

HARNESSING ON THE POTENTIAL OF MIGRANTS IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Mihai HACHI*¹

Stela LEONTI*²

Abstract: Migration is an important component of the development of the Republic of Moldova at the current stage. The economic and social instability that followed after obtaining political independence in 1991, the inefficiency of reforms in several socio-economic fields, the institutional uncertainty led the population to migrate, this being a strategy to adapt it to the created conjuncture situation. The increase in intensity migration was also influenced by the processes of liberalization of entry and exit procedures from the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Currently, our country represents one of the countries in the world with the largest shares of the migrant working population, as well as the share of remittances in GDP, the effects of migration being felt in all areas of social-economic life in the country. Concern for the support of migrants over time has materialized through the creation of governmental structures with the aim of monitoring and launching various strategies, programs, projects addressed to citizens outside the country's borders. Ensuring the reintegration of returned migrants, after a migratory experience of work or life abroad, is of great importance both for citizens and for the state authorities that have the duty to support emigrant citizens regardless of their options to return or settle in the adoptive country. Through this scientific approach, the authors propose to analyze the effectiveness of the tools used by the institutional, banking and social systems in harnessing on the potential of migrants, as well as the extent to which they are known, meet the expectations of citizens in the process of return and reintegration, their accessibility, transparency and efficiency. A sustainable socio-economic development of the Republic of Moldova, in the context of clear aspirations for European integration, will create opportunities for citizens wishing to return, work and live in the country.

Keywords: return migration, development potential of migrants, integration of migrants, PARE 1+1, PARE 1+2, migrant entrepreneurs.

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Introduction

Migration from the Republic of Moldova acquired a mass character after the declaration of state independence, being mainly caused by the deep socio-economic crisis,

*¹Mihai Hachi, PhD, Associate Professor of the Business International Department, Faculty of International Economic Relations, AESM, hachi.mihail.gheorghe@ase.md, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6631-6495>

*²Stela Leonti, PhD student, AESM, stelamorozan@gmail.com, <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-4725-137X>

which led to the impoverishment of the population of a considerable part of the country's population, against the background of the Transnistrian conflict and the separation of 11,8% from the territory of the country, a self-proclaimed region that still does not have a determined status. The migration vector oscillated, until recently, in two distinct directions: east and west. In the last 7-10 years, Moldovan emigrants have mainly oriented towards the states of the European Union. The current situation caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the war in Ukraine, has determined essential transformations of the migration flow, both in terms of structure and geographical orientation. The pandemic crisis has restricted economic activities in several host states of our emigrants, and some of them have temporarily or permanently returned to the country. A considerable part of emigrants returned from the CIS area and reoriented to the EU states that offer more opportunities in obtaining a job and a safer and more prosperous life.

In the last 10 years, at various levels, it is being discussed, more and more frequently, about the intensification of the valorization of the potential of migrant citizens, which could be an important factor in the socio-economic relaunch of the Republic of Moldova.

Even though the official statistics attest to a number of 676 355 people (2021) migrated, of which 47% are men and 53% women, according to the state border crossing data, of which 48% are for a period of up to 1 year, and 52% from a year and more (PMERM, 2022, p. 22), the real number is much higher. The Public Services Agency certifies a number of 113 705 Moldovan citizens who permanently left the country's borders on 01.01.2023, and the number of those holding the citizenship of the EU states is 14 434, and the citizenship of the CIS states 15 972 (ASP, 2022). According to international statistics, the estimated number of emigrants from the Republic of Moldova is 1 159 400 (UN, 2020). The number of children born by Moldovan emigrants abroad is of interest for the prospective development of the country. Thus, in the last 10 years (2013-2022), 107 623 children of citizens of the Republic of Moldova were born abroad and were registered in the state registers (ASP, 2022). This could be an important potential in the development of the country in a future perspective.

Currently, there is a slight increase in return migration, caused by the loss of opportunities for our emigrants in certain European states, the return of retired migrants from EU states, re-emigration being adjusted and some more transparent programs and policies regarding those who wish to return (Hachi, Morozan & Popa, 2021). This may increase in intensity as the political and economic situation in the country and in the region stabilizes. The transformation of migrants' capital into a development factor can take on a larger scale in the conditions in which the authorities of the Republic of Moldova will create important premises for the return and social and economic reintegration of migrants.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the existing opportunities for exploiting the potential of migrants, in the context of the sustainable socio-economic development of the Republic of Moldova. As specific objectives, we proposed:

- to identify of existing opportunities for the development of migrants in the country of origin;

- to analyze of the instruments used by different state structures in order to harness on their potential and efficiency (programs, activities, actions, products);
- to analyze of the opinion of emigrant citizens, based on the sociological study, regarding the intention to return and work with state and non-governmental structures, their willingness to harness on their potential in the country;
- to assess the degree of access of migrants to information regarding the possibilities of return and development in the country of origin, regardless of the intention to return or stay in the adoptive country;
- to study of the good practices existing in the states of the world for maintaining the link with the country of origin and capitalizing on the potential of migrants.

Even if the Republic of Moldova is one of the emigration states that actively promoted the idea of developing policies and mechanisms for an integrated approach to migration, the knowledge and harnessing of them by migrants leaves much to be desired. At the same time, the increase in emigration from the Republic of Moldova occurred against the background of changes in the economic and political situation: the increase in the demand for labor in European countries, the simplification of the movement procedure in the international space, Moldovans having the opportunity to move freely, without visas, in 73 states of the world, and in 46 they can obtain a visa on entry, occupying, in this sense, the 36th place among the states of the world according to the Global Passport Power Rank 2023 (PI, 2023); the continuation of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict that amplifies the state of political and economic uncertainty in the region. To these causes are added those of an internal order, such as: the high degree of misinformation and informational manipulation, identity uncertainty, the sharing of political preferences among the population, etc.

1. Data and methodology

In carrying out the given study, several research methods were used: comparative, deductive, analytical, investigation, quantitative and qualitative. The comparative method was used in order to deduce the tools used by different states of the world in terms of harnessing on the potential of migrants, either through their remittances, or other forms of benefits resulting from work, the experience of migrants, as well as the ways of involving them in socio-economic activity in their country of origin. The quantitative and qualitative method was implemented by harnessing on the sociological questionnaire that was applied, both face-to-face with migrants from two European capitals³, later being launched on Facebook and Odnoclassniki⁴ social networks, as well as by the „snowball” method person to person on Facebook Messenger, Viber as well as WhatsApp. The questionnaire was addressed to people who have migrated from the Republic of Moldova who have an

³ During period 01-07 July 2022 the study of diaspora associations and migrants in Rome (Italy) and Paris (France) was carried out

⁴ Popular social networking site in the Russian Federation and the former Soviet republic

experience of at least half a year abroad and includes 30 questions. The purpose of the „Migration-development-return” questionnaire was to collect relevant quantitative and qualitative data on migrants, data that cannot be extracted from official statistics and that can contribute to a better understanding of the following analytical elements:

- deduction of the degree of integration of migrants in the host society;
- analysis of the types of ties with the country of origin and the migrants' perception of the situation at home;
- analysis of the intention to return to the country and the reasons underlying the decision to return;
- identifying the intention to harnessing on experience and savings in entrepreneurial or other activities etc.

The sociological survey was carried out on a sample of 193 people participated, of which: 28% men, 72% women; 37,9% - respondents aged between 18-35 years, 58% - aged between 36 and 55 years; 47,7% of the total number having an experience of more than 11 stays abroad, 18,1% - 5-10 years and 28% - 1-5 years. About 1/3 of the respondents have the citizenship of the state in which they are located, the answers being received from 11 states. The questionnaire was approved by IData, a service company specialized in the collection and processing of data from research planning, the development of research tools.⁵

2. Results and discussion

The high intensity of the migration phenomenon, the maturing of migration, the recognition of the socio-economic impact of migration on the development of the country, led the authorities of the Republic of Moldova to adhere to the recommendations of international organizations and to ensure an active institutional and normative-legislative framework that would support migrants, regardless of their options in choosing the country to work or live. Currently, the Republic of Moldova is among the states that have a developed institutional framework, and the large number of programs launched are aimed at harnessing on the potential of migrants in the context of human sustainability. Most of them were developed in accordance with international standards and the Community acquis, keeping account of the context of the European integration aspirations of the state.

The country's banking system played an important role in supporting migrants. It has offered and exploited, over time, a series of instruments designed to attract the financial resources earned by migrant workers to the country of origin and, in this way, to motivate them to invest in the socio-economic development of the country. This link, through the work of migrants, is an important means of stimulating our citizens to return home or to maintain contact with the country and to develop different niches of domestic business.

⁵*IData, Date Inteligente SRL <https://idata.md/>*

The banking system in the Republic of Moldova has tried over time to attract the financial resources of migrants by offering a secure support as a depository for the money earned by migrants working abroad, by granting some facilities, by offering preferential loans for the development businesses, the procurement of real estate, the support being directed to migrant workers or their first-degree relatives, supporting several programs launched by government authorities.

An analysis of the banking system attests to the involvement of both the National Bank of the Republic of Moldova, the basic financial authority in the country, and commercial banks. Among the 11 functional banks of the banking system of the Republic of Moldova, only 5 have created products or supported actions, activities of migrants in one form or another.

Remittances represent an important source of development for the Republic of Moldova. They have the strongest and most visible impact on development, with several authors considering remittances as the main factor in economic development in the last 20 years (Hachi, Vaculovschi, Crudu, & Popa, 2022). Thus, the opportunities created by remittances for development are not only for migrants and their families, but have an impact on society as a whole and not only on the balance of payments, foreign trade, the investment climate, the labor market, but also on society as a whole starting from the multiple effects it carries. In fact, remittances and the elective potential of migrants are most actively exploited by the state authorities, as mentioned in their works by (Hachi & Moroza, 2022), (Guțoiu, 2014), (Thad, 1988), the other sides of the potential of migrants being poorly exploited.

Of the 11 commercial joint-stock banks existing on 01.01.2023, only 6 have over time launched products and services for migrants and/or supported certain activities (table 1).

Table 1. Development opportunities for migrants from the banking system of the Republic of Moldova

Commercial banks in the Republic of Moldova	Banking offers for migrants
1. B.C., „Moldova Agroindbank” S.A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mortgage loan for migrants; - savings deposit (with accumulation); - co-partner of the program for attracting remittances in the economy "PARE 1+1" - co-partner of Diaspora Day
2. B.C. „Moldindconbank” S.A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the FOLCLOR warehouse intended for migrants - senders and recipients of remittances - co-partners of the state programs "Prima casa" and "Livada Moldovei"
3. B.C. „VICTORIABANK” S.A.	- preferential bank card for students from the Republic of Moldova studying in Romania
4. OTP Bank S.A.	Mortgage loans for migrant/temporarily suspended citizens
5. B.C. „COMERTBANK” SA	https://comertbank.md/services/migrants/
7. B.C. „ENERGBANK” S.A.	Credit Diaspora

Source: adapted from official websites of commercial banks and telephone interviews (CB), <https://comertbank.md/>, (E), <https://www.energbank.com/ro>, (MAIB), <https://www.maib.md/>, (MICB), <https://www.micb.md/>, (VB24), <https://www.victoriabank.md/> (OTP), <https://www.mobiasbanca.md/>

The other commercial banks currently do not have products and services, but they have shown interest in developing them in order to meet the needs of migrants⁶. Some commercial banks have suspended programs for migrants during the current war in Ukraine (OTPB).

Part of the savings made by migrants are kept at home, the degree of mistrust in the banking system being one of the causes, bank offers are unattractive, deposits in foreign currency, and records in lei, contributing to the "loss" of money depending on the fluctuations in exchange rates, difficulties in closing the account, difficulties in withdrawing savings from the account, low rates for depositing money, but also the information channels directed at migrants are insufficient⁷.

The preconditions for the elaboration of the legal normative framework regarding migration were also adjusted by the accession/ratification by the Republic of Moldova of the international and regional legal instruments regarding migration, but also the clear aspirations of the Republic of Moldova to join the European Union, by external conditions: the liberalization of the visa regime from 20.08.2014, the signing of the Association Agreement, and more recently the granting of the status of a candidate country for European integration. Among the basic legal instruments designed to manage the migration process in the country, there are:

- The National Program to stimulate the return and (re)integration of citizens of the Republic of Moldova involved in the migration process for the years 2022-2026/Concept;
- The national strategy in the field of migration and asylum for the period 2011-2020, GD 655 of 08.09.2011;
- The national strategy „Diaspora-2025” and the Action Plan for the years 2016-2018 regarding its implementation, GD no. 200 from 26.02.2016;
- Conception of the migration policy of the Republic of Moldova, approved by Parliament Decision no. 1386-XV of 11.10.2002;
- Law on migration no. 1518-XV of 06.12.2002;
- Law on labor migration no. 180-XVI of 10.07.2008 (in force from 01.01.09);
- Law on employment and social protection of jobseekers no. 102-XV of 13.03.2003
- The National Action Plan for 2011-2015/2016-2018 regarding the implementation of the National Strategy in the field of migration and asylum, GD no. 1009 of 26.12.2011; Action plan (2017-2020) regarding the (re)integration of citizens of the Republic of Moldova returned from abroad, etc. (HG, 2017).

The institutional framework capable of effectively monitoring and managing the migration process was created, the managerial functions of migration were shared.

Thus, by the Government's provision no. 58-d of 07.06.2013 and with subsequent additions, the last one dating from 09.02.2022 HG no. 67 the Commission for the

⁶ The given conclusion was identified from the responses received to our request to the commercial banks

⁷ The sociological survey "Migration-development-return"

coordination of activities in the field of migration and asylum, the responsibilities and the action plan were approved.

Among the basic objectives of these migration monitoring and management tools are:

- ensuring the security of migrant workers;
- discouraging the brain drain and encouraging the return of migrants to the country by launching several programs and activities aimed at supporting those wishing to return to reintegrate into the society from which they left;
- strengthening the diaspora of the Republic of Moldova, by launching some programs, to expand the networks of associations and create thematic connection points;
- the active involvement of the diaspora in migration policies, the strengthening of ties with the diaspora, the transfer of „social remittances”;
- improving the right to acquire and the portability of the right to pension;
- encouraging circular and return migration, etc.

In order to achieve these goals of the migration policy in the Republic of Moldova, practically all public institutions and decision-makers are involved, so that the policy is coherent, participatory and oriented towards the sustainable development of the country.

It is important to emphasize that productive investments must be directed to sectors and projects that bring lasting and sustainable benefits to the economy and society of the country of origin. A strategic approach and effective governance are essential to ensure the efficient and responsible use of accumulated savings and remittances in support of sustainable development (King, 1986), (Wahba, 2014).

If in the period of 1991-2010 characterized by the lack of a clear vision regarding migration management, starting from 2011 and until now we can speak of a complex and integrated approach to migration processes, an intensification of external activity through the ratification of several bilateral agreements or multilateral regarding migration, as well as the implementation of national and international legal instruments.

Thus, the main mission of the institutions with the right to monitor and effectively manage migration can be related to the implementation of the existing legal card and the launch of a series of programs, projects, actions, events, all with the general purpose of supporting migrants and offering opportunities to harness on potential accumulated over time, for their benefit, but also for the country as a whole.

Among the main programs, projects, events launched by state institutions are: Diaspora Engagement Hub, Diaspora*Origini*Reveniri/DOR, Diaspora Congress, Diaspora Home Succeeds (Dar 1+3) (Diaspora Relations Office); The „Pare 1+2” economic aid attraction program (Organization for the Development of Entrepreneurship); „Consolidation of Moldova's labor market management and migrant return capacities (National Employment Agency); „Startup for young people and migrants” (Chisinau municipality), etc.

A constant and active concern for migration and emigrants also exists on the part of several representatives of international organizations in the Republic of Moldova. Thus, among the most dynamic programs addressed to migrants are: „Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration” (IOM Moldova), „Migration and Local Development” Project, „Integration of

Migration into Local Development, Alliance of Native Associations (PNUD Moldova), „Consolidation of Capacities of migration management in the Republic of Moldova”, etc.

Even if the state authorities are actively involved in the management of migration, the infrastructure for monitoring and integrated management of migration is developed, we proposed to analyze the extent to which these actions, programs, manifestations addressed to migrants are known by it, as well as testing the intention to return to country and/or involvement in the socio-economic development of the Republic of Moldova. In this sense, the tools of the sociological survey „Migration-development-return” were used to correlate the expectations of migrants with the programs, projects, actions and activities carried out by the authorities of the Republic of Moldova, but also to evaluate the impediments to return in a perspective future and the constraints/challenges that could appear in this process. There are several determining factors that contribute to the individual's decision to return to the country of origin after a period spent abroad, depending on the individual context and circumstances (Wahba, 2014).

Thus, to the questions of the questionnaire from which the degree of integration in the adoption societies could be deduced, we can deduce the following: 29% of the respondents indicated holding the citizenship of the state in which they live with the rights and obligations arising from this status; about 1/3 of the respondents are abroad with their family, the majority ruling out returning to the country. Also, the fact that a relatively large number of Moldovan emigrants have legalized and work in a specialty 37.8%, and about 10% own their own business, study here, is also an indication of the reduced hope of returning to the country of origin (figure 1).

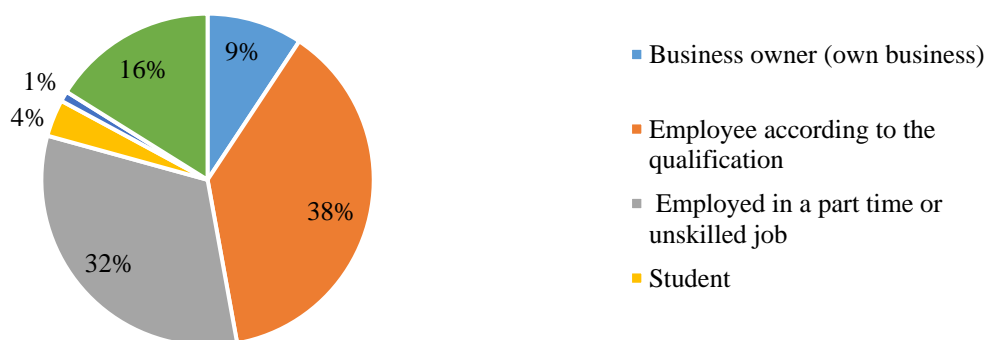


Figure 1. Which of the following best describes your current situation abroad?

Source: based on data from the sociological survey „Migration-development-return”

Other answers given by respondents attesting to the high degree of integration or connection with the society in which they are: 28% indicated the presence of a private home, and 13.5% own a rental home. This aspect also sends messages with reference to the intention to stay in the country of adoption. Several EU states have support programs for young families, including for immigrants, favorable credit conditions (a fact mentioned by many respondents), this finding is -could lead to the "hunting of talents" and/or young and promising human potential for the given societies, in the context of the demographic problems they have. 45% of the people surveyed indicated the connection with the banking

system in the countries of adoption and, accordingly, the achievement of personal and/or business goals, which can also be considered an indication of loyalty and naturalization of foreigners. 85% of our citizens consider themselves integrated or partially in the new society, a good indicator for adopting countries and their active policies of naturalization and integration of migrants (figure 2).

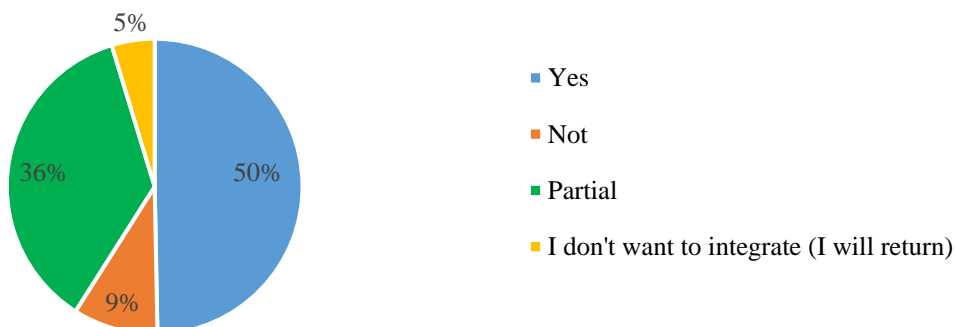


Figure 2. Do you consider yourself integrated in the society you are in?

Source: based on data from the sociological survey „Migration-development-return”

A second set of questions aimed to identify the return intention of our citizens in migration. The decision to return can be inferred from the answers given by the survey respondents. Thus, 72% of them have fond memories and thoughts about their native country, 64% would like or could return to the country in the future, but the number of those who have made plans to return in the short term is small, 43% do not exclude this possibility in the future, 1/3 giving a categorical answer "no"; about 80% of them intend to participate in the future elections that will be organized in the country, etc. (figure 3).

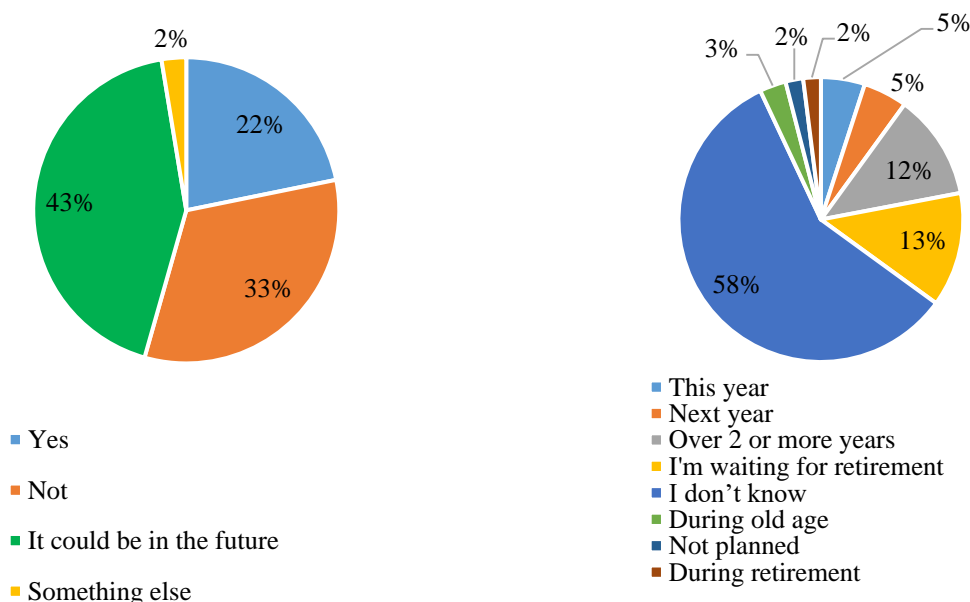


Figure 3. Do you want to return home and when?

Source: based on data from the sociological survey "Migration-development-return"

Unfortunately, the connection between migrants and their country of origin is more informal, individual, they appreciate the dispersed nature of the association of migrants abroad and the low efficiency of their activity, as well as the insufficient knowledge of the programs launched for the Moldovan diaspora. This fact is confirmed by the answers to the questionnaire questions with reference to knowledge of the programs launched by the state authorities (fig. 4).

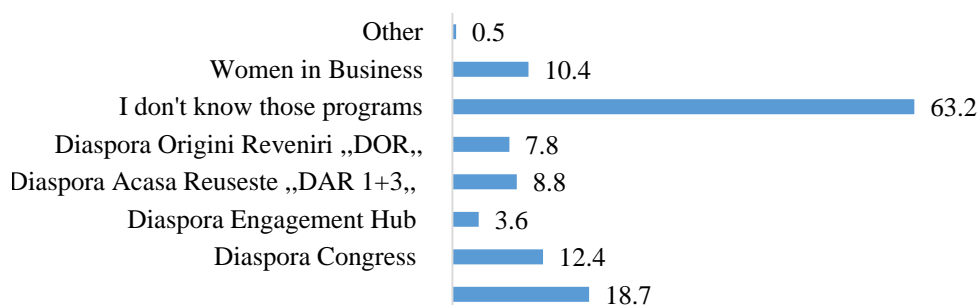


Figure 4. Which of the programs launched by the authorities of the Republic of Moldova are you familiar with?

Source: sociological survey „Migration-development-return”

Although the country's authorities are making great efforts to attract this human potential that has left the country, both through the normative-legislative framework and through a series of projects, programs, activities, actions aimed at attracting migrants into the country's socio-economic life, the mechanism for achieving a more effective beneficial contact must be rethought, both for migrants and for the country as a whole. These programs must be expanded, actively promoted, including by changing the general attitude towards this category of citizens, part of the country's human capital, the interest in them should not be limited only to remittances, but to active integration into the country's human capital. The applied strategies and documents aimed at migrants must be adjusted with concrete action plans, with the active involvement of the public at all levels of government. The duty of the authorities of the Republic of Moldova is to support the citizens of the country regardless of their current status or perspective and their intention to remain in the host countries or return to the country.

In several states of the world there are practices to support returned migrants, including financial, social, integration support, etc. These practices differ from one country to another, in accordance with the interests of the states and include various programs, policies, action plans, etc. and can serve as good practices for our country as well.

Thus, the Philippine state offers returned migrants financial and logistical support to find a job, develop their entrepreneurial skills, and rehabilitate and reintegrate into social life. According to official data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the number of migrants returning to the Philippines has increased significantly in recent years. In 2018, more than 4% migrants were recorded as returning to the Philippines (ADALFS, 2018). In addition, according to a study by the World Bank, returning migrants to the

Philippines have a positive impact on the national economy through investment and increased consumption. The study found that, on average, return migrants to the Philippines invest about 15 percent of their income in various sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, industry and services. According to the study "Returning Home After Typhoon Haiyan: A Rapid Assessment of the Reintegration of Returning Migrants in the Philippines" conducted by the World Bank, the return of migrants to the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 had a positive impact on the national economy. Returned migrants brought with them new skills and knowledge acquired abroad, invested in local businesses and created new jobs (WBG, 2013). Returned migrants can contribute significantly to the economic development and reconstruction of the country if they benefit from reintegration programs and government policies that encourage investment and entrepreneurship.

A considered successful example of return migration in Africa is Morocco. The Moroccan government has launched several programs and policies to encourage Moroccans working abroad to return and invest in their country. The authorities support migrants who return to Morocco with the aim of resuming economic activity, by offering loans and financial services under privileged conditions, also granting social and psychological assistance, thus helping them to reintegrate in the country. According to the report of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Government of Morocco, entitled "Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration in Morocco", during the period 2005-2021, the number of return migration in Morocco increased from 295 to approximately 3798 people (IOM, 2021, p. 5).

According to the author (Dustmann, 1996), practices from European history can be learned to encourage the return of migrants to their country of origin, and temporary immigration schemes can be useful to stimulate East-West economic relations.

Effective programs for return migration also exist in European states. Thus, France has developed some programs and policies to facilitate return migration and to help migrants reintegrate into French society and economy. These policies include vocational training programs, easy access to housing, business assistance and financial support for small and medium-sized businesses. In France, figures on return migration are limited, but there are some studies that suggest the phenomenon has increased in recent years. In 2019, another study by the French Institute for International Affairs found that return migration represented about 7% of all immigrants in France and that they are usually of a higher skill level than incoming immigrants in France (IFAI, 2019).

Germany offers programs for migrants returning home, including support for business development and reintegration into the local labor market. The German government also provides assistance in obtaining funding and developing research projects.

In addition, Switzerland has a "Comeback Program", aimed at Swiss people living abroad who wish to return home. The program provides support for job search, training and reintegration into Swiss society. Bulgaria, helps migrants reintegrate into Bulgarian society and develop their own businesses or find a job in the country. Bulgaria has seen a significant increase in the number of migrants returning to the country in recent years.

According to the data of the National Institute of Statistics of Bulgaria, the number of migrants who returned to Bulgaria increased from about 3,500 in 2015 to more than 7,000 people in 2019 (INSB, 2016).

The Czech Republic also has a number of programs and policies to support migrants returning to the country. The results of the Czech Republic's programs and policies for return migration are positive. In recent years, the number of migrants returning to the Czech Republic has increased significantly (MIRC, 2019). This increase is considered a success of policies to support migrants returning home and to stimulate the socio-economic development of this country.

China represents another example of good practices in the relationship with the diaspora, by encouraging investments from them and which have been essential in the country's economic emergence in recent decades. Chinese investors from the diaspora brought with them not only capital, but also knowledge and advanced technology, which contributed to the country's economic growth. They have promoted innovation and technology transfer by investing in high-tech industries such as IT and the renewable energy sector. The number of Chinese migrants returning to the country has increased significantly (MPI, 2020). This growth has been fueled by policies and programs that support migrants to return home and find a job or start a business in China. One of China's main return migration policies is the "1000 Talents" program, which aims to attract scientists and engineers back home to contribute to the country's development. The program provides funding, research facilities and other benefits for those returning to China.

These examples of good practices can serve as a benchmark for the Republic of Moldova to support migrants who want to return to the country. By providing financial and logistical support, along with training and education services, returning migrants can have a better chance of finding jobs and developing their businesses, contributing to the economic and social development of their country of origin.

Conclusions

Undoubtedly, people from the Republic of Moldova, temporarily or permanently emigrated, represent an important human capital that should be actively harnessing both for the benefit of the migrants and for the benefit of the country. Migrants have a significant potential: financial, relational, demographic, worthy of consideration by the authorities of different ranks in the country, in order to stimulate and make it more efficient and which would give a new impetus to the socio-economic development of the country.

The current programs/projects to support migrants are welcome, but they only partially cover their expectations, from the desire to harness on the experience, savings, relationships, knowledge they have gained abroad and are little known. The banking system, for example, does not harness on this important potential even in the short, medium or long term. It is necessary to involve the banking system more actively in support of migrants and

their intention to harness the money earned in the country's economy, ensuring them a high degree of transparency and security of the financial means attracted.

There is a need to ensure a safer information system for migrants, as well as to provide assistance in terms of applying to programs, projects, private initiatives. In this sense, the connection with migrants through diaspora associations through formal informational sources, as well as informal ones, is welcome.

There is a need to expand and create a new system/mechanism to stimulate returns and sustainable (re)integration. This mechanism must be discussed with the diaspora through a permanent and constructive dialogue. The transformation of migrants' capital into a development factor can gain momentum under the conditions in which the authorities of the Republic of Moldova will create important premises for the return and social and economic reintegration of migrants.

Harnessing on the potential of migrants can be a valuable resource for the socio-economic development of the Republic of Moldova. By creating an adequate legal framework, active government structures, by conducting a constructive dialogue with the diaspora, return migration would be encouraged. Good practices are an example of this.

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