

PRESS CONFERENCE

Thursday, 9.30 a.m., the 28th of November, 2013

MIGRATION IN ROMANIA – DATA, TRENDS AND POLICIES

**Venue: Town hall meeting room, Sfântu Gheorghe
(Sfântu Gheorghe, 1 Decembrie 1918 no. 2)**

About the topic of the press conference

After the collapse of the state socialist regime, the international migration-rates in Romania, particularly the emigration, rose to unprecedented levels. Next to the fact that the evolution of the legal framework mirrors attempts to harmonize the Romanian institutional system with international norms, as well as a continuous preoccupation with the organization and internal reorganization of the institutions involved in the management of migration, one can observe that the Romanian state was not able to administer or even to register the process of international migration. Due to methodological inconsistencies and problematic institutional mechanisms, the Romanian system of migration management is ineffective, and many times provides discordant or erroneous data. The following examples illustrate this well. At the time of the parliamentary elections in 2012, the official number of persons entitled to vote was 18.4 million, whereas the official number of the usual resident adult population – delivered by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) – was 17.4 million. Or, according to the statistics of the World Bank, in 2010, 2.8 million Romanian citizens resided abroad, but the number of emigrants registered by the Romanian authorities between 2001 and 2011 was only about 128,000 persons. Finally, in light of the flow statistics of the main receiving countries, one can realize that the Romanian emigration statistics capture less than 10 percent of the legal outflows from the country.

It is also readily observable that Romania does not represent a unique case in the region with regard to migration processes. Actually, South-East Europe represents the main sending region for European and North-American migratory systems. According to World Bank statistics, in 2010, more than 17 million South-East European citizens were living abroad. Moreover, Romania is not a unique case in what concerns the problems in the administration and management of migration and its effects either.

In this respect, the similarities and differences between the South-East European states are learned by complex research activities conducted within the framework of the transnational project called SEEMIG. The project aims to better understand and address longer term migratory, human capital and demographic processes of South-East Europe, as well as their effects on labor markets, national and regional economies. The main goal of the project is to empower public administrations to develop and implement policies and strategies by using enhanced datasets and empirical evidence.

SEEMIG is carried out in partnership by research institutes, universities, statistical offices and local government bodies from eight countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia). The partners from Romania are the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities (ISPMN), the Municipality of Sfântu Gheorghe, and the Harghita County Council.

The topics to be addressed during the press conference are the following: results of the analysis of existing migratory data production systems and major data sources in Romania, for which the research has been carried out within the framework of the SEEMIG project, and the Sepsinet (www.sepsinet.ro) webpage, a project of the local government of Sfântu Gheorghe dedicated to the emigrants of the town. This initiative is very important from the perspective of the SEEMIG project too, as this forum of emigrants can help us to learn more about migration.

The enlisted topics are going to be addressed by:

Árpád Antal, mayor of Sfântu Gheorghe Municipality

Tamás Kiss, demographer, researcher at the Institute for Research on National Minorities, SEEMIG thematic expert.

The study and further information related to the topic of the press conference can be accessed on the following webpages:

Kiss Tamás: *Analysis of Existing Migratory Data Production Systems and Major Data Sources in Romania*. ISPMN, Working Papers, no. 52/2013.

[<http://ispmn.gov.ro/node/analysis-of-existing-migratory-data-production-systems-and-major-data-sources-in-romania->]

SEEMIG research results available on the project's web page:

[<http://seemig.eu/index.php/downloads-project-outputs>]

Sepsinet: [<http://sepsinet.ro/>]

SEEMIG [Managing Migration and its Effects in SEE – Transnational Actions Towards Evidence Based Strategies] is funded under the third call for proposals of the South-East Europe Programme (SEEMIG - SEE/C/0006/4.1/X).

www.seemig.eu

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