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STUDY ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS OF THE RURAL POPULATION IN ALBA COUNTY, ROMANIA

IOVA IOANA, SEBESTIEN LINDA, ȘANDRO LĂCRIMIOARA, CHEREJI
AURELIA IOANA

University of Oradea, Faculty of Environmental Protection, Oradea, Romania

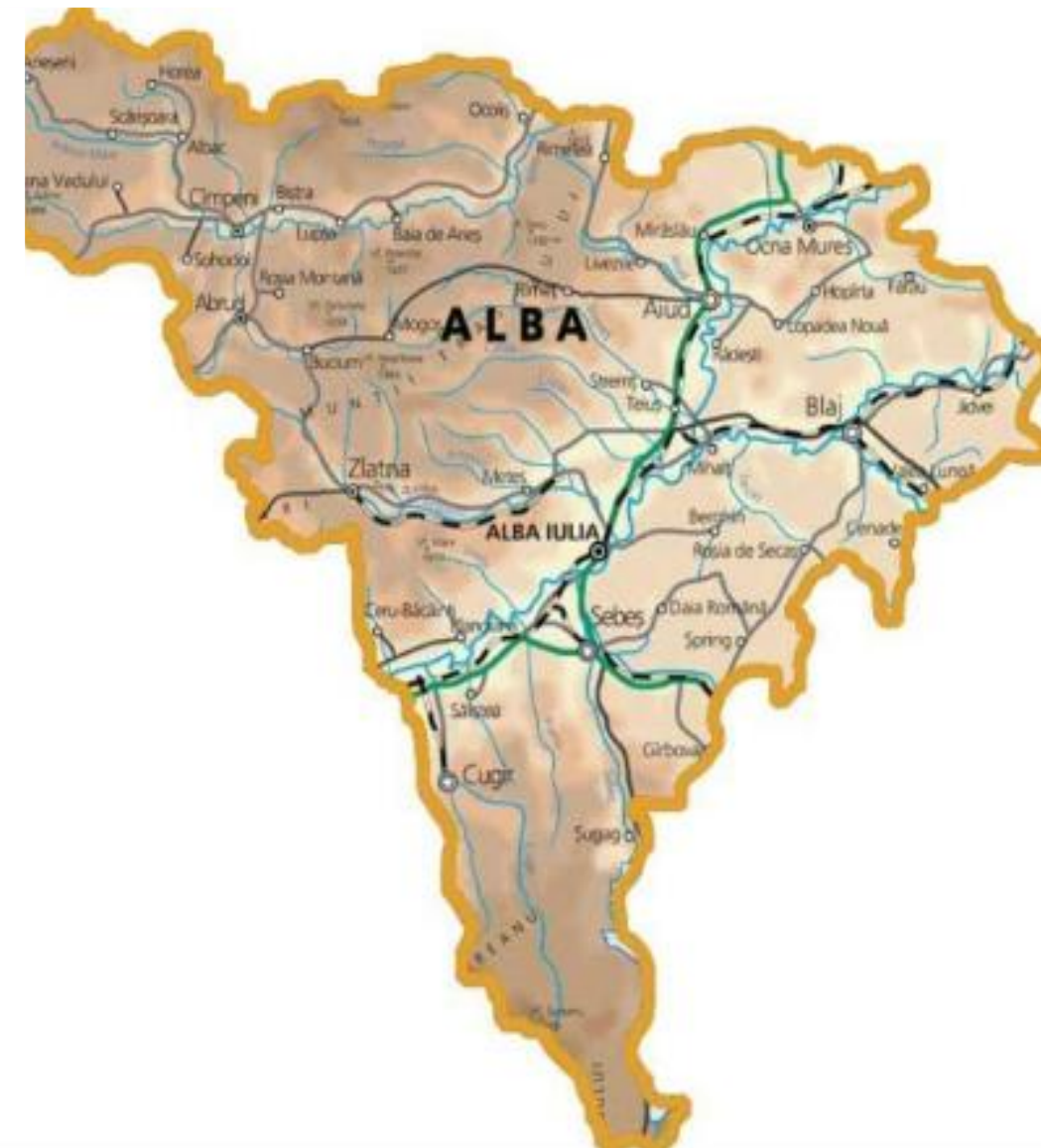
Abstract: The peculiarity of Alba county is the concentration of 75.5% of the total rural settlements in the county in the area of the Apuseni Mountains (a number of 474 villages), on an area representing 48.1% of the total area of the county. The purpose of the paper is to emphasize the rural localities that can be attractive for the population in Alba County in order to stop the phenomenon of very aggressive migration in rural areas.

• Introduction

- The Central Region, one of the regions of Romania, consists of 6 counties as follows: Alba, Brasov, Covasna, Harghita, Mures and Sibiu. Alba County is located in the central-western part of Romania, in the contact area of the Transylvanian Plateau with the Apuseni Mountains and the Southern Carpathians. It is the county that occupies 18.3% of the territory of the Centre region, and the county with the most villages.



Harta Regiunii Centru



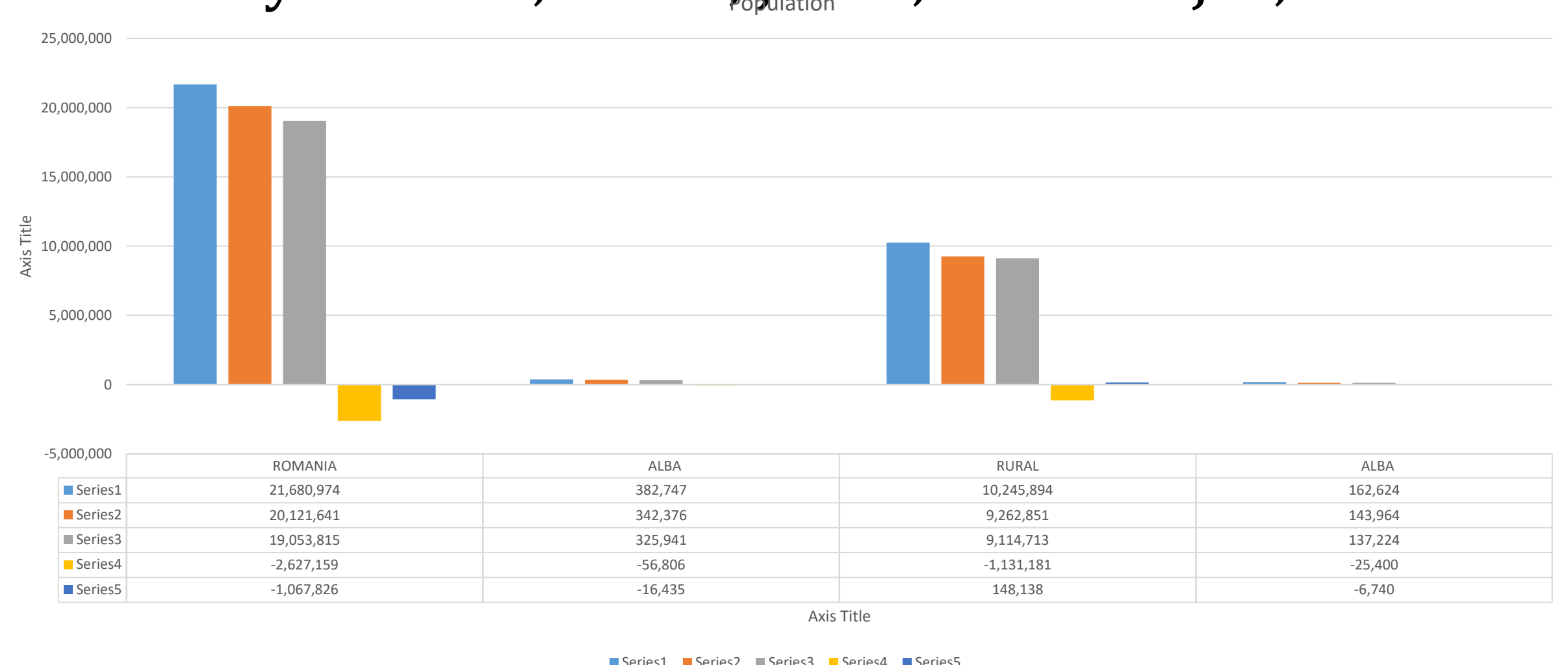
Harta Județului Alba

• Material and method

For this paper we have analysed the bibliographical sources related to the topic, namely other official documents such as the Development Strategy of the Centre Region, Alba County and some rural localities in Alba County in order to highlight opportunities for village revitalization. At the same time, we also conducted a statistical analysis using data related to the Population Census at the end of 2021, respectively data available from the Tempo Online database for

• Results and discussions

Regarding the rural space of Alba County, it occupies about 83% of the territory of the Centre region, with residence for 40% of its inhabitants. The prosperity of the village of Alba means an obligation that is incumbent on the present, to ensure the continuity of indigenous values, and the essential element of the rural space of Alba County is the man, the one who creates, who inherits, who protects. Regarding the rural space of Alba County, it occupies about 83% of the territory of the Centre region, with residence for 40% of its inhabitants. In Alba County, the rural population will decrease in 2021 by 25,400 people compared to 2001, and by 6,740 people compared to 2011 (see Table 1). The rural population has been gradually decreasing, and according to demographic forecasts its decrease will continue at a moderate pace in the coming years. The main drivers of the population decline are negative natural increase and migration. Through its cumulative effects, migration has contributed to widening regional and community disparities. Of the 67 communes in Alba County, the largest population is found in Ighiu, followed by Săsciori, Bistra, Iidvei, Gârda de Jos, Unirea.



• Conclusions

An important factor for the configuration of the Romanian villages and, implicitly, of the villages in Alba County is the migration of the population, which has important consequences for the development of the county. The vision for the development of the rural areas of Alba County is to improve the standard of living, basic infrastructure and services, diversification of economic activities, a high standard of living by making better use of the resources offered by the natural and cultural heritage, while ensuring the preservation and protection of the cultural-historical and ecological heritage.