

Article

Post-Detention Migration in Romania: Reasons, Challenges and Solutions for Preventing Recidivism and Ensuring Reintegration into Society

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Abstract: This study looks at post-detention migration and focuses on the reasons, challenges and solutions for preventing recidivism and ensuring reintegration into society. This research involves an analysis of the factors influencing the intention to emigrate of criminally sanctioned persons in Romania, the differences between the types of crimes and their impact on the desire to leave the country, as well as the causes of external migration, such as unattractive jobs and inadequate income at the level of the family of origin. The results show that people who have committed crimes against a person are more inclined to emigrate compared to those who have committed crimes against property. Unattractive jobs and insufficient income are also significant factors contributing to the decision to emigrate. This study proposes solutions to facilitate the reintegration of these people into Romanian society and reduce recidivism rates.

Keywords: post-detention migration; social reintegration; recidivism; motivational factors; crimes



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1. Introduction

Post-detention migration in Romania has become a topic of major interest due to its significant impact on society and the economy. People released from Romanian prisons face numerous challenges in their attempt to reintegrate into the community, often considering emigration as a viable option to rebuild their lives. This trend is driven by multiple factors, including the nature of the crimes committed, socio-economic conditions and perceived opportunities abroad compared to those in Romania [1]. Understanding the specific context of Romania is essential for developing policies tailored to the unique challenges faced by former prisoners in this country.

One of the main factors influencing post-detention migration is the lack of attractive employment opportunities. Former prisoners have major difficulties in finding stable and well-paid jobs, which contributes to their decision to emigrate [2]. Lack of access to jobs can lead to recidivism and perpetuate a cycle of poverty and social exclusion [3].

Insufficient family income is another determining factor in the migration decision of former prisoners. Families not being able to provide adequate financial support increases the likelihood that these individuals will seek better economic conditions abroad [4]. This situation underscores the need for policies that support not only people released from prison but also their families [5].

Legal work opportunities abroad are another significant factor motivating migration. Former prisoners often perceive that it is easier to find stable and legal employment outside

their home country, where social stigma is less pronounced [6]. This is crucial for the social and economic reintegration of these individuals [7].

Psychological factors, including the stigma associated with criminal records, further aggravate the difficulties of reintegration. The fear of social rejection and the desire for a new beginning often lead ex-prisoners to consider emigration as a viable solution [8]. Studies show that people who have committed crimes against individuals feel a more acute need to emigrate due to increased stigma and anticipated difficulties in social acceptance upon release [9].

Understanding these factors is essential for developing effective policies that reduce recidivism and support the reintegration of former prisoners. Policymakers need to address the socio-economic barriers that lead to migration and provide targeted support to improve employment opportunities and social acceptance of ex-prisoners [10]. Interventions must be integrated and include both economic and psychological support to ensure successful reintegration [11].

Recent studies continue to explore the dynamics of post-detention migration, highlighting the need for comprehensive support systems that address both economic and psychological needs [12]. This research highlights the importance of multifaceted interventions that provide not only economic opportunities but also a supportive environment for reintegration [7].

Post-detention migration is a complex phenomenon influenced by a combination of socio-economic, psychological and legal factors. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach, including improving employment prospects, reducing social stigma and providing adequate support for families. Future research should continue to examine these factors in various contexts in order to develop more effective strategies for the reintegration of former prisoners and the prevention of recidivism.

2. Literature Review

In recent decades, the literature has highlighted the complexity of post-detention reintegration, addressing various socio-economic, psychological and political perspectives. Studies have shown that the successful reintegration of ex-prisoners is essential for preventing reoffending and improving social cohesion [2].

One of the critical aspects identified in the literature is the impact of socio-economic factors on post-detention reintegration. Research has shown that limited access to stable and well-paid employment opportunities is a major obstacle for former prisoners [3]. Studies by Travis and colleagues suggest that adequate economic support and access to vocational training programs can facilitate reintegration and reduce the risk of reoffending [1].

The stigma associated with a criminal record is another significant factor that complicates social reintegration. Maruna stressed the importance of changing social perceptions and promoting more inclusive attitudes to support the reintegration of former prisoners [8]. LeBel also highlighted how social stigma can negatively affect the self-perception and motivation of these individuals, influencing their chances of success in reintegration [9].

Research has indicated the need for integrated policies that address both the economic and psychological needs of former prisoners. Petersilia argued that successful interventions must include employment support, psychological counseling and social assistance services [10]. In this regard, Mears and Cochran stressed the importance of a multidimensional approach involving collaboration between various institutions and community organizations [11].

The role of the family and the community is crucial in the reintegration process. Studies by Morenoff and Harding have shown that family support can provide emotional and economic stability, contributing to successful reintegration [12]. Additionally, social and community media can play a vital role in providing the opportunities and resources needed for a successful transition [6].

In the contemporary context, the challenges related to post-detention reintegration are amplified by factors such as the digitalization of the labor market and globalization.

Shinkfield and Graffam stressed the need to adapt reintegration programs to these changes in order to ensure their relevance and effectiveness [11]. Recent research has also highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the reintegration of former prisoners, highlighting the need for innovative and adaptable solutions [13].

This literature review shows that post-detention reintegration is influenced by a multitude of interrelated factors, which require integrated and adaptable approaches. It is essential that support policies and programs are developed and implemented in collaboration with various stakeholders to ensure successful reintegration and reduce recidivism rates.

A recent update on the effects of criminal record stigma on employment and reintegration chances is the study by Joshua Cochran et al., which examines the link between prison visits and recidivism. This study highlights the importance of social relationships and community support for reducing recidivism. According to research, family and community support play a critical role in social reintegration, and regular visits can significantly reduce the rate of recidivism, demonstrating the need for social support-based interventions for ex-offenders [14].

Another relevant study is that of De Claire and Dixon, which analyzes the effects of family visits on the well-being of inmates, behavior in prison and recidivism. This research shows that family and social support play a crucial role in the success of reintegration after release. The study highlights that family visits can significantly improve the psychological state of inmates and help reduce problematic behavior in prison, thus facilitating post-detention reintegration and reducing the risk of recidivism [15].

In the literature, increased attention has been paid to the importance of social support and tailored interventions for post-incarceration reintegration. Finlay and colleagues developed the Post-Incarceration Engagement (PIE) intervention, a program designed to support veterans released from prison by integrating support specialists into existing teams, thereby facilitating social reintegration and reducing recidivism. The study highlights the crucial role of logistical and emotional support in the first six months post-release, indicating that these interventions can significantly increase reintegration success [16].

In the context of policy reforms, Lofstrom and Martin analyzed the impact of reforms in California's justice system, such as Realignment and Proposition 47. These resulted in a significant reduction in the prison population by moving inmates to community supervision and local detention centers. The results show that while these measures have reduced overcrowding in prisons, they have also created challenges regarding the management of recidivism and the effectiveness of community supervision [17].

Hochstetler, DeLisi and Pratt emphasized the importance of social support in reducing recidivism and improving the psychological well-being of ex-prisoners. They show that individuals who receive family and community support are less likely to engage in hostile behaviors, indicating the need to integrate support networks into reintegration programs [18].

In terms of factors associated with successful reintegration, Fergusson and Horwood identified socio-economic status, family support and access to housing and services as determinants for the effective reintegration of offenders. Their study suggests that integrated approaches, which take into account multiple social and economic aspects, are essential to reduce recidivism and facilitate re-entry into society [19].

Another NIJ-funded study presented by Moore evaluates the effectiveness of Second Chance Act programs aimed at improving access to reintegration services for ex-prisoners. Although an increase in long-term employment and access to personalized reintegration plans was observed, the results did not indicate a significant reduction in recidivism, underscoring the importance of continued evaluation of these programs to ensure their effectiveness [20].

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. Purpose and Objectives

The aim of this article is to explore and analyze the factors influencing post-detention migration, identifying challenges and possible solutions for preventing recidivism and ensuring the effective reintegration of former prisoners into society. Through a detailed examination of the socio-economic, psychological and political factors that affect the migration decisions of people released from prison, this study aims to provide a comprehensive perspective on the dynamics of post-detention reintegration. The article also aims to highlight the importance of integrated and adaptable interventions to support ex-prisoners in the reintegration process, thus contributing to reducing the recidivism rate and improving social cohesion.

The objectives of this article are:

O1. Analysis of socio-economic factors: Identification and assessment of the impact of socio-economic factors, such as access to employment and family income, on the migration decisions of former prisoners.

O2. Social Stigma Examination: Investigating how stigma associated with criminal records and negative social perceptions influence post-detention reintegration and migration.

O3. Evaluation of reintegration policies: Analysis of the effectiveness of existing policies and programs aimed at supporting the reintegration of former prisoners and proposing solutions to improve them.

O4. Identifying psychological factors: Exploring the impact of psychological factors, including stress and emotional difficulties, on migration decisions and the reintegration process.

O5. Proposal for integrated interventions: Development of recommendations for multidimensional interventions that address the economic, psychological and social needs of former prisoners in order to facilitate reintegration and reduce recidivism.

3.2. Assumptions

Hypothesis 1. *Persons released from prison who have committed crimes against a person have a higher intention to emigrate from Romania compared to persons who have committed crimes against property.*

Hypothesis 2. *The lack of attractive jobs is a significant factor that determines the external migration of former detainees, being more pronounced among the detainees in the Tulcea penitentiary compared to those in Poarta Albă Constanța. "Attractive jobs" are defined by factors such as sufficient pay, reasonable working hours, job stability, proximity to home, the type of work and its social impact on the individual and their family.*

The term "attractive jobs" refers to several key factors that contribute to the desirability of employment from the perspective of the respondents. Specifically, this includes:

Pay level: Whether the salary is sufficient to cover basic living costs and provide financial security.

Working conditions: Including working hours, the physical and psychological demands of the job and the work environment.

Job stability: Whether the job offers long-term employment or is temporary/seasonal.

Location: Whether the job is accessible and convenient or if it requires relocation or long commutes.

Impact on family relations: How the job affects the individual's ability to maintain family ties and responsibilities.

Social perception: Whether the job offers dignity and is free from stigma, particularly relevant for former prisoners who may face challenges in being accepted in certain roles.

Hypothesis 3. *Insufficient income at the level of the family of origin is perceived as a major factor of migration by former inmates from the Poarta Albă penitentiary in Constanta compared to those from the Tulcea penitentiary.*

Hypothesis 4. *Finding a job with legal forms is a stronger reason for the migration of former inmates from the Poarta Albă penitentiary in Constanta compared to those from the Tulcea penitentiary.*

3.3. Sample

This study was conducted on a sample of 1039 former inmates from 2 penitentiaries in Romania: the Tulcea Penitentiary and the Poarta Albă Penitentiary in Constanta. The sample was chosen to provide a comprehensive representation of the population of ex-prisoners, taking into account various demographic and socio-economic variables. These institutions were chosen due to their unique socio-economic and geographical characteristics. Tulcea Penitentiary, with a capacity of approximately 1123 inmates, serves a region that includes both urban and rural areas with varied economic challenges. The prison population here reflects a mix of individuals from isolated and economically disadvantaged areas, which makes it an ideal setting for studying the socio-economic factors influencing post-detention migration. Poarta Albă Penitentiary, one of the largest in Romania, with around 1000 inmates, including 600 in the main facility and 400 in its external section at Valu lui Traian, is situated near the Constanța metropolitan area, a region with more developed infrastructure and access to international migration routes. This makes it a crucial point for analyzing the migration patterns of former inmates, especially in terms of legal work opportunities abroad. These two facilities provide a diverse demographic that enhances the depth of the research, offering insight into how regional differences in economic opportunity and social support influence post-detention migration.

3.4. Research Methods and Tools

In order to explore the factors influencing post-detention migration and to assess the effectiveness of social reintegration policies, the following research methods and tools were used:

The research methods are:

1. Quantitative research: An extensive survey of former prisoners was conducted, using a structured questionnaire to collect data on migration intentions, socio-economic factors, psychological barriers and perceptions of community and institutional support.
2. Statistical analysis: The collected data were analyzed using SPSS software, version 20. Descriptive and inferential analysis techniques were used to identify the relationships between the studied variables and to test the hypotheses formulated.

The research tools are:

1. Structured questionnaire: The questionnaire has been designed to cover a wide range of issues relevant to post-detention migration. It included questions on:
 - Demographic characteristics of respondents (age, gender, level of education, marital status, environment of residence).
 - Experiences and difficulties encountered after liberation.
 - Intentions and reasons for migration.
 - Perceptions of community and institutional support.
 - Opinions on the effectiveness of social reintegration policies.
2. Semi-structured interviews: In order to gain deeper insight into individual experiences, semi-structured interviews were conducted with a subsample of 50 former prisoners. These interviews allowed for a detailed exploration of personal reasons for migration and perceptions of the support available. Considering the interviewees, 2% of them stated that they are recidivists, 7% of them have a criminal record, which suggests they have had previous convictions, and 36.1% have no criminal record, the

majority of respondents (62.6%) received sentences of less than 5 years, 22.5% have sentences between 6 and 10 years and 8% believe that the authorities are involved only to a small extent in the process of social reintegration.

The data collection was carried out between January and March 2023 within the Tulcea and Poarta Albă Constanta penitentiaries. The questionnaires were distributed and completed in the presence of a researcher to clarify any misunderstandings. The semi-structured interviews and focused groups were conducted in reserved spaces inside the penitentiaries, ensuring the confidentiality and comfort of the participants.

4. Results

Factors influencing the decision to emigrate among criminally sanctioned persons:

1. Respondents' intention to emigrate: The majority of respondents expressed their desire to emigrate from Romania after liberation, with 55.3% stating this. On the other hand, 28.5% do not intend to emigrate, and 16.2% are undecided.

Analyzing the data in Figure 1, it is noted that most respondents said they want to emigrate from Romania after they are released (55.3%). Also, 28.5% of them do not want to emigrate, and 16.2% of them are not sure yet.

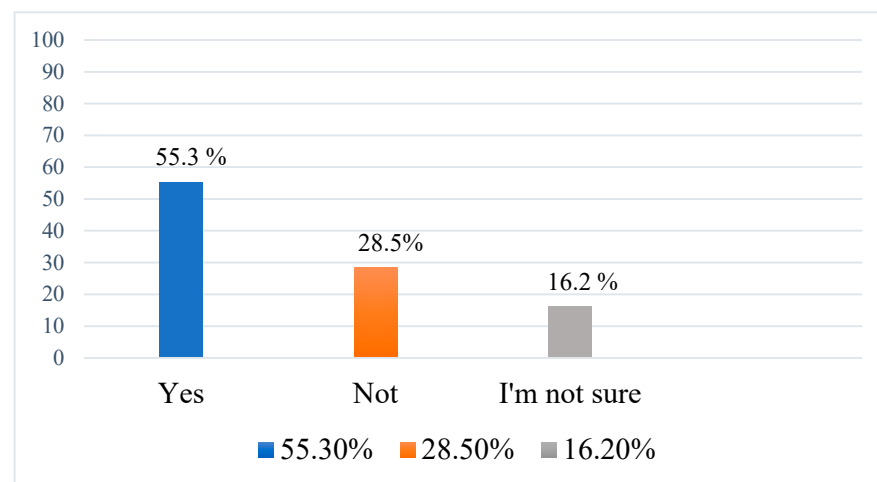


Figure 1. Respondents' intention to emigrate.

According to the results of the *t*-test, presented in Table 1, $t(600) = 1.704$, $p = 0.011 < 0.05$, it can be said that persons who have committed crimes against a person want to emigrate from Romania to a greater extent than persons who have committed crimes against property. This result may be due to the fact that, by committing crimes against a person, it is possible that those respondents consider that it would be more difficult for them to reintegrate into the Romanian society, or that they would be more difficult to accept in Romania, compared to another country.

Table 1. T-test for respondents' intention to emigrate and nature of the offence.

	Group	N	T-Test for Independent Samples								
			Mean	S. D.	t	df	p	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	CI4 Lower	Upper
Respondents' intention to emigrate	Cons of the person	439	1.59	0.76	1.704	600	0.011	0.11	0.06	-0.01	0.24
	Against the patrimony	163	1.47	0.68							

According to this statistical result, the hypothesis is confirmed that persons released from prison who have committed crimes against a person have a greater intention to emigrate from Romania compared to persons who have committed crimes against property.

2. Causes of external migration—unattractive jobs: 77% of respondents believe that unattractive jobs are a cause of their migration from Romania, while 23% do not consider this.

According to Figure 2, the majority of respondents do not consider that unattractive jobs are a cause of their migration from Romania (77%), and 23% of them consider that jobs are nevertheless a cause.

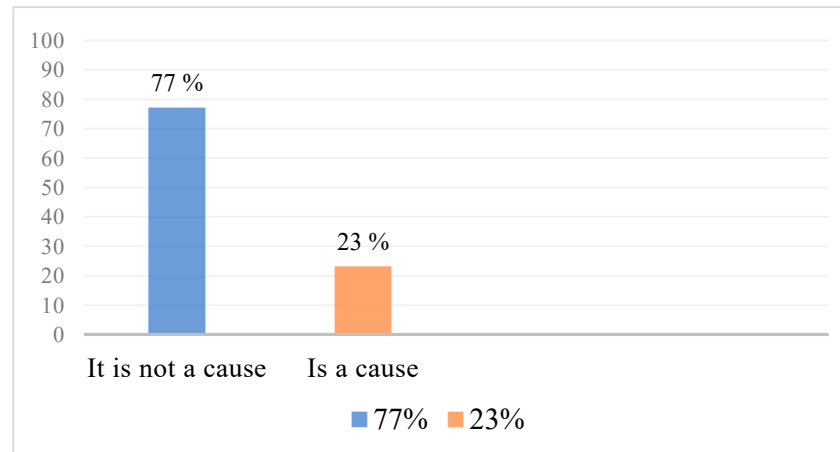


Figure 2. Causes of external migration of respondents—unattractive jobs.

According to the results of the *t*-test, presented in Table 2, $t(1037) = -1.362, p = 0.005 < 0.05$, we can say that the people who are in the Tulcea penitentiary consider to a greater extent than the people who are in the Poarta Albă penitentiary in Constanta that unattractive jobs are a cause of their migration from Romania. In this regard, we can deduce that the people in the Tulcea penitentiary may think that they have fewer jobs that they consider attractive or suitable for them compared to the people in the Poarta Albă Constanta penitentiary.

Table 2. *T*-test for causes of external migration of respondents—unattractive jobs and penitentiary.

	Group	N	T-Test for Independent Samples								
			Mean	S. D.	t	df	p	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	CI4	
Nature of the Offence										Lower	Upper
Causes of migration- Unattractive jobs	Tulcea	351	0.20	0.40	-1.362	1037	0.005	-0.03	0.02	-0.09	0.01
	White Gate Constanta	688	0.24	0.42							

According to this statistical result, the hypothesis that the lack of attractive jobs is a significant factor determining the external migration of former prisoners is confirmed, being more pronounced among the inmates in the Tulcea penitentiary compared to those in Poarta Albă Constanța.

3. Causes of external migration—insufficient income at the level of the family of origin: 76% of respondents do not consider that insufficient income at the level of the family of origin is a cause of emigration, but 23.4% consider it to be.

According to Figure 3, for the majority of respondents, the lack of adequate and sufficient income at the level of the family of origin is not a cause of their emigration (76%), and for only 23.4% of them this element is a cause of emigration.

According to the results of the *t*-test, presented in Table 3, $t(1037) = 1.211, p = 0.018 < 0.05$, we can say that the persons in the Poarta Albă penitentiary in Constanta consider to a greater extent than the persons in the Tulcea penitentiary that the lack of adequate and sufficient income at the level of the family of origin is a cause of migration from Romania.

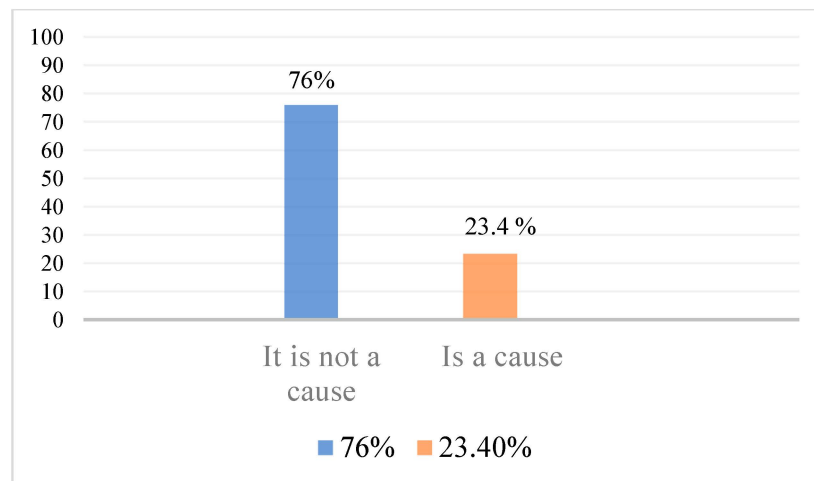


Figure 3. Causes of external migration of respondents—lack of adequate and sufficient income at the level of the family of origin.

Table 3. T-test for the causes of external migration of respondents—lack of adequate and sufficient income at the level of family of origin and penitentiary.

	Group	N	T-Test for Independent Samples								
			Mean	S. D.	t	df	p	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	CI4	
	Prison								Lower	Upper	
Causes of migration—lack of adequate income at the level of the family of origin	Tulcea	351	0.26	0.44	1.211	1037	0.018	0.03	0.02	-0.02	0.08
	White Gate Constanta	688	0.22	0.41							

It is thus possible that the people in the Poarta Albă penitentiary in Constanta are people who come from families that have no income, or have insufficient income, which is why they are more determined to emigrate because of this than the people in the Tulcea penitentiary.

According to this statistical result, the hypothesis according to which insufficient income at the level of the family of origin is perceived as a major factor of migration by former inmates from the Poarta Albă penitentiary in Constanta, compared to those from the Tulcea penitentiary, is confirmed.

- Reasons why respondents would emigrate—identifying a job with legal forms: 51.1% of respondents consider finding a job with legal forms a reason to emigrate, while 48.9% do not see this as a reason.

According to Figure 4, for the majority of respondents (51.1%), identifying a job with legal forms is a reason for emigrating, while for 48.9% this element is not a reason to emigrate.

According to the results of the *t*-test, presented in Table 4, $t(1037) = 1.261, p = 0.004 < 0.05$, we can say that for the people in the Poarta Albă Penitentiary in Constanta, finding a job with legal forms is to a greater extent than the people in the Tulcea penitentiary a reason why they would migrate from Romania. In this regard, it is possible that due to the way they are treated in prisons, the inmates of the Poarta Albă penitentiary in Constanta consider that it would be more difficult for them to find a job with legal forms in Romania than in another country.

According to this statistical result, the hypothesis is confirmed that finding a job with legal forms is a stronger reason for the migration of former inmates from the Poarta Albă penitentiary in Constanta compared to those from the Tulcea penitentiary.

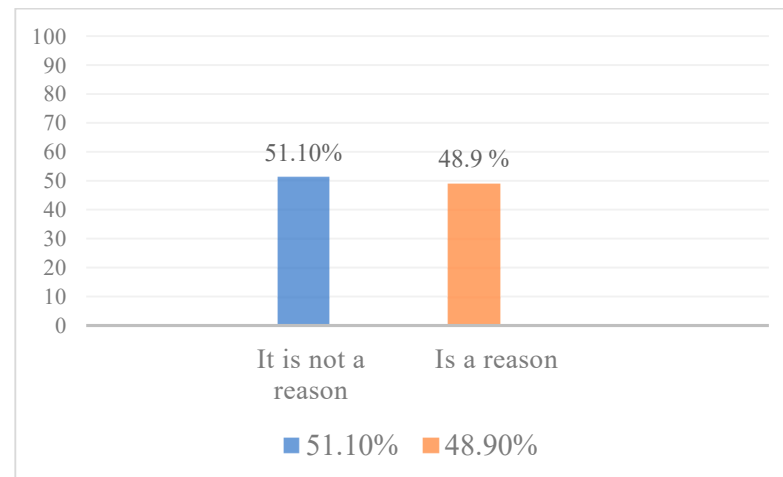


Figure 4. Reasons why respondents would emigrate—identifying a job with legal forms.

Table 4. *T*-test for the reasons why respondents would emigrate—identifying a job with legal forms and penitentiary.

	Group	N	T-Test for Independent Samples							CI4	
			Mean	S. D.	t	df	p	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
Reasons why respondents would emigrate to find a job with legal forms	Tulcea	351	0.53	0.49	1.261	1037	0.004	0.04	0.03	-0.02	0.10
	White Gate Constanta	688	0.49	0.50							

5. Discussion

The present study brought to the fore the complexity of post-detention migration and highlighted a number of factors that influence the emigration decisions of former prisoners. The discussions below summarize the main findings, their implications and future research and policy directions.

According to the data collected, a significant proportion of respondents expressed their desire to emigrate from Romania after liberation. This is consistent with our assumption that people released from prison are likely to seek new opportunities abroad, especially those who have committed crimes against a person. These results suggest the need for interventions that specifically address the needs and concerns of this vulnerable group.

The stigma associated with a criminal record continues to be a significant barrier to social reintegration. Respondents reported difficulties in being accepted by the community and finding jobs due to stigma [7,9]. These results highlight the need for public awareness and education campaigns to reduce stigma and promote social reintegration.

Analysis of the data showed that existing reintegration policies and programs are insufficient to meet the complex needs of former prisoners. It is clear that current interventions need to be reviewed and improved in order to provide multidimensional support [9,10]. An integrated approach including economic support, psychological counselling and social assistance is essential for the success of reintegration.

An important dimension that requires increased attention in the evaluation of reintegration policies is the way in which they are integrated into the period of detention, with a focus on preventing the recruitment of prisoners by criminal groups during the execution of sentences. Studies show that the involvement of inmates in criminal groups during detention can significantly undermine subsequent reintegration efforts after release. If an inmate becomes part of a criminal group during incarceration, post-detention reintegration programs lose their effectiveness because the individual is already negatively influenced and often re-enters a vicious cycle of criminal activity.

To prevent this situation, it is essential that reintegration policies start right from the period of detention. These must include not only access to psychological education and counseling programs but also surveillance and intervention measures that discourage the recruitment of prisoners into criminal groups. Such programs should be implemented in collaboration with prison staff and also include partnerships with non-governmental organizations that can provide moral support and rehabilitation opportunities even during detention.

This proactive approach could ensure a safer environment inside prisons and contribute to the success of long-term reintegration programs. Consequently, preventing the involvement of prisoners in criminal activities during sentencing is an essential condition for reducing the recidivism rate and for effective reintegration into society.

Updated studies by Joshua Cochran et al., as well as De Claire and Dixon, provide valuable insights into the importance of social relationships and community support in reducing recidivism and facilitating the reintegration of former offenders. Cochran et al. highlight the critical role of prison visits, showing that they can significantly reduce recidivism, highlighting the need for social support-based interventions. Similarly, De Claire and Dixon show that family visits improve the psychological state of inmates and reduce problematic behavior, facilitating reintegration. These studies suggest that reintegration policies should include measures to promote social and family support, thus contributing to successful reintegration and reducing recidivism. These findings underline the need for integrated programs that address both the psychological and social needs of ex-prisoners in order to maximize their chances of successfully reintegrating into society [14,15].

Also, in their study, Zara and Farrington propose a series of evidence-based strategies for preventing criminal recidivism, highlighting the importance of individualized interventions and policies aimed at rehabilitating offenders. Key strategies include rehabilitation programs that address specific risk factors such as impulsivity, educational deficiencies and lack of social support. The authors also recommend early and ongoing interventions, the use of risk assessment technologies to guide judicial decisions, as well as the implementation of integrated policies that include partnerships between the justice system, social services and the community to facilitate the effective reintegration of former prisoners [21].

In another study, Miller, Therrien and Romig investigate the impact of educational and therapeutic strategies on reducing recidivism among young offenders. The study emphasizes the importance of personalized intervention programs, which integrate education and treatment tailored to the specific needs of each individual. The results of the research indicate that these interventions contribute significantly to social reintegration and reduce the risk of reoffending, highlighting the crucial role of education in the rehabilitation process of young people [22].

Butorac, Gracin and Stanić analyze the challenges faced in reducing criminal recidivism, focusing on the factors that influence the success of offenders' reintegration into society. The study highlights the complexity of the process of reducing relapse, highlighting the need for integrated approaches that include psychosocial, educational and community support interventions. The authors argue that multidimensional approaches are essential to overcome structural and individual barriers that perpetuate recidivist criminal behavior [23].

An important aspect of the discussion is the link between migration and recidivism. While migration can offer new opportunities and a less stigmatizing environment, it can also lead to new forms of marginalization and exclusion in host countries. Future studies should explore this relationship in detail and identify measures that can be taken to minimize the risks associated with migration.

The results align with previous research indicating that socio-economic barriers and social stigma significantly hinder reintegration. Integrating support systems, such as tailored job programs and community acceptance initiatives, is essential to reduce recidivism and improve reintegration outcomes. Comparing these findings with interventions like the Post-Incarceration Engagement program highlights the potential benefits of peer support

and targeted services in addressing these challenges. Policy adjustments to support both former detainees and their families could play a pivotal role in reducing external migration and fostering successful reintegration.

The discussions highlight the complexity of the phenomenon of post-detention migration and the need for integrated and adaptable approaches to support the reintegration of former prisoners. By having an in-depth understanding of the factors influencing migration decisions and the challenges encountered, we can develop more effective policies and programs that contribute to reducing recidivism and improving social cohesion.

6. Limitations

Despite the efforts made to ensure the rigor and relevance of this study, there are some limitations that need to be considered.

This study focused only on two penitentiaries in Romania, the Tulcea Penitentiary and the Poarta Albă Penitentiary in Constanta. This limitation may influence the generalizability of the results, as the conditions and experiences of former prisoners may vary significantly by region.

The data were collected through self-reporting, which can introduce subjective response errors. Respondents may not be completely honest in their answers due to social stigma or privacy fears, which can affect the accuracy of the data.

This study was conducted over a short period of time, without including a longitudinal component. Such an approach would have made it possible to assess the long-term impact of post-detention migration on reintegration and recidivism.

The sample did not include sufficient diversity in terms of gender and ethnicity, focusing predominantly on men. This can limit understanding of how post-detention migration affects different demographic groups.

This study did not take into account all contextual factors that could influence post-detention migration and reintegration, such as the host country's immigration policy, social support and access to services in destination countries.

Although quantitative and qualitative methods were used for data collection, methodological limitations, such as cross-sectional study design and reliance on self-reported data, may affect the validity and reliability of conclusions.

Recognizing these limitations is crucial for the correct interpretation of the results and for the direction of future research. Future studies should address these limitations by using more diverse and representative samples, including longitudinal analyses, and exploring additional contextual factors. These efforts will contribute to a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the phenomenon of post-detention migration and the reintegration process.

7. Conclusions

This study aimed to explore the factors influencing post-detention migration and to identify challenges and solutions for preventing recidivism and ensuring the effective reintegration of former prisoners.

A significant proportion of respondents expressed their intention to emigrate after release. This suggests a negative perception of the opportunities available in Romania and underlines the need for interventions to improve the domestic economic outlook.

Lack of attractive jobs and insufficient family income have been identified as the main factors driving external migration. These findings indicate the need for public policies focused on job creation and support for the families of former prisoners to reduce the pressure of migration.

The stigma associated with a criminal record is a significant barrier to social reintegration. Reducing this stigma through public awareness and education campaigns is key to improving the social acceptance of former prisoners.

Existing reintegration policies and programs are insufficient to meet the complex needs of former prisoners. A review and improvement of these interventions is needed,

adopting an integrated approach that includes economic support, psychological counseling and social assistance.

Migration can provide economic opportunities and a less stigmatizing environment for ex-prisoners, but it can also lead to new forms of marginalization in host countries. Future studies need to explore this relationship in order to develop effective support measures for post-detention migrants.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made for reintegration policies and programs:

1. Creating economic opportunities: developing vocational training programs and creating jobs for former prisoners to facilitate their economic reintegration.
2. Reducing social stigma: implementing public awareness and education campaigns to reduce the stigma associated with criminal records and promote the social inclusion of former prisoners.
3. Integrated support: development of integrated interventions that combine economic, psychological and social support, addressing the multiple needs of former prisoners and their families.
4. Monitoring and evaluation: implementation of a monitoring and evaluation system for reintegration programs to ensure their efficiency and to adapt interventions according to identified needs.
5. Future research: to encourage longitudinal studies and comparative analysis in various regions and socio-economic contexts in order to gain a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the phenomenon of post-detention migration.

This study contributes to understanding the complexity of post-detention migration and highlights the importance of integrated and adaptable approaches to support the reintegration of former prisoners. By implementing the proposed recommendations, more effective policies and programs can be developed that contribute to reducing recidivism and improving social cohesion.

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