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**CHILDREN'S AND ADOLESCENTS
COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL SKILLS IN THE CONTEXT
OF PARENTAL MIGRATION**

Case study: Suceava County

ABSTRACT

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For more than 30 years since the political changes of 1989, emigration has been a fundamental aspect of the dynamics of Romanian society. If until 2007, the year in which Romania became a member of the European Union (EU), this phenomenon had a certain dynamism, after 2007 the number of Romanians going abroad to work increased significantly, and to the already traditional destinations such as Italy and Spain were added destinations such as Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain, so that Romania became the second country in the EU, after Poland, in terms of intra-European emigration (Bertoli, Brücker, & Moraga, 2013; OECD, 2018). Before 2007, statistics showed that the majority of people who emigrated to work abroad went to EU countries such as Italy and Spain. One of the reasons is certainly the official languages of these Latin-based countries, an advantage for a Romanian speaker. The second aspect, probably the most important, is the migration policies of these countries, which were more permissive towards Romanian emigrants before 2007 (Bleahu, 2007; Mara, 2012; Vasile, 2014).

Romania is one of the European Union countries that has experienced significant population migration to countries such as Italy, Spain, Germany, France, Spain, France, and the U.K. in the last two decades (OECD, 2018). A significant number of Romanians have left the country to find better paid jobs. Once they left, they left their children at home in the care of grandparents, relatives or even friends. The intense migration of Romanians to other countries started immediately after 1989 (Sandu, 2000), in various stages, and increased significantly after Romania's accession to the European Union. Estimates for the last decade show that Romania lost 250 000 Romanians through permanent external migration. To these must be added temporary migrants or those who practice circular migration, as well as those who leave for studies, who leave for limited periods of time and return to the country (Vincze & Balaban, 2022).

At the end of 2023, the total number of families in Romania with parents working abroad was 51 807 and the total number of children whose parents are working abroad was 64 936 (Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, 2024). The North-Eastern region is the area with the highest number of children with parents working abroad, and Suceava County ranks first in Romania, which is the reason for analyzing this area particularly in the case study for this research. The official data are, however, much lower than the real ones, given the fact that not all parents practicing temporary or circular migration declare to the authorities that they have left the country for a certain period.

The General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Suceava (DGASPC) is the institution responsible for monitoring children with parents abroad. Regarding Suceava County, for the period 2018-2023, DGASPC has information on the number of families in Suceava County facing the migration phenomenon, as well as the number of children with parents abroad. As regards the number of families in which one or both parents have gone abroad to work, including single-parent families, the situation shows a downward trend in Suceava County, as follows: in 2018, 5 902 families in Suceava County had at least one parent who went abroad to work, in 2019, this decreased to 5 666, then reaching 5 059 in 2020, and 5 009 in 2021. In 2022, it started to increase, reaching 5 102, and then, in 2023, the number of families with at least one parent who went abroad to work was the lowest in the last 6 years, i.e. 4 068, according to DGASPC Suceava, data provided at the request of the author of this thesis for the purpose of this research.

The number of children left at home followed the same trend, starting from 8,213 children left at home in 2018, decreasing to 7,526 in 2019, then 7,002 in 2020, reaching the lowest number in the last 6 years in 2021, i.e. 6,518. The number of children left at home increased in 2022 to 6 596, subsequently falling to 5 419 at the end of 2023, according to data provided by DGASPC Suceava.

There are various theories that explain the phenomenon of migration, such as the network theory which emphasizes the importance of knowing people who have migrated to a particular country and who can facilitate, for example, finding a job, housing, etc. These theories are discussed comprehensively in this thesis. At the outset it should be emphasized that migration theories identify two types of factors that influence migration: push factors (what happens in the country of origin and leads to emigration) and pull factors (what happens in the receiving countries). Thus, while push factors were mostly economic, it should be emphasized here that the transition to a market economy was quite harsh in Romania in the 1990s, affecting mainly cities, some of which failed to recover even two decades later. After 2007, Romanians migrated to countries such as Germany, Sweden or the United Kingdom (especially immediately after 2010 when the economic crisis affected countries such as Spain to a greater extent than it did, for example, Germany). After 2020, and particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, we witnessed the intensification of pull factors due to acute labor shortages in certain sectors in countries such as Germany or Austria (Vincze & Balaban, 2022).

The phenomenon of emigration has had and continues to have profound economic, social and political implications on Romanian society, as emphasized by several researches on this topic in recent decades (Diminescu, 2009; Mădroane, 2016; Vasile et al., 2013) and beyond. There have been recent works highlighting the way the Romanian diaspora has been portrayed in the media (Beciu et al., 2017; Botezat & Moraru, 2020; Cărlan & Ciocea, 2014; Rotaru, 2016), which has had an impact on the elections and on the way it contributed to the democratic change in Romania (Ciocea & Cărlan, 2012; Dolea, 2018).

In recent years, we are also witnessing the reactions of some policymakers that have led to the outlining of legislative measures regarding this phenomenon, one of the major problems being represented by parents who work seasonally or for longer periods abroad, thus participating in the circulatory migration phenomenon, as well as their children who have been left at home in the care of third parties (Huțuleac & Balaban, 2019).

Recent research has highlighted the problems of this phenomenon which has profound implications at the societal level, but especially at the individual level on the emotional balance of children and adolescents, the well-being of these children, school performance, and even certain aspects related to the increase of delinquency in this group have been reported (Sandu, 2010).

In recent decades, research on emigration and diaspora has been published (Dolea, 2018; 2022), but this paper proposes a perspective that is intended to be innovative and therefore original. Only a few studies exist (e.g. Botezat & Pfeiffer, 2014; 2019; Huțuleac & Balaban, 2019; Balaban & Huțuleac, 2021) on how the media has highlighted the issue of migration, the issue of adolescents and children left safely at home in the care of grandparents or other relatives while their parents worked abroad. The data collected through a questionnaire showed that children with parents working abroad, especially those from rural areas, are more prone to depression and health problems in general than other Romanian children and adolescents. In addition, children and adolescents whose parents are far away put more effort in order to achieve similar performance as their peers (Botezat & Pfeiffer, 2014).

The two pillars on which this paper is built are the media and children whose parents work abroad. When referring to migration in this thesis, the particular focus is on the implications for this group of children and adolescents whose parents are working abroad and in terms of media, the main focus of this thesis is on how they use media, their media and digital literacy and how the absence of their parents who are away has influenced the development of these skills. Moreover,

the present paper proposes an approach from the perspective of "media literacy", a concept translated by some authors into Romanian as media literacy. If we refer to "media literacy", in addition to digital competences, we are talking about a critical approach to media.

For children and adolescents, it is obvious that the focus on the media component is, in particular, the Internet and social networks, knowing that these are the media channels preferred by this age group (Balaban et al., 2022). We cannot talk about the dynamics of the last three decades from a migration perspective without taking into account the unprecedented media dynamics, which is why there is a section dedicated to this phenomenon in the pages of this paper. Moreover, the paper also proposes a geographic focus, in this case Suceava County, a county in north-eastern Romania that has been confronted with the phenomenon of emigration and which has one of the highest figures of parents who have gone to work abroad, leaving their children at home, in the care of relatives. With this geographic focus, the paper analyzes, in addition to aspects related to the media literacy of children and adolescents in this region, how political respondents and the administrative apparatus of this county communicate on the issue of emigration and diaspora.

Media plays an essential role in everyday life, having a profound impact on the way we perceive reality and interact with the people around us, this is the perspective of relevant theories in communication sciences such as Agenda-Setting (McCombs & Shaw, 1972) and Media Frames Theory (Entman, 1993). Society has been transformed through the media, from print, radio, to television and the Internet. For example, in Romania, research talks about the existence of a hybrid media system (Chadwick, 2013), in which the role of television and the Internet are fundamental for informing citizens (Balaban et al., 2021).

The significant development and evolution of the media in the current digital age, as well as the facilitation of access to a growing number of people, have not only determined the consumption of information, but also the creation and dissemination of content by users. In addition to traditional information sources, alternative sources have emerged in what the literature calls the "high-choice media environment" (Buturoiu et al., 2023). This transformation has had a significant impact on the dynamics of communication and the role of individuals in the media landscape, revolutionizing the way people interact with media. Digital platforms allow for increased interactivity, personalization of media content and regularly adapting to user preferences. This phenomenon has led to a new dynamic in the relationship between the media

and the consuming public, with the latter transforming from passive receivers into active players in the media ecosystem. The imminence of technological development, the unpredictability, adaptability and ubiquity of social networks also pose challenges. Constant and excessive exposure to media content can cause detrimental effects on emotional and mental health, and the phenomenon of misinformation and fake news is a real danger for democratic systems (Bârgăoanu, 2018).

Developing the skills to analyze and evaluate the media content consumed in order to effectively and safely navigate a complex, increasingly diverse and challenging media landscape is essential and thus possible media addiction and information overload can be identified. The differentiation between truthful and false information is the subject of intense debate in the literature, academia and even in the media (Bârgăoanu & Radu, 2018; Corbu, Bârgăoanu, Buturoiu, & Ștefăniță, 2020; Tandoc, Lim, & Ling, 2018). This distinction plays a fundamental role for the development of a well-informed society as well as for the proper functioning of democracy. The phenomenon of misinformation is amplified in the digital age, where rapid access to information and speed have become basic aspects of the online environment. Social media platforms allow the rapid dissemination of content without adequate mechanisms to verify its veracity, as algorithms prioritize engagement and interaction, and thus viral content can be promoted regardless of its veracity. Agenda Setting theory (McCombs & Shaw, 1972) together with models for analyzing government communication on social networks (DePaula & Dicelli, 2016; 2018; DePaula & Dicelli, 2016; 2018; Mergel, 2017) constitute the theoretical foundation used in the present empirical approach. At the same time, we found it necessary to focus on clarifying the concepts of media literacy and digital literacy (Hobbs, 2011; Livingstone, 2004a) in their broader meaning of the terms used in English.

In today's society, these two terms represent the fundamental skills for informed and responsible participation in everyday life, as well as for safely navigating the complex media landscape. Education in these areas is essential to help people identify, understand, analyze and critically assess the messages and information they are exposed to. European Union policies emphasize the importance of these competencies in the lifelong education and training of European citizens, their promotion being vital in the development of an informed, critical and resilient society in the face of the information and technological challenges of the 21st century (Livingstone, 2004b). Romania has taken the first steps in promoting and developing the two

concepts and the competencies needed to be developed, but faces significant challenges, with non-governmental organizations' initiatives being the predominant ones. Regional as well as individual disparities in access to technology, the Internet and the lack of advanced digital skills among the population are obstacles that our country is facing, and to overcome them, a closer collaboration between governmental structures, the private sector and civil society is needed (Rotaru, 2019).

In the context of a rapidly developing digital age that has fundamentally transformed the way people live, interact and work, digital technologies have changed the way, means and modalities by which people migrate and keep in touch with friends, relatives and family members back home (Van Djick, 2013). One of the most obvious links is the facilitation of the migration process, with the Internet and digital platforms simplifying access to information on work opportunities abroad, living conditions, legal requirements for emigration, and providing a wealth of resources for potential migrants. Social networks, as well as other digital platforms that allow remittances to be sent, play a crucial role in connecting Romanian emigrants with each other, as well as in terms of communication with those back home (Huțuleac & Balaban, 2019).

The motivation for choosing the topic for this paper is closely related to the importance of the subject and the concepts addressed both at the national level and at the level of Suceava County, in particular, being directly interested in the skills and competencies of children, young people and the adult population in terms of digital, media and information literacy, as well as the phenomenon of migration in the area.

The main objectives of this paper are the following:

1. to explore media use among children and adolescents whose parents have gone abroad to work;
2. to explore how the administrative authorities in Suceava County deal with the issue of intra-community emigration, its implications and, last but not least, how communication on this issue is carried out.

To achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the thesis starts from the presentation of some fundamental theoretical concepts defined in the specialized literature (media development and the impact of the emergence of social networks, media literacy, digital literacy, migration phenomenon). In the empirical part, the research methodology is represented by a series of semi-structured interviews conducted with 40 children and adolescents from Suceava County, as well as a content analysis of publications related to events dedicated to Suceava migrants who come home on holiday or practice circular migration, as well as their children, organized by the county

and local public administration institutions in Suceava. It should be specified here that the research methodology and instruments were applied taking into account the ethical and legislative aspects related to research involving minors and the sensitivity of this topic for young people and adolescents whose parents are working abroad.

The second chapter presents the evolution of media and its forms over time, in an era marked by the exponential growth of information flow and the relevance of technology for human communication. The digital revolution and the way the Internet, social networks and communication platforms have democratized and facilitated access to information enable users to be both consumers and creators of content. These are the themes discussed based on the literature in this section of the thesis.

The third chapter explores the concepts of media literacy, media information literacy and digital literacy respectively (e.g. Hobbs, 2011; Livingstone 2004a; 2004b; Potter, 2010; 2013; Rotaru, 2019), highlighting their importance for a contemporary society characterized by an abundance of information, social networks and advanced technologies. Examination of the differences and intersections between the concepts presented highlight the skills needed to effectively and critically navigate today's digital media landscape, with the role of media literacy education being crucial for developing skills in analyzing media content, accessibility, recognizing the veracity or falsity of the information presented, enabling people to develop independent judgments about media content and creating messages in varied contexts. The convergence of the above concepts with advanced media and technologies has a direct connection with the involvement of citizens in societal decision making, democracy, together helping to shape communities, both collectively and individually. At the EU level, the initiatives and dedicated projects aim to raise awareness and competencies of citizens in the development and responsible use of digital technologies, critical interpretation of media content, supporting collaboration between Member States, as well as at the level of each country for the development of educational resources, updated school curricula, training programs for teachers and students. In Romania, initiatives and projects in this field have gained more and more importance in the context of a constantly developing and increasingly digitalized society. They mainly belong to civil society and are developed in partnership with the public or private sector. At the EU level, Romania has been at the bottom of the digital literacy rankings for pupils in recent years.

Chapter IV presented theoretical perspectives on the phenomenon of migration, defining it and presenting its characteristics at a general level, as well as some of the theories developed over time that provide conceptual frameworks for understanding the dynamics and underlying reasons for the movement of populations. These are diverse and present different perspectives, exploring migration in different contexts.

The migration phenomenon of Romanians, its dynamics and its causes present different particularities in relation to the historical stages imposed by external and internal factors, its effects being visible on the labor market, the economy, the development of society at the cultural, educational, family and children left at home. Temporary, circular or permanent migration has become a contemporary reality for many families, with Romanians choosing to move to countries such as Italy, Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom and other European countries, as we have emphasized previously, Romania is among the countries with the highest number of citizens living in other EU member countries (OECD, 2018). Many of the children of migrants in our country remain at home either with the other parent or with grandparents, relatives or friends of the parents who play the role of guardian. In recent years Romanian legislation has developed in relation to this phenomenon, which has gained momentum, and the bureaucracy regarding the procedure of temporary delegation of parental authority has been slightly reduced.

The methodological design used in the research approach, in order to be in line with the research objectives presented above, is detailed in Chapter V, as well as the research methods used: semi-structured interview and content analysis. In this chapter I also presented the theoretical basis of the instruments used for data collection and analysis, as well as the research questions that were developed based on the research objectives and their theoretical underpinning:

Q1: What are the modes of communication and social media networks used in the communication of children left at home with parents who have gone to work in other countries?

Q2: What are the best practices and policies of public institutions addressing the issue of children left at home?

Q3: How are the activities of public institutions addressing the issue of Romanians working in other countries and children left at home reflected in social media?

Q4: How are the projects of public institutions dedicated to emigrants from Suceava that also address the issue of children left at home as a result of large-scale migration reflected in local and regional media?

The presentation and analysis of the results obtained after applying the research methods are presented in Chapter VI. After conducting N = 40 interviews with as many children and teenagers who had one or both parents who had left for work in other countries, their interpretation was based on thematic analysis. Also, N=1313 posts in the period January 1, 2019- July 2, 2024 from the Facebook page of Suceava County Council, „Diaspora Relations", the section of the cjsuceava.ro website dedicated to diaspora, as well as N = 68 appearances in local media (print, online, radio and television) presenting the most important project dedicated to diaspora and Suceava citizens working abroad and coming home in August, „Diaspora Month" in the years 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023, were analyzed. At the same time, the materials posted on the official website of Suceava County Council <http://cjsuceava.ro/ro/relatia-cu-diaspora>, in the section „Diaspora Relations" were analyzed. In addition, a semi-structured interview was conducted with one of the decision-makers, Gabriela Dugan, in 2019, as she is the head of the Diaspora, External Partnerships and Protocol Service of Suceava County Council.

The results of the research are detailed in the following chapters, thus in the sixth chapter are presented aspects related to media literacy of children and adolescents left at home, in the context of parental migration, in the seventh chapter analyzes the way in which the responsible institutions at the local public administration level communicate on the topic of this thesis, and in the eighth chapter are presented the results of the analysis of the official Facebook page of Suceava County Council "Diaspora Relations" and also the media coverage of the event "Diaspora Month", an event organized under the umbrella of the same institution.

This paper offers a comprehensive perspective on the effects of the migration phenomenon in a restricted geographic area such as Suceava County and with a focal point represented by children and adolescents who have parents who have gone to work abroad. To this whole equation is added the central element, in this case the media. The diversification of the media offers opportunities to facilitate access to communication, information and leisure without imposing limitations of space and time. The media and digital skills and knowledge needed by children and adult media users are closely linked to several types of literacy, such as IT, Internet, media and digital literacy. Technological progress facilitates the process of communication between children and their parents who are away working in other countries. The development was mentioned by the interviewees themselves, with traditional telephone calls being replaced by audio-video calls,

the advantage being for educational purposes, allowing parents to identify certain problems of their children, even if they are far away. It also makes it easier to build and develop emotional bonds.

The digital skills of children and teenagers influence the digital skills of parents, grandparents and guardians, with the transfer of information mainly from the younger to the older generation. The most widely used apps for communication between children left at home and parents are WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger. Grandparents are encouraged and stimulated to become active online and are supported by young people in this particular situation. Thus, the transfer of technical knowledge is an essential dimension of media literacy which is mainly from children and teenagers to parents and grandparents. Technical knowledge is more advanced than knowledge of the legal or economic context, both for children and adolescents and for parents, grandparents or guardians. Migration influences motivational skills when it comes to media literacy, but is less likely to affect skills that are part of the legal context.

Parents often try to make up for their physical absence from their children's lives by giving valuable gifts, with smartphones, tablets and other smart devices being among the favorite presents. The presence of both or only one parent has a significant impact on children's media literacy, at least in terms of the acquisition of devices that support the communication process and the motivation to use them. The majority of children and adolescents who were interviewed have a better material status compared to many of their peers. Children with migrant parents are not disadvantaged in this case. They have an additional motivation to use the media to communicate with their distant parents. Social networks give them the technical support to see their parents, to share with them their problems, worries, concerns. Communication using social media in this situation is also used for educational purposes.

Teenagers and children play a crucial role in the process of communication between parents who have left for other countries and grandparents back home. They facilitate the use of technology, which is often acquired by parents working abroad, but they are not in a position to provide substantial support when it comes to legal, moral or educational skills. This research has confirmed, once again, that media literacy in children and adolescents thrives even in the absence of explicit efforts to encourage and promote it. (Buckingham, 2005)

Referring to the media literacy model used in this research (Riesmeyer, Pfaff-Rüdiger, & Kümpel, 2012), all areas that define media literacy are influenced to some extent by the unique situation of children and adolescents whose parents work abroad. The fact that they are unable to

meet for longer periods of time provides an additional motivation to use social media. In this digitally mediated relationship between children, teenagers and their parents who are away, there are also disadvantages, such as using social media as a substitute for the parent who is away. Being highly motivated to use digital media, children and adolescents seem to have advanced expertise in using social networks. This specific situation has a positive impact on the development of digital media literacy for grandparents or caregivers who are motivated to communicate with relatives abroad and are encouraged by the children and adolescents they care for.

Frequent use of technology contributes to the development of digital competences, but this does not necessarily imply the development of advanced media skills and digital literacy. The absence of parents can also mean a lack of adequate guidance in using digital media responsibly and critically. Teenagers and children are vulnerable to inappropriate content, fake news and other risks present in the digital environment, but most have minimal skills to check if they suspect unsafe surfing.

Frequent communication with parents, as mentioned by all interviewees, through digital means, can have a positive impact on emotional well-being, but at the same time it is not a substitute for face-to-face interactions and can lead to social isolation, overuse and even dependence on technology, with many respondents reporting social media and internet use of 8 to 10 hours a day.

The involvement of schools, institutions responsible for dealing with adolescents and children left at home as a result of parental migration, civil society and even the community is essential in providing support and resources for media literacy, as partnerships between these actors can facilitate access to relevant information and educational programs.

In the strict context of the migration of parents whose children stayed at home, Suceava County Council has defined a strategy in the context of the negative effects caused by the phenomenon of labor migration. The initiative to develop a department dedicated to relations with the diaspora, the first of its kind in Romania, to facilitate the process of communication between other entities and institutions of the local public administration with Suceava's migrants, in an attempt to develop new projects and strategies to attract them to return home, reunite with their families and invest, developing their own businesses in the communities from which they left, is already showing positive effects. In most cases, the economic situation of children left behind is good. Additional programs developed in schools or by other educational institutions to address the

potential negative effects of the situation of these children and adolescents would be much more effective. More social measures are needed, and the development of social policies developed by teachers, education specialists in collaboration with non-governmental organizations that have specialists in the field, as well as with the relevant public institutions are recommended.

The Suceava County Council addresses the issue of children left at home and their migrant parents from the perspective of promoting information related to various educational, economic, financial, travel, and financing opportunities, as well as the development of various thematic areas related to these areas. The development and organization of various projects and events dedicated to Romanian migrants and their children who either practice circular migration, or decide to return home or live in the diaspora are also within the institution's area of interest. Personalized promotion and communication, in particular on social media accounts, but also on the diaspora website, focusing on the specific identified needs of migrant communities are recommended. The news of interest to the migrant communities mentioned will be disseminated bi-directionally, with information of interest being picked up by the press and promoted by the press on Suceava migrants and beyond being distributed on the Suceava County Council's Facebook page dedicated to relations with the diaspora. Projects such as "Diaspora Month", which include the organization of events under the coordination of Suceava County Council, of cultural, informative, social and economic character, are promoted by the regional or national press, on their social media accounts, but also on their own platforms (website), the communicational flow between those involved is based on collaboration and coordination. It is worth noting the communication approach initiated by the Suceava County Council through the Facebook page "Diaspora Relations", but the predominant character of image management type messages is also noticeable here, similar to previous studies on government communication on social networks (Spoaller, 2021; Zeru et al. 2023).

The General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection of Suceava strives to support children left at home through various projects. The mobile teams are undersized, according to representatives of the institution and efforts are being made to develop them, the members of these teams being those who observe, advise, develop solutions to solve problems in the territory. An increase in the number of social workers, especially in rural areas, as well as in more densely populated areas or in rural areas that are more difficult to reach, would have positive effects in addressing the complexity of the problems that arise in different cases.

Addressing the issue of Romanian migrants and children left at home by public institutions is a rather rigorous process, given the complexity and diversity of the problems they face. The undersizing of the staff dealing with this population in the relevant public institutions, the adaptation of the process, of the communication methods and techniques centered on the specific needs of migrants and their children back home, the creation of projects with an inter-institutional approach involving the communities to which these citizens belong, could represent future perspectives for addressing these citizens.

This thesis has theoretical implications, contributing to research on how to communicate with and about people in a migrant context, to media literacy research and to research on government communication on social networks.

This research paper highlights both the perspective of children and teenagers left at home, whose parents are working abroad, regarding the communication process and their skills analyzed in the context of the proposed media literacy model, and that of policy makers and implementers at county level, complemented by the presentation and media coverage of projects, events and opportunities dedicated to these citizens.

The present research is mainly based on a mixed quantitative but mostly qualitative methodology and has its own limitations, and its results cannot be generalized nor can causal relationships be established. On the one hand, only the perspective of children and adolescents whose parents are working in other countries is revealed, a control group of children whose parents do not work abroad could contribute to a comparative perspective. Interviews with parents working abroad whose children remain at home, their grandparents, guardians and educators could also help to provide a more complete picture of the phenomenon studied. The intention of this paper was to explore in more depth the relationship between children, parents, grandparents and guardians in terms of media literacy transfer and digital skills.

The analysis related to the content published on social media and on the platforms of the institutions concerned with the issue could be complemented by conducting interviews with specialists from the institutions in charge of communicating with the press and the general public. A comparative study presenting the vision and strategies of the approach to the issue of Romanian migrants by similar institutions in other counties would deepen the details of the research carried out. Also, the perspective of the journalists who present in the media articles related to the presented topic could complete the complex approach of the presented image.

Extending the scope of the present research to the national level could contribute to the exploration and development of support strategies and public policies tailored to the specific context of migration of Romanians and their children left behind.

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