ASSESSMENTS OF THE AVAILABLE LABOUR FORCE IN THE ROMANIAN RURAL AREA. A CASE STUDY

EVALUĂRI ALE DISPONIBILULUI DE FORŢĂ DE MUNCĂ DIN SPAŢIUL RURAL ROMÂNESC. UN STUDIU DE CAZ

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Abstract:*Evaluation of the available labour force in the Romanian rural area is an important element in trying to find new employment opportunities. These evaluations may be for policymakers a starting points in developing rural development strategies.*

Key words*: potential,labour force, availability.*

INTRODUCTION

The issue of employment and evaluation of its availability in the Romanian rural constitute a starting point in identifying solutions and opportunities for local development. In this respect, this approach attempts to quantify the availability of rural labor force in a municipality located in the near of Bucharest, respectively Sohatu commune. It should be noted that this analysis was undertaken on several of the Romanian rural areas, subject of a research project funded by the National Authority in the Field of Scientific Research.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

To achieve such an assessment, data were collected through questionnaires in the two villages Sohatu. These data were then processed with the usual statistical methods. To assess the current status of the village and the village Sohatu migration trends were applied a 55 questionnaires in

the 2 villages - Sohatu and Progresu. Selection of households that were included in the sample was made up based on counting, namely the application of a questionnaire to every fourth household in each village.

If there were situations that made it impossible for the questionnaire, due to objective reasons (house unoccupied, refusal by respondents, etc..), we proceeded to the questionnaire on household numbers in the previous or next, recovering step is then initial counting. Interview questionnaire was based on the type of face-to-face interviewer respondents scoring in the questionnaire responses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Situated in a plain area, with a population of 3093 people in 2009[*] and 40 km from Bucharest, Sohatu commune from Calarasi county, are composed of two villages - Sohatu and Progresu - has some specific features, as a result of geographical location.

The latest available statistical information, which are also the basis for attracting funds for local development, Sohatu commune is put into an area with high vulnerability to pollution by nitrates and a high incidence of drought. Also, it is estimated that the poverty rate stands at around 44.8%, and the poverty gap and severity to the values of 13.8% and 6.2%. In other words, Sohatu commune fall within the communes with highest risk of poverty.

During the analized period, the total population of the commune has decreased by 8.2% both overall and by gender, unlike the Calarasi county of which registered a 5.5% decrease due to more pronounced reduction of the female population compared with the male population.

The same decreasing trend is recorded in the balances of temporary residence and domicile, both having negative values, with variations from year to year, both commune and throughout the Calarasi county (**Table 1**).

[*] According with the available statistical information.

Table 1. Evolution of migratory flows in the Sohatu commune compared with Calarasi county, in the 2000-2009 period

	Sohatu		Călăraşi	
	Balance leavings	**Balance of resident departures**	**Balance leavings**	**Balance of resident departures**
2000	9	10	-517	571
2001	-12	-32	-523	-1156
2002	-16	3	-900	439
2003	-15	-23	-855	54
2004	-12	-1	-907	-265
2005	-20	-21	-495	-72
2006	-15	-23	-728	-405
2007	-14	-16	-1325	-124
2008	-3	-3	-1719	161
2009	-29	0	-1718	0

Source: Own calculations on the basis of data from Tempo-Online databases, INSSE, 2009.

a) Structures of population in the Sohatu commune

At the sample studied, 35.6% represent the active population, while the difference is the inactive population. Calculated as a percentage of the active population in working age population, activity rate is 54.8% Sohatu commune, because the economic dependency ratio is 1.9 ‰.

On the other hand, from the total population sample, 8.9% were aged under 15, so that the percentage of those between 15 and 65 is 64.9%. Also, the share of people over 65 years is quite high, namely 26.2%. All these data converge toward a mean age of 43 years.

An index of demographic ageing of 2941 reflects an ageing majority population, while the index of labor renewal to a value of 1.8. In other words, a person to mature age employment, will be replaced by other 1.8 people at the beginning of active life, which can translate into a positive process of rejuvenation of the labourforce.

b) Disparities regarding the active population

From the methodological point of view, in an attempt to estimate the working time available in the Sohatu commune was considered a two-dimensional analysis, quantification of time so that the active population and the employed population.

In terms of estimated available funds for employment of working population and the estimated difference from DALFI, calculations reveal a surplus of 880 hours per week (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Disparities on working time available privind timpul de muncă disponibil for the active population in the Sohatu commune

	Sohatu commune
Active population	
Available statistical estimated rural labor force (persons)	64
Available statistical estimated working time (hours / week)	2560
Available DALFI estimated rural labor force (persons)	42
Available from DALFI estimated working time at the commune level (hours / week)	1680
Disparities in available working time (hours / week)	**880**

Source: Own calculations, on the basis of questionnaires applied in the Sohatu commune Sohatu.

The existence of this surplus reflects incomplete use of active labor in the commune, the commune is clear ability to lead active people during work, but which unfortunately are not in the place of employment.

c) Disparities on employment

The same trend of surplus labor time is reflected in the employment, even if the disparity is less than 80 hours per week compared with the corresponding active population (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Disparities of working time available for employment in the Sohatu commune

	Sohatu commune
Employment	
Available statistical estimated rural labor force (persons)	62
Available statistical estimated working time (hours / week)	2480
Available DALFI estimated rural labor force (persons)	42
Available from DALFI estimated working time at the commune level (hours / week)	1680
Disparities in available working time (hours / week)	**800**

Source: Own calculations, on the basis of questionnaires applied in the Sohatu commune Sohatu.

The existing 800 hours per week as surplus reflects incomplete use of the employed population of the Sohatu comunne.

d) Estimated loss or gain economic values in the Sohatu commune

Estimated loss or gain of economic values was based on data collected from questionnaires, and a specific methodology for calculating the gross value added in the reference week, thereby, earning net. Based on this information, it is noteworthy that, **in the reference week for which data were collected, there is a total loss of economic value, estimated at 18,546.5 lei**.

With the exception of agriculture, forestry and fisheries where there is a slight gain economic value (45.3 million), the rest of the general trend is the loss of branches. Of the 18,546.5 lei loss, 69% is due to the construction sector (12,793.9 million), the difference of 31 percentage points of loss is distributed as follows:

- Transportation and storage: 1645.6 lei;
- Other branches: 1303.7 lei;
- Hotels and restaurants: 1273.8 lei;
- Trade: 1052.2 lei;
- Industry: 561 lei.

CONCLUSIONS

In a first assessment, the Sohatu commune is dominated, in terms of population, by the existence of the elderly over 60 years, the share of youth is very low, both in the Progresu village and the Sohatu village. The main activity is common in agriculture, while the migratory trend has certain characteristics, namely: the preference for migration to the city (or Oltenia Bucharest) and less to abroad.

From the analysis we can say that at the level of Sohatu commune there is a surplus of the working population and employment, which can be an asset to the development of activities that can ensure full employment of available labor. Relative gain made by the agricultural sector complements household financial deficit, trying to offer possible alternative source of income for those remaining in the commune. However, the loss recorded in the sectors that should be the engine of local development, round out the conviction of the existence of a process of continued economic deterioration of the commune, which term does not contribute to sustainable development for future generations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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