

WHY AND HOW ROMANIAN PEOPLE EMIGRATE TO SPAIN

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This paper draws on two qualitative researches: The Rural Non-farm Economy and Livelihood Diversification in Georgia, Armenia and Romania lead by The Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, and commissioned by UK Department for International Development (DFID) and World Bank and a fieldwork in Barcelona based on a grant from Soros Foundation for an Open Society and University of Bucharest (in the framework of the program Regional Development) and the most important issues of the presentation are: 1) to determine the characteristics of labor market in rural Romanian areas in order to find the motivation behind migration and what emigration strategies were adopted 2) to study the integration of Romanian emigrants on "official" and "informal" labor markets, the spontaneous strategies adopted by individuals or groups in order to find a job, the condition of work, the ethos of work 3) to study the effects of remittances from workers abroad on local economy development in Romania.

A few words about rural Romanian areas

Romania is a "peasantry country" – more than 47% people live in countryside. The rural Romania is characterized by a high rate of un- and under-employment, survival agriculture, low level of education and health services, informal activities, return migration from urban to rural, less livelihood diversification and poverty.

In official statistics the working population from rural consists of 5.6 millions of people; approximately 4.1 million are people who work in agriculture, 98% from these in private agriculture and just 1% from these are wage earners (80,000 persons). Most of the people in rural Rumania areas are familial unpaid workers. That means that in fact they don't have any kind of financial resources, so they may be considered as belonging to unemployed category.

The lower number of official unemployment, 2.8 % (yearbook, 2002) in official statistics hides a different reality.

"Officially, just 2% are considered unemployed but in fact 90% are unemployed. They don't have jobs but if they have a small piece of land they are considered familial unpaid workers. It's wrong: in fact all they do is to roam the street all day long, there is no work they can take."(Vice-mayor, Tichilesti village, jud. Braila).

On the other hand the rural labor market is unstructured. The State Agency for Labor Force, the private or non-governmental voluntary specialized