An Example of Analysis of the Migration and Integration Behaviour of Romanians in Paris, London and Rome

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Why Romanians?

- Economic migration
- In considerable numbers in all capitals
- European country
- Heading to EU ascension at the time of research (2005)
- Similar research in such scale was not yet carried out

Theoretical background

- Neoclassical economics theory
- New (households) economics of migration
- Dual labour market theory
- Network theory
- Institutional theory

Hypotheses

1. The main reasons for emigration are economic.

2. The main factor to select the location (state and city) are the already existing migration networks of fellow countrymen.

3. The first job is gained through the fellow countrymen community and a majority of colleagues are fellow countrymen.

4. Good language skills influence positively successful integration into the community.

5. The Romanians tend to settle down in the destination country.

6. The Romanians, according to the transnationalisation concept, maintain and wish to maintain frequent contacts with the home country.

7. The Romanians will form ethnic enclaves in the researched capitals.

Methodology

- Good secondary sources and statistics available only in Rome

- Questionnaire method
  - Inspired by the research of MoLSA (2003)
  - Directed interview method
  - 62 questions (past of the respondent, work, relationships with fellow countrymen, family, knowledge of languages, respondent's perspectives, identification indicators)
  - Qualitative and quantitative approach

The respondents

- ## Number
  - 50 in Paris & London, 45 in Rome

- ## Choice
  - Random at Romanian churches, but unified rules:
    - Arrived into the destination country after 1989
    - At least one year stay
    - Romanian citizenship
    - Aged more than 18

Source Country - Romania

- On 1st January 2007 entered the EU but its poorest member

- 237 500 sq km, 22 mil. of inhabitants

- **Socioeconomic indicators (2004)**
  - GDP/ inh. 7 642 USD (35 % of EU25 average)
  - Unemployment rate – 6,2 %
  - Average monthly salary – 272 EUR (France – 3 503 EUR, UK – 3 849, Italy – 2 904 EUR, Czech Rep. – 842 EUR)
  - Life expectancy – 67,6 years (men), 75,1 years (women)
  - Share of economically active people working in agriculture – 37,5 %

Romania and migration

- Constantly negative migration balance since the Second World War

- Mostly to Germany, USA, Hungary and Israel

- After 1989:

  – To mid 90s: Germany, Hungary, France, Israel, Turkey

  – Nowadays: Italy, Spain

- From permanent migration to the circular one

- **Typical Romanian migrant:**
  - Man, 35 years old, average education, qualified worker from big city (Bucharest, Constanta, Brasov, Cluj etc.)

- **Migration policy of Romania**
  - Legislative changes due to the EU ascension
  - Recruitment agencies – state Office for Labour Force Migration (10 % of migrants)
  - Many (young) people study abroad thanks to large support from many NGOs and foundations

- **The benefits of migration for the country**
  - Remittances – 1,2 bil. USD per year
  - Smaller pressure on labour market
  BUT rise of prices, affection of social structure etc.

The principal findings of empirical survey

- **The main characteristics of respondents**
  - Majority aged 25-40 years
  - Childless in Paris & London **x** Rome: only 40 %
  - Married in Paris & Rome **x** London: single
  - Illegally staying:
    - France 25 %
    - Italy 20 %
    - UK 12 %

You cannot outrun your shadow!

How long can you be on the lookout? The new legislation on illegal migration in the UK is a lot tougher; the controls more rigorous; so you risk being sent back home very swiftly. As an illegal migrant somebody else will decide your future. You can enter the UK only if you have all the necessary documents.
Find out more at www.iom.ro/migratie
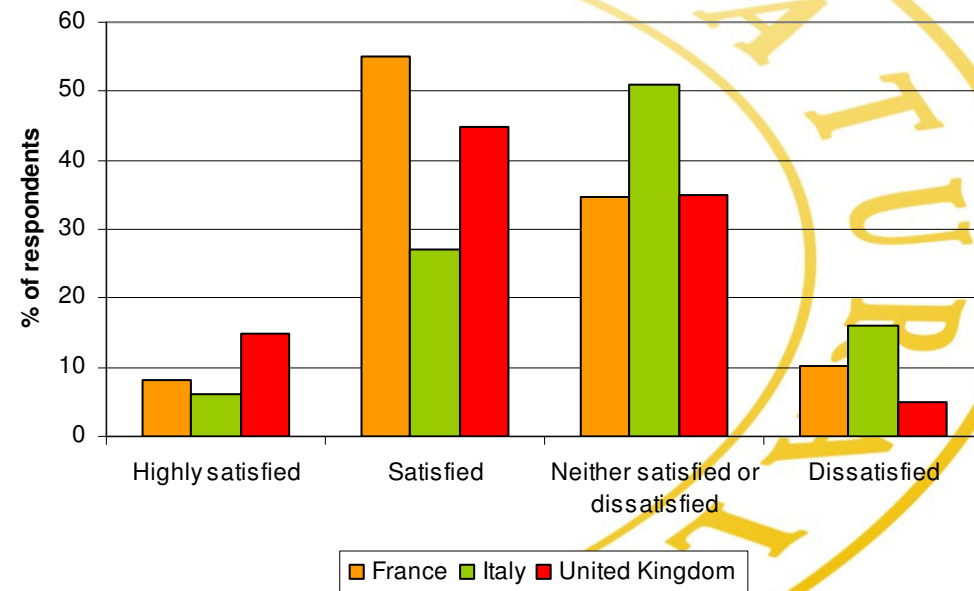
The only way is the legal way.

IOM

OIM

The life of respondents at destination – basic characteristics

- Average length of stay: 4 years
- Good language knowledge
- Satisfaction with integration into the major society
- Spatial distribution within the city (Paris & London x Rome)

Source: Own survey, 2005; Mocek, 2006

The history of arrival

- Reasons for leaving:
  - Economics (unemployment, poverty – better job opportunities, higher average earnings), further study, friends and relatives
- The choice of destination:
  - London and Paris: language knowledge, jobs
  - Rome: jobs, friends, availability of visas
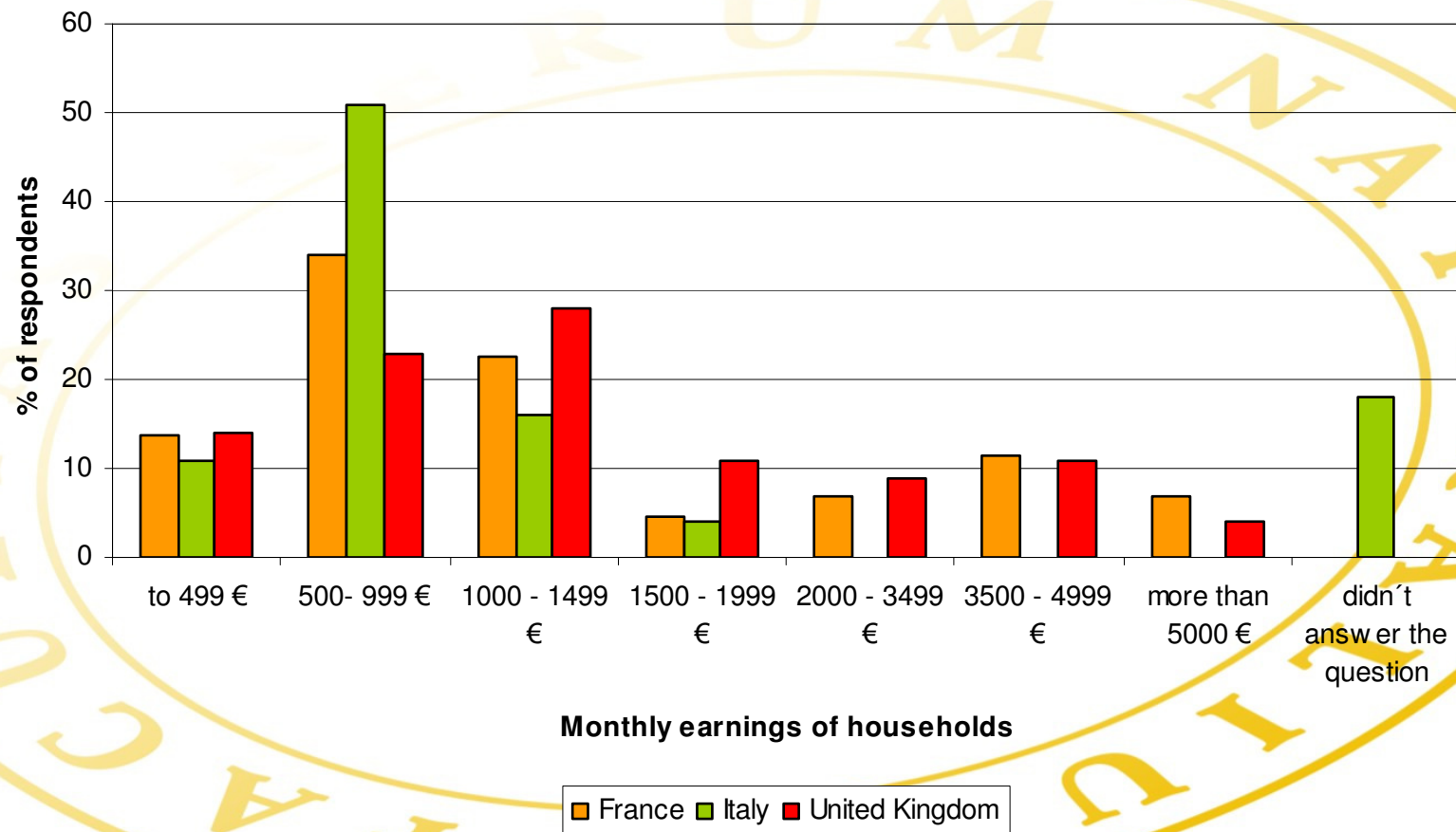- First such stay, well prepared before by all the respondents (with help of family or Romanian agency)

Work

- Education ≠ Job, mostly „secondary sector"
- Paris: Construction, au pair, education, business
- London: Construction, tourist, health and social services
- Rome: Services (hotels, restaurants), business, construction
- Varied professions - from newsvendors across the masons and the roofers to the translators, IT specialists, university professors, scientists, doctors and priests
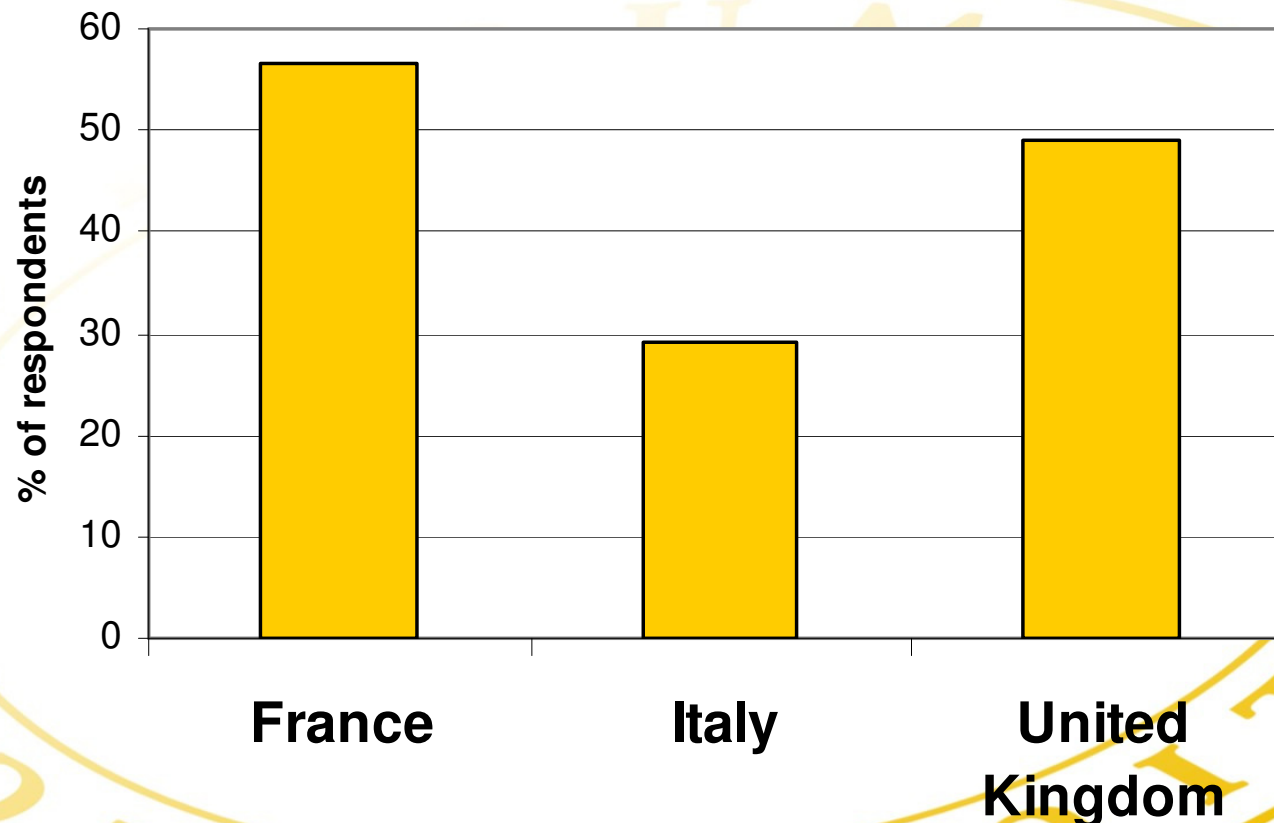- Arranged before arrival

Net monthly earnings of respondents households in Paris (N=50), Rome (N=45) and London (N=50)

Source: Own survey, 2005; Mocek, 2006

The proportion of respondents who doesn't send money back to Romania (Paris: N=50, Rome: N=45, London: N=50)

Source: Own survey, 2005; Mocek, 2006

The relations between the compatriots

- The cohesion of Romanian community was proven to be high in all the cities
  - 90 % of respondents in Paris and Rome are in touch with their compatriots at least once a week, in London 65 %
  - Difference in seeking for compatriots due to the fact of not-knowing somebody before arrival in Paris and in London
- Principal meeting point: church
- 75 % of respondents meet the unselfish help

Family

- Children: not intention to invite them by respondents of Paris and London – thinking of returning **x** Rome

- Almost all still holding Romanian traditions

- Contact with family in Romania:
  - At least one every two weeks
  - One visit per year
  - No visits of those settled in Paris and London **x** Rome – one third visited

The perspectives of respondents

- The groups of respondents thinking *yes, no* and *I don't know* about their return to Romania were equal – the difficulty of predicting such decision

- London and Rome: less inclined to returning back to Romania than those from Paris (26,0 % and 30,0 % vs. 30,6 %)
= satisfaction of respondents with their present life (more in Paris than in London and Rome)

- Those not knowing English/ Italian very well wanted return back more than others **x** Paris

- Rome: 25 %. Paris 20 % x London 67 % imagine themselves living only in Romania in next 5 years

The comparison of survey results with the main theories of international migration and with undertaken hypothesis

- All selected theories proved to be valid (**new (household) economics of migration** only partially, **Institutional theory** indirectly)

- All established hypotheses were fully or partially confirmed, except one:

5) *The Romanians tend to settle down in the destination country*

Conclusion – recommendations and indication of possible future research

- Promote what the Romanians have given the to the city or country

- Informations about the life in the country available in other "minority" languages (e.g. in Romanian)

- Printed media informing about socio-cultural events organized by fellow countrymen etc.

- Future research:
  - with a greater number of respondents
  - on one of the topics
  - confrontation with the situation of Romanians in other countries (Spain, Israel etc.)
  - Prediction of migration behaviour (e.g. Croatia)

Thank you for your attention

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