Young people repeatedly include Romanians in the top of the most discriminated immigrants, after the Roma population and the Afrikaans.

c) Tolerance vs. discrimination in relation to immigrants

In the present study we have tried to identify the tolerance and intolerance degrees manifested by high-school students towards immigrants, while measuring the social distant attitude which the former manifest towards the latter. This research has revealed the extent to which young people manifest a reserved attitude towards their immigrant neighbours, colleagues and friends, who come from different ethnical groups or who have different nationalities. The present research illustrates a relatively low level of intolerance that young people manifest in relation to immigrants no matter the latter's origin. Thus, we can notice that most of those who answered the questionnaire declared that they would not mind having neighbours who are immigrants, no matter the ethnical group to which latter belong. However, there is an exception: the Roma population; the degree to which the idea of having members of the Roma population as neighbours is rejected to a high or very high degree, i.e. by 37.6% of those who answered the questionnaire; only 12.8% declared that they do not mind having Roma emigrants as neighbours.

All in all, young people adopt a socially distant attitude towards their immigrant colleagues. High quotas of tolerance are recorded for most of the social and ethnical groups of immigrant colleagues. As regards the Roma immigrant colleagues, one can notice that there is a higher level of acceptance in comparison with the previous data referring to the

situation of having them as neighbours. The present study illustrates that only 18% of those who answered the questionnaire manifest a high or very high degree of intolerance towards their Roma colleagues in comparison with 37.6% of the subjects who would not tolerate to have them neighbours. The Roma population occupies a top position as to the non-preferred ethnical groups: either as a colleague or as a neighbour. Ethnical groups that are accepted (tolerated) as colleagues or neighbours are the Bulgarians, the Russians and the Turkish.

As regards the level of tolerance manifested towards immigrant friends, Romanians, Bulgarians, Russians and Asian people occupy top positions. The non-acceptance degree of a friendship relationship with the Roma immigrants is even higher in comparison with accepting them as colleagues or neighbours. Roma friends are rejected to a very high or high extent by 39.6% of those who answered the questionnaire. It seems that Romanians who live abroad tolerate the Roma population to a less extent in comparison with the Romanians who did not leave their country of origin. This situation may be related to a complex which has been induced by the public image that Romanian immigrants have acquired and by the way in which they are perceived by an important share of the host country population.

The present research has shown that 76% of the Europeans consider that a certain number of immigrants that arrive in their country represent a potential or important threat for their states.⁹

The famous publication *La Liberation*, in an article which it tries to present the most common prejudices related to the Roma population, mentions that - according to a survey that has been made this year by the National Human Rights Commission – two thirds of the French appreciate that the Roma population constitutes “a particular group”.⁵ I would like to conclude the present paper with another observation that is revealed by my research, i.e. the existence of a significant number of Romanian high-school students (10%) that prefer to adopt a reserved or very reserved attitude to the idea of having friends from among the Romanian immigrants; this fact seems illustrative for the Romanian community and their national pride, respectively for their self-esteem.

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⁹ Marcel Canoy, Ricklef Beutin, Anna Horvath, Agnes Hubert, Frédéric Lerais, Peter Smith, Myriam Sochacki, *Migration and public perception*, Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) European Commission; http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/policy_advisers/publications/docs/bepa_migration_final_09_10_006_en.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.euractiv.ro/uniuneauropeana/articles%7CdisplayArticle/articleID_24630/Liberation-Nu-romii-nu-sunt-nomazi-plus-alte-4-clisee.html

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On-line resources:

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- <http://www.amosnews.ro/suntem-tara-care-export-cei-mai-multi-emigranti-cu-studii-superioare-2013-12-30#sthash.AYLqEb8.dpuf>
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