THE PHENOMENON OF DEMOGRAPHIC AGEING IN ROMANIA – EVOLUTIONS AND TRENDS IN TERRITORIAL STRUCTURE

FENOMENUL ÎMBĂTRÂNIRII DEMOGRAFICE ÎN ROMÂNIA – EVOLUȚII ŞI TENDINȚE ÎN PROFIL TERITORIAL

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Abstract: *Among the many global threats against humanity that have always relied on were often found also the demographic issues. If a few decades ago the main demographic danger was the overpopulation or, eventually, the too fast growth rate, nowadays the main risk factor is related to the population structure, namely the demographic ageing process. The demographic ageing represents a process which implies changing the structure of a population by age, by an important growth of proportion of elderly in total population, instead of the proportion of youth, as a strong and long-term trend, with multiple implications in each area of human activity.*

Key Words: *demographic ageing, population, territorial disparity.*

INTRODUCTION

Confronted with many structural issues, Romania's economy has also been for a long time under „the attack" of an existing phenomenon with different intensities among all countries, respectively to the demographic ageing of population and even more because the evolutions and the implemented measures in the last 20 years do not seem to have some expected effects of the phenomenon's attenuation.

The demographic ageing phenomenon was analized over time by many specialists, in trying to find an answer and mitigation solutions. The intensity and the amplitude of the phenomenon become more noticeable, but only when it is analized in territorial profile.

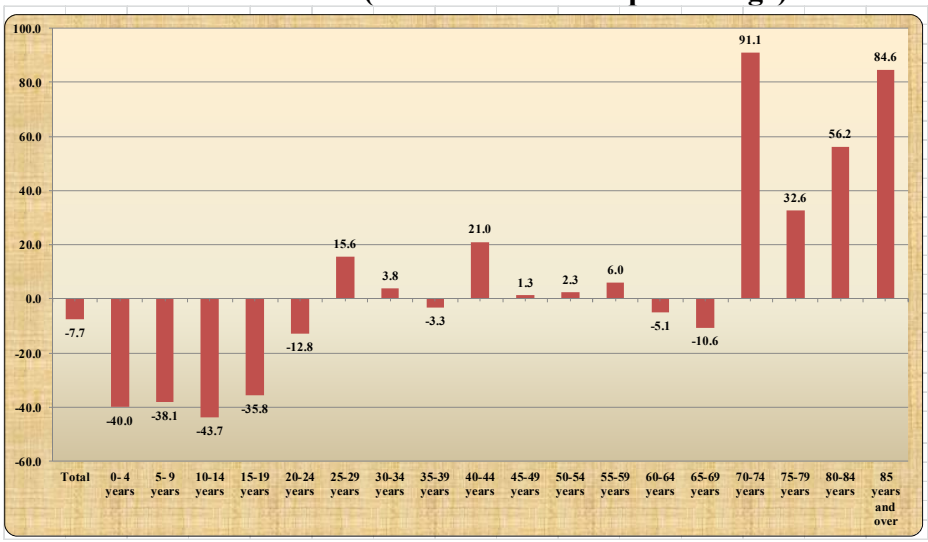
MATERIALS AND METHODS

To achieve such analysis, it was used public statistical information, related to Romania's population structure on age groups in territorial profile, available from the 1st of July of each year. Also, for overseeing the modifications that interfered over time, there were built data series starting with 1990, in regional profile, respectively macroregions and developping areas.

RESULTS AND DISCUTIONS

The 1990-2010 period is characterized by a visible ageing trend of Romania's population, especially for the age categories over 70 years, these registering accelerated growth. (**Chart no.1**)

Chart no.1. Modifications interfered in total population structure in 2010 from 1990 (increase/decrease percentage)



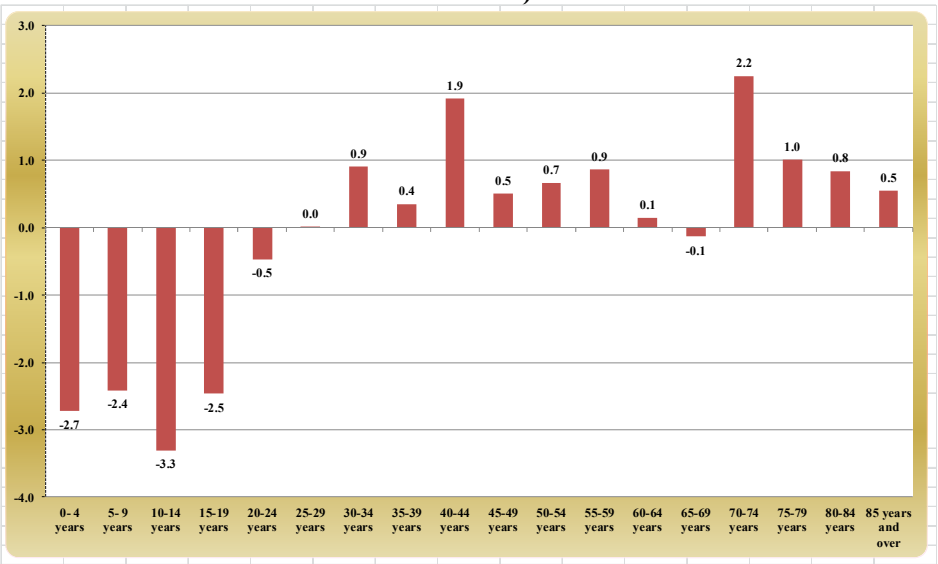
Source: Calculations based on the data from Tempo-Online, INSSE, 2011.

What is extremely worring is the trend of age reduction of population between the age 0-14, while for the 15-64 years old section (respectively the population in age for work), the increase percentage is

much lower to that of population over 70 years old. In other words, within 21 years (1990-1010), Romania has managed a real reduction performance of total population with 7,7% and an increase of the elderly percetange (over 70 years old) with no less than 61,8%.

Besides, the same trend is also registrated in the structure of population in groups age. If in the section 0-14 years old, the population share is joined on a descending slope with an oscillation between -3.3 percentage points (for the 10-14 years old group) and -2.4 percentage points (for 5-9 years old group), at the opposite pole we find the increasing share of elderly population, with the exception of the one that is between 65-69 years old, which marks a slight tendency to decrease.(**Chart no.2**).

Chart no.2. The modification of population structure on age structures in 2010 by comparison with 1990 (percentage points of growth and decrease)



Source: Calculations based on the data from Tempo-Online, INSSE, 2011.

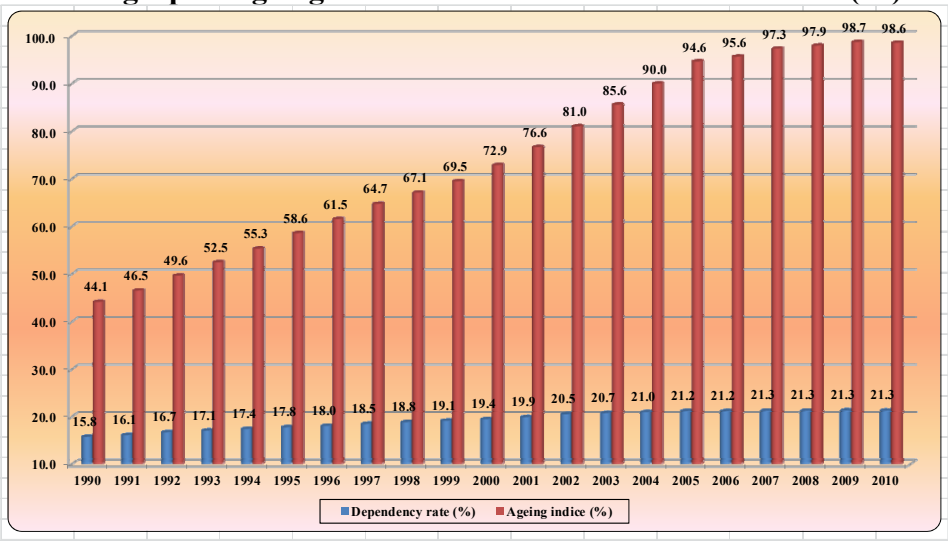
In other words, while the share of persons with ages over 65 has raised with 4.4 percentage points in 2010 from 1990, the share of those in age of work (15-64 years old) has registered o growth of only 2,4 percentage points, for that the section 0-14 years old could suffer the most significant reduction, of 8.4 percentage points. The 10.8 percentage points

representing the population share of over 65 years old in total population in 2010 emphasize a population in a full process of demographic ageing.

The significant modifications in the population structure have greatly contributed, in a negative way, to the emphasize of the dependency ratio and the ageing index. Calculated as the ratio between the over 65 year old population and the age working population (15-64 years old), the dependecy ratio of the elderly has increased from 15.8% (1990) to no less than 21.3% (2010), which represents a growth of 5.6 percentage points.

Mush worse is the index of demographic elderly (calculated as the ratio between the persons over 65 and the 0-14 years old group), this registering a growth of 54.4 percentage points in 2010 from 1990, respectively from 44.1% (1990) to 98.6% (2010) (**Chart no.3**).

Chart no.3. The evolution of dependency ratio of elderly and the demographic ageing index in Romania between 1990-2010 (%)



Source: Calculations based on the data from Tempo-Online, INSSE, 2011.

The evolutions registered at country level represent the result of the significant modifications interfered at local level (county, region and macroregion). From the macroregions point of view, the perioud 1990-2010 emphasizes significant share of the population over 65 years old in the total population, shares situated between 20% and 30% (**Table no.1**).

Table no.1.
The evolution of population share over 65 years old from each macroregion between 1990-2010 (%)

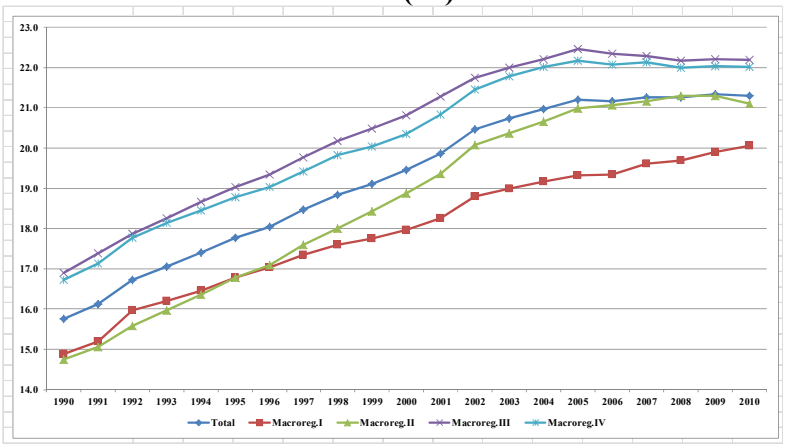
	Macroreg.I	Macroreg.II	Macroreg.III	Macroreg.IV
1990	23.8	26.6	28.1	21.6
1991	23.6	26.7	28.2	21.5
1992	23.5	27.2	28.0	21.4
1993	23.3	27.4	28.0	21.3
1994	23.2	27.6	28.0	21.2
1995	23.2	27.7	28.0	21.1
1996	23.2	27.9	27.9	21.0
1997	23.1	28.1	27.8	20.9
1998	23.0	28.3	27.8	20.8
1999	22.9	28.6	27.8	20.7
2000	22.8	28.8	27.7	20.7
2001	22.7	29.0	27.7	20.6
2002	22.6	29.3	27.5	20.6
2003	22.5	29.4	27.5	20.6
2004	22.5	29.5	27.4	20.5
2005	22.5	29.7	27.4	20.4
2006	22.5	29.8	27.3	20.3
2007	22.7	29.8	27.2	20.3
2008	22.8	29.9	27.1	20.2
2009	23.0	29.9	27.0	20.1
2010	23.2	29.7	27.0	20.1

Source: Calculations based on the data from Tempo-Online, INSSE, 2011.

The fluctuations registered in the population structure at macroregional level have led to the aggravation of demographic ageing indicators. This way, within 21 years, the dependency ratio at macroregional level has increased over the 4 macroregions with percentage between 5.2 (macroregion I) and 6.4 (macroregion II) (**Chart no.4**).

The same increasing tendency, but much more sustainted, is registered at the level of demographic ageing level, the affected ones being macroregions III and VI (**Table no.2**).

Chart no. 4. The evolution of dependency ratio of elderly between 1990-2010 (%)



Source: Calculations based on the data from Tempo-Online, INSSE, 2011.

Table no.2.
The evolution of demographic ageing at macroregion level between 1990-2010 (%)

	Total	Macroreg.I	Macroreg.II	Macroreg.III	Macroreg.IV
1990	44.1	41.2	36.3	52.5	51.2
1991	46.5	43.4	38.0	56.2	53.7
1992	49.6	46.1	42.6	57.6	56.0
1993	52.5	48.5	45.2	61.3	58.6
1994	55.3	51.1	47.9	65.1	61.1
1995	58.6	54.2	50.8	69.2	64.1
1996	61.5	57.0	53.5	72.9	66.9
1997	64.7	60.0	56.5	76.8	69.7
1998	67.1	62.2	58.5	80.0	72.1
1999	69.5	64.2	60.8	83.3	74.3

	Total	**Macroreg.I**	**Macroreg.II**	**Macroreg.III**	**Macroreg.IV**
2000	72.9	67.1	63.9	87.9	77.7
2001	76.6	70.3	67.2	92.6	81.9
2002	81.0	74.0	71.9	97.4	86.0
2003	85.6	77.9	76.0	103.1	91.1
2004	90.0	81.7	79.9	108.6	95.9
2005	94.6	85.6	84.4	114.1	100.8
2006	95.6	86.7	85.7	114.0	102.5
2007	97.3	89.0	87.1	114.4	105.3
2008	97.9	89.7	88.1	114.0	106.5
2009	98.7	90.8	89.0	113.5	108.2
2010	98.6	91.1	88.8	112.1	109.0
2010-1990 (pp)	54.5	49.9	52.5	59.6	57.8

Source: Calculations based on the data from Tempo-Online, INSSE, 2011.

The excessive deterioration tendency of demographic ageing indicators of 4 macroregions, and predominant from the macroregions III and IV, represent the cumulative effect of the modifications occurred at regional level.

If at a macro level, there is a natural tendency of attenuatying the disparities, as the analysis is studied, the areas with significant influence at indicators level are practically underlined. For example, the regions South-East and South-Muntenia have contributed to the increase of dependency ratio of macroregions from which they belong to, these two regions registering the most important modifications in the ratio structure.

It is still worth the lower percentage of the dependecy ratio of the elderly from Bucuresti-Ilfov region (of only 3.5 percentage points), explainable, by the existance of another structure on ageing groups, and also by the more active participation of the elderly to thecarrying of certain activities.

CONCLUSIONS

The results so far entitles us to conclude that in the last 20 years, Romania didn't have an appropriate demographic policy, which can lead to mantaining a stable balance between the ageing groups.

Reducing the age workings population and the falling of very young population (0-9 years old), concomitant with the increase of lifetime and the over 65 years old population can only have negative effects, so social effects and economic effects. The reduction of number of employees and the increase of retired people lead to a big pressure over the social issurance budget, of the pension schemes which is closer, in the absence of economically viable measures, to patter to collapse.

The decider factors should notice more the importance of human factor, as a producing factor, by taking some measures so that the force report should be reversed. We also refer to ways of encouraging the increasing of natality and also to ways of creating new jobs, so that the pressure created by the over 65 years old population to significantly reduce.

In the absence of a coherent policy and sustained by appropriate measures, Romania's future, at least from the population and its structure point of view, it becomes more and more dark, failing to ensure a much more discused sustainability of the resouces for the next generations.

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