

## SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AND FORMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL AREA IN SOUTH MUNTENIA REGION

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### *Abstract*

*The development of the rural area refers to the modifications in the rural area and the specific forms that supports these modifications, represented by the technical and social infrastructure. The rural area of the region was formed from administrative point of view of 7 counties, in 2010, containing 519 communes, with 2019 villages. The rural area, by the development potential it has, plays an important role in the economic and social life of the region, being different by the urban area by the profile of the economic activities, occupational structures and available resources. In the rural area, the agriculture dominates as main activity, the percent owned by it at the regional level being of 35.5% of the total employed population in 2010. The proposed paper presents the aspects regarding the infrastructure for the development of the rural area in South Muntenia Region.*

**Key words:** agriculture, infrastructure, region, rural area, rural development

### INTRODUCTION

The population of South Muntenia Region has rural population mainly. It is a remarkably important potential resource for the development of the rural communities, the population of the region was in 2008 of 1.925.334 persons, that represents 58,6% of the total population of the region.

The rural population of the region is characterized by a continuous decrease, it is registered in the trend existing at national level, the number of the inhabitants in the rural area being in 2008 with 31,802 lower than in 2004. the percent of the rural population in the total regional population remained unchanged, in 2008 it was registered the same percent as in 2004, that is 58,6%. The natural movement of the region population after the year 2004 was characterized by an increase of the birth rate (in 2004, 9.4 ‰ born live, and in 2008 it reached to 9,6‰) concomitently with a slightly decrease of death rate (in 2004, 13‰ deceased, in 2007 decreased at 12,8‰, and in 2008 returns to the value of 13‰), both phenomena are fit into the national trend [1]. In territorial profile, Ialomița, Călărași and Giurgiu counties register a birth rate of

11,9‰ born live in 2008 in Ialomița is of 11,2‰, in Călărași and in Giurgiu of 10,0‰. In Teleorman and Giurgiu counties the highest death rates are registered, that is of 16,8‰, respectively 15,7 ‰, higher than the region average of 13‰ deceased [2]. A factor for the decrease of the population in South Muntenia Region is the migration, both internal and external one. The mutations in the socio-economic structure of Romania determined an intense territorial mobility of the population, with direct consequences in the number modification and socio-demographic structure modification of the population in territorial profile. For the internal migration, the urban-rural flow is the one that possesses the highest percentage within it. The segment of population that is willing to mobility is represented by the urban population that migrates in the rural area.

The labour force in the rural area specific to the rural economy dominated by the primary sector, constitutes one of the key resources of the rural development. the population in the rural area is employed mainly in agriculture, having the status of family worker and they have a level of education more reduced compared to those in the urban area. In the rural area, the employment rate is higher than

in the urban area, and the unemployment level is more reduced.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to present the conditions for the rural development in South Muntenia Region I analysed the documents that describe the entire infrastructure of the region and the analyses made in order to elaborate the documents regarding the Region infrastructure. In fact, the present paper is just a part taken from a much larger study that I made about the rural development in South Muntenia Region.

I elaborated the present study by the method of specific research, by dynamic economic analysis and by processing data from the Regional Statistics Direction and also data taken from the Regional Development Plan 2007-2013 regarding the development of the infrastructure in South Muntenia Region.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the rural area the agriculture predominates as main activity, the percent it possesses at the region level being of 35.5% from the total population employed in year 2008. another characteristic of the labour force in the rural area is its reduced level of training, with influences on the productivity and on the living standard. Related to the labour force in the rural area, it resulted following the analysis of the age groups that the tendency is that the labour force is getting older.

The infrastructure constitutes an element of support with a remarkable importance for all the economic, social and cultural activities in the rural area.

Essential element of the economic system, the infrastructure represents the factor that allows the connection between all the other elements. The infrastructure covers both the structural sector, providing unity to the system, and the space sector, thus achieving a viable territorial configuration or non viable one, that materialize by different levels of accessibility. It represents in fact, the circulator system of

the socio-economic body, individualized in a well determined area, that is the regional area. South Muntenia Region characterises itself by a well defined infrastructure as a result of its advantageous geographical position. Its configuration around Bucuresti-Ilfov Development Region has as a result the definition of a dense transport and communication infrastructure, a prolongation of that developed in București municipality, the most important urban and administrative centre. The transport infrastructure refers in this paper to the road, railway and fluvial transport, vital ways of the economic activity of the country and of the region, making possible the mobility of the labour force, of the raw materials and of the commercial products. The roads density is of 34,3 km /100 kmp and the railway density is of 45,2 km /1000 kmp. The roads and railway quality is low, a big part of the road network (over 50%) must be modernised and a big part of the railway network (over 2/3) must be electrified. There is a long term governmental strategy that has as objective the rehabilitation of the national roads until the year 2020.

The road transport is situated over the last years in a continuous development, it tends to become the leader in the sector due to the decline registered by the railway transport. The structure of the public roads in South Muntenia Region in 2008 had 4 international road ways and the future highway Constanța-București-Oradea, that cross the region territory, benefiting by an international connection both for the urban area and for the rural area.

The structure of the public roads reflected especially by the percent of the modernised public roads compared to the total county and commune roads, places the counties in the South part at lower values compared to the counties in the North part. Thus, at the region level, the county and commune roads represent 14,56% of the total national level, in Argeș county, these roads represent 26.39% of total region, followed by Prahova county with 20,35% and Dâmbovița county with 15,00%. Compared to the total level of the country of the county and commune public

roads that were modernised in South Muntenia region, the modernised roads represent 13,00%. The density of the public roads is of 100 km<sup>2</sup> territory, it presents the value of 44,4, in Argeş county, 46,4 in Prahova county, 43,4 in Dâmbovița county. In Giurgiu, Ialomița, Călărași and Teleorman counties, this indicator has values under the region value. The national roads network, mostly modernised, ensure a good communication especially between the urban centres in the region and the rural area.

As regards the technical condition, most of them are not corresponding, and this determines that the access to be difficult to the national road network of the rural population in some communities (especially in the South part of the region). The qualitative and quantitative improvement of the county and commune public roads network in the rural area benefited by European support in the period 2002-2008 under SAPARD Program, measure 2.1. „Development and improvement of rural infrastructure”. The international road network allows the connection of the county and commune public roads to the national and international economic area.

The railway network of the region is well developed, the rails are under function, totalizing at the end of 2008 a length of 1.251km, the region being on the VI place in the country from this point of view.

The naval transport. The Danube river is the unique navigation way, the hydrographical network of the region not allowing the naval transport. The commercial changes with the neighbouring countries is made by the Danube ports at Giurgiu, Oltenița, Călărași, Zimnicea and Turnu Măgurele that are on the main navigation way, existing a real potential of rural area development by the use of the agricultural products at export, on this transport way. The poor technological equipment and the moral and physical obsolete one of the river ports and the gradual reduction of their activity, are factors that contributed to the decrease of the level of use of the existent transport potential, the naval transport having the lowest costs, with

unfavourable influence on the communes and villages that are near the port centres.

Characterized by a positive evolution over the last years both from the covering area point of view and from qualitative point of view, the regional system of telecommunication ensure at present an increased and rapid access of the region inhabitants to the national and international telecommunication network. The program of investments in this sector facilitated, by the modern and performing equipment of the telephone network and by the modernisation of the information transport infrastructure, the increase of the number of beneficiaries and of the volume of information, including in the rural area where the deficit of these services is significant.

The regional network of drinking water supply has a total length of 9.058 km, representing 17,82% of the simple length of the networks existing at the national level. It is worth mentioning the percent of 85,76% of the localities in the rural area supplied with drinking water, higher that the percent of 14,24% for the urban area. The counties that have the most localities in the rural area with drinking water network are Argeş county with 69 localities (23.88%), Prahova county with 64 localities (22.14%) and Dâmbovița county with 46 localities (15.92%). At the region level, Prahova county with a length of the drinking water supply network is of 2.874 km (31.73%) and with a number of 78 localities beneficiaries (23.14%), has the first place, followed by Argeş and Dâmbovița counties, more than the counties in the South part of the Region.

The rural population ensure the drinking water resources complementary to the distribution network from individual or community sources, represented by wells or caught springs.

The services for natural gas distribution are ensured for a total number of 145 localities, at the region level. The natural gas network has a length of 4.993 km (15,64%) of the total of 31.927 km at the country level. The supply is for a number of 43 municipalities, towns and 102 communes. In the rural area, there are 94 localities connected to the network, in the

South region and 121 localities in the North region.

An important aspect for the region development and for the rural area development is the social infrastructure that is the education and health infrastructure.

The medical assistance infrastructure registers at region level a percent of 14,19% of the national level, for hospitals and 20,18% for medical clinics. There is a major deficit of ensuring the health infrastructure in the rural area, this requires major investments.

The education infrastructure. The percent of education units at region level is represented by values between 3,12% for primary education, to 17,93% for secondary education. Prahova is the county with the highest number of schools, 183, and high schools 49, and 7 post high school units. Argeş county has the highest number of faculties, 2 high education units. It can be noticed that the education infrastructure is well represented at the region level, the education is made in good conditions, mentioning that in the rural area, this infrastructure can be considered inadequate to the process of rural development, needing a restructuring of the school structures and investments projects correlated with the local needs.

## CONCLUSIONS

The complex development of the rural area is a national importance objective taking into consideration the conditions provided by the European Union, that determined the intensification of the theoretical and practical concern in this sector. Many of the traditional approaches were not adequate to the market economy especially to the rural area, considering the new requirements. It is needed a modern approach, considering that the rural area has a large variety of local resources that can be used based on their sustainability, in order to develop the rural area.

The analysis of the region agriculture highlighted the specific characteristics determined by the diversity of the forms of relief and soil, climate and vegetation resources.

The economic indicators at the region level regarding the agriculture highlight the following aspects: the region position on the first place as regards the arable land (total agricultural surface of the region has 2.444.000 ha, it represents 70,9% of the total surface, the rest being occupied by forest 19,7% and water and ponds 2,9%; of the total agricultural surface, the highest percent of possessed by the arable land 80,7%, followed by pasture 11,8% and vineyards and orchards 3,1%; the total arable land of the region has 1.802.225 ha, the highest surfaces are in Călăraşi county with 408.548 ha, Teleorman county with 367.091 and respectively Ialomiţa county with 342.854 ha, counties situated in the Romanian Plain; the high percent of the private sector in agriculture (99%), the production of the main vegetable growing and mead production, the agriculture of the region having a real potential of development, although at present it is characterised by a low agricultural productivity, mainly due to the obsolete technical equipment and the use practiced and it is under the process of transition to the market economy, the vegetal agricultural production registers high differences at the level of different areas of the region under the conditions of a structure of similar arable land.

## REFERENCES

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