

## **Cultural proximity and migration patterns in the EU. The Romanian Case.**

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Earlier empirical studies have shown that indicators of cultural proximity, such as genetic distance, colonial links, linguistic measure and historical features, are often more important determinants of migration patterns than traditional economic variables. The main goal of this paper is to explore the influence of cultural proximity on migration flows in the EU area in order to see if there is a model/pattern of general behavior in this regard. The paper tries to find an answer to the following research question: how cultural proximity impacts/ influences migration flows? Using World Bank emigration data for the period between 1960 and 2000 and the six cultural dimensions from Hofstede cultural model (the model describes the effects of a society's culture on the values of its members and how these values relates to their behavior), a SEM methodology is applied using Smart-PLS software. Given the exploratory and preliminary goal of this paper, the model was applied, for the moment, only to the Romanian case, being the first one in a subsequent series of studies applied to all EU countries. The results confirm a negative significant correlation between the cultural distance and the migration flows, suggesting that when cultural distance is increasing, the migration flows decrease.

**Keywords:** migration, culture, Romania, Hofstede.

**JEL Classification:** O15, Z13, J61

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