

1. UNIVERSITY AS A FACTOR SUPPORTING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Throughout the contemporary world universities seek to redefine their identity and mission so as to formulate a new development strategy within a complex and dynamic socio-economic and cultural context, influenced by the interaction of four factors: education internationalisation, long-life learning, e-learning and the openness to society, particularly to local and regional communities.

The last dimension, discussed in this paper, has in view, on the one side, to make university regain its traditional role of centre irradiating culture and science and of supporting the freedom of thinking and democracy; on the other side is emphasized the need of involving regional and local authorities as well as the business firms of each area in working out the problems raised by carrying out the mission of each university in the contemporary society.

2. REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE ELECTORAL BEHAVIOUR

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The paper offers a theoretical and methodological analysis of the political business cycles and presents, in this perspective, the Romanian electoral process from the 1992, 1996 and 2000. Concretely, the paper analyses the economic factors that, potentially, determine the regional voting behaviour setting up. The economic reasons of regional political support for Romanian political parties are examined, the investigation being proceeded on four explaining models: a partisan political business cycle model, a vote-popularity model, and two models of the voters' ultra-rational behaviour (Rodrik type's models). For this purpose, using the econometric tools, the relationship between regional unemployment and voters' behaviours for the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Romanian elections was tested. Econometrically, the obtained results confirm the voters' regional partisan political behaviour and reject the hypotheses that found both the vote-popularity models and the Rodrik (1995) voters' ultra-rational behaviour model (including the Fidrmuk (1996) version of Rodrik model).

3. ECONOMICS – A CHANGE OF PARADIGM

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This paper is an attempt at reformulating the general subject of the economy and of economics, of its macroeconomic side in particular. This approach is based on

the concept of *paradigm*, as defined by Thomas Kuhn. In a nutshell, the *change of paradigm* would involve a change of vision, a rearrangement of the concepts of *Economy* within other interdependent relationships. Thus, apart from the usual questions, such as “For whom should economic goods be produced?”, “What and how much should be produced?”, “By which means?”, the author is adding another question that is essential for today’s society, namely “Where to produce?”. This implies more than the well-known meaning of making the most of economic assets of a particular location by considering, above all, the one-to-one relationship economic activity – natural environment, which renders *regional economy* – one of the constituents of economics – more important. Moreover, the author hints at the replacement of the magic square of macroeconomics with a *magic pentagon*, the upper angle of which should be *the balance between society and environment* underpinned by the other four components, i.e. *economic growth, employment, price stability and foreign trade*. The author will substantiate his assertions by referring to “The Entropy Law and the Economic Process” by U.S. economist Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen, of Romanian origin.

4. A STATISTICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE CHANGES IN REGIONAL STRUCTURES

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Concerning the analysis of economic and territorial structures, the statistics literature offers a number of techniques and tools, from the classical computing of specific weights to the Gini indicators, Onicescu indicators or the indicators of lengths of structural vectors, the length of frequency vectors, the entropy and many others.

All these indicators are methodologically limited by the system constraint:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n g_i = 1,$$

and that makes it necessary to analyse all ‘parts’ of the system, even if in practice there is interest only in the ‘significant part’ of the system. We see this kind of situations in analysing the participation of counties or statistical regions in creating GDP, the contribution of branches in carrying out the national production or the contribution of the world countries in international trade or world production.

The repartition:

$$X : f(x, \theta) = \frac{1}{2} \theta^3 \cdot x^{\theta-1} \cdot \ln^2 x$$

where $x \in [0,1]$, $\theta > 0$

The repartition has a single modal value, the mean being:

$$E(x) = \int_0^1 x \cdot f(x, \theta) dx = \left(\frac{\theta}{\theta+1} \right)^3$$

Based on the plausible test can be established the validation criteria of the assumptions on parameters of the model hypothesis and on decision concerning the changes of regional structures.

5. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF TERRITORIAL VARIATION OF THE EXISTING AND IN-FUNCTION TOURIST ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY IN ROMANIA IN 1994 AND 1998

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The purpose of this study is to distinguish the statistical methods utility in order to explain the territorial variation of the existing and in function tourist accommodation capacity in Romania in 1994 and 1998. In order to achieve this objective were formulated some statistical assumptions which were verified. Due to the results it comes out that the counties group by historical province or by region does not represent an influence factor of the territorial variation of the existing and in function tourists accommodation capacity. Also, the counties surface does not influence this variation.

The following correlation were established, both for 1994 and 1998: between the counties' existing accommodation capacity and the number of tourists accommodated, and between the accommodation capacity in function and the counties' population, the number of tourists accommodated, which represents the tourist demand, and the staying overnight.

Another important factor that could have a significant influence on the variation of the existing accommodation capacity represents the economic power of the analysed regions.

Also can be constructed a distributed lag model between the accommodation capacity in function, which represents the supply, and the number of tourists accommodated, which represents the tourist demand, for a county, in order to distinguish the correlation between the supply adaptation at the demand variation in time. Due to the insufficient number of values, the elaboration of these models will be the object of a later study.

6. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING

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In many European countries the regional development policy was determined by a more in-depth knowledge and understanding of the spatial development problems. The careful survey of the territory, of the processes influencing the increase or the decrease of the urban areas, the link between the infrastructure development and the location of the economic activities, have gradually led to the

necessity of an approach able to provide an efficient use of the resources of the territory and human activities. Since the 6th decade of this century, the integration of the economic and spatial planning policies, became a common relationship within the West European countries and of the European Union as whole, later on. During this period of time, Romania was following a completely different path (until 1990, at least), as the political regime was imposing a clear subordination of the spatial development policy to the economic policy and to the authoritarian ideology of the communist state. This kind of subordination was rather normal within the larger area of the “communist block”, the spatial development of Romania being also influenced by some external inputs (economic, military, political and ideological ones). After December 1989, as in many other fields, Romania is crossing a “reversed” process, in the sense that, at least at a conceptual level, but also administrative (the activity of the former MPWPP for instance) there is a tendency to subordinate the economic development to the principles of the spatial development, obviously without any remarkable output. Under these circumstances, a clear challenge for the next decade is exactly the integration of the two fields and the co-operation between the professionals from the two camps. Yet this “challenge” is not understood either by the specialists or by the institutions which are responsible of the public policy in this moment. The present paper is aiming to debate this subject and to make suggestions regarding the approach and solving of this matter.

7. THE ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF THE ROMANIAN ECONOMY: THE QUESTION OF ECONOMETRICAL MODELS

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This paper proposes an econometrical model conceived to study the relationship between carbon dioxide emissions and the main factors of influence, considering the importance of reducing these emissions to diminishing greenhouse effects.

In the specific case of Romania the construction of econometric models is strongly dependent on the statistical data problem, in the following terms:

- long series of data cannot be obtained, as required by the assumptions of the parameter estimation methods;
- in some cases data are not entirely comparable;
- the poor development of the statistical system in the environmental field makes it difficult to find available data for some important variables.

Nevertheless, in the particular case of carbon dioxide emissions data series can be constructed, even though the drawbacks mentioned above make it possible to obtain data series only for 1990 – 1997. This situation had to be considered in result interpretation.

Between 1990 and 1997 the carbon dioxide emissions dropped by 20% as a result of both reducing and restructuring the economic activity and increasing environmental protection expenditures.

The first modelling attempt aimed to express the carbon dioxide emissions as a resultant variable depending upon four independent variables:

- liquid fuel consumption;
- gas fuel consumption;
- solid fuel consumption;
- investment expenditures for environmental protection.

Many equations have been specified and estimated in several variants, considering the mathematical formulae and list of variables.

Apart from the sign of restrictions derived from the economic theory, the choice of equation has been primarily based on the adjusted R-squared, t-statistic, F-statistic and DW. The OLS method has been used for parameter estimation.

As some parameters could not be accepted in terms of statistical tests, the carbon dioxide emissions (Y) have been finally expressed using a Cobb-Douglas function with total fuel consumption (FC) and investment expenditures (IE) as independent variables.

According to F-stat and t-stat (t-stat refers here to the logarithmic equation) the model is valid. Nevertheless, given the specification conditions and the high aggregation level of variables, the model should be cautiously considered for simulation and forecasting purposes.

However, it reveals two important, unexpected correlations, namely the strong relationship between carbon dioxide emissions and fuel consumption and the weak relationship between these emissions and investment expenditures for environmental protection. This situation has been recorded in Romania owing to the low level and inadequate structure of environmental protection expenditures. The information provided by the model results can be considered as a useful background for a proper investment structure within forthcoming environmental strategies so as to include not only aggregate indicators but also analytical structures of investment.

The expected economic recovery can determine an increase in fuel consumption. On the other hand growing investment expenditures for environmental protection and improving the investment structure seem to be the way of reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Under the new conditions the values of the model parameters will be certainly changed and will reflect more rational correlations.

8. NEW TENDENCIES IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE ACTUAL SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

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The evolution of scientific knowledge has established basic rules for running economy. Some of them – of a fundamental and perennial character – condition

the actual and future transformations, including those at regional level (e.g. economy as a complex, dynamic system based on efficiency criteria; the relationship between quantitative and qualitative phenomena, between time and spatial context, needs and resources, demand and offer, endogenous and exogenous factors, etc.).

Within this interrelationship network the spatial dimension of economic development is continuously emphasized and is expanding from smaller territorial entities to larger and larger ones, in correlation with objective integration phenomena.

Starting from the complexity of the issues regarding regional development some long-term tendencies can be distinguished and are specifically mirrored by the actual scientific approach. Thus, regionalists throughout the world concentrate on the regional dimension of institutional economics, with a particular emphasis on behavioural approach, the regional aspects of sustainable development, competition and coexistence in integration processes, regional networking and transborder co-operation, revitalisation and development of SME sector, technological changes and “innovative milieu”, the assimilation of hard/soft location factor approach within “classical” regional economics, reconsidering the methodological framework of regional science and so on.

This paper focuses on these issues seeking to identify the particularities induced by transformation processes in Central and East European countries.

9. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN ROMANIA – BETWEEN THE INTERNAL NECESSITY AND EXTERNAL REQUIREMENT (OR THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Narciza-Adela Nica - Ministry of Development and Forecasting

Regional development policy was presented in Romanian politics after 1990 mainly within the context of the activities performed by Romania in the Accession Process toward membership of the European Union.

This type of politics, meant to stimulate the development of the prospective poles of growth within the territory and to support the areas whose development is lagging behind, is requested even by the social and economic situation of Romania, facing the realities of transition.

Acting for solving its own internal problems, Romania satisfies in the same time both the request of social and economic convergence between member states and applicant countries to the accession to the EU.

The support received by Romania on behalf on the EU for the management capacity development of regional policies makes it easier to obtain results in this field and enhances Romania’s chances to become ready to join the European Union.

This circuit designed as a feed-back, in Romanian regional policy, is the subject of the present paper.

1. Internal factors

- dissimilar trends regarding historical, economic and cultural traditions have differentiated (classified) some large areas within country, in terms of levels and speed of development
- strong malfunctioning related to the reaction of the economic system to the shocks of transition have generated an explosion of economic and social tensions throughout the country;
- The political and administrative structures involved were not adequate for an efficient intervention, being either too centralized, too far from local problems, or representing an insufficiently strong level for coherently mobilising local forces.

2.. External demands:

- achieving economic and social cohesion is the main issue of the agreement between the country taking part in the creation of the European harmonious developed space; diminishing unbalance in regional development of countries, reducing the difference in standard of living that exist between the people and the regions is the best way to reach this target
- getting the membership to the EURO requires preparing the institutional framework and regional structures in order to comply with community standards for fulfilling criteria from Copenhagen , requested to all countries that want to become members of the EU; Romania must firstly solve the problems identified in the Accession Partnership to the EU, among which the main is social and economic cohesion;
- In the view of solving the problems created by the existence of lack of balance in regional development, EU offers financial support, oriented towards less developed regions, or in economic trouble.of structural type or in industrial decline; in the current phase of pre-accession, financial support has, as a priority, the training and developing of capacities and competencies for implementing , instruments specific to regional policy, to the heart of the principles of decentralization and partnership.

3. The relationship between internal and external aspects

- In Regional Development Plans and National Development Plan, Romania has to identify the internal hindrances of institutional economic and social type that impede the accomplishment of community standards in what regards regional development , has to establish the objectives to follow, has to realize a classification of the actions on stages and has to establish the actions that will primarily attract financial resources . Based on these documents, Romania requires from the EU funding for concrete projects, suggested .by the regions, that contribute, step by step, to realising the actions and objectives proposed. Receiving these funds depends on the capacity of starting and developing mature projects.

10. THE ROMANIAN PRIVATE SECTOR OF SMALL AND MEDIUM – SIZED ENTERPRISES – PRESENT AND PERSPECTIVES

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This paper presents a picture of the SME sector, illustrating together with the recent dynamics of the sector, the main constraints to the Romanian entrepreneurs from the perspective of the obstacles perceived towards the efficient development of their respective activities.

The chapter concerning the dynamics of the SME sector provides an analysis of the SME sector in terms of number of firms, number of employees, turnover and value added, investment, revenues and costs, labour costs and gross profit. Data are structured by sector and company size class. The analysis of the SME sector is based on the data regarding micro, small and medium enterprises that had a turnover higher than zero and whose main activity can be classified outside the primary sector.

A special chapter underlines a number of difficulties faced by Romanian SMEs: adverse macroeconomic framework (high inflation, price instability, low demand); incomplete, complex and often changing administrative and regulatory business environment; negative financial climate for enterprises (difficult access to and high cost of credit; lack of long term finance; high taxation); insufficient support to export; weak development of SME organisations and business support services.

The final part of the paper presents arguments for and against the financial and non-financial support provided by the state through the SME law as a way to encourage self-employment and job creation.

11. THE PLACE OF THE MARKET IN THE RURAL ECONOMY

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Due to its intrinsic working mechanism, the market exceeds the territorially bounded areas (urban/rural, regional/national) and the geographical areas. The market's territorial expansion is favoured by the continuous movement and development of the economy itself. The economic space of the market it is approached in a dispersed manner in different theoretical studies. Among these, we can quote those regarding localization and land design and planning, comprising the territorial placing of the towns, siting of the agricultural areas, land design and planning – theoretical areas from which have stemmed the research concerning the development of the urban planning, and area placing of the economic agents. The modern studies of the urban and territorial planning, subordinated to the localization theory and based on the concepts introduced by von Thünen, Walther Christaller and August Lösch, have led to the development of the corpus of regional economics, an interdisciplinary field of research having

as a final goal the mobilisation of the development resources with the view to close the unfavourable gaps and lags influencing the good evolution of the area or region's economy. The regional economics can be subdivided in several disciplines, such as urban economics, infrastructure economics, environmental economics, resource economics, etc.

An overview of the regional economics related literature, much more consistent in the '70s, has revealed to us the high degree of complexity of its object, due to the diversity of the concepts and methods from economy, sociology, psychology, mathematics, politology, and at the same time due to the amplification of the interconnection between development and environment. The requirements of a new approach regarding the sustainable development have promoted the localization of the regional economies following the idea that such a development has to be based more on endogenous factors, on the mobilisation of the local efforts in order to value and develop the local potential.

The activities taking place within the rural areas are extremely important for the carrying on of the general process of economic transformation, and creation and functioning of the market economy. The rural environment is the carrier of a latent potential of entrepreneurship and free initiative, with distinct traits determined by well preserved local traditions and customs which request adequate activation and turning to the best account. The integration of the rural activities within the market space is needed in order to ensure: the continuation of the interconnections between the links of the economic cycle, and the action of the law of supply and demand through a higher order turning to the best account of the rural productive activity.

The approach of the complex matters generated by the process of integration of the rural space within the economic and social context specific to the market economy, within the new views regarding the drawing up of the structural and managerial policies at the level of the rural economic agents – households and agricultural farms, small and medium sized enterprises, suppliers of services – it has to be considered:

- ◆ firstly, from the point of view of the functional integration of the market mechanisms within the rural economy's structures (some new under construction, others old going through transformation processes), and
- ◆ secondly, from the point of view of integration of the rural economy within the national economy's structures, and within the global market's mechanisms.

12. TESTING CONTRASTS IN REGIONAL WAGE DIFFERENTIALS ANALYSIS

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While the concept of the wage structure is concerned with the relative ranking of groups of workers, the concept of wage differentials is concerned with measuring

the differences in pay between groups on same common scale. Occupational and regional wage differentials are perhaps the most frequently employed. In the former case the relative pay of workers who differ only in respect to the occupation is compared while in the latter case a single group of workers differing only with respect to the region in which they work are compared.

This paper presents a foundation for forming and testing subhypotheses that compare or contrast a subset of the group means in the ANOVA design framework, emphasizing post hoc comparisons.

13. CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ROMANIA AND HUNGARY. REGIONAL STUDY

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The Phare CBC Programme of the European Union supports the Central and Eastern Europe countries in the process of their pre-accession to the Community, offering a proper framework for solving common local and regional level situations that occur at the borders between countries.

The regional study project under the Phare CBC Ro/Hu 1996 Programme had as a main objective the elaboration of a regional development strategy for the counties on the Romanian-Hungarian border: Arad, Bihor, Satu Mare and Timis, termed the West Border Region (WBR).

It was undertaken by a Romanian experts strategic team from INCD Urbanproiect and from the WBR, with the Technical Assistance of the British WME company.

On the other side of the border a mirror project with similar objectives was developed, covering the Hungarian counties: Bekes, Csongrad, Hajdu – Bihar and Szabolcz – Szatmar – Bereg. The study started with the identification of the general framework of the of the project, including the specification of the main actors able to sustain the implementation of the findings of the project. After the completion of a list of regional indicators, the project focused at the analysis and the priorities of each county, for which there were set up county working groups of 10 – 15 persons made up of the echelon of directors or representatives of institutions/local development agencies/significant organisations in each county. The collected information was processed in strategic analysis of SWOT type for each of the relevant fields.

Later on it was performed a regional level analysis. In this stage there were considered the proposals of the two regional development agencies (RDA 5 West and RDA 6 North-West). The regional level objectives and priorities were identified also after a SWOT analysis and they were the basis for the identification of some projects with cross-border impact.

The projects proposed for Phare CBC Ro / Hu financing were adopted by the main regional level decision-makers at a joint meeting in Timișoara on

October 27, 1999. The follow up was the approval of these projects by the Hungarian part and the relevant ministries.

The co-ordination for the Romanian cross-border activities in the Phare CBC programme, and also for the implementation of the Regional Study was taken over since November 1999 by the National Agency for Regional Development.

14. THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX CRITERION FOR ANALYSING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEVEL OF THE NORTH-EAST REGION

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The complexity of aspects of human development has imposed their quantification through an aggregate index based on the three essential constituents of human development: health, education and income.

The values of the human development index allow on the one hand to characterise the evolution of human development, the comparison of the experience of different countries or areas in the fields of economical and social progress and, on the other hand, to outline the priorities of economical and social policies on fields and county areas.

The calculus method of the human development index corresponds to the standard mentioned by the United Nations Programmes for Development and allows for international and local comparisons as well as for the analysis of human development dynamics in time. The level of human development in Romania differs from one county to another; the index of human development varying between 0,716 and 0,785. The counties of the country range, according to conventional limits adapted world wide, in the area of average human development. The amplitude of variation of human development between counties is of approximately 10%, thus the territorial human development is relatively homogenous in Romania.

The north-eastern area (which comprises the counties of Bacau, Botosani, Iasi, Neamt, Suceava, Vaslui) is a historical entity, whose population is still influenced by the ancient traditions of this province.

The trades have played an important role in the locals' activity. At present it is an area with a lower industry compared to other areas of the country, but with natural resources which favour the development of certain processing industries.

The analysis of the data calculated in this paper, allows the outlining of the fact that all counties on the north eastern area are below the national mean of the human development index; values close to this mean are registered by the counties of Iasi, Suceava, Neamt and Bacau. The strongest negative influence is specific to the gross domestic product.

Counties with a high human development, counties with an average human development and counties with a low human development are distinct. The counties of Iasi, Suceava, Neamt and Bacau are counties with an average

human development and the counties Vaslui and Botosani are part of the low human development category, with indices of 0,712 and 0,702, respectively. On the whole, the intercounty disparities have registered a growth between 1990 and 1998, but this could be outlined in the future.

After all the aspects of the development having emphasised (including the critical areas in development) one could consider the north eastern area as characterised by a low level of development, by an insufficiently developed industry, and the counties of Botosani and Vaslui have to put up with a high level of poverty.

15. RURAL IMPEDIMENTS TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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This paper analyses some features of Romanian rural areas which appear as impediments to regional development in terms of fundamental values of the new concept of economic development: sustainability, self-esteem, freedom.

The authors have identified and discussed the following impediments: too high share of rural population; too high share of employment in agriculture; important urban-rural movement; high share of population under the poverty threshold; big disparities in terms of education index between rural and urban areas.

From the perspective of economic development both urban and rural areas suffer the consequences of recession but underdevelopment phenomena are more acute in the latter, affecting approximately half (45.1%) of Romania's population.

16. SOME CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL-ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FRENCH EXPERIENCE

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As a candidate to the EU accession Romania must meet a number of “acquis communautaire” in various domains. Within the annual report of the European Commission (October 2000) it is ranked the last one, being criticised for the lack of consistency of economic reform and a series of shortcomings such as those in public administration.

Undoubtedly, issuing the Local Public Administration Act as well as the Civil Servant's Status represent important steps forward but the effective management of socio-economic development at both central and local level requires more than this: is needed a package of measures and actions able to transform the public administration structures in force – still rigid, mechanistical, into organic ones, more flexible, more effective and, certainly, less bureaucratic. The purpose of this paper is not to discuss the system as a whole: it focuses only on a new component, of a special relevance for regional policy from the perspective of accession to the EU, but insufficiently substantiated, namely the *development regions*, corresponding to the NUTS2 level of the EUROSTAT. A series of drawbacks and proposals are formulated, considering especially the France's experience, where this institutional structure has been working with very good results for approximately twenty years.

17. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES ACCORDING TO FINANCIAL AID THROUGH PHARE FUNDS FOR 2000 and 2001

Perla Simion - Ministry of Development and Forecasting

The regional development policy has as main objectives to reduce economic and social imbalances created over time, to prevent from the emergence of new imbalances and to support the overall development of all regions of the country, including through cross-boarding co-operation as well as to increase Romania's capacity to assume its responsibilities in this field as future member state of the EU.

Starting with the year 2000 the Phare programming is based on the National Development Plan (2000-2002), which sets the national regional development priorities by integrating regional development plans coming from the eight regions. This approach is consistent with the new Phare guidelines according to which increased attention should be paid to the central element of the EU policy, namely the promotion of economic and social cohesion through structural policies.

The Phare 2000 Programme – Economic and Social Cohesion component – is a part of the 2000 Phare Financing Memorandum, concluded in October 2000 between the Romanian Government and the European Commission. The programme has two components, namely investments and institution building (technical assistance).

Starting with Phare programming for 2001, the National Development Plan will become a multi-annual programming instrument for economic and social cohesion component. The National Development plan will include a development strategy based on a number of priorities for action and on quantified objectives for each priority. On the basis of the analysis carried out in the Plan, the principles and criteria for achieving geographic concentration of funds at infra-regional level will be set.

The paper focuses on the sectoral (thematic) priorities for 2001, 2002 and 2003, according to the regional development perspectives created by Phare 2000 and 2001, namely: SMEs development; human resources: initial training; regional infrastructure; small local infrastructure; social development: services for population; tourism development.

18. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION WITHIN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

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Nothing looks more common than the statement that the normal course for applying some decisions and concrete projects for development is: true knowledge of realities, of effects of some disfunctions, the identification of causes that produce them and taking decisions and stating some proposals for eliminating or diminishing the causes.

Romania's current situation, and not only, shows in fact that, in reality, the natural meeting of knowledge and action does not happen, unless in rare occasions, which is both to the loss of knowledge and research, which does not find a practical application, and to the loss of political decision and practice, which lack informational basis. But, the greatest loss is accounted for at macroeconomic level, where cumulate both direct wastage of material and intellectual resources used for studies remaining on the shelves of research institutes, and also indirect wastage, created by the continuous activity of tacking groundless, unreal decision.

The present paper tries to support the necessary meeting between research and the administrative body, between qualified knowledge and decision makers.

This paper gives an example for the possible correlation between the above fields. It is presented the way from the identification of area's potential and needs, going to the formulating of some variants of development strategies and than preparing some local or regional development infrastructure projects for being presented by the local administration in order to obtain grants within the context of regional development.

19. EDUCATIONAL REFORMS IN RURAL AREAS

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Nowadays profound reforms are not possible without reforms in education, and education cannot change significantly without teachers' action. These are two of

the truths obviously highlighted by transition in Romania as well, truths which we have tried to take over in the comprehensive national educational reform, under promoting now.

Priorities for initial teacher training are going beyond academic uni-specialisation and consolidation of pedagogical and methodological training of the future teachers. One cannot become a competitive specialist once and for all, so that in-service teacher training has become a condition for relevance and competitiveness for teacher as well.

The paper "Education Reforms in Rural Areas" presents the necessity of a balanced economic development of our country as a condition for integration in the EU, and the rural educational reform as part of the integration policy package.

The paper objective is to identify the educational priorities and development of the local policy to support the school and other educational activities to the benefit of the community.

20. DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DISADVANTAGED AREAS IN ROMANIA

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Romania's regional development - under the new circumstances of transition to the market economy - deserves special attention due mainly to the counties growing more and more apart economically and socially.

In this context, Law No. 151/1998 was promulgated to create the legal and institutional framework for regional development in the country.

In order to support the interventions for improving the economic activity within the eight regions of our country a number of areas were identified by specialists, differentiated by degree of economic development, as for instance: industrially declining areas, structurally fragile or disadvantaged areas.

Since the process of restructuring major industries (the important ones) focused on the mining industry (following the example set years ago by countries like Germany – in the Ruhr basin – or England) we will go on to discuss the legal, organisational and administrative action taken for the benefit of the disadvantaged areas where mining is the main type of existing industry.

Those mining areas which have been declared disadvantaged areas benefit from special treatment through which important benefits are extended to investors interested in developing economic activities here.

It should be developed in our opinion a special project whose main target could be the special developed areas. The main task of these area centers could be to initiate action that will revitalize the underprivileged mining areas. A good example is the establishing of the "Consortium for the Development of the Brad-Poiana Ruscă-Altîntepe Mining Areas", initiated by the Deva Area Group.

Another important objective of the mining industry restructuring strategy is funding for such projects.

Therefore, a more ample project was launched for 1999-2001, with three main components: mine close-down programme, programme to diminish social costs, programme to strengthen institutions.

The project is meant to create new jobs, reduce the financial loss involved in operating the mines, increase opportunities for making mining a profitable activity, attract private investment and improve environment conditions.

21. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALISATION

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Globalisation is a process integrating economy, culture, technology and people.

This era of globalisation is opening many opportunities for millions of people around the world. Increasing trade, new technologies, foreign investments, expanding media and Internet connections are fuelling economic growth and human advance.

Many countries have sized the opportunities for economic and technological globalisation. At the other extreme are many countries benefiting little from expanding markets and advancing technologies. These countries are becoming even more marginal. They have shown little growth in exports and attracted virtually no foreign investments.

In this context, regional development is a way to attempt a more equitable and more efficient interregional distribution of economic activity.

This paper aims to point out some of the interactions between regional development and the opportunities, the benefits and the costs of globalization.

22. A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF TERRITORIAL DISTRIBUTION OF TOURIST FIRMS IN ROMANIA

Elena Maria Biji, Eugenia Lilea, Mihaela Vatui - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

Starting from the particularities of territorial distribution in tourism this paper analyses, using the data provided by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, the variation degree of hotels and restaurants as the main tourist firms.

The regional distribution of the hotel and restaurant network is addressed in relation with turnover, number of employees, volume of investment. The results obtained have been compared with the situation at national level, so as to determine the place and share of this activity within the whole economy.

23. REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT DIFFERENCIES

Zizi Goschin - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

The policy regarding labour force in Romania was directed before the year 1990 towards the model of no unemployment, even in conditions of low efficiency and income. In the last decade, the decrease of the economic activity, together with the inherited unbalance in labour market, determined the existence and the persistence of the unemployment.

The problems of the transition to the market economy and the output decline produced a general decrease in the need of labour force, but there were also significant differences between the regions of the country.

The number of employed population dropped not only in the regions having old industrial traditions (Banat, Transilvania), but also in the new industrial zones (Oltenia, Moldova). Slower reductions in the number of the employed in Muntenia, Dobrogea and Dunarea de Jos may be caused by a growth of employment in agriculture and by the investments made in the two big cities of these regions: Bucharest and Constanta. Having complex economical structures, providing big opportunities for business, these cities supported the economic changes with fewer losses in employment.

The unemployment rate is now over the national average of 10,5% in the counties: Neamţ (16,9%), Brăila (16,6%), Botoşani (16,5%) and Hunedoara (16,4%).

The smallest unemployment rates are in: Satu-Mare (4,6%), Bihor (4,9%), Vrancea (6,1%), Ilfov (6,5%) and in Bucharest (6,5%).

There is a tendency for bigger unemployment in the regions that are poor, with few industries, but big population. The investments being more attracted by regions having industrial traditions, qualified labour force and good economic resources, the poor counties have fewer chances of improvement. In order to solve the poverty and unemployment territorial problems, the development of rural zones by supporting the small enterprises that use local material and human resources is important.

24. QUANTIFICATION OF CHANGES IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA OVER THE ECONOMIC TRANSITION

Gheorghe Varlan - West University Timisoara, Adrian Varlan - University of Hamburg, Germany

In the conditions of diversification of applied activities in each region, the global appreciation could not be fulfilled using a single or more indicators. We consider

that these limits of the individual indicators could be surpassed by the calculation of synthetic indicators, based on the power of information technology.

Depending on the importance which is given to some of the areas of development, in relation to strategy adopted by abilitated organisations, in these cases the individualization of the used indicators will be made using different intuitive techniques.

The synthetic indicator calculated in this way ensures the highlighting of the contribution of different activities, determined by different indicators, at close, deep of regional differences in the development and determination of the place of each region in the complex of national economics. Also, calculated in different periods, this synthetic indicator highlights the sense and the dimensions of changes which took place at the level of each region and on the national territory.

25. ASPECTS OF URBAN POLICY AND PLANNING

Cornelia Parlog - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

The development and modernization of urban systems are influenced to a great extent by governmental policies, economic development programmes, flexible investment programmes, land use planning improvement, environmental, housing, public utility conditions improvement, etc..

Urban development policies and programmes aim to decrease the differences in terms of economic resources allocation and distribution by urban area at national economic space level.

Even though the elaboration and implementation of urban development policies display differences from country to country, this paper highlights the main objectives of urban policies as well as particularities of urban planning in some European countries.

In the context of economic globalisation and urban system infrastructure are presented some examples of co-operation between localities within strategic urban networks, intra and interregional networks within the European space.

26. TOURIST MARKET STRATEGIES AND RURAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN DOFTANA VALLEY

Maria Badita, Silvia Cristache - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

Rural tourism also called "agrotourism" is considered one of the newest forms of tourism activity, appeared like a "crisis tourism", including complex economic activities with a large sphere of comprehension, stressing the capitalization of the accommodation surplus from the peasant households,

arranged for the guests hosting, with all facilities (goods and services) needed for the tourists' consumption.

Doftana Valley through the existing tourism potential offers all the conditions regarding the hosting structures, quality and diversity of the supplied services.

This paper aims at the analysis and the modelling of the tourist market with its two main parts , tourist supply and demand and the forecast, taking into consideration the specific conditions of the Romanian transition economy.

27. WOOD INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING STRATEGIES IN BUCOVINA

Carmen Nastase - "Stefan cel Mare" University, Suceava

The continuous market globalisation as well as the fast technological changes within the framework of wood industry have created a tight competition worldwide.

To be able to realise a competitive advantage, companies belonging to wood processing industry have to embrace strategies that should integrate the environment and market opportunities as well as the advantages of modern technique in the most efficient way.

As concerns the strategic management, the calendar of the strategic reflection is variable, thus being able to take into consideration the new external events that may influence future activities in an operative manner.

The economic strategy of an industrial unit represents a complex process, which defines the ensemble of the economic objectives that its management has in view in order to accomplish it on the basis of studies, scientific research and prognostication.

To be able to reasonably formulate an economic strategy, essential elements like objective concepts, goals, procedures and application rules must be specified.

28. TERRITORIAL DIFFERENCES IN INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVITY

Zizi Goschin - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

Investments made in Romania dramatically decreased in the past decade, being now far below the level of the year 1989, although they rised in the private sector of the economy. The governements of the past ten years identified investments as a major factor of growth and tried to attract investments from national and foreign sources.

Compared to other former comunist countries, foreign investments made in Romania in 1990-2000 were 3,3 times smaller than in Hungary and 3 times

smaller than in the Czech Republic. Considering only the period 1990-1998, they were 5 times smaller than in Poland.

The main part of the foreign investments made in Romania came from countries of the European Union. This gives Romania the chance to come nearer to the E.U. standards by the way of output and export growth, efficient management, improved quality of products, environment protection and the possibility to become a part in multinational corporations.

In order to make complete use of the growth potential of foreign investments made in Romania, they have to be well distributed in the country. The tendency of concentrating the investments in Bucharest and a few prosperous counties contributed to increased development differences between regions.

The analysis of the number of new enterprises with foreign capital participation shows the dominant position of Bucharest, having over 53% of all such enterprises founded in the last 10 years. An important contribution (26%) also have the counties Timis, Constanta, Cluj, Bihor, Brasov, Arad and Ilfov, while the other 33 counties together have only 20%.

All the statistics regarding foreign investments in Romania are indicating strong differences between counties: a few prosperous counties have three quarters of the foreign capital in Romania, while the majority only gets insignificant investments.

29. ASPECTS REGARDING SPACE IN REGIONAL ECONOMICS AND PRICE ISSUES

Mariana Luntrasu - "Stefan cel Mare" University, Suceava

The introduction of the market economy in our country resulted in an imminent re-orientation of the macro and micro-economy concepts, so that they would correspond to the decentralized conjuncture of economy. However, there are situations when the differential approach cannot be perceived objectively, demanding an integrate vision of the two aspects, the most clear example being the issue: problem of regions or, more precisely, the approach to economy on a global scale.

The main feature of regional economy is space. In specialised literature, two types of space are analysed: undifferentiated and differentiated space.

An important issue concerning the global theory of space is price. Therefore, the prices of some homogenous merchandise won't be the same in situation of balance and they will oscillate according to the localization of the consumers.

Such a situation asks for an approach to price according to its global equilibrium, the market attractively, the global monopoly and global discrimination, respectively.

30. THE EUROPEAN MODEL OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT ADAPTED FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Cosmin Dobrin - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

This paper proposes an adaptation of the European model of quality management in order to be employed by public administration units.

The European model of quality management adapted for public administration represents an autoevaluation model which would enable administrative units to know their situation, the strengths and weaknesses as well as the sectors where activity should be improved. The autoevaluation is the key element of improvement, provided its results bring about an improvement plan.

Within this model the citizens and beneficiaries of services hold a central position. Thus, the concern with getting better results, meeting client requirements is growing, as the same time with motivating the public servants to build up a new administration.

31. INTERREGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SMEs AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS

Victor Romeo Ionescu - "Danubius" University Galati

The SMEs are an important objective for regional policy, because:

- a. they can create a lot of new jobs;
- b. they can improve the industrial relations and can create a high climate for labour;
- c. they can create a new flexible industrial basis;
- d. they can improve the competition between firms;
- e. they can stimulate the innovation process.

Eu's SMEs have about 33 million workers.

The strong points of them are:

- a. their simple structure;
- b. the speed of economic decisions adoption.

The weak points are:

- a. difficult access to the economic resources;
- b. there is no competition in the management activity;
- c. small firms have a hard access to international markets.

The importance of Romanian SMEs is still a little one.

These little firms must fight a lot of complications listed below:

- a. the break up of the demand;
- b. the alternation of the market demand;
- c. the transformation of the technologies;
- d. the competition with the firms of developing countries;
- e. the governmental policy.

32. ALTERNATIVES FOR ORGANISING AND DEVELOPING ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE

Costel Negrei - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

Starting from the present situation and restructuring tendencies of the Romanian agriculture this paper aims to define possible models for organising and developing this sector, of a particular interest to Romania.

For a better substantiation of conclusions, the restructuring issue is analysed taking into consideration the following aspects: land ownership, the technical-productive system, the agricultural market, the decision support system.

The delimitation of alternatives (scenarios) for organising and developing agriculture will be based on the relationships between natural resources, economic and social environment.

Finally the paper proposes a comparative analysis of three scenarios: "capitalist", "cooperative" and "sustainable", with the following components: defining criteria, ownership organisation, production organisation, ways of turning production to good account, spatial relationships organisation.

33. THE USE OF DISPERSION ANALYSIS FOR STUDYING MIGRATION IN ROMANIA

Elena Biji, Eugenia Lilea, Silvia Cristache – Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

The dispersion analysis, also known as ANOVA, has been used in order to measure the degree of significance of statistical regions (NUTS2) as grouping factor in the analysis of migration flows. It has been applied to out-migration rate, pointing out that only approx. one third of the variation of this indicator is determined by the variation at region level, other factors having a higher importance (e.g. the variation between counties of the same region).

34. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION – REGIONAL INCIDENCE

Viorica Jeleu - Ecological University Bucharest

In the last years we assist at more intense preoccupation of specialists of the entire world to find solutions for more complex environmental problems, on the one hand, and for transposition into practice of sustainable development principles, on the other hand.

Numerous debates and contradictions which arise between specialists, regarding how can sustainable development and its principle be transposed into practice, reflect difficulties of actual knowledge to find reliable solutions for a problem which nature solved for along time. We must learn from nature how to “manage” its own richness – regenerating natural resources (waters, flora, fauna), to ensure permanent regeneration and recovery of them.

Sustainable development principles aim to satisfy the needs of the present generation without compromising the chances of future generations to satisfy their own needs, but these principles are not so easy to be put into practice.

Starting from Strategic Program objectives adopted at RIO in 1992, Agenda 21, the endeavor of finding the best ways to transpose into practice through harmonization, economic development, environmental protection, cultural protection and satisfied social priorities with education help under all aspects: introduction of new curricula in schools for guiding children to sustainable development objectives, inducing new mentalities regarding nature preserving, training specialists capable to elaborate environmental policies and adequate legislation.

Stimulated by this important document, countless states created national commissions for sustainable development and their own strategies in this direction.

In spite of difficulties of prolonged transition, Romania has elaborated recently the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and created the National Commission, which focus efforts for transposition into practice.

The paper discusses the priority objectives included in National Strategy for Sustainable Development in connection with the requirements of sustainable development education.

35. CHANGES IN THE DYNAMICS AND STRUCTURE OF TOURISM IN BRASOV COUNTY

Maria Badita, Silvia Cristache - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

Tourism as an economic activity is a complex, specific phenomenon of our modern civilization, joining the third sector of the national economy, whose object of activity is performing services.

The tourist potential of the Romanian counties is different, meaning that their contribution to the development of the Romanian tourist market is different.

The qualitative and quantitative evidence of the tourist market in all its intricacy, uses main indexes (regarding the offer and demand ; correlation between the different sides of the tourist market ; direct economic effects of the tourism on national economy, which are concentrated on capacity, potential and volume of the tourist market).

This work analyses the main forms of tourism, in their intricacy, taking into consideration the seasonal character of some of them.

36. THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN UNDERLYING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Emilia Titan, Simona Ghita - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

The changes in the human resources (concerning: demographical aspects, occupational aspects, qualitative structural aspects, etc.) had different intensities on each region in Romania. These changes were influenced by the economic potential of each area, by the structuring of the national economy by activity domain and sector, they were also influenced by the professional training level of the population in each area, by the gender and age categories of population, by the commercial connections of each region with other regions, by the consumption models and other fundamental variables.

The dysfunctions existing after 1990 have increased during the last years, caused by the production decrease, investment decrease, closing down production units. These facts have affected seriously some of the social-professional categories of the population, from certain regions of the country, especially so called "disadvantaged" regions.

The transition to the market economy requires autonomy in economic agent's activity, an increasing labor force mobility, occupancy changes. All these will determine the appearance and increasing of the unemployment rate. Regional developing policies include studies about inter and intraregional differences, concerning personal income, living standard etc.

There are some actions to take in order to diminish the regional dysfunction, concerning the human resources:

- creating occupancy programmes, based on regions' and national economy's necessities;
- a larger involvement of the local authorities in substantiation of the regional developing programmes;
- promoting active occupancy policies of labor force, including professional reconversion programs;
- encouraging local initiatives, investments for creating new jobs;
- developing programmes for increasing the occupancy, especially in disadvantaged regions(which have high unemployment rates and many closed enterprises), supported by the Government.

37. THE SWOT ANALYSIS AS AN INSTRUMENT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dan Platon, the Regional Development Agency Bucharest – Ilfov

This paper analyses the role of assessing the positive and negative factors of the internal and external environment of a region within strategic development planning as well as the elements and methodology of SWOT analysis.

Several issues are addressed in this context, as follows: first, after presenting the consequences of abandoning strategic thinking upon socio-economic development, the role of SWOT analysis within the regional development plan is discussed; the next sections are dedicated to elements and methodology, with a concrete case study, namely the use of SWOT analysis for underlying the Bucharest – Ilfov regional development plan for 2001.

38. PROGRAMMES OF THE WORLD BANK FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN RURAL AREAS

Claudia Manda - Romanian Fund for Social Development

The paper presents the main programmes of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Romania for poverty alleviation, improving life conditions, institutional decentralizing, creating new jobs, especially in the rural areas.

It is well known that during the last 10 years the Romanian economy has been affected by significant changes in the economic mechanism of the relations among various economic activities and industries of the national economic system.

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has been established as an international institution for investments that are granting or guaranteeing loans to projects for reconstruction and development, out of its own capital which is provided by the member countries, as well as of private capitals.

Starting with the reforms by the Romanian Government, the World Bank has redefined the loan programme for supporting Romania to achieve economic reconstruction. In order to help Romania to face the economic and social challenges, the Bank offers support for programmes addressed to rural areas from poor and disadvantages regions, as well as programmes for consolidating the social protection network, for enhancing investments in education and health, in order to increase the efficiency of the public services and environment protection.

In the beginning, the Bank has provided consultancy and financing for starting the reforms in: enterprises, financial and agricultural fields.

In medium run, the Bank will give priority to supporting sectoral programs connected to the European Union.

Among the programmes financed by the Bank, there are financial programs for disadvantaged regions and especially for rural areas.

The most important programs are: the structural adjustment programme for agriculture, road rehabilitation project, the general land registration project in order to facilitate the functioning of the land market, the program for small rural infrastructure, income generating activities and community social services.

Finally, the paper presents the main objectives of the Bank as regards financing the programmes for the poor rural areas:

- improving life conditions of the programme beneficiaries;
- involving poor people (especially women) in economic decisions making and elaborating and implementing development programmes;
- institutional consolidations to make countries have the necessary capacity to administrate their own development programmes;
- promoting the principle of independence, partnership among legal and various entities, at all levels;
- ensuring the best ratio between costs and outcomes;
- promoting transparency in administrating the budget.

39. STATISTICAL METHODS FOR RANKING TERRITORIAL-ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

Elisabeta R. Rosca - "Stefan cel Mare" University, Suceava

The paper contains a theoretical presentation of the main methods that are: the ranks method, the matrix method and the relative distance observed method. The ranks method is presented in more variants that are: the uniform increase rank method, the real ranks, the sum of ranks method.

The uniform increase ranks method supposes the determination of a mean rank, as a simple arithmetical average of the all ranks attributed to the registered values for all observed units and for all characteristics.

This method has the disadvantage that does not take into account the distance between the values of the characteristics and their importance, when the distance increases the mean rank departs from the reality. This drawback is eliminated by the ranks method, which takes into consideration that, in an essential way, the distance between the values of the characteristics and their importance estimated for the management.

The stages of application of the real ranks method are the following:

- the determination of the partial real ranks for each of studied characteristics;
- the determination of the marks or the scores of each characteristics;
- the determination of the real rank of each of studied characteristics.

The hierarchy criterion is the decrease real ranks order, the most performance unit being the unit which holds the smallest rank.

The sum of rank method supposes the assigning of the ranks to each administrative-territorial unit, in a successive way, depending on each characteristics contained in the analysis, the biggest rank being attributed to the unit which registers the minimum qualitative level for each variable. Is determined the sum of ranks, depending on which it is attributed the final rank, the first rank being attributed to the smallest sum of ranks.

These methods were applied for studying the position of the tourism in the national economy and for the hierarchy of the Romanian regions.

In the paper is realised the hierarchy of the national economy activities, using the indicators: employment and the tangible fixed assets in 1998 and the hierarchy of the Romanian regions after the indicators regional gross domestic product (GDP) realised in trade activity, gross domestic product per capita, tourist accommodation capacity in 1996 using the ranks method. Also, the paper contains the hierarchy of the Romanian regions in 1996 using the indicators regional gross domestic product in trade activity, gross domestic product per capita and the tourist accommodation capacity in 1996 using the uniform increase ranks method and the real ranks and the conclusions of this regional analysis.

40. REGIONAL LABOUR FORCE EMPLOYMENT IMBALANCES IN ROMANIA

Cornelia Parlog and Dumitrache Caracota - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

The evolution of human resources and employment degree by region (county) in Romania over the last ten years has been influenced by demographic factors (natural increase, balance of migratory movement) as well as social-economic factors (investment, economic potential, structure by economic branch, structure by gender, age, educational level of employment, income level, etc.).

The paper analyses aspects of regional imbalances in terms of labour force employment (deepened after 1990) by sector, branch, gender, age group in various regions (counties) of Romania as a result of investment and industrial production decrease as well as restructuring of economic activities, with important effects upon social-professional categories.

In order to avoid the acceleration of regional imbalances in labour force employment the following measures would be useful; elaborating employment training and retraining programmes for the laid-off in correlation with the economic restructuring programmes; supporting local policies for creating new jobs; encouraging new kinds of employment (e.g. part-time jobs, seasonal activities, home-performed jobs, etc.) especially in zones with female labour force potential, initiating flexible employment programmes in disadvantaged (assisted) areas.

41. VARIATION ANALYSIS AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION BY CITY IN ROMANIA (1994-1998)

Rodica Manuela Gogonea - Romanian-American University Bucharest

At present the education is a decisive factor for the general progress with serious implications in the spiritual, social, and economic field.

In Romania the transition towards market economy imposes necessarily to understand and to analyse the higher education, as an inseparable part of the education , due to its particular contribution to the education development following the set-up of several private institutions.

This study proposes to approach the variation of the indicators included in the higher education analysis by city in the period 1994-1998 as well as the structural changes regarding this education level.

The information found in the official publications will be used for statistical models appropriate to the variation and structure of this field, to the trend and the possible changes in time, taking into account its characteristics.

The conclusions take into consideration the objective causes and changes regarding the higher education reorganization and its development expectations.

42. THE EVOLUTION OR THE INVOLUTION OF THE ROMANIAN RURAL COMMUNITY OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS

Aniela Danciu - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

The Romanian Revolution of December 1989 has had a profound impact on the Romanian rural environment, rapidly producing essential modifications to the dimension of the land property, land exploitation techniques, social relations in the Romanian villages, and to the work resources.

The application of the new Land Law has generated wide restructuring and privatization processes in the rural environment. As a consequence, major mutations have taken place in the rural communities, in order to reach a new equilibrium.

In this paper we are going to analyse social and demographic changes and also try to find new ways to ameliorate the current situation of the rural communities.

43. RURAL TOURISM AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BAIJA-MALINI AREA, SUCEAVA COUNTY

Mihaela Barsan - "Stefan cel Mare" University, Suceava

Sub-mountain regions are confronted with some difficulties, which affect material, educational, and healthy possibilities of people from this area. The chance of development of these areas is creating a new type of jobs in alternative activities, especially agrotourism and rural tourism.

44. ALTERNATIVES FOR DIMINISHING UNDEREMPLOYMENT AT REGIONAL LEVEL

Dana Colibaba - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

When organisations began installing early mainframe computers, there were strong business reasons for investment and promises of considerable business benefits. During those times, though, resistance existed since it demanded very different ways of operating the organisation and shifted critical responsibilities from humans to machines.

Telework and the electronic technology now available have given birth to a whole new concept of office. The workplace involving where and how employees accomplish work tasks is already in the process of changing by providing new and challenging job opportunities for both the employee and the employer. This change will involve a re-balancing of space and workers from the standard traditional office workplace to home or telework places since it is estimated that within a decade one third of the workforce will work at home on either a full-time or part-time basis.

Before the organisation can accept teleworking as a true technology-based business application, certain foundation elements must be in place, on which the programme is built. Because of its permanent and often dramatic effects on fundamental organisational culture, teleworking must be deliberately, methodically and carefully introduced into the organisation to assure the success.

For most organisations teleworking has passed the resistance stage and is being seriously explored as a viable workplace alternative.

45. TENDENCIES IN REGIONAL TOURIST FLOWS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOURIST CIRCUITS

Elisabeta R. Rosca - "Stefan cel Mare" University, Suceava

The paper contains a presentation of the forms of tourist flow, which is alike required for the visitor's behaviour concerning consumption and expenses and for the specification of responsibilities and obligations of the holidays organisers (tour operators and travel agencies) and/or the service performers (transport units, hotels, restaurants etc.).

The basic criteria used for organising the tourist activity are the origin of tourists, the modality of holiday marketing, the tourist mobility degree, the periodicity (the frequency of the manifestation of the tourist demand), the type of the means of transportation, the travel motivation, the social and economic demand characteristics, etc.

The paper contains an analysis of tendencies manifested in the European tourism since 1960 and we observe, from this point of view, that Europe dominates the tourist activity, as a place of destination and also as an origin from

the tourist demand, with some changes in the last two decades. Thus, more than 200 million tourists visit the European countries every year and they represent 70% from international tourist arrivals, being generator of approximate 2/3 from the international tourist flow.

Also, are presented some of the most important compulsions in the development of the tourist flows to East Europe. The paper refers to the tourist services quality problem and the human resource motivation in the contact with the capitalism values.

In connection with the quality of tourist services, the paper presents the scheme of the cybernetic system of quality services dynamics, in which we find three kinds of flows: the information flow from customer, flow of information between strategist and service deliverer and flow of information and services to the customer.

In connection with the human resource motivation, in Romania, as in other Eastern European countries there is a special psychology about the services provided, generally, and the services provided to people from Western Europe, especially.

The paper analyses the main forms of tourism in Suceava county, the proportion of this phenomenon being characterised by total, internal and external demand, studied by the travel destination in 1997 and 1998. Also, the main forms of tourism in this regions are: cultural tourism, mountain tourism and spa tourism, the tourist demand being concentrated in two stars units.

The paper also shows the contribution of the principal forms of tourism from Suceava county to the national demand, on tourist flows and some comparative tourist indicators.

46. SUSTAINABLE RURAL AND TOURIST DEVELOPMENT

Cipriana Sava - "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University Timisoara

The sustainable development of economy is a present necessity not only at the national level but also on the world wide bases. This development involves both economic and technologic areas as well as socio-cultural and ecological domains.

The main principle in this respect is to ensure, in long run, the compatibility between economy and the environment.

Tourism, economic activity which has a recreative character, in general, is said to be reliant upon environment.

Rural tourism, in particular, is based on the peasant farm and the leisure activity in the middle of the nature.

It is to be noticed that both principles of sustainable development and of rural tourism pursuit to preserve the natural environment intact and to integrate the man-made created environment into the natural one. Hence, the integrated development of rural areas and rural tourism.

47. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN OVERCROWDED REGIONS

Giani Gradinaru - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest

The environmental protection represents at present one of the main important challenges at the regional level. Its complex and multi-dimensional character places the environmental protection activity at the cross-road between natural sciences, economic sciences and, not at least, technology. In the same time with evolving from a society based on agriculture and, after that, on industry to the post-industrial or informational society, the environmental protection is becoming a very difficult problem. Most of the efforts at the regional level are directed toward this area of activity. For the measures for regional development to be successful, the authorities have to take into account also the norms and regulations for environmental protection. The paper discusses how the information society affects the environmental protection field : the opportunities (tele-work, tele-transportation systems) but also the challenges for the overcrowded and less favoured regions.