MIGRATION IN ROMANIA – BETWEEN MASS DEPARTURES AND NEW ARRIVALS

Elisabeta Damian, 12th Grade A
Colgiul Tehnic Danubiana Roman
ROMANIA

Migration is an increasingly visible phenomenon in Romania. While millions of Romanians have left to work or study in other countries, Romania has also started to receive more foreign citizens in recent years. This is changing both the economy and social life in our country.

Romania – A Country of Emigration

After the year 2000, many Romanians left the country in search of a better life. It is estimated that over 5 million Romanians currently live and work abroad. The main destinations are Italy, Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, and France.

The main reasons for emigration are:

- higher salaries in other countries;
- lack of well-paid jobs in Romania;
- better access to education and healthcare.

This massive departure also has negative effects. Romania is facing population decline and a shortage of workers in fields such as construction, agriculture, and healthcare.

Romania – A Country of Immigration

At the same time, Romania has begun to attract foreign workers, especially from Asia. Today, tens of thousands of

workers from Nepal, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, India, and Bangladesh are working in Romania. They are employed in construction, food delivery, restaurants, factories, and cleaning services.

Companies bring them because:

- they can no longer find enough Romanian workers;
- the costs are lower than hiring workers from the European Union.

In addition, since the war in Ukraine, Romania has received a large number of Ukrainian refugees. Many of them live here temporarily, and some have joined the Romanian workforce.

The Impact of Migration

Migration has important effects:

1. Positive effects:

- Romanians abroad send money home, supporting the economy;
- foreign workers help fill labor shortages;
- it encourages cultural exchange and diversity.

2. Negative effects:

- depopulation of villages and small towns;
- “brain drain” — the loss of specialists who leave the country;
- difficulties integrating foreign workers.

What Can We Do?

To reduce emigration, Romania needs to improve living and working conditions. It is also important to help foreign workers integrate and feel respected.

Migration is a reality of our time. It shows that Romania is connected to the world, but also that we need solutions to keep our people at home and build a balanced society.