

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Goschin Zizi, Roman Monica, *Romanian Migration and Remittances in an Economic Crisis Context*, ASE Publishing House, Bucharest, 2014**

*Review by Gheorghe ZAMAN*

The book *Romanian Migration and Remittances in an Economic Crisis Context*<sup>1</sup> written by two prestigious professors at the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, offers an in-depth analysis and complex interpretation of external labour force migration in Romania during the transition to market economy in general, with a special emphasis on the impact of current economic and financial international crisis.

The main problems tackled by the authors are related to important strategic aspects such as: trends and flows in Romanian external migration; migrants remittances and economic development; the characteristics of brain drain phenomenon in Romania and Central and East European Countries; Romanian return migration.

First of all I would like to point out the professional ability of authors in combining the quantitative approaches and methods of research with the qualitative ones using a rich statistical database and information and as well as adequate systems of econometric models aiming at a more profound and better understanding of migration processes in origin and destination countries.

Secondly, it is worth mentioning the valuable and successful research

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<sup>1</sup>Goschin Z., Roman, M., *Romanian Migration and Remittances in an Economic Crisis Context*, 2014, Editura ASE, Colecția Statistică și econometrie, <http://www.editura.ase.ro/Carte/Romanian-migration-and-remittances-in-an-economic-crisis-context/>

efforts focused on identifying and assessing the multitude of main migration determinants from both theoretical and empirical standpoints.

Thirdly, the authors provide new data on migration, generated through an online survey conducted between July 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. The database contains valuable information on 1514 Romanian emigrants based in 52 countries: individual characteristics of the migrant, data on income, employment, remittances, regions of origin and destination, educational attainment both in Romania and in immigration country, length of migration and intention to return to Romania, etc.

Last but not least, the book contains a comprehensive body of literature review and interdisciplinary approaches aiming to advance evidence-based and theoretical understanding of main external migration processes, a domain relatively under-researched and under-theorized in Romania.

The authors outlined that various contextual factors in host countries, policies and level of social and economic development in both origin and host countries play an important role in driving migration, their interaction and effects generating conflicting circumstances, dilemmas and a large diversity of effects. As an example we mention different opinions regarding the role of remittances as a potential economic growth resource in Romania, which could or could not compensate losses generated by brain drain phenomenon and lack of labour force in domestic market. Other dilemmatic problems concern the negative impact of highly qualified Romanian emigrants stemming from relatively high development countries (Bucharest, Timiș, Sibiu, Cluj).

As far as remittances' impact on Romania's economy is concerned, based on a series of econometric models results, the authors consider that their impact is beneficial to economic growth of GDP in absolute and relative terms.

An outstanding result of the research is reflected by the competent analysis of different reasons of emigration and return back to Romania, the motivations and impact of healthcare professionals emigrants and the empirical analysis on religion and economic performance of migrants. These results are based on a competent use of questionnaires, surveys, sampling and data processing methods under a rigorous interpretation of causality relationship, and particularities across the countries and economic sectors.

The crisis context was a non-negligible factor of influence on migration flows, which explicitly or implicitly has been taken into account when the

determinants of these phenomena were interfering or interrelating in a favorable and/or unfavorable way.

The accuracy of econometric tools application in studying the migration processes on different time horizons represent a genuine professional advantage of this study, proving the excellent authors' ability of using economic, statistical and mathematical modeling for ex-post analysis and drawing some predictive guidelines on short, medium and long terms.

All in all, the book represents a many-sided challenge for a better connection of migration theory and practice to relevant theories of economic and social development, by integrating insights from different fields of empirical research on determinants of magnitude, duration, timing and composition of low and high skilled migrants flows between developed and developing countries.

The book managed to be a rigorous contribution to answering the question: how economic and social situation influence people's hopes and decisions as regards where, how, when and for how long to migrate? What are the factors shaping the migration patterns and the ways of each other interaction?

The theoretical and practical conclusions of the book are helping to make sense of the migration complexity determinants operating in the context of social, temporal and spatial diversity and giving effective ideas for improving decisions making processes at local, regional, national and international levels.