DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE REGIONS OF ROMANIA

DICREPANȚE ÎNTRE REGIUNILE ROMÂNIEI

MIHAELA IONECI[1]

[1]Constantin Brâncoveanu University, Pitesti, Romania;
ioneci_mihaela@yahoo.com

Abstract: *The development of a country is built starting from the development of each region, since the parties form the whole. The differences between the regions cause the unfair distribution of income, but also social, demographic issues, etc. The attempt to reduce the discrepancies between the Romanian regions is the starting point in achieving sustainable development in our country.*

Key words*: regional development, the disparities, demographic indicators*

INTRODUCTION

The degree of development of the regions from Romania is different, and the differences which are too high can lead to various problems in the economy of our country. Knowing the degree of development of each region is a necessity in determining the strategy to follow in the future period, so that there are no significant differences between regions and to achieve a harmonious development of the country.

Highlighting the differences between regions will be based on the values recorded by the main economic, demographic and social indicators which characterize these regions. The data presented in the paper are provided by the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, Eurostat.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Romania is administratively structured in eight regions, each being made up of several counties. The South Muntenia region is the only region consisting of seven counties. The South West Oltenia region consists of five counties, the Western region of four counties, and Bucharest-Ilfov region is composed of the Capital and Ilfov County. The other four regions consist of counties.

The largest population is found in the North East region and the Western region has the lowest number of people. The area occupied by regions is unequal, so that Bucharest Ilfov only has 1,821 km^2, while the South East region has an area of 35,770 km^2. The population density records extremes values: in Bucharest Ilfov there are 1231.2 persons/km^2, and in West region only 60.1 persons/km^2. The closest region to Bucharest-Ilfov as value to this indicator is the North East region with 101 persons/km^2, however the difference is significant.

Demographic indicators specific to the regions of Romania

Table no. 1

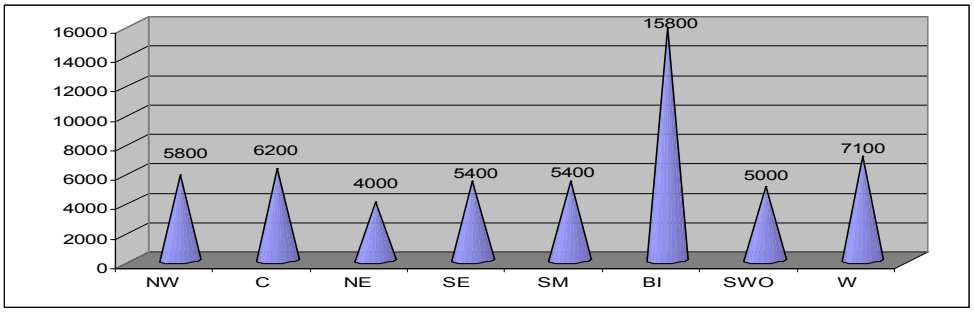
Region	*Area*	*Population*	*Population density*	*Region*	*Area*	*Population*	*Population density*
North West	34159	2721468	79,9	South Muntenia	34450	3279786	95,6
Centre	34100	2526062	74	Bucharest Ilfov	1821	2253092	1231,2
North East	30949	3717621	101	South West Oltenia	31211	2257752	77,7
South East	35770	2818346	79	West	32034	1924488	60,1

Source: Eurostat regional yearbook 2010

The high value recorded for the population density of Bucharest Ilfov is the result of the fact that it has the smallest area, but a number of over 2 million inhabitants, a figure achieved by the fact that Bucharest is Romania's capital.

Gross domestic product per capita for market prices

Graph no. 1



Source: **http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu**

The differences between regions are obvious if we refer to per capita gross domestic product for market prices. Bucharest-Ilfov region is far away as compared to the other regions for the values recorded by this indicator, obtaining 15,800 euros per capita. The next region in the classification is the West region with 7,100 euros per capita, and on the last place is the North East region with only 4,000 euros per capita.

RESULTS AND DISCUTIONS

None of Romania's regions records significant values of the employment rate, but one can see a closeness concerning this indicator between regions. As expected, the Bucharest Ilfov region has the highest employment rate of 63.3%, followed by South Muntenia with 61.1%. On last place is the South East region with an occupancy rate of only 55.3%.

Indicators specific to the labour market

Table no. 2

Region	*Employment rate*	*()*	*Unemployment rate*	*Region*	*Employment rate*	*()*	*Unemployment rate*
North West	56,4	19,7	3,8	South Muntenia	61,1	24,3	6,8
Centre	56,6	19,8	8,5	Bucharest Ilfov	63,3	19,2	3,4
North East	60,5	21,4	4,5	South West Oltenia	60	23,6	6,5
South East	55,3	21,1	7,2	West	59,3	20,1	5,7

Source: Eurostat regional yearbook 2010 () - The dependency ratio of the elderly

The dependency ratio of the elderly presents values between 19 and 24%, figures that will increase significantly in the coming years due to aging tendency of Romania's population. The Central region has the highest unemployment rate (8.5%), followed by the North East and South-Muntenia regions. Clearly, the Bucharest-Ilfov region has the lowest unemployment rate of 3.4%. It should be noted that the data concern the year 2008, so before the current economic - financial crisis, a situation in which the values of these indicators are higher.

From the point of view of the employees with higher education, three of Romania's regions are found in the last 10 EU regions. These regions are: Northeast, Southeast and South Muntenia.

The specialization of each region, according to the main activity sector, shows a painful reality because the agricultural sector is representative of three regions out of the 8 regions of Romania (North East, South Muntenia, South West and Oltenia). When the agricultural sector is specific to the three regions, our country fails to obtain the agricultural products necessary to the domestic needs and resorts to imports. The Bucharest-Ilfov region is the only Romanian region specialized in services, and the Central and Western regions are considered specialized in industry. The North West and South East regions are characterized by a balanced specialization among the existing ones, so that one cannot assign a predominant activity sector.

CONCLUSIONS

Romania, as member of the European Union, should promote a regional policy, which is based on reducing the existing gap between the country's regions. Achieving this goal can be done both with domestic support, and using foreign aid, implicitly structural funds. Reality has shown that Romania was not succeeded in attracting the structural funds, a fact which leads to the idea that, next to the long-term regional policy, there also must be a strategy of structural funds absorption, in order to benefit from and capitalize external funding. The importance attached to the structural funds is huge, because the European Union aimed to achieve expenses with the regional development of 36% of the EU budget, in other words approximately 350 billion euros during 2007-2013.

The economic-financial crisis has deepened the disparities between Romania's regions, the problems with the budgetary revenue are obvious, so a solution to support Romania's harmonious development is accessing the funds made available by the European Union.

REFERENCES

1. **IONECI MIHAELA,** 2010, Aspecte ale dezvoltării regionale în România, Management agricol. Lucrări ştiinţifice, seria I, vol. XII (1), Editura Agroprint, Timişoara, p. 178
2. Eurostat regional yearbook 2010 http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu
3. **http://www.mie.ro**
4. **http://europa.eu/pol/reg/index_ro**