

**THE TERRITORIAL MOVEMENT OF POPULATION  
CASE STUDY: THE SĂLAJ VILLAGES AT EAST OF  
THE BENESAT-SURDUC-GÂRBOU ALIGNMENT**

**MIȘCAREA MIGRATORIE A POPULAȚIEI. STUDIU DE  
CAZ: SATELE SĂLĂJENE LA EST DE ALINIAMENTUL  
BENESAT-SURDUC-GÂRBOU**

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**Abstract:** The present study analyzes the territorial movement of the population during 1990-2009 by demographic in and out movements registered in the Eastern-Salajan space, insisting on the demographic survey. The conclusions show the rural migration has become a generalized phenomenon which has produced profound changes in the structure of the population, in its territorial distribution, reflecting on the educational level. The analysis of the territorial movements of the population is relevant for evaluating the human capital from the analyzed rural space, being a parameter of calculating the economic activities that are based on the local workforce.

**Key-words:** emigration, the movement of the population, the rural migration, demographic study, territorial distribution

**Cuvinte cheie:** emigrare, mișcarea populației, migrație rurală, studiu demografic, distribuția teritorială

### **INTRODUCTION**

The migration or the territorial movement of population is the demographic phenomenon which together with the natural movement of the population determines the demographic evolution which is manifested in an open system as that of the population system (Vert, 1995, 2001). Erdeli and Dumitrache, 2001 have mentioned that “the migratory movement has no accidental character, it is necessary to be perceived as an attempt to reduce the actual unbalances from its number and its resources”. The same opinion is stressed by Surd (2001) who considers that “the spatial mobility of the population is determined by economical factors more than any other demographical phenomenon and less by socio-cultural or political factors”. Bogan (2008) mentioned the same idea cited by Ianoș (1998), who made an analysis of the migratory movement presenting that “the population migrates from a poor region to one in development, at national level, but at local or

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regional scale they emigrate from a poor village to another one more developed or to a small or bigger city”. Nowadays the migrations are caused by the existent discrepancy in economic development of the Romanian regions, but especially by the economic major differences between our country and the western and central European countries.

The present study analysis the territorial movement of the population during 1990-2009, by studying the in and out movement flows in the eastern -Sălaj space, paying attention on the definitive study of stability, on the territorial migrations or on migrations, on movements from the territory.

### **METHODOLOGY**

In monitoring the territorial movement of the population according to the official data, the leaving and coming evolution was calculated through the coming/going instalment in fourteen Sălăjan villages, comparing the movement situation. To obtain some results that could demonstrate the real situation of territorial movement of the population in the eastern -Sălaj space, the demographic migratory evolution was calculated.

For a better visual representation of the phenomenon of territorial movement of the population two tables and two figures have been elaborated.

### **STUDY AREA: THE SĂLAJ VILLAGES AT EAST OF THE BENESAT-SURDUC-GÂRBOU ALIGNMENT**

The geographic area analyzed in the present study is located in the eastern part of Sălaj territory, being part of the North-West development region of Romania. From morphological point of view, the relief is represented by the natural potential of the hills and low piedmonts of the Someșan Plateau and the Someș valley. Administratively, this geographical space belongs to the micro-region of economical development of the Someș Valley and Codru area, having fourteen villages: Babeni, Benesat, Cristolt, Galgau, Garbou, Ileanda, Letca, Lozna, Napradea, Blenchea, Rus, Simisnea, Surduc and Zalha.

### **RESULTS**

#### *The evolution of population leaving*

The evolution in time of leavings from the studied area has led to major unbalances in the structure of age groups, a visible ageing phenomenon. The migratory flows from the eastern -Salajan villages to the nearby areas (Jibou, Cehu Silvaniei, Dej) or to relatively longer distances ( Zalău, Cluj Napoca, Baia Mare) are following the general national trend of migration from the rural areas to the cities.

The leaving instalments in the analyzed rural space has manifested a decrease tendency from 46,8% in 1990-when it reached the maximum value- to 10.9% in 2005 when it reached the minimum value, and in 2009 to increase to 17.2%. In 1990, the maximum value registered by the population who leave to

other destinations has reached a number of 1,500 persons, who are in fact with 200 persons more than the population from Lozna village at that time. At the territorial-administrative level, the highest instalments (the highest values) of leavings during 1990-2009 have been recorded in Garbou (73.2%), followed by Zalha (67.9%) and Rus (61.1%) in 1990. At the opposite pole with minimum value, there are Simisna village (2.2%) in 2005, Galgau village (6.1%) in 2000 and Rus (6.8%) in 2005, (Table no. 1).

**Table no.1. The evolution of leavings (%)**

The administrative area	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009	The difference 1990 - 2009	Mean
Băbeni	46.8	15.7	14.4	11.9	15.5	-31.3	20.8
Benesat	22.7	16.8	12.0	8.6	10.6	-12.1	14.1
Cristolț	46.0	28.0	11.1	10.5	12.1	-33.9	21.5
Gălgău	51.4	16.6	6.1	9.7	21.4	-30.0	21.0
Gărbou	<b>73.2</b>	24.7	14.1	13.8	23.3	-49.9	29.8
Ileanda	36.9	24.3	13.2	10.0	15.2	-21.7	19.9
Letca	39.7	12.7	10.1	12.8	15.7	-24.0	18.2
Lozna	52.7	31.5	9.7	25.7	19.3	-33.4	27.7
Năpradea	33.8	17.7	10.4	8.7	16.7	-17.1	17.4
Poiana Blenchii	46.8	19.2	16.8	10.8	28.2	-18.6	21.3
Rus	61.1	17.1	12.2	6.8	12.7	-48.4	21.9
Șimișna	-	-	-	<b>2.2</b>	14.3	+12.1	8.2
Surduc	35.8	23.8	7.3	13.1	19.2	-16.6	19.8
Zalha	67.9	22.1	14.3	8.3	10.2	-57.7	26.0
<b>The East Salajan space</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>-29.6</b>	<b>21.8</b>

*Source: values calculated based on the data given by NIS, COS Salajan*

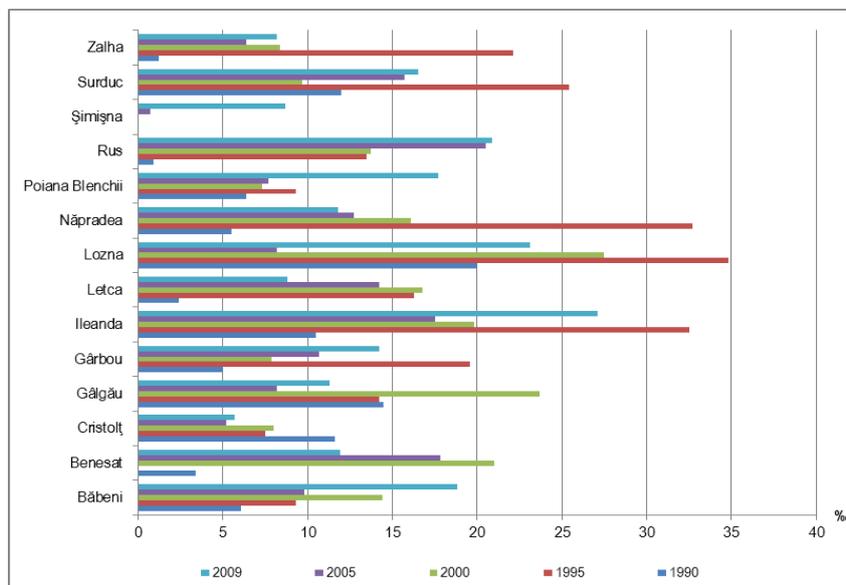
Analyzing the average values of the instalments of leavings in the studied space, we observe also that Garbou (29.8%), Lozna (27.7%) and Zalha (26.0%) villages decreased the highest number of population, over the average value of the region 21.80%, but the lowest average values were recorded in Benesat (14.1%) and Napradea (17.1%) villages. The number of people who leaved from the studied area has decreased considerably, to approximately 63%, reaching 17.2%, this tendency being kept at administrative level areas; Zalha, Rus and Garbou differentiate from the rest with instalment leavings which decreased to 85%, 79% and 68%, respectively. An atypical evolution had Simisna village, which during 2005-2009 registered an increase of leavings from 12.1% to 55%.

#### *The evolution of population arrivals*

This component of territorial movement of the population is given by the number of the migrating population, arrived or entered in the territory (immigrants) and from the coming backs after a period of time (remigration).

This phenomenon materializes itself in establishing the residence in the Sălăjan rural space and has important consequences from social and economic point of view. For the analyzed rural space the arrival instalments had a fluctuant

evolution from 7.5% (minimum value) in 1990 to 19.0% (maximum value) in 1995, and 14.7% in 2009 as we can observe in Fig. 1.



**Fig. 1. The arrivals evolution in the Sălăjan space in 1990-2009**

One can notice that in 1995 the maximum values of 34.4% and 32.7% have been recorded in Lozna and Napradea villages, but the minimum values had been recorded in Benesat (0%) in 1995, Simişna (0.7%) in 2005 and Rus (0.9%) in 1990.

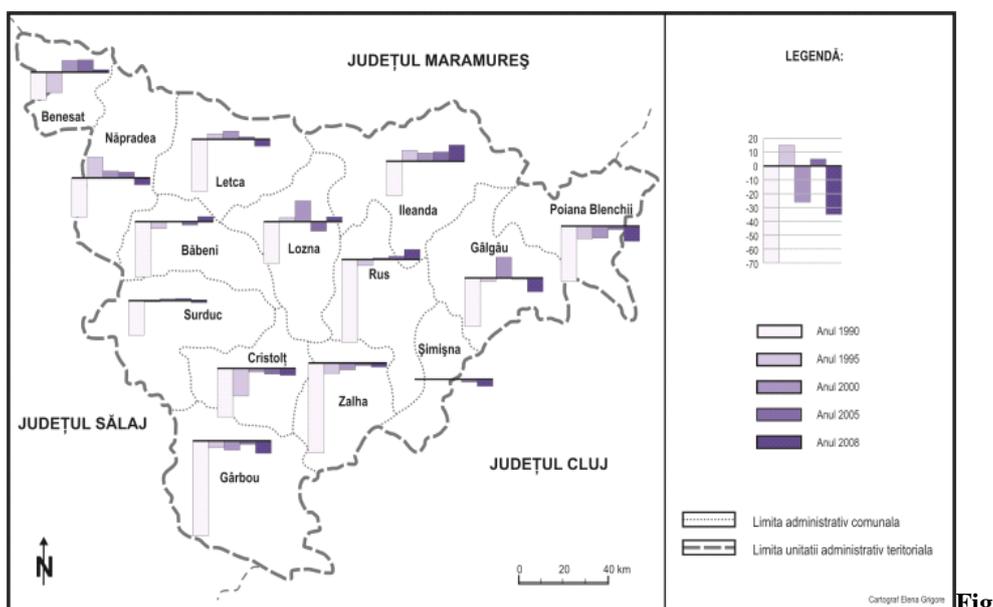
Reporting the average values of the arrival instalments at administrative area level we can observe that the highest values are recorded in Lozna village (22.7%) and Ileanda (21.4%), followed by Surduc (15.8%) and Napradea (15.7%) villages and the lowest values are recorded in Simişna (4.7%) and Cristolt (7.6%) villages; 42.8% of the 14 analyzed administrative areas exceed the average instalment of the studied space (13.2%), while 8 villages are characterized by values that are below the average.

If we compare the leaving instalments with that of the arrivals we can observe that there are administrative areas with numerous arrivals, but which have suffered the most numerous leavings (Lozna, Rus) having the main cause -the economic reorganization which generated numerous unemployed people determining the people who have been gone to come back to their native city.

#### *The evolution of the demographic migratory survey*

The demographic migratory survey is the result of the difference between the people who has arrived (immigrants) and those that left (emigrant) being reported to 1,000 inhabitants (Vert, 1995). For the east-Sălăjan space the average of the demographic migratory survey ranges between -39.6% in 1990 and +3.2% in 2000, after this level a decrease has been registered, recording -2.1% in 2009 (figure 2).

Referring to the values of the analyzed relevant index, in 1990-2009 they are negative in all the administrative areas in 1990. After this date in the most villages, the values have increased becoming positive, excepting 35% of them which kept their negative values the entire period (Cristolt, Garbou, Poiana Blenchii, Simisna and Zalha). Within this context, the minimum value of the migratory survey has been recorded in 1990 by Garbou village -68,2%, being kept after the higher number of leaving fond (230 persons) that represented a leaving instalment of 73.2%; but the maximum value of +17.8% has been recorded in Lozna village in 2000.



## 2. The evolution of the demographic migratory survey in 1990-2009

This evolution of the migratory survey is the result of economic reorganization in the entire country, region and county, being made on different stages of reorganization in industry that led to positive values in many administrative areas. The higher value demonstrates that the local population presents a powerful rural character based on agricultural work, the income from this activity being insufficient for maintaining a decent living standard.

The demographic migratory survey of every village was positive in the 1990-2009 period just for Ileanda (+1.5%) and negative for the rest of the 13 villages, oscillating between -18.4% (Gârbou) and -1.7% (Napradea) due to the very profound character of the rural analyzed space from which Ileanda village detaches the role of polarizing centre offered by an easy diversified economical activities.

## CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of the territorial movement of the population in 1990-2009 shows higher negative values (-8.3%) of the migratory survey for the Sălăjan

population space situated in the eastern part of the Benesat-Surduc-Garbou villages area, demonstrating the decreasing tendency of the demographical evolution and the phenomenon emphasized by the emigration constituting the support of the migratory deficit (Table no. 2).

**Table no. 2. The average values evolution of the territorial movement of population (%)**

Demographical indicators	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009	Difference 1990 - 2009	Mean
Immigration	7.6	18.2	14.9	11.0	14.7	+7.1	13.2
Emigration	47.2	21.3	11.6	10.9	16.7	-30.5	21.5
The demographic migratory survey	-39.6	-3.1	+3.3	+0.1	-2.0	-37.6	-8.3

Source: Values calculated based on data offered by NIS, COS Sălaj

The evolution of emigrations reduced to average values of the leaving instalment marks a considerably decrease with almost 63.2% of the number of inhabitants who left their domicile from the analyzed area, value which is higher in Simisna-Gârbou Hills area. On the other side, the dynamics of the arrivals of the population emphasises an increasing with almost 93.4% of those who came back to their native places because of the unfavourable economic context.

We can observe a revival of the demography of the Sălăjan rural space, situated in the eastern part of Benesat-Surduc-Gârbou villages, by reducing considerably the value of the migratory survey that brings important consequences on the quality of human capital.

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\*\*\* <http://www.runv.ro/docs/PDR%20Nord-Vest.pdf>