

**Question for written answer E-002566/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Daniel Buda (PPE)**

Subject: EU population migration

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) shows that the EU population is ageing faster in some regions than in others, and that this process is irreversible. Moreover, the gap between EU regions with the highest population growth and those with dwindling populations is set to widen over the coming decades. This affects 101 regions in Europe, 22 of which are in Romania.

One of the biggest causes is the migration of young people from one area to another: for education, higher salaries, different opportunities or more attractive jobs. Small or medium-sized urban areas are at the highest risk of depopulation, as young people tend to leave them due to socioeconomic needs that are much easier to fulfil in larger cities. These trends can be seen over the long term and, unless a series of measures is taken fast, they will be irreversible.

What practical strategy does the Commission have to support the even development of EU regions, and thereby reduce the social, economic and demographic imbalances that occur in the least developed regions?