Some aspects of Romanian Migration in Italy and Spain

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Background and Objectives/Introduction

The official statistics estimate that 2 to 2.5 million Romanian people (Sandu, coord. 2006) work legally or illegally abroad. Most of them are in Europe, especially in Italy and Spain. Labor migration of the skilled workers is the most important reason for Romanians to move to a foreign country.

Scientific Approach/Methods

The research will be focused on:
- official data and official institutions involved in the phenomenon of migration (local administration, Romanian church in Italy and Spain, Romanian non-governmental organizations)
- and qualitative data collected during my fieldwork and I will refer myself to the ad hoc, hierarchical structures or informal "institutions", based either on free association or else on power, blackmail or violence.

From quantitative analysis...


(To qualitative approach: Interviews with Romanian migrants (2003, 2005, 2006, 2007) in Spain, Italy and Romania
Interviews with Spanish and Italian authorities (2006)

(Expected) Results

In 2006, there were around 15,000 recorded people, the most of them Romanians or Gypsies from Romania, who used to live in informal camps, on public or private land. They where more or less accepted.

Before 2007 most migration was an informal, illegal, clandestine migration, which tends to transform into a semi-permanent or enduring migration.

Motivation for migration

"...for our future" migrant’s house in Borsa, in the North of Romania, a small town with 7000 migrants in Italy

"...we are here for our children..."

Discussion/Conclusion/Significance

- among the Romanian migrants informal forms of self-organization arise in order to organize and manage the challenges of being in a foreign country
- the semi-tolerated illegality determines the forms and uses of networks both in the organization of the migration and in the forms of integration into the labor and housing markets.
- migrants have to face a system that needs their labor but refuses to acknowledge this need publicly or institutionalize it openly.
- it emerges that the Italian and Spanish states are caught between toleration and repression, arbitrarily switching from one mode to the other.

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