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Paper title: Migration flows in the Turkish and Tatar community in Dobroudja

Abstract: Starting from the cultural similarities and differences, our proposal is intended to be a study regarding the mobility level in a particular ethnic group (the Turkish and Tatar community in Dobroudja) which is less visible within the minorities of Romania; this is due to its ethnic, confessional and cultural specificity. On the other hand, we wanted to see if the migration routes of its members follow patterns similar to those identified in other ethnic groups.

As it is a qualitative research, we conducted a series of semi structured interviews: we intended to observe the extent to which regional identity customize faith options and also the ways in which confession redefines the game of the social actors, collectively and individually.

We used a complex approach, which is otherwise requested by the variety of analyzed sources, and the recent methods applied for the study of minority groups. We put emphasis on quantitative research, for the scrutiny of the population mobility phenomenon, in order to offer reliable information on the routes and patterns of migration, and on the number of individuals involved in such movements. A qualitative perspective was added to reveal the causes of the mobility from the last century, family and community models.

Based on fieldwork we were able to determine some typologies of migration, structured according to historical age, social and economic status, family patterns, and education. Personal motivations also played an important role.

Observing the changes that took place in the ethno-cultural profile after the migration and the settling in the urban environment, we identified several differences but also the elements that have been preserved (even after relocation) between the rural and the urban population.

Therefore, we had the possibility of estimating the way in which the community has re-defined itself in the last 50 years, and what was (and still is) the impact of relocation (for example: the evolution regarding the ethnic, religious self-identification, the perception of the ordinary, the access to education, the axiological system).