

ASPECTS REGARDING THE HOUSE, EDUCATION AND HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH-MUNTENIA REGION

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Abstract

The infrastructure contains a supporting element, with a special importance to support all economic, social and cultural activities in the rural area. The infrastructure covers both structural area giving unity to the system and space area, thus creating a viable territorial configuration, which is reflected by different levels of accessibility. It is actually the circulatory framework of the economic and social system, individualized in a well determined space, as the regional one. South Muntenia region is characterized by a well defined infrastructure as a result of its advantageous geographical position. Its location in a peripheral area of Romania favored the emergence of major road ways, which allowed the development of its relations not only with neighboring national regions, but also with neighboring country Bulgaria. The present paper analyses the educational and medical infrastructure in the region, showing thus the discrepancies in the education and medical system and equipment across the region. It is pertinent analysis allowing the make improvements in this area.

Key words: region, development, infrastructure, area

INTRODUCTION

South-Muntenia Region is situated in the South-East part of Romania, bordering to the North, Centre Region, to the east South-East Region, to the South, Bulgaria, the limit being given by the natural border – the Danube river. The presence in the South of the region of the Danube river provides it the opportunity to have communications with the eight countries that border the Danube, and through the Danube-the Black Sea channel it has access to Constanta Harbor – the main maritime gate of the country. [1]

The variety of the forms of relief and the geological complexity of the region makes its natural resources to be very varied. The mountain and hilly area in the North part of the region focus on the natural resources of the subsoil (petroleum, natural gases, coal, radioactive mining, salt, sulphur, accumulations of gypsum for the energy, chemical industry and construction materials.

Along the subsoil resources, a remarkable importance with direct influences in the development of certain economic sector, have the soil resources. Thus, the agricultural

surface concentrated mainly in the South counties of the region has 71% of the total surface of the region, of which 80,2% represents arable land.

The region has important and rich water resources (3.4% of the region surface), resources which by their use in various sectors, have a remarkable role in the economic development of the region.

The wildlife of a great variety provides another natural wealth of the region. The lands occupied with forests and wood vegetation have 19.3% of the region surface, representing an importance source of wood mass and an appropriate area for the hunting fauna.

The economic sectors with tradition in South Muntenia Region are: production of chemical and petroleum equipment, production of chemicals, production of Dacia vehicles, agricultural production and mountain tourism. [2]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this paper, there were used and processed the data made available from the National

Institution of Statistics and Romania Yearbook 2010 and Regional Statistics regarding South-Muntenia Region regarding its economic sector. The analysis is made both at the regional and national macro-economic level.

The data regarding the economic sector of the region are statistical data processed from the period 2013-2015.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

An important issue for the region development is infrastructure related to the system of education and health and housing. A house represents one of the basic needs of the population and access to it is an important factor to maintain and improve the quality of life and an essential component of the society. Housing of South Muntenia region was estimated at the end of 2012 to 1,295,755 houses.

Of the total number of dwellings, more than half (60.19%) were in the rural area, confirming the typology predominantly rural of the region, the only exception being in Prahova county where the share of houses in urban areas was 51.14%

The dynamics of housing in the period 2013-2015 at the national and regional level, by ownership and by residence, is shown in Table 1. From the existing houses, private houses privately owned mostly were 98.48%, and the remaining 1.52% were in majority state ownership.

Table 1. Dynamics of dwellings (urban and rural) in South Muntenia Region in the period 2013-2015

Residential area	2013		2015	
	Number	%	Number	%
TOTAL Romania of which:	8,427,941			
		100.0	8,467,832	100.0
Urban	4,607,796	54.7	4,585,420	54.2
Rural	3,820,145	45.3	3,882,412	45.8
Total South Muntenia Region of which:	1,295,755	100.0	1,301,029	100.0
Urban	515,970	39.8	517,359	39.8
Rural	779,785	60.2	783,670	60.2

Processed according to Romania Yearbook, 2012, INS

The data in the table regarding the houses, highlight a variable dynamics in the analyzed period, but extremely low, both at national level and in South Muntenia Region.

Infrastructure for education

At the level of South Muntenia region the education infrastructure is well developed. The educational system, both nationally and in South-Muntenia region includes infrastructure for education, represented by the buildings in which take place the educational activities, respectively schools, kindergartens, colleges, universities and vocational education and locations for special education. It can be said that education infrastructure is well represented in the region and thus it can support the development in good conditions of the education, noting that in the rural area, this type of infrastructure can be considered inadequate for the rural development process, requiring a restructuring of school structures and investment projects related to the local needs and requirements.

The data concerning the education infrastructure at national level and for South Muntenia region in 2013 with different levels of education both in the rural and in the urban area are showed in table 2.

Table 2. Structure of the education units by county, in South Muntenia region in 2013

Develop. region/ County	Kindergartens	Schools	Vocational schools	High schools	Post high schools	Faculty
Romania	1,367	4,022	6	1,615	86	108
South Muntenia Region	145	684	1	210	12	4
Argeş	25	128	-	45	2	2
Călăraşi	16	65	-	17	1	-
Dâmboviţa	18	106	-	31	-	1
Giurgiu	6	66	-	13	1	-
Ialomiţa	20	75	-	27	1	-
Prahova	41	137	1	54	6	1
Teleorman	19	107	-	23	1	-

Processed according to: Romania Yearbook, 2012, INS

The percent of schools in the region is represented as follows: 0.15% for primary education and 99.85% for secondary education compared to the national level where the rate was 1.29% respectively 98.71%.

Prahova County is remarked with the highest number of 41 kindergarten, most schools of

secondary education - 137 schools, and with most high schools across the region, respectively 54 high schools and 6 post high schools. Arges county is remarked by the largest number of faculties respectively 2 higher education institutions.

South Muntenia region is characterized by an average level of training and qualification of the population. The school population is continuously decreasing almost to all levels of training. The most significant decrease was registered in the university population.

The highest training level is registered in the counties in the North part of the region – Arges and Prahova where most universities from South Muntenia region are concentrated.[3]

Health infrastructure is represented by health and care facilities, respectively hospitals, polyclinics, diagnostic and treatment centers, medical clinics and rural health centers and other public and private facilities. These are showed in Table 3.

The healthcare infrastructure recorded in the South-Muntenia region in 2013, a percent of 14.19% at the national level for hospitals and a percent of 16.65% for general medical units, while for the polyclinics the percent is 7.06%

and a relatively low percent of 10.55% was recorded for other health units. The highest values on the number of health units by county with health profile were in the North part of the region, Prahova, Arges, and Dambovita counties. South Muntenia region had the least developed medical system (4.8 hospital beds to 1,000 inhabitants at the end of 2013 compared to the national level of 6.4 beds to 1,000 inhabitants, registering high variations from a county to another.

According to the statistical data, South Muntenia region had in 2013 a network of health units composed of a total number of 64 hospitals (48 in the urban area and 16 in the rural area), 17 clinics (16 in the urban area and 1 in the rural area) 44 dispensaries (32 in the urban area and 12 in the rural area), 1,670 general medicine and family medicine units (782 in the urban area and 888 in the rural area), 1,081 dental units (830 in the urban area and 251 in the rural area), 885 medical specialty (841 in the urban area and 44 in the rural area) 1,100 pharmacies and pharmaceutical points (659 in the urban area and 441 in the rural area) and 377 medical laboratories (324 in the urban area and 53 in the rural area).

Table 3. Structure of health units in South Muntenia Region, 2013

Development region/county	Hospitals	policlinics	General medicine union	Family medicine units	Dentist units	Pharmacies
Romania	458	269	1.033	11,279	11.025	919
South Muntenia	65	19	172	1,571	1.017	184
Argeş	19	1	57	374	295	61
Călăraşi	6	0	20	118	62	171
Dâmboviţa	7	14	18	249	205	96
Giurgiu	5	0	15	122	57	83
Ialomiţa	4	3	0	122	51	235
Prahova	16	1	62	365	307	89
Teleorman	8	0	0	221	40	

Processed according to: Romania Yearbook, 2012, INS

At the county level, the most medical units were in Arges and Prahova counties, and the least in Giurgiu and Ialomita counties.

Regarding the number of doctors per 1,000 inhabitants, the region ranks the last place at national level with 1.41 doctors.

At county level, the region average was exceeded only by Arges (2.11 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants) and Prahova counties (1.45

doctors per 1,000 inhabitants), the last place is occupied by Calarasi County (1 doctor per 1,000 inhabitants).

CONCLUSIONS

The main characteristics of the house infrastructure of South Muntenia Region were that it had a higher percent in the rural

area of the region a number of 783,670 (60.2% of total) which 99.32% is privately owned; from the total number of houses more than half (60.19%) were in the rural area confirming a predominantly rural typology of the region. From the existing house stock, privately owned houses were 98.48%, and the remaining 1.52% were in the state ownership. The infrastructure relating to education was appropriate at the regional level, but for the rural area it did not provide the necessary, therefore it is required a restructuring of the school infrastructure and the implementation of investment projects in correlation with the local needs.

The health infrastructure was characterized by a weak health system compared to the national level and in the rural area it was extremely weak. A more favorable situation was recorded in the counties in the North part of the region. In the region, there are places with difficult access to primary health care (Bughea de Sus commune in Argeş county, Plătăreşti commune in Călăraşi county, Perişani, Răscăeţi, Râu Alb, Vlădeni and Vulcana Pandele in Dâmboviţa county, Cosoba in Giurgiu county, Alexeni, Bărbuleşti, Bueşti, Ciocârlia, Colelia, Drăgoeşti, Giurgeni, Răduleşti and Sărăţeni communes in Ialomiţa county, Cosminele, Lapoş, Podenii Noi and Talea communes in Prahova county and Beciu, Fântânele, Frăsinet and Purani communes in Teleorman county).

At the regional level, it was recorded an increase of the number of medical staff.

The region occupied the last place at the national level in the number of doctors per 1,000 inhabitants, with only 1.41 doctors.

The region occupied the last place also in the number of beds in the hospitals at 1,000 inhabitants with only 4,8 beds.

The conclusion is that for the improvement of the educational and health infrastructure in South Muntenia region investments area needed correlated to the local needs, especially in the rural area.

Under the community programmes, funds can be granted for the improvements of the schools, especially in the rural area.

Also, there is a major discrepancy between the counties in the North part of the region,

which are more developed and the counties in the South part of the region, which are less developed. This discrepancy can also be solved by adequate investments in the respective area.

REFERENCES

- [1]Details about South-Muntenia Region, Source: <http://www.adrmuntenia.ro>
- [2]Details about South-Muntenia Region, Source: <http://www.adrmuntenia.ro>
- [3]Draft February 2013 – Social and economic analysis of South Muntenia region www.adrmuntenia.ro