

## **REGION PROFILE 2SE: RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

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### **Abstract**

*Across the country, rural society is experiencing a process of change nowadays. This process is a result of socio-economic change. The rural environment is acquainted with a constantly evolving dynamic reality and confrontation with the urban environment.*

*More than half of the population of the Member States of the European Union is in rural spaces. These areas summarize almost 90% of Europe's territory. The vital factors for land use and the management of natural resources in rural areas are livestock growth and forestry.*

*Rural areas face major problems, such as the lower average income from urban areas due to the fact that the services are more poorly developed.*

*The development of agriculture and rural space should be based on the innovation of structures for the processing and marketing of agricultural products, the development of rural infrastructure, and the improvement of the rural economy by creating jobs in rural area and preservation of the rural environment.*

**Keywords:** *rural development, countryside, strategy, region, complexity, agricultural policy*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The countryside comprises all activities outside the urban area and comprises three essential components, namely: (I. Bold, E. Buciuman, N. Dragghici, Rural area – definition, organisation, development, Timișoara, Mirton Publishing House 2003, pag. 15-21)

- Administrative communities consisting of relatively few members and having mutual relations;
- The pronounced dispensation of the population and collective services;
- The particular economic role of agriculture and forestry.

Making promotions of rigorously grounded policies that lay their foundations on pre-trial studies and analyses is an effective element in delivering quality conclusions and having a positive impact on people's lives.

In Romania, the rural area includes "common" administrative-economic units, defined in accordance with article 5 of Law 2/1968, as follows: "The commune is the territorial administrative unit that includes the rural population united by common interests and traditions. A municipality consists of one or more villages depending on economic, social, cultural, geographic and demographic conditions. The organization of the commune ensures the economic, administrative, cultural and social development of rural localities." (Study on the current state of rural development and agriculture in the South Muntenia region and development scenarios in the period 2014-2020, accessed on 15.11.2019)

According to data from the year 2011, the total area of Romania is 238,397  $km^2$  and the population is 20,121,641 inhabitants. Our country is ranked 7th in the European Union, both by area and by population.

Romania is among the countries that enjoy a beautiful endowment, referrer to land, water and population. However, these advantages did not lead to significant development.

In this paper, I propose to debate the main essential elements of developing a model of management of a sustainable agricultural study in Romania by assessing and measuring the sustainability of

agricultural holdings in the 2SE region. Economic basis for the development of the village is represented by the agricultural holding which is low due to the low capacity to invest.

## 2. CONCEPT OF RURAL SPACE

Following the new European conception, the rural environment is a landscape, valuable, marked by a long and vast history, which can only be maintained through a permanent concern for society and the community. It has the ability to perform its supply and balance functions only under the conditions under which it will develop as an attractive living space with an adequate infrastructure in which non-agricultural activities can be practiced, and the activities of Agriculture and forestry, to be practical in a responsible and sustainable way.

Rural development is based on actions and proposals made to improve living standards in poorly developed areas.

In order to better understand the complexity of the rural concept, it is necessary to define the main specific notions, such as: (I. Bold, E. Buciuman, N. Draghici, Rural area – definition, organization, development, Timisoara, Mirton Publishing House, 2003, p.15-21)

- Rural: Includes all activities that take place outside of the urban area and comprises three vital components, i.e. administrative communities consisting of relatively few members and having mutual relations, pronounced dispersion of the population and collective services, the particular economic role of agriculture and forestry. Although, economically, agriculture and forestry play an important role, the meaning of the word "rural" is wider, including other activities, such as, rural-specific industry, antique, productive services on Agricultural production.
- The rural area is the concept which, by its amplitude, has generated numerous opinions, which differ from one author to another, but in the end it comes to the same results. Many believe that urban space is characterized by all that is not urban.

From the definition of rural space we can extract the following elements:

- The rural area is based on weaker population density;
- Productive activity is generally agriculture and forestry, but we cannot exclude rural trade;
- Relationships between people are based on mutual knowledge;
- Pollution is lower than in rural areas.

### *a. General description of the rural area.*

Romania is a predominantly rural state where agriculture has an important role in the rural economy, including job creation.

Agriculture and forestry are significantly important sources of employment for Romania compared to other EU Member States, approximately 32.6% of the population being employed in the agricultural sector and forestry compared to the average of 5.3% in the EU. However, labour productivity is extremely low. (*Rapid assessment of agriculture and Rural Development, January 2014.*)

Romania enjoys a vast rural environment and a multitude of natural resources. Natural resources are not characterized by deficits, but need adequate attention to ensure durability.

The definition of rural devoting is inscribed in a broader concept, that of the rural economy, as a branch of economic science intersecting with rural space and agriculture, with the environment economy and the development economy. At the base of the rural economy is the economy of the agricultural holding with its market-related valences, agro alimentation Industries which makes the analyses of the rural economy associated with rural policy, agri-food consumption and agricultural policy. (*J. M. Boussard, Introduction to l'Economy Rural", Editura GILLAS Paris, 1992.*)

The World Bank presents rural development as a growth strategy targeting disadvantaged categories, the poor agriculture-dependent population, which has reduced access to work and services.

N. Belli states that "our country needs a concept of its own, with its roots and specific national trajectories, emanating from our historical matrix and from the useful lessons of the experiences of other countries with market economy, proposing the concept of development Sustainable human health of the countryside." (N. Belli "Sustainable human development of rural communities", in "Romania and the Republic of Moldova: agriculture and rural in the transitional period." Coord. O. Bădina, D Gusti Publishing House, 1996.)

The 2SE region enjoys numerous resources in view of rural development. External factors, such as climate change and regional energy policy, provoke the growth of the agro-alimentary domain in the 2SE region.

In our country there are 8 development regions established according to Law No. 151/1998 Regional Development, as amended by Law No. 315/2004, namely: ([http://www.inforegio.ro/images/Documente\\_de\\_programare/Strategia\\_Nationala\\_Dezvoltare\\_Regionala\\_-\\_iulie\\_2013.pdf](http://www.inforegio.ro/images/Documente_de_programare/Strategia_Nationala_Dezvoltare_Regionala_-_iulie_2013.pdf) Accessed on 17.11.2019)

- Region 1 – Northeast comprising 6 counties: Bacău, Botoșani, Iași, Neamț, Suceava, Vaslui;
- Region 2 – Southeast comprising 6 counties: Brăila, Buzău, Constanța, Galați, Tulcea, Vrancea;
- Region 3 – South Muntenia with 7 counties: Argeș, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Giurgiu, Ialomița, Prahova, Teleorman;
- Region 4 – Southwest Oltenia with 5 counties: Dolj, Gorj, Mehedinți, Olt, Vâlcea;
- Region 5 – West with 6 counties: Arad, Caraș Severin, Hunedoara, Timiș;
- Region 6 – Northwest with 6 counties: Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș, Satu Mare, Sălaj;
- Region 7 – Centre with 6 counties: Alba, Brasov, Covasna, Harghita, Mureș, Sibiu;
- Region 8 – Bucharest-Ilfov comprising the capital of the country of Bucharest and Ilfov County.



**Fig. 1.** Romania's development regions

Source: obiectiv.info

*b. Geographical location of 2SE region*

The 2SE region is located in the south-eastern area and borders the north-east region, the Centre region, the South-Muntenia region and the Bucharest-Ilfov region. An important aspect of geographic positioning is the fact that it is set up at the eastern border of the European Union, and the Black Sea coast is east. This region is the second largest among the regions of our country.

The 2TH region comprises almost all forms of relief, and the opening at the Black Sea gives the opportunity to develop maritime and river-maritime transport, and is also an element of attracting foreign investment.



**Fig. 2.** The SE Region

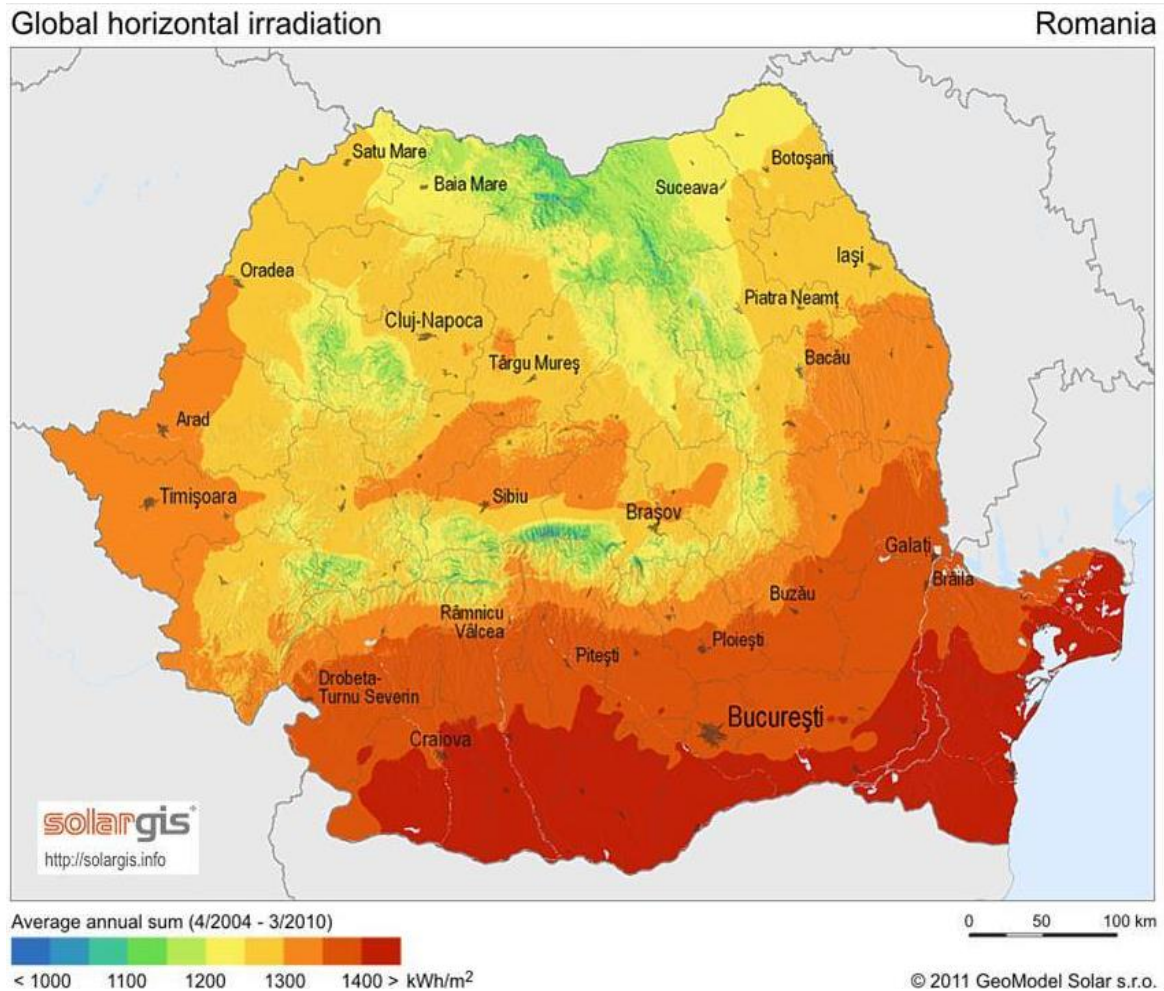
Source: wikipedia.org

There are over half of the fertile lands of the Barăganului Plain, also called "The Granary of the country". The region comprises the following specific areas:

- The area of the Barăganului plain (which includes areas from the counties of Buzău, Brăila and Vrancea) is characterized by major seismicity, small rainfall, flood risk and reduced forest potential;
- Northern Dobrogea (Tulcea County), the area has a high forest potential and a high tourist degree;
- Southeast Dobruja includes a large population in rural area;
- Dobrogea Central-and southwest with rainfall and small population;
- The area of South Moldova which includes territories of the counties of Galați and Vrancea, is characterized by frequent landslides, risk of flooding and high seismicity;
- The area of the Subcarpathians of rainberries includes areas of Vrancea and Buzău counties. 50% of the area is a mountain area.

*c. Natural Resources*

Region 2SE is lucky if we're referring to the natural resources she has. Minerals and hydrocarbons meet in the continental Black Sea platform. A high wind energy potential meet in the Dobrogea area, thus contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.



**Fig. 3.** The solar energy potential of Romania

The climate of the 2SE region is generally temperate moderate continental transition, temperatures ranging depending on the specification of the relief.

In the winter season, negative values are generally recorded, and in the summer season, temperatures are higher. The highest temperature was recorded on August 10, 1951 in Ion Sion, Brăila County.

Region 2SE enjoys a vast relief from the Black Sea to the Carpathian Mountains. At the foot of the mountains we meet sub mountain depressions and hills. Muddy volcanoes appear in the area of Buzău County. In the central area of the region is the plain Romanian traversed by rivers such as Siret, Ialomița, Călmățui. In the shedding of the Danube River in the sea, the Danube Delta was created, with approximately 580.00 hectares.

### 3. INFRASTRUCTURE

The infrastructure is regarded as an important element on which the modern society is based. This ensures the optimum functionality of human settlements and their interconnectivity.

An important sector of the economy is transport. County residences in the South East region enjoy good accessibility on the basis of travel time on railways, less Tulcea. Constanta enjoys the highest accessibility, thanks to the port, the airport, but also the Acre motorway connects with Bucharest.

#### *a. Transport*

In the table below we observe the inventory of county roads in the south-east region.

| <b>County name</b> | <b>Number of km from the county road</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Brăila             | 604                                      |
| Buzău              | 958                                      |
| Constanta          | 870                                      |
| Galați             | 791                                      |
| Tulcea             | 630                                      |
| Vrancea            | 728                                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>4581</b>                              |

**Table 1.** County roads in the south-east region

Source: Calculations taken from ADR SE at the level of 2013 on 18.12.2019

The Danube River participates in the realization of the territorial potential of the region, if we refer to the strategic transit potential for the international flows of goods, tourism, the development of water transport.

In this region, both county and communal roads must undergo a process of development and modernization leading to improved regional mobility and development opportunities.

Air transport is not very developed. Here we meet four airports, namely Mihail Kogălniceanu, in Tulcea, which operates only for charter races, in Tuzla in Constanta and one in Buzău.

#### *b. European Transport networks*

In the map below we will notice that Brăila and Galați are connected with the A2 motorway to Drajna Fetești, Constanta has a Black Sea exit and is linked to the Danube River through the Danube-Black Sea Canal.



**Fig. 4.** Transport Corridors in Romania

Source: [dryport.ro](http://dryport.ro)

The increasing enlargement of the European Union leads to the importance of connecting trans-European networks with those in the rest of the continent, thus developing European integration and, last but not least, economic development.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the documentation we found that the south-east region is gathering almost all forms of relief, and the opening at the Black Sea gives the opportunity to develop maritime and river-maritime transport, and it is also an element of attracting foreign investment.

The county and communal roads are almost 80% of the entire national road network in our country. The development of jobs and the living standards of the inhabitants of this region depend on the links with transport routes.

For an improvement in development opportunities, it is necessary to develop and modernise the county and communal roads in this area.

Rail transport is one of the most used modes of transport because it confers greater security, is cheaper, generates a lower level of pollution and can be accessed by all persons.

The existence of a bridge over the Danube River would stimulate economic growth, but also increase the living standards of the inhabitants of the same region.

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