**THE ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES IN BUCHAREST**

**Council for Doctoral University Studies**

**Doctoral School of Cybernetics and Economic Statistics**

**THE SIZE AND INFLUENCE OF EMIGRATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA**

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**Bucharest, 2024**

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**Key words:** migration, emigration, temporary emigrant, permanent emigrant, economic development, remittances, labor force, return migration, multiple choice regression, panel data regression, k-means classification

**Summary**

Romania has been deeply affected by the phenomenon of emigration in recent decades, having a significant impact on the demographic, social and economic structure of the country. Millions of Romanians left in search of better work opportunities and a better life in other countries, and this continuous exodus generated complex and diverse effects on the Romanian economy. It is essential to understand the impact of emigration on Romania's economic development to make informed decisions. This paper analyses the impact of emigration on economic development along three main pillars: the effect of remittances on economic development, the impact of emigration on the labour force, and return migration. The study uses data from various sources collected by statistical institutes and applies econometric methods such as multiple regression analysis for annual country-level data and panel data regression analysis for models with available region-level data. Based on the results obtained, the paper offers a series of recommendations aimed at substantiating public policies that can support the country's economic development. Romania must carefully evaluate both the benefits and disadvantages of massive emigration in the long term to balance its effects and contribute to sustainable economic growth.