



The profile of Romanian emigrants under the supervision of Dolj county probation service

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Abstract

The supervision of probation services includes criminally convicted persons, who for a period between 6 months and 4 years, or even longer (in the case of persons released conditionally from prison), must comply with a series of measures and obligations ordered by the court. However, in Romania, a very large number of people entering the supervision of probation services leave the country, most of them for employment purposes, bringing a series of challenges to probation counselors in the supervision process. Who are these people who leave the country, where do they go, why do they leave, we will answer all these questions in this material, as a result of a research carried out within the Dolj probation service by analyzing a representative number of probation files.

Keywords: *probation; profile of emigrants on probation; Romania; Dolj county; sociological research.*

Introduction

Globalization is associated with massive migration phenomena, especially from less developed states to developed ones, causing major long-term problems to the countries of departure (Bonciu 2020; Sorescu 2014). Since the phenomenon of migration has taken on a great scale in the last three decades, in Romania all social and economic sectors have been affected by this process (Ilie 2020). It has become increasingly difficult to estimate the number of Romanians who have gone abroad, due to the circulatory nature of this phenomenon (Nita 2014) and due to the large number of people who emigrate to the territory of other European Union member states (Porumbescu 2018). It is estimated that over 5 million Romanians have emigrated from Romania in the last 30 years, the migration being short, medium and long term.

From Dolj county, a number of 9839 people immigrated permanently in the period 1994-2022, with an annual average of 364 people, and emigrated temporarily, in the

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period 2012-2022, on average, 6809 per person per year. According to the National Institute of Statistics, on January 2024, a number of 667.094 people lived in Dolj county (Romanian National Institute of Statistics 2024).

A large number of people supervised by the probation services, leave the country with the aim of employment (Ilie 2023). In the conditions of departure from the territory of Romania, the supervision carried out by the probation service of the measures and obligations ordered through the criminal sentence, become difficult and the probation counselor must find a way to enforce the sentence and at the same time contribute to the reintegration of the criminally convicted person, thus, without affecting his source of income or more, by helping him to access a job.

Employment in the context of supervision carried out by probation services

Perhaps the best-known hypothesis used in the field of criminal rehabilitation is that the most effective approach in working with these individuals is to target dynamic risk factors (ie, criminogenic needs) that are causally related to criminal behavior (Ward and Langlands, 2009: 207; Canton 2011; Farrall 2013; Pricină and Motoi 2014; Serban 2022). The Risk-Need-Responsivity model (the RNR model) often promoted in the field of rehabilitation of criminally convicted persons, proposes that correctional interventions to be structured according to three basic principles of rehabilitation: risk, need and responsiveness (Andrews and Bonta: 2003; Hollin 1999, Durnescu 2000). The need for "employment"/"legal employment" is often identified by probation counselors as a result of client assessments. In this context and in conjunction with the estimated risk, an action pattern of the probation counselor must be identified: Evaluation, Information and Facilitating access to a job (Burke and Davies 2011; Phillips 2011).

Seen from the point of view of the social reintegration process, employment is a pro-social activity, which decreases the risk of recidivism.

Although many theorists who have analyzed social control theory have focused on the importance of coercion and direct control during childhood, this approach can also be useful in explaining behavioral changes and transformations during adulthood. From this perspective, both juvenile and adult offenders may be compelled to engage in patterns of prosocial behavior that may enhance their compliance investments and attachments to others, such as workplaces, school, or community. That is, direct control of behavior through legal coercion is found to increase compliance with conventional prosocial norms, rules, and activities. These activities, in turn, can enhance the socialization process that leads to increased social controls (Mackenzie and Brame 2001).

In the paper "Community supervision, prosocial activities and recidivism", Doris Layton Mackenzie and Robert Brame concluded that a supervisory relationship oriented towards prosocial behaviors (work in our case) will lead to a decrease in the revocation/recidivism rate (Mackenzie and Brame 2001).

So based on the principles of social control theory action, probation should be able to act through control, coercion and guidance towards social behavior, in our case, through guidance towards obtaining or maintaining a job, in order to reduce the recidivism rate.

Another theoretical model in the field of rehabilitation of criminals is the "Good Lives Model" (GLM), it is an approach based on the help given to criminally convicted persons in achieving their own goals and thus managing the risk of committing new crimes (Ward and Stewart 2003). It is a strengths-based approach in two respects: "(a) it

takes seriously the personal preferences and values of offenders; that is, the things that matter most to them in the world, and they rely on these primary goods to motivate people to live better lives; and (b) seek to provide offenders with the competencies (internal conditions) and opportunities (external conditions) to implement treatment plans based on these primary assets" (Ward and Langlands 2009).

Thus the counselor can offer this perspective to the person on probation in the sense of motivation: he can fulfill his own goal by accessing a job, the counselor being able to provide him with information and access to employment opportunities (external conditions) in the country or abroad.

In this context, of a massive migration for employment, we observe how many sacrifices Romanians are willing to make in order to obtain and maintain a job or a source of income that will ensure them a decent living, mostly or by resorting to the solution of employment outside the country. We believe that we must take into account "all the nuances that case management in probation entails (responsibility, motivation, awareness, learning)", the fact that case management must be oriented beyond "ensuring the framework necessary to fulfill the obligations" imposed by the criminal sentence and on "providing services to cover the identified criminogenic needs" and thus, we believe that the role of probation services is to support and motivate those who do not have a job in the approach necessary for employment, whether we are talking about employment in the country or abroad and to support those who work in the country or outside Romania in maintaining their jobs.

Empirical research: Analysis of the profile of the Romanian emigrants under the supervision of Dolj probation service

The empirical research aims to outline the profile of the persons supervised by the probation service and who are employed abroad.

Our first hypothesis is that a large percentage of people supervised by Dolj probation service emigrate for employment.

Thus, a first objective of the paper was to identify the percentage of people under the supervision of the Dolj Probation Service, who carry out lucrative activities abroad, in order to identify the dimension of the phenomenon that the probation service is facing.

The second hypothesis formulated is that most of the supervised persons working abroad have a low level of education and professional qualifications.

So, the second objective of the research is to identify the level of education and professional qualifications of the supervised persons, in order to be able to find solutions that could increase the qualification chances of these persons.

The third hypothesis is that most of the supervised persons work abroad mainly in the secondary sector of the labor force.

Thus, the objective was to identify the main fields of activity in which these people can fit in and to offer them alternative opportunities.

Another hypothesis is that a large part of the supervised persons work abroad without legal forms.

Another objective of the research was to identify the forms of employment abroad, thus aiming to identify solutions to reduce the number of people who carry out gainful activities without legal forms.

The profile of the person supervised by the probation service who leaves Romania for employment and the analysis of social documents was used, studying a number of 453 probation files from the total of 2706 active files at the level of the Dolj Probation Service

on April 6, 2022. The chosen sample of 453 surveillance files is a representative one, since we used the "quota sampling method" in the selection, within which it is necessary to select a certain number of people who satisfy one or more criteria (the quotas) (Chelcea, Mărginean and Cauc 1998). I chose three quotas: gender, age, sanction received. In choosing the sample, we aimed for "the proportion of people analyzed and who respect the chosen quotas, to be equal to their real percentage within the total population" (Buzărnescu 2010).

The first step was to establish the criteria for quota sampling:

- I. The first criterion "the type of sanction applied" (postponement of the application of the punishment, suspension of the execution of the sentence under supervision, non-custodial educational measures, conditional release, release from the educational center or detention center, replacement of criminal fines not performed with unpaid work for the benefit of the community)
- II. The second criterion: "gender of supervised persons"
- III. The third criterion: "age of supervised persons (minor/major)"

The total population to be studied is 2706 people, divided according to the three selected criteria ("type of sanction applied", "gender of supervised persons" and "age (minors/adults)"), as in the following table (Table no. 1).

Table no. 1. Supervised persons in the records of the Dolj Probation Service on April, 2022 (classified according to: "type of sanction applied", "gender of supervised persons" and "age (minors / adults)")

No.	Sanction	Minor women	Men minor	Adult women	Adult men
1	Postponement of the application of the sentence - 706	-	-	69	637
2	Suspension of the sentence under supervision -1927	-	-	202	1725
3	Suspension of the sentence under supervision according to the old Criminal Code - 22	-	-	4	18
4	Conditional Release and Release from educational center and detention center -14	-	-	1	13
5	Non-custodial educational measures -30	2	28		
6	Replacing the unenforced criminal fine with unpaid community service -7	-	-	-	7
7	<i>Total overall</i> 2706	2	28	276	2400

The second stage was the selection of the sample using quota sampling. The aim was to obtain a real sample, as faithful as possible in relation to the population to be studied

Thus, the sample established using the quota sampling method is 453 people, out of a total population of 2706 people, with a confidence level of 98% and an error rate of +/-5%. The sample of 453 people was divided according to the three quotas as follows (Table no. 2)

Table no. 2. Quota sampling using the criteria: "type of sanction applied", "gender of supervised persons" and "age (minors/adults)"
– Dolj Probation Service April, 2022-

No.	Sanction	Minor women	Men minor	Adult women	Adult men
1	Postponement of the application of the sentence -118	-	-	11	107
2	Suspension of the sentence under supervision -323	-	-	34	289
3	Suspension of the sentence under supervision according to the old Criminal Code - 4	-	-	1	3
4	Conditional Release and Release from educational center and detention center -2	-	-	-	2
5	Non-custodial educational measures -5	-	5	-	-
6	Replacing the unenforced criminal fine with unpaid community service -1	-	-	-	1
7	<i>Overall sample total =453</i>	-	5	46	402

In conclusion, 453 active probation files were analyzed on April, 2022 at the level of the Dolj Probation Service, the sample being a representative one.

Following the analysis of the documents, 89 people were identified who, during the surveillance period, traveled abroad for work, long-term or short-term. In conclusion, a percentage of 19.64% of the supervised persons move outside Romania in order to work, with or without legal forms, in the long or short term.

Data collection

Data collection through the analysis of probation files was carried out in April 2022.

Analysis of research results

To create the profile of the person supervised by the probation service who leaves Romania to get a job, the analysis of social documents was used, specifically the analysis of the probation files of these persons. Statistical analysis was used to select the 89 files, so from the 2706 surveillance files active on April 6, 2022, a representative sample of 453 files was extracted, using the quota sampling method with the following three quotas.

A percentage of 19.64% of the supervised persons move outside Romania for the purpose of employment.

By studying the probation files, I tried to outline the profile of the supervised, migrant for the purpose of employment, using the following analysis criteria:

1. Age category;
2. Sex of the person on probation (female/male);
3. Residence environment (rural/urban);
4. Level of education;
5. Living conditions in the country;
6. The type of ownership of the property in which he lives in the country;
7. Country of destination;
8. Type of employment - contract held in the country of destination (fixed-term contract/ indefinite-term contract/ no contract)
9. The method of carrying out the activity in the host country (contract with legal forms/ activity without legal forms)
10. The field of activity in which they operate in the country of destination
11. Average monthly income obtained from working outside the country
12. Documents of employment abroad submitted to the probation file.

Table no. 3. Age category

Age	Under 18 years	18-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	Over 60	Total
Number of persons	0	37	39	11	2	0	89
Percent	-	41.57%	43.82%	12.36%	2.25%	-	100%

Out of the total of 89 people who left the territory of Romania for employment, 41.57% are young people between the ages of 18 - 30, 43.82% are between the ages of 31 - 40, 12.36% are people in the age range 41 - 50 years and only 2.25% are people aged between 51 and 60

Table no. 4 Gender

Gender of the persons on probation	Women	Men	Total
Number of persons	8	81	89
Percent	9%	91%	100%

A percentage of 91% of supervised persons traveling for employment are men and 9% are women.

Table no. 5 Residence

Residence	Rural	Urban	Total
Number of persons	63	26	89
Percent	70.79%	29.21%	100%

A percentage of 70.79% of subjects reside in rural areas and 29.21% in urban areas.

Table no. 6. Educational level

Educational level	No education	1 - 4 classes	5 - 8 classes	9 - 12 classes	Higher education	Total
Number of persons	3	9	34	41	2	89
Percent	3.37%	10.11%	38.2%	46.07%	2.25%	100%

A percentage of 3.37% of the supervised persons are not educated, 10.11% of the persons have education between 1 and 4 classes, 38.2% have secondary education, 46.07% have graduated between 9 and 12 classes, and 2.25% of the subjects have higher education.

Table no. 7 Living conditions in the country

Living conditions	Good conditions	Medium level conditions	Precarious conditions	Total
Number of persons	24	47	18	89
Percent	26.97%	52.81%	20.22%	100%

A percentage of 52.81% of the supervised persons rated the housing conditions in Romania as average, 26.97% declared that they have good housing conditions, and 20.22% mentioned that housing in the country is poor.

We mention that out of the 26 clients who live in the urban environment, 12 people mentioned that they have good housing conditions, 10 rated the housing conditions as average and 4 poor. Of the 63 people who live in rural areas, only 12 rated the housing conditions as good, i.e. 19.05%, while 58.73% considered the housing conditions to be average, and 22.22% mentioned the housing conditions housing as precarious.

Table no. 8 The type of property ownership in Romania

Type of property	Personal property	Property of parents or other relatives	Total
Number of persons	12	77	89
Percent	13.48%	86.52%	100%

A percentage of 86.52% of the evaluated people live in Romania in a building owned by their parents or other relatives (grandparents, sisters, brothers, uncles) and only

13.48% have a home they own. Of the 12 people who have personal property, 9 people live in rural areas, representing only 14.28% of rural residents, and 3 people who have personal property live in urban areas, i.e. 11.53% of urban residents.

Table no. 9. Country of destination

Country of destination	Italy	Spain	France	Germany	UK	Other EU member states	Other non-member EU states	Total
Number of persons	12	12	7	21	27	9	1	89
Percent	13.48%	13.48%	7.87%	23.6%	30.34%	10.11%	1.12%	100%

In a percentage of 30.34% of the supervised persons move for employment in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 23.6% move to Germany, 13.48% to Italy and also 13.48% to Spain, 7.89% to France, 10.11 % in other European Union states (2 people in Austria, 2 people in Belgium, 3 people in the Netherlands, one in Luxembourg and one in Sweden) and one person worked in the United States of America (see also Ilie 2014).

Table no. 10. The type of employment contract held in the country of destination

Type of employment contract	Fixed-term contract	Contract for an indefinite period	Without contract	Total
Number of persons	27	31	31	89
Percent	30.34%	34.83%	34.83%	100%

Among the evaluated persons, a percentage of 30.34% worked in the destination states with an indefinite period contract, 34.83% with a fixed period contract and 34.83% performed gainful activities without legal forms. On average, a fixed-term contract is 4 months.

Table no. 11. The manner of carrying out the activity in the host country

The method of carrying out the activity	Employment contract with legal forms	Activity without legal forms	Total
Number of persons	58	31	89
Percent	65.17%	34.83%	100%

A percentage of 65.17% of the evaluated persons work with legal forms and 34.83% perform lucrative activities without legal forms. We mention the fact that, of the 31 people who do not work with legal forms, 13 people carry out activities in the field of

agriculture, 8 in the field of construction, 2 people carry out marginal activities (begging) and 9 people work in various fields such as housekeeping, animal care, waste sorting, transport. Of the people carrying out activities without legal forms, 9 work in Germany, 7 in Spain, 5 in Great Britain, 3 in France, 3 in Italy, one person in Belgium, one person in Sweden, one person in the Netherlands and one person in Luxembourg.

Table no. 12. The field of activity in which they operate in the country of destination

Field of activity	Agriculture	Construction	Transport	Housekeeping	Hospitality field	Elderly/child care	Other types of services	Marginal activities	Total
Number of persons	40	10	10	1	3	2	21	2	89
Percent	44.94%	11.24%	11.24%	1.12%	3.37%	2.25%	23.59%	2.25%	100%

Most of the supervised persons are employed in the field of agriculture, respectively 44.94%, followed by those who work in construction and transport, each 11.24%, in the hospitality field 3.37%, child/elderly care 2.25%, housekeeping 1.12% and 23.59% they carried out various activities, such as waste sorting, fruit and vegetable packaging, security, physiotherapy, butchery, trade, management, interior decoration, etc. Two persons admitted that they practice begging in the destination states.

Table no. 13. Average monthly income obtained from the activity carried out

Amount earned monthly	Under 500 euros	Between 500-1000 euros	Between 1001-1500 euros	Between 1501-2000 euros	Between 2001-2500 euros	Over 2500 euros	Total
Number of persons	3	11	47	19	6	3	89
Percent	3.37%	12.36%	52.81%	21.35%	6.74%	3.37%	100%

The majority of people (52.81%) under the supervision of the Dolj probation service have an average monthly income from the activity carried out abroad, between 1001 and 1500 euros, while 21.35% have an average monthly income between 1501 and 2000 euros, 12.36% earn between 501 and 1000 euros, 6% between 2001 and 2500 euros, and 3.37% earn either under 500 euros or over 2500 euros.

It should be noted that the highest incomes, over 2,500 euros, have the people who declared that they work in the primary sector of the labor market (accounting activity, manager of a construction company, kinetotherapy practitioner). Also, workers in the construction and transport sectors have more consistent incomes.

Note: For the calculation of the amounts won, the conversion from the currency used in the host countries to euros was carried out.

Table no. 14. Submission of documents certifying employment abroad to the probation file

Documents submitted to the file	Submitted documents	Unsubmitted documents	Total
Number of persons	50	39	89
Percent	56.18%	43.82%	100%

Most of the supervised persons submitted to the probation file the supporting documents (work contract, documents certifying the transport and accommodation), and 43.83% did not submit supporting documents, as they either did not work with legal forms, or declared that they were going to bring to return these documents.

We notice that very few people have submitted supporting documents attesting to their place of residence in the country of destination.

Based on the criteria analyzed above, a profile can be outlined of the people who, during the period of supervision by the probation services, work abroad, as follows:

- A percentage of 42.82% of the people who go abroad for employment are aged between 31 - 40 years, and the people between the ages of 18 and 30 is in a percentage of 41.57%. Thus, we observe that 84.39% of migrants are people between the ages of 18 and 40;
- The majority of people who leave the country for employment are men, specifically 91%. This must also be correlated with the high percentage of men entering the supervision of probation services. Only 10.27% are women.
- A percentage of 70.79% of the people who leave Romania for employment come from rural areas;
- A percentage of 46.07% graduated between 9 and 12 grades and a percentage of 38.2% graduated between 5 and 8 grades;
- A percentage of 52.81% of migrants live in Romania in buildings that offer them average living conditions;
- 86.52% do not own a home;
- A percentage of 34.82% work without legal forms and 65.17% with legal forms;
- A percentage of 34.82% have an employment contract for an indefinite period, being long-term away from the country;
- The majority of those who left, namely 44.94%, work in agriculture, followed by construction and transport workers, with 11.24% each;
- The preferred countries are the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Germany, followed by Spain, Italy and France;
- More than half (a percentage of 52.81%) have incomes between 1001 and 1500 euros.

Research conclusions

Following the theoretical and empirical analysis of the phenomenon of migration for employment of people supervised by the Dolj probation service, we can conclude that this situation is very common among people who enter the records of the probation

services and with it brings a series of challenges in the process of supervision and assistance. Practically, one in five cases brings with it such a challenge.

Following the outline of the profile of the supervised person who travels abroad for employment, we note that it is very likely that we will meet in the next case, a young person aged between 18-30 years, resident in the countryside, with education between 5 and 12 grades, who wants to go to Great Britain or to a member state of the European Union to engage for a fixed period in agriculture and perhaps in the fields of construction or transport. The identified problem is that many of these people are not employed with legal forms, most of them leaving on the migrant network chain, without being well informed about the possibilities they have in the country or abroad.

The hypotheses assumed at the beginning of the research were confirmed.

Recommendations

We noticed that the people under the supervision of the probation services who go abroad to work are people with a precarious financial situation, mostly with secondary education and who hardly find a job in the country that covers their needs, so, they often settle for temporary jobs or work without a contract. Therefore, I believe that the probation service should be more involved in helping these people find a decent job in the country or abroad (Anghel 2010), therefore we formulate the following recommendations:

1. The drafting by the probation services, at the level of each county, of a database in which the County Employment Agency and labor recruitment agencies constantly update the list of jobs.

In accordance with strategic objective 4. "Improving the services provided and developing partnerships", point 4.2. "The development of partnerships for the integration and valorization of the contribution of institutions from the community, the strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation, as well as international expertise in probation activity" from the Strategy for the Development of the National Probation System in Romania for the period 2021-2025 (2021), we propose the conclusion of a partnerships with the National Employment Agency through the county agencies and labor recruitment agencies, aimed at creating a database by the probation services, in which the partners periodically insert the jobs available at county level and the list of jobs available outside the country. Collaboration with the National Employment Agency and recruitment agencies is important for the monthly update of this database.

The counselor will be able to present this database to the supervisee who is looking for a job.

2. Drafting of a centralized database of the probation service in which the contact details of people looking for a job will be inserted

Drafting of a centralized database of the probation service in which the contact details of people looking for a job and relevant information about these people such as: name, level of education, professional qualifications, gainful experience, address and dates will be inserted contact (phone number and email address), the availability to travel within the county, in the country or abroad. National Employment Agency and labor recruitment agencies can access these databases.

A document created by the probation services can be used and then uploaded to Google drive, where the information can be constantly and timely changed so that recruitment agencies can make a first selection online.

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