THE DYNAMICS OF THE POPULATION FROM THE RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN THE SPACE ADJACENT TO THE AXIS BUCHAREST-PLOIEŞTI

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Abstract: After 1989 a new pattern of demographic behavior became characteristic of the rural settlements and their population. This transformation was due to the changes in the social and political system of post-communist Romania. The demographic behavior of the population is influenced by their cultural values, their standards of living and their lifestyle. This paper will analyze the evolution of certain demographic indicators like the birth rate, the death rate, the migration and total review and the factors which have determined the changes in these indicators since 1989 until present.

Keywords: urbanization, rural exodus, urban exodus, population dynamics.

1. INTRODUCTION

The analyzed space is located in the influence area of the capital city and that of Ploiești city. Immediately after 1989 the rural exodus happened, when the rural space lost a part of the younger and middle-aged population as a result of the freedom of movement from the rural space towards the urban one. After that, the opposite phenomenon to that of the rural exodus occurred: a part of the urban population returned to the village as a result of the change in mentality of a certain segment of the urban population.

This segment of the population perceives the rural space as a space which is propitious as a residence and which has many more advantages compared to the urban space. This phenomenon led to major changes in the characteristics of the rural space and to the intensifying of the urbanization process of the rural space. The analyzed area is located in the northern part of Ilfov County and in the southern part of Prahova County. The Capital influences the concerned rural area only within limited areas and differentially.
Thus, the rates of urbanization, development and modernization are really high only in
certain areas neighboring the capital. Such areas are located along the major arterial roads
(in this case, National Road No.1) and the areas where certain urban functions of the
Capital may „migrate” due to the lack of space or environment in the capital (trade
activities, storage, processing, dwelling, especially secondary, possibly with a high level of
comfort). I have divided the analyzed region into two groups, the classification criterion
being the level of economic development. The first group (A) includes the localities
neighboring the two polarizing centers: the Capital (Balotești, Corbeanca, Snagov) and
Ploiești (Bărcănești).

The urbanization trends in these areas are stronger and the transport and technical-
building infrastructure developed at a far quicker pace than in the communes outlying the
area of influence of these polarizing cities. The second group (B) includes the communes
located half the distance between the two ends of the axis (Ciolpani, Periș, Puchenii Mari,
Gorgota), and this area includes the communes located no farther than 15 km from this axis
Moara Vlăsiei, Nuci, Gruiu (Figure 1).

The populations of the two groups have a different demographic behavior (urban
demographic behavior is characterized by low birth rates, reduced size of family, marriage
age which is older as a consequence of the changes impacting women’s status in society,
lower nuptial gross rates and higher divorce rates determined by a different mentality than
that in the rural area). Urbanization influences or should influence all sectors, including the
demographic behavior of the population in the analyzed rural area, which becomes similar
to that of the urban population. In order to prove such demographic behavior we have
analyzed the values of certain geo-demographic indicators for the period 1991-2099.

This study required an analysis and processing of certain statistic data concerning
the population of the relevant communes, used for the calculation of specific geo-
demographic indicators, data which were obtained from Ilfov County General Statistics
Department (Bucharest) and Prahova County General Statistics Department (Ploiești),
National Institute of Statistics- Bucharest, Municipalities of Snagov commune (General
Development Plan 2004), Moara Vlăsiei (General Development Plan 1996) and Corbeanca
(General Development Plan 2003-2004), from Ilfov County Land Use Plan carried-out by
the National Institute for Research-Development in Land Development and Planning,
URBAN PROIECT – Bucharest, in 2004, Bucharest- Ilfov Regional Development Plan for
2007-2013 prepared in 2006 by Bucharest-Ilfiov Agency for Regional Development,
Bucharest Metropolitan Area Planning Centre, Ilfov County Council and Bucharest-Ilfiov
Local Administrations and the Ilfov County Economic-Social Development Strategy for
2007-2013, study prepared by Ilfov County Council in 2007. For the mapping part of the
work, the author analyzed and processed assisted by Philcarto software, relevant maps
obtained from Ilfov County Office of Cadastre, Geodesy and Cartography and the Library
of the Faculty of Geography of Bucharest University.

2.1. Absolute increase on the period
In our analysis of the evolution of the total population of the concerned rural area we relied on the statistic data in the population censuses drafted for 1912-2002. The data concerning the communes of Prahova County are missing for 1948 (figure 2).
The dynamics of the population from the rural settlements in the space adjacent to the axis Bucharest-Ploieşti

The population of Baloteşti, Corbeanca, Moara-Vlăsiei, Snagov and Bărcăneşti hits all-time high in 2009 due to the settlement of a high percentage of urban population after 2002. The highest rate of urban-rural migration was between 2003-2007. The rural population returned to their birthplaces after the start of the economic crisis (figure 3).

The population of Ciolpani, Periş, Gorgota and Puchenii Mari was the largest in 1977 as a consequence of Decree no. 770/1966 imposed by the Communist political regime by which the State encouraged the growth of the birth rate (pro-natalist policy). This value will never be reached subsequently because the migration balance in these communes was negative and much lower than registered in the communes in the previous group (Table 1). Nuci is the only commune from the 11 communes where the population hits all-time low in 2009. This is mainly due to the geographical position in the county and the large distance from the capital compared to the other 7 communes, the relative isolation from the capital and the major axis, National Road 1. The maximum value is reached in Baloteşti which,
due to the fact that it is crossed by DN1 and that it is located approximately 15 km from Bucharest, was “invaded” by a segment of population (coming mainly from the urban environment) which has recently settled here and by investors in various areas (mainly, real estate). In 2009 the rural area adjacent to the axis Bucharest-Ploieşti had a population of 68076 inhabitants (the maximum value for the analyzed period, 1991-2009). From 1992 until 2002 the total population followed a descending trend, due to the rural exodus characteristic of developing countries. After 2002 the total population slightly increases due to the final migration of the urban population who returned to their birthplaces or moved wishing to live far from air and noise pollution of the cities from which they migrated (figure 4).

Table 1: Minimum value and maximum value of the absolute increase for the period 1912-2009 and the year when it is reached

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commune</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Absolute increase (no.of inhabitants) (1912-2009)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>year</td>
<td>nr.of.</td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>inhabitants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baloteşti</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>1075</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cioplani</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>3408</td>
<td>1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corbeanca</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gruiu</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>6591</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moara Vlăsiei</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>3060</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuci</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2801</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periş</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>3940</td>
<td>1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snagov</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>3630</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bârcăneşti</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>2957</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorgota</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>3517</td>
<td>1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puchenii Mari</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>5476</td>
<td>1977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: I.C.G.S.D., P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data

Figure 4: Evolution of the number of inhabitants of the rural space adjacent to the axis Bucharest-Ploieşti for the period 1991-2009
(data source: I.C.G.S.D., P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data)

“The absolute increase is the difference between the number of the population at the end of the period and at the beginning of the period” (Vert, C., 1995, p.16). The reference periods chosen for the comparative analysis are 1912-2009 and 1991-2009. The maximum value is registered in Bârcăneşti commune where the population increased by 6635
inhabitants during 1912-2009, followed by Balotești commune where the population increased by 5715 inhabitants in the same period.

The maximum value of the absolute increase for the period 1991-2009 was registered in Balotești commune, whose population increased by 1299 inhabitants. In this commune, similarly to other communes in group A (Corbeanca, where the population increased by 903 inhabitants during the same period, and Snagov where the population increased by 987 inhabitants), the population increased due to the final urban-rural migrations and not to a high birth rate. The minimum value is reached in the communes in group B where the population decreased significantly, the most relevant example being Nuci commune where the population decreased by 688 inhabitants. The same locality reached the minimum value for the period 1912-2009, the reduction of the population being of 1686 inhabitants, reduction caused by the rural exodus, a demographic phenomenon which had as effect a significant decline in the birth rate because most of the people having migrated were young and fertile.

2.2. Annual mean increase

This is the “ratio between the absolute increase and the number of full years during the reference period” (Vert, C., 1995, p.17). The value of the annual mean increase is the average number of persons by which the population of the communes increases per year during 1912-2009 and 1991-2009.

Similarly to the previous indicator, the maximum value is reached in Bărcănești commune, where the number of inhabitants increased in average by 68 inhabitants per year, followed by Balotești commune (the annual mean increase being 59 inhabitants). The minimum value is reached in Nuci, where, as revealed by the analysis of other indicators, the population decreased in average by 17 inhabitants per year for the period 1912-2009, and by 38 inhabitants in average per year for the period 1991-2009. The phenomenon of population aging is characteristic of the same commune, as I have observed by analyzing the structure of the population by age group and average age of the population.

The average annual mean increase of 11 communes is 26 inhabitants/year for the period 1912-2009 and 5 inhabitants/year for the period 1991-2009. The population of the analyzed rural space increased in average by 287 inhabitants/year in the last 97 years and by 52 inhabitants per year in the last 18 years.

2.3. Crude rate of increase

This indicator „is the ratio between the population increase and the number of the population from the beginning of the period expressed in percentages” (Vert, C., 1995, p.17). The rate of increase indicates the growth of that community by reference to 100 inhabitants. For having a relevant analysis we calculated the value of these indicators for the rural environment of Romania as well. The Romanian rural population drops by -9.66% and by -0.10% respectively during the two reference periods. The analyzed rural area has a rate of increase of 69% for the period 1912-2009 and of 1.5% for the period 1991-2009, compared to the Romanian rural environment which has a negative rate of increase during the same periods (figure 5). The highest increase for the period 1912-2009 is reached in Balotești commune (531%). For the period 1991-2009 the maximum increase is reached in Corbeanca commune (25.55%), followed by Balotești commune (23.65%).
Figure 5: Crude rate of increase of the population of the rural settlements in the space adjacent to the axis Bucharest-Ploiești and of the Romanian rural population for the periods 1912-2009 and 1991-2009 (data source: I.C.G.S.D., P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data)

2.4. Mean annual rate of increase

Mean annual rate of increase determined as the ratio between the annual mean increase and the number of population at the beginning of the period expressed in percentages (Vert, C., 1995, p.18). The Romanian rural population drops by 10868 inhabitants (-0.10%) and by 724 inhabitants respectively (-0.006%) in average per year. For the analyzed rural area we have determined the value of this indicator as the average of the indicators for the 11 communes, for both reference periods. The comparison between the mean annual rate of increase of the Romanian rural environment and that of the analyzed region reveals that this region, unlike other rural areas in Romania, is not characterized by depopulation. This increase is attributed to the fact that the number of the communes characterized by a positive increase of migration is higher than that those characterized by large migration (we especially refer to the rural exodus).

3. NATURAL MOVEMENT OF POPULATION

3.1. Birth rate

The birth rate of the area analyzed for the period 1991-2009 is between 8.80‰ in 2001 and 10.70‰ in 2008 and 2009. The analysis of the chart of the birth rate indicates that during the 19 years no significant changes were recorded from one year to another (Fig. 6). The most important change occurred in 2001, when the absolute minimum value was recorded and the birth rate decreased by 0.93‰, compared to 2000 when it was 9.73‰. Until 2004 the values of this rate fluctuated from 9.22‰ in 1991 to 8.96‰ in 2003, and subsequently slightly increased up to the maximum value in 2009. Significant changes in the demographic behavior of the population of the analyzed region may only be noted in communes.
The birth rate of the analyzed region for the period 2002-2006 are close to that of the national average for the same period: between 9.83‰ and 10.17‰ in the analyzed region and 9.70-10.20‰ in Romania. If in 2002 there are no significant differences (9.15‰ in the analyzed region and 9.70‰ in Romania), in 2003 the difference is approximately 1‰: 8.96‰ in the analyzed region and 9.80‰ in Romania.

Figure 6: Birth rate and mortality rate of the rural population of the space adjacent to the axis Bucharest-Ploiești for the period 1991-2009
(data source: I.C.G.S.D., P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data)

The birth rate is low in the rural area adjacent to the axis Bucharest-Ploiești, because the population of childbearing age has migrated, in particular to urban areas and abroad. Another reason is that the large majority of those who have settled permanently in this region come from urban areas, and they have preserved their customs and continue to stick to a specifically urban demographic behavior.

3.2. Mortality rate

Over 1991-2009 the mortality rate in the analyzed space ranged between 13.07‰ (2001) and 16.61‰ (2005) (Fig. 6). The relevant evolution chart for 1991-2000 shows that the mortality rate ranged between 14-15‰, with a slight drop in 2001 (the year with the lowest birth rate of the analyzed time period), but it surged to 16.61 ‰ in 2005. It reported a new drop up to 2009 (13.83‰ in 2006 and 13.87‰ in 2008). Consequently, the mortality rate has not seen major changes in the area encompassing the 11 rural settlements under analysis. The comparison of such rate over 2002-2006 – the time period in respect of which data are available at national level – showed that the mortality rates in the concerned rural space are higher than the national averages (between 11.90‰ and 12.40‰ for the concerned time period). Moreover, at commune level no major changes occurred in mortality rates over those 19 years. In 1992, Balotești had the lowest mortality rate (8.12‰) of the 11 rural settlements, followed by the localities of Moara-Vlăsiei (12.37‰) and Bârcănești (13.14‰). By contrast, in 1992 Gruiu and Nuci had rates slightly above 20‰. No significant changes occurred in 2002 and 2009. Once more Balotești had the lowest mortality rate. In 2009 Nuci commune preserves its status as the commune with the highest mortality rate (21.97‰).

We can get an explanation of the low mortality rates of Balotești and of the high ones of Gruiu and Nuci if we analyze the structure of population age groups and if we calculate the population’s mean age. For instance, in 2002 the mean age of Balotești and Nuci was 35 years and 47 years, respectively. The economic development level of Nuci and Gruiu was below that of Balotești in 2002 and the situation is still the same. In 2002 the
persons aged 60 or over accounted for 15.57% of Balotești’s total population and for 40.72% of Nuci’s total population, respectively. Balotești has a favorable geographic location, quite close to the capital city. Besides, its being crossed by DN1 (National Road No.1) renders it - from a multiple perspective - an enticing location for investors from various economic fields. The industrial facilities as well as the other companies operating in the commune ensure jobs for the local residents and consequently the migration is stopped. The commune residents who have no jobs in Balotești can travel without difficulty to Bucharest or to other neighboring localities. However, this is not the case with Nuci and Gruiu, given their unfavorable geographic location, outlying the capital city’s area of influence. Unlike Balotești or the other group A communes (Corbeanca, Snagov, Bărcănești) Nuci and Gruiu have seen drops in population due to the rural exodus occurred mainly after the fall of the Communist regime, and such drops could not be countered by the final migration from urban areas to rural ones.

3.3. Natural demographic balance sheet

I calculated the value of the demographic balance sheet as such difference between birth rate and mortality rate and we obtained negative values throughout 1991-2009. In such situations, we are dealing with a natural deficit (i.e. birth rate is lower than mortality rate). The lowest values were those reported in 2003 (-6.69‰) and 2005 (-6.71‰), while the highest values were reported in 2006-2009 (ranging between -3.17‰ in 2008 and -3.66‰ in 2006). Romania’s natural demographic balance sheets are negative as well over 2002-2006 (ranging between -2.70‰ and -1.8‰), but roughly 2-3 times higher than the values of the analyzed area (between -6.71‰ and -3.66‰).

![Figure 7: Natural balance sheet, migration balance sheet and total balance of the rural space adjacent to axis Bucharest-Ploiești over 1991-2009](data source: I.C.G.S.D., P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data)

4. POPULATION’S MIGRATION

By analyzing the migration balance sheet chart and the table below it becomes apparent that, except Balotești, all the other communes of the rural area adjacent to the axis București-Ploiești have reported minimum values at the beginning of the concerned time period (1991-1993) (Table 2). The only commune with a positive migration balance sheet in 1991 (i.e. 10.02‰) was Balotești. Nuci had the lowest minimum value, fact that has already been mentioned in the previous chapters. After 1991, Nuci saw a mass migration (rural exodus), in particular the mass migration of persons of childbearing age, and consequently it is now facing demographic ageing.
Table 2: The minimum and maximum values of the migration balance sheet, the years when such values occurred and the time periods of negative migration balance sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commune</th>
<th>Minimum value (‰) and the year when it occurred</th>
<th>Maximum value (‰) and the year when it occurred</th>
<th>Time periods of negative migration balance sheet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snagov</td>
<td>1.71 1991</td>
<td>41.87 2008</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: I.C.G.S.D.; P.C.G.S.D.; Calculated data;

Snagov was the only commune with a positive migration balance sheet throughout the concerned time period, as it continued as a preferred choice both for urban citizens willing to settle down in the peri-urban area adjoining Bucharest, and for real estate investors. Corbeanca commune is a similar case, with the highest value of the migration balance sheet (65.59‰ in 2008).

In most of these communes, the maximum values occurred in 2008-2009. A plausible explanation of the fact could be the economic crisis, which set in and generated "return migration". In 1995-2007, most of those who came as new residents to rural areas had financial situations above average and were aiming to live in houses that were larger and more comfortable than their urban dwellings, but after 2007 most of those migrating from urban areas to rural ones were driven by their no longer being able to pay for their utility bills. This new migrant type finds lower costs of living and cheaper houses in rural areas and that because after the economic crisis set in real estate prices dwindled dramatically in the area under analysis. These migrants are old pensioners returning to their native places, inheritors of real estates or even young people who no longer afford to pay their urban house rent.

By analyzing the values in table 2 we noticed that 1991-1996, which was a time of rural exodus, was the period of negative migration balance sheets in most of the communes. However, since 2003, none of the 11 communes has had a negative migration balance sheet.

The situation of the concerned area is encouraging, because the migration balance sheet was positive throughout the entire time period, except for 1991, when it was -6.85‰ but also except for 1995-1996, when it was slightly below zero (-0.81‰ and -0.85‰). The area saw a development under the influence of Bucharest and Ploiești city, and the balance between emigrations and immigrations was maintained until 2002, when the number of domiciles installed there started to increase on a continuous basis. Some of the causes that
in our opinion justify the positive values of the migration balance sheet are mainly the modernization of the technical, building and transportation infrastructure, of the health and education facilities but also the modernization of other public service facilities for the population.

5. THE GENERAL DEMOGRAPHIC BALANCE AND THE TOTAL DEMOGRAPHIC BALANCE

This demographic indicator includes the natural and the migratory demographic balance, being the “expression of the feed-back characteristic of an open system, in this case the population” (Vert, C., 1995, p.21). Thus, according to the cited author, the two characteristics of the systems will be determined by entries (births and immigrations) and exits (deaths and emigrations). Calculating the values of entries and exits for the years 1992, 2002 and 2009 I have found the three situations listed by the author cited above, the general demographic balance being:

- positive, when the entries are higher than the exits, when the population increases due to the birth rate and immigration,
- equal to zero, when the population stagnates,
- negative, when the population decreases due to the death rate and emigration.

For 1992 the first situation is when the number of entries is higher than the number of exits, and this is the case with Balotești, Snagov and Bărcănești. The sum of births and immigrations for Balotești is approximately three times higher than the sum of deaths and emigrations. As the first two communes are concerned, this situation is due to the high number of settling domicile in the locality, meanwhile in the case of the third commune the reason is both the relatively high number of establishments of domicile compared to the changes of domicile from the locality and a high birth rate. As the other rural settlements are concerned the difference between the number of entries and exits is not significant.

For 1992 the second situation is when the number of entries is lower than the number of exits. The highest differences are those recorded in Nuci and Gruiu, where the entries are approximately three times and a half, and respectively three times lower than the exits. Except for Moara-Vlăsiei, Gorgota and Puchenii Mari, where the difference between exits and entries is insignificant, the calculations indicate that the entries are two times lower than the exits for the other communes (Ciolpani, Corbeanca and Periș). In 1992 the rural area studied had an insignificant difference between the entries (1783 inhabitants) and exits (2012 inhabitants), and this is a good thing since after 1989 a large migration of the population was characteristic for the rural area.

In 2002 the first category includes only Balotești and Bărcănești, the difference between the entries and exits being insignificant, of approximately 30 inhabitants. For Bărcănești the difference between the establishments of domicile and the changes of domicile and between the number of births and deaths is higher, meanwhile these differences are insignificant for Balotești commune.

In 2002 the general demographic balance of Snagov commune is negative, thus joining the communes having a negative general demographic balance since 1992. Even if these communes have close values of establishments of domicile and changes of domicile, the general demographic balance is negative because the number of births is low and the number of deaths is high. This situation may be the consequence of demographic aging and of the fertile population adopting a demographic behavior similar to the urban.
The dynamics of the population from the rural settlements in the space adjacent …

The fertility rate is a clear indicator of the population’s mentality, as it expresses an attitude towards modern urban life. The factors impacting the fertility level (namely economic, political, social and cultural factors, as well as women’s status in society, religion, general psychological environments, and population’s age) also impact birth rates. A comparative analysis of all the rural areas in the concerned region was only possible for the year 2002. The high fertility rate of Nuci (94.74%) is due to the low number of women of childbearing age: 45 live births to 475 women of childbearing age, while in 2002 Ciolpăni commune had 41 live births to 1053 women of childbearing age, i.e. a similar number of live births but twice as many women of childbearing age.

The communes where the population has started adopting an urban demographic behavior have low fertility rates: Balotești, Snagov, Bârcănești (group A). The women’s status in society is one of the factors impacting the general fertility rate because nowadays, female mentality has changed in developed countries, with women dedicating more time to their education (high school, post-high school, university and even post-graduate education) and then to their career, in their early adult life. This type of demographic behavior finds its explanation in the large number of urban immigrants coming to inhabit these communes. We have found another explanation of the fact in Vasile Miftode’s “Migration and Urban Development” (Ro.”Migrațiile și dezvoltarea urbană”), a work stating that the settlement of newcomers to the rural areas entails some sort of „cultural syncretism”, manifest through the „co-existence of cultural standards”, namely the coexistence of urban standards (or of only some of them) with rural ones, with the initial population undergoing to some extent a change in their way of life. Thus, some of the rural inhabitants adopt some of the newcomers’ rules of behavior, amid the current social background of the rural environment’s transformation, modernization and urbanization, which implicitly brings about changes in the mentality of rural residents.

The high rate of Corbeanca commune is seen as a result of the recent settlement of young population. High rates are also reported in Nuci commune, due to the fact that the local demographic behavior is rural (women have lower education levels, marry at younger ages, use birth control techniques only to a limited extent) and the number of women of childbearing age is low, because of the demographic ageing. The communes under analysis have various general fertility rates due to the fact that women have various levels of education, they get married at different ages, marriage stability varies while the use of birth control techniques is different. A distinct situation in 2002 is that of Corbeanca where the value of the general demographic balance is close to zero. The number of entries (82 inhabitants of which 32 live births and 50 establishments of domicile in locality) is close to the number of exits (87 inhabitants of which 52 deaths and 35 changes of domicile from the locality). The difference between the number of entries (1429 inhabitants) and exits (1623 inhabitants) in 2002 for the analyzed rural area is insignificant just like in 1992, even if the general demographic balance is negative. In 2009 the general demographic balance is positive, the number of the population increased by 814 inhabitants due to the birth rate and immigration (the number of entries is 2612 inhabitants and exits is 1798 inhabitants), this situation is due to the high number of establishments of domicile in the member localities (1883 inhabitants) and not due to the number of births (729 live births, the birth rate being 10.70‰). The communes where the general demographic balance is negative are only Gorgota and Puchenii Mari in Prahova County, but the difference between entries and exits is insignificant.
Corbeanca is the commune having the highest value of this indicator, the number of entries (396 inhabitants) being three times and a half higher than the exits (108 inhabitants). Except for Gruiu and Nuci, where the general demographic balance is positive but in relation to which the calculations indicate that the difference between entries is exits is low, for the remaining communes (Baloteşti, Moara-Vlăsiei, Periş, Snagov and Bârâneşti) the number of entries being approximately two times higher than the exits. The sum of the natural demographic balance sheet and the migration balance sheet in the concerned area ranged between -11.87‰ in 1991 and 15.40‰ in 2008, when the largest number of domiciles of the 1991-2009 time period were installed there. The total demographic balance became positive in 2003 (0.57‰) and preserved its positive values until the end of the concerned time period, whereas the natural demographic balance sheet was negative and the migration balance sheet exceeded 8‰ (figure 8).

CONCLUSIONS

The main factor generating migrations in the analyzed region is the economic factor. In the communes in group A defined at the beginning of this work, mainly urban-rural migrations take place, migrations which tend to be a new social phenomenon consisting in the “flow” of the population of the big cities towards the suburban areas, as Snagov, Corbeanca, Baloteşti, Ciolpani and Bârâneşti, a phenomenon which determines social and economic shifts in the rural space subject to analysis (urban demographic behavior, shifts in the job market). The rate of this type of migrations used to be high up to the end of 2008 when the crisis also affected the real estate market in the area.

In the communes in group B mainly rural-rural migrations take place, from the less developed rural areas to areas where the industrial production growth rate increased due to the establishment of industrial units or to the modernization of the already existing units or towards rural areas undergoing an urbanization process as the communes Snagov, Corbeanca, Baloteşti, where new jobs were also created in the services sector – nannies, maids, gardeners, cooks, pool attendants – due to the establishment of an urban population segment in above average circumstances that requires labor force. A high rate of commuting phenomenon is also characteristic for these localities because of the lack of jobs and due to the population abandoning the main activity – agriculture.

The birth rate is lower in the communes in group B because of the ageing population. This is caused by the migration of the young population to other more developed rural areas (sometimes to the areas in group A) or to the urban environment (mainly to the Capital and the Municipality of Ploieşti). The death rate is higher in the communes in group B due to a lower standard of living of the population and implicitly the lower life expectancy at birth by reference to the communes in group A.
The migration balance in the communes in group B is negative because of the insufficient jobs and because of the fact that the rate of general development in these communes is slower than the rate in the communes in group A. The localities in group A have a similar evolution of the migration rate and a more varied job market and consequently the segment of the population commuting as well as the changes of domicile are lower.
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