

Romanian born population residing in Hungary, 2011-2017

Abstract

Foreign citizens began to immigrate to Hungary following its democratic transformation. Ethnicity had a decisive role during this period: people with Hungarian nationality arrived mostly. Later, following Hungary's accession to the European Union, global trends had an impact on the Hungarian migration networks: Hungary's migratory source extended, and it was able to attract foreign citizens from greater distances.

Thus, two levels of international migration to Hungary are markedly separated: the impact of global migration and the movements from the countries of the Carpathian Basin to Hungary. Within Europe, the primary weight of neighbouring countries is linked to cross-border linguistic and culture relations. International migration to Hungary is characterised by small distances, and the majority of the immigrant population has Hungarian nationality or is native speaker of Hungarian.

Most immigrants to Hungary are arriving from Romania, so the aim of the article is to analyse the social, economic and demographic characteristics of the migrants according to their areas of birth.

Migration flows between the two countries have been territorially concentrated; one quarter of the movements between 2011 and 2017 took place between Central Hungary and the Central Romanian Development Region. In the choice of the new place of residence, in addition to the economic centre areas border regions also play an important role, which can partly be explained by the phenomenon of circular migration, and partly by the easier interaction with those family members who have remained home.

Key words: international migration, Romania, spatial statistics

1. Introduction

On a global scale, Hungary is a country hosting non-typical international migrants. On the one hand, in terms of the volume of migration, its share to the total population is significantly lower than that in the large receiver countries; on the other, the global trends of world's migration have only a lesser impact.

Hungary continues to be the target destination for Europeans: international movements of short distance are more typical. Within Europe, the primary weight of neighbouring countries is linked to cross-border linguistic and culture relations. The consequences of the World War I and World War II are still determining migration flows in the Carpathian Basin. Most immigrants to Hungary arrive from Romania, so the aim of the article is to present the social, economic and demographic characteristics of the migrants and their impact to the source and destination areas. The analysis will address in detail the regional and local level exploration of outward migration areas of those arriving from Romania and the links between the emigration and current residences.

2. The frame of the analysis and data sources

In the analysis, those 2011 and 2017 stock data of Hungarian databases were used which are relevant to the topic (Personal data and address records, records on foreigners of the Immigration and Asylum Office, population census data, microcensus) were used. A part of the data basis for the analysis were not directly accessible¹, specific classifications were needed to assess territorial effects. The mapping of source areas of international migrations allows a deeper understanding of the migration flows in the Carpathian Basin.

Both types of data sources (administrative and census type data) contain information that are missing from the other (e.g. data on educational attainment and economic activity are available from the microcensus, but are not part of the register of the Ministry of Interior, while settlements of birth are included in the administrative database). It was therefore necessary to link the two datasets². To do so, a multi-step key system was applied by using sex, year of birth and month, the name of the Hungarian settlement, name of the public place and the house number. Where it was necessary, I applied the ratio estimation method.

¹ One example: Székelyhidegkút (Vidacutu Român in Romanian, Kaltenbrunnen in German) a former village in today's Romania, Harghita County. It was born by the unification of Magyarhidegkút (Vidacutul Unguresc in Romanian) and Oláhhidegkút in 1926. Today it is part of the settlement Hidegkút (Vidăcut in Romanian), a village in Romania, in Harghita County and belongs administratively to Székelyandrásfalva (Săcel in Romanian).

² Mr Marcell Kovács, director of the Population Census and Demographic Statistics Department, Ms Zita Ináncsi and Mr János Novák, experts of the aforementioned department have provided essential assistance to this work. I am grateful for their contribution.

For the 2011 data, I linked the administrative data to the population census data (this is the source of official statistics in the reference year of the population census), while for the year 2017 I utilized the information from the register of the Ministry of Interior (for the years between population censuses administrative records are used as official statistics).

3. International migrants in Hungary

Foreign citizens began to immigrate to Hungary after its democratic transformation. During this period, ethnicity had a decisive role, as people with Hungarian nationality arrived predominantly (Tóth 2005). Later, following Hungary's accession to the European Union, global trends had an impact on the Hungarian migration networks (Rédei 2009): Hungary's migratory source extended, it attracted foreign citizens from greater distances. Foreigners residing in Hungary had a total of 175 different nationalities in 2017. The proportion of foreigners arriving from Europe was steadily decreasing: while in 1995 89% of the foreigners arrived from our continent, this rate reduced to 65% by 2017. At the same time, on global scale Hungary cannot be considered as a typical receiver country. The volume of migration and its proportion compared to the population is significantly lower than that in large receiver countries, on the other hand the global trends of world migration (Hatton, Williamson 2005.) have only a lesser impact. Hungary (albeit to a diminishing extent) remains a target for Europeans, rather short distance international movements are characteristics (Dövényi 2011).

Between 2011 and 2017 the number of foreign citizens in Hungary increased by 5.5%, from 143, 197 to 151, 132. For example, in 2017 due to the global migration trends more Chinese than Romanian citizens resided in Budapest. However, while analysing the impact and volume of immigration we cannot neglect the impacts of naturalisation: the foreign-born Hungarian citizens who already live in Hungary. Their number is significantly higher than that of foreign citizens. Within this group, the weight of foreign citizens is steadily decreasing: from 37% in 2011 to 29% in 2017.

In 2017, the proportion of foreign-linked population residing in Hungary was higher than 5% of the total population. The majority of the naturalised people arrived from the neighbouring countries. In 2017, the total number of Romanian-linked population (Romanian citizens and Hungarian citizens born in Romania) residing in Hungary was in total 206, 427 people.

Table 1: Foreign-born Hungarian citizens and foreign citizens by country, 2011 and 2017

Citizenship/Country of birth	2011			2017		
	Foreign citizens	Foreign-born Hungarians	Foreign-linked population, total	Foreign citizens	Foreign-born Hungarians	Foreign-linked population, total
Romania	38 574	139 093	177 667	24 040	182387	206 427
Slovakia	8 246	25 195	33 441	9 519	17376	26 895
Austria	3 936	2 897	6 833	4 021	7102	11 123
EU28	85 414	183 761	269 175	76 270	248524	324 794
Ukraine	11 820	23 953	35 773	5 774	59272	65 046
Serbia	7 752	21 306	29 058	2 312	37497	39 809
Total Europe	112 522	237 785	350 307	99 194	350756	449 950
Total Asia	22 304	4 760	27 064	39 937	6539	46 476
Total America	4 743	3 785	8 528	5 397	9149	14 546
Total Africa	2 853	1 190	4 043	5 985	2398	8 383
Total Australia	775	360	1 135	619	1284	1 903
Total	143 197	247 870	391 067	151 132	370 126	521 258

4. Romanian source areas of the emigration to Hungary

Outside Hungary the largest ethnic Hungarian population lives in Romania. In 1992, 7.1% of Romania's population, in 2002, 6.6%, while in 2011 6.5% of Hungarians declared Hungarian nationality. The proportion of Hungarians in Transylvania, Partium and Banat is 19%. More than half of the Hungarian community in Romania lives in Central Development Region. In Romania, outside Transylvania, a significant number of Hungarians live in Bacau and Iasi countries and Bucharest (Kapitány 2015, Kincses 2015). Nationality has for a long time been an important factor in the characteristics of international migrations between the two countries. The Hungarian characteristic of international migration is that a part of the foreign citizens residing in Hungary is Hungarian or Hungarian native speakers. The strength of cross-border linguistic and cultural relations is primarily the consequence of the peace treaties of World War I and World War II. This determinism is constantly decreasing, but it is still decisive.

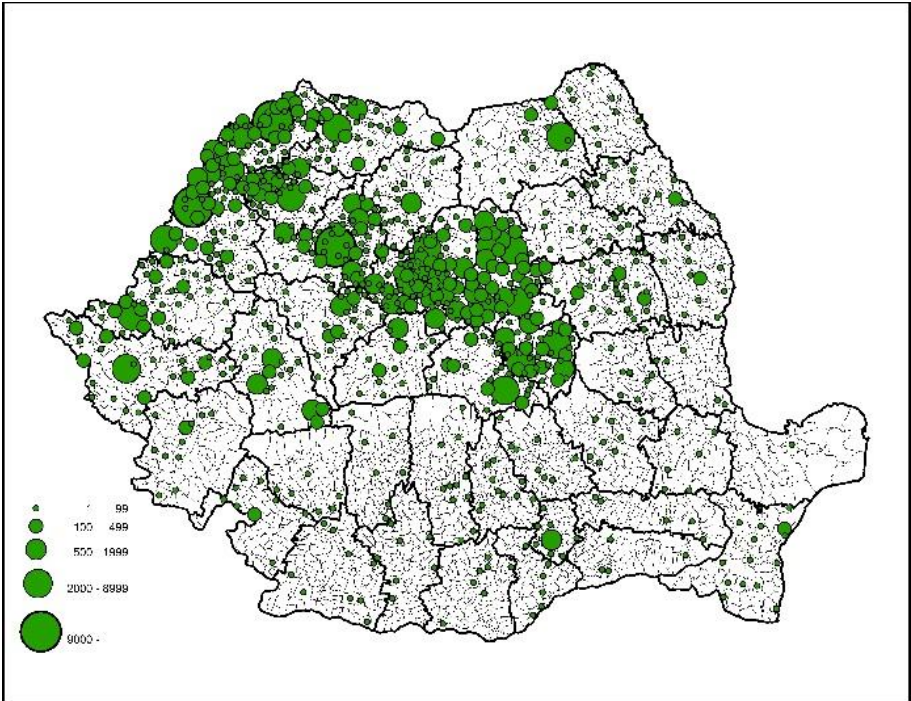
The Orthodox-majority Romanian community was under-represented in the migration processes before 1990 (Brubaker 1998). Based on the findings of the Romanian migration sociology and demography, the Romanian migrant population has at least in 90% comprised of majority Romanis (Sandu 2000). While for the population with Hungarian nationality Hungary is the main destination, it is more important for Romanians to have employment opportunities in Italy and Spain. That is to say, Romania, a source country of migration as a whole, is characterised by shifting migration towards Western Europe. Ethnicity has a decreasing role in the development of migration networks (Gödri 2007); migration is organised not only on the basis of nationality, but also on personal relations.

Romanian-Hungarian migration relations are traditionally strong. According to the data of 2017, 206 thousands of people from Romania have settled in Hungary, of which 182 thousands have already acquired Hungarian citizenship, with a 16% increase since 2011. The process covered 30% of the Romanian and 84% of the Hungarian settlements. Therefore, we can witness strong regional influences.

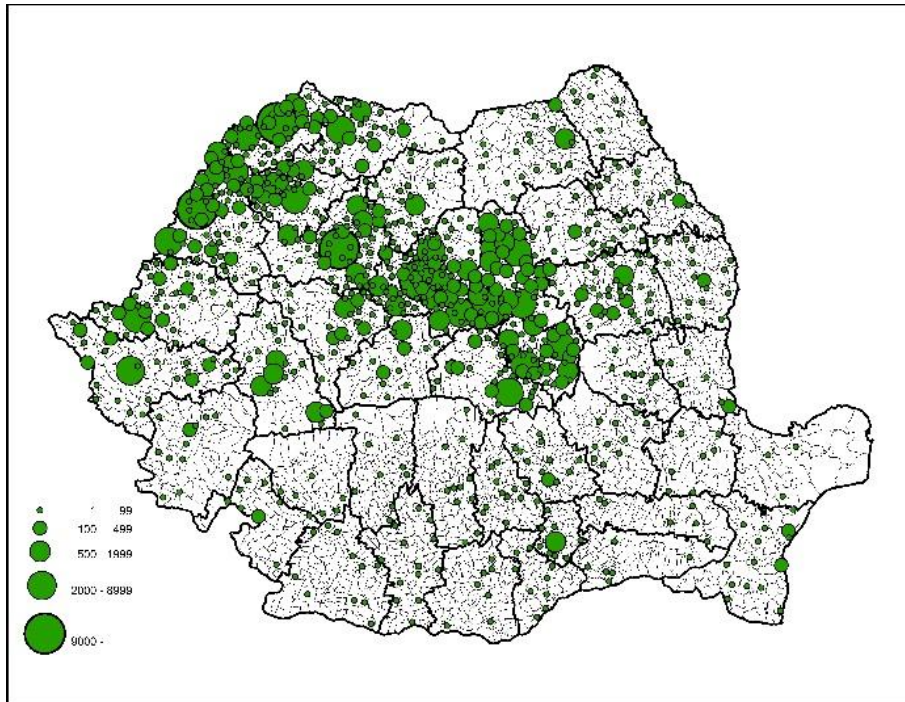
Hereinafter I will study those Romanian citizens who live in Hungary together with the Romanian-born Hungarian citizens. The most affected Romanian settlements by the emigration to Hungary are: Târgu Mureş (in 2017 19 758 citizens lived in Hungary who were born in Târgu Mureş, Romania), Oradea (17 760 persons), Cluj-Napoca (14 052 persons), Satu Mare (11 444 persons), Odorheiu Secuiesc (9 509 persons), Miercurea Ciuc (8 584 persons), Sfântu Gheorghe (7 376 persons), Gheorgheni (5 551 persons) Târgu Jiu (4 649), and Arad (4486 persons). The most affected counties are Harghita (35 613 persons), Mures (32 433 persons), Bihar (31 587 persons), Satu Mare (20 075 persons), Cluj (19 540 persons), Covasna (17 021 persons). A significant number of Hungarian minorities live in these areas.

Figure 1: Population with Romanian attachment residing in Hungary by the settlement of emigration

2011



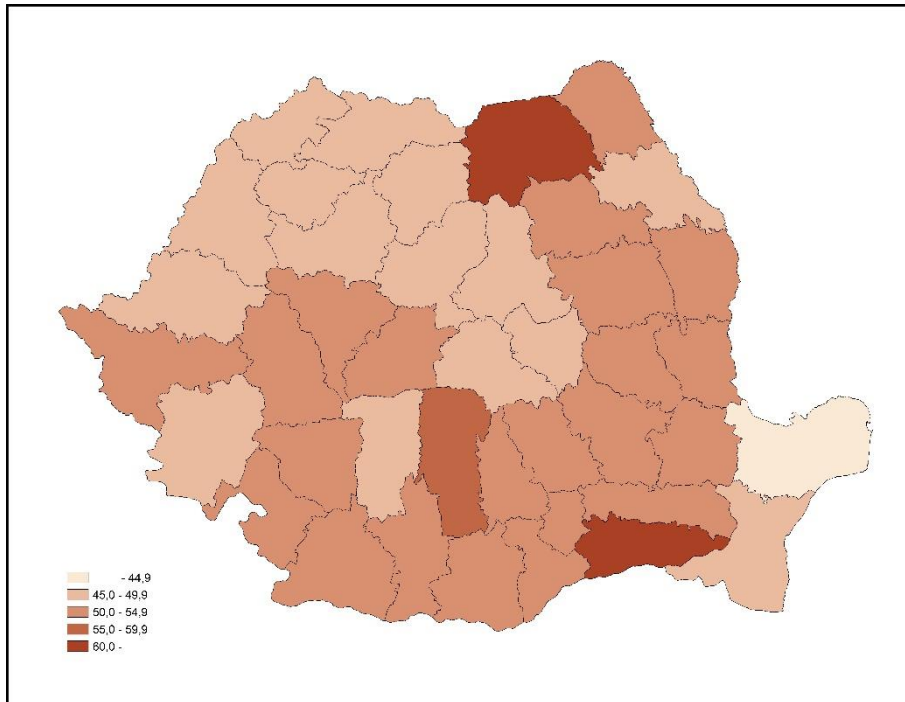
2017



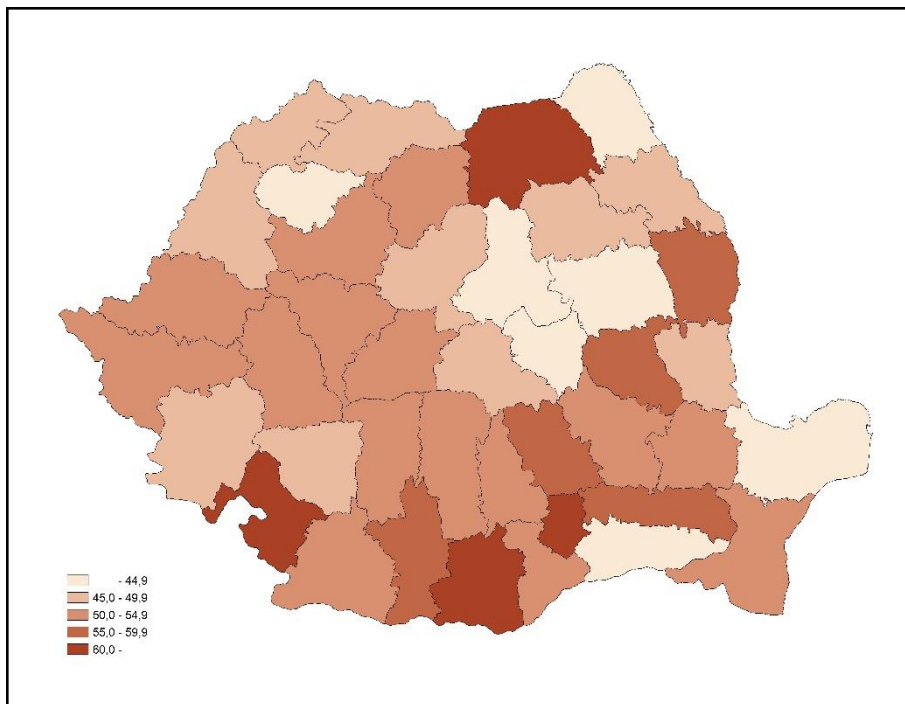
5. The demographic and labour market characteristics of the Romanian born population residing now in Hungary, as well as their relation to the areas of birth

The average age of the Romanian population residing in Hungary decreased from 47.5 to 46.1 between 2011 and 2017, but is still higher than the relevant value of the resident population (41.2 years in 2011 and 41.6 in 2017). The average age of people originating from outside Transylvania in Romania is the highest, at county level it exceeds 50 years in many cases. The reason for that, however, is not the old age migration, but the mobility of many people of working age and migration of few young people. Most young people arrive from counties near the border and from Harghita, Mures and Covasna counties. The ratio of the working age population aged between 25 – 64 years is the highest for those coming from Transylvania. It is also true generally that there are more retired people and young people among those who born near the border, while working age in more typical for people born in more distant regions.

Figure 2: Population with Romanian attachment residing in Hungary by average age and regions of birth



2017



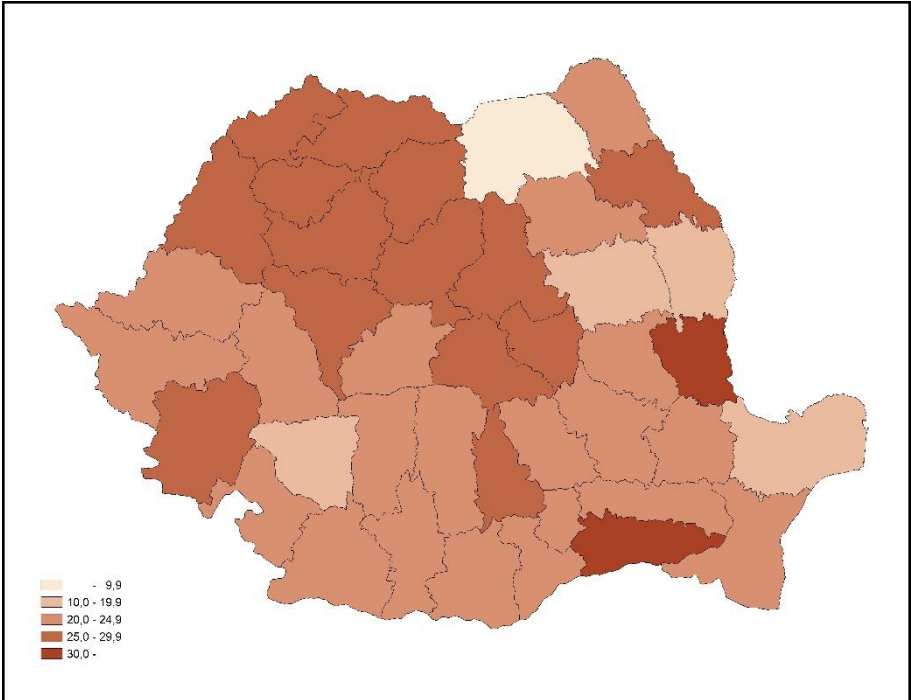
The educational attainment of Romanian linked citizens residing in Hungary is higher than the average of the Hungarian resident population: in 2011 25.6% of this population had higher education and in 2017 32% (in 2017 22.8% of the Hungarian resident population had higher education, while 38.1% of the total foreign linked population). The educational attainment of

Romanian people residing in Hungary is steadily increasing (as it is of the Hungarian resident population), while there are no large territorial differences in the distribution of qualifications according to source regions.

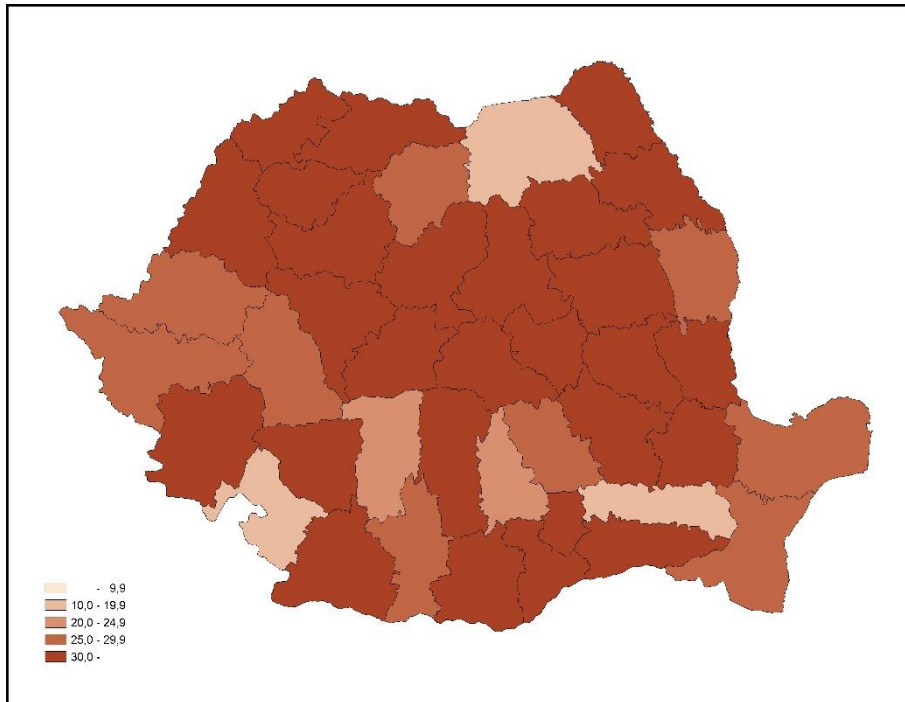
The several decades old rule that the potential impact area of migration is increasing according to the educational attainment seems to fall (Rédei 2007). In fact, nowadays people with lower educational attainment share a similar proportion in longer distance migration than in shorter distance movements.

Figure 3: Population aged 25 years and over with Romanian attachment residing in Hungary by higher educational attainment and regions of birth

2011



2017

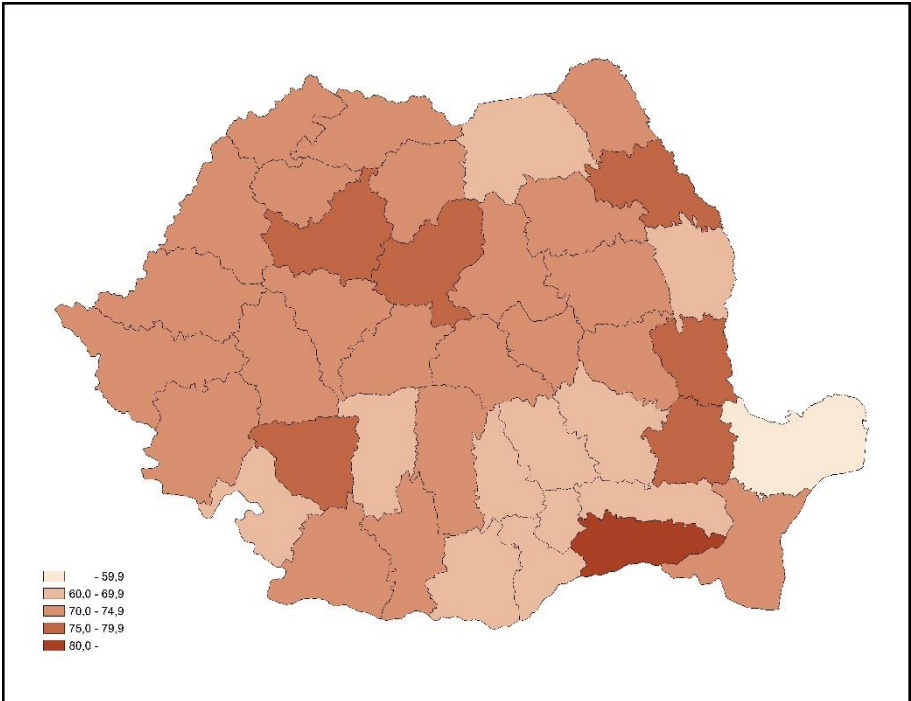


Educational attainment has a decisive impact on labour market characteristics, too. The employment rate of the Romanian linked population aged between 25-64 years and residing in Hungary was 80.1% in 2017. The similar data of the Hungarian resident population was 75.1%, while it was 80.2% of all foreign citizens aged between 25-64 years and residing in Hungary. The proportion of people coming from close to the border remains below that of those arriving from the more internal areas, which can be stemmed from the differences of the age structure. In case of employment, differences among counties are smaller than in case of educational attainment.

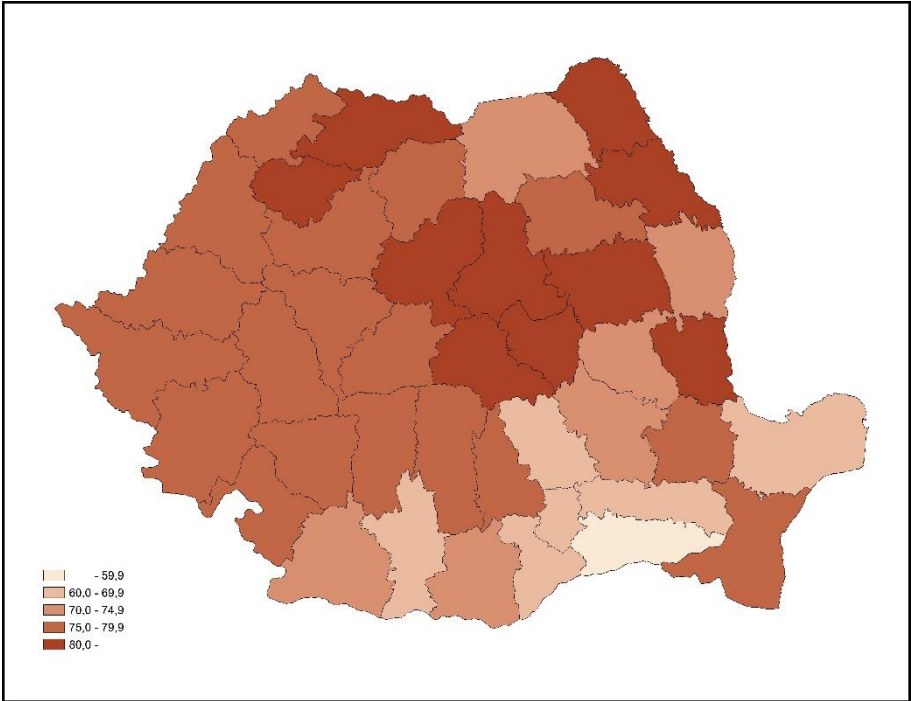
According to the regions of birth, employment rates are the highest in Romanian regions away from the border, which can partly be linked to higher values of educational attainment.

Figure 4: The employment rate of the population aged 25 years and over with Romanian attachment residing in Hungary by regions of birth

2011



2017



6. Migration relationships between the source areas and destinations

In this section, the relations between the place of birth and current place of residence of the Romanian born population residing in Hungary are analysed at NUTS3 level, based on stock data of 2017. The result is matrix of migration from the 42 Romanian counties to the 19 Hungarian counties and Budapest which presents significant concentrations. Highlighting the regions that effect more than 0.5% of the total migration, a much narrower group is realised. This way, in 4.3% of all matrix cells ($42 \times 20 = 840$) (36 county pairs) 60.5% of the migrations were concentrated in 2017, meaning that the spatial distribution of migrations showed a strong concentration.

Central Hungary was the most attractive for those arriving from the Central Romanian Development Region, one quarter of the movements took place between these two regions. 5.2% of all migrations from Romania to Hungary has been realized between Harghita County and Budapest, while 4.8% between Mures County and the Hungarian capital city.

Border areas are also of great importance, partly due to the phenomenon of circular migration (Fercsik 2008, Illés, Kincses 2009) and partly due to the easier interaction with family members who remained home (Rédei 2007). Intense flows can be detected between neighbouring counties (Anderson, O'Down 1999, Baranyi, Balcsók 2004, Hansen 1977, Van Geenhuizen, Ratti 2001). The most important of these were the movements between Bihar and Hajdú-Bihar (3.4%), Satu-Mare and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg (2.2%), Bihar and Békés (1.2%) and Arad and Békés (0.9%)

In the choice of the new place of residence, border areas play also an important role alongside the economic centre areas, but they are rather local destinations offering an attracting place of establishment for those who arrive from the other side of the border.

Table 2: The ratio (%) of major migration flows between Romania and Hungary at county level³, 2017

Region of birth		Region of current place of residence										
In Hungarian	In Romanian	Budapest	Pest	Fejér	Veszprém	Győr-M-S	Borsod-A-Z	Hajdú-B	Szabolcs-Sz-B	Bács-K	Békés	Csongrád
Arad	Arad	0,52	0,53	0,07	0,05	0,07	0,06	0,08	0,02	0,07	0,87	0,37
Hunyad	Hunedoara	0,63	0,36	0,09	0,11	0,07	0,05	0,06	0,05	0,12	0,07	0,06
Bihar	Bihor	3,23	2,53	0,83	0,47	0,49	0,34	3,41	0,29	0,37	1,16	0,42
Kolozs	Cluj	3,45	2,32	0,47	0,43	0,28	0,18	0,35	0,15	0,27	0,17	0,16
Máramaros	Maramures	0,65	0,48	0,18	0,19	0,08	0,07	0,15	0,21	0,06	0,05	0,04
Szatmár	Satu Mare	1,99	1,90	0,28	0,27	0,29	0,30	1,09	2,20	0,21	0,15	0,14
Szilágy	Salaj	1,18	1,05	0,19	0,08	0,14	0,08	0,35	0,15	0,12	0,12	0,09
Brassó	Brasov	0,58	0,43	0,05	0,04	0,08	0,03	0,07	0,03	0,14	0,05	0,07
Kovászna	Covasna	2,31	2,05	0,43	0,44	0,36	0,08	0,15	0,07	0,86	0,17	0,16
Hargita	Harghita	5,23	4,32	0,63	0,91	0,73	0,55	0,43	0,26	0,95	0,32	0,58
Maros	Mures	4,76	4,42	0,60	0,35	0,63	0,27	0,37	0,17	0,79	0,30	0,70

Budapest and Pest County, as Hungarian economic centre areas, attract people from a greater distance (Rédei M, 2009, Soltész et al, 2014), most non-European foreigners live here. The Hungarian capital city – here lives almost half of the foreigners residing in Hungary, it is also attractive to Romanian emigrants.

Table 3: Ratio of major migration flows between Romania and Hungary among those with tertiary educational attainment at county level⁴, 2017

Region of birth		Region of current place of residence										
In Hungarian	In Romanian	Budapest	Pest	Fejér	Veszprém	Győr-M-S	Borsod-A-Z	Hajdú-B	Szabolcs-Sz-B	Bács-K	Békés	Csongrád
Bákó	Bacau	0,61	0,28	0,31	0,01	0,01	0,00	0,03	0,02	0,20	0,02	0,03
Arad	Arad	0,63	0,49	0,05	0,04	0,05	0,05	0,07	0,02	0,04	0,43	0,33
Hunyad	Hunedoara	0,75	0,34	0,10	0,11	0,05	0,04	0,06	0,02	0,09	0,05	0,04
Temes	Timis	0,53	0,27	0,02	0,02	0,04	0,02	0,06	0,02	0,04	0,04	0,29
Bihar	Bihor	4,53	2,23	0,73	0,41	0,45	0,28	3,38	0,18	0,27	0,77	0,39
Kolozs	Cluj	4,71	2,21	0,43	0,36	0,19	0,16	0,34	0,10	0,25	0,13	0,15
Máramaros	Maramures	0,93	0,49	0,14	0,22	0,07	0,06	0,17	0,17	0,06	0,03	0,03
Szatmár	Satu Mare	2,68	1,81	0,19	0,25	0,30	0,31	1,25	1,71	0,13	0,07	0,18
Szilágy	Salaj	1,59	1,17	0,21	0,05	0,11	0,07	0,38	0,08	0,07	0,08	0,10
Brassó	Brasov	0,77	0,32	0,03	0,03	0,08	0,02	0,05	0,02	0,15	0,04	0,06
Kovászna	Covasna	3,23	2,05	0,38	0,46	0,24	0,06	0,16	0,06	0,81	0,10	0,16
Hargita	Harghita	7,25	4,21	0,46	0,74	0,59	0,54	0,42	0,18	0,63	0,23	0,56
Maros	Mures	6,63	4,10	0,49	0,28	0,47	0,21	0,38	0,16	0,63	0,19	0,65

Thus the region of Central Hungary (Budapest and Pest county) is preferably the target destination for the more mobile population of working age (Siposné, Dabasi-Halász, Ilyés 2017), with higher educational attainment, in a leadership position, as well as for the autochthon population (Szirmai, 2011). In case of shorter geographical distances and movements close to

³ 100% means the total of persons born in Romania, residing in Hungary.

⁴ 100% means the total of persons born in Romania, residing in Hungary with higher education.

the border area the educational attainment and occupations of migrants are more diversified, but there are no major differences in their economic activity compared to that of migrants of longer distance.

Table 4: Ratio of major migration flows between Romania and Hungary among employed persons at county level ⁵, 2017

Region of birth		Region of current place of residence										
In Hungarian	In Romanian	Budapest	Pest	Fejér	Veszprém	Győr-M-S	Borsod-A-Z	Hajdú-B	Szabolcs-Sz-B	Bács-K	Békés	Csongrád
Bákó	Bacau	0,53	0,35	0,33	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,28	0,04	0,04
Arad	Arad	0,39	0,53	0,05	0,04	0,06	0,05	0,05	0,02	0,06	0,72	0,35
Hunyad	Hunedoara	0,67	0,36	0,09	0,12	0,06	0,03	0,05	0,03	0,15	0,05	0,06
Bihar	Bihor	3,37	2,59	0,94	0,54	0,51	0,31	3,15	0,28	0,35	1,07	0,42
Kolozs	Cluj	3,42	2,29	0,48	0,47	0,27	0,15	0,29	0,12	0,27	0,15	0,13
Máramaros	Maramureş	0,69	0,48	0,19	0,24	0,08	0,06	0,14	0,22	0,06	0,04	0,03
Szatmár	Satu Mare	2,05	1,97	0,26	0,31	0,29	0,26	1,00	2,07	0,18	0,13	0,13
Szilágy	Salaj	1,31	1,10	0,21	0,08	0,11	0,07	0,38	0,15	0,13	0,11	0,09
Brassó	Brasov	0,61	0,47	0,05	0,04	0,09	0,01	0,07	0,02	0,16	0,05	0,06
Kovászna	Covasna	2,52	2,25	0,50	0,56	0,35	0,07	0,14	0,07	1,04	0,14	0,15
Hargita	Harghita	5,72	4,63	0,62	1,15	0,73	0,64	0,40	0,23	0,88	0,28	0,59
Maros	Mures	5,28	4,99	0,61	0,36	0,59	0,24	0,34	0,17	0,80	0,26	0,76

7. Summary

Two levels of international migration to Hungary are markedly separated: the impact of global migration and the movements from the countries of the Carpathian Basin to Hungary. The Hungarian characteristic of international migration is that the majority of the immigrant population has Hungarian nationality or is Hungarian native speaker. Hungary is the target destination mainly for Europeans, international movements of short distance are more typical. Romania has a prominent role, with most people coming to Hungary. In 2017, the total number of Romanian-linked population (Romanian citizens and Hungarian citizens born in Romania) residing in Hungary was in total 206, 427 people.

The number of foreign citizens immigrating to Hungary began to grow after the democratic transformation. In this period mainly ethnicity had a decisive role, overwhelming majority of people with Hungarian nationality arrived. Later, following Hungary's accession to the European Union, global trends had an impact on the Hungarian migration networks: Hungary's migratory source extended, it was able to attract foreign citizens from greater distances. In 2017, foreigners residing in Hungary were born in 175 different countries. The proportion of

⁵ 100% means the total of employed persons born in Romania, residing in Hungary.

international migrants is more than 5% of the resident population. The consequence of the peace treaties of World War I and World War II still play a vital role in the migration flows of Hungary. It is demonstrated by the fact that the number of people born in Romania is the highest among the foreign-bound population.

Migration flows between the two countries were territorially concentrated, one quarter of the movements took place between Central Hungary and the Central Romanian Development Region. 5.2% of all migrations from Romania to Hungary has been realized between Harghita County and Budapest, while 4.8% between Mures County and the Hungarian capital city.

The location of destination areas also have a decisive role. In addition to the economic centre areas, border regions also play an important role in the choice of the new place of residence, which can partly be explained by the phenomenon of circular migration, partly by the easier interaction with those family members who have remained home. From the movements between neighbouring counties the most intense ones were the movement between Bihor and Hajdú-Bihar, Satu-Mare and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Bihor and Békés and Arad and Békés.

Budapest is the Hungarian area, which is a constant destination for the Romanian born people, even in case of larger geographical distances. In this manner the Central Hungarian region is the target destination for those of working-age, with higher educational attainment and working in a leadership position. In case of shorter geographical distances and movements close to the border area the educational attainment and occupations of migrants are more diversified, but there are no major differences in their economic activity compared to that of migrants of longer distance.

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