

Aspects of Quality of Life by Type of Regions in European Rural Area

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ABSTRACT

The analysis of the quality of life aspects, expressed through the indicators, by branch and by regions, allow to observe their contribution to economic and social development in rural area at national and community level. The analyzed indicators are: population density, age structure of the population, economic development (gross domestic product /capita), structure of economy (gross value added by branch), structure of employment, employment rate, unemployment and the long-term unemployment.

The analysis of indicators is realised at NUTS 3 (county level) by types of regions. The determining of types of regions ("predominantly rural regions" - PR, "intermediate regions" - IR and "predominantly urban regions" - PU) is corresponding to NUTS 3 county level, which are based on a revised urban-rural typology.

The comparative analysis of economic-social aspects, for Romania and for other EU countries highlights the gaps by types of regions (PR, IR and PU) and by branch (primary sector, secondary sector, tertiary sector), what allows the focusing the efforts to reduce them.

KEYWORDS: *intermediate regions, predominantly rural regions, predominantly urban regions*

JEL Classification: O18, R11, Q10

Introduction

The study analyze the quality of life aspects in rural area, compared with those of urban area and intermediate area, according with revised urban-rural typology.

In 2010, the European Commission agreed on a new European Union typology of "predominantly rural", "intermediate" and "predominantly urban" regions.

The new typology builds on a simple two-step approach to identify population in urban areas: a population density threshold (300 inhabitants per km²) applied to grid cells of 1 km² and a minimum size threshold (5 000 inhabitants) applied to grouped grid cells above the density threshold.

The population living in rural areas is the population living outside the urban areas identified through the method described above. To determine the population size, the grid cells are grouped based on contiguity (including the diagonals).

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This new typology successfully addresses two main constraints of the OECD methodology applied to NUTS 3 regions in the EU: the variation in surface area of LAU2 (Local Administrative Units level 2) and NUTS 3 regions. It does this in a consistent manner throughout the Union in three main steps:

- it creates clusters of urban grid cells with a minimum population density of 300 inhabitants per km² and a minimum population of 5 000. All the cells outside these urban clusters are considered as rural;
- it groups NUTS 3 regions of less than 500 km² with one or more of its neighbours solely for classification purposes, all the NUTS 3 regions in a grouping are classified in the same way;
- it classifies NUTS 3 regions based on the share of population in rural grid cells. More than 50 % of the total population in rural grid cells = predominantly rural, between 20 % and 50 % in rural grid cells = intermediate and less than 20 % = predominantly urban.(Eurostat, 2010).

Highlighting the aspects to the quality of life in rural area will be done by analysis of economic and social indicators by branch and by type of regions: population density and age structure of the population, economic development (gross domestic product/capita - GDP/capita) and structure of economy (Gross Value Added - GVA by branch), structure of employment and employment rate, unemployment and long-term unemployment.

1. The Population Density and the Age Structure of Population by Types of Regions, in Romania and in other EU Countries

The social aspects in the European rural area are highlighted by the analysis of the indicators: “population density” and “age structure of the population” in Romania and other member states.

1.1. The population density by types of regions

The population density, on a scale from lowest to highest value, place our country in the EU-27: on 15th place in PR (with a value of 72.4 inhabitants/km²), on 10th place in IR (with a value of 102.7 inhabitants/km²) and on 19th place in PU (with a value of 1272.9 inhabitants/km²) (Table 1).

Table 1. Population density by types of regions, in Romania and in other EU countries, 2007 year

Types of regions/ Countries	inhabitants/km ²		
	PR	IR	PU
Romania	72.4	102.7	1272.9
Austria	54.5	139.9	386.6
Belgium	89.4	262.5	686.5
Bulgaria	50.1	68.6	918.7
Cyprus		84.8	
Czech Republic	92.2	157.2	211.5
Denmark	75.7	168.5	2223.4
Estonia	18.1	90.2	
Finland	9.0	36.6	216.8
France	44.8	132.1	443.4
Germany	101.3	190.7	826.9

Types of regions/ Countries	PR	IR	PU
Greece	44.9	73.8	705.2
Hungary	77.4	116.2	3236.0
Ireland	46.7		1316.9
Italy	90.7	209.1	583.8
Latvia	22.4	23.1	109.3
Lithuania	36.2	84.3	90.0
Luxembourg		185.6	
Malta			1296.3
Netherlands	146.6	265.5	744.9
Poland	83.1	119.5	346.6
Portugal	49.8	202.0	768.7
Slovakia	94.0	114.6	296.6
Slovenia	71.9	144.5	
Spain	25.6	85.8	298.2
Sweden	9.6	27.4	296.6
United Kingdom	26.8	138.3	694.1

Source: European Commission Directorate – General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Rural Development in the European Union, Statistical and Economic Information, Report 2010.

Note:

- PR - Predominantly Rural Regions; IR - Intermediate Regions; PU - Predominantly Urban Regions;
- Statistical data are appropriate to NUTS 3 (county level) and are determined on the basis of a revised typology rural - urban area.

Among the member states, the population density varies from 9 to 147 inhabitants/km² in PR, from 23 to 266 inhabitants/km² in IR and from 90 to 3236 inhabitants/km² in PU.

1.2. The age structure of population by types of regions

In Romania, the age structure of population presents the following characteristics (Table 2):

- the share of working age people (from 15 to 64 years old) has the highest share in all types of regions (PR, IR, PU);
- the share of young people (less than 15 years old) decreased from 16% in PR to 15% in IR and to 12% in PU, which is the smallest share of the EU-27;
- the share of old people (65 years old and more) have a tendency to decrease from 16% in PR to 14% in IR and in PU;
- the share of young people (less than 15 years old) is higher than the share of old people (65 years old and more) in PR and in IR and there is an inverse relation in PU.

Table 2. Age structure of the population by types of regions, in Romania and in other EU countries, 2008 year

Types of regions	PR			IR			PU		
	0-14 y.o.	15-64 y.o.	65+ y.o.	0-14 y.o.	15-64 y.o.	65+ y.o.	0-14 y.o.	15-64 y.o.	65+ y.o.
Romania	16.1	68.4	15.6	15.1	70.5	14.3	12.0	73.8	14.3
Austria	15.9	66.6	17.5	15.0	67.5	17.5	15.0	68.6	16.4
Belgium	18.0	65.3	16.7	16.9	66.6	16.5	16.7	66.0	17.3
Bulgaria	13.6	68.2	18.1	13.6	68.9	17.5	12.4	72.9	14.7
Cyprus				17.4	70.1	12.5			
Czech Republic	14.4	70.8	14.8	14.5	71.3	14.2	13.4	71.7	14.9
Denmark	18.6	64.8	16.6	19.2	65.5	15.3	16.8	69.3	13.9
Estonia	15.4	66.9	17.6	14.2	69.0	16.8			
Finland	17.2	65.0	17.9	16.1	66.0	17.9	17.3	70.0	12.7
France	17.7	62.8	19.5	18.5	65.2	16.3	19.1	66.9	14.0
Germany	14.6	65.5	19.9	14.2	65.9	19.9	13.6	66.9	19.5
Greece	14.2	64.7	21.1	15.0	67.1	17.9	14.2	69.3	16.5
Hungary	15.1	68.7	16.2	16.1	68.9	15.0	12.5	69.1	18.4
Ireland	21.6	67.1	11.3				19.2	70.4	10.4
Italy	13.3	65.6	21.1	14.1	65.9	20.0	14.4	66.1	19.5
Latvia	14.0	68.8	17.2	15.1	68.1	16.8	13.2	69.5	17.3
Lithuania	15.9	67.3	16.8	15.3	69.1	15.6	14.4	71.1	14.5
Luxembourg				18.2	67.8	14.0			
Malta							16.2	69.9	13.8
Netherlands	18.1	72.3	9.5	19.9	72.8	7.3	19.4	73.9	6.7
Poland	16.8	70.1	13.1	15.6	71.3	13.1	13.6	72.0	14.4
Portugal	13.7	65.0	21.3	17.4	68.9	13.7	15.9	68.4	15.7
Slovakia	15.9	72.0	12.1	16.4	71.9	11.7	12.9	74.6	12.5
Slovenia	14.1	69.6	16.3	13.8	69.9	16.3			
Spain	13.9	66.2	20.0	14.4	68.9	16.7	15.0	69.4	15.6
Sweden	15.7	64.3	20.0	16.8	65.5	17.8	18.0	67.8	14.2
United Kingdom	17.6	63.9	18.6	17.0	65.0	17.9	17.7	66.9	15.3

Source: European Commission Directorate – General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Rural Development in the European Union, Statistical and Economic Information, Report 2010.

Note:

- PR - Predominantly Rural Regions; IR - Intermediate Regions; PU - Predominantly Urban Regions;
- Statistical data are appropriate to NUTS 3 (county level) and are determined on the basis of a revised typology rural - urban area;
- Age structure of the population is: 15 -64 y. o. = the proportion of working age people (from 15 to 64 years old); 65+ y. o. = the proportion of old people (65 years old and more); 0-14 y. o. = the proportion of young people (less than 15 years old).

Among the member states, the age structure of the population presents the following characteristics by types of regions (PR, IR, PU):

- the share of working age people (from 15 to 64 years old) is the largest share in all EU-27 countries, in all types of regions (PR, IR, PU);
- the share of old people (65 years old and more) is higher than the share of young people (less than 15 years old) for a total of 17 countries in PR and for 13 countries in IR and in PU. The weights of the two age categories are relatively balanced in IR and in PU.

In our country, the share of working-age population (from 15 to 64 years old) is lowest in PR, compare to that registered in PU and in IR.

The gap between urban and rural area for this indicator is highlighted and by the methodology used in the Romanian statistical publications. Thus, the share of working age people (from 15 to 64 years old) is: 68% in PR and 74% in PU, under the revised urban-rural typology and 64% in rural area and 75% in urban area, according to the methodology that is currently used in the Romanian statistical publications (INS, 2009). This methodology consists in grouping the statistical data by territorial profile (at NUTS 3 level): "towns" for urban area and "common" for rural area. We observe a share of population of working age people (from 15 to 64 years old) calculated under the revised urban-rural typology, which is with 4 percentage points higher in rural area (PR) compared to the share of this indicator and which is reflected in Romanian statistical publications, in rural area.

The population density, by types of regions, has the lowest level in predominantly rural regions for all EU-27 countries.

In all EU-27 countries, the share of working age people (from 15 to 64 years old) is the largest in all types of regions (PR, IR, PU). The share of old people (65 years old and more) and the share of young people (less than 15 years old) are relatively balanced in IR and in PU.

2. The Economic Development and the Structure of the Economy by Types of Regions, in Romania and in other EU Countries

We analyze the level of economic development (GDP pps/capita) and the structure of economy (GVA by branch: primary sector, secondary sector, tertiary sector), by types of regions.

2.1. The economic development (Gross Domestic Product/capita-GDP_{pc}) by types of regions

Romania (with Bulgaria) records the lowest level of GDP per capita, respectively 28% of the EU average, in PR. Also, our country has a low GDP per capita, respectively 38% of the EU average in IR, only Bulgaria has a lower level (32%).

Although, our country records a higher level of GDP per capita compared to that of the other European countries (Latvia, Poland, Malta and Bulgaria), the level of economic development is situated only 85% of the EU average level, in PU (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Gross domestic product per capita (GDP_{pc}) by types of regions, in Romania and in other EU countries

GDP(pps) / capita (EU27=100) - "2006"

Types of regions/ Countries	PR	IR	PU
Romania	28	38	85
Austria	96	135	149
Belgium	74	93	131
Bulgaria	28	32	80
Cyprus		91	
Czech Republic	65	65	119
Denmark	111	137	126
Estonia	44	86	
Finland	96	106	158
France	87	96	140
Germany	97	104	136
Greece	70	78	116
Hungary	46	50	136
Ireland	120		211
Italy	93	100	115
Latvia	29	40	73
Lithuania	39	55	86
Luxembourg		267	
Malta			77
Netherlands	153	118	136
Poland	38	48	77
Portugal	67	59	93
Slovakia	51	54	152
Slovenia	74	99	
Spain	83	97	115
Sweden	108	113	168
United Kingdom	81	103	127

Source: European Commission Directorate – General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Rural Development in the European Union, Statistical and Economic Information, Report 2010.

Note:

- PR - Predominantly Rural Regions; IR - Intermediate Regions; PU - Predominantly Urban Regions;
- Statistical data are appropriate to NUTS 3 (county level) and are determined on the basis of a revised typology rural - urban area;
- Pps - Purchasing power standards;
- "2006" – refers to the average of the years 2005, 2006, 2007.

In the EU-27, we observe a discrepancy between the Gross Domestic Product per capita, by types of regions (this indicator is the smallest in PR and the largest in IR). Thus, the Gross Domestic Product per capita varies of the EU average: from 28% to 153% in PR, from 32% to 267% in IR and from 73% to 211% in PU.

2.2. The structure of the economy (Gross Value Adeed by branch), by types of regions

In Romania, the contribution of tertiary sector to the formation of Gross Value Adeed (GVA) is greatest in all three regions (69% in PU, 52% in IR and 51% in PR), followed by the secondary sector which has the higher contribution in IR and by the contribution of the primary sector which has the highest contribution in PR and the lowest in PU (Table 4).

**Table 4. Gross Value Adeed (GVA) by branch and by types of regions,
in Romania and in other EU countries, 2007 year**

Types of regions Branch/ Countries	PR			IR			PU		
	P	S	T	P	S	T	P	S	T
Romania	11.2	37.7	51.0	6.1	41.7	52.2	0.3	30.5	69.2
Austria	4.0	37.2	58.8	1.2	34.7	64.1	0.5	22.4	77.1
Belgium	3.2	25.6	71.2	1.6	30.2	68.2	0.5	22.1	77.4
Bulgaria	12.7	39.0	48.3	7.4	38.4	54.2	0.3	21.2	78.5
Cyprus				2.2	18.9	78.9			
Czech Republic	4.5	45.3	50.2	2.3	45.1	52.6	1.1	26.3	72.6
Denmark	2.1	30.3	67.7	1.2	24.5	74.2	0.1	14.1	85.7
Estonia	8.2	33.3	58.5	1.0	28.4	70.5			
Finland	6.2	36.6	57.1	3.0	38.8	58.2	0.4	23.8	75.8
France	4.5	24.9	70.6	2.9	23.2	74.0	0.6	16.2	83.2
Germany	2.2	35.0	62.8	1.2	32.7	66.1	0.3	27.3	72.3
Greece	9.2	24.7	66.0	5.6	21.3	73.1	0.6	16.5	82.9
Hungary	7.2	36.8	56.0	4.9	36.9	58.2	0.2	17.6	82.2
Ireland	2.5	41.9	55.6				0.1	20.9	78.9
Italy	3.7	27.9	68.4	2.6	30.1	67.3	0.7	24.4	74.9
Latvia	9.2	24.8	66.0	6.5	29.9	63.6	1.2	21.7	77.1
Lithuania	7.9	38.2	53.9	3.4	34.3	62.3	1.3	27.1	71.6
Luxembourg				0.4	15.9	83.7			
Malta							2.5	21.8	75.7
Netherlands	3.1	50.9	46.0	3.4	31.4	65.2	1.6	20.7	77.6
Poland	9.8	32.8	57.4	3.8	32.7	63.4	1.0	28.2	70.8
Portugal	5.4	26.1	68.4	3.6	35.1	61.3	0.7	21.5	77.8
Slovakia	5.8	44.2	50.0	2.8	45.2	52.0	0.9	22.7	76.4
Slovenia	4.1	44.7	51.2	1.6	28.8	69.7			
Spain	8.3	29.2	62.6	3.7	30.8	65.4	1.0	28.1	70.9

Sweden	3.1	34.1	62.8	1.5	31.6	66.9	0.1	18.2	81.7
United Kingdom	4.8	28.4	66.8	1.8	27.0	71.2	0.4	19.6	80.0

Source: European Commission Directorate – General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Rural Development in the European Union, Statistical and Economic Information, Report 2010.

Note:

-PR - Predominantly Rural Regions; IR - Intermediate Regions; PU - Predominantly Urban Regions;

-P – Primary sector; S - Secondary sector; T - Tertiary sector

Branch: Primary sector covers divisions 01 to 05 or branches A (Agriculture, hunting and forestry) & B (fishing); Secondary sector covers divisions 10 to 45 or branches C to F (Mining and quarrying, Manufacturing, Electricity, gas and water supply, Construction); Tertiary sector covers divisions 50 to 95 or branches G to P (private and public services).

-Statistical data are appropriate to NUTS 3 (county level) and are determined on the basis of a revised typology rural - urban area.

In the EU - 27, the tertiary sector has the most significant contribution to the formation GVA, followed by the secondary sector and by the primary sector, in all three regions (PR, IR and PU). Thus:

- the contribution of the primary sector to the formation of GVA records the highest share in PR and the lowest share in PU for all EU-27 countries; in PU, the contribution to GVA is divided between the secondary and the tertiary sectors, considering that, the primary sector contributes little (more than 1% (between 1% and 2.5%) for seven countries (Czech Republic, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland) and less than 1% for 18 countries);

- the contribution of the secondary sector to the formation of GVA is higher for nine countries in IR compare to the PR and is greater for all EU-27 countries in IR compare to PU;

- the contribution of the tertiary sector to the formation of GVA is the highest in all EU-27 countries, in all three regions (PR, IR, PU).

The highest level of the economic development expressed by Gross Domestic Productpc (GDP_{pc}) is recorded in PU, for all EU-27 countries.

Romania has one of the lowest levels of economic development (expressed by GDP_{pc}) of the EU-27, in all regions. Thus, in PR and in IR, on a scale from lowest to highest value, our country has the lowest level of GDP_{pc} of the EU-27 average; in PU, only Latvia, Poland, Malta and Bulgaria have the lower values of GDP_{pc} compared with that recorded in Romania.

In the EU-27, the tertiary sector has the most significant contribution to the formation of GVA, followed by the secondary sector and the primary sector, in all three regions (PR, IR and PU).

3. The Employment by Types of Regions, in Romania and in other EU Countries

We analyze “employment” by branch (Primary sector: agriculture, hunting and forestry, and fishing; Secondary sector: mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply, construction; Tertiary sector: private and public services) and “employment

rate” (employed persons as a share of total population of the same age class) by types of regions in Romania and in other EU country.

3.1. The employment by branch and by regions

In Romania, the structure of employment by branch and by type of regions is as follows (Table 5):

➤ in PR, the share of employment varies from 39% in the primary sector to 32% in the tertiary sector and to 29% in the secondary sector. In this region, for Romania, the share of employment in the tertiary sector is the lowest and that of the primary sector is the highest of the EU-27;

➤ in IR, the share of employment varies from 22% in the primary sector to 33% in the secondary sector and respectively to 38% in the tertiary sector. Although, in this region, the most significant share of employment is in the tertiary sector, we should mention that, this share is the lowest of the EU-27;

➤ in PU, the share of employment is: 69% in the tertiary sector, 30% in the secondary sector and only 1% in the primary sector. In this region, Romania has one of the highest share of employment in secondary sector (only Poland has a higher share) and in tertiary sector, our country has one of the lowest rates of employment (the lower share recorded only Poland, Latvia and Lithuania).

Table 5. Employment by branch and by types of regions, in Romania and in other EU countries, 2007 year

Types of regions Branch/ Countries	PR			IR			PU		
	P	S	T	P	S	T	P	S	T
Romania	38.9	29.0	32.1	29.6	32.9	37.5	1.1	29.6	69.2
Austria	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Belgium	5.6	21.6	72.7	3.0	25.0	72.0	1.2	18.6	80.2
Bulgaria	28.8	29.7	41.4	21.5	31.5	47.0	2.3	20.5	77.2
Cyprus				4.5	20.3	75.1			
Czech Republic	5.6	43.7	50.7	3.2	40.8	56.0	1.9	27.5	70.6
Denmark	4.6	26.8	68.6	2.9	20.8	76.3	0.3	11.4	88.3
Estonia	9.0	34.7	56.2	1.4	34.1	64.6			
Finland	8.6	27.8	63.6	4.5	30.4	65.1	0.6	19.0	80.4
France	6.1	25.5	68.5	3.3	23.7	73.0	1.2	16.8	81.9
Germany	4.6	31.7	63.7	2.6	27.4	70.0	0.9	21.7	77.4
Greece	23.6	18.9	57.4	13.2	18.2	68.6	1.1	21.1	77.8
Hungary	11.2	35.9	52.9	8.8	35.1	56.2	0.6	21.5	77.9
Ireland	7.9	31.1	61.0				0.5	19.0	80.5
Italy	7.9	29.2	62.8	4.6	31.4	64.0	1.3	25.0	73.7
Latvia	16.2	27.6	56.1	14.4	28.0	57.6	4.1	28.4	67.4
Lithuania	17.0	30.9	52.1	7.7	32.5	59.8	3.3	27.9	68.8
Luxembourg				1.7	22.3	76.1			
Malta							2.6	24.7	72.8
Netherlands	5.3	27.3	67.5	5.3	24.3	70.5	2.3	18.3	79.4
Poland	27.4	28.7	43.9	12.0	32.2	55.7	3.8	31.1	65.0
Portugal	23.2	24.3	52.4	13.3	42.1	44.6	2.7	27.9	69.5
Slovakia	5.4	36.1	58.5	3.0	38.4	58.6	1.0	20.4	78.7
Slovenia	13.4	41.8	44.8	6.1	29.9	64.0			

Types of regions	PR			IR			PU		
	Spain	11.9	28.8	59.3	5.9	30.6	63.5	1.7	27.3
Sweden	3.8	25.9	70.3	2.4	24.8	72.8	0.4	15.1	84.5
United Kingdom	7.1	21.6	71.3	2.4	24.0	73.6	0.7	21.2	78.0

Source: European Commission Directorate – General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Rural Development in the European Union, Statistical and Economic Information, Report 2010.

Note:

- PR - Predominantly Rural Regions; IR - Intermediate Regions; PU - Predominantly Urban Regions;
- P – Primary sector; S - Secondary sector; T - Tertiary sector
Branch: Primary sector covers divisions 01 to 05 or branches A (Agriculture, hunting and forestry) & B (fishing); Secondary sector covers divisions 10 to 45 or branches C to F (Mining and quarrying, Manufacturing, Electricity, gas and water supply, Construction); Tertiary sector covers divisions 50 to 95 or branches G to P (private and public services).
- Statistical data are appropriate to NUTS 3 (county level) and are determined on the basis of a revised typology rural - urban area;
- n.a. – not available data.

In the EU-27, the structure of employment by branch and by types of region is as follows:

- in PR, the share of employment is the highest in the tertiary sector (it varies from 32% in Romania to 73% in Belgium) and it is the lowest in the primary sector (it varies from 4% in Sweden to 39% in Romania) for all EU-27 countries. In this region, Romania and Greece record the higher employment rates in the primary sector, compare to the secondary sector (Romania has the higher share of employment in primary sector compared to secondary and tertiary sectors);
- in IR, the share of employment is the highest in the tertiary sector (it varies from 38% in Romania to 76% in Denmark) and it is the lowest in the primary sector (it varies from 1% in Sweden to 30% in Romania) for all EU-27 countries. Also, in this region, for Romania, the share of employment is the lowest (38%) in tertiary sector and most (30%) in primary sector, of the EU-27;
- in PU, the share of employment is the highest in the tertiary sector (it varies from 65% in Poland to 88% in Denmark) and it is the lowest in the primary sector (it varies from values below 1% in some countries to 4% in Latvia), of the EU-27.

In Romania, the employment registers the highest share in primary sector and the lowest share in tertiary sector of the EU-27, in PR and in IR. These weights show the need to develop the tertiary sector, so that the employment to rise in this sector and to reduce the employment in the primary sector (we consider mainly the agricultural sector).

The analysis of the correlation “gross value added – employment” in primary sector, for our country, shows a low economic efficiency, namely: employment share of 39% which is highest of the EU-27 and GVA share of 11%. The level of economic efficiency in the primary sector expresses "a dramatic reality of the primary sector (mainly represented by agriculture), an involution in important fields, such as utilised of the technical equipment in production and use of advanced technologies" (Neculai, 2010).

For all EU-27 countries, the share of employment is highest in the tertiary sector and it is lowest in the primary sector, in all regions (PR, IR and PU). Exceptions to this situation are two countries: Romania and Greece.

In PR, the tertiary sector's contribution to the formation of GVA and to the provision of employment in most European countries reveals that the "European village model is far from the traditional rural once represented" and that "today, in European countries, industry, and more particular, services have replaced agriculture and livestock as long dominant activities (Voicu & Voicu, 2006).

3.2. Employment rate by types of regions

In Romania, the employment rate records the lowest share (59%) in PR and a share of 65% in IR and in PU (Table 6).

Table 6. Employment rate by types of regions, in Romania and in other EU countries, 2007 year

Types of regions/ Countries	PR	IR	PU
Romania	58.5	65.5	64.7
Austria	66.6	83.1	76.6
Belgium	49.4	53.3	67.5
Bulgaria	64.2	65.3	94.0
Cyprus		71.0	
Czech Republic	69.1	65.6	85.3
Denmark	66.1	92.5	96.9
Estonia	65.0	79.4	
Finland	66.8	68.3	80.7
France	59.9	59.2	66.8
Germany	66.9	69.7	78.1
Greece	61.3	64.8	63.5
Hungary	55.9	53.4	87.1
Ireland	66.2		79.3
Italy	61.2	63.9	67.1
Latvia	65.3	69.3	75.4
Lithuania	63.6	66.0	69.7
Luxembourg		64.2	
Malta			54.6
Netherlands	57.5	57.1	62.5
Poland	53.0	52.8	64.4
Portugal	75.0	67.8	70.7
Slovakia	49.4	53.6	92.8
Slovenia	62.7	72.7	
Spain	63.3	64.4	70.7
Sweden	72.5	73.5	84.0
United Kingdom	73.9	74.9	71.0

Source: European Commission Directorate – General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Rural Development in the European Union, Statistical and Economic Information, Report 2010

Note: - PR - Predominantly Rural Regions; IR - Intermediate Regions; PU - Predominantly Urban Regions;

- Statistical data are appropriate to NUTS 3 (county level) and are determined on the basis of a revised typology rural - urban area;

- Employment rate = Employed persons as a share of total population of the same age class.

The employment rate, by the types of regions, has the highest share in PU, for most European countries (except for 6 countries, where the employment rate is higher in IR than PR and PU: Estonia, Greece, Austria, Portugal, Romania and United Kingdom).

In the EU-27, the employment rate varies from 49% in Slovakia to 75% in Portugal in PR, from 53% in Poland to 93% in Denmark in IR, from 55% in Malta to 97% in Denmark in PU.

In Romania, the employment rate records the lowest share in PR and the largest share in IR and in PU.

The employment rate has the highest share in PU for most European countries (exceptions are the five countries).

4. The Unemployment by Types of Regions, in Romania and in other EU Countries

We analyze the rate of unemployment in terms of unemployment (% of active population) and the long-term unemployment (as a share of active population) (Table 7).

In Romania, the rate of unemployment stands at 4% in IR and at 7% in PR and in PU (on a scale from lowest to highest value, the unemployment rate registered by Romania situates our country in the EU-27 on the 8th place in PR, on the 4th place in IR and on the 10th place in PU). For our country it is estimated the long-term unemployment rate by 3% in PR and less than 1% in PU.

Table7. Rate of unemployment and long-term unemployment by types of regions, in Romania and in other EU countries, 2009 year

Indicators Types of regions/ Countries	Rate of unemployment*			Long-term unemployment**		
	PR	IR	PU	PR	IR	PU
Romania	7.2	4.0	7.2	2.9	1.8	0.4
Austria	4.1	6.0	4.2	0.9	0.5	1.6
Belgium	7.4	7.7	6.8	9.1	3.4	3.5
Bulgaria	8.4	3.8	6.9	4.1	3.1	0.5
Cyprus			5.3		n.a.	
Czech Republic	6.3	3.7	8.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Denmark	7.1	6.6	4.4	n.a.	n.a.	
Estonia	13.5		13.9	n.a.	n.a.	
Finland	9.5	6.2	8.5	1.5	1.7	0.3
France	8.9	10.0	9.4	3.6	3.0	2.8
German	6.6	8.4	7.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Greece	9.5	9.4	9.5	5.4	3.1	2.7
Hungary	11.6	6.2	10.0	5.4	4.3	1.0
Ireland	12.4	10.1		n.a.		n.a.
Italy	7.8	8.2	7.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Latvia	18.6	16.6	14.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Indicators Types of regions/ Countries	Rate of unemployment*			Long-term unemployment**		
	PR	IR	PU	PR	IR	PU
Lithuania	13.5	14.3	13.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Luxembourg			5.1		n.a.	
Malta		6.9				n.a.
Netherlands	2.3	3.4	3.5	1.6	1.1	0.4
Poland	9.3	6.5	8.4	2.9	2.5	1.9
Portugal	8.0	10.8	8.8	5.0	2.4	4.0
Slovakia	14.4	4.6	11.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Slovenia	6.0		5.8	n.a.	n.a.	
Spain	17.3	17.6	18.8	7.6	5.6	2.4
Sweden	9.0	6.8	8.8	1.6	1.0	0.9
United Kingdom	6.3	8.0	6.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: European Commission Directorate – General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Rural Development in the European Union, Statistical and Economic Information, Report 2010.

Note: - PR - Predominantly Rural Regions; IR - Intermediate Regions; PU - Predominantly Urban Regions;
 - Statistical data are appropriate to NUTS 3 (county level) and are determined on the basis of a revised typology rural - urban area;
 - n.a. – not available data;
 - * rate of unemployment (% of active population);
 - ** long-term unemployment (as a share of active population).

In the EU-27, the unemployment rates varies from 2% in Netherlands to 19% in Latvia in PR, from 3% in Netherlands to 18% in Spain in IR, from 4% in Netherlands to 19% in Spain in PU and it is estimated the rate of long-term unemployment which varies between: 0.9% and 9% in PR, 0.5% and 7% in IR and 0.3% and 4% in PU.

Conclusions

In the EU-27, our country has one of the lowest level of the economic development in all types of regions; the employment registers the most significant share in primary sector, respectively the lowest share in the tertiary sector.

In terms of correlation between GVA and employment, by type of regions and by branch, we make the following conclusive assessment for Romania:

- in PR, the primary sector is characterized by the lowest share of GVA and the highest share of employment of the EU-27;
- in IR, the share of GVA and the share of employment are the lowest in the primary sector and the highest in the tertiary sector of the EU-27;
- in PU, we see a balance of the indicators analyzed by branch;
- the primary sector is characterized by the lowest share of GVA and the highest share of employment of the EU-27, which means a low level of economic efficiency in terms of productivity;
- the tertiary sector provides the highest share of the GVA in all regions (PR, IR and PU).

In Romania, the "photo" of analyzed factors at the macroeconomic level, reveals a modest level of quality of life in PR, compared with that registered in PU and in IR.

The highest level of economic development expressed by Gross Domestic Product per capita (GDP pc) is recorded for all community countries in PU. In the EU-27, the tertiary sector has the most significant contribution and the primary sector has the lowest contribution to the formation of GVA. The population density has the lowest level in PR. The share of working age people (15 to 64) is the highest in all types of regions (PR, IR, PU) for all EU-27 countries. The rate of unemployment is the lowest in IR and it is the highest in PR and in PU for most European countries.

The highest long-term unemployment rate is estimated in PR for all EU-27 countries (only for Finland is estimated an unemployment rate with 0.2 percentage points higher in IR compare to PR). The performed analysis allows us to observe that the most important contribution to the economic and social development is an urban region and the tertiary sector for most European countries.

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