

Synthetic scientific report

The confrontation of differences through family practice

Contract: 246/2015, Deposition code: PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-2087

Reporting period: 01/10/2015 – 30/11/2017

Researches on the theme of transnational families have intensified in the past years, as the authors Ninna Nyberg Sørensen și Ida Marie Vammen have stated in 2014¹, through the synthesis study in which they noticed that these studies are centered on dichotomy.

„Our results underline the tendency of thinking in binary opposites- women versus men, adults against children, the ones that stayed against the ones that migrated, staying connected against breaking family relationships- when there is a discussion about transnational families” (Sørensen și Vammen, 2014, pagina 99).

Overcoming this dichotomy was tested when we approached the objective of our research: identifying strategies through which transnational families are administrating their specific way of life, developed through the following particular and secondary objectives:

Particular objectives:

- 1. Identifying the family practices that are developed by the members of the transnational families to function as a transnational family “here” and “abroad”**

The main strategies through which these transnational families manage to function as families across the borders are:

Transnational communication – through landline, mobile and internet

The telephone operators in Romania understood very well that this way of transnational living is important to a huge part of the population of the country, as a

¹ Sørensen N.N., Vammen, I.M., (2014): „Who Cares? Transnational Families in Debates on Migration and Development”, *New Diversities* Vol. 16, 2, 89-107.

result in the past 10 years they have diversified the offers and aim towards these potential beneficiaries. This is how we see very tempting offers of communication, a couple of them having gratuity between Romania and some countries that are among the Romanian people's favorite migration destinations. Many members of transnational families that remained in Romania took advantage of these offers and in this way they insured the flux of communication with the ones that have left the country. Often you could observe the practice in which the members that migrated only call once and the ones that remained home are the ones that call back. To this they add a different practice, the one where they set a date and a precise hour in which the ones back home call the ones that left.

The internet connection has extended more and more in the rural area, and the online communication which at the beginning was limited to Yahoo Messenger and only in the urban which had access to the internet begun to be frequent everywhere. Now you use communication platforms (as Skype, Facebook) which besides the video chat insures multiple forms of maintaining the interaction – pictures swapping, short movies that the user films. Another important aspect of online communication is the fact that through technology these families can spend valuable time online: in Christmas, for example, members of the family are connected in front of the computers, spending the entire holiday connected, being a part of what happens in each other's houses.

Facebook is used by Romanians that live abroad not only to be connected in real time with the ones that stayed in the country but also to form new families, either with prior connections (for example, school mates with which they keep online contact) but especially with Facebook virtual friends with which they develop initially only online relations, which in time turn into real life meetings and even marriages. This practice of constituting the new families is important especially for the young people that have left the rural area, where there still is the expectation that the life partner must be in the same area, but this can also be encountered in the urban area.

Back and forth visits:

The most important strategy for the members of these families, to be able to manifest their physical belonging, is visits. The most commonly met type of visits are the ones that left the country that come back home for a vacation (summer or the holidays)

signaled in Romania by the heavy traffic at the borders in the west of the country in that specific period. The majority of the Romanians that have left the country are in Europe and in this way it is easier and more accessible for them to get home: the duration of the way and the costs (a series of private auto companies as well as air travel companies have opened routes through the main cities of the country and the areas in which you can find the most Romanians that live in the EU).

Alongside the visits of the ones that have left, associated with vacations, there is a second type of visit marked by the specialized literature: the caring visits, especially of the ones from back home for the support of the families that left. The most common ones that also appeared in our research was the visit of the woman that stayed back home (the grandmas) to take care of the nephews abroad (especially the newborns) but also to be of help to sick people. When someone is sick back home the situation changes in function of status and the mobility of the migrant. The highly skilled ones (doctors, IT workers etc.) have more financial resources and mobility (they can get more easily days off and this is why they are more physically present alongside the members of the families) whereas for the unskilled workers, with a lower financial security it is harder to do visits.

Along these visits that are frequently met we observe that the members of the transnational families that stayed home manage to have some tourists visas as well, not only do they meet their loved ones but they also get to visit some tourist sites. In this case, as well as the caring visits the frequency and the duration varies in function of the socio-professional status of the migrators but also of the ones that are back home. I have met several elderly parents that have helped their children to leave the country and then they had to finance their own trips abroad not to burden the migrant family financially but also cases in which the adults that left finance the frequent visits of family members. There is a clear difference in the frequency and duration of visits in function of these criteria.

Furthermore we meet more often in Romania multi-transnational families: families with members that left in more than two countries. Even if we encounter here reciprocal visits between the ones that stayed and the ones that left we can see that there is a new family configuration, and most of the times there are some years before all the family meets. In the case of multi-transnational families one of the most

common opportunities to meet is family events (just like in the transnational family case) more often weddings (that can be planned in advance); baptisms, especially if they have been postponed for a sufficient amount of time so that all the family members are up to date on the travel plans and can plan accordingly, and as a rare case, funerals, because this is a trip that it is often unpredictable and so not all of the members can arrive in time.

Besides all these reunions related to family events we encounter also vacation reunions where family member from different countries meet to spend longer or shorter periods of time together.

The transfer of care

The third basic strategy of these families is the transfer of dependent members from one to another: the most frequent strategy is the transfer of care of the children back home, met in the case of migrant mothers that leave their children in the care of the grandparents that live back home. As I have mentioned previously, especially the grandmas follow the members that migrated, sometimes for extensive period of time to offer support with the raising, along with the adult parents, of the children that migrated and/or the ones that were born abroad. One of the most special strategies is the one in which they spend 6 months (the period approved by the visa) to take care of the younger ones. These changes usually last, as an average, until the child reaches 4 years old when the children start taking being a part of the school system. All of these grandparents, especially the female ones, that spend long periods abroad to raise their nephews never appear in the official statistics as being out of the country.

Through all these strategies members that left and members that stayed managed to “have families” (Morgan, 2011)² through the sum of all the practices through which they live, sharing a real feeling of “co-presence” in the transnational space in which they “co-live virtual-real”.

² Morgan, D.: *Rethinking Family Practices*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

2. Establishing the way in which the discrimination here and there influences the transnational families and how it is administrated by them.

Members of these families that live abroad are often denigrated back home and the family that remained in the country must confront with these accusations, and due to this often the members that stayed home needed to justify in their interviews why their family left through associating with the poor economic condition of Romania: like some sort of excuse. Through migration some of the members of the transnational families become a minority in the country of destination and often the family needs to confront (McGinnity – Gijberts 2016)³, with a discriminating speech about them (ex. Franța, Italia, UK, Spania etc).

Back home we found a difference between the state of the one that left: qualified versus unqualified and the feeling that the family members felt linked to the leaving of their loved ones: pride versus resigned. Also a difference was identified in the trends across the country, also confirmed by online interviews, was between the countries of destination: the ones that left on the continent (Europe) rather have the feeling that they are being discriminated whereas the ones that left for different parts of the world (ex. US, Canada, Middle East, Africa) did not feel the same way. In which the countries where we've been developing the research is concerned, in the UK the Romanians feel most often discriminated.

3. Specific situations in which there are children from transnational familiesL children that glide through two or more countries, children with double citizenship, children in mixed transnational families- and the practices that the families develop in these cases.

In many situation we encounter Children left with/after the parents, which have spent the majority of their lives in Romania and the they need to adapt to life abroad. Many times the parents, especially the ones that temporarily live abroad manage to keep a certain autonomy from the destination society (very few contacts with the foreigners – employers and colleagues; sometimes the authorities and the institutions if there is a

³ McGinnity, F., Gijberts, M.: “A threat in the air? Perceptions of group discrimination in the first years after migration: Comparing Polish Migrants in Germany, the Netherlands, the UK and Ireland”, *Ethnicities*, 2016, 16 (2) , pp. 290–315.

need), in the case of the children the situation is different, especially when speaking about the education system.

The schools with a Romanian curriculum are very rare abroad (for example, the class with Romanian teaching from the International School in Brussels) and, as a result, the choice of parents either is an international school with teaching in English either a school that teaches in the national country of destination. In this way the children are more exposed to the contact with the society of destination. As long as the parents consider that they will be returning to Romania they will keep investing to prepare them for the return: the children learn Romanian and are exposed to a broad environment with as many Romanian cultural elements as possible.

There are situations in which we find Children that left alone, such is the case of older teenagers that give up the school in Romania and sometimes leave, without the parents, sometimes with relatives or just with people they know, to try and get work abroad. But these are rather isolated cases. Also with a low frequency we can encounter the high school level adolescents that are sent to study abroad in the hopes of accessing along their path a higher education and at a more prestigious university abroad. To be able to sustain these children, the parents make a tremendous financial effort, the cases in which the child gets a scholarship being rare. Rarely the children that become adults abroad return to the country after they finish their studies in a different country.

Another category is represented by the Children born abroad, and this fact is greatly due to the young age of the migrants. Here we meet two categories: children who have both their parents of Romanian origin and children that come from mixt couples (either with citizens of the host countries either with citizens from other countries). The Majority of these children have the opportunity to have, at one point in their lives, two citizenships (in function of the legislation of the countries where they are born). For the mixt couples in which one of the parents is from the destination country, the Romanian citizenship usually is left on the second place. The situation of mixt couple children changes if they live in a third country, there is the possibility of a third citizenship the parents can opt for. These children born abroad have already the possibility to belong to more than one culture. No matter which country they will grow up in, the one in which they were born, Romania or another, there is at any time the chance that they will want access to either their country of birth either Romania.

Of course, this depends a lot on the way in which the parents and the communities manage to develop this hybrid identity. More than once it is the birth of the children that determine the parents that are in a temporary mobility to decide and to think in terms of settling in the countries of destination. For the ones left at home these children are a challenge – they are the “foreigner”, the Spanish or the American. As long as parents believe in transnational relationship with Romania and in a possible return they invest a great effort for those children to learn Romanian as well. But if the families decide to fully integrate in the host country there is a decrease in the will to invest in the relationship with Romania and, under the motivation of not putting pressure on the child with “a not very useful language” they resign from teaching them the language. Thus, we meet impossible situations where the children and the extended family (grandparents or other relatives) cannot communicate because of the simple fact that they do not speak a common language.

Romania- an alternative for education

The possibilities that our country has to offer, through which children born abroad can develop their university level studies in Romania represents a small push for some children that decide to come back once they reach adulthood. If the parents decide to return when the child is younger they encounter very little support from institutions and community – there are few special programs for reintegration in Romania for the children. The return to Romania is based not only on the reason that the parents want to return to the country. Many times the education system from Romania is a better alternative for the children that didn't manage to adapt in the countries abroad or where the education system varies a lot, the accessible schools being of very low quality and the good schools being very expensive (ex US, Egypt). Because of this we encounter situations in which the children return/come for the first time to Romania to live with only one parent, most of the times the mother, to have access to a better education.

Most of the decisions related to bringing the children to study in Romania are taken when the children enter a school cycle. Sometimes we see situations in which the parents did not want to return but as the socio political situation from some countries is beginning to deteriorate (as an example Egypt, or another countries in which there is a constant threat of armed conflict, a reason why there is no longer a calm life for

the family) this road is to be taken. In the same time there are families in which – divorce or the death of a parent- the children are not at all ready for Romania, most of the times not knowing at all or knowing very little Romanian. For these children the international schools in Romania represents most of the times the only solution.

The feeling of belonging

One of the natural worries of parents that wish to return at some point to Romania is to develop a feeling of belonging in their children linked to the country of origin and, as we mentioned earlier, they invest the most in teaching the children the language. But in most of the cases, even if children speak Romanian at home, even if they are brothers they would rather communicate in the language of the country of destination. This is “play language” when they are young or “study language” when they get older and go to school and they become very connected to the country in which they are born and/or raised. If the parents are very determined to keep the relation with Romania due to a return, if the return is produced, this idea is no longer valid in which the relationship of the country in which the children were raised is concerned. This fracture is strongly felt by children, especially if they were born and raised for a longer period of time abroad. It is the right of any child to learn and to have access to their own culture. For these hybrid children (Vathi, 2015)⁴, as well as for children from mixt families, this right is often not respected.

These children that have an access to multiple worlds become actors of a cosmopolitan world with a different vision of a state- nation in which the Romanians were educated and their future can be shaped differently from the children that are born and raised only in Romania.

4. What are the family practices when they are composed of mixt/bi-national, transnational couples?

Mixt couples with citizens of countries of origine

A commonly met practice in the first years after the Revolution was the marriage as a result of a correspondance with foreign citizens that looked for wives in other countries. Through a massive migration of Romanians abroad the opportunities to

⁴ Vathi, Z. (2015), *Migrating and Settling in a Mobile World, Albanian Migrants and Their Children in Europe*, Springer International Publishing

meet and form couples with citizens of host countries has increased. Furthermore forming a couple with a citizen of this host country and establishing the family in their country is followed by the fact that the Romanian partner passes the migration phase and makes normal integration steps in their new country. The transnational relationship with the Romanian family is maintained most of the times only in the way in which the relationship with the extended family is maintained, most often from a „guest” position in Romania. The Romanian partner asks for the citizenship of the other partner, but in rare cases we can see the reverse. The language spoken in the house is in the majority of the cases the language of the country in which the couple lives. The Romanian partner tries most of the times to teach the child the Romanian language but the success rate is directly proportional with the level of interaction in the extended Romanian family. If the transnational relationship with the extended family is maintained then the children learn Romanian. If this relationship is sporadic or limited in exposing the children to interaction with members of extended family than this project is a failure. In these cases we encounter impossible situations through which nephews cannot communicate with grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins. In the context in which other foreign citizens started seeing Romania as a country which they have in mind when thinking of retiring the perspective of living/retiring to Romania becomes valid.

Mixt couples in Romania

In Romania we meet two categories of mixt couples. On one side we have the mixt couples between young people that choose to live with their family. On the other hand we have the couples formed between retired foreign citizens and Romanian citizens where forming the couple represents from the beginning an objective. Most of the foreign citizens from these couples do not ask for the Romanian citizenship even if their children also have this citizenship. The majority prefer (especially the ones that come from western countries) to keep their expat status. The foreign partners try to learn as much as possible the language. Obviously the younger ones tend to become fluent in this language. Most of the times they prefer international schools from Romania for their children but they are sometimes open to the option in which the children study in the Romanian language trying to add at home a different foreign language.

Mixt couples with third world citizens

We find mixt couples formed between Romanian citizens and third world country citizens more and more often. As a rule, each of the partners maintains their citizenship and would rather communicate in a neutral language (other than one of the two). The children of these couples are exposed to the three languages trying to keep the characteristics of their countries of origin of the parents through the development of a hybrid identity. The communication with extended family is much more complex in these cases and an interaction without mediation between the families is impossible (sometimes the members of the extended family do not know the language of the partners or English). An eventual return in one of the countries of origin of one of the partners becomes difficult and in the event in which a certain thing is decided the factors that come into consideration the most are the financial opportunities and educational which a country can offer.

Mixt couples that glide through countries

Some of the couples do not choose a definitive country of residency. They live alternatively in Romania or in the country of the partner. This thing is possible for the couples in which the partners are most often freelancers or have small businesses which allow this lifestyle. The movement between countries is acceptable as long as the couple does not have children that need to attend school. With the exception of a few cases in which the children are homeschooled, these choose to settle down in one country or the other.

The way in which bi-national couples (Brahic, 2013)⁵ use the language to communicate between them and with other children is the key element of the configuration of the type of manifestation of the mixt family. In our research we have met the three communication strategies of mixt couples that are proposed by Gaspar (2010)⁶: the assimilation, the bi-national strategy and peripatetic but we have also identified a fourth one: the neutral strategy. Thus, beyond the classical situations in which either the minority partner is being completely assimilated and the child does not learn the majority language, either in the house the majority partner language

⁵ Brahic, B.: "The Politics of Bi-nationality in Couple Relationships: A Case Study of European Bi-national Couples in Manchester", *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, XLIV, (6), 2013, pp 699 – 714.

⁶ Gaspar, S.: "Family and social dynamics among European mixed couples". *Portuguese Journal of Social Science*, 9, (2), 2010, pp. 109–125.

is spoken but the child also learns the language of the minority partner. However lately you also encounter mixed couples in which neither one of the partners knows the other one's language and speak a third language among them. This neutral strategy offers the partners some sort of equality and keeping the independence in the couple. Bi-national couples, especially the ones newly formed, after the great wave of Romanian migration is often confronted with a certain reserve from the members of the extended family in which the Romanian partner is concerned. A very important aspect seems to be religion in the lives of these couples: the Romanian partner wishing to impose the orthodox religion.

Beyond these central research themes proposed in this project there were some other themes that were analyzed: the role of women in transnational families; the meaning of home for members of transnational families; family reunions; forming of couples for the family members of the transnational families; forming of the transnational couples and the use of double citizenship (*Knott, 2015*⁷; Harpaz, 2017⁸) as a strategy to improve the success chances in a transnational living (Romania in the case of Romanians from the Republic of Moldavia, Hungary for the Hungarian ethnics from Romania; both countries for both categories or other Romanians that get the double citizenship).

Throughout our research there was a main idea of the importance of which citizenship has in the lives of mixed transnational couples and how it influences the family relations. In general the research that has been done so far analyzed citizenship at a macro level underlining the case from a law point of view in different periods and socio-political contexts.

One of the conclusions of our research shows the importance which citizenship can play in choosing the life path of the ones that are in the place of choosing either one citizenship or the other – based on the belonging of the parents or even of the grandparents (this is the case of the Republic of Moldavia and the complex situation of obtaining once again the Romanian citizenship, or Hungarian ethnic Romanian

⁷ Knott, E. (2015). What Does it Mean to Be a Kin Majority? Analyzing Romanian Identity in Moldova and Russian Identity in Crimea from Below. *Social Science Quarterly*, 96, 830–859. doi: 10.1111/ssqu.12193.

⁸ Harpaz, Y. (2017). Rooted Cosmopolitans: Israelis with a European Passport – History, Property, Identity. *International Migration Review*, 47 (1), 166–206. doi:10.1111/imre.12017.

citizens that also gain access to the Hungarian citizenship) as well as the place of birth.

Citizenship does not only represent one aspect which is related to the identity politics of the states but it constitutes in the mixt transnational families an important aspect which can, in a smaller or greater amount, maintain the relationship with the family. In the same time to hold a citizenship can have in certain context a vital need and can be the way to better health care (in the case of some severe diseases or when the Romanian health system fails in giving the correct treatment), the access to a better educational system, retiring in a country with daily costs much lower than in the West. Basically we could say that there is no segment of the lives of transnational mixt families that sooner or later, restructured or influenced (in a positive or negative way) by the citizenship that the members of this family already own.

Complementary objectives:

5. Developing a method of collecting the data: couples interview- with a video recording and an online application

Collecting the data

The fact that we have managed to have perspectives from the rural area from three different parts of the country – Moldavia, Transylvania and Oltenia (initially we only proposed one area) has improved significantly our data and gave us the chance to surprise different ways in which the transnational families are being configured. Because of this we have set as an objective to have more cities (initially we only had one small and medium) in the end we managed to have interviews in Drobeta Turnu Severin, Brasov, Cluj Napoca and Turda. Without having this goal the first two fields abroad brought us a new important distinction in surprising the possible differences in the transnational families: the research participants from the UK (London) as a group were from the category of low skilled workers and the ones in Belgium, Mons (a small rural are city but in the end the network led us to Brussels) were highly skilled. This distinction is highly useful because it also brings new perspectives in analyzing the relations in the transnational families and opens up new lines of research. Through the interviews that we have done in Romania we've discovered the theme of a double citizenship on an ethnic reason and we have developed two fields meant to bring a

deeper understanding on the issue in the Republic of Moldavia (Chisinau and the close rural area) and Hungary (Debrecen).

The interviews were recorded audio and partially video.

The virtual fieldwork, the interviews through Skype and Facebook video call reached varied destinations: Europe, North America, and even Africa, the audio/video recordings were done through the soft Pamela.

We have recorded individual interviews as well as couples interviews on the field and on line.

A total of 176 participants answered the questions of the team throughout the research period.

The analysis of the data has been done through alternative coding between the 4 members of the team; each interview protocol was coded in parallel by 2 members that negotiated the themes to insure a correct data validation.

Visual products in the qualitative research

The visual (life and online) data were transcribed after the audio dimension of all the interviews, coded and thematically analyzed identical with the pure audio data, then for the interview figments selected as being relevant for a theme we have searched a video correspondent and in this way we have obtained the video illustration of the themes. Claudia Mitchell (2011)⁹ developed the concept of *video composite* (a video product that is the sum of the visual production- film/photo thematic) which our team took in their analysis and use of visual data (photo, video field recordings and the video recording of online interviews) being a theoretical and methodological tool useful for the visual documentation of our project. The 10 video composites done during the project have been presented throughout different scientific and cultural manifestations and to visually illustrate our results.

⁹ Claudia Mitchell (2011): What can a visual researcher do with a camera? In Claudia Mitchell, *Doing Visual Research*. Sage Publications Ltd, Londra, pp. 159-176.

Couples interview

Taken from the researches regarding the health of the population the couples interviews are recently conceptualized as a valid method of collecting data (Bjørnholt și Farstad, 2014)¹⁰ especially the researches that were done on themes related to family. Through using this method of collecting the data we managed to make the men visible in our research¹¹. Through using this method of collecting the data and through adding more data than simple interviews with one member of the family. Furthermore there are situations in which the interviews develop in an unexpected way (members of the couple ask each other revealing questions even for the researcher or through couples interview the partner finds out about different aspects of the partner's life which were previously unknown thus the researcher has a new image on the couple. The purpose of using this method was to pass from the individual as a subject of research to couples as a research unity and to understand the role of the couples in the extend transnational families because until not long ago research regarding transnational families were limited to transnational families in the nuclear family (mother/father/or both of them departed-children left home) or of the relationship adult gone-elderly stayed home, also in the context of the nuclear family (child-elder parents).

6. Developing the theorization of the concept of showcasing the transnational families

The concept of showcasing families (Finch, 2007¹²) refers to the set of practices through which they lead to the „making of the family” (Morgan, 2011)¹³ and especially of the way in which these families presents themselves on the inside (their own members), but also outside (the audience formed by the others-neighbors, community etc) where the accent is made on the verb *to do* it means it is not enough to be born in a family or to live in that house but you must also act accordingly. To showcase as a family becomes important especially in the families that are under a certain question mark: for example the single parent families, homosexual families, families with teenage parents etc. In the case of transnational families, especially under the impact of discrimination we can observe an extra effort to act in the real world and virtually as a

¹⁰ Bjørnholt, M. and Farstad, G., (2014), ‘Am I rambling?’ on the advantages of interviewing couples together, *Qualitative Research* 2014, Vol 14 (1) 3–19

¹¹ Familia, ca temă de cercetare sunt considerate ca fiind mai degrabă de interes pentru femei și în multe cercetări ele sunt respondentele predominante

¹² Finch, J., (2007) “Displaying Families,” *Sociology* 41, 1, 65–81

¹³ Morgan, D.: *Rethinking Family Practices*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

family. The theoretization of the concept¹⁴ meant a deeper analysis of the objectives 1-4. The key elements of showcasing these families with members of it temporarily suspended transnationally who do not desire neither integration in the country of destination neither do they have a clear date of return are: reorganizing the gender relationship in the couple; intensifying the relationship through ITC; reciprocal visits and family reunions; a style of parenting focused on developing the Romanian component and a hybrid identity.

Dissemination of the results

For the debate of the theme Transnational families in an Eastern European context we're had as an initial goal the organization of an International Workshop (in Oslo, 2016). Not only did we manage to organize this workshop in a prestigious international conference¹⁵, but we have continued the debate of the theme in an ample panel (composed from three sessions) during one of the biggest international conferences which is annually organized in Romania (Sibiu, 2016)¹⁶. The challenges of researching transnational families, theoretical and methodological were amply debated in the first international conference on this theme in Romania (Cluj, 2017) which had as a main organizer the director of this project (co-organizers, two directors of two projects of research on the theme of transnational families, a project in Switzerland and the other in Romania). Through the collaboration with the other projects we have managed to have prestigious guests from the domain which attracted participants that were very much involved thus the conference was a real success.

Due to these events the members of the team presented 8 papers and collaborated with expert researchers on the theme of transnational families from many countries (Switzerland, UK, Hungary, Poland, Germany, Italy, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Albania, Finland, Canada, USA, France, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands, Austria).

During the project there were presentations in six open seminars, moderating one session at an international conference and the closing debate of the project, occasion in which we also launched the three reports with recommendations for the socio

¹⁴ Publicată în special în monografia aflată în curs publicare la Palgrave Macmillan UK

¹⁵ The 18th Nordic Migration Conference, Oslo August 11-12 2016.

¹⁶ The 4th International Conference of the Romanian Sociological Society – Sibiu, 29th of September – 1st of October 2016.

political environment on different themes: the specific of Romanian transnational families, children in these families and mixt couples.

Participation in international/national conferences and other disseminations of the results

The other results which have not been presented in the scientific debated organized by the members of the team were disseminated in this way: 8 presentations to international conferences abroad and 3 international conferences in Romania, 4 presentations at a national conference. A total of 19 presentations in international scientific sessions and 4 nationals were done by the members of the team throughout the project.

Alongside the dissemination of the results in the academic environment a great success of this project were the presentations of the results in cultural/artistic environments. Thus, we had presentations in a culture camp (2016) and an art camp (2016, 2017) both with an international participation. The first photo exhibition was hosted by a documentary photo festival with international participants. The second photo exhibition was an alternative: the photos were presented as postcards with a multimedia application which through the help of smartphones could access video sequences tied to the photos. We have launched and distributed for free two photo albums. We have also filmed and presented to the public the short film Lost in translation (having as a theme the double citizenship) and the multimedia album which had the ten video composites realized on the themes analyzed in the project. Three reports for the socio-political environment were published and distributed. We need to state the fact that in Romania this type of research in mixed, trans disciplinary – in our case specialists in photo documentation/video documentations is in a very early stage. Moreover the members of our team presented the results of the project in radio and TV shows and in the written press reaching in this way the extended focus group- the main audience.

The result publishing strategy

The results of the research were published in three categories of publications: volumes for conferences; magazine articles and author books.

In the first category we have on one hand papers in publications of different conferences: 3 chapters published, a chapter pending evaluation and an article pending evaluation (the organizers wanting to publish a special number from s ISI journal). In total 5 papers sent for publishing realized on conferences.

The scientific events organized during the project were turned in two edited volumes by the members of the team- one for Peter Lang Publishing house and the other at Springer International publishing. The members of the team published 7 chapters in the two volumes (3 in the first, 4 in the second).

Responding to a thematic invitation an additional two chapters were sent to publishing by the members of the team in a volume edited at an international publishing house (Lincom Europe, Munchen).

We consider that the thematic numbers have the greatest impact therefore the members of the team edited a BDI thematic number and a special section from a special ISI number in which 5 articles of the team were published (4 BDI and 1 ISI). Another 5 articles were sent for publishing in BDI journals (3 published, 1 accepted for publishing in 2017 and 1 under evaluation). We mention that even though we had as a goal to have publications in the Romanian language as well we could not find but only one BDI journal that publishes in Romanian and had a thematic number in which our research could fit in where we have sent 2 of our articles.

Two members of the team have co-authored a book in Romanian based on a selection of research empirical data which is under publishing at Mega Publishing house in Cluj Napoca. A monography signed by the director of the project will be published by Palgrave Macmillan UK Publishing house.

In short, during the project there were 4 chapters sent to specific conference book publishing (3 published 1 under evaluation) 2 chapters in another type of volume edited, 7 chapters in volumes edited by the team, meaning 13 chapters of books (10 published, 3 under evaluation).

The members of the team edited a special BDI number, a thematic section from a special ISI number and two volumes for international publishing houses, this means 4 thematic publishing edited. Another 2 books were done during the project (a Romanian and a foreign publishing house). We have sent to publish 11 articles, 9 in BDI magazines (7 publishes, 1 accepted, 1 under evaluation) and 2 ISI (1 published and 1 under evaluation)

Project director,

Viorela Telegdi-Csetri