

DIAGNOSTIC ANALYSIS OF ROMANIAN RURAL SPACE IN ORDER TO CLASSIFY RURAL AREAS BY THE DEGREE OF INEQUITY IN SOUTH MUNTENIA REGION-TERRITORY EQUIPMENT CRITERIA

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Abstract:

The agriculture and rural development have been and will be sensible domains in the integration process of Romania in the structures of European Union and related to the community funds attraction for rural environment. That is why, the taken action join the causal knowledge line of phenomena and economic-social process specific to rural communities.

The diagnostic analysis of Romanian rural space has been realized taking into consideration the "Territory Equipment" criteria for classify the rural space by the degree of inequity and consisted in the analysis of each selected indicator at the level of communes included in South Muntenia region distribution.

Also, I made a SWOT analysis from the perspective of rural inequity for the region that has been the subject of the performed work.

Key words: *rural space, living comfort, technical-public infrastructure, rural development*

JEL classification: *Q10, R10*

Introduction

The South Region is situated in the south part of Romania, with a surface of 34.453 km² (14.45 % from the total surface of Romania), corresponding to the follow counties: Arges, Calarasi, Dambovita, Giurgiu, Ialomita, Prahova and Teleorman.

The region is situated in the South part- South-East of the country, bordering at North with the Center Region, at East with the South-East Region, at south with Bulgaria, the limit being the natural border Danube River and at West with the South-West Region.

The South Region have a network localities composed from 48 cities (from which 16 are municipalities), 519 communes and 2018 villages. Most of the cities (32) have under 20.000 habitants, many of them have a poor infrastructure, close of rural areas one. Only two cities have over 100.000 habitants (Ploiesti and Pitesti). The territorial distribution shows a bigger city concentration in Prahova County (14) and a lower one in Giurgiu (3). Regarding the commune distribution, most of them are in Arges (95), Teleorman (92) and Prahova (90), and less of them are in the following counties: Călărași (50) și Giurgiu (51).

The relief of South-Muntenia Region is characterized by a big diversity, the level difference is over 2.400 meters and is proportional distributed, descending in steps from north to south, from Bucegi and Fagaras Mountain peaks to the Danube plain.

The region relief, characterized by variety and amphitheater disposal has three major relief forms: mountain 9.5%, hills 19.8%, plain and meadow 70.7%.

The pretty rich hydrographic network is dominated by the Danube River in which flows the main rivers of the region (Olt, Arges, Dâmbovița, Ialomița și Prahova). This is completed by a series of natural lakes and antropoc one's with complex utility.

1. Diagnostic analysis of Romanian rural space in order to classify rural areas by the degree of inequities in South-West Region

Living area/ habitant indicator

From data analysis presented in the Commune Files (INS, 2008), we can notice that comparing the national average of the indicator “Living Area/Habitant”, 15,9 sm/habitant, 161 communes (31,02%) from a total of 519 communes of South Muntenia Region are situated over the national average, 3 communes (0,58%) are situated at the level of national, and the rest of 355 communes (68,40%) are situated under the national average.

The membership of a commune, whose “Living Area/Habitant” indicator is situated over the national average, in the counties included in South Muntenia region will be presented below.

Table 1 The membership of communes at counties from South Muntenia Region, by „Living Area/ Habitant” indicator

Number of communes with living area/habitant over the national average	Number of communes with living area/habitant under the national average	County
43	52	Argeş
27	55	Dâmboviţa
25	65	Prahova
22	29	Giurgiu
20	72	Teleorman
14	45	Ialomiţa
10	40	Călăraşi

Source: own manipulations from Communes File, INS, 2008

From the table above we can notice that in the first place is Arges county with a number of 43 communes situated in the north part of the county, hills and mountain area in which the comfort of leaving is better than in the south part of the county, plain area, and in the last place is Calarasi county with only 10 communes, county situated in the plain zone where the comfort of leaving is under the national average.

In conclusion, concerning “Living Area/Habitant” criteria we will present first five communes, the three communes situated at the level of national average, and also the last five communes from South Muntenia Region.

Table 2. Communes situated at the superior limit, inferior and the average of the “Living Area/Habitant” criterion

County	Name of commune	Living Area/Habitant (sm/habitant.)	National average (sm/habitant.)
Argeş	Dâmbovicioara	35,10	15,9
Ialomiţa	Brazii	26,52	
Argeş	Albeştii de Muscel	26,01	
Prahova	Cornu	25,33	
Prahova	Jugureni	25,25	
Giurgiu	Putinei	15,90	
Dâmboviţa	Perşinari	15,90	
Călăraşi	Vlad Ţepeş	15,90	
Ialomiţa	Maia	8,39	
Călăraşi	Spanţov	7,86	
Dâmboviţa	Cojasca	7,65	
Ialomiţa	Borăneşti	7,18	
Ialomiţa	Bărbuleşti	4,76	

Source: own manipulations from Communes File, INS, 2008

From the table above we can notice that the first place in the South Muntenia Region is taken by Dambovicioara commune from Arges County. This commune is situated in the north part of the county in a mountain area with highly touristic potential, which arises also from the value of the indicator “medium number of accommodation/accommodation unity” situated over the national average. From data analysis presented in the Communes File we can notice that the value of the indicator existing “Finished housing in 2008/1000 housing” is situated over the national average, which means that in the area have been made investments in 2008. The communes situated in the last two places are communes situated in plain area, an area with a lower potential of development where the housing comfort is lower.

The indicator quantity of drinking water for domestic consumers (cm/habitant)

From the data analysis presented in the Communes File (INS,2008) we can notice that compared with the national average of the indicator “Quantity of drinking water for domestic consumers”, 14,8 mc/habitant, 152 (29,9%) communes from the total number of communes in South Muntenia Region are situated over the national average, and the rest of 367 (70,71%) communes are situated under the national average.

The low share of communes with an indicator situated over the national average reflects also the life quality from the rural environment, quality which affects also the development of a business environment in the rural area of South Muntenia Region.

The value of the indicator “Quantity of drinking water for domestic consumers” is determined by the lack of drinking water network in those areas, where peoples are forced to take the water from the fountains situated in their yards, and also the lack of water consumption metering in some communes (for example Teiu commune from Arges County where is registered 0 cm/habitant, but exists a drinking water network).

The communes membership, whose indicator “Quantity of drinking water for domestic consumers” are situated under the national average and have zero value, at the counties included in South Muntenia Region will be next presented.

Table 3. Communes membership at counties from South Muntenia Region, concerning the indicator “Quantity of drinking water for domestic consumers”

Number of communes with the quantity of drinking water for domestic consumers over the national average	Number of communes with the quantity of drinking water for domestic consumers under the national average	Number of communes with the quantity of drinking water for domestic consumers under the national average and with zero value	County
7	44	38	Giurgiu
13	79	68	Teleorman
27	32	26	Ialomița
21	29	18	Călărași
42	53	31	Argeș
27	63	32	Prahova
13	69	34	Dâmbovița

Source: own manipulations from Communes File, INS, 2008

From the table above we can notice that the first place is occupied by Giurgiu County where the share of communes with 0 cm/habitant in total of communes situated under the national average is 86,36%, follow by Teleorman County with a share of 86,08% and Ialomita County with a share of 81,25%. This thing highlights the low quality of life in rural areas from those counties from South Muntenia Region, counties situated also in the plain zone of the region, similar with the indicator “Living Area/Habitant”.

Simple length of drinking water supply network (km)

From the analysis of data presented in the Communes File (INS, 2008) we can notice that comparing with the national average of the indicator “ Simple Length of Drinking Water Supply Network”, 10,6 km, 205(39,5%) communes from a total of 519 communes from South Muntenia Region are situated over the national average, and the rest of 314 (60,5%) are situated under the national average.

The low share of communes with the value of the indicator situated over the national average reflects a technical-urbanistic weak development in the rural space from the analyzed region, which affects the economical development of rural areas and also the life quality of peoples from those communes. Next will be presented the first five communes, situated over the national average, from South Muntenia Region.

Table 4 Communes situated at the superior limit of Simple Length of Drinking Water Supply Network criteria

County	Name of commune	Simple Length of Drinking Water Supply Network (km)	National average (km)
Argeş	Suseni	82,90	10,6
Argeş	Buzoieşti	76,80	
Prahova	Valea Doftanei	70	
Argeş	Rociu	66	
Argeş	Leordeni	62,20	

Source: own manipulations from Communes File, INS, 2008

From the analysis of data presented in the above table we can notice that the first two places and the last two are occupied by communes from Arges County, which reflects the fact that this county has the most developed technical-urbanistic rural infrastructure from the South Muntenia Region, creating the support for development of business environment in the rural space, but also increasing the quality of life.

In the analyzed region exists a number of 213 communes from a total of 314 situated under the national average, almost 67,83%, which have 0 km of drinking water network. the membership of communes, with “Simple Length of Drinking Water Supply Network” indicator is situated under the national average and has zero value, at the counties included in South Muntenia Region will be next presented.

Table 5 Communes membership at counties from South Muntenia Region, by “Simple Length of Drinking Water Supply Network”

Number of communes with Simple Length of Drinking Water Supply Network over the national average	Number of communes with Simple Length of Drinking Water Supply Network under the national average	Number of communes with Simple Length of Drinking Water Supply Network over the national average and with zero value	County
18	74	68	Teleorman
7	44	35	Giurgiu
41	41	31	Dâmbovița
22	28	15	Călărași
46	44	23	Prahova
28	31	16	Ialomița
43	52	24	Argeş

Source: own manipulations from Communes File, INS, 2008

From the presented table we can notice that the first place is occupied by Teleoraman county with a share of communes with zero km of drinking water supply network reported at total communes situated under the national average of 91,89%, followed by Giurgiu County with a share of 79,95% and by Dambovita County with a

share of 75,61%. This Thing highlights a low life quality in rural areas from those counties of South Muntenia Region, counties situated also in plain areas, like the situation of “Quantity of drinking water for domestic consumers” indicator.

Simple length of sewerage network (km) indicator

From the analysis of data presented in the Communes File (INS,2008) we can notice that the national average of the indicator “ Simple Length of Sewerage Network”, 0.8 km, only 34 (6,55%) communes from a total of 519 communes from South Muntenia Region are situated over the national average, 4(0,77%) communes at the level of national average, and the rest of 481 (92,68%) communes are situated under the national average.

The extremely reduced share of communes situated over the national average highlights a weak development of business environment in the rural space, life quality of peoples and the comfort of living. From a total of 481 communes situated under the national average, 99,17% have zero km “Length of Sewerage Network”.

In Prahova County exists most communes with the analyzed indicator over the national average, 17 communes, followed by Arges County with 10 communes, Dambovită County with 4 communes and Giurgiu, Calarasi and Teleorman, each with 1 commune.

In Ialomita County no commune has sewerage network, and in Giurgiu, Calarasi, Teleorman and Dimbovită, except the communes situated over the average, the rest are with zero km length of sewerage network.

Next will be presented the first five communes, situated over the national average, from South Muntenia Region.

Table 6 Communes situated at the superior limit of „Simple Length of Sewerage Network” criteria

County	Name of commune	Simple Length of Sewerage Network (km)	National average (km)
Argeş	Bascov	20,50	0,8
Prahova	Măneciu	17,70	
Argeş	Lereşti	16,90	
Dâmbovița	Doiceşti	13,80	
Prahova	Filipeştii de Pădure	11,80	

Source: own manipulations from Communes File, INS, 2008

From the analysis of data presented in the above table we can notice that 4 from 5 places are occupied by communes from Arges and Prahova County, which highlights the fact that these counties have the most developed technical-urbanistic infrastructure from South Muntenia Region, creating the support for business environment development in the rural space, but also the increase of quality life and comfort of living.

Simple length of natural gas distribution pipes (km)

From the analysis of data presented in the Communes File (INS,2008) we can notice that comparing with the national average of the indicator ”Simple Length of Natural Gas Distribution Pipes”, 4.4 km, 91 (17,53%) communes from a total of 519 communes of South Muntenia Region are situated over the national average, and the rest of 428 (82,47%) communes are situated under the national average.

The low share of communes with the indicator situated over the national average highlights the weak development of technical-urbanistic infrastructure in the rural space from the analyzed region, which affects rural development, the business environment and also the quality of life in these communes.

Next will be presented the first five communes, situated over the national average, from South Muntenia Region.

Table 7 Communes situated at the superior limit of "Simple Length of Natural Gas Distribution Pipes" criteria

County	Name of commune	Simple Length of Natural Gas Distribution Pipes (km)	National average (km)
Argeş	Bascov	64,80	4,4
Prahova	Pauleşti	60,20	
Prahova	Bucov	59,40	
Prahova	Ciorani	54,00	
Dâmboviţa	Razvad	49,30	

Source: own manipulations from Communes File, INS, 2008

From data analysis presented in the above table we can notice that 4 from a total of five places are occupied by communes from Arges and Prahova, which highlights the fact that these counties have the most developed technical-urbanistic infrastructure in rural areas from South Muntenia Region, creating the support for a business environment development in rural areas, but also increasing the quality of life and the comfort of living.

In the analyzed region exists a number of 418 communes from a total of 428 situated under the national average, almost 97,66% which have zero km simple length of natural gas distribution pipe.

In Prahova County exists most of communes with an indicator situated over the average, 36 communes, followed by Dambovita County with 34 communes and Arges County with 16 communes, while Giurgiu and Calarasi have only a commune with the indicator "Simple length of natural gas distribution pipe" situated over the average, and Ialomita County has only 3 communes situated over the average.

SWOT Analysis of South Muntenia Region- EQUIPMENT of TERRITORY Criteria

Strengths

- High comfort of living in Arges and Prahova County
- Better technical-urbanistic infrastructure in Arges and Prahova County (drinking distribution network and sewerage network more developed in Arges County, natural gas distribution network more developed in Prahova county)

Weakness

- The comfort of living is low in Teleorman, Ialomita and Calarasi County
- Low technical-urbanistic infrastructure in Giurgiu, Teleorman and Ialomita County concerning the drinking water quantity for domestic consumers and the drinking water network
- Low technical-urbanistic infrastructure in Giurgiu, Clarasi and Teleorman concerning the sewerage network and in Giurgiu and Calarasi concerning the distribution of natural gas.

Opportunities

- The development of living comfort for increasing the quality of peoples life from the rural space
- Development of technical-urbanistic infrastructure in the rural environment for developing the business environment

Threats

- Insufficient financial sources, on short and medium run, for rural infrastructure development
- The widening imbalance between rural and urban environment
- Omission orientation of investments in rural areas, support for business environment development

Conclusion

Agriculture and rural development have been and will be sensible domains in the process of integration at European Union and tight of community funds attraction for the rural environment. That is why, the taken approach join the line of causal knowledge of phenomenon and economical-social processes specific to rural communities. The purpose of this paper targeted the classification of rural areas from South Muntenia Region. The selected criterion was "Equipment of Territory". This criterion offers information about the comfort of living, the technical-urbanistic infrastructure like support for rural development-also for business environment etc.

From social-economical and natural characteristic point of view, rural areas are significant different. For sustaining economic activities in those areas where social conditions and production ones are difficult, they must be identified like disadvantaged areas.

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