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**THE ECONOMICAL AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FOREIGN
LABOUR IN HARGHITA COUNTY**

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1. PREMISES, OBJECTIVES

By the enlargement of the European Union the volumetric capacity of members states had been reevaluated. The emissive eastern-middle European countries kept their emissive status, but became recipient countries as well. These countries are the destination for emigrants from former soviet countries, China and Vietnam, based mainly on economical reasons. In western European countries the presence and role of migration has stabilized. (Hárs, 2010)

Migration, when citizens leave their natal countries for a short period of time or even on a permanent basis, is the result of a long process. The premises and reasons of migration in Romanian and especially in Harghita County present quite various changes in the past 150 years.

From the middle of the 19th century until de second world war, migration had mainly economical, cultural and social reasons. After this period the causes were mainly political.

At the end of the 20th century the political changes in middle and eastern European countries made the political based migration unnecessary. Migration became mostly economical based. Similarly to western European territories the consumer markets started to govern this region that frequently dispenses the characteristics of market economy. The construction of the market economy starting from a shortage economy and non-competitive directive plan based system caused a powerful migration flow. (Fogarasi, 1999)

The big economical structure changes also provoked social changes. The foreign job undertaking by the population living from agriculture applies only for a narrow segment of social migrations. The activities that claim great local knowledge and the immovability of field and agricultural equipments interfere in migration decision-making. Thus people working in agriculture form the less mobile part of society (Kovács, 1999).

Emigrants from Romania cannot be followed up, we can only identify those who emigrated only temporarily and then returned home. In the period 1987 – 1993 the number of Hungarian people from Romania who emigrated, permanently with a firm decision, to Hungary is approximately 120.000 (Horváth, 2002). After 1993, the destination country has changed. A large number of people settle in countries outside Europe, but among emigrants, other European countries besides Hungary start to become attractive.

According to a study performed at the request of the Romanian Youth and Sport Ministry in 2009 2,4 million people wanted to leave the country, half of those interviewed was part of the 18-34 age group. Half of this number is equal to the number of emigrants in the past 10 years. Approximately one third would leave permanently and 7% would definitely leave. The destination countries were England, Spain, Italy and the United States of America. Answering the question about the reasons for leaving, 69% of the young individuals mentioned as a primary reason the lack of a workplace, followed by housing problems. (<http://www.hotnews.ro/stiri-esential-5705620-studiu-milion-tineri-romani-vrea-plece-din-tara.htm>, Downloaded: 2010/05/20)

Based on the Romanian Medical Association's research in 2009 6 doctors out of 10 wanted to practice abroad. According to an international medical career fair 60% of Romanian doctors want to work abroad due to financial reasons.

(http://www.wall-street.ro/slideshow/Careers/85377/ANALIZA-Cei-mai-cautati-angajati-romani-pest-hotare.html#slide_title, Downloaded: 2010/05/20)

During my research I have studied temporary foreign labour. Based on documents from Szeklerland starting from the middle of the 19th century and on my questionnaire based research in Harghita County, I have studied the motivations, forms and main characteristics of foreign labour.

During my research I have drawn up the following hypotheses:

- 1st Hypothesis: The reasons of foreign labour in Harghita County have not changed significantly in the past 150 years.
- 2nd Hypothesis: The reasons for returning home to Harghita County after foreign labour were similar in the course of history.
- 3rd Hypothesis: The activity realized before foreign labour has an effect on the work undertaken abroad and also on the activities after returning home.
- 4th Hypothesis: The foreign labour among people from Szeklerland, respectively Harghita County is mainly organized through social networks.

The data of state archives in Harghita County were lost during the flews between the two world wars. The seat of the Chamber of Commerce was destroyed by a fire.

Who emigrated? Why? Where? How? – These are the questions with answers only in newspapers, publications edited at that time. My research regarding the historical past is based on contemporary publications that I use for demonstrating my 1st, 2nd and 4th hypotheses.

In the first part of my thesis I analyze the theoretical characteristics of migration, its apprehension and scientific appreciation. This part is followed by the part which presents the migration process based on the Hungarian, Romanian and international literature. By using old newspapers and archive documents I have studied the reasons for migration at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. I present the migration characteristics of the period starting from the end of the Second World War until nowadays by using secondary data.

I focus my research within the phenomenon of migration on the analysis of foreign labour. The empirical analysis is being carried out by questionnaire based research and in-depth interviews in Harghita County. My intention is to reveal the motivations and main characteristics of foreign labour in Harghita County, trying to prove the statements set out in the hypothesis.

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Data sources

During my research I have used along secondary data sources primary data sources as well.

Secondary data sources

Statistical data concerning the 1990-2008 period used in my research are based on the Romanian National Office of Statistics data published in 2008 and 2009.

The available data concerning population movement - migration according to nationality, migration according to destination countries, age distribution of emigrants, division per year of emigrants by age, emigration according to gender, total number of immigrants, respectively the division per county of data used in the analysis was provided by the Romanian National Office of Statistics, Harghita County Department.

I have analyzed the population movements at the turn of the 19th - 20th centuries based on the documents held by the National Archives, Miercurea-Ciuc Department. Thus I had the opportunity to read and use the 1881, 1891, 1900 and 1910 yearbooks concerning population movement.

Statistical data referring to the 1920-1977 period are based on VARGA's books: Fejezetek a jelenkori Erdély Népesedéstörténetéből I (Chapters from the contemporary Transilvania's history of population), Erdély etnikai és felekezeti statisztikája (Ethnical and denominational statistics of Transilvania, Covasna, Harghita and Mures Counties, 1850-1995 Census data).

International statistical data, income return resulted from foreign labour and its enumeration by states are based on the World Bank's database.

Documents used

In my research I have used original archive documents held in the Miercurea-Ciuc Szekler Museum, respectively the 1st February, 8th March and 14th June editions of Csíki Lapok from the year 1899, 14 February edition of Csíki Hírlap from the year 1914 and the 11th January edition of Székelység from the year 1914.

Besides the above mentioned local newspapers I have processed the book of Kozma Ferenc, secondary school teacher, published in 1879 which contains statistical data and surveys and the works of T. Nagy Imre published in the 1895-1911 period that contain besides quantitative data, qualitative characteristics as well.

The farthest data used in my thesis were the files of the 9th hussar regiment from Tirgu Mures that are held in the Military Archives in Budapest.

Primary data sources

I have built upon my empirical research on case studies and questionnaire based surveys. These surveys are not representative but are susceptible to picture the main tendencies and correlations. During my primary empirical research I have studied the migration patterns characteristic to Harghita County through case studies and individual questionnaires. My research related to this is exploratory.

The qualitative part of my research, the case study is based on an individual in-depth interview with the unit's leader. The quantitative part of my research was carried out by personal interviews.

The sampling methods

I consider being population those individuals who live in Harghita County and have returned after foreign labour, but I do not have precise data about their number.

For my qualitative research I took in-depth interviews.

For my qualitative research as a sampling technique I have chosen the snowball sampling method because I only had a few data about the population (Tomcsányi, 2000). Thus I have started with 2 interviewee chosen based on their activity before foreign labour (workers from industry and agriculture).

Based on population my sample is not representative, but it reflects the rate of employment in the field of industry and agriculture in Harghita County.

In my thesis I have processed **100** questionnaires.

The implementation of the sampling

For the qualitative research I have found 6 firms in Harghita County specialized in labour hire. I wanted to make interviews with their leader but the majority had hold aloof from any transmission of data, even more, when I told them my scope of interest many of them turned off their telephones. I have found tree firms who were willing to offer me data, but one of them asked me later on to not publish its name. I have respected the request.

I met with them on a predetermined appointment at the seat of the firm. I set up some interview guidelines. I have kept in touch with them after the interview, thus I found out about the success in spring 2010 of the Agricultural Department of Caritas from Alba Iulia and this is how I have learned about the profile change of HRC Contact.

The questionnaire based survey for the quantitative research was conducted in the September 2008 and March 2009 period. In my questionnaire I use both open and closed questions.

The interviewees were only people above 18 who returned home after foreign labour and live in the analyzed county.

Question groups used in the questionnaire:

- general data about the interviewee, gathering demographical data, mainly closed questions with one possible answer;

- data concerning the family farm (our county is mainly characterized by agriculture), mainly closed questions with one possible answer (cultivated area, vegetables, animal stock etc.);

- information concerning labour, closed questions with one or multiple possible answers (the destination settlement, activity, working period etc.);
- the activity after foreign labour, closed questions with one possible answer;
- the income resulted from foreign labour, question group mainly with open questions.

I have met with the interviewee at a mutually agreed place, in person. In some cases besides the answers given to my questions I found out interesting details about foreign labour.

During the survey no one refused to take the interview, but there were situations when the interviewee refused to answer a specific question.

Research method

Economical phenomena are interdependent and in a determining interaction. My data waiting to be processed are not independent so very likely are in a stochastic relation.

In order to process the big amount of information gained during my questionnaire based research I have chosen a statistical method, the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science). This program is specialized on analyzing quantitative data.

In my analysis I use mainly cross table analysis that studies the existence and tightness of the relation between two nominal or ordinal variables.

Before analyzing the relation of the variables I have studied the frequency distribution of these variables. In case variables are connected but we do not know which cells cause this connection, we can use the observation of the adjusted residual: if the absolute value of the adjusted residual is bigger than 2 than there is a significant connection between the two categories (Lázár, 2009).

I have used the correlation-analysis in order to determine the tightness of the connection between the numeric variables. In case the correlation coefficient is positive the correlation of the two variables is direct proportional, in case the value is negative we have an inverse proportion (Pallant, 2001).

In case the level of significance of the two variable is less than 0,05 than the two variables are in a statistically verifiable relation.

3. RESULTS

I will summarize my results obtained from the comparison of the literature and my research analysis hereinafter.

The migration of workforce is not only a walkabout from one geographical place to another generated by higher salaries but it also presumes the permanent construction and use of the social networks.

Migration networks help and organize emigrants from start until the reach of their destination. It can ease the conditions of hiring, reducing the risk thus the foreign labour becomes a certain source of income. We can see that the self-supporting growth of these networks generates not only reduced migration costs but also reduced rate of risk. The base of these networks is the existence of interpersonal relationships.

Not having social connections, the first emigrants have more difficulties and more costs. Based on friendships and family connections emigrants live in close contact with those who arrived before them but in the same time maintain close contact with their family members, friends left behind. If in the country of origin social networks widen enough, the migration wave creates that social structure which makes migration self-supporting. Consecutive migration waves reduce the costs of the following migration wave. More and more people start off, include more people into the social network that can cause further reduction of costs, stimulating others. The reduction of migration risks has the same importance.

The importance of these networks is proven by the experience of firms that organize foreign labour included in my research, respectively by the fact that the majority of interviewees looked for a job opportunity abroad exclusively in an organized form within existing networks.

The first part of my thesis dealing with local historical facts and descriptions is based on contemporary newspapers and archive documents. Modern techniques have not yet taken off in these institutions, so I looked them up one by one. I evoked the value of these milieu based on contemporary data. This part of my research is based on 1st February, 8th March and 14th June editions of Csíki Lapok from the year 1899, 14 February edition of Csíki Hírlap from the year 1914

and the 11th January edition of Székelység from the year 1914 and on the book of Kozma Ferenc, secondary school teacher published in 1879.

These publications contain several interesting articles, comments hidden in commercials that reflect the spirit of the age, thinking approach to migration.

The mass emigration of Szeklers from Ciuc County caused significant reduction in the population number even in the second part of the 18th century, although this migration had mainly political reasons. In this period we can barely mention economical reasons.

Later on, in the second part of the 19th century mass migration is mainly economical based. Precedes the mass migration in Hungary and it is related with the world economical crisis and impoverishment. Interestingly in Ciuc in the first decade of the 20th century migration stops and I identified as reasons the economical recovery that assured subsistence in homeland.

We can conclude that migration is a multi-causal phenomenon, thus its causes must be sought in the economical and social situation. It is a statistically proven fact that emigrants from Transylvania in the 19th – 20th century were mainly farmers thus we must analyze the migration reasons in the light of the agricultural conditions. The fact that the poorly developed industry could not assure workplace for masses extruded from villages, generated migration. As a result to the capitalist development in the 19th century Europe, ships with America as their destination started to transport Italian, than Austrian and later on Szekler emigrants.

This massive population decline caused the rise of land prices and the decrease of unemployment. Among the departed those who had the possibility helped their family members left behind with money. They could repay their debts and even buy lands.

Many records from the 20th century prove the success of industrial and agricultural work's reconciliation. In many cases in the pause of agricultural activities during the winter season they undertook jobs in factories.

Another way of escape characteristic to the beginning of the 20th century is education. After graduating, young specialists prefer urban areas and workplaces, not even administrative jobs are attractive enough for returning home.

Intention	Investments after returning home in the past					
		day to day	house	industrial enterprise	land	animals
	day to day	X				
	studying abroad			X	X	X
	Capital		X		X	X
	increase of family assets	X				

1. table. The intention and output of foreign labour at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century

Source: Own compilation based on contemporary sources

Although in the period between the two world wars the permanent settlement outside Szeklerland continued, the temporary foreign labour also got greater proportions. The willingness to work in the field of industry increased among young men, who undertook jobs in factories of cities nearby or in the branches of the service industry. While at the end of the 19th century founding families ended the foreign labour, in the period between the two world wars young married couples continued to work abroad and stayed for 6-8 more years and returned only after the birth of their second or third child. They have spent the obtained money on buying land, house and started farms.

It can be statistically proven that in Harghita County during communism numerous new workplaces had been created. New industrial establishments attracted the population of villages into the cities. Many people gave off their home in rural areas and others undertook a strenuous and tiring daily commute. The migration of agricultural workers from villages to cities changed not only the demographic situation of rural areas but also affected in an irreversible way the whole society. Later on the diminution of house constructions tempered the permanent mass migration to urban areas, but taking into consideration the contemporary party politics according to which all citizens have the inalienable right to have a workplace, hidden unemployment evolved.

After the fall of communism, respectively at the beginning of the '90s the migration of Romanian citizens towards Western European countries was very powerful. These people set down the basis of migration networks, helping permanently the Romanian workforce migration until, as a result of external pressure, the Romanian government itself started to forestall the spontaneous flow, developing a partly state-controlled social-institutional system.

Migration, as the walkabout of workforce is constantly disputed by the press and public opinion. Taking into consideration economic indicators and analyses I try to find the answer in my thesis.

Nevertheless both the original country and the recipient country can benefit from the migration. The budget of a country with a high rate of unemployment has to allocate less aid to social funds as the emigrants financially support the family members left behind.

Knowing the fact that emigrants usually undertake jobs in the deficit sectors they temper the labour deficit of the recipient country. We can conclude that recipient countries are in a much favorable situation as emigrants exploit their labour force in those countries, respectively by their daily consumption increase the comparative advantages of the recipient country's market. The homeland must bring to book several disadvantages that are connected to compulsory education and the lost benefits derived from it.

A certain level of migration is both advantageous to recipient countries and home countries as well, nevertheless when this migration spreads it can cause substantial disadvantageous economical and social changes which can be ameliorated on short, middle or long term only with major difficulties.

Economic indicators at our disposal are rather poor, based on their analysis we cannot even calculate the number of foreign employees. Usually the salary of foreign citizens is lower so we cannot estimate the resulting losses. The GDP loss caused by the use of the workforce abroad by those who emigrate and the export profit that could have been realized by the emigrants through their homeland activities are still ambiguous.

Romania's balance of payments is intensely influenced by the income transferred home by emigrants, which is resulted from countries with more advantageous market conditions.

Romania became a labour force emitter thus the exact knowledge of this heading became more and more important. The analysis was hardened as until 2004 the balance of payments was not detailed enough, only administrative and private transfers had been checked.

According to the International Organization for Migration, in the 2001-2005 period, 10% of Romanian households reported labour migration mainly temporary with a 2 year average. This is in contradictory with my research narrowed to Harghita County according to which temporary migration includes a 1 year period, although many emigrants leave repeatedly.

After the political changes the Romanian government liberated the passport system. As restrictive measures that would have significantly limited the Romanian citizens' rights to leave the country were never introduced, migration in Romania greatly boosted.

In 1990-2006 29% of legally emigrating citizens choose as their destination Germany, 13% emigrated to the United States of America, 11% to Italy, 11% to Canada and 10% had settled in Hungary.

The majority of Romanian emigrants are adults in their active years, looking for their first job. This category presents the highest value in every analyzed year, at the same time until 2008 the Romanian labour market has proven to be incomplete thus employers hired foreign citizens in deficit specializations.

The renowned Romanian sociologist Dumitru Sandu stated that minority's networks based on language, family and emigrants from previous years started to function in the early '90s, meanwhile the orthodox Romanian population needed a longer period of time for establishing these networks. This is proven by the analysis of national statistical data. After the regime change in 1989 first German and Hungarian people left the country en mass.

The experience of firms that help foreign labour

I present through interviews the economical establishments and foundation from Harghita County that are engaged in placing hundreds of workers. Each one of them is unique as far as the workforce migration and peoples included concerns.

The scope of those who start under Caritas to find a workplace or internship is to develop their homeland farm, to assure long term subsistence in their homeland and even to start a firm and create new workplaces.

One of the firms engaged in lending foreign workforce looked exclusively for unqualified workers for industrial work. The other firm contracted, besides placing highly qualified workforce abroad, placing domestic workforce too. Economical crisis made the firm's activity unnecessary, thus they were forced to change the profile of their activity.

The subsistence of our region is even nowadays mainly based on agriculture. This affects people who are willing to undertake foreign work, the work undertaken abroad and even the activity after returning home.

In contradictory to the above mentioned example, the activity of Caritas activating in the field of agriculture and education is becoming more and more popular. This is positive from our region's point of view as it reflects the possibility of moving forward.

The evaluation of the questionnaire based survey

The questionnaire based survey included only those people living in Harghita County who have returned home after working abroad. After the first trip some of them felt the need to leave again.

The place of residence also presents a significant connection with the place of foreign labour. People from rural areas prefer villages and people from urban areas try to find a job in cities. There is also a connection between the age group of employees and their place of residence, respectively it shows a significant connection with the destination of foreign labour.

The gender of people willing to work abroad is in close connection with both the place of foreign employment and the place of residence. Men rather undertake jobs in villages and women in cities, respectively women set off from cities and men from villages.

Younger people start off from villages and elder people mainly from cities, while younger people rather go to work in villages and elder people to cities.

Based on the questionnaire based survey we can conclude that the number of family members influences the decision of choosing the destination. People from smaller families choose to work in villages and those from large families rather go to cities. At the same time we can observe that people from large families have chosen the unorganized form and those from smaller families try to undertake work abroad under organized conditions.

The reasons of foreign labour and the analysis of investments

The most interesting part of my research is the analysis of reasons for leaving, visions, dreams and their fulfillment. Whether if these remained only dreams or they had become a reality, differs from case to case. In my research I have tried to present these correlations.

Those who wanted to start a business and did not have the necessary capital and that was the reason for undertaking foreign guest work and the difficulties that come with it, after returning home invested the income in establishing entrepreneurships. It also became clear, that those who had major financial difficulties and had seen the solution for their problems in working abroad, spent their income for assuring the costs of living, but the income could not cover tuition fees or buying household appliances. This also means that they could not establish entrepreneurships. The significant connection between the intention for undertaking a foreign job and the investments after returning home is presented in a more detailed form in table nr.2.

Intention	Investments after returning home						
		household	learning	day to day	land	entrepreneurship	equipment
	Day to day			X			
	Studying abroad				X		X
	Tuition fee	X	X				
	Capital					X	
	Children, grandchildren		X	X			

2. table Intentions for undertaking foreign jobs and investments after returning home

Source: Own compilation based on questionnaire survey

It is important that those who started off for learning and accumulating knowledge (in my case the field of agriculture), invested their money in buying land and agricultural machinery.

The majority of the interviewee, who went abroad for obtaining tuition fees, used their income after returning home according to their initial plans. After paying the tuition fees, they used the remaining money for buying household appliances.

The objective of parents, grandparents who became guest workers was to assure the tuition of their children, grandchildren. They most certainly spent their income in this purpose. The remaining money had also been spent for fulfilling the other needs of the minors.

Analyzing contemporary works and based on the questionnaire survey we can conclude that in the course of history people living in this region set off for identical reasons (see table 1 and 2).

By comparing the activity before and during foreign labour we can see that people with low level of education worked in agriculture. Those who worked in agriculture at home most likely had worked in agriculture abroad.

Foreign labour						
Before foreign labour		Agriculture	Industry	Low level of education, char	Commerce	Intellectual
	Agriculture	61,8%	5,9%	32,3%		
	Industry	3,7%	48,2%	40,7%		7,4%
	Low level of education, char	100,0%				
	Commerce	71,4%			14,3%	14,3%
	Intellectual	35,7%		57,1%		7,2%
	Student	100,0%				
	Pensioner	33,3%			66,7%	

3. table The type of work before and during foreign labour

Source: Own compilation based on questionnaire survey

The interviewee undertook jobs in deficit branches, but I am convinced that in case of home countries they increased the labour market deficit.

In table 4, by comparing the activity before and after foreign labour we can conclude that those who worked in agriculture remained in this field of activity even after returning home.

Before foreign labour									
After foreign labour		Agriculture	Industry	Low level of education, char	Commerce	Intellectual work	Student	Pensioner	
	Agriculture	92,3%					7,7%		
	Industry		100,0%						
	Low level of education, char	40,6%	40,6%	12,5%	6,3%				
	Commerce	22,2%		33,3%	22,3%	11,1%		11,1%	
	Intellectual work	27,7%			5,6%	61,1%	5,6%		
	Pensioner							100,0%	

4. table . Type of work before and after foreign labour

Source: Own compilation based on questionnaire survey

After returning home all of those who worked in the field of industry, pensioners and unemployed people continued the activity practiced before foreign labour. Those with a higher level of education, engaged in intellectual works in their homeland and after the termination of their foreign contract continued with intellectual works.

The activity practiced before foreign labour has a significant connection with the activity practiced during and after foreign labour.

The forms of investment do not depend only on the person itself, but they influence each other. In my research I have tried to identify these connections and in the following I will summarize them.

Those who started off in order to repair their house/apartment mainly succeeded, but did not have any savings.

People with poor financial situation at home, spent their income on their daily subsistence and could not spend it on repairing their home or buying car however important that might have been.

The younger generation, whose income was not fully spent on tuition fess, invested the money in buying cars or household appliances.

The analysis also states that those who did not have bathroom in their home spent the money for improvements as they wanted to build it as soon as possible.

Members of large families had been more enterprising, so those who started off from a big family, after returning home most likely started entrepreneurships. We can also state that the number of family members influences the period spent abroad. People coming from large families undertook mainly seasonal works and people from small families and single people were pleased to stay even for longer periods.

People who worked on their own lands or rented ones, most likely spent their money after returning home on buying machinery and animals.

We can conclude that the age of guest workers is related to buying cars. Younger people buy cars more willingly than elder people.

People who stayed abroad for a longer period of time, regardless the type of the guest work, more probably brought home machinery.

Regardless of the income, advantages of foreign labour I have tried to analyze the subjective effects of foreign labour. I have studied the changes in living standards, if family connections became closer or more apart.

There have been positive changes in the living standards of those families who have spent the earned income to repairing their homes.

Family connections became closer in those families where the income was also spent on household appliances, respectively on buying animals. We can also state that family connections became closer in large families.

In my thesis I have studied the activity before and after foreign labour. I have come to the conclusion that these activities are closely related.

In my questionnaire survey I have studied the reasons for returning home. More than half of the interviewee came home because of their family members, friends and independence or for the use of the accumulated knowledge.

In Romania migration has mainly economical reasons. People returning home spend their income on buying everyday life goods. They buy these goods in the recipient countries. The remaining income is being sent home to family member left behind and they increase the home country's internal consumption. The remaining income is invested. Foreign guest workers usually try to support their

family members according to their possibilities. These income represent only a temporary solution for the family members.

4. PROVING THE HYPOTHESIS

Based on my analysis I evaluate the fulfillment of the hypotheses determined earlier:

1st Hypothesis: *The reasons of foreign labour in Harghita County have not changed significantly in the past 150 years.*

If we do not take into consideration the political constraints valid for only shorter period of time, we can conclude that foreign labour had mainly economical reasons.

If we analyze the intention of foreign labour we can conclude that Transilvanian temporary migration had the following characteristics:

- capital acquisition, that can contribute to the development of the homeland household;
- obtaining additional income, that is used for everyday expenses;
- studying abroad, that can be exploited after returning home;
- foreign experience and knowledge of new technologies, that can be exploited by using new machinery.

The 1st Hypothesis is fulfilled.

2nd Hypothesis: *The reasons for returning home to Harghita County after foreign labour were similar in the course of history.*

As in the past century enriched young people came home to found a family, today income is invested in their homeland, creating subsistence not only for themselves but for their environment as well. This type of migration generates changes in the social and economical structures as emigrants returning home can bring not only human and intellectual capital, but also new technologies and changes of perspective.

In my questionnaire survey I have studied the reasons for returning home. More than half of the interviewee came home because of their family members, friends and independence or for the use of the accumulated knowledge.

The 2nd Hypothesis is fulfilled.

3rd Hypothesis: *The activity realized before foreign labour has an effect on the work undertaken abroad and also on the activities after returning home.*

Those who worked in the field of agriculture before foreign labour, significantly continued this activity during foreign labour.

By analyzing the agricultural activity before and after foreign labour I have found a highly significant connection.

The 3rd Hypothesis is fulfilled.

4th Hypothesis: *The foreign labour among people from Szeklerland, respectively Harghita County is mainly organized through social networks.*

Even at the end of the 19th century there have been organizations that helped the migration process. These organizations, for a mediation fee, offered foreign job opportunities, but as soon as the first living emigrants started to return home, started to create the social networks. The majority of interviewees from my survey searched for a job opportunity abroad through these networks based exclusively on interpersonal connections.

The 4th Hypothesis is fulfilled.

5. NEW AND NOVEL SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

- I have studied original archive materials and documents using them to demonstrate that in the analyzed regions, temporary migration, regardless historical conditions, has the same causes.
- My researches narrowed down to Harghita County demonstrate that the duration of temporary migration is 1 year in contrary to the 2 year period stated in national statistical documents.
- The determinative characteristic of temporary migration in Harghita County is the system of social networks. The majority of foreign job undertaking takes place within these networks.
- Based on my survey I demonstrated that women choose mostly permanent emigration within the legal framework, respectively men choose the temporary foreign labour.

- Based on my own research I concluded that the national payment balance data regarding the income earned by foreign guest workers is not reliable. The biggest part of this income is being transferred home through non-official channels.
- Foreign guest workers parts of my analysis resettle to occupations in deficit branches, increasing the labour market deficit in the emissive country.
- My questionnaire survey concerning the use of the income demonstrate that positive effects on households, respectively on a micro-economical level can have reverse consequences on a macro-economical level as a not negligible part the income gained as a result of foreign employment is spent on imported products.

6. RESUME

I have chosen as the theme of my doctoral thesis the foreign employment. The actuality of my research is proven by the fact that migration of labour force represents an important factor in political, social and mainly economical decision making not only in the past but for the future as well.

Szeklerland had been characterized by a powerful migration since the middle of the 19th century, thus my research begins with the collection of local historical descriptions. As the Miercurea Ciuc archival data was lost, I have searched the necessary information in the contemporary local newspapers, publications.

Concomitantly based on in-depth interviews and questionnaires I have analyzed the characteristics of the present-day foreign employment.

By comparing the contemporary literature with the results of my present-day empirical research I have concluded:

- the main reasons of foreign employment among people from Harghita County were fundraising that serves the stabilization or enlargement of family households, respectively the knowledge acquisition that can be valued at home.
- the main reasons for returning home among people from Harghita County who have undertaken a job abroad was the family members, friends left behind and the use of the acquired knowledge.
- the foreign employment among people from Szeklerland, respectively Harghita County is organized mainly through social networks, in order to reduce costs and risks.

Based on questionnaires I can point out that:

- employees from Harghita County who work in the field of agriculture and industry, practice this activity during the foreign employment and after returning home as well.
- the gender of those who decide to migrate is closely connected to the place of foreign labour and the place of residence. Men undertake jobs mainly in rural areas and women in urban areas, respectively women take off from urban areas, while men from rural areas.
- the majority of those who consider foreign employment as a positive change in their standard of living, respectively those who notice the strengthening of family bonds live in rural areas.
- foreign employees try, according to their possibilities to financially support their family members. These incomes represent only a temporary solution for the family members.
- the income earned from foreign employment is transferred back to Harghita County through unofficial channels, thus the existent national statistical data are not reliable.

Comparing the research conducted by the International Organization for Migration in the 2001-2005 period with my questionnaire based research I can conclude that:

- The period of foreign employment among people from Harghita County vis-à-vis national statistical data of 2 years is only 1 year.

By comparing the National Institute of Statistics data regarding migration with my questionnaire based research regarding temporary foreign employment I have pointed out that:

- Women choose more often permanent migration within the legal framework and men rather choose temporary workforce migration.

Based on in-depth interviews and by analyzing the questionnaires I can conclude that foreign labour causes changes within the set of values of small communities.

The macro economical effects of incomes resulted from foreign labour can be rather easily analyzed, but the macro economical consequences pending on the form of use – investments or consumption – are more complex and more difficultly quantified. In case the income resulted from foreign employment is spent inland on products and services it can have a positive effect on the national balance of payments, thus these types of micro economical changes can cause advantageous macro economical changes.

7. PUBLICATIONS OF THE AUTHOR REGARDING THE THEME OF THE THESIS

Book chapters in Hungarian:

1. Kováts Zoltán: **Péter Em ke Katalin** - Hargita és Csongrág megye népmozgalmi adatai és arányai 1966-1992 Compararea demografică a judeelor Harghita și Csongrád în perioada 1966-1992, JGYF Publication House, Szeged 2002. 46-62.pp. ISBN 9639167681

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2. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** The economic benefits of international migration in Romania and Harghita county. In. JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH, „AUREL VLAICU” No.1/2009, University Arad, 2009, 72-82. pp. ISSN 2068 – 3537
3. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** Working in agriculture as a forced occupation in Bodoc (Covasna County). In. JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH, „AUREL VLAICU” No.2/2009, University Arad, 2009, 25-35. pp. ISSN 2068 – 3537
4. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** The agricultural unemployment in Harghita County, In. EJOTS-European Journal of Transnational Studies, Berlin 2009, 25-35.pp. ISSN 2061-084X
5. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** Temporary Workforce Migration in Harghita County, In. EJOTS-European Journal of Transnational Studies, , Berlin 2010..46-56.pp. ISSN 2061-084X
6. **Péter Em ke Katalin -Dr. György Otilia:** Harghita County’s Business Environment In. JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH, „AUREL VLAICU” No.1/2011, University Arad, ISSN 2068 – 3537 (in preparation)

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7. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** Kérdések a vendégmunkáról: In A Falu 2006 Tél., 73-79. pp. ISSN 0237-4323
8. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** A nemzetközi migráció gazdasági haszna, In A Falu 2008.Tél.,87-93 pp. ISSN 0237-4323
9. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** Székelyföldi kivándorlás a századelőn, In A Falu 2010 Tavasz, 69-77 pp. ISSN 0237-4323

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10. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** Co-operatives in the past and today, In One Step to Integration: Opportunities and Threats, Days 2-3 June 2006, University Center Drobeta Turnu –Severin, 161-166. pp., Vol I. ISBN 973-742-371-2.

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Hungarian scientific presentations published in volumes

12. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** A székelyföldi kivándorlással kapcsolatos döntések, Agrárpolitika-Vidékpolitika April 2006 Miercurea-Ciuc, In Agrárpolitika - Vidékpolitika, Scientia Publishing House, Cluj Napoca, 2007, 149-159. pp. ISBN. 978-973-7953-88-9
13. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** Földbirtokváltás Romániában, Gazdaságpolitika –Vidékpolitika – Az Európai Unió Tagság Kihívásai Székelyföldön May 2008 Miercurea-Ciuc, In Gazdaságpolitika-Vidékpolitika - Az Európai Unió Tagság Kihívásai Székelyföldön, Scientia Publishing House, Cluj Napoca, 2009, 141-153. pp. ISBN:9789731970240
14. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** A Hargita megyei migráció gazdasági eredménye, Gazdasági válság-Gazdaság-Politika, 27th May 2010 Miercurea-Ciuc, Scientia Publishing House, Cluj Napoca, 2010 (in preparation)

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16. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** A székelyföldi kivándorlás az 1850-1910 közötti id szakban, A Magyar Tudomány Ünnepe, University of West Hungary, Faculty of Economics, 9-11 November 2005, Sopron

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17. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** Csík megyei kivándorlás 1850-1910 között, In. 2006 Yearbook of the Szekler Museum of Csík, Miercurea-Ciuc, 325-339 pp., ISSN. 1841 -0197

Educational activity

18. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** Supervising more than 20 university dissertations in Romanian language
19. **Péter Em ke Katalin:** Preparation of two students for the National Students Conference in 2007, held in Gala i in Romanian