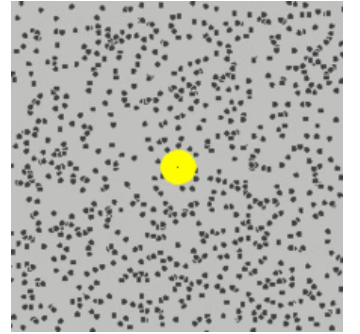


# The impact of the crisis on Romanian migrants and on living conditions of labour migrants in the EU



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A Romanian-Flemish Initiative

Euromf EZA Seminar

Bucharest 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017



Possible other title:

**Romanian between “Migration” or “European Mobility”?**

(Marianne Thyssen-European Commissioner for  
Employment, Social Affaires, Skills and Labour Mobility)

**“Victim” or “survivor”?**

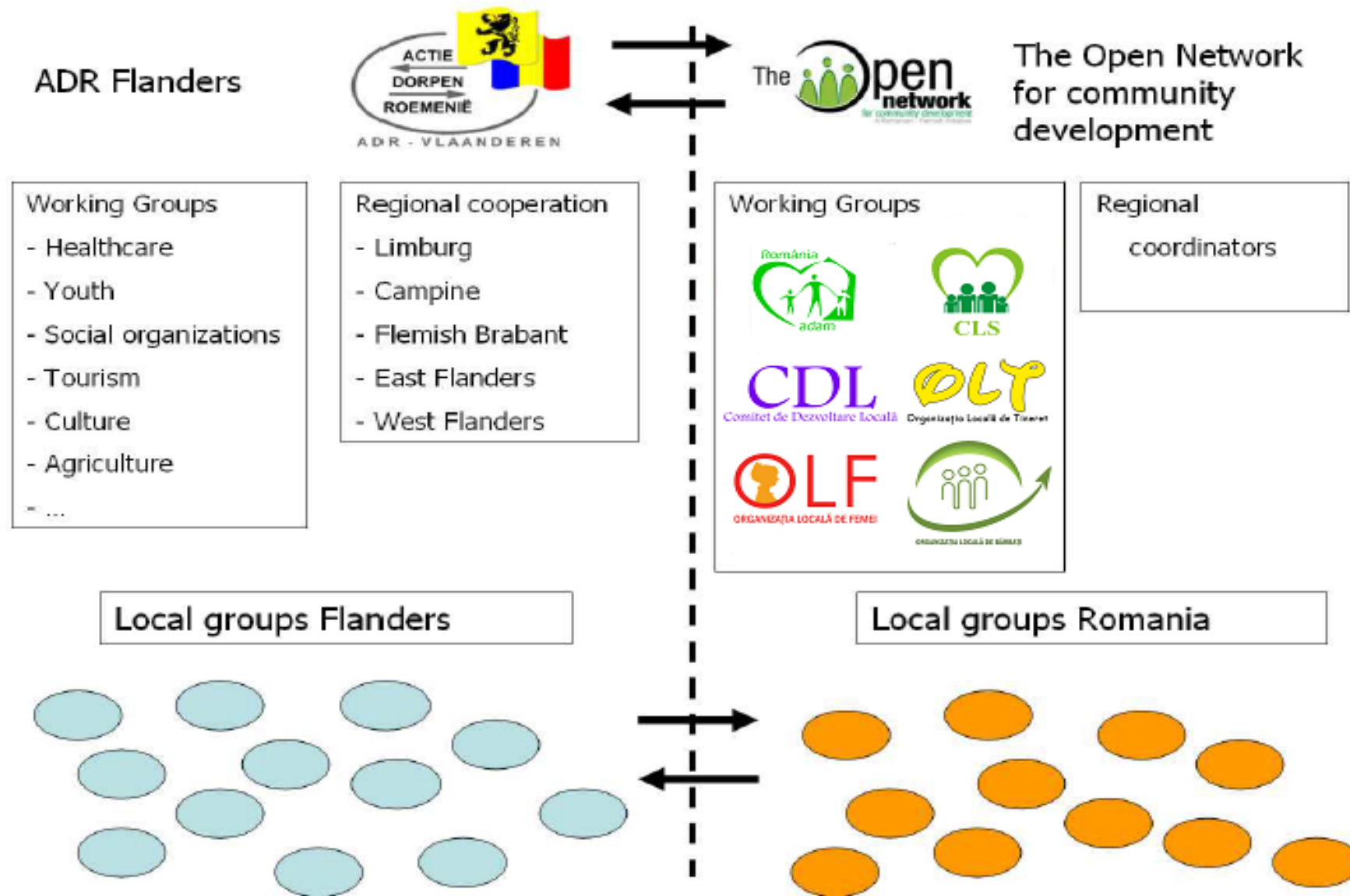


Figure 1 – Structure of Romanian-Belgian collaboration

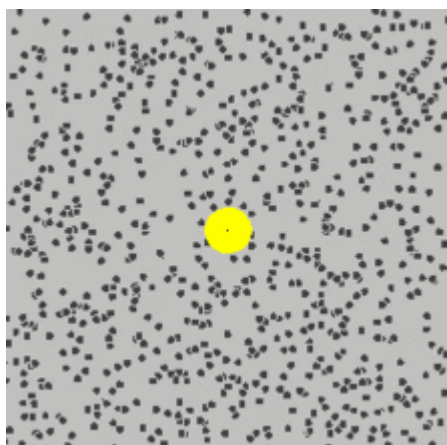


Figure 2 – Overview Flemish-Romanian local groups since 1989



## RE-InVEST

Rebuilding an Inclusive, Value-based Europe of Solidarity and Trust through Social Investments

<http://www.re-invest.eu/>

We analyse and research:

- SIP (Social Investment Package)
- social investment based on Human rights and capabilities

## Partners

**HIVA-KU Leuven • HIVA-Research Institute for Work and Society, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven • Belgium**

CNRS • Center National de la Recherche Scientifique • France

SOFI • Soziologisches Forschungsinstitut Goettingen e.V. • Germany

IFZ • Internationales Forschungszentrum für Soziale und Ethische Fragen • Austria

UCL • Université Catholique de Louvain • Belgium

NUIM • National University of Ireland Maynooth • Ireland

Loughborough University • United Kingdom

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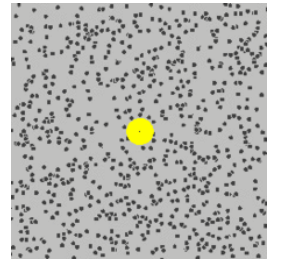
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Fundatia TON • Fundatia the Open Network for Community Development • Romania

The Poverty Alliance • United Kingdom



# Methods/ Instruments/ Theoretical approaches

**PAHRCA**-join methodology that combines principles of **Participatory Action** research with **Human Rights** and **Capability Approaches**

“**What am I able to do and be?**”....freedom of choose (a job, a place to live)

**The Merging of Knowledge (MOK)** approach involves a collective of mixed groups of researchers

**The *Capability Approach* (CA)** developed by **Amartya Sen** (1999)/and **Nussbaum** (2011) brought a new framework towards economic development by focus his analysis in what people are able to be (or to do) to achieve their wellbeing or quality of life beyond income factors.

Key words:  
TRUST, Investment,  
Dis-Investment, Re-Investment

Chose vulnerable target group (vulnerable ??):

Romanian Migrants, a very discussed target group before and after EU enlargement from 2007 with complete rights in 2014

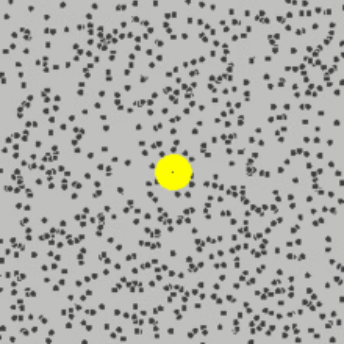
... a discussed target group at EU level even today (UK, Germany...etc.)

# Why a Romanian choose to become a migrant?

Because she/he choose to exercise the fundamental human right of having the possibility to work.

Because she/he choose to have an individual response for a “collective lack”.

Because choose to “Re-Invest” in its-self what consider to be a “dis-investment” made by the climate (political stakeholders, administration, legislation).



When you choose?  
Are you a victim?  
Are you part of a vulnerable group?  
Or you are a survivor?

- Is migration similar with social-economical survival?
- Or similar with social-economical welfare?
- Or with personal development?
- Or with an individual response for a collective non-action/ non-answer?

## Taking about Romanian Migration (Immigration and Emigration)

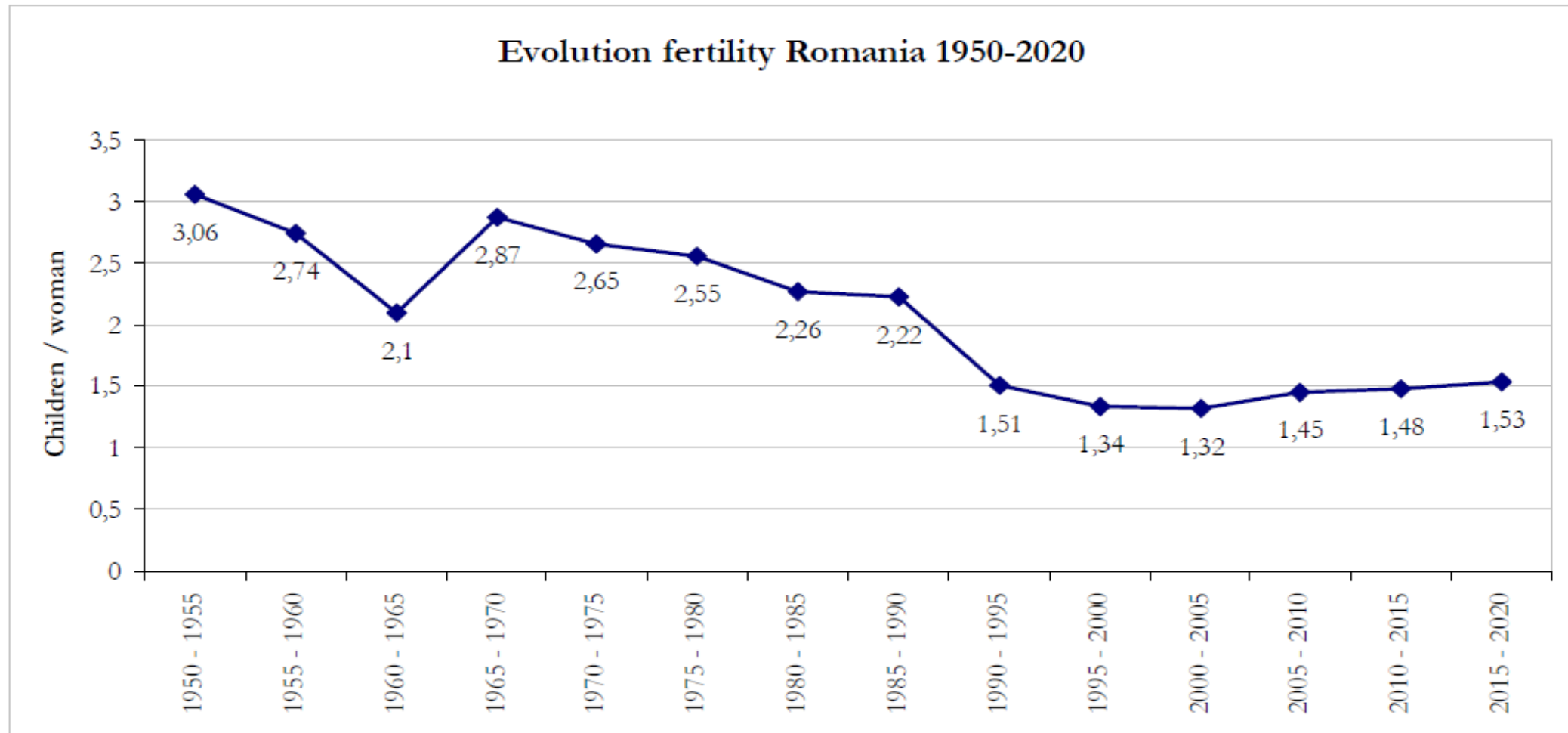
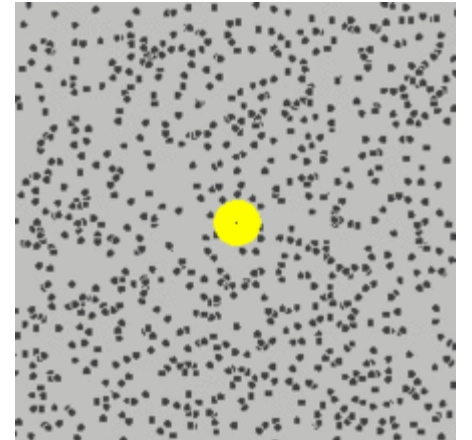


Figure 3 – Evolution fertility Romania 1950-2020 / Source: UN Population Division

# Different type of interviewers:

- Romanian migrants (in Belgium and not only)
- Returners
- Rural-Urban Migration (Internal)



2007	2009	2012	2014
Bulgaria Cyprus Czech Republic Estonia Finland Latvia Lithuania Poland Slovakia Slovenia Sweden	Denmark Greece Hungary Portugal	Italy Ireland	Austria Belgium France Germany Luxemburg Malta Netherlands Spain UK

Figure 4 – Lifting of the restrictions on the free movement of Romanian workers

Source: EU Commission

# **Romanians Waves of migration 1990-2017**

**Wave 1:** 1990-1996 (definitive migration 3‰)

The freedom of mobility and the high level educated migrant

**Wave 2:** 1996-2001 (definitive migration 7 ‰): Tasting the “routes”

**Wave 3:** 2002-2006 (circulator migration 28‰) : Working routes established

**Wave 4:** “White-collar” migration 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007/ Romania accession in UE

**Wave 5:** 2018 Coming back (returners) or “re-allocated” in Europe strong economies countries/ choose and not policies reforms

## Is the “return migration” a reality?

- are the Romanian migrants our future entrepreneurs? (“status” change),
- how can be a Romanian out-side worker convince to become a small entrepreneur in its own country? (labour market policies),
- can part of migrants remittances become “alive capital” from “blocked capital”? (work places),
- migrants expectations were in state reforms, projects for sustainable development not in financial stimulants (unreal)
- the Romanian projects for “returners” are not accessed as the political class was thinking (heavy and slow procedures/ lack of trust)

**UE**

Mărimea diasporei, raportată la  
populația rămasă

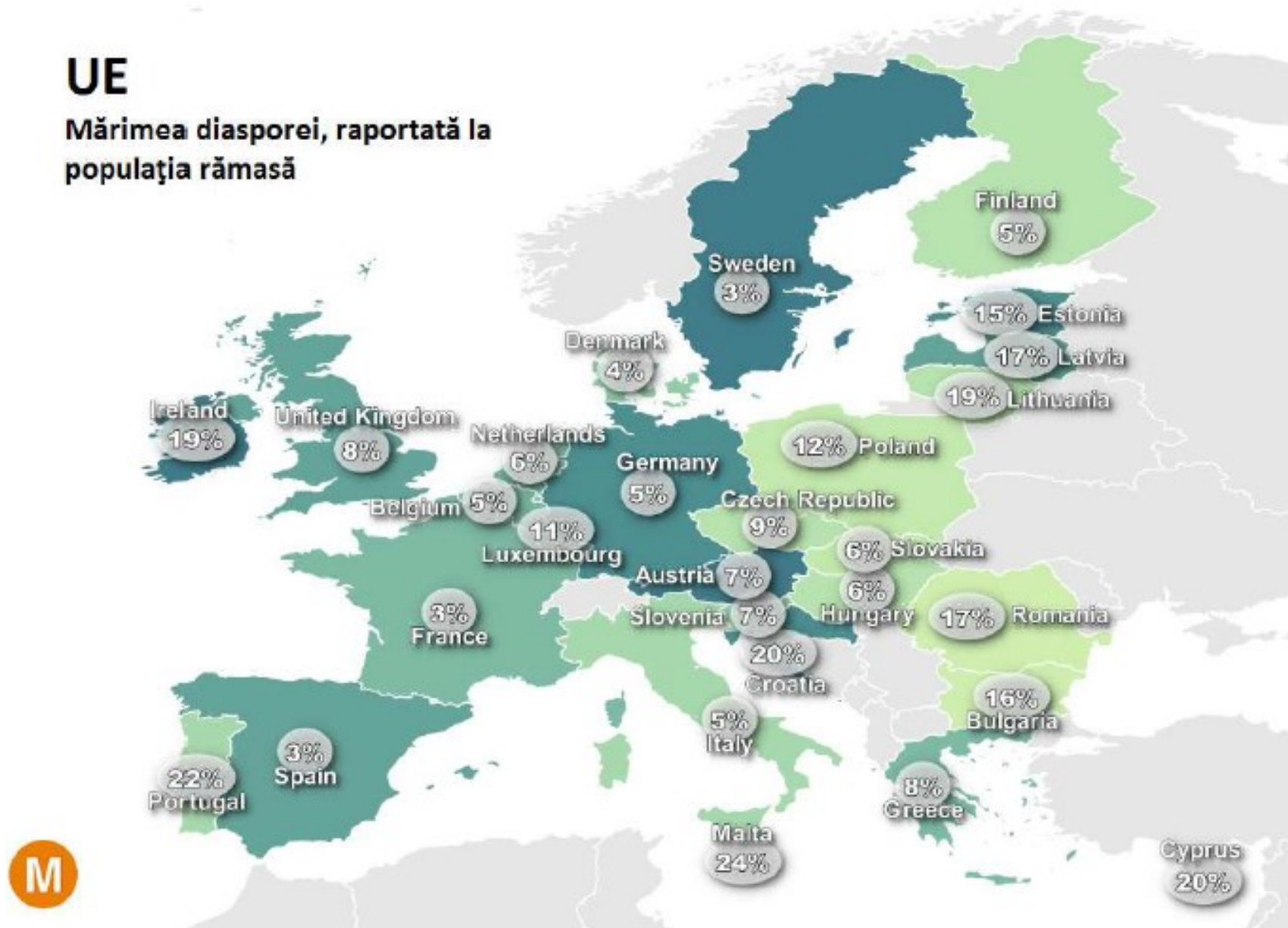


Figure 5 – Emigration by % and country / Source: Economica.net

The above mentioned data are referring to permanent migration.  
Official data on the dynamics of temporary emigration are very limited.

The main European countries of destination for Romanian emigrants are:

Italy – 46%

Spain – 34%

Germany – 7%

UK – 4%

**The Baltic states, Bulgaria, Malta, Portugal and Ireland are in the same position of a high share of emigration.**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
GDP growth rate in %								
RO	7.1	6.8	-5.6	-1.0	1.1	2.4	3.0	2.9
EU28	3.1	0.5	-4.4	2.1	1.8	-0.5	0.2	1.4
General government gross debt: annual data in % of gross domestic product (GDP)								
RO	12.7	13.2	23.2	29.9	34.2	37.4	38.0	39.9
EU28	57.8	61.0	73.0	78.4	81.0	83.8	85.5	86.8
Unemployment rate in %								
RO	6.4	5.6	6.5	7.0	7.2	6.8	7.1	6.8
EU28	7.2	7.0	9.0	9.6	9.7	10.5	10.9	10.2
Inflation rate: annual average rate of change in %								
RO	4.9	7.9	5.6	6.1	5.8	3.4	3.2	1.4
EU28	2.4	3.7	1.0	2.1	3.1	2.6	1.5	0.5
Final consumption aggregates (volumes): % change over previous period								
RO	9.6	8.7	-7.4	-1.3	1.0	1.5	0.7	-
EU28	2.1	0.9	-0.6	0.9	0.2	-0.6	0.1	-

Figure 6 – Economic indicators before, during and after the economics crisis (Source: Eurostat)

### National and non-national immigrants Romania, in %

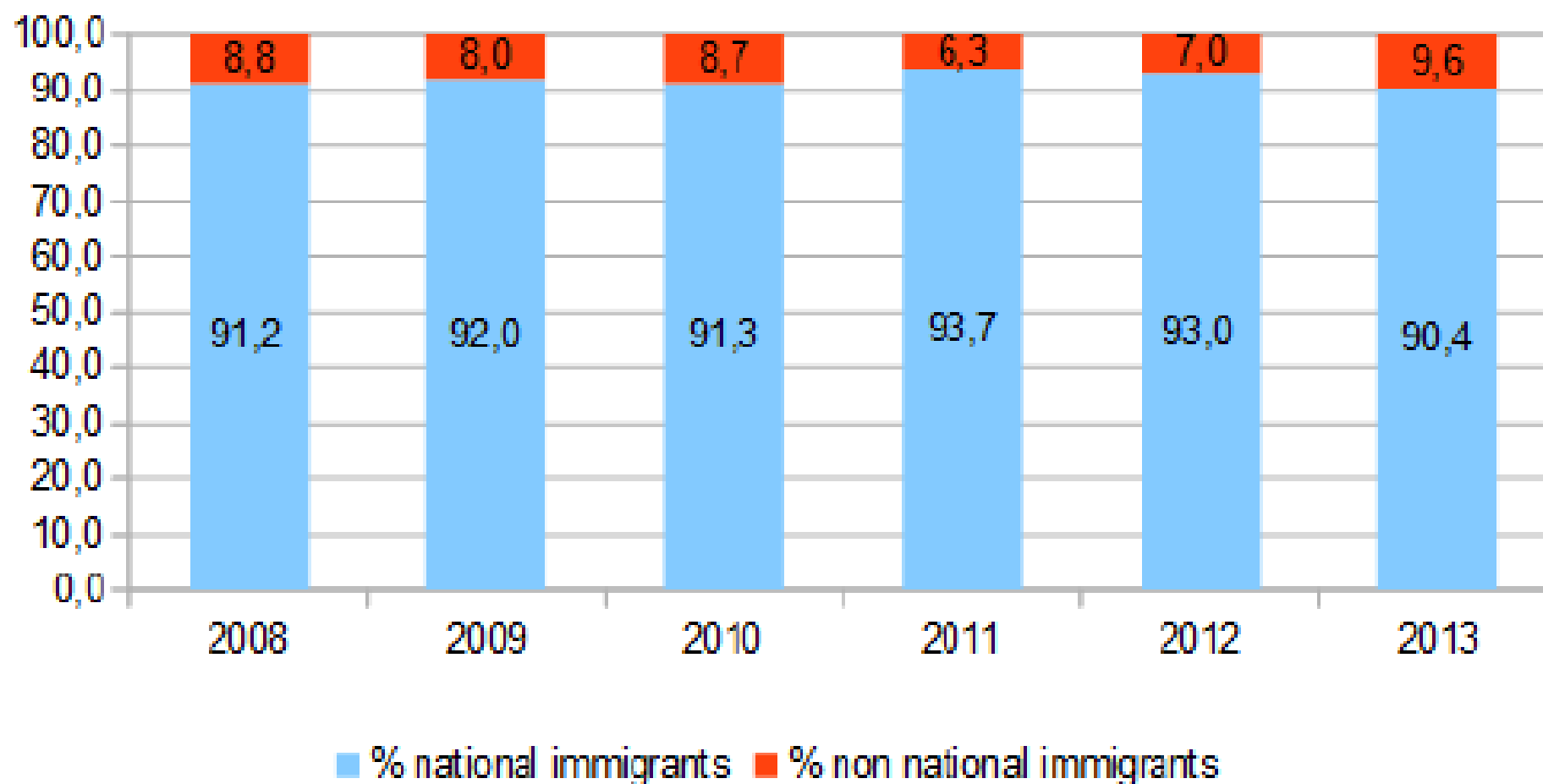


Figure 7 – Numbers and rates national and non-national immigrants in Romania, 2008-2013

Source: Eurostat, migr\_imm2ctz

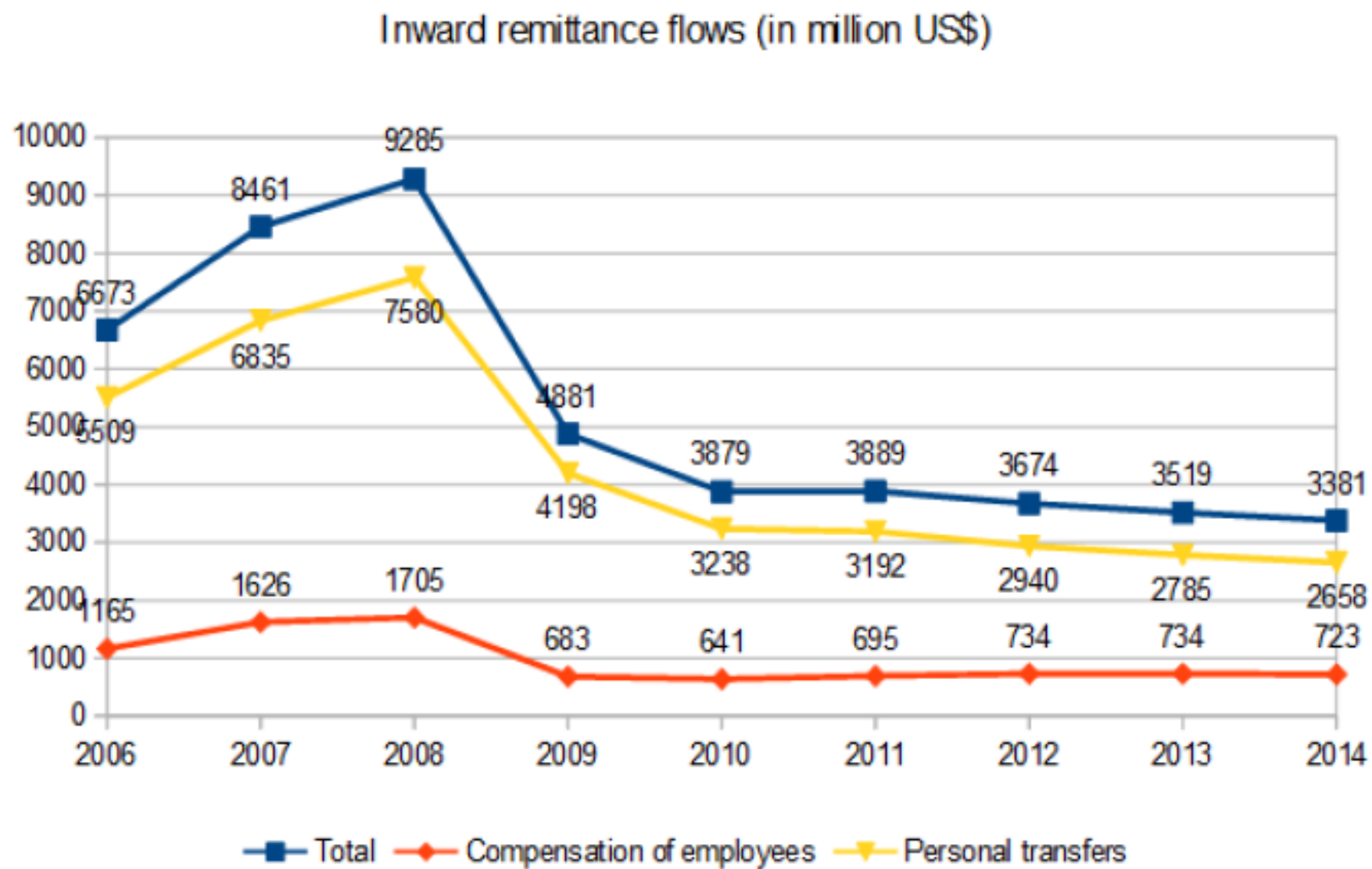
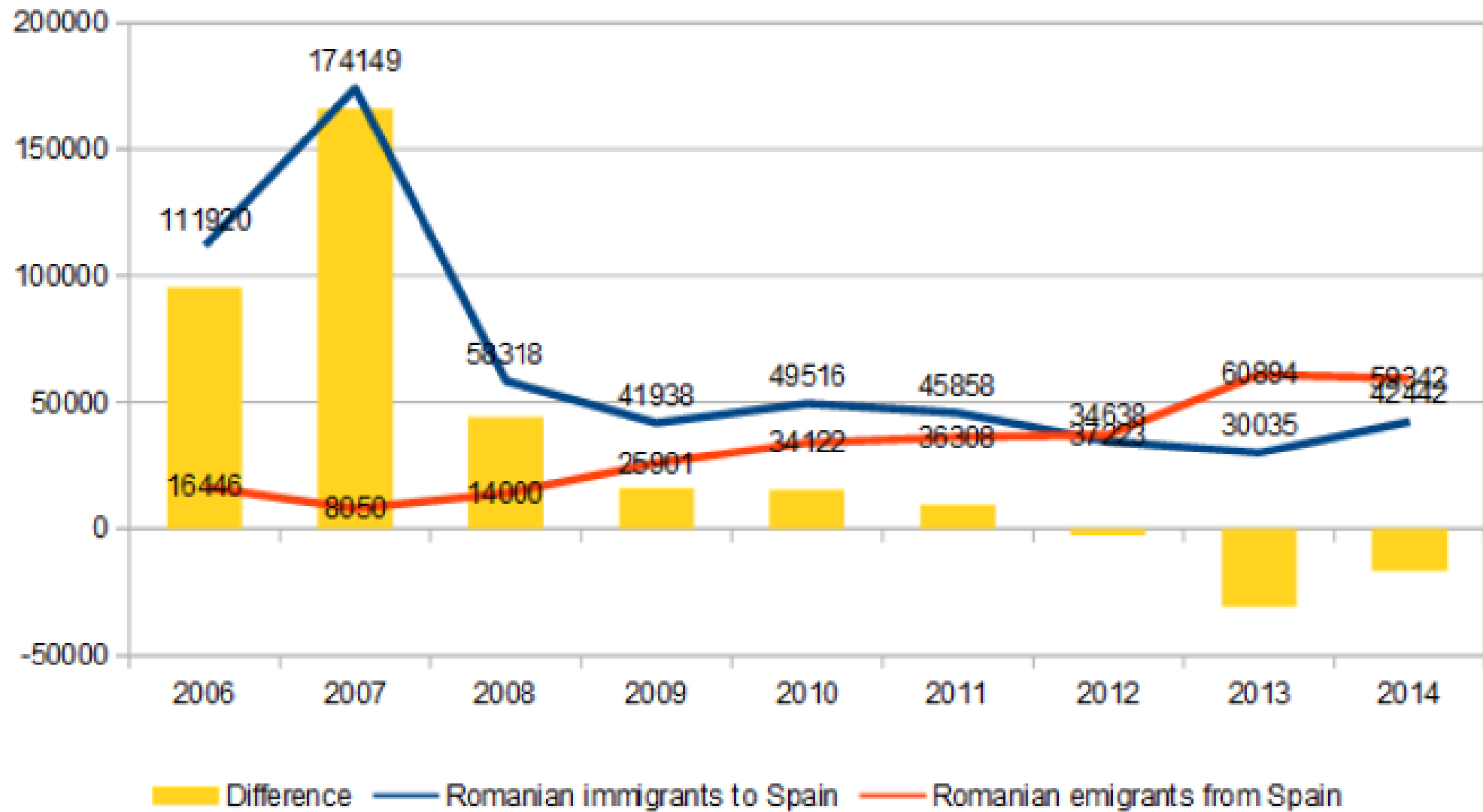


Figure 8 – Evolution of inward remittances to Romania 2006-2014

Source: World Bank, Facebook 2016: Countries M-Z, p. 43.

## Romanian immigrants and emigrants Spain



Number of Romanians in Belgium 1999-2015

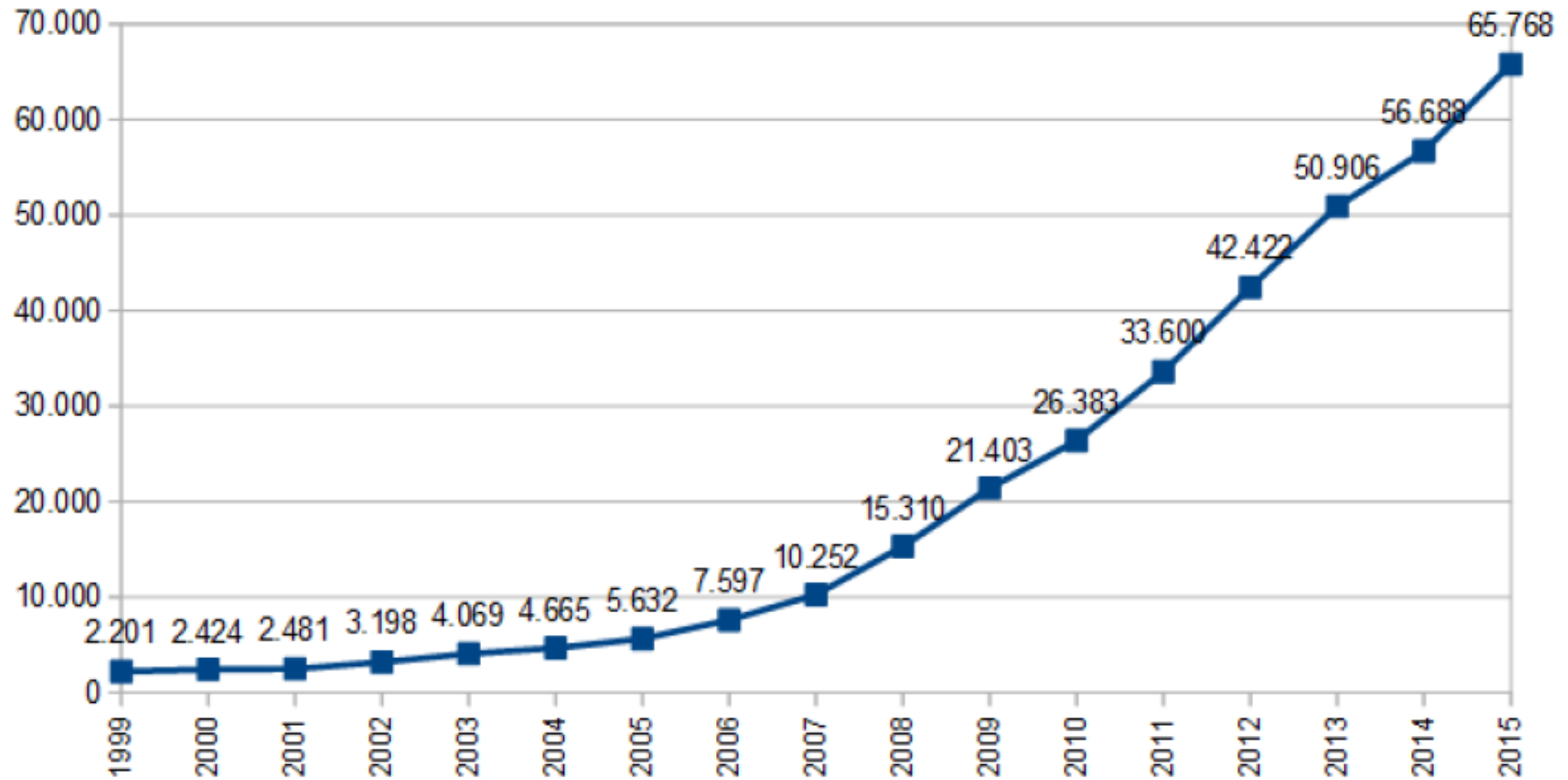


Figure 9 – Number of Romanian in Belgium 1990-2015 / Source: National Statistics Belgium

Yearly evolution of Romanian doctors leaving Romania

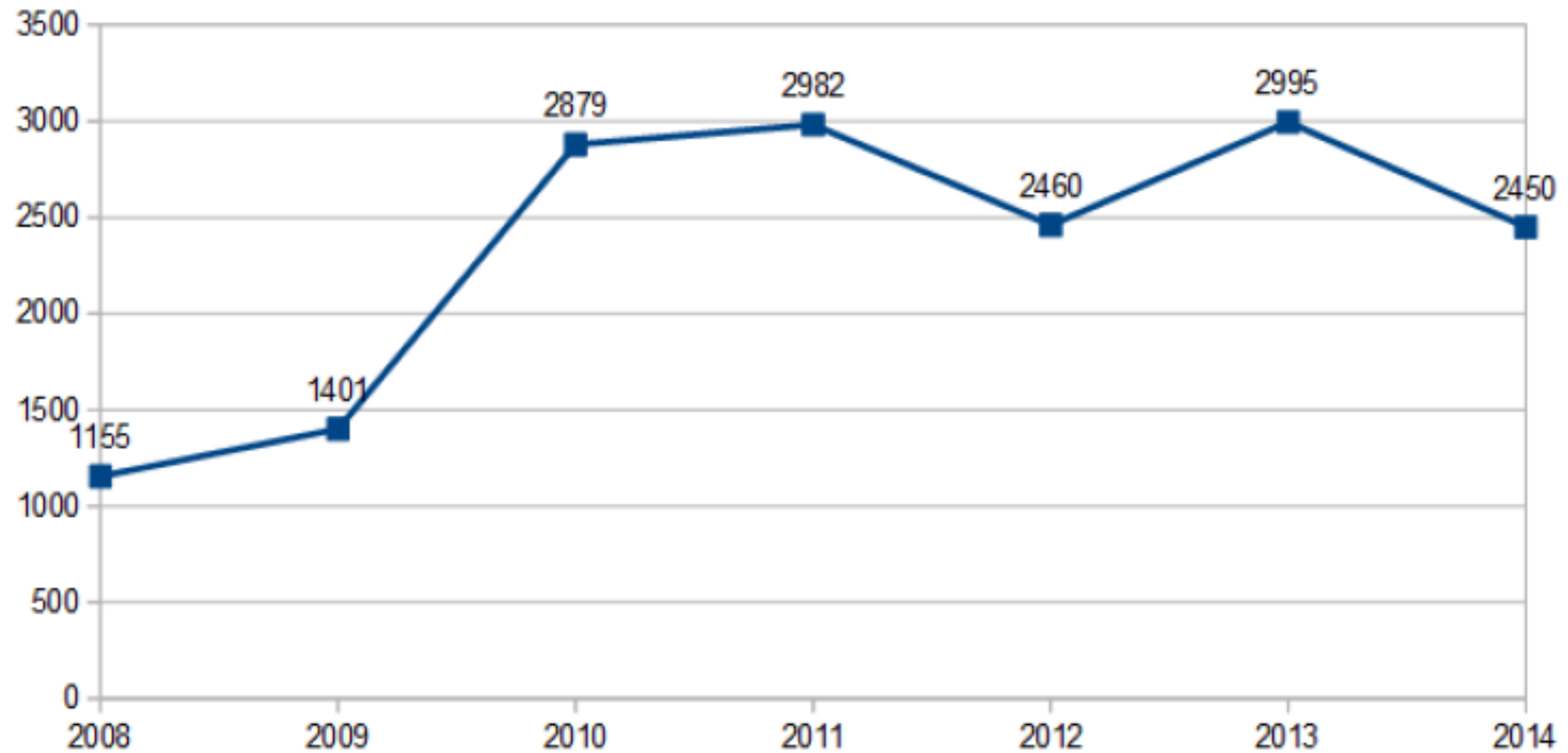
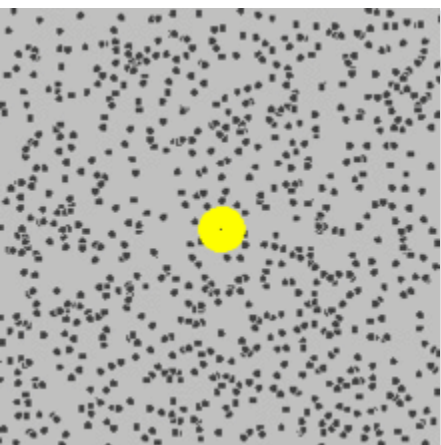


Figure 10 – Evolution of leaving Romanian doctors / Source: Colegiul Medicilor din Romania



Evolution persons with monthly salary, Berbesti

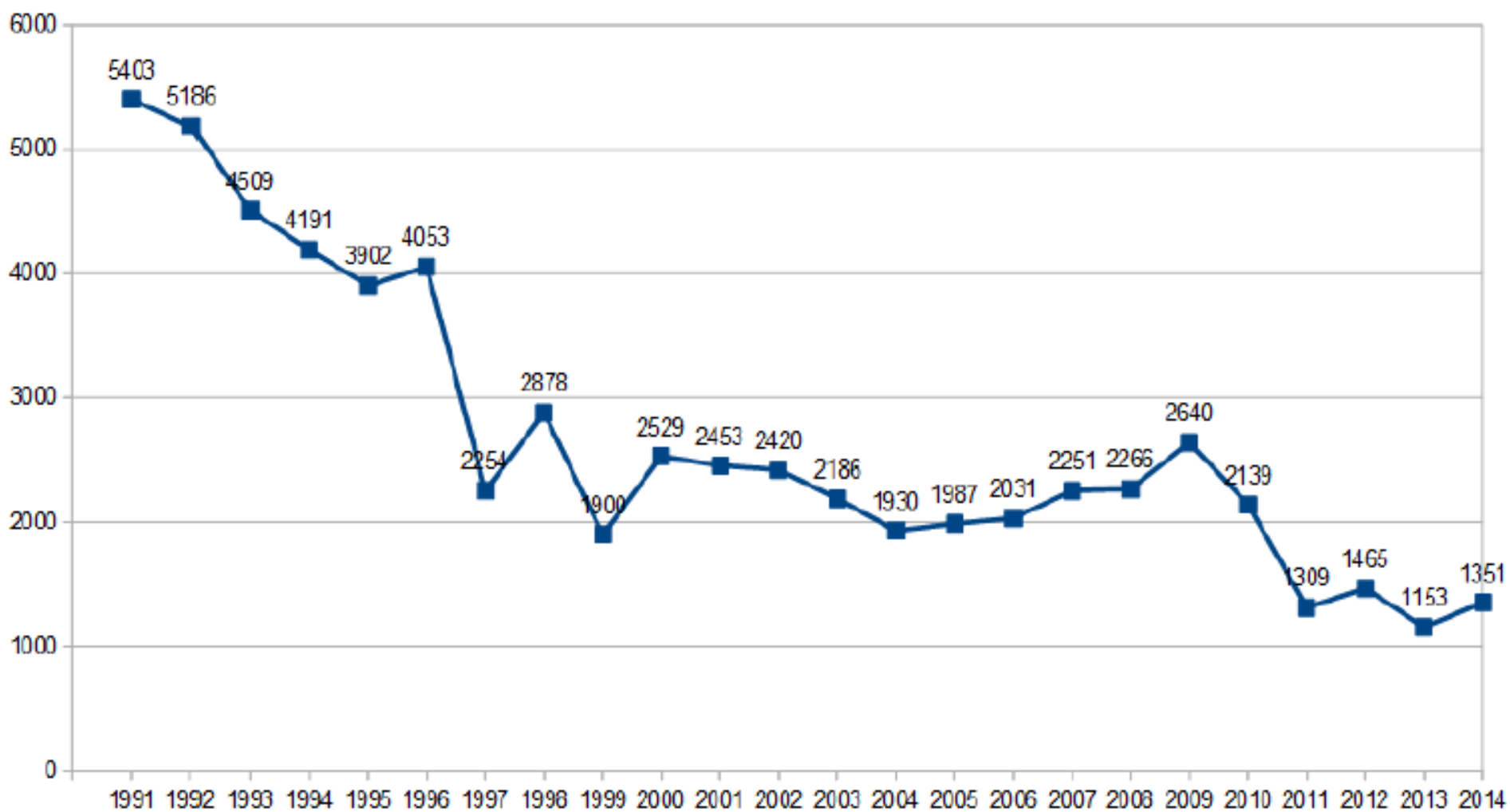


Figure 11 – Evolution persons with monthly salary, Berbești

Difference % domicile - residence Berbesti 2011

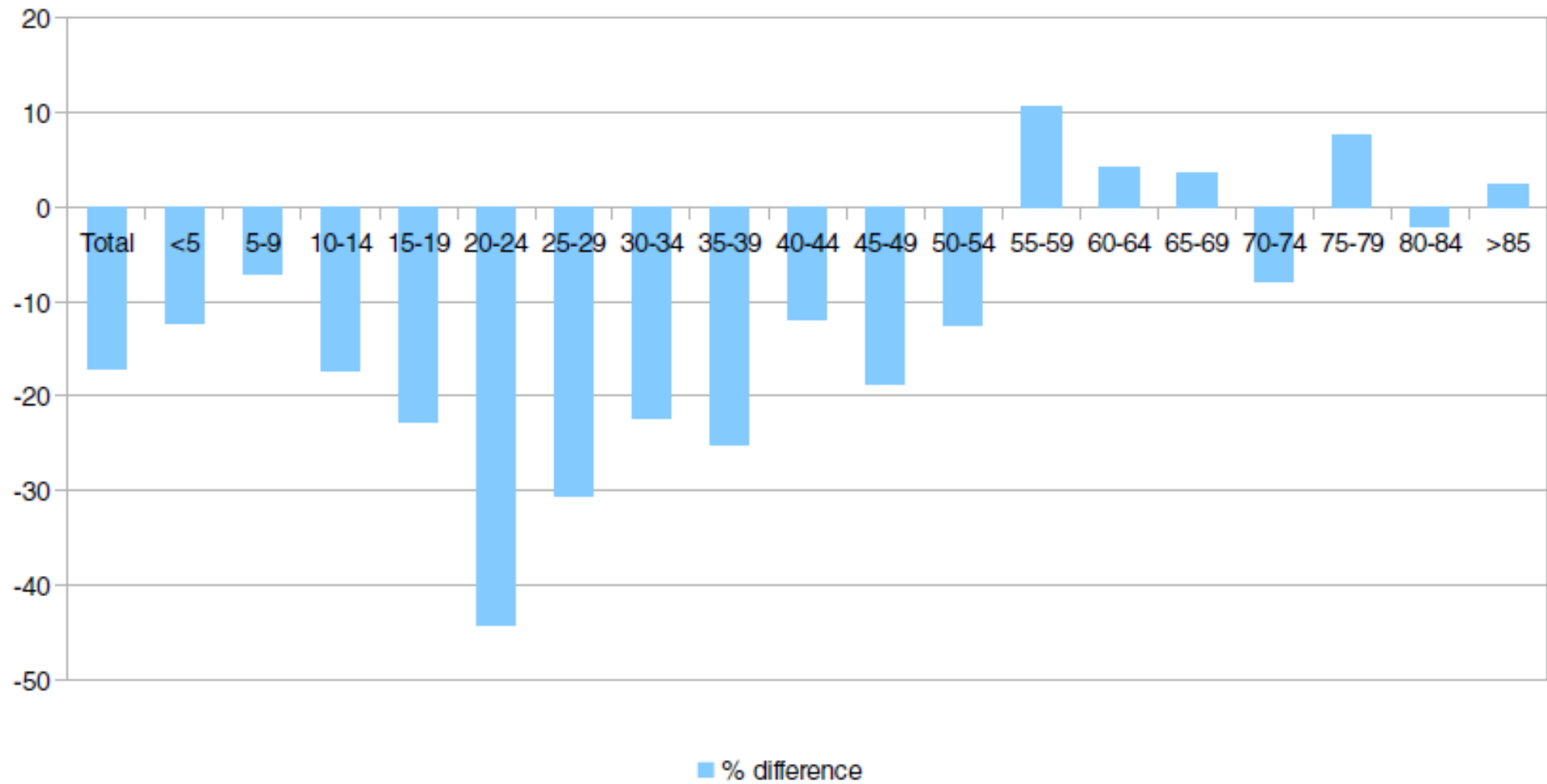


Figure 12 – Difference % domicile - residence Berbești



### Migration flow Dumitresti 2005-2014

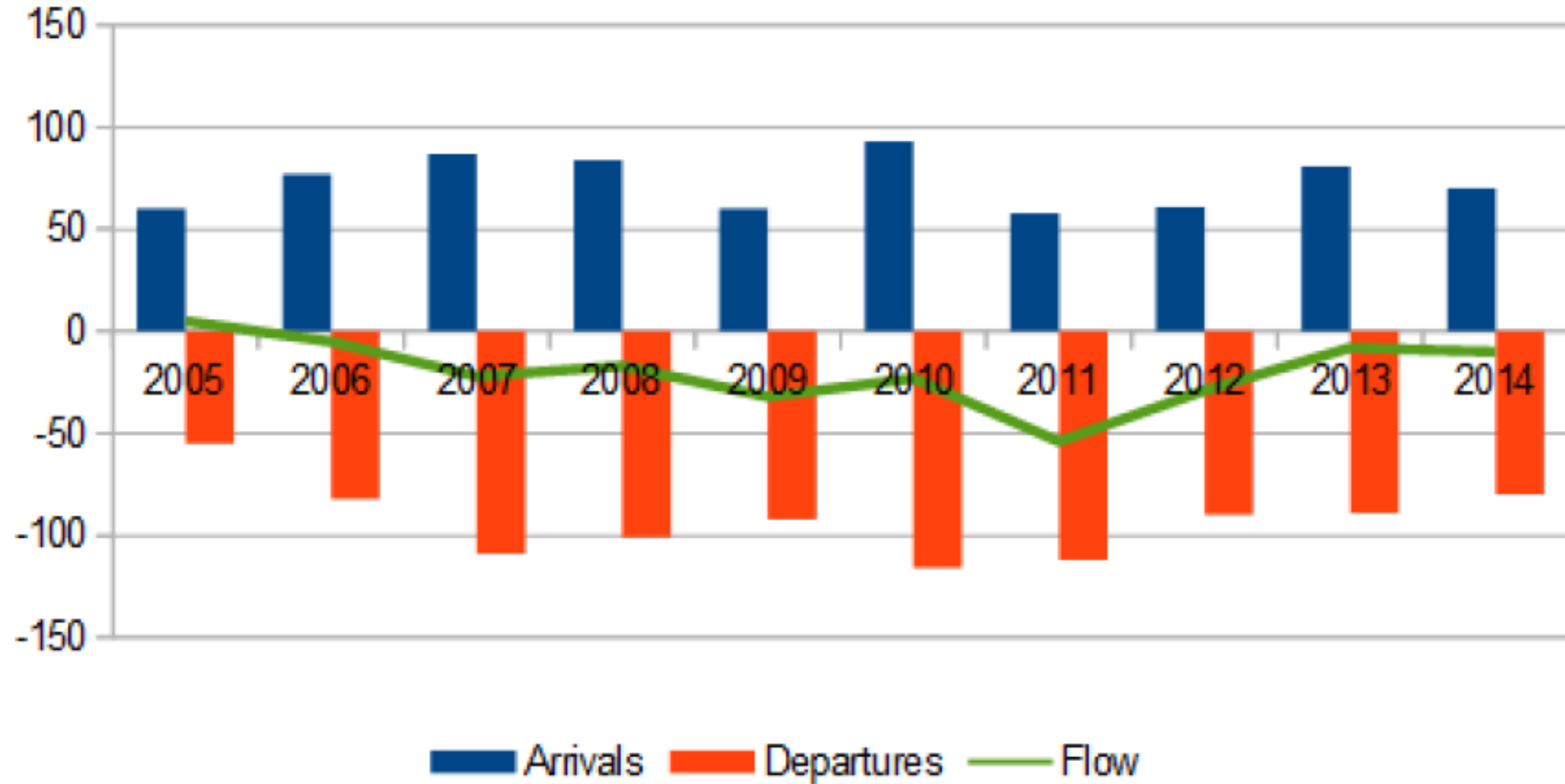


Figure 13 – Migration flow Dumitrești 2005-2014 / Source INSSE, Tempoline

# Study case 1: H. D. (Romanian living in Belgium)

(April 2016)

- man 41 years old, married with a Romanian lady, 1 child;
- Law studies between Cluj and Bucharest;
- Dis-investment (lack of trust) in administration;
- 1999 decision to emigrate to France to a friend;
- 1999 going to Spain by fortune (non-qualified job);
- 2006 : first signs of crises in Spain;
- 2008: moving to Belgium (family approach);
- in 8 years he lost 5 jobs;

**“Victim” of “survivor”?**

***“But at the same time it was strange: although I didn’t had a job, I, personal and family was going step by step better. I think this is not possible in Romania.”***

***Is this because Belgium is a social state, welfare?***

***Is because the migration process transformed him in time in a powerful citizen with big capabilities that take his emigration, more as a personal development and less as an bigger income?***

# Study case 2: E. F. (Romanian living in Belgium)

(April 2016)

- man 45 years old, married with a Romanian lady, 2 children;
- Master in Belgium and decision to continue in Belgium;
- researcher in a very big Belgium University;
- very active in Romanian diaspora from Belgium;
- the big child doing the University in Belgium; the small child is not speaking Romanian at home (only Flemish);
- they will return to Romania when they will be retired (at their house left behind);

“Victim” of “survivor”?

## Study case 3: C. R. (Romanian living in Romania)

(April 2016)

- man 43 years old, married with a Romanian lady, 2 children;
- 1977 – emigration to Greece;
- Working as a slave; no correct payment, no legal payment, hunted by police, not proper housing and nutrition;
- 2002 starting to have a legal form of living in Greece;
- 2005 bought a house with loan credit;
- 2013 they returned to Romania (Berbești) because of no income in Greece;
- A day after the interview they return to Greece leaving behind their child and their grandmother

“Victim” of “survivor”?

## Study case 4: B. E. (43 years, Romanian lady leaving in Romania)

- is coming from a neighborhood community of Dumitrești;
- she is married in Dumitrești;
- 2008 they decided to move in Italy and she finds jobs in small factories;
- in 2010 she is coming back to Romania because she is having a baby and she decided to take care of her baby.
- until today, she cannot find a place to work in Dumitrești and she cannot go to work into the nearest big city, Focșani because she cannot afford from her eventual salary to pay a baby sitter (the child is in Class 0)
- her husband is working into the black market in Italy and sending some money home.
- they are not into a insurance system, pension system or health system.

**“Victim” of “survivor”?**

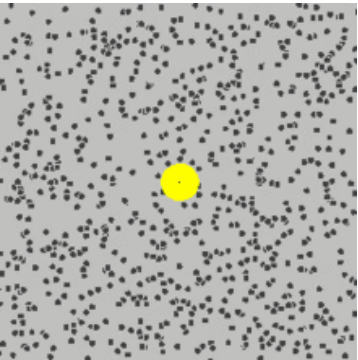
# Potential measures for “victims”/ vulnerable migrants:

- prompt and accurate information given to actual migrants or information in potential job opportunities,
- good knowledge of migration problems on origin country and at destination,

**EDUCATION and INFORMATION**

**State control on social insurances**

**State control on taxes**



# Potential measures for “survivals”/ vulnerable migrants:

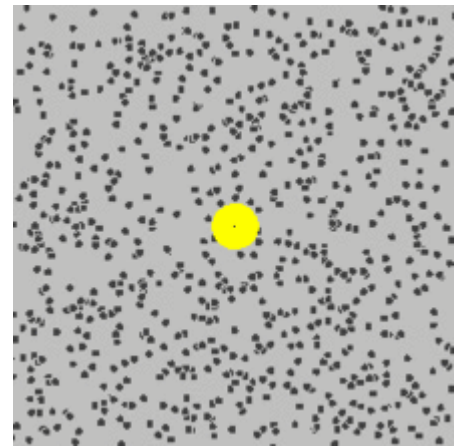
- ensuring mechanisms for selection and promotion of professional meritocratic in the country,
- linking migration policies with Regional development,
- identifying urgent solutions to reduce emigration of poor vital sectors (white collars)

**RECOGNITION and a STANDARD of LIFE**

## Attention!!!! said FMI

FMI made a public report in which they ask EU policy makers to take care of effects will come together with the “migration of brains”/ “exodus of brains” from East to West because even if there are Funds of Cohesion, the Gap between East and West is becoming bigger and bigger (perverse effect: courses for qualification and going abroad).

- economy rhythm is getting slower and slower;
- demography is getting negative (Romania, Bulgaria and Baltic States loose 16% from population);
- the public budget suffers and the taxes will grow for covering the need (to cover public sectors: education, health and retirement budgets);

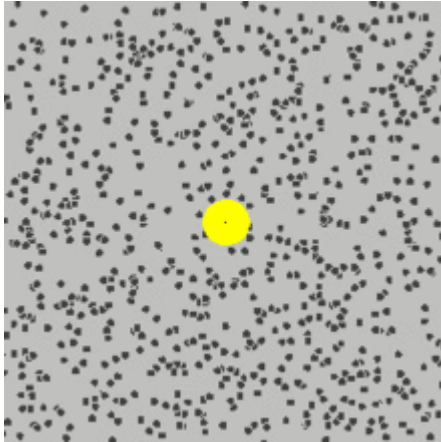


- yes, the send back money are helping the states but the state loose the active population, the population that can make a change (against corruption);
- competitiveness and productivity goes down;
- the consume was stimulated but not the desire to work and to be productive;

# Challenge/ provocative design for another seminar

## “Victim”... “Survivor”... “Columbus”...?

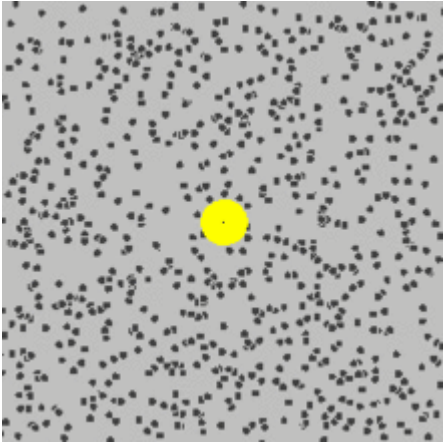
- a change can not be done if we do not have a change in perspective, in image, until we do not change our glasses



- Discovering new lands and tradition;
- Bringing back resources for a better life and a better state?

# “Brownian molecules movement”

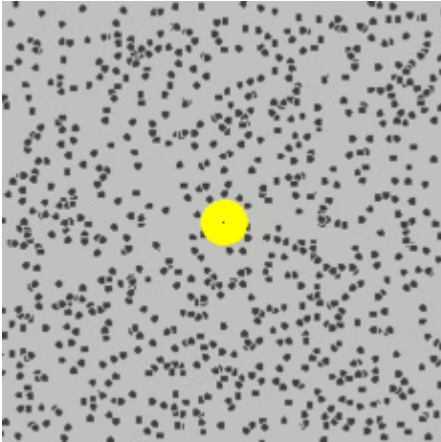
## NEVER STOPS



- because the molecules are in the same container (called UE);
- the speed is growing based on the temperature (climate, administration, policies).

# “Brownian molecules movement”

**PRO or AGAINST migration?**



**Can you be PRO or AGAINST “Brownian molecules movement”?**

**- You can not be PRO or AGAINST an “axioma” .....the axioma just exist!**

Believe in Columbus!

Help Columbus!

For a better Common, Solidare (not solitaire)  
and Ours Europe !

**Thank you for your attention,  
for your time and your patience!**

Thank you for your attention,  
Dank U far U andacht,  
Multumesc pentru atentie,  
Merci pour attention,  
Obrigada pela vossa atencao (PT),  
Paldies par uzmanibu (LT),  
Dyakuyu za vashu uvahu (UA),  
Hvala za vasu paznju (Ser),  
Ďakujem za tvoju pozornosť (Sk),  
Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit

**for your time and your patience!**