

# The Migration Phenomenon in the Context of Sustainable Development

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*Abstract: In the literature, researchers approach the field of migration as a phenomenon that is common and must be viewed and analyzed from a structural point of view, in order to have an overview of it.*

*A fundamental characteristic of the population is the right to move from one place to another, this being a right implemented and recognized worldwide, since 1948, by the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, after the formation of the United Nations in 1945. The fundamental principles of the United Nations are to promote and encourage "respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of race, sex, language or religion".*

*Key-Words: migration, emigrants, immigrants, sustainable development, brain drain, remittances*

*JEL Classification: F20, F22, F24, Q00, Q01.*

## 1 Introduction

The World Commission on Environment and Development presents in the Brundtland Report of 1987 the concept of sustainable development as "development aimed at meeting the needs of the present, without making changes in the future of future generations, to meet their own needs" .

Directly linked to the concept of sustainable development is both the concept of "needs" (especially focusing on the subsistence needs of the low-income population) and the technological concept, which is the key element in supporting the field of research and development on the environment, which aims to ensure the present and the future (Brundtland Report, 1987).

Therefore, this concept is widely encountered and covers all processes and methods of economic and social development that are based mainly on ensuring the balance between the elements of social, economic and ecological nature and environmental issues.

The concept of sustainable development is enshrined in the Second Earth Summit, held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, which led to the knowledge of this term globally, thus expanding its dimensions.

The concept of sustainable development aims to pursue and find a stable theoretical pylon in order to be able to enact decisions in any circumstance, taking into account the relationship between man and the environment, whether we are talking about the natural environment, economic environment or social environment.

Initially, the term sustainable development was used to define the ecological crisis, which was the answer to the great industrial exploitation of natural resources and the continuous change of the environment. At present, sustainable development influences aspects of human quality of life, both economically and socially, as well as the concern of states for justice and equity.

## 2 Literature review

The definition given by the World Commission on Environment and Development in the Brundtland Report places particular emphasis on environmental conservation and the prudent consumption of non-renewable natural resources (Piore, 1979). These aspects will be strengthened by defining pylons that underlie the achievement of sustainable development goals (Feraru, 2011).

The structure of the concept of sustainable development is based on a three-dimensional approach, based on three pylons:

1. The economic pylon, which has in view the economic growth, stability and encouragement of research and innovation, in order to pass on a sustainable heritage to future generations;

2. The social pylon, which supports the living standards of the population and social progress, both in the field of public health and culture, national heritage and education;
3. The environmental pylon, which supports the conservation, consolidation and protection of natural resources, creating biodiversity and avoiding pollution.

Sustainable development is one of the fundamental objectives of the European Union and aims to continuously improve the means to meet the needs of present and especially future generations, through a direct correlation of the three pylons, economic, social and environmental (Boboc, 2014).

At EU level, this concept becomes a real goal with the entry into force in 1997, when it was added to the Maastricht Treaty. Later, in 4 years, the Sustainable Development Strategy was promulgated in Gotheborg, to which was added the external dimension, a year later, in Barcelona, and later, in 2006, the Sustainable Development Strategy of the European Union was adopted. in the revised form.

Agenda 21 is a United Nations plan of action on sustainable development, launched at the Earth Summit in 1992. The original form of the agenda refers to the issues of the 21st century, revised at subsequent UN conferences. Its overall goal is to achieve sustainable global development, and as a major specific objective of Agenda 21 it is desired that each local government develop its own local agenda 21.

In order for a country to commit to meeting the objectives of the agenda, it is necessary to adopt or improve its behavior in accordance with all 5 fundamental principles underlying the action plan.

Since 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals have been included in the new agenda, marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, 193 world leaders have adopted the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is a global program of action that continues the steps taken in the 2015 Agenda, having a universal character. The objectives of this agenda are the informal title of Global Objectives, which sets out an ambitious path for the next 15 years, in order to combat extreme poverty, hunger, eliminate inequality and protect the land by 2030.

The Concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) in 2012. (Figure 1)

**Figure 1. Sustainable Development Goals**



Source: Agenda 2030, United Nations

The basic criteria for this concept were set in 1993 by the EU. These criteria are as follows:

- Quality assurance of life;
- Ensuring access to natural resources;
- Sustainable maintenance of the environment.

The strategic management of the term sustainable development takes into account both the design of long-term objectives and the correlation with short- and medium-term objectives, as well as the implementation of a set of criteria adopted effectively at the international level (Zaman, 2007).

### 3 Methodology

Global assessments show that approximately 270 million international migrants were registered at the time of 2019, 36.3% more than in 2000, ie approximately 98 million people.

The forecasts for the 2000s were much more modest than the statistical data recorded, the size of migratory flows being higher, with a growth rate much higher than anticipated at that time, if we refer to the estimates of the World Migration Report, from 2003, which projected the number of international migrants to about 230 million people in 2050, the growth rate being much lower.

**Table 1. International stock of migrants in the total population (both sexes)**

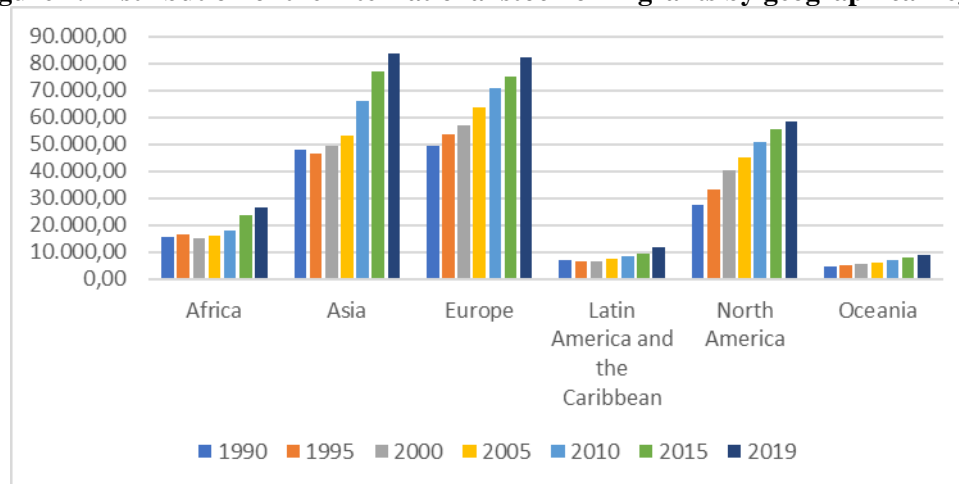
Geographical regions	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2019
Africa	15.689,7	16.357,1	15.051,7	15.969,8	17.804,2	23.476,3	26.529,3
Asia	48.209,9	46.418,0	49.394,3	53.439,3	65.938,7	77.231,8	83.559,2
Europe	49.608,2	53.489,8	56.858,8	63.594,8	70.678,0	75.008,2	82.304,5
Latin America and the Caribbean	7.161,4	6.688,7	6.570,7	7.224,9	8.262,4	9.441,7	11.673,3
North America	27.610,4	33.340,9	40.351,7	45.363,3	50.970,9	55.633,4	58.647,8
Oceania	4.731,8	5.022,3	5.361,2	6.023,4	7.127,7	8.069,9	8.927,9

Source: United Nation website, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Dynamics, Workbook: UN\_MigrantStockTotal\_2019

The World Migration Report's analysis shows that out of a total of about 270 million international migrants, more than half of them are men, with a share of about 52%. Most of these migrants were between the ages of 20 and 64, and most of them were in the under-45 segment.

After the 2000s, migration took another form, in the interest of professional development, which explains the young segment of international migration (Roman, 2012). The mobility of people with higher education, also known as "brain drain", has both positive and negative effects for both countries involved. The countries of origin, which have high migratory flows, are trying to find more leverage to maintain and create new jobs of interest to generations of graduates with higher education and long-term education, which will give them the chance to develop, evolve and prosperous in their own country, without having to study or earn a higher income elsewhere (Vasile, 2012).

**Figure 2. Distribution of the international stock of migrants by geographical region**



Source: author processing, site data: United Nation, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Dynamics, Workbook: UN\_MigrantStockTotal\_2019, The data in Table 1

Thus, in the graph above, it can be seen that most of the migrants went to Europe and Asia, where the level of development is high, with a high degree of technology, which allows the absorption of large masses of specialists. Highly skilled labor is a supporting factor in supporting the inclination of external mobility and the characteristics of the destination countries (Vasile, 2012).

Developed countries create opportunities for development for people with a high professional level, the well-known high level, out of a desire to attract a "brain" to create the economic potential of the destination countries.

The main effect of migration for the country of origin is the loss of a significant proportion of highly skilled labor. On the one hand, the country of origin will no longer be able to benefit from investments in human resources, on the other hand, the emigration of specialists may lead to the development of technological development, economic growth, wages and employment in certain sectors of the work activity (Vasile, 2014).

Another important aspect of the 2030 Agenda is the inclusion and recognition of the migration phenomenon as a dimension of development. Thus, the Global Action Plan covers future issues related to migration, but also refers to its contribution to sustainable development, as well as to the specific uncertainties encountered by migrants. Therefore, the 2030 Agenda becomes a framework for multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral interest, where the impact of the migration phenomenon can be analyzed in relation to any other issue in the development sector.

At the World Summit for Social Development in 2005, the three pylons underpinning the philosophy and social science of sustainable development were developed. The Brundtland Report described sustainability as "a development that seeks to meet the needs of the present without affecting the needs of future generations", which is also the general definition of the concept of "sustainable development".

Therefore, in order to have a balanced and developed future, the principles of the present concept must be applied correctly and effectively.

The economic pylon is the most difficult and complex issue, because an economically sustainable way must be found that does not affect companies and, by extrapolation, jobs and the ability to integrate into the labor market in the future. Incentives must also be given to companies and organizations in order to become sustainable.

The supply and demand market is essentially consumer-friendly, and the appearance of modern life entails the use of many resources. Economic development is the ability to give consumers everything they want, without causing problems in people's quality of life, in a broad sense.

### **3.1 Pylons of sustainable development in the context of migration**

The economic pylon of sustainable development, to which the social and environmental one is added in a complementary and independent way, has several objectives and priorities.

A first fundamental macroeconomic objective is the permanent increase of the gross domestic product in the country, based on the application of the program, which will determine the achievement of the average GDP per capita standard of the European Union countries in the near future (Zaman, 2007).

The management of the sustainability of the sustainable economic growth in Romania, aims to keep the annual inflation rate at a maximum threshold of 5%, this being the one that will be given the most attention. Inflation is the factor that influences the economic, social and environmental environment, but also the one that brings changes in the degree of uncertainty and risk, especially in the case of natural disasters.

A third important objective of the economic pylon of sustainable development refers to guaranteeing a high level of available employment and reducing the unemployment rate to a maximum of 5%, especially by developing a public-private partnership, which will generate new jobs with high productivity and to support the application of income redistribution mechanisms, avoiding disadvantageous spending on social assistance.

The elaboration of strategic and coordination activities for the economic pylon of sustainable development, at national level, is a concern of the countries that are in different stages of the processes of elaboration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national sustainable development strategy, in response to the recommendations made. at the Earth Summit in Johannesburg.

This is the most difficult and complex issue, as an economically sustainable way must be found that does not affect business and by extension, jobs and employability in the future. Incentives must also be given to businesses and organizations to make them sustainable.

The social pylon has many facets, but the most important are the awareness and legislation that detects the protection of public health against pollution and other harmful factors created by companies. Developed countries have created strong controls, with strict legislation to ensure human health. These measures are intended to maintain access to basic resources without compromising the quality of life of the population.

The primary element of the social pylon is education. Encouraging the population to participate in the creation of ecological solutions and training them on the effects of environmental protection, but also warning about the vulnerabilities of the environment.

The second most important element, tangent to the economic pylon, is related to actions designed to encourage technological advancement through advanced techniques in research and development, but protecting the environment.

The environmental pylon is about protecting the natural environment, through advanced recycling techniques, reducing the consumption of carbon dioxide and energy, by reducing electronic devices, by reducing water consumption, and so on. Corporations must comply with sustainable regulations imposed by the state in order to prevent pollution and combat emissions in the evening. The introduction of incentives for the installation of renewable energy sources, both for individuals and legal entities, as well as the creation of sustainable development, this pylon being essentially the main concern of the future of mankind.

### **3.2 The link between the migration phenomenon and the concept of sustainable development**

The 2030 Agenda broadly examines the link between the phenomenon of migration and the concept of sustainable development, so that a number of interdependencies are highlighted, namely:

- a) In order to achieve the goals of sustainable development, migration must contribute to their achievement, as it is a powerful tool for reducing and combating poverty, so that migrants in the host countries can cover the labor force needs, contributing to the country's budget by paying taxes. Emigrants can also increase their level of wealth for themselves and their families left in their home countries, as well as their professional status. Unfortunately, for those with a low level of training, the possibility of being illegally exploited in various sectors is a big one. For this reason, Agenda 2030 provides for the implementation of a plan for the identification, analysis and improvement of jobs in sectors with a possible background (agriculture, construction, transport), by promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth, full and productive employment and employment. decent for everyone.
- b) International migrants support the distribution of services, both as workers and as consumers; In relation to the educational access and development and vocational training of the emigrant and / or his family, if necessary, they help to meet the characteristics of the labor market, increase the contribution and consumption on the local market and increase the remittances sent to the country of origin. A percentage of health services are supported by the migrant sector, through their contributions as legal workers. At the same time, there may be negative effects of the migration phenomenon in relation to the national service system, when it comes to an unexpected, large-scale exodus. The education and sanitation systems can be disrupted by refugees, they can create tensions in the host community, and they can also extend as pressure on utilities, water and sanitation, for example.
- c) Domestic or international migration, in response to the supply of large cities that are in a continuous technological rise; In the 21st century, technological developments are leading to rapid urbanization in emerging countries, which attracts migrants. The "pull factors" theory is the one that underlies the decision to migrate, by creating job opportunities, better living conditions, educational development, personal security and access to medical services. When urban migration is well managed, there are positive effects on economic and social dynamics, leading to an increase in the capacity of urban migrants to cope with the shocks and pressures encountered.
- d) Poor visibility of the quantification, determination and analysis of the structure of migratory flows limits the understanding of their needs and reduces the responsibility of governments; The 2030 Agenda proposes two specific objectives to support the development of efficient, accountable and transparent institutions that migrants can turn to. The aim is to rapidly improve databases on the number of migrants, in all developing countries, less developed countries or island states, in order to have access to databases disaggregated into several categories, such as demographics ( age, gender, ethnicity, race), depending on income, migratory status, or geographical location of origin. Following these data, it will be possible to implement concrete policies and programs to support migratory flows.

## **4 Conclusion**

All these approaches show that migration is an essential mechanism in achieving the objectives of sustainable development, this being a multidimensional phenomenon, regardless of whether we are referring to domestic or international migration. Their mobility is often voluntary, and through the application of global support policies, migration will be encouraged and supported in order for the two parties involved to work together.

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