

# THE CROSS BORDER MIGRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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## Abstract

*The cross-border migration is a large aspect of migration process in context of increasing mobility. Studies on this migration segment are modest, there is an information gap to deepen knowledge and insight into the nature, impact and factors that inhibit or stimulate cross-border migration, but includes more types of migration on both sides of the border.*

*Keywords: cross border mobility, little traffic, border migration non-member countries, cross-border transit migration, involuntary migration.*

## 1. General context

Cross-border migration is a visible reflection of global inequalities. Much literature deals with the link between migration and inequalities indirectly, often through topics such as migration and development or the integration of migrants. Surprisingly, little research addresses directly the role of social inequalities. This gap raises at least two major questions: First, how do social inequalities affect opportunities for cross-border migration for different socioeconomic groups? Second, conversely, how do the outcomes of migration affect social inequalities in global patterns of distribution and in life chances in the countries of emigration and of immigration?

Romania joined the European Union on the 1st January 2007, and the outlines of the European Union changed once again. One of the EU's new neighbors, bordering Romania, is the Republic of Moldova, which comprises approximately 4.2 million inhabitants (including the left bank of Nistru River). As a consequence, the border between Romania and the Republic of Moldova along the river Prut not only divides two sovereign states but also forms the current external border of the EU. Hence, the border gains a special significance: it divides the "West" (Romania, and hence the EU) from the "East" (Republic of Moldova).

Since 2007, cross-border cooperation strategies have been implemented, which has served as an acceleration of the population mobility in the border area, being also an element of European construction. The perception of national frontiers has changed, especially in the context of the westward movement, which was impossible to imagine during the soviet period. Cross-border migrations presuppose and are an expression of good neighborly relations, even if they are aimed at maintaining security, but they are also an expression of the

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relationship between the political regimes of two neighboring countries. The role of the border in a new context of cross-border migration is to accelerate the mobility of the population on both sides of the border and to develop inter-human contact and local co-operation (Bărbulescu, 2016).

## **2. Cross-border mobility. Considerations and national realities**

The political, social, economic changes that took place after 1990 offered new opportunities for cross-border mobility, both for the countries in the direct European neighborhood and for the Moldovans. Cross-border migration has its origins for R Moldova and its citizens in 1989 when it was possible to penetrate the western border (with the collapse of the former USSR) by the overwhelming majority of citizens on both sides of the border as a result of political changes at the moment. On the eastern segment of the border there was more a symbolic boundary in the former USSR.

For the Republic of Moldova and its citizens, the signed bilateral agreements and the abolition of the visa regime with the EU countries (Romania) and the industrially developed countries, the regulation of the conditions of entry into R Moldova based on visas and residence for the citizens of some states, and the legalization of the Moldovan emigrants in host countries have helped to increase cross-border mobility. Until 2003, when massive exodus to the EU took place, the cross-border migration of Moldovans was to the predictive destinations. Most of those people (600 thousand official or nearly one million unofficially) chose Italy, Spain, Portugal and less Greece or France as destinations. Most emigrated illegally, resolving their status either by obtaining a residence permit or by obtaining Romanian citizenship or both (Panainte, 2017).

Cross-border mobility also has a special peculiarity in the western segment of the Moldovan border, through the links of ethnicity, language, spirituality, the common historical past that has been for over 50 years mobility on this segment of the border, which defines two Romanian states through a border of a state that does not exist. More recently, both sides of the border have purely economic interests, commodity exchange and products, services, inter-human contacts, ect. These issues are pronounced also expressed on the eastern border segment, but extremely difficult to assess because of the lack of control along the Nistru River.

Cross-border migration has also been temporarily disrupted by the introduction in 2007 of visas for Moldovan citizens in the context of Romania's accession to the EU. But, less visible in official statistics and difficult to appreciate, both in terms of impact on the population around the border and the consequences that followed for both states. Crossing the border is of crucial importance to the everyday life of citizens on both sides of the border of the neighborhood. Only in the period 2007-2009 with the implementation of the border traffic crossed the border of Moldovan citizens increased on average by 20% (Arambasha, 2003). Additionally, some Moldovans are holders of Romanian passports and Western cross-border penetration makes them much more legitimate.

The General Passport Directorate of Romania provides information on the number of passports issued to persons who have passed away as a place of birth in the Republic of Moldova. Thus, the number of Romanian citizens holding passports valid on 02.04.2013, born in the Republic of Moldova, was 219,706. Of these:

- 122,620 are domiciled in the Republic of Moldova.
- 85,065 people are domiciled in Romania;

- 4,433 is home to other states;
- 7,588 had their domicile abroad and subsequently requested resuming their domicile in Romania.

Given that the Romanian identity card also offers the right to mobility and employment in the European area, Ministry of Internal Affairs for information on the number of Romanian citizens holding identity cards, who indicated that the R Moldova's reply to the MIA was that:

- a) The number of Romanian citizens holding identity cards valid on 10.04.2013, having the birth place of the Republic of Moldova is 112,473 persons;
- b) Of the above mentioned number, 84,079 citizens hold a passport valid on the same date.

We estimate by the year 2018 that the number of persons in the Republic of Moldova who obtained Romanian citizenship would be at least 400 thousand people.

Four years since the Republic of Moldova benefited from the liberalized visa regime with the European Union countries, 1 469 917 Moldovan citizens enjoyed this facility. Of the total number, 1 168 079 Moldovans returned to the country, which represents 79.5%.

### 3. Cross-border migration methodology

It is a large quantitative segment, in a dynamic evolution of migration as a phenomenon, but very superficially known scientifically, researched and reflected in the specialized studies, both in the country and abroad. There is no single and complete methodological elaboration of the research, but also a methodology of the common evidence of cross-border migration for the responsible bodies, migration which is absent in the official statistical records of the state, is only in the stage of primary development, episodic by content and consistency data and information that characterizes it.

Cross-border migration has occurred in the context of increasing population mobility, border penetration, which has inevitably led to border traffic at border crossing points. The migration in question provides penetration on both sides of the border, of course, which may have different intensity dictated by the interests and prevalence that can dominate the two categories of population with different evolution in time and space. Last but not least, the intensity is implied by the demographic framework as a population and density.

This migration segment is viewed in terms of enlargement transnationalism because it reflects the relations of those who are separated from the border; this element must prevail in the explanation of migrations in the western segment of the border (Beciu & Lazar, 2014). The de facto frontier is the one that amplifies the dynamics of cross-border mobility. However, cross-border migration of essence must *first acknowledge the cross-border migration of the population of neighboring direct or intermediary states*, even though it is difficult to delimit it for more thorough research and *cross-border migration between non-member countries or cross-border transit migration*. In addition, *part of the cross-border migration must be defined as involuntary migration* (arising from citizens' needs), which is broad in the modern context, accompanied by mobility to study, tourism, work, etc. More recently, in the context of circular migration through the association with the EU and the massive acquisition of Romanian citizenship by the Moldovan population, cross-border migration has become major but difficult to appreciate due to the dual citizenship and increase of European mobility.

In the case of R Moldova, the most serious problem in the context of cross-border migration is that the Chisinau authorities do not control 1/3 of the eastern border on the neighboring sector with Ukraine (the border along the left bank of the Dniester), which decreases from real knowledge of the magnitude and dynamics of the given phenomenon. The eastern segment of the migration in question pushes across the border through two Palanca and Otaci crossing points. We would have wanted to know the cross-border migration segment since the 1990 state of independence, but the lack of information gaps has drastically reduced the knowledge-based by science. In this study, we have included and focused only on the period 2005-2015, where the presence of the information base is different.

Additionally, it is difficult to establish the purpose of involuntary migration, both for Moldovan and foreign citizens. In the context of R Moldova, it is difficult to establish on the basis of which document the crossing of the border was made (based on the license for small border traffic or Moldovan passport or Romanian passport). Which makes it even more difficult to know who crossed the state border, the purpose and duration of the migration. We cannot appreciate the share of citizens on both sides of the border, if they were crossing borders only or were migratory passages in other EU countries, which is the share of cross-border migration through small border traffic, and which are part of seasonal migration, ect.

Data accessibility for researchers is difficult, it is difficult to collect information for research under R Moldova conditions. It is particularly difficult to establish, these are people on the left or right of the Nistru River, a matter of value from the perspective of the West-East political preferences of the population, and the European integration intent of the country. Data on cross-border migration is held by the Ministry of the Interior (a considerable part) and makes it virtually impossible for researchers to access it. In addition, a wide range of sources of information (directly correlated with cross-border or tangential migration) has been used in cross-border migration research to establish the most concrete reality in this migration segment, but often the same information has different values in national sources (such as citizens in Studies in the Extended Migration Profile 1604 persons 2010, and Ministry of Education 4009, 2010).

In addition, we would like to know, what is the share of foreign citizens on the basis of visa and those with free, involuntary circulation in the Republic of Moldova? What is the share of those who transit through R Moldova? What flow is to the Western and Eastern borders in cross-border migration? What is the share of crossing the border by means of car, air and train transportation on the east-west? What is the share of cross-border work and study migrations?

We can only assume in this context that the most crossed points at the border are the western crossing points bordering Romania. The most requested is Albița / Leuseni crossing point at the western border of the Republic of Moldova. For example, in the first 3 days of 2017 only 25,800 people crossed this crossing point, which represents about 7-8% of the total number of those who entered the Romanian space. *Cross-border migration is not balanced throughout the year.* As proof is the data presented above and the fact that in a typical day the cross-border traffic of people is diminished.

*Within 24 hours in an ordinary day, at the crossing points, the flow of persons was 40,178 crossings, of which a larger number of passages - 20,524 in the direction of exit from the Republic of Moldova. With a daily difference of 356 people.* The most transit points were:

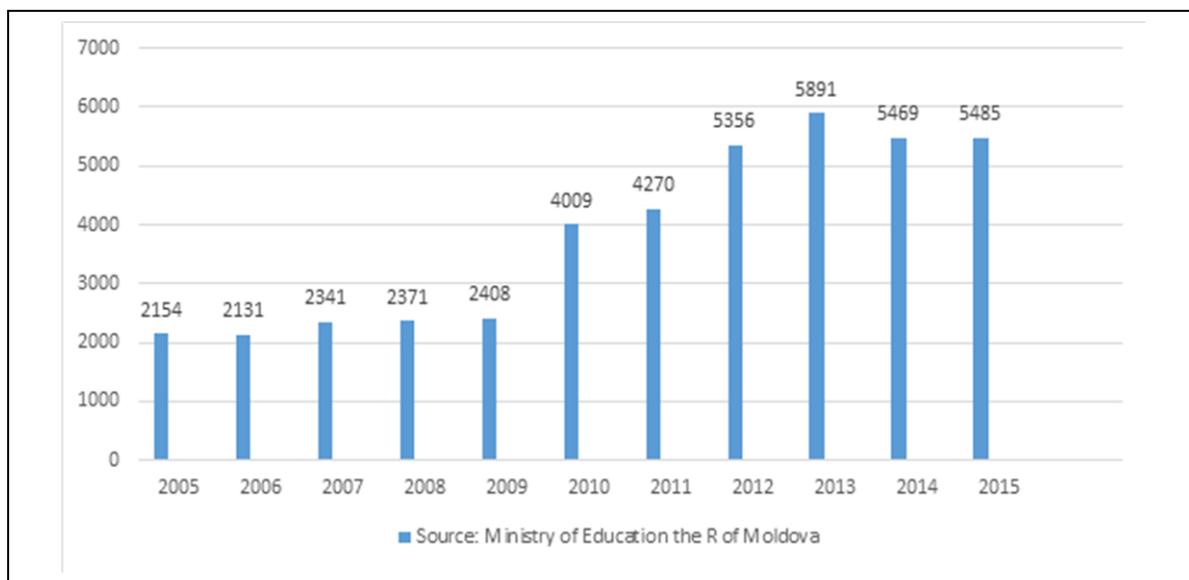
Border Crossing Point (BCP) Leușeni - 6,616 persons crossings,  
BCP Otaci - 5 573 people crossings,

BCP Sculeni - 4,974 people crossings,  
 BCP Chisinau International Airport - 4 824 people crossings,  
 BCP Giurgiulesti-Galati - 2,945 people crossings,  
 BCP Cahul - 2 078 people crossings,  
 BCP Criva - 2 070 people crossings.

From April 9 to 15, 2018, at the crossing points, the flow of persons constituted 405,475 crossings, of which a larger number - 205,814 (51%) passages on the exit from Moldova. The busiest day of the previous week was Saturday, with a flow of 68,266 crossings.

On Easter Easter, April 16 (2018), there were 49,301 people crossing the border of Moldova. Of the total number of crossings, 24 735 (49%) was the one of the Moldovan citizens. So, the intensity of cross-border migration is a reflection of both seasonal and holiday periods.

**Figure 1. The number of citizens studying abroad**



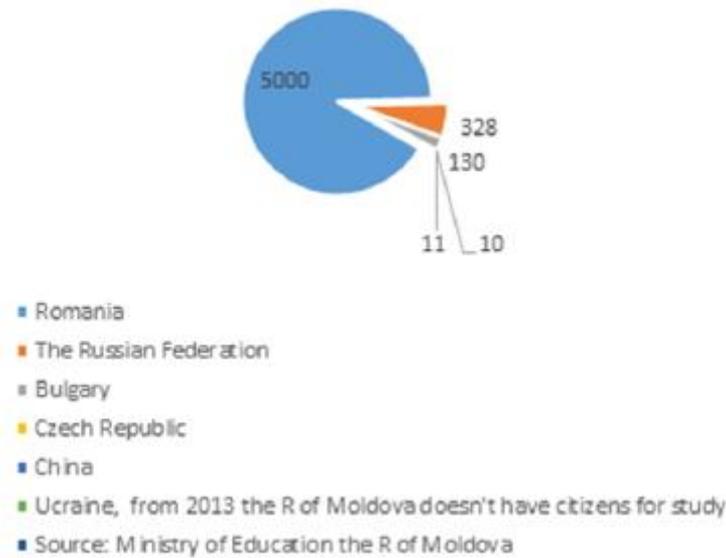
**Source:** Ministry of Education the R. of Moldova

*The study cross-border mobility of citizens of the Republic of Moldova* was supported by the two countries by training the younger generations of the Republic of Moldova, which was little affected by the visa regime imposed by the EU on the Romanian state. Annually, the number offered by the Romanian state constituted 5000-6000 people (Figure 1). The number of Moldovan citizens studying abroad based on the international collaboration protocol to which the Ministry of Education is party during the analyzed period has been increasing. From year 2005 to 2009 number of studying abroad was double less. Their number has been evolving by 2013, after which we have a slight reduction. However, their number oscillated between 4-6 thousand people. Last year reduction are reflected by demographic factors there were we attest the small generations of finished the lyceum cycle.

Almost 91% of all Moldovan citizens who went abroad to study in 2015 studied in Romania 6.0 percent - in the Russian Federation - 2.4 percent in Bulgaria. From the Figure 2, there can confess that in cross-border migration there is a predominantly Western direction to studies, the Eastern one being insignificant. But, we do not have the data of people who are going to study on the basis of individual contracts, we assume that their number is growing.

As an argument we have: wider possibilities to access a university for those who intend and the large number of migrant families who intend to integrate into new places of establishment.

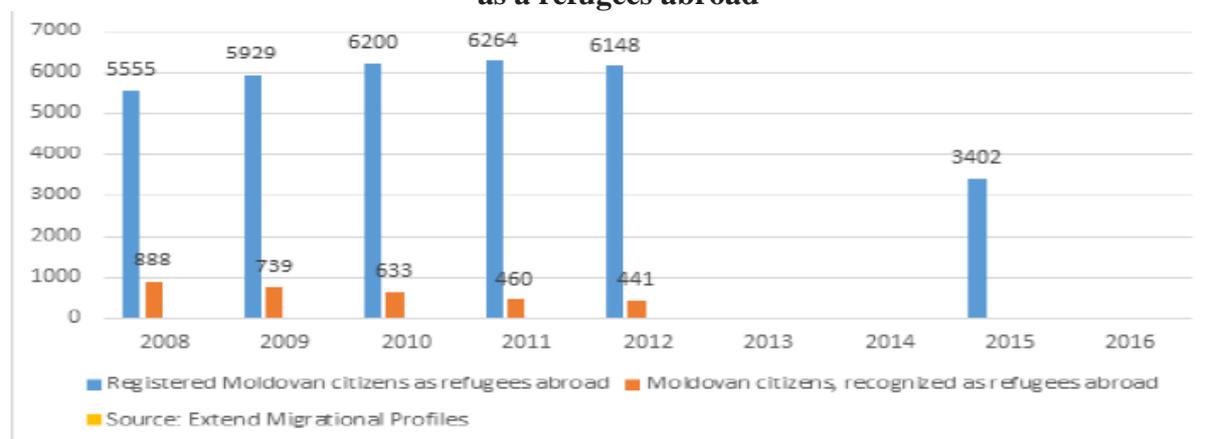
**Figure 2. The number of citizens which study abroad (by countries)**



**Source:** Ministry of Education the R. of Moldova

*Involuntary emigration* registered an increase of approx. 5.4 times by the end of year 2015 compared to 2010. The analysis in this context is based on the information obtained from international databases (UNHCR). According to these data, the number of Moldovan citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad in 2010 amounted to 633 persons, and in year 2015 - 3,402 persons. At the same time, it is noticed that during the analyzed period, the total number of asylum seekers from the Republic of Moldova, who obtained refugee status abroad, decreased by 2.7 times, at the end of year 2015 being registered, recognized as refugees 2,264 persons from the Republic of Moldova, compared to 6,200 persons in year 2010.

**Figure 3. The number of Moldavian citizenship registered and recognized as a refugees abroad**



**Source:** Extend Migrational Profiles

It should be noted, that during the analyzed period, the growth rate of the number of Moldavians citizens registered as asylum seekers abroad was increasing over the previous

year and that of the number of registered Moldovan citizens, recognized as refugees abroad are decreasing (Figure 3).

*Little traffic at the Western border of Moldova.* In case of the Republic of Moldova and Romania the small traffic are the factor of growing of intensity of cross-border from both part of frontiers. From April 20, 2010, small border traffic is approved, according to which the residents of the contracting countries (Romania and R Moldova) who have been legally resident for at least 1 year in the border area (administratively determined as 30-50 km) are issued permits border traffic. Only during 2010 were issued over 17 772 persons, on the basis of which they can enter without visas on the territory of Romania. This facility benefits approximately 1.25 million Moldovan citizens, residing in 361 border areas, which make up 50% of the Moldovan population. The validity of permits is between 2 and 5 years. The crossing of the border in a regime of small traffic by the residents of the border area of both countries is done through the border crossing points, opened at the border between the two countries (Romania and the Republic of Moldova, Figure 4.), which are:

- Within the Botosani district: BCP – Rădăuți Prut/ Lipcani; BCP - Stanca/ Costești;
- Within the Iași district: BCP – Sculeni/ Sculeni; BCP – Nicolina/ Unghini;
- Within the Vaslui district: BCP – Albița / Leușeni; BCP – Fălciu / Stoianovca;
- Within the Galați district: BCP – Oancea / Cahul; BCP – Galați/ Giurgiulești.

According to the statistics of the Border Guard Service of the Republic of Moldova, from March 31, 2010 to May 31, 2010, over 4,700 people crossed the border in Romania, based on small border traffic permits. What constitutes in the average 5-6% of the total annual number of those who crossed the border through the crossing points.

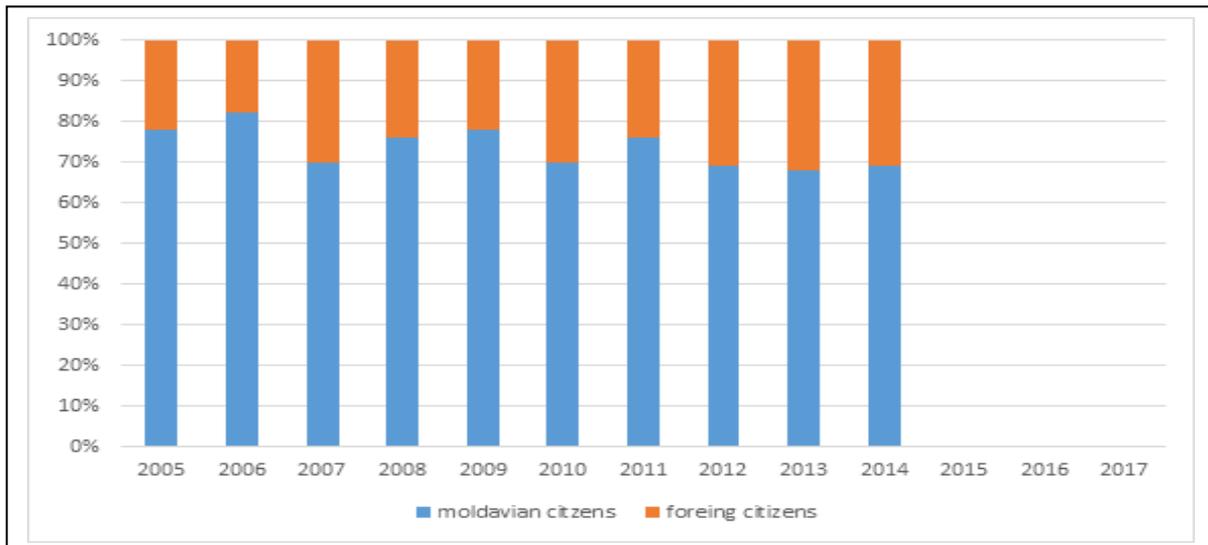
According to the Romanian state border service only in first 3 days of year 2017 through the most requested crossing point, Albita / Leușeni crossed the border of 25 800 persons, which represent 7-8% of the total crossings of the Romanian state border. Through all the crossing points crossed over the same period 59,000 people, who constituted 15.6% of the total crossings of the Romanian border or 42% of the western border crossings of R Moldova, which are performed with the crossing point Leușeni / Albita.

The population from the south of the Republic of Moldova uses this opportunity much more intensively than the central areas of the country. The most requested crossing points where citizens of the Republic of Moldova, as well as Romanian citizens living legally in towns and villages that are no more than 50 kilometers from the border, can travel without visas in the similar area of the neighboring country are: Giurgiulesti - Galati, where more than 4 000 persons (0.32%) were registered, Costești - Stânca, through which 235 people (0,018%) and Cahul - Oancea passed, with 110 crossings (0,008%). Another 45 crossings were made through different border crossing points. In conclusion we establish that border traffic with permits are larger on south area.

#### **4. The evolution and dynamics of cross-border mobility**

Cross-border mobility is steadily increasing over the period under review. Moldovan citizens have an average share of 70% of the total incomes and outflows (Figure 4). Differences are deviating from one year to the next but unimportant. However, the trend is to increase the share of foreign citizens, especially since 2011. The reported difference is in favor of departures.

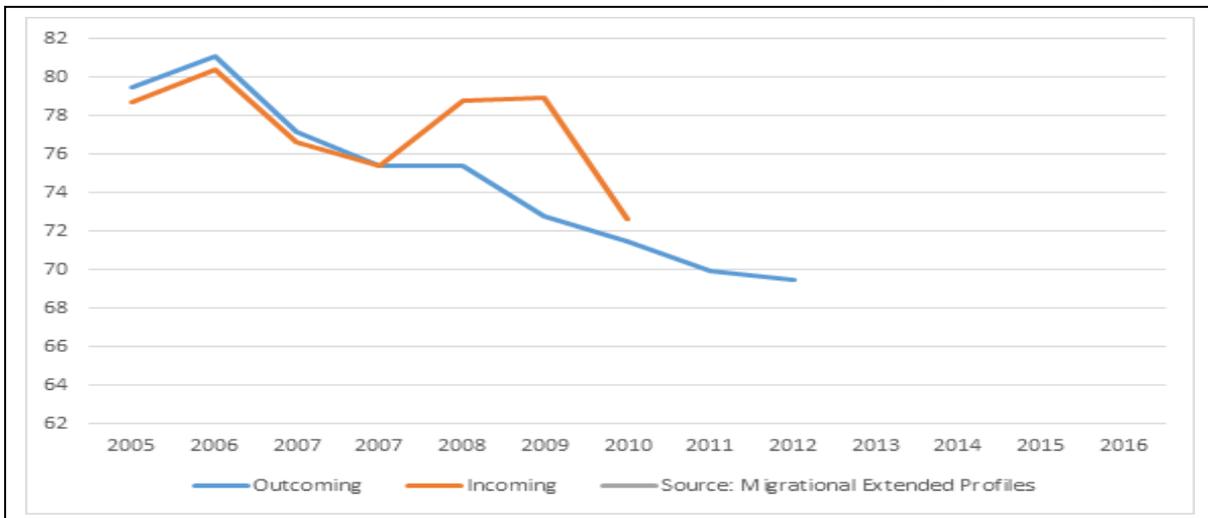
**Figure 4. Cross-border mobility at the border controlled by Moldavian authorities (Moldavian and foreign citizens, %)**



*Source:* Extend Migrational Profiles the R. Moldova 2000-2015

During the whole surveyed period, the outflows exceeded the inflows for the Moldovan citizens except for 2009 (see figure 5) when the entrances exceeded by 3.5 percentage points the outputs from the country.

**Figure 5. The cross-border mobility of moldavian citizen incoming and outgoing )**



*Source:* Extend Migrational Profiles the R. Moldova 2000-2015

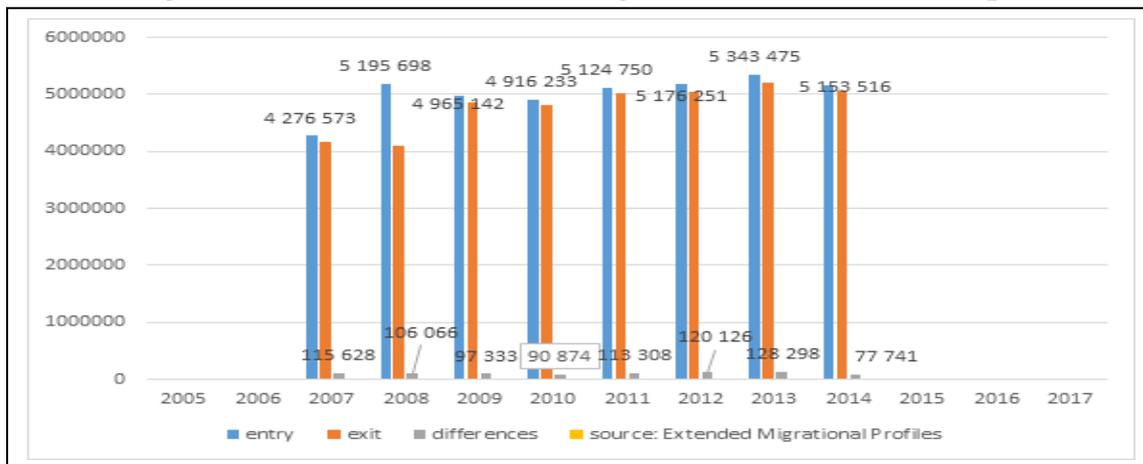
Throughout the whole period, the absolute dynamics of the cross-border migrations of Moldovan citizens is difficult to retreat due to lack of tact especially for the past 5-7 years. The phenomenon has been in the process of stagnating decay, the entry into the country. The number of exits exceeded the number of entries from 2008, which we find that we have a flow over the given period.

Permanent population that gives way to the territory of the country either for longer periods of time or for longer periods. What is difficult to establish in the current format of

evidence of the type of migration given. Even if we have a decrease in the number of those who have gone, we define this as an exhaustion of those with intentions of departure. The period years 2007-2010 was, according to the data, as a wave of citizens' incomes, inexplicable by the factors that generated it (Figure 5).

According to the intensive cross-border data, it has been evolving. The entry and exit limits are 4-5 million per year. Throughout the research period, we have exceeded the outflows compared to the entries, except for year 2009, where the entrances exceeded by 97,333 people the outputs. It is an inexplicable situation in terms of massive and reporting in the years 2008, 2010. At the same time, starting with year 2012, we are witnessing a reduction in cross-border crossings (Figure 6).

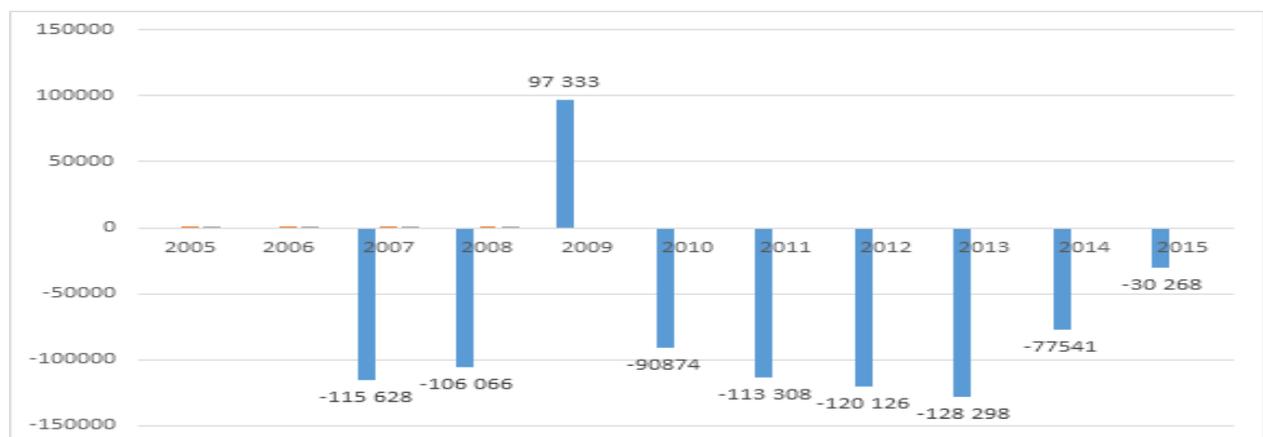
**Figure 6. The number of citizens registered at the state border, persons**



*Source:* Extend Migrational Profiles the R. Moldova 2000-2015

Over one million 700,000 foreign tourists visited the Republic of Moldova in half a year (2017). According to data from the National Bureau of Statistics, the number grew by six per cent as compared to 2016. Half of the visitors are from Romania, followed by Ukrainians, Russians, Bulgarians and Italians. In the vast majority of cases, tourists arrived in the Republic of Moldova with car transport, 17 per cent chose the plane and less than two per cent came with the train.

**Figure 7. Number of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova living abroad, persons**



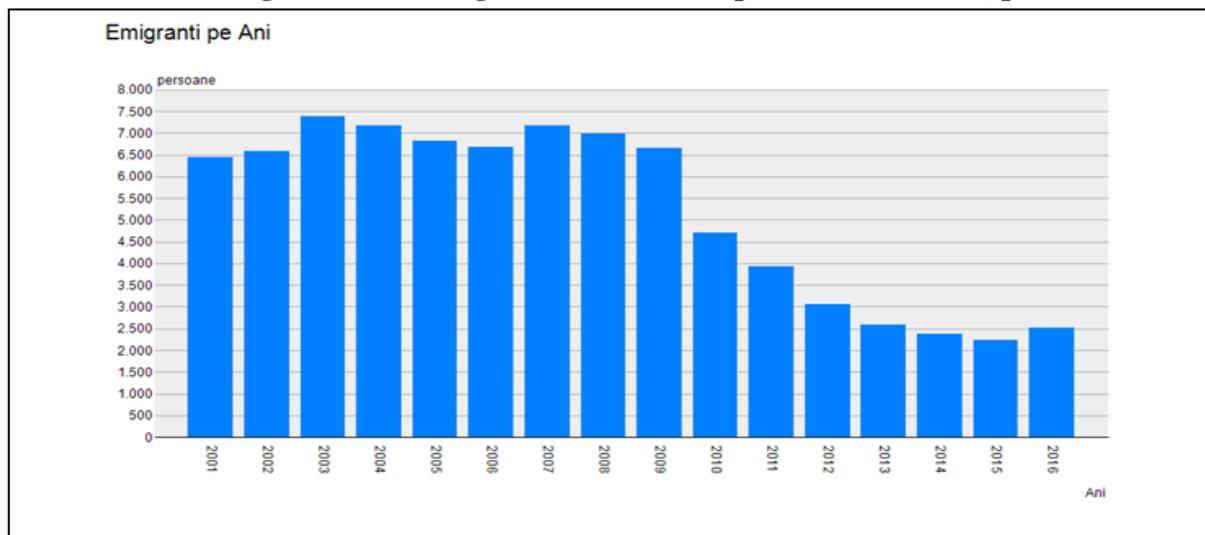
*Source:* Extend Migrational Profiles the R. Moldova 2000-2015

The difference between the selected years is negative, the data indicate population losses of 90-100 thousand people annually. The figure also shows a numerical imbalance. Positive data only in 2009, followed by a reduction period.

The flow of persons consisted of 287,143 crossings between 22nd and 28th of January 2018, out of which 149,853 passes in the direction of leaving the Republic of Moldova, the traffic of the transport units having a value of 74,553 crossings, being signaled a higher number of vehicles registered abroad - 37,553 crossings. (Figure 7)

The official migration does not represent 3-4% of the total number of those who crossed the state border from the official data of the National Bureau of Statistics (Figure 8). For the given interval, we find that the flow of emigrants is continuous but with a tendency to reduce emigration more than 3 times, starting with 2009.

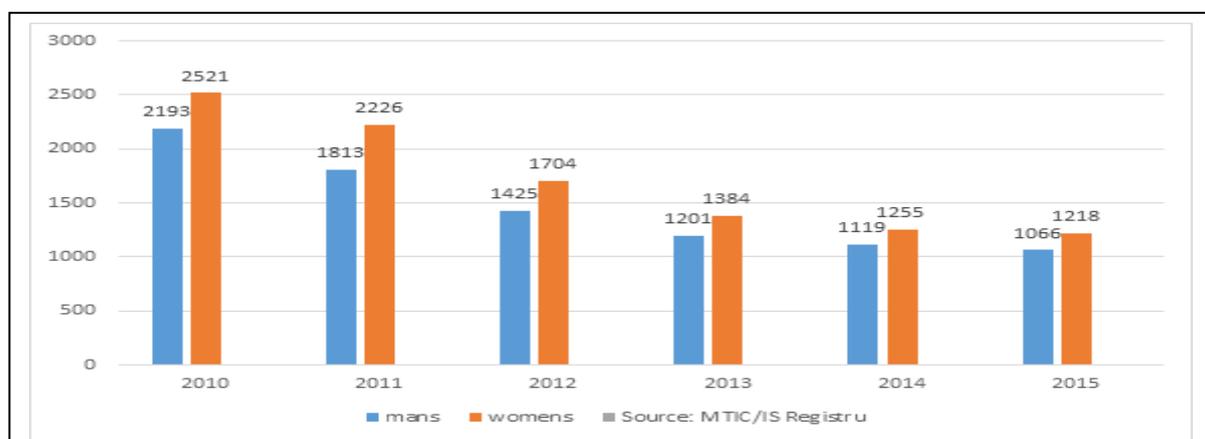
**Figure 8. The emigrants from the Republic of Moldova, persons**



*Source:* The National Statistical Office of Moldova

Until this period, the absolute values are estimated at 6000-7000 persons annually, by the year 2016 the number to comprise only 2000-2500 people. The height of emigration is set to 2003 and 2007, and as of 2008, official emigration is in a declining alert.

**Figure 9. Authorized migration from the Republic of Moldova, by gender, 2010-2015, persons**

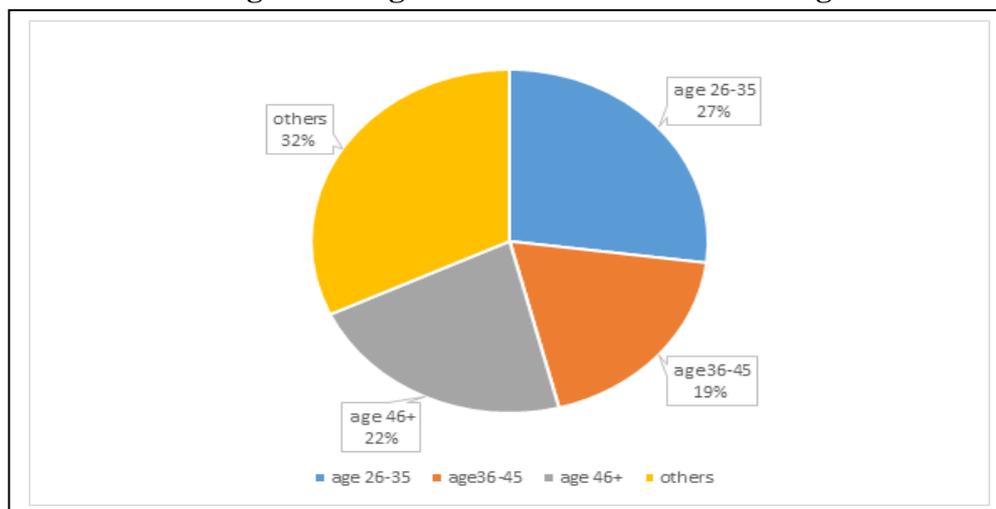


*Source:* The National Statistical Office of Moldova

In the official statistical database we can know the (demographic) gender structure of official migration. The graph and the data presented by the Registry show a new feature established in the post-1990 migration process, namely that in the flow of emigrants dominated the feminine genus (Figure 9). Traditionally trained in migration dominated men until this period, a peculiarity of paternalistic societies. But here we mention that we are witnessing a change in the gender migration behavior, dictated by the new conditions, as well as newly emerging opportunities of the feminine genre (opportunities for access to employment abroad, marriage, etc.). The dominance of the feminine genus accounts for 10% per year more than men. Cross-border migration should be seen in terms of length of time because mens migrate for shorter periods of 1-3 months and women over 1-3 year periods. The arguments are that men migrate to the east (Russia), where the migration regime allows up to 3 months.

Moldovan citizens of the same gender crossed the border more often - 2 457 663 times (56%) and 1 881 710 border crossings registered by Moldovans (Figure 10). Young people, aged between 26 and 35 ages, were in the top of the people who chose to go to the European Union, the number of their crossings being 1 181 346 (27%). A large number of passes was registered by Moldovans 46+ years old (973 972 crossings, 22%) and 36-45 year olds (834 923 crossings) (19%).

**Figure 10. Age structure of cross-border migration**



*Source:* The National Statistical Office of Moldova

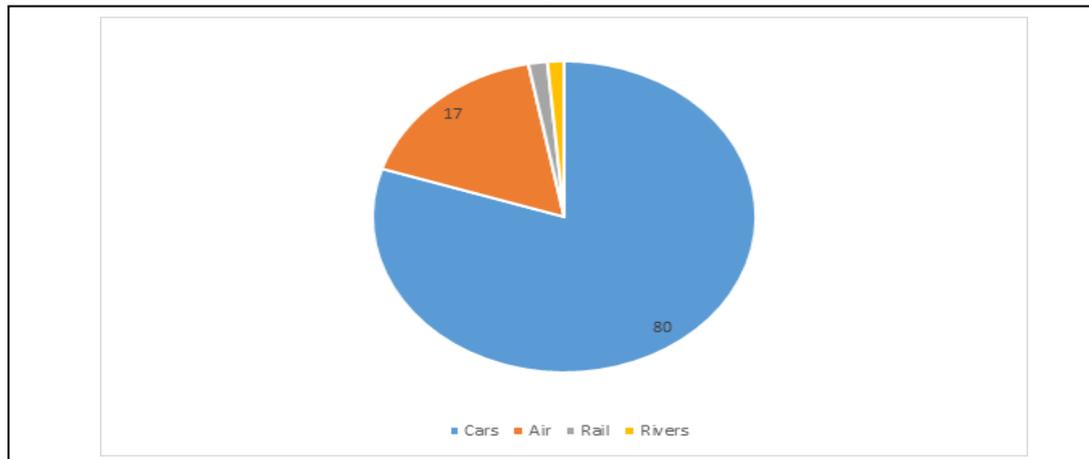
According to the data from the Register, the massive emigration of the R Republic of Moldova space in cross-border migration is obvious. From the presented data it is obvious the high share of Moldovan citizens who are settled in new places in the crossing of the border, with absolute numerical oscillations increasing between 284 thousand persons in 2010, to 358 thousand persons in 2013. By 2015 we have a demination of 282 thousand people.

The demise of those living in new places of living is explained by the fact that their connection with the home space is tempered after 3-5 years. However, authorized emigration is evolving and contributes to the increase of border traffic. Authorized migration has been increasing from 92 thousand people in 2010 to 106 thousand people in 2015.

#### 4.1 Cross-border migration on the West-East railways

It is difficult to estimate the share of border crossings by type of transport (Figure 11). We can only guess that the number of people who cross the road in both directions is dominant. The lack of detailed information over long periods makes it virtually impossible to know the quality of cross-border migrations and their structural changes. However, we have set the following: *On the eastern border section* border crossings are mainly towards Moscow and Sankt-Peterburg (Russia, but partly Ukraine).

**Figure 11. The share of the means transport in the crossing of the state border, %**



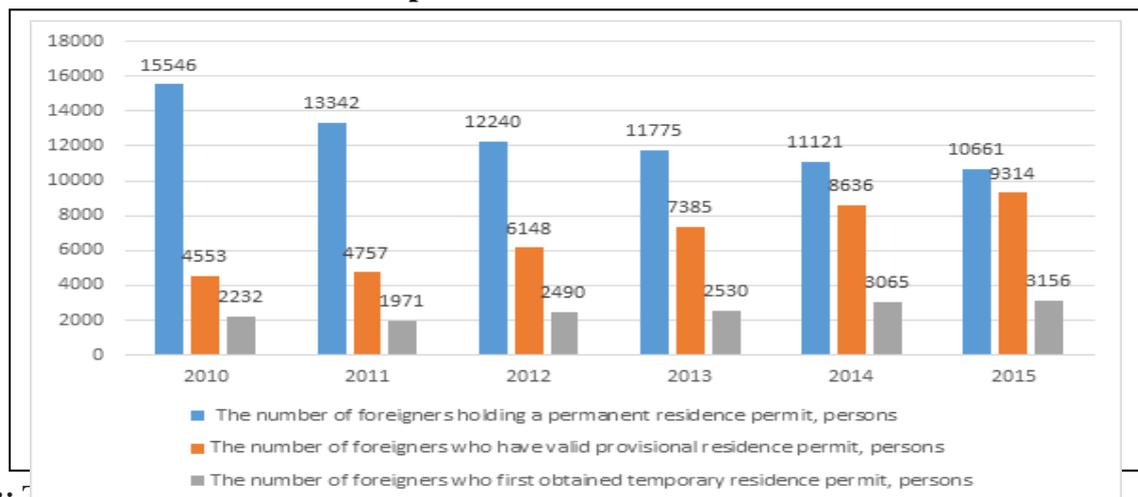
**Source:** The National Statistical Office of Moldova

The statistics provided by the Moldovan Railways offer superficial data. In the first nine months of this year (Moscow), more than 223 000 citizens left, with almost 10 500 fewer than in the same period last year. "If in the other years, the train set was composed of 18-20 wagons, we now have reached 8-12 wagons," Moldavian Railways travel service chief Anatolie Rusu said. And data from the Central Bank of the R Moldova show that Russian-to-Moldova shipments have fallen over the last four years. If in 2013 Moldovans in Russia sent home 1.5 billion dollars, then last year the figure fell to 387 million dollars. According to the Russian Statistics Service, in the first eight months of this year Russia came up with 140,000 less migrants compared to the same period of 2014. And those who chose to live in this country appreciates - to 37 thousand persons. *In the western part of the border of the Republic of Moldova*, the cross-border railway mobility is evolving, in ascending intensity. With the launching of the Chisinau-Iasi railway route, the number of crossings is on the rise. The monthly average is 2-3 thousand people or the annual number is between 25-35 thousand persons. But it is obviously a delimitation between the usual days (Monday - Friday) and the weekends. In average days, the average number oscillates between 60 persons, 350 persons in the weekend. This race is supported by those who make their studies (Iași) and those who go shopping during the weekend. The Chisinau-Bucharest race is little present in cross-border travel because of the double prices for travel tickets and has a chart only 2 times a week, the number of them does not exceed 100-200 persons. In addition, the air routes Chisinau-Bucharest, which significantly reduced the share of border crossings with the train or the car transport, belong to the western routes. This has also minimized the share of those who directly or indirectly travel westward. In addition, we can not appreciate the number of those who involuntarily crossed the border with private transport.

## 5. Migration of foreigners in the R Moldova

In fact, the migration of foreigners in R Moldova is an integral part, it is the hidden (not visible) part of the cross-border migrations because it is in a latent form due to the numerical inferiority, thus lacking in a massiveness as in the EU states. It is the impression that in the cross-border migrations only the citizens of R Moldova are trained on the background of an excessive emigration, correlated with the economic situation that forces the population from the territory, which de facto does not correspond to the truth. Cross-border migration of migrants is evolving and undergoes some forms of migration: temporary migration, involuntary migration, migration to studies, migration migration, ect.

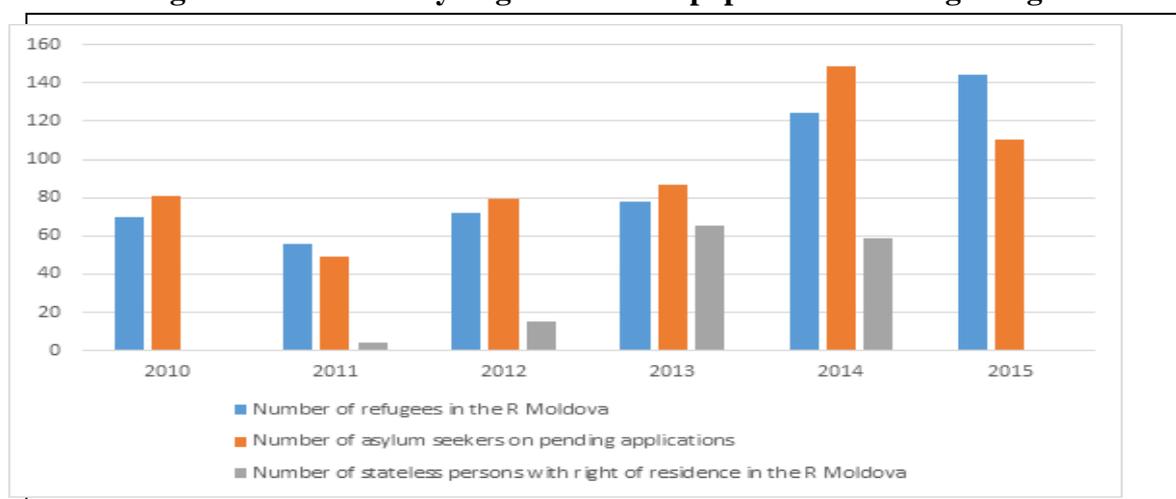
**Figure 12. The temporary migration of the population of foreign origin in the Republic of Moldova**



Source:

**5.1 The temporary migration of the population of foreign origin in the R Moldova** is based on the permanent and temporary residence permit (Figure 12). If we contravene temporary migration through the legal form of documentation then there are two clearly opposite trends: temporary migration based on permanent residence permits was reduced to 30% per cent from 15 thousand annually (2010) to 10 thousand citizens (2015).

**Figure 13. Involuntary migration of the population of foreign origin**

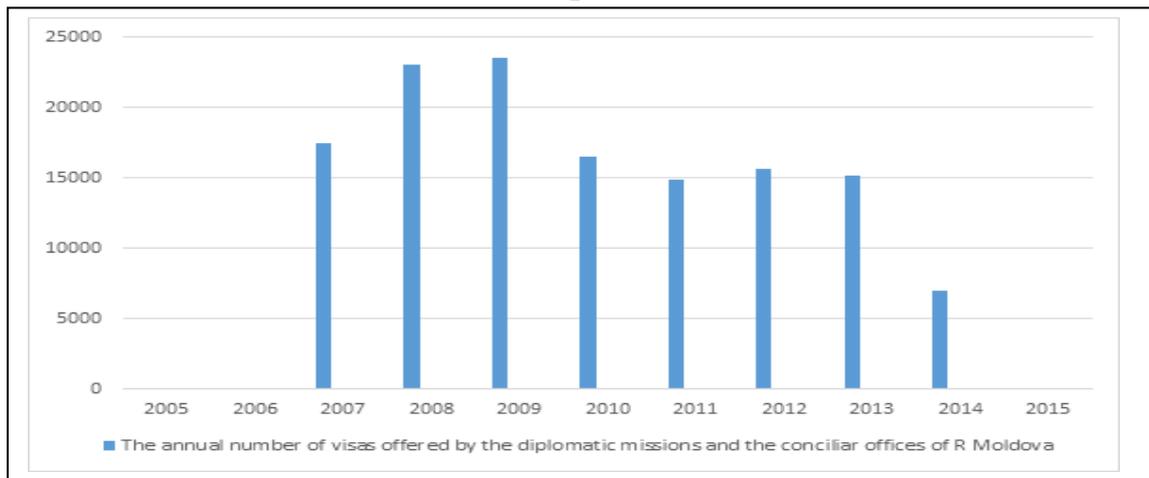


Source: The National Statistical Office of Moldova

Migration based on a temporary residence permit has increased and increased for the time frame of 2010-2015 by over 50%, as well, we are witnessing an increase and those who obtained a first-time residence permit with over 30% percent.

**5.2 The involuntary migration** of aliens is low, even though during the research period there has been a slowly growing trend. All of them do not reach 1% of the total number of crossings on the border of Moldova (Figure 13). Among the categories of foreign involuntary migrants, refugees and asylum seekers predominate. The number of stateless persons is minimal.

**Figure 14. The annual number of visas offered by diplomatic mission and the conciliar offices of the Republic of Moldova**



*Source:* The National Statistical Office of Moldova

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova's statistical data on foreign visitors' entry into the visa database confirms that the peak of visa issuance for foreigners was 2008, 2009 when the number of visas offered exceeded 20 000 annually during 2013 (Figure 14), the diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova abroad provided 15,272 visas, the growth rate being -1.7% compared to 2012. The low number of visas compared to 2012 was conditioned by the abolition of visas for some states during 2013. For the last year (2014) referring to the data provided we only have over 6 thousand of visas and the minimum number for the given period.

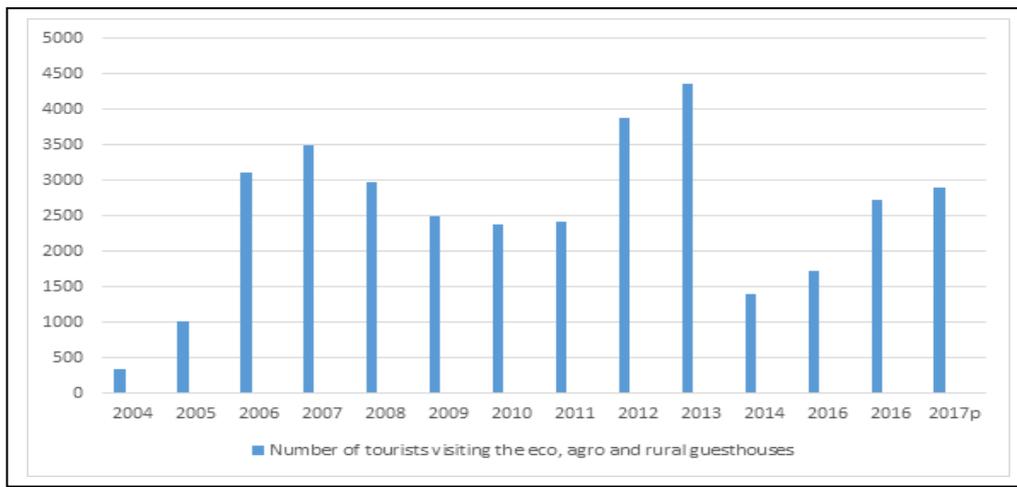
### 5.3 Foreign tourists on the transborder migrations

The number of foreigners visiting our country is on the rise. According to the Tourism Agency, during January-September 2017 when entering the Republic of Moldova, the number of foreign citizens' visits totaled 3.0 million persons, up by 6.0% compared to the corresponding period of 2016. According to statistical data, most registered foreign nationals who visited Moldova were from Romania (53.2%), Ukraine (28.1%), Russia (8.7%), Bulgaria (1.8% ), Italy (1.1%), Germany (0.7%), Turkey, Israel and the United States (0.6%), Belarus, Poland and Portugal (0.4% Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France (0.3%), Canada and Greece (0.2% each). *Of the total number of visits of foreign citizens, 80.6% preferred to travel by means of auto transport, 17.8% the air and 1.6% rail.*

Rural tourism is a priority of foreign tourists in the intention to know our traditions and customs, the specifics of rural occupation and everyday life. Their number is rising, but we can confirm that it is still quite modest if we refer to the total number of foreign tourists crossing the state border (Figure 15).

An argument to this is that rural localities have a low degree of accessibility, connection and, last but not least, accommodation. However, over the timeframe we have a flow of foreign tourists that manifested itself in three waves: the years 2006-2007; 2012-2013; 2016-2017, the latter being in demining. Additionally, we do not have data for those who have had spa treatments, or have fun or other activities.

**Figure 15. Number of foreing tourist who stopt at eco, agro and rural guesthouses**

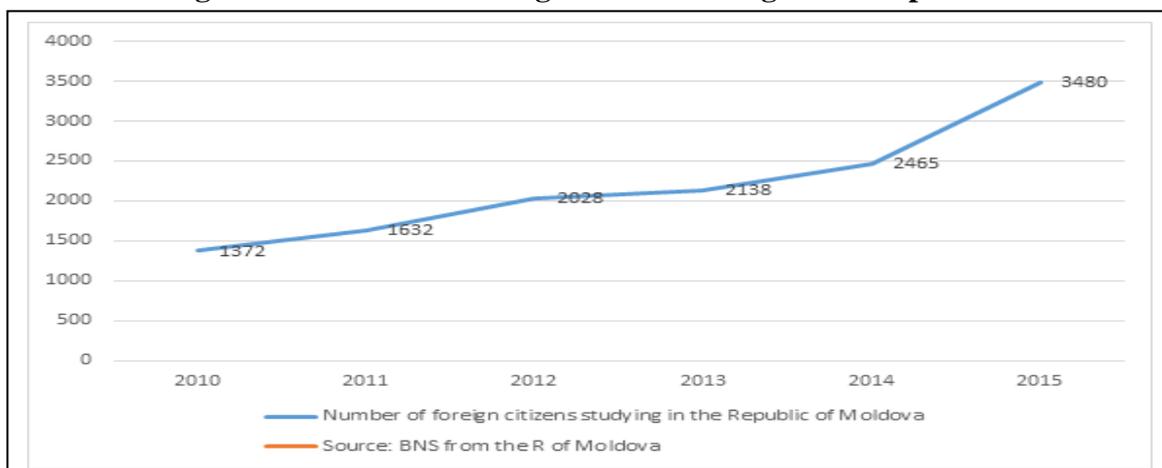


*Source:* The National Statistical Office of Moldova

#### 5.4 Foreigners in the Educational System of the Republic of Moldova

During the analyzed period, there is a significant increase in the number of foreign citizens arrived to study in the Republic of Moldova, their number increased by 2.5 times in 2015 compared to 2010. According to the data presented in the chart, 3,480 persons were surveyed in 2015.

**Figure 16. Number of foreign citizen studing in the Republic of Moldova**



*Source:* Ministry of Education the R. of Moldova

Distribution by country of origin reveals that most of the arrivals were from Israel - 2,039 people, followed by those in Romania that consisted of 791 people, Turkey - 141 people, Ukraine - 139 people, the Russian Federation - 67 people. It should be noted that the number of people arriving from Israel in the survey period increased 2.7 times (Figure 16).

## **6. The factors that stimulate and inhibit cross-border migration.**

Cross border migration open limits for cross border cooperation. Cross-border migration offers many advantages. It promotes integration and connections between regions, municipalities, countries and institutions, which provide the basis for targeted communication and cooperation and helps reduce the lack of knowledge about the neighbouring country and not only. It promotes the exchange and transfer of knowledge, experiences and contributes to solving everyday problems at the local and regional level. It is a way to facilitate the development of both part of the borders and periferical area, to use resources natural and human. Cross-border migration is an important factor in economic competitiveness in border areas and contributes to increased awareness of those areas. A the same time give the opportunity to be a part of process of development. It reduce the disproportion on distribution of population whchi are on market or just are on preparation for loubor market.

*The factors that simulate (boost) cross-border migration:* migration remains to be for economic purposes, especially due to the lack of employment opportunities and low wages offered on the labor market in the country. Social and economic stability in involution, the intention to access qualitative studies (for younger generations) competitive, the lack of wage differences related to the quality of professional training, the impossibility of increasing on the hierarchical stages of the career generates migration and repulsion for the origins of origin. In the last decade, the contact with the knowledge and relatives in the states of establishment, the freedom of access to a job based on the Romanian citizenship, the freedom of movement on the basis of the Romanian and Moldovan passports also rallied.

*The factors that inhibit cross-border migrations* between the most dimensional are the impossibility of accessing a job based on contract according to the qualification, the risk and the fear of unsuccessful migration, the communication barrier (knowledge of the language in the destination countries), the lack of financial resources for a possible migration (in the case of rural population, in particulare), family in the case of marriages and caring for children and the parental family in the case of those with parents. To all this, there is also the fear of losing the family in a possible divorce being in the migration.

## **7. The impact of cross-border migration**

Migration is indissolubly linked to the evolution of humanity and the dynamics of society and people. Hugo has shown that facilitating low-priced travel and the possibility of having income in developed countries, as well as local prices, have promoted cross-border circular migration. These could lead to border flows, but not to international migration, involving different regions. Migration is always a difficult choice, and there is no reason to assume that migrants would want to return to their home countries and more than once rather than stay and settle or stay abroad until they earn and save a consistent amount of money to ensure a comfortable living at home, where to come back forever. Thus, national and international spatial circularity is not necessarily an ideal that migrants follow.

Privileged access to employment and labor markets in the countries of destination, steady flow of remittances following repeated waves of migrants; reducing the brain drain and returning the competitive ones; wide cooperation with the destination countries to strengthen the link between migration and development. Not the latest accumulation of experiences, changing the mentality of political and life visions. *Positive impacts*: privileged access to employment and labor markets in the countries of destination, steady flow of remittances following repeated waves of migrants; reducing the brain drain and returning the competitive ones; wide cooperation with the destination countries to strengthen the link between migration and development. Not the latest accumulation of experiences, changing the mentality of political and life visions. *Negative impacts*: there is the risk of refined forms of illegal migration; the benefits of cross-border migration are difficult to expand in countries by anyone; rights and protection of migrants in destination countries, employers are reserved to invest in migrant careers; stigmatization of migrants under various aspects, abusive and illegal exploitation of migrants, the infiltration of intermediaries in the migrant environment and the development of shady activities by employers by some migrants.

## 8. Conclusion

In conclusion it can be mentioned that cross-border migration is not balanced throughout the year. Cross border migration implies different refined forms of migrations. Both genders are involved in migration, but women dominate, especially in the West. About 58% are migrants in working ages. Cross-border migration should be seen in terms of length of time because men migrate for shorter periods of 1-3 months and women over 1-3 year periods. The arguments are that men migrate to the East (Russia), where the migration regime allows up to 3 months.

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