

Methods and Techniques for Rural Development of the South-East Region

Daniela – Lavinia Balasan

Florin – Marian Buhociu

Cristinel Ferțu

"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galați, Romania

lavinia.balasan@ugal.ro

florin.buhociu@ugal.ro

cristinel.fertu@ugal.ro

Abstract

Sustainable development involves the analysis of financial resources and other support instruments that can positively influence an area or region. The economy of the South-East Region is based on agriculture, which assumes 40% of the total occupancy in the region.

Agriculture can be seen as the core of the region's sustainable and sustainable economic development. This article involves highlighting and highlighting the problems encountered in the South-East region and carrying out a set of measures and ways to improve rural performances. A questionnaire was carried out to the inhabitants of rural areas of the region in order to establish the disadvantages encountered.

Key words: rural, agriculture, region, potential

J.E.L. classification: O18, Q01, Q14

1. Introduction

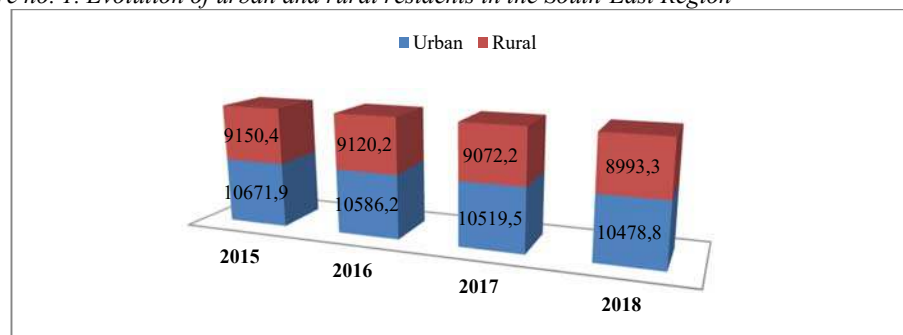
This paper covers the most important difficulties facing the south-east region. In this paper, we analyzed the concept of rural development by identifying the priorities of the South-East region and the needs and development potential.

The main purpose of this article is to highlight measures to improve rural areas and increase young employment in the region.

The rural environment is in constant competition with the urban area, the latter experiencing a more alert development process.

In recent years, both the number of urban and rural residents have undergone changes as can be seen in the figure below.

Figure no. 1. Evolution of urban and rural residents in the South-East Region



Source: Own Processed Data on INS, Tempo – Online

2. Theoretical background

The interpreted data studied in this article provide information on agricultural and increased production. There are two categories of information studied. The first category focused more on the role of the agricultural sector and the identification of the priorities of the analysed region (South-East Regional Development Plan, 2014-2020). This information highlights an important connection between agriculture and economic growth in the region (Herman, 2011).

Meanwhile, there are numerous studies on the sustainable development of agriculture, but also of the rural environment. Some of the recent studies on the topic analyse the problem sectors, and others study the increase of competitiveness and performance (Vasile, Ion, Turek Rahoveanu, 2016).

The challenges encountered more and more often in the rural area are bigger and more intense, the researchers showing their interest in the analysis of the agricultural systems. The economic and social challenges are proposed to the analysis based on the principle that demonstrates the increase of the competition of the rural environment (Buhociu, 2016).

The study of the literature identifies strategies that are focused on the performance and development of agriculture. Tools involving developed technology have also been considered. An environmental development plan is initially based on the study of the current state of the area with the identification of the main sectors requesting assistance (Stanciu, 2015). This plan can be achieved by achieving and performing a set of measures and techniques that lead to the achievement of the goals set.

The definition of rural devolution is embedded in a border 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. For the rural economy is important that the economy of the agricultural holding with its market-related valences, agro food industries which makes the analysis of the rural economy associated with rural policy, agro-food, consumption and agricultural policy (Boussard, 1992).

3. Research methodology

The results of this article are based on detailed research using quantitative methods. The information was processed after consulting the National Institute of Statistics. The database targets the following variables: the concept of rural, development priority identified in the studied region, strong work in the South – East Region.

The studies data are updated every year. In the present research, data from 2014 to 2019 were used, and year 2019 was used for an analysis of economic performance.

Qualitative research is based on studies of literature specific to this field. The following questions guided the present research:

- What was the evolution of the inhabitants of the South – East Region, rural and urban?
- What is the area of the counties of the analyzed region?
- How did the administrative structure in the region evolve in 2018?
- How did the activity rate evolve in the period 2014-2018?

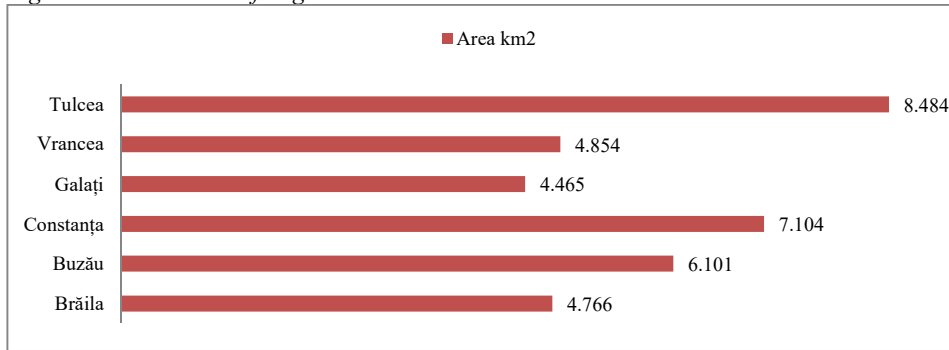
4. Findings

4.1. The concept of rural development and the identification of rural development priorities of the South-East Region

Located in the south-east of Romania, the South-East Region is next to Bulgaria, to the east with the Black Sea, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, to the north with the Northwest Development Region, to the west with the Central Development Region, and to the southwest with the South-Muntenia and Bucharest-Ilfov Development Regions. It is the second largest of the 8 development regions of Romania and comprises 6 counties, namely Brăila, Buzău, Constanta, Galați, Tulcea and Vrancea.

In the figure below we see the distribution of the counties of the region by area.

Figure no. 1. Counties of Region 2 South – East



Source: Own Processed Data from INS – Tempo Online

The rural development of a region involves not only the growth of the economy, but also the development of social and human resources, which involves several directions:

- Increase in human resources;
- Improving natural resources and knowingly using them;
- Developing economic competitiveness;
- Improving infrastructure;
- Development of technology.

The total area of the South-East Region is 35774 km², 15% of the area of Romania. The largest county by area in the region is Tulcea with 8484 km², and the smallest is Galati with only 4465 km². In the table below we observe the administrative structure of the South-East Region.

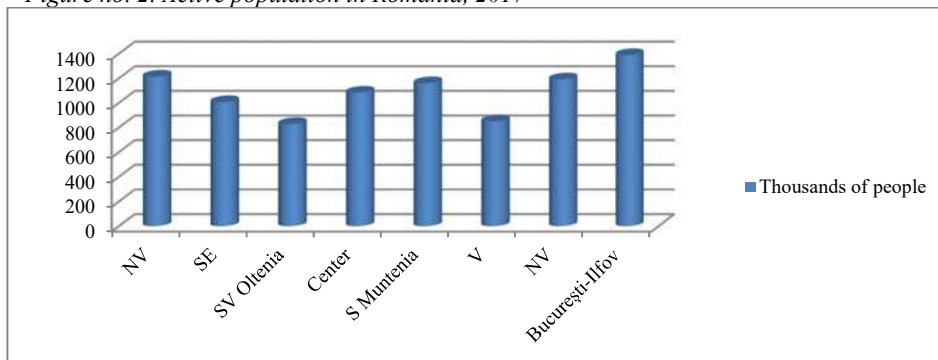
Table no. 1. Administrative structure of the South-East Region (2018)

	Number of cities and municipalities	Municipalities	Common No.	Villages No.
Brăila	4	1	40	140
Buzău	5	2	82	475
Constanta	11	3	59	189
Galați	4	2	61	180
Tulcea	5	1	46	133
Vrancea	5	2	68	331

Source: Own Processed Data from INS – Tempo Online

By the number of active inhabitants, the South-East Region ranks 6th among the development regions of Romania as seen in the figure below.

Figure no. 2. Active population in Romania, 2017



Source: Own Processed Data from INS – Tempo Online, 2019

In recent years, the working population of the South-East Region has seen year-on-year declines due to emigration. The majority of the population in the region operates in agriculture, with agricultural land meaning 65% of the total area of the region.

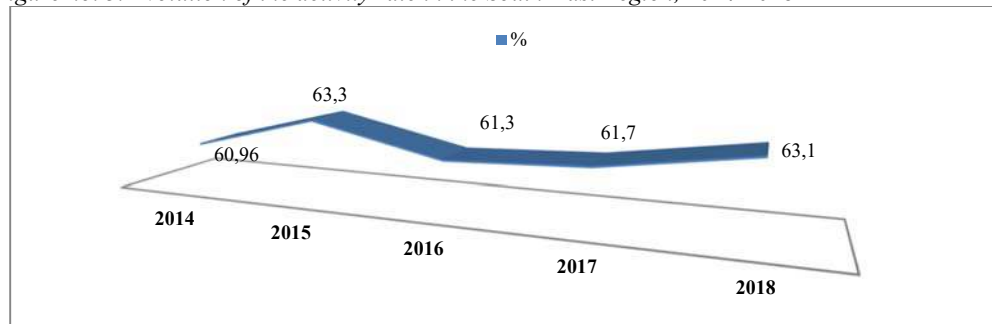
4.2. Study on the needs and development potential of the South-East Region

Regional development is a concept aimed at boosting and diversifying economic activities, stimulating investment in the private sector, contributing to reducing unemployment, and initiatives leading to an improvement in living standards.

(http://www.adrse.ro/Documente/Planificare/Studii/Rezumat_studiu_EDER.pdf pag. 7).

The highest activity rate is recorded in Vrancea, 70.3%, and the lowest in Galați, 59.2%. In the figure below we see how the activity rate has evolved in the period 2014-2018 in the South-East Region.

Figure no. 3. Evolution of the activity rate in the South-East Region, 2014-2018



Source: Own Processed Data from INS – Tempo Online, 2019

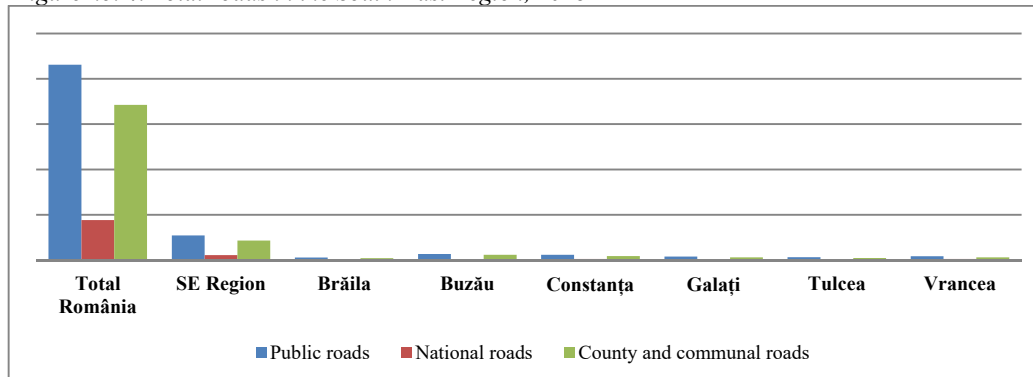
In the South-East Region there is a difficulty in terms of skilled work personnel.

The main objectives for rural development in the South-East Region are:

- Infrastructure development and telecommunications improvement;
- Increasing the number of dwellings and creating new residential areas;
- Growth of public services;
- Protecting the environment;
- Increase in local tourism;
- Developing and supporting the economy;
- Job growth;
- Attracting investors.

The South-East region does not enjoy projects involving the construction or development of motorways. In the figure below we see the distribution of roads in the region at the end of 2018.

Figure no. 4. Total roads in the South-East Region, 2018

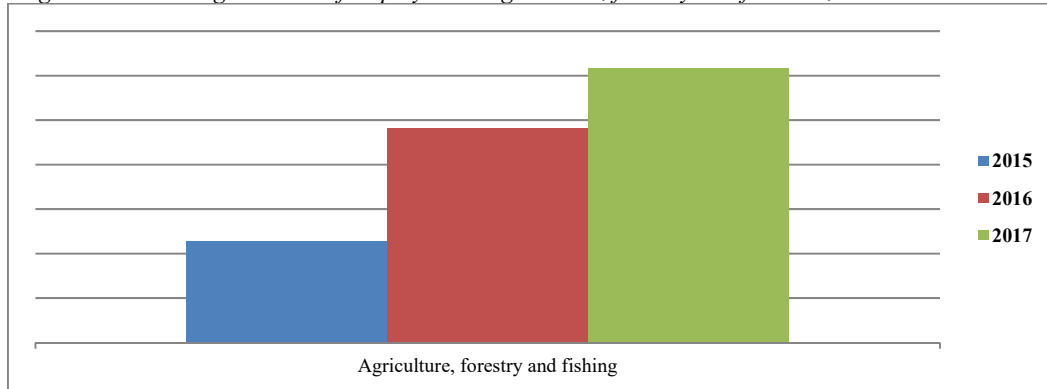


Source: Self-processed data from

https://insse.ro/cms/sites/default/files/field/publicatii/lungimea_cailor_de_transport_la_sfarsitul_anului_2018_1.pdfNS – Tempo Online, 2019

In the South-East Region we have the lowest density of public roads in Romania, only 30.7%. From an economic point of view, the South-East Region has a small number of workers concentrated in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. In the figure below we see their evolution in the period 2015-2017.

Figure no. 5. Average number of employees in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, 2015-2017



Source: Own processed data from INS, TEMPO- ONLINE, 2018

In recent years, the population of the South-East Region has suffered decreases in most fields of activity, especially in agriculture.

The activity rate in the region is increasing, the highest being recorded in Vrancea, the second being Brăila, then Buzău, Tulcea, Constanta, and the last place is Galați County.

In the region, the lowest earnings were recorded, only 1987 lei recorded in 2017, with the highest in the region being registered in Constanta and the lowest in Vrancea.

5. Conclusions

The development plan of a region is based on the study of the characteristics of that region, but also on the emphasis on needs or development potential in a region. The South-East region can ensure the achievement of a good and lasting economic environment that will lead to increased competitiveness and employment.

The South-East Workforce has few issues that can positively influence the sustainable and sustainable development of the region.

The results provided by this paper contribute to identifying the needs related to the level of development of the region studied. A number of negative aspects were highlighted, namely:

- Lack of efficient development of the small and medium-sized enterprise sector;
- Lack of support for small and medium-sized enterprises;
- Regional gross domestic product is quite small;
- Lack of cross-border cooperation in the economic environment;
- Reduced support for research and development activities;
- Lack of skilled labour;
- Poor infrastructure quality;
- High degree of difficulty in accessing funding;
- Poor quality of tourism, especially since the South-East Region has great tourism potential.

Agriculture plays a supreme role in rural economic activity, especially since Romania is a state where rural life prevails.

6. References

- Achim M. V., Borlea S. N., 2016. „Environmental performance – way to boost up financial performances of companies”. *Environmental Engineering and Management Journal*, Vol. 13, No. 4, 2016

- Bold I., Buciuman E., Drăghici N., 2003. *Rural area – definition, organization, development*. Timișoara: Mirton Publishing House
- Boussard J.M., 1992. *Introduction to the Rural Economy*. Paris: GILLAS Publishing House
- Bran F., Rădulescu C. V., Ioan I., 2011. ”Review of international Comparative Management”, Vol. 12, Issue 5
- Buhociu F. M., 2016. *Territorial resources to support sustainable rural development in the European Context*. Galați: Europlus Publishing House
- Charles R., 2000. *Manual of cross – border cooperation for the use of local and regional communities in Europe*, Third Edition, Bucharest
- Constantin M. R., 2010. *Regional economics theories, models, policies*. Bucharest: ASE Bucharest Publishing House
- David E. A., 1998. *The underground economy: Minimizing the size of government*. Econometrics Working Paper 9801, Department of Economics, University of Victoria
- Grandin T., Gregory N.G., 1998. *Animal welfare and meat science*, CASI Pub, Wallingford, UK
- Herman E., 2011. ”The impact of the industrial sector on Romanian employment”. *Journal of Knowledge Management, Economics and Information Technology*, Volume I, Issue 6
- Stanciu S., 2015. *The international and local impact of food frauds. Case study: The romanian food market*, Proceedings 26th International Business Information Management Association Conference (Spain, Madrid), Editura Solimna K.S.
- Stanciu S., 2015. *Security, safety and continuity on Agri food Chain*. Saarbrucken, Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing
- Stanciu S., Bylge H., Danaci T., 2017. *Business and Financial Strategies*, LAP Lambert Academic Publishing Imnisciptum Publishing Book
- Zugravu A., Neculiță M., Turek Rahoveanu M. M., 2010. *Information System for Financial Analysis and Economic Planning within Fish Farms*, The XVIIth International Conference IBIMA (International Business Information Management Association), Business Transformation through Innovation and Knowledge Management, Proceedings ISI, clasificată B ERA 2010, 23-24 June 2010, Istanbul, Turkey
- Vasile A. J., Ion R. A., Turek Rahoveanu A., 2016. *Green Economic Structures in Modern Business and Society*, IGI Global Publishing
- South – East Regional Development Agency, 2014.
http://www.adrse.ro/Documente/Planificare/PDR/2014/PDR.Sud_Est_2014.pdf
- National Institute of Statistics, Regional economic and social landmarks: Territorial statistics.
- http://www.adrse.ro/Documente/Planificare/Studii/Rezumat_studiu_EDER.pdf
- http://www.adrse.ro/Documente/POR_2021/POR_SE_2021-2027_aprilie_2021.pdf
- <https://insp.gov.ro/sites/cnepss/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/SSPR-2017.pdf>
- http://www.adrse.ro/Documente/Planificare/Studii/Studiu_CMSR_SE.pdf
- https://insse.ro/cms/sites/default/files/field/publicatii/lungimea_cailor_de_transport_la_sfarsitul_anului_2018_1.pdfNS – Tempo Online, 2019