



Book review

Anatolie Coșciug (coordinator),

Perspective empirice asupra imigrației în România. De la țară de tranzit la țară de destinație [Empirical perspectives on immigration in Romania. From a transit country to a country of destination]

Timișoara, Editura de Vest, 2022, 142 pp., ISBN 978-973-36-0820-2

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The volume coordinated by Anatolie Coșciug, suggestively titled “*Empirical perspectives on immigration in Romania. From a transit country to a country of destination*” brings together theoretical approaches well established in the migration studies, and field research, managing to capture both institutional and social aspects, based on the perspective of the host community and immigrants alike.

If in other Western European countries, the studies on the integration of immigrants in the host societies already have a tradition, in Romania this theme has only been approached relatively recently. Considered and analysed rather from the positions of a source country for emigrants or a transit country, Romania has experienced a constant increase in the number of newcomers in recent years, and these developments deserve,

of course, to be understood and interpreted in a scientific manner. In this sense, the book presents the results of a fourth study of a series that started in 2017, results obtained within the CRCMIS project - the Romanian Migration and Social Inclusion Research Center carried out by the Center for the Comparative Study of Migration in partnership with The Romanian Association for the Promotion of Quality and Successful Practices (ARPCPS) and the Human Rights Defense League (LADO) - Cluj Branch.

The in-depth review reveals that the content of the paper is structured in three main directions of study, starting from aspects of a more general nature, up to the particular analysis of the various processes and institutions associated with immigration in Romania. The three chapters are preceded by an introductory part, in which Marius Matichescu, familiarizes the reader with the general directions of research included in the study, as well as with the methodological framework and the context in which they were developed. Through this presentation of the congruence of the three research directions brought together in the work, the volume becomes accessible both to the public specialized in the phenomenology of international migration, as well as to the reader uninitiated in this field, as the key to analysis is provided, in a concise and clear manner for each of the collected data segments.

The first part of the book, suggestively titled *“It is not within the competence of this institution. The governance of the integration of immigrants in Romania”* is carried out by Anatolie Coșciug and Astrid Hamberger and, as the authors explain, it is *“the result of older concerns and questions that arose from a long experience of processing and presenting data collected from public institutions in Romania and for which we could not give a satisfactory answer until now”*. This section starts from the premise that institutions have a fundamental contribution in the specific processes of integration, namely in acculturation and assimilation, and analyses the reason why significant differences appear in the way institutions relate to the issue of immigrant integration. In this sense, the analysis of institutional participation from the perspective of integration governance is particularly relevant from a methodological point of view, establishing as levels of analysis the involvement of international organizations, the framework of national institutions, and focusing especially on the local institutional level. The final part of the chapter includes, for a better understanding of the phenomenon, the detailed series of data that were used for the research.

The second chapter, written by Livia Pogan and Mara Birou, *“The perspectives of Romanian citizens on immigration and integration in Romania”*, represents a detailed analysis of the opinions and positions of the local population towards immigrants. Thus, starting from the experience of previous research, the study focuses on *“attitudes regarding the impact of immigrants in economic, social or cultural terms, the role of the authorities in the integration of immigrants, the rights they could benefit from and opinions regarding the necessity of the existence of social policies in favour of their integration”*. The data analysed in this section were collected in a survey with over 1300 respondents, starting from general questions of socio-demographic nature, and continuing with aspects related to contact with immigrants, cultural consumption, distance or tolerance towards other groups, aspects related to the economic impact of immigrants etc., the authors explaining how each of these directions influence the specific processes of integration.

The final chapter of the book captures the perspectives of immigrants on integration in Romania, and the analysis carried out by Georgian Guțoiu *“aims to study the integration of immigrants in Romania using a methodology specific to a quantitative opinion survey,*

collecting the answers to the questionnaires during several months in 2021". The conclusions of this study section reveal an increase in the level of integration compared to the situation of previous years, based on data collected through questionnaires applied to immigrants. The analysis perspective is a comparative one, thus ensuring the observation of the temporal evolution of the integration indices in 2021 compared to 2020.

Writing a synthesis book that captures all aspects of a social, cultural, legal, economic and, not least, institutional nature, associated with immigration in Romania, is an extremely daring approach, calling for knowledge and methods specific to each of the mentioned fields. The collective of authors coordinated by Anatolie Coşciug manages to capture in this volume both the institutional dimension of immigration in Romania and the specifics of the integration of immigrant groups into the host society, including at the same time the opinions and perceptions of the latter towards this category of people, constituting a remarkable contribution to migration studies in Romania. It should be noted that, although laboriously constructed and argued from the theoretical point of view as well as the design of each of the researches, the volume opens the possibility for new documentations in each of the proposed research areas. The three main areas approached in the study - the institutional contribution to the integration process, the perception of the host population, and the evaluation of the level of integration among the immigrant population, deserve thorough investigations in terms of temporal evolution, being given their transformative nature over time.

Received 10th May 2023, accepted 5th June 2023.