

**Creating an Observatory for Raising  
Social Awareness on EU Social Inclusion  
Policy in the South-West Region of  
Romania**

**REPORT**

**- Fight against unemployment in the SWR -**



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# **PARTNERSHIP**

- 1. The University of Craiova - coordinator;**
- 2. The Ministry of Health - Department for Public Health, Dolj;**
- 3. The National House for Health Insurance - Department Dolj;**
- 4. the Ministry of European Integration, Regional Development Agency South-West Oltenia;**
- 5. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, Sapard - Regional Branch Dolj;**
- 6. The Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, National Agency for Employment, Regional Branch of Oltenia;**
- 7. The City Hall of Craiova;**
- 8. The Government of Romania, Dolj Prefecture;**
- 9. The Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, The Direction for Dialogue, Family and Social Solidarity;**
- 10. Oltenia TV Broadcasting Station - joined with RDS & Terra Sat;**
- 11. Real Inter-Press Media Agency;**
- 12. The Archdiocese of Craiova (Metropolis of Oltenia);**
- 13. Craiova Youth Penitentiary;**
- 14. The Regional Body for Pensions and Social Insurance Rights;**
- 15. The Regional Centre for Professional Guidance and Reconversion.**

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## 1. Fighting against unemployment and poverty - general aspects



Fig. 1 The target area of the current proposal

The target territory of this proposal is the **SouthWest Region of Romania**.

Romania is an extremely sensitive country to the social exclusion phenomenon and measures targeting to improve social awareness on this matter have partly failed. Meeting the Copenhagen criteria in order to be able to join the EU in 2007 is very much under question, especially because of the problem of poverty and social exclusion.

The South-West Region (SWR) of Romania represents a territorial structure that includes five counties, namely: Dolj, Gorj, Olt, Valcea and Mehedinti. It covers 29,212 square km (which makes about 12.25 per cent from the total area of Romania) and is inhabited by approximately 2.3 million people (approx. 10% of the country population).



Fig.2 South-West Region (SWR) of Romania

The main structural weaknesses in the SWR in what the social inclusion process is concerned refer to:

### ➤ **Employment**

According to the National Institute of Statistics, at the end of 2003, the national unemployment rate was 7.2% ([www.insse.ro](http://www.insse.ro)). The situation in SWR is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. *Regional unemployment rate (thousands persons)*

	DO LJ	GO RJ	MEHE DINTI	OLT	VAL CEA	TOT AL
Active employed persons	124	84	46	67	77	398
Active unemployed persons	24	15	11	21	21	92
Rate of unemployment	7.9 %	9.0 %	9.0%	11.0 %	9.0%	8.6%
Pension funds beneficiaries	152	73	57	90	102	474

- ◆ Unemployment rates for every county taken separately as well as for the region as a whole are higher than the rate of unemployment at national level.
- ◆ Another important aspect is that, with only one exception, the number of pension funds beneficiaries is higher than the number of active persons.

### ➤ **Income and material resources**

- ◆ The average of gross salary at national level in December 2003 was of 8,068,900 lei (approximately 200 EURO).
- ◆ An even more relevant indicator is the dynamics of poverty rate, as presented in Fig. 3). According to this indicator, the SWE presents the higher levels, showing an increasing poverty rate over time.

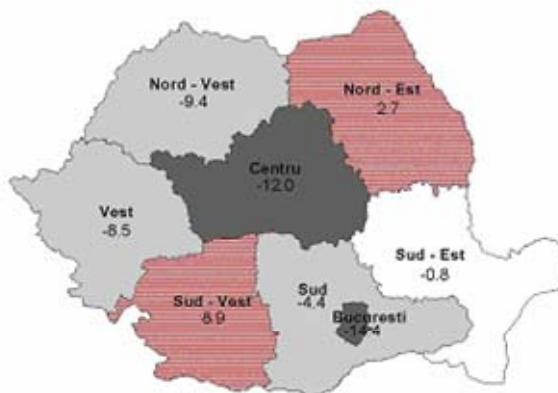


Fig. 3 The dynamics of poverty rate 2001 vs. 2000

### ➤ Personal education and skills

◆ The correlation pattern between the profiles of the unemployed people in the SWR and their level of education is very similar to the national one.

Out of the total number of unemployed people:

- 69% are persons who only graduated the secondary school;
- 26% are persons who also graduated high school;
- only 5% are people who graduated a higher education institution.

◆ At this moment in Romania there work about 8,300,000 persons, out of which 7.8 per cent (that is 650,000 persons) are students. In the same time, from the total of the employed people, about 67 per cent are persons who graduated at least high schools or technical schools. Considering these assumptions, it clearly comes out that a



poor level of education or of gained skills represents an active factor for social exclusion.

➤ **Integration and social support**

Despite the fact that social support networks in the area are very “fashionable”, they seem to have a lack of substance in the sense of the developed actions and the results of these. A strong argument in sustaining this affirmation is the fact that only about a quarter of the participants in re-conversion and integration trainings actually finalized them.

By means of developing the present project we aim at raising interest on the following issue: *fighting against unemployment and poverty, providing equal access to social security schemes and strengthening the educational field are the most important areas for attaining an enlarged Europe.*

Poverty is unacceptably high, as Europe's Heads of State and Government acknowledged at the Lisbon Summit. This was the signal to give effect to a policy to fight poverty throughout the European Union based on an intensified co-operation between the Member States, as implemented in the social inclusion open method of co-ordination launched at the Nice Summit.

According to the *Mid-term review of the social policy agenda, Brussels, 2.6.2003*, enlargement will make of social exclusion and poverty an even more pressing issue. Success will require an integrated and comprehensive approach, under which a concern with poverty and exclusion is mainstreamed in all relevant branches of public policy making and advances through a strong partnership at all levels, between public authorities, social partners, non-governmental organisations and other interested parties. Such a partnership is definitely not well functioning in Romania.

The SWR presents a suite of weaknesses and limitations in raising awareness on both the structural problems with social inclusion and the EU's initiatives and policies in this field

## Poor people in general

### Poverty rates in Romania

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Poverty	23.3	27.7	27.3	26.6	30.6	29.6	28.9
Severe poverty	9.8	13.5	11.8	9.8	12.2	11.9	10.4

The above figures refer to the definitions for the poverty as stated by the literature. The Romanian Government official papers show that the rate of relative poverty in 2001 was 44.1%.

## Unemployed people

While there is a relationship between unemployment and poverty, the relationship between informal sector employment and poverty is also strong and deserves attention. About 45 percent of unemployed adults aged 15-64 are poor, compared to 26 percent of adults of the same age who are either working or not participating in the labour force. Fully 56 percent of self employed adults in agriculture, however, are poor.

Unemployment is especially prevalent among young people, and vocational school graduates. Unemployment is *not* common among older people, although the implications of being unemployed might be more severe for the elderly.

### **Low-educated people**

Better-educated adults earn more and thus it is no surprise that households headed by more educated adults are less likely to be poor. But poverty has also implications for children's schooling in a household. For example, 39 percent of poor children aged 15-24 are not in school and did not attend vocational or high school; this compares to 10 percent for non-poor children of the same age group.

### **Young people**

By age, the highest risk of poverty is found among children, especially during the adolescent period (15-24 years old). This has partly to do with high dependency rate among this group and partly to do with the fact that the poor parents have more children. Indicator variables such as the age of the household head, the size of the household or the number of children point, largely, to the same group of households. Since 1995, the relative risk of poverty has declined for the elderly, in part due to reforms of the pension system during 2000-02. The risk has increased steadily for children, however.

### **Female and male poor**

At the individual level, there are no differences in the incidence of poverty by gender. Female-headed households, however, face a higher risk of poverty compared to those headed by males (34 versus 28 percent) due to their higher share of single-parent households and old widows living on low survivors pensions. Overall, the share of female headed-households in total or severe poverty is 21 percent. The relative risk of poverty between female and male-headed households dropped continuously during 1995-2002, with the steepest reduction occurring in 2002.

## **Rural and urban poor**

Both the incidence and the number of poor is higher in rural than in urban areas, where 46 percent of the population live. Despite a constant trend toward convergence, in 2002 the risk of poverty was still more than double in rural than in urban areas (42 versus 18 percent). The rural poor make up of 67 percent of the total poor.

Given the fact that poverty represents a multiplication factor of social exclusion for the above-mentioned categories, the present proposal will address to a wide range of disadvantaged people, namely: **persons with low education, unemployed persons, persons disadvantaged by age and gender, persons from the rural areas.**

We consider that the budget of the present proposal and the management and technical capacities of the partnership will allow us to reach the above-mentioned target groups appropriately.

The Seminars and the Workshops will be organized by the University of Craiova with the help of its network of partners. Each of them will last for two days, following a precise schedule, the same organizational approach and activities matrix, as next presented:

## **Poverty and Unemployment in Oltenia**

**Target groups:** poor people; unemployed people (both males and females; rural and urban)

**Pivot audience:** the University of Craiova staff and students; representatives of the Regional Branch of the National Agency for Employment; the Direction for

Dialogue, Family and Social Solidarity and the Regional Body for Pensions and Social Insurance Rights; beneficiaries of PHARE grants for social cohesion and employment; local authorities in charge with poverty and employment matters; media representatives; churches representatives.

**Objectives:** to have a deep insight into the economic profile of the region and the SWOT matrix associated to it in the Regional Development Plan; to raise awareness on the issues concerning causes and consequences of high unemployment in the SWR-Oltenia; to identify the actors and ways of action in order to increase employment opportunities in the SWR; to provide help for unemployed people in order to prevent their social exclusion.

## **2. Poverty and unemployment in Oltenia (SWR)**

### **Target groups**

1. The poor population
2. The unemployed (the unemployment phenomenon)
3. Male and female from rural and urban regions (emphasis on their specific)

**The purpose of the project: the diminution of the poverty and unemployment in the region of Oltenia.**



### **The objectives**

1. To offer an abbreviation on the economic profit of Oltenia region combined with the regional SWOT analyse associated with the Regional Plan of Development ;
2. To identify the causes that lead to poverty and unemployment;
3. To identify the causes that lead to the diminution of the labour force, as well as the ebb of some branches of national industry in the region of Oltenia ;
4. To identify the actors and the means of action for the increase of labour force occupancy;
5. To suggest possibilities of supporting of the unemployed as to avoid the risks of social exclusion.

### **Ways of action**

1. Evaluation and improvement of the social actor's abilities for the dismissing of the unemployment, poverty and social exclusion; (the challenge of social inclusion: from the addiction to the social aid to well paid job )
2. Identification of the causes and frequency of unemployed at the level of the target groups threatened by social exclusion;
3. Study of the economic environment and his effects on the local business initiatives of the balance between taxes and contributions / social benefits ;
4. Restoration and increase of the will of work in vulnerable groups (long term unemployed and inactive persons) for economic and social inclusion.
5. Creation of a system of institutions involved in unemployed's assistance and counselling and disseminating information regarding the real results of unemployment control programmes.

## **Indicators of Romanians material situation**

### **Introduction**

After 1989 events, the poverty rate in Romania has rapidly increase, followed by a constant maintenance, with some oscillations, at high levels. The trend is specific to all the ex-communist European countries , mentioning that most of them started the straightening earlier.

The Romanian poverty isn't only a momentary financial one. Romanian's purchasing power is one of the lowest in Europe. The only fact that the ex-yugoslavian countries experienced the Civil War and the War of Secession in the 90's and as well as the poor countries of the ex-Union were in 2000 below Romanian's level suggests that the Soviet wealth gained is also more reduced in Romania. Step by step the Romanians begin to fell the effects of the U.E. price alignment, and the present real estate crises generated of the increase of dwelling's prices is nothing but the top of the Romanians' fear's iceberg.

*The quality and the dwelling number* represent an accumulation signal of long duration.

*The automobiles' stock* represents the developing levels, a measure to the recent accumulation (it is known that the Romanian Auto-Park isn't only small but also old, offering a clue for a much reduced accumulation). Similar information in what regards the presence of the computers in some communist countries ,another indicator of the developing level, only more sensible at the economic increase. The beginning of the economic increase affects firstly the number of computers ,then the automobiles' stock, while the quality of the locative fund has a much bigger



inertia, many years are need for the changes to become visible.

Romania occupies one of the last positions regarding all the mentioned indicators.

Concerning the dwelling, the locative place per person is found much under the average of the West Europe, but like in the the ex-communist bloc, the Romanians got the smallest “apartment”. Just the Albanians are more ”pressed” from this point of view. The statistics regarding the quality of living (hot water, heating, canalization, drinking water, electrical energy etc.) are also in the prejudice of the dwells from Romania.

What separates even more Romania from the rest of the Europe is the ancient of the rolling stock, the intensity of use, but especially the quality and the length of the roads that the automobiles use.

The personal computers represent an extremely new technology in full expansion, permitting alert rhythms of developing because of the need of information, communication, the free time spending but also in the production plan. Romania is far behind in this matter too, even if in what concerns the endowment of the household, PCs seem to be the only domain in which the Romanians do it better or at least in comparison with other post-communists counties.

The three countries included in the comparison are the most rural from those that weren't included in USSR and this is the reason why we preferred the comparison just with Albany and Poland. On the base of some information studies, ECDL draws attention upon the fact that Romania, loses approximately 625 million euros every year because of the inefficient use or of the lack of use of the computer employees .

However, without being a strictly economic measure but also involving cultural elements, the consumption of the common use goods offers the opportunity of an additional comparison of the European present economic situation. A study realised by GfK in 2000 on 9 East-European countries caused comparative reference for 6 such products: liquid dishes detergent, tooth paste, coffee, chocolate, mineral water, juices. For all these 6 products Romania occupied one of the last places regarding the prices. The soda made the exception, where the natural resources make the price to be the lowest in the area and the consumption to hardly occupy the fifth place there (the Czech, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary).



## **The identification of the target group's characteristics**

### **Conceptual definitions**

#### **1. The poor population**

Townsend defined the poverty: „Individuals, families and groups belonging to a certain population, can say they are in poverty when their resources for obtaining types of diet lack, for attending to activities, to have normal comfort and the life conditions, deeply encouraged by their society. Their resources are so seriously below those of other individuals and families that they are, as a result of it, excluded from certain ways of life, the common activities and habits.

In the methods of the evaluation of the poverty phenomenon, three different concepts are being used.

***The absolute poverty*** - is defined according to an absolute minimum of subsistence, determined by the needs/obligations (food, cloths, housing etc.) the combined cost of the goods and of the auxiliaries that define these needs demarcating the absolute step of the poverty.

***The relative poverty*** - puts into controversy the status of the individual (the economic and social position) in relation to the general wellbeing of his community.

***The subjective poverty*** – is defined on the ground of the perceptions regarding the minimum incomes necessary for the coverage of their own incomes. It represents a poverty modality of conceptualisation and operationalisation, starting with the representations on individuals poverty and wealth that form a society.

It is based on the individual's label or the household as poor, depending on the judgments regarding the values emitted by the common members of the society.

The understanding of the poverty level concept (minimum of living) is important because it underlies the development of the social programs which regard the minimalisation of the economic and social impact of this phenomenon which is the poverty. It is expressed by the level of the income ,determined for a certain consumption unity (individual , family, house holding) compared with the incomes' levels of other consumption unities in order to analyse how many are situated under the poverty level and how many are found in the area of social-economic risk.

Methods of determining the poverty level:

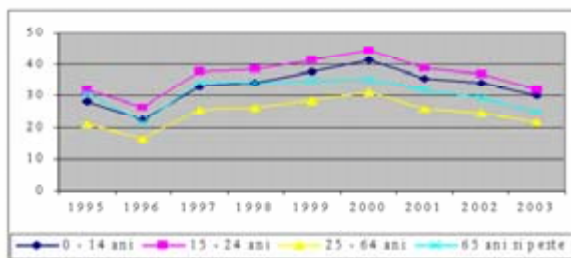
- a) For the absolute poverty – the main scale mark is represented by the alimentary consuming, elaborated by the nutritionists and the method of the alimentary is used;
- b) For the non-alimentary consuming the caloric method is used ,the normative method and the alimentary consumption proportion ;
- c) For the relative poverty – the level is determined based on the statistic distribution of the population in comparison with a set of variables. The ”deciding” method is used or the method of the average’s distribution of one variable.
- d) For the subjective poverty is used the minimum of income method (*Goedhart*), the method of social politic centre, (the 6 options grilles to cover the expenses), the I.C.C.V method .The subjective method represents a way of the poverty conceptualisation and operationalisation starting from the representations on individuals’ poverty and wealth that form a society. In the classic view ,for the subjective poverty reference was made to the individuals’ feelings of poverty used as landmark in the construction of the poverty indices and their limit.

Frequently, *in extenso*, the subjective poverty labels

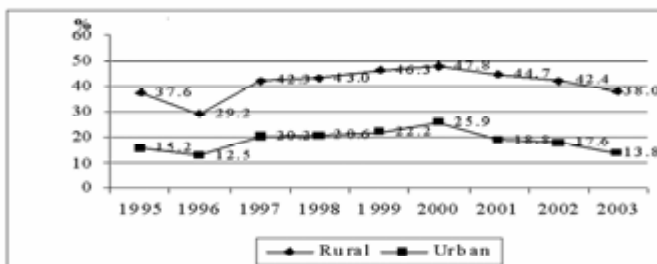
evaluation methods of the poverty's indices beginning with the public opinion about poverty, in this way two big groups of the label methods impose in the literature as subjective:

**DINAMICA SĂRĂCIEI ÎN FUNCȚIE DE VĂRSTĂ**

	1995	2000	2003	% fața de 1995	% fața de 2000
0 - 14 ani	28,3	41,2	29,9	5,6	-27,3
15 - 24 ani	31,7	44,6	31,9	0,6	-28,5
25 - 64 ani	21,0	31,3	21,6	3,2	-30,8
65 ani și peste	30,8	35,2	24,9	-19,2	-29,4

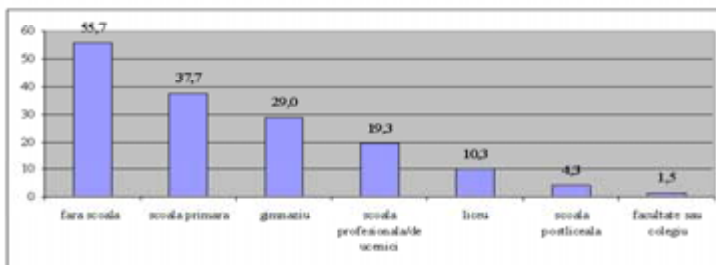


**Dinamica sărăciei pe medii de rezidență**



1. the poverty feelings of the individuals' estimation;
  2. consensual definition (applying to whole population) of the poverty levels conditions ;
- e) For the subjective poverty the method of the minimum income is used (*Goedhart*), the method of the social politic centre, (the 6 options grilles to cover the expenses), I.C.C.V method.

**Rata sărăciei în funcție de nivelul de educație în 2003**



The 1st and the 2nd tables indicate the phenomenon's dynamics according to the age and residence media.

The 3rd table shows the following correlation: the more the level of education raises, the less becomes the risk of poverty.

Source: Ratio CASPIS 2003.

## **2. The unemployment phenomenon in Romania, in the Oltenia region and in the Dolj country. Demographic comparative data**

In compliance with the dates, in the central East-European area, Romania occupies ,after Poland ,the second position from the point of view of the work resources. This thing should be valued from the economic and social point of view, as to determine the stopping of the labour force's degradation (the decline of some occupations, the degradation of the work environment, losses of qualifications and of knowledge)

In the conditions of Romania's entry in European area, the solving of the labour force's occupancy ,applies for the concrete evaluation of the socio-economic medium, and also for the quality and dimension of the human resources . In the same time is necessary the anticipation of the labour force's eventually difficulties generated by the integration in the European Union, like : the labour force's migration.

The unemployment expresses the situation of a market in which the labour force's offer goes beyond the demand. Along with the globalisation process, the massive technology and the increasing infusion in the production processes, the ratio between the offer and the demand got new shapes. The changes that have taken place in Romania after 1989 on different society landings, the modification of the property form, the passing from one planned economy to an market economy leded to the manifestation of a phenomenon with serious consequences in the social plan: relevance of some important segments of population that couldn't find their place on the work market. The unemployment rate increased from 3% in 1991 (337.440 unemployed), 6,6 % in 1996 (657.564) to 11,2% in 2000

(1.007.131), emphasising the economy difficulties with which many Romania's inhabitants confront.

The transition period to the market economy was characterized, at the labour force's level, of massive retirements in sectors like mining, railway etc. The decreasing of the jobs especially in the industrial sector haven't been correlated by the social politics for the creation of new jobs in the private sector and neither by the investors' attractive measures in the reduced regions.

The specialists find that the maintenance of a unemployment level at 3 % is good for the work productivity and for society ,as a factor of motivation for those hired, as to work harder in a competitive environment. The unemployed phenomenon meets a own dynamics in correlation with different factors.

Depending on different criteria, several types of unemployment have been identified:

- Classic unemployment,
- Unemployment through the insufficiency of the demand,
- Chronic or long term unemployment,
- Cyclic unemployment,
- Repetitive unemployment,
- Structural unemployment,
- Re-conversion unemployment
- Technical unemployment,
- Partial unemployment,
- Voluntary unemployment,
- Involuntary unemployment.

Luana Miruna Pop coord., *Dictionary of social politics*, Editura Expert , Bucharest 2002).

If we previously though that the problem of the labour force's occupancy would be exclusively resolved by



the national governments, at the time being, because of the extension of the unemployment, this conception began to change. The economic problems can be more efficient solved by the implication of the local and regional community. On this line a new concept was introduced (Initiative for Local Employment), that mark the implication of a non-governmental organisation in solving the unemployment problem).The population and the demographic structure of Romania

Table 4.The stable population on sexes in Romania

	01. 07. 2001	01.07. 2002	01.07.2003	01.01. 2004
Total number of inhabitants	22.408.393	21.794.793	21.733.556	21.712.552
Male	10.949.490	10.642.538	10.606.245	10.592.460
Female	11.458.903	11.152.255	11.127.311	11.120.092

A tendency on constant subtraction of the inhabitants number is observed. (On the first of July in 1990 the Romanian population was of 23.151.564 inhabitants ), the difference between the 01st January 2004 being of 1.439.012 in a period of almost 14 years.

Table 5. The stabile population on averages in Romania

	01.07. 2001	01.07. 2002	01.07.2003	01.01. 2004
Total number of inhabitants	22.408.393	21.794.793	21.733.556	21.712.552
Urban	12.243.748	11.608.735	11.600.157	11.644.722
Rural	10.164.645	10.186.058	10.133.399	10.067.830
In percentage	100%	100%	100%	100%
Urban	54,6%	53,3%	53,4%	53,6%
Rural	45,4%	46,7%	46,6%	46,4%

Table 6. The evolution of unemployment in Romania between the years 1991 - 2004

YEAR	THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATIO (%)	NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT
1991	1,6	185.052
1992	5,4	605.350
1993	9,2	1.047.260
1994	11,1	1.229.748
1995	11,0	1.111.327
1996	7,8	814.292
1997	7,3	748.982
1998	9,3	917.069
1999	11,4	1.188.877
2000	11,2	1.067.206
2001	9,0	866.498
2002	10,2	954.546
2003	7,6	689.531
2004*	6,2*	562.245*

The unemployment rate on the 01st of July 2004

Table 7. The situation of the labour force's occupancy on sectors comparative with the European Union.

SECTOR	ROMANIA		GREECE, ITALY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL (AVERAGE 1997)	DENMARK, HOLLAND, GERMANY, UK (AVERAGE 1997)
	1989	1997		
Agriculture	27,9 %	37,5%	9,3 %	3,0 %
Mining	2,3%	2,0%	0,5%	0,3%
Processing industry	33,0 %	23,0%	20,8%	19,2%

Electricity, gas, water	1,2 5	2,1%	0,9%	0,7%
Constructio ns	7,0 %	4,9%	8,3%	7,2%
Commerce	5,9 %	10,3%	21,2%	18,6%
Means of transport	6,9 %	5,6%	5,6%	6,2%
Finance	0,3 %	0,8%	7,7%	11,2%
Community services	15,3 %	13,7%	25,7%	30,0%

Source: *OECD Labour Force Statistics 1989 & 1998*

The intention was that of comparing the labour force structure from Romania with that in European Union, beginning from the hypothesis that in the perspective of the integration ,the structure branch of the labour force occupancy will be similar to that of the European Union.

The comparative advantage of Romania is represented by the low cost of the labour force and this advantage has short term positives effects, because it can contribute to the attraction of the direct foreign investments ,at the export's impulsion and at the decreasing of the unemployment. On long term, an increase of the salaries will take place at some close levels with those of the European Union, the comparative advantage of cheap labour force will vanish, and the branches that are in the present moment competitive will lose their position in the market.

## The unemployed's number and the unemployment rate on counties (the Oltenia region) at 31 March 2004

Table 8. The unemployed's number and the unemployment rate, on counties(the Oltenia region) at 31 March 2004

COUNTY	NR. OF UNEMPL OYED	FEMALE	PRIVATE SECTOR	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	
				Total %	Female %
Dolj	21.345	8.340	5.148	5,4	4,5
Olt	24.097	8.673	12.389	12,4	9,5
Mehedinți	13.340	5.086	6.269	10,5	8,5
Gorj	14.965	6.180	2.236	9,2	8,2
Vâlcea	18.121	7.473	4.993	9,6	8,5
Bihor (the smallest rate)	6.976	2.404	4.923	2,5	1,7
Hunedoara ( the biggest rate)	29.217	11.479	18.114	13,5	11,6

Source : National Agency for Labour Force Employment

## The population and demographic structure of Dolj

Table 9. The stabile population on sexes in the county Dolj

	01.07. 2001	01.07 2002	01.07.2003	01.01. 2004
Total number of inhabitants	741.825	730.214	725.342	722.823
Male	361.648	355.833	354.436	352.082
Female	380.177	374.381	371.906	370.741

A tendency of constant reduction of inhabitant's number can be remarked in the county Dolj, it can also be noticed at the Romanian level .

Table 10. The stabile population on averages in the county Dolj

	01.07. 2001	01.07.2002	01.07.2003	01.01. 2004
Total number of inhabitants	741.825	730.214	725.342	722.823
Urban	383.048	368.398	368.080	366.812
Rural	358.777	361.816	357.262	356.011
In percentage	100%	100%	100%	100%
Urban	51,6%	50,4%	50,7%	50,7%
Rural	48,4%	49,6%	49,3%	49,3%

Table 11. The unemployment situation on the preparation levels in the last 5 years.

LEVEL OF PREPARATION	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	31.08.2004
Workers	38364	39536	34738	16986	1886	11999
Medium studies	680	820	640	2691	3978	2457
Superior studies	1171	1609	1543	1257	1516	853
TOTAL	40.215	41.965	36.921	20.934	23.580	15.309

Table 12. The evolution of the unemployment rate between 2000-31.07.2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	31.07.2004
COUNTRY	10,5	8,8	8,1	7,2	6,2
DOLJ	12,2	10,8	6,3	7,9	5,3

Source: AJOFM Dolj

### Dinamica saraciei pe regiuni

	1995	2000	2002	2003	Diferența față de 1995	Diferența față de 2000	Diferența față de 2002
<b>Nord-Est</b>	37.5	48.5	42.5	35.4	-2.1	-13.0	-7.1
<b>Sud-Vest</b>	28.5	34.5	32.5	32.1	3.6	-2.4	-0.4
<b>Sud</b>	27.6	40.0	33.1	29.9	2.2	-10.1	-3.2
<b>Sud-Est</b>	26.3	38.4	32.3	29.2	2.9	-9.2	-3.0
<b>Centru</b>	23.9	31.4	23.4	20.3	-3.6	-11.1	-3.1
<b>Vest</b>	17.9	30.1	22.2	18.1	0.2	-12.0	-4.1
<b>Nord-Vest</b>	22.2	34.4	23.0	17.7	-4.5	-16.7	-5.3
<b>București</b>	10.2	18.2	10.6	8.1	-2.1	-10.0	-2.5

Regiunea Nord-Est rămâne mai saracă. Urmează regiunile sudice (Sud-Vest, Sud, Sud-Est). Regiunea Nord-Est rămâne cea mai săracă însă cu cea mai serioasă reducere a riscului în 2003 – 7 puncte procentuale.

Source: Ratio CASPIS 2003

### The SWOT matrix for Oltenia region

#### Strengths

- The road, railway and fluvial infrastructure
- The historical heritage and the agro-turistic potential (Vâlcea, Gorj)
- The existence of CASPIS
- The cheap labour force and relatively well trained
- Hydrographical

#### Weaknesses

- The lack of the budgetary local resources
- Rigid institutional cadre
- Diverse interest conflicts
- The lack of some local developing programs on short, medium and long term
- Weak correlation between the education

<p>resources over the country average(a beneficial thing for the agricultural exploitations)</p>	<p>sector and labour market policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The cultural heterochromaticity of the area</li> <li>➤ The fragmentation of the agricultural surface</li> <li>➤ Wrong management techniques</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The transit area Europa - Asia (the Calafat bridge)</li> <li>➤ The European Union financed programs(The regional developing sector, the occupancy of the labour force and the social sector social and ISPA)</li> <li>➤ The occurrence of new activity and services domains</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The emphatic decrease of the population number (mortality and emigration)</li> <li>➤ The rural inhabitant's pauperization</li> <li>➤ The increase of the average age and of the economic rate</li> <li>➤ The exodus of the well prepared labour force in European Union</li> <li>➤ The decrease of interest for education</li> </ul>

### **“Does Social Spending Increase Social Security?”**

**Target groups:** poor people; ill people; retired people; unemployed people; imprisoned people

**Pivot audience:** the University of Craiova staff and students; representatives of the Regional Body for Pensions

and Social Insurance Rights; representatives from the National Health Insurance House; representatives from public and private pension funds; representatives of the Regional Branch of the National Agency for Employment as well as the Direction for Dialogue, Family and Social Solidarity; representatives from the Craiova Youth Penitentiary; representatives from the City Hall and the Prefecture; media representatives.

**Objectives:** to identify to what extent social spending is appropriate in order to prevent social exclusion for the most affected categories of people; to point out measures in order to improve the situation of the target groups; to quantify the efforts that are made by national authorities in order to promote social inclusion and the effectiveness of these efforts; to raise awareness on the special categories of needs that the target groups share; to increase awareness on the need to promote private pension funds in Romania.



### **3. Social Exclusion - Conceptual Delimitations**

Initially, the “social exclusion” concept was linked to the idea of rights resulting from quality of citizen of a certain country. Thus, social exclusion was defined in relation with social rights, as the right to work, to dwell, to health services, to education. Between this concept and the one of “poverty” there exists an inter-conditioning relation, many authors regarding poverty as an effect of social exclusion process and not exclusion as a final point of the impoverishment process.



Nowadays the “social exclusion” concept is more and more preferred to the classical term of “poverty” and the expression “promotion of social inclusion” gradually replaces the “fighting against poverty” one.

One of the definitions that clarify the guide marks of social exclusion belongs to Bergham, who, commencing with the “Poverty 3” report of the European Union, shows that exclusion can be defined in terms of inability/failure of at least one of the following four systems:

- the legal and democratic system, which involves civic integration
- the labour market, which promotes economic integration
- the welfare state system, which promotes what can be called social integration
- the family and community system, which promotes interpersonal integration.<sup>1</sup>

If we take into consideration the general respecting of human rights, poverty and social exclusion can be interpreted as a violation of human rights. The efficiency of national policies to secure the access of the population to fundamental human rights depends on the accuracy of the identification and removal of the mechanisms that hinder individuals from enjoying these social rights.

Part of the social strategy at the European Union level, social inclusion was acknowledged as a common objective of the member states at the Lisbon summit, 2000. Along with the December summit of the same year, that took place at Nice, the objective of social inclusion became

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<sup>1</sup> Ilie, Simona – “*Poverty and Social Exclusion. Social Inclusion as an objective of social assistance system*”, „Quality of Life“ Revue, XIV, no. 3-4 2003, www.iccv.ro

integrant part of the national plans antipoverty. The common objectives, statutory in the national plans of fight against social exclusion are:

1. the promotion of taking part to labour and access to all resources, rights, possessions and services
2. preventing the risk of social exclusion
3. initiatives for the most vulnerable groups
4. calling to arms of all actors

Analysing the sources (and causes) of social exclusion, we will especially notice three such sources:

- self-exclusion (the option belongs to the individual, the cultural pattern, the unconcern, various other elements that regard the personal decision determining primarily to choose for himself in order to reject a certain form of social participation); the fact that some persons do not get identity cards because they do not wish to is such an example

-the system, that determines a structural exclusion (there are no adequate social policies, there is no answer of the social system to a certain need)

-the territorial/communitarian affiliation of the individual that forces him not to accomplish a certain need as there are not any resources in the community, although there is a formal solution within the system and it is functional within other communities. A good example is the non-granting of social assistance in some places as a result from the lack of funds; the law exists still, and it is put into practice in many other localities.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Pop, Luana Miruna (coord)– „*Social Policies Dictionary* “, Expert Publishing House, București 2002, p. 330-331

## **4. Social Capital - Social Exclusion Relation**

In the work “Bonds and bridges. Social capital and poverty”, Deepa Narayan analyses the concepts of social capital and social exclusion, pointing out the common elements and considers that these concepts overlap to some extent. Social exclusion refers to social and institutional processes that exclude certain groups from taking fully part into the social, economic, cultural and political life of the societies. The concept is considered to go beyond the term of income privation as a cause of individuals and social groups marginalization because people can be poor without being socially excluded on can be excluded without being poor. As the social capital, “social exclusion has become an umbrella – concept that emphasizes the role of the social factors and of institutional processes which lead to exclusion and privation”.<sup>3</sup>

Both concepts include participation and involvement in taking decisions, inclusively in the political decision, and both of them focus on those excluded or included. Social groups and relation chains work only including some and including others. Social capital can explain, in the opinion on the quoted author, to a great extent, social exclusion, for the bonds that unite are the same one that exclude. Those who already have access to the decisions of assignment of state or private field resources (working places) have a higher

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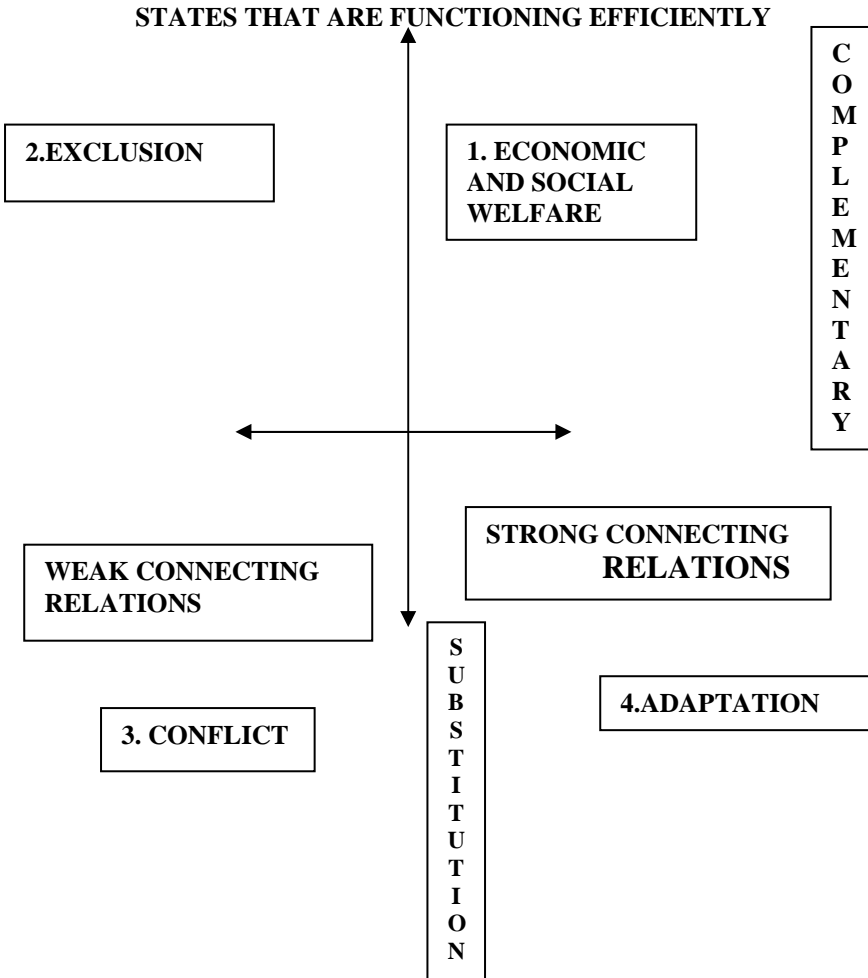
<sup>3</sup> Narayan, Deepa – “*Bond and Bridges: Social Capital and Poverty*”, PREM, World Bank, 1999

probability to continue to be included in the social process, that the ones that do not have access to them. Research shows the inequality of the incomes remains relatively firm in time; the type of capital tends to maintain the status quo of exclusion. These arguments lead the author towards the idea that social policies should take into account the type of social capital and the institutional elements in order to promote the equality of opportunities.

Interesting is the intersection between two phenomena: the social capital and the governing type, from the point of view of its effectiveness. The intersection of the two concepts leads to a typology of societies, in which various countries can be introduced, from the point of view of the way in which the state functions and the type of social capital available for that society. Although the set-up is simplifying, it proves still productive through the implications for social policies.

As a characteristic of the social structure, the social capital is closely related to the institutions of the state. The social capital has an important impact on the government environment and on the effectiveness of the institutions and, under a good governing, the functioning of the state complements the functioning of the informal social groups. Within societies where primary social groups are united through connecting social bonds (bridging type) and not just through profound liaisons from within the groups (bonding type) the economic prosperity and the social order are more possible and probable. In a society in which the social capital is of the bonding type (or, in other terms, traditional), in which primary groups are isolated ones from the others, it is possible that power structures to be governed by a strong group, unfavourable to other groups, which are excluded. Thus, informal primary groups take over a part of the functions of the state, become substitutes of the state, which

is not efficient in managing the social processes, and people live in isolated social groups and try to survive, within a difficult economic situation, in order to make a living.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Precupețu, Iuliana – „Social Participation, Social Capital and Poverty“, Revista „Calitatea vieții“, XIV, nr. 3-4 2003, www.iccv.ro

## **Disfunctional states**

In the opinion of the author, the first quadrant is the ideal scenario, in which the functioning of the state is brought up to full number by the multitude of social relations existing between groups, which lead to positive economic and social results. Countries that frame here are the Nordic ones, characterized by economic development, social cohesion, relative absence of criminality, violence, conflict and exclusion.

The second quadrant includes countries that, in spite of the fact that the state functions efficiently, are characterized by social exclusion of non-dominant groups. Countries that frame here would be some from Latin America (Peru, Mexico), Germany, many East-European countries and the United States of America, where certain minority groups are characterized by exclusion.

Quadrant number three, denominated conflict, implies a type of government short of effectiveness in answering to individuals' needs, substituted by primary social groups, in which individuals seek shelter in order to survive. The communities, societies in which there exist groups with power and authority (mafia, guerrilla movements, violence user groups) can populate this quadrant.

The final quadrant, characterized by strong connections between groups and ineffective states, is defined by adaptation strategies in which people engage in informal activities, which ensure their survival: informal credits (loans from friends, colleagues etc.), grey economy, barter economic exchanges etc.

This kind of activities is torn apart from the institutions of the state and, most of the times, substituted to them. Here would be Russia's place, but could also fit in a

country like Kenya, where a lot of activities of survival in local communities can be identified.

Such a diagram is somehow simplifying and it is difficult to be fit in a certain country, in which different mechanisms can coexist. The value of the diagram consists, however, of visualising the existing relationship between the types of social capital existing in a certain country, the institutions of the state and the integration strategies, social participations that can be developed in a certain social context.

The most promising interventions identified by D. Narayan are:

1. investments in the organizational capacity of the poor:
  - at a micro-social level, through aid offered directly to the poor;
  - at a macro-social level, through legislation changes, which to support the association activity.
2. the extension of connections (bridging) between groups, people, through a variety of mechanisms in the following domains:
  - information
  - active participation
  - conflict management mechanisms
  - education and values
  - economic changes
  - governing and decentralization
  - services based on request.



## 5. The Social Cost of Social Inclusion

**Purpose:** The evaluation of the effects of the programmes and social actions destined to the counteraction of the social exclusion phenomenon

**Hypothesis:** These programmes imply high expenses, and the expected effects prove to be extremely low

### **Target groups:**

- **Poor persons**
- **Persons suffering from various affections**
- **Retired persons**
- **Unemployed persons**
- **Convicts**

### **Audience:**

- Teachers and students
- AJOFM
- The direction for Family, Dialogue and Social solidarity
- CAS
- The Pensions House
- Beneficiaries of other PHARE programmes
- Media representatives
- Church representatives
- Penitentiary representatives

	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
I N T E R N A L	<u>Strengths</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subvention coupons for the payment of the hat bill, of the telephone bill</li> <li>• Complementary allowance for mono-parental families and for families with numerous children</li> <li>• Social aid</li> <li>• The Law of the Minimum Guaranteed Income</li> <li>• The Social aid canteen – a hot meal/aliments for those with no other means to get them</li> <li>• The High-school grant programme</li> <li>• The financial support of the students that live in rented houses programme</li> <li>• The 200 euros check – the acquisition of personal computers</li> <li>• Social scholarship</li> <li>• The roll and milk programme</li> <li>• The</li> </ul>	<u>Weaknesses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low level education, lack of qualification/deficit of capacities</li> <li>• High risk of school abandonment/low frequency of children coming from targeted groups</li> <li>• Dissimilitudes felt as flagrant iniquities emphasize despair, the lack of hope and activism, which can contribute supplementary to the sliding towards poverty</li> <li>• The abandonment of the care for one’s own health, unhealthy life styles, shortage of culture and sanitary education</li> <li>• Work with no legal papers</li> <li>• Putting into practise by women of supplementary labours or for which they are overqualified, of insecure and with a high risk of sickening, in informal fields of the economy, in order to provide the family with an additional source of income</li> </ul>

<p>distribution/serving out of school supplies for the pupils coming from law income families programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The payment/possibility of contraction of intendants/personal assistants for persons suffering from chronically affections/persons suffering from handicaps</li> <li>• The inclusion of persons suffering from non-severe handicaps in the public education system with the purpose of socialisation</li> <li>• Personal assistants for the persons suffering from chronically affections/handicap come from, mainly, their family, reason for which they show total availability towards the needs of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The increase of violence against women phenomenon</li> <li>• The inefficiency of the Minimum Guaranteed Income programme: beneficiaries see work in favour of the community as an obligation towards the state in exchange for financial support and not as a possibility to be part of the community</li> <li>• The social aid canteen: crowdedness, there is the possibility of selling the aliments in order to obtain cigarettes or/and alcohol</li> <li>• High-school money: within high-schools the selection is correctly carried out, with Education Inspectorate another selection is performed, where only those with under 300.000 lei/member of the family are included on the list, without taking into account the school frequency</li> <li>• The 200 euros check: ineffective measure, the check was in many cases sold at streets corners</li> </ul>
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<p>the assisted one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is foreseen the legal regulations of occupational situation of persona assistants</li> <li>• The doubling of agriculture pensions in 2002</li> <li>• There still exists a high level of interfamilial fellowship in what concerns supporting elders, level typical to the traditional pattern of the Romanian family</li> <li>• The increase of pensions</li> <li>• Pensioned families – intermediate rate of poverty, lower than the average one</li> <li>• Unemployment aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal assistants for persons suffering from chronically affections/handicaps belong to their families, therefore they are unable to bring other income to the family</li> <li>• Institutionalisation: the possibility of abuse from the family – lack of alternative</li> <li>• The increasing number of pensioners</li> <li>• Risk of depending on the families</li> <li>• Early retirement in order to decrease the pressure of unemployment – large number of pensioners in favour of retiring before the legal time without complete seniority, which has an influence on the level of pensions</li> <li>• The medium pension has always lost percentage in favour of the medium wage, which leads to a more emphasized pauperisation process and a polarization between persons who are economically active and those depending on social</li> </ul>
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		<p>support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In towns: alone old people, with no or low pensions, with no support from children or without any children at all, who lose their residence due to fraud or to accumulation of debts</li> <li>• Chronically unemployment</li> <li>• The framework based on professions and age of the unemployed is not identical to the economical requests</li> <li>• The delinquent behaviour does not fade away as a result to the imprisonment, but cultivates the social reinstatement of the felon being much more difficult</li> </ul>
<p>E X T E R N A L</p>	<p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special programmes of the Church: counselling, material support of some private cases/emergency material aid</li> <li>• Personal development programmes, social reinsertion programmes</li> <li>• Different NGO</li> </ul>	<p><u>Threats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vague legislation/methodological rules/application rules, that leave place to interpretation</li> <li>• Problems of the system of social assistance of benefits, connected to: the methodology and techniques of income testing and the establishment of qualifications for help, their low level and their rapid</li> </ul>

<p>programmes, PHARE programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stimulative steps for employers</li> <li>• The increase of retirement age, correlated with the bringing down of the total population</li> <li>• External investments</li> <li>• Small and medium enterprises</li> <li>• Markets with working places</li> <li>• Counselling and informing concerning the career</li> <li>• Qualifying and re-qualifying courses</li> <li>• Promotion/stimulation of the occupational mobility</li> <li>• Anti-discriminatory regulations: the national Council for Fighting against Discrimination</li> </ul>	<p>erosion, the lack of funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The contributively system of social assistance - centred on the protection of wage earners, unemployment and pensions being at mostly limited</li> <li>• Dysfunctions of the institutionalised frame: fragmental, chaotic development of social aid</li> <li>• The agglomeration of social assistance services in great cities – a source of exclusion of the rural community</li> <li>• The atypical forms, legal, usually temporary (day-labourer, seasonal worker, in agriculture etc.) were permitted under the condition of renunciation of the unemployed status</li> <li>• Decreased quantum for educational scholarships</li> <li>• Funds assigned without impact researches</li> <li>• Bureaucracy</li> <li>• Many of the aiding needs were just formally realised through legislative measures, with no real</li> </ul>
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		<p>protection, especially in rural regions: the privation of access of the elders to social services increases their “chances” to enter the category of the poor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The increase of the ratio of expense for nourishment in total expenses of the family</li> <li>• The increase of prices/the increase of utility costs</li> <li>• The increase of social wage polarization (between groups, but also between geographical areas)</li> <li>• The undertaking in various phases of privatisation/post privatisation/reorganization: the decrease of the wage-earners, masked unemployment (wage less holidays)</li> <li>• Economically collapsed areas</li> <li>• Corruption</li> <li>• An important part of the economy (the subterranean economy) eludes public taxes, which drastically diminishes the financial groundwork of social protection and development</li> <li>• A large number of working</li> </ul>
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		<p>places with an illegal status offer labour terms with a high risk of insecurity, are poorly paid and guarantee no sort of rights or social benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The restoring of properties</li> <li>• Reduced access to medical services for those uninsured/low quality medical services (emphasized polarization of the access to medical services)</li> <li>• Adverse system regarding the payment of intendants/personal assistants for persons suffering from chronically affections/handicaps</li> <li>• Emphasized phenomena of social marginalization of women: well paid jobs or working places which regard a well put position – especially occupied by men</li> <li>• Most of the economical areas that mass together feminine labour have suffered massive cuts of working places or decreases of real wages</li> <li>• The diminishing of the</li> </ul>
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		<p>offer for social/public services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prejudices of the teaching staff or of the parents</li> <li>• Schools do not possess the necessary facilities for handicapped persons</li> <li>• The teaching staff need special skills in order to work with this category</li> <li>• The increase of the necessity to pay supplementary lessons in order to increase the chances of the children to enter a higher level of education</li> <li>• Problems of residential institutions regarding persons suffering from chronically affections/handicaps: funding, lack of qualified staff, the quality of services, insufficient coverage</li> <li>• Feeble involvement of the civil society and of the local community</li> <li>• Lack of available working places: as to quantity and quality</li> <li>• The National Council for Fighting against</li> </ul>
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		Discrimination: too few, isolated cases solved - inefficiency
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**Target groups:** poor people; young people; high school and university students; people undergoing continuous training; young women; unemployed people.

**Pivot audience:** the University of Craiova via its staff and students; representatives from the Secondary Schools and High Schools Inspectorate; representatives from the Ministry of Education and Research and from the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family; representatives of the Regional Branch of the National Agency for Employment; representatives from the Regional Centre for Professional Guidance and Re-conversion; media representatives.

**Objectives:** to raise awareness over the lack of consistence between the academic curricula and the demand on the labour market, which is one of the major causes of unemployment; to acquire a broader view of the educational chain as connected to the labour market needs; to raise awareness on the danger of encountering young people who feel excluded from society.

## **6. The education reform as a motor of the social inclusion**

### **MOTTO:**

**„The discrimination dismissing and the positive action lead to social inclusion.” (The Madrid conference)  
„We are what we become.”**

The introduction in the contemporary social contexts of „inclusion” and „exclusion” concepts, can be useful, not only for focusing on the noticeable differences between different social categories, and also for having in view other actions, (as the social process of taking decisions – the participation or the exclusion from those), as a strengthening base and perpetuation of the differences.



The exclusion's redefinition and the inclusion's promotion is necessary for the participation increase and the overtaking vision in which the poor and the disadvantaged are considered only the social service's „customs” – it's all about the active participation of all the resources in the making of decision's process.

This supposes, in the Commission's vision for the inclusive European's construction, a high responsibility of the society for assuring equal opportunities for all: equal access in the working market, in education, in nursing, in the judiciary system, in rights and in the making of decision's process.

The achievement of a job is regarded as a first step in the integration and the social inclusion process, the lack of it – the major factor of the exclusion.

However, the social exclusion is somewhere beyond the lack of a job and the access on the labour market. A series of barriers and lacks comes into prominence, which, alone or taken together, intercept the complete participation in zones like education, health, housing and life environment, culture, civil rights, and as well as a continue initiation and hiring opportunities.

In this direction, the great attention given to education grows, especially because of the fact that education along the whole life becomes vital; people should be offered the possibility to act like real members of the society information and knowledge.” The fight against the school failure and the access at the technology of the Knowledge Society, and of the customs and necessary capacities to use, is essential for not permitting the information era to create new divisions in society, but to promote the inclusion and cohesion.” („Commission Of The European Communities”, Brussels, 1.III.2000).

The European Union Council considered on the 5th of March 2004 that six important aspects must be taken urgently into consideration by the member states:

1. Promoting investment in and tailoring of active labour market measures to meet the needs of those who have the greatest difficulties in accessing employment;

2. Ensuring that social protection schemes are adequate and accessible for all and that they provide effective work incentives for those who can work;

3. Increasing the access of the most vulnerable and those most at risk of social exclusion to decent housing, quality health and lifelong learning opportunities;

4. Implementing a concerted effort to prevent early school leaving and to promote smooth transition from school to work;

5. Developing a focus on eliminating poverty and social exclusion among children;

6. Making a drive to reduce poverty and social exclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities

In this context, the precise delimitation of the meaning of social exclusion and social inclusion is pretty difficult in the absence of some unanimous indicators accepted by the phenomenon.

Some analysts find the social exclusion as a poverty cause, others suggest that is as well an expression and a poverty determinant, and the most would agree that poverty is a form of social exclusion.

### **A multi-dimensional phenomenon**

As Atkinson (1998) argues, social exclusion can be distinguished both from poverty and from unemployment, although all three concepts are related. In seeking to discern a clearer definition of social exclusion in the current debate,

Atkinson emphasises three features, which he terms *relativity*, *agency* and *dynamics*.

By relativity, he means that the concept implies looking not just at the circumstances of individuals but also their relationship to others: “People become excluded because of events elsewhere in society”. Indeed, social exclusion may perhaps be thought of as a property of groups rather than individuals: „social exclusion often manifests itself in terms of communities rather than individuals”

Secondly, the term social exclusion “implies an act, with an agent or agents”. If someone is excluded, there is someone else – an individual, a group of people, an institution or a market – who does the excluding.

Thirdly, exclusion is a dynamic concept: “People are excluded not just because they are currently without a job or income but because they have little prospects for the future.”

The absence of a job can cause social exclusion and the hiring doesn’t assure the social inclusion; if this thing happens or not it depends of the quality offered by the job.

### **Who is excluded?**

- Young people (in general) Young people can face social exclusion because they have no power or influence (i.e. can’t vote).
- People with disabilities Children with disabilities are often excluded from school and put in segregated special schools.
- Homeless people
- Elderly people: Older people can face social exclusion due to isolation (geographic and by their family) and fear of going out.
- Unemployed

- People on a low income/benefits
- Prisoners & first-time offenders
- People living in rural areas: People living in rural areas can face social exclusion due to a lack of transport, employment opportunities and facilities.
- People who do not have access to knowledge
- People from disadvantaged areas and background. Isolated communities. Geographically isolated and otherwise
- Single parents
- Minority's i.e. ethnic minority groups, people different religions Religion can exclude – especially dress codes.
- Mental ill health/Other ill health
- Women

### **What leads to social exclusion?**

Most of the social exclusion is caused by

- „Social (or Community-Based) Barriers”
- Disability
- Long-term unemployment
- Poverty
- Changes in labour market
- Lack of family and social network
- Sickness (with stigmatising), poor health
- Living in an area of multiple deprivation (crime, drugs, anti-social behaviour)
  - Homeless and precarious housing conditions
  - Immigration, migration, ethnicity, racism and discrimination
  - Special institutions (prisons, institutional care, mental institutions)

- Insecure, low paid, low quality employment
- Low level of education, illiteracy and e-illiteracy
- Growing up in a vulnerable family (e.g. single parent, large family, domestic violence)
- „Personal Barriers”
- The need of a „scapegoat”!

These factors can be reduced to three dimensions:

- *social network*: constituted by the people you can rely on, such as family, close friends, neighbours, colleagues, etc.
- *social status*: has got to do with prestige (the way society sees you)
- *work*: having a paid job, as well as the income you receive (through this work)

### **„Personal Barriers”**

- Insufficient self-assertion; the lack of independence
- The inadequacy and shame feelings
- Insufficient communication capacities
- Parents or too protective environment
- Indifference
- The fear of failure
- Underestimation
- Fear of rejection
- Physical activity not a priority
- Lack of available finances
- Not confident in abilities of program leaders
- Lack of time
- Perceived incompetence/lack of ability



## **Definitions:**

**Social exclusion:** Social exclusion is a process whereby certain individuals are pushed to the edge of society and prevented from participating fully by virtue of their poverty, or lack of basic competencies and lifelong learning opportunities, or as a result of discrimination. This distances them from job, income and education opportunities as well as social and community networks and activities. They have little access to power and decision-making bodies and thus often feeling powerless and unable to take control over the decisions that affect their day to day lives.

**Social inclusion:** Social inclusion is a process which ensures that those at risk of poverty and social exclusion gain the opportunities and resources necessary to participate fully in economic, social and cultural life and to enjoy a standard of living and well-being that is considered normal in the society in which they live. It ensures that they have greater participation in decision making which affects their lives and access to their fundamental rights

Social inclusion is the process by which efforts are made to ensure that everyone, regardless of their experiences and circumstances, can achieve their potential in life. To achieve inclusion income and employment are necessary but not sufficient. An inclusive society is also characterised by a striving for reduced inequality, a balance between individuals' rights and duties and increased social cohesion'. (Centre for Economic & Social Inclusion, 2002)

## **The simultaneous inclusion and exclusion**

Some commentators made out a case that is possible for an individual to be simultaneous both included and excluded (for example, you can be excluded from the medical attendance, but in the same time you can have access to the educational facilities.) It is also possible that the inclusion of a person in a certain area (such as the local community) to lead to the exclusion from another area (as it would be the labour market).

## **The three models of social inclusion**

Largely, western understanding of social inclusion falls broadly into the following three models. These models, first outlined by Ruth Levitas, are not really versions of social inclusion themselves, indeed advocates of either one of these might be aggrieved that the term social inclusion had been used alongside it. What the three models can be said to represent are three distinct approaches to achieving a socially inclusive society, though endless discussions could be had on the feasibility of any of them. They are three versions of the role of the state, from one end of the political ideological continuum to the other.

RED, or the redistributionist discourse, has an emphasis on income inequality, poverty reduction or what has been recently described as „progressive universalism”.

MUD, or the moral underclass discourse, claims that poverty and exclusion are caused by the behaviour of individuals and their „subcultures”

SID, or the social integrationist discourse, which is about equal participation and equal access to opportunities, with an emphasis on labour market participation.

**INCLUSION FEELINGS:**

**COMFORTABLE  
PROUD  
RECOGNIZED  
SECURE  
CONFIDENT  
HAPPY  
TRUSTED  
SPECIAL  
EXCITED  
LIKED  
CARED ABOUT  
  
LOVED  
ACCEPTED  
NORMAL  
GRATEFUL  
OPEN  
RESPONSIBLE  
  
POSITIVE  
GROWN UP  
VALUED**

**EXCLUSION FEELINGS:**

**ANGRY  
LONELY  
RESENTFUL  
HURT  
ISOLATED  
INFERIOR  
CLOSED  
FRUSTRATED  
UNWANTED  
CONFUSED  
ISOLATED  
DIFFERENT  
WORTHLESS  
INVISIBLE  
ASHAMED  
DEVALUED  
UNACCEPTED  
UNTRUSTED  
SUBSTANDARD**

## **What are the approach plans for exclusion and promotion of the inclusion:**

- **Economic plan** : modalities wherethrough people can assure themselves an income
- **Educational plan**: which not only forms the man power but also the human capital and socializes the individuals as citizens
- **Legal and judiciary plan**: the assurance of some legal favourable conditions
- **Mass media**: contributes to the promotion of some values and favourable attitudes to the inclusion process.
- **Social plan**: the formation of some social partnership networks wherethrough the common sense of the social and public well to be created, discussed and assimilated.

## **What leads to inclusion:**

- The acknowledgement of the value ....
- The qualities and aptitudes development ....
- The implication and booking ....
- The neighbourhood ....
- The material welfare ....

The education access, as an essential right and as a warning of the social exclusion, reduces the risks and assures the re-entrance in the civil society and on the labour market.

The formal education is admitted not to happen in a certain moment of somebody's life ,but it has to be considered through the respect of the continuous education that includes, all the non-formal modalities and informal of education.

This should start once with the childhood (the education in family), along the elementary education for the high-school education, the civic preparation, going on the adult life.

All these dimensions are important, still the success accomplishment of the base education is essential for the assurance of an exit way of those in a bad environment, in this way breaking the heredity of the social exclusion.

### **Target groups:**

To discuss about the relation between education and social matter supposes an ample approach.

One of the previously distinctions, the one between the excluded and the agents of the exclusion, enlarge the analysis to the whole society's level: the education would take into consideration both the preparation of those excluded for inclusion, and the preparation of the rest of society to obtain an adequate climate.

However, a series of target groups can be delimited; each one can be associated to a vision more or less different from the general one.

Thereby, drawing the line with the persons that are more exposed to exclusion risk, we obtain the next target groups that can benefit from the improvement of the conditions through education:

- Young people (in general)
- People with disabilities or affected by serious illnesses
- Elderly people (physics, emotional and social isolation)
- People on a low income/benefits and

unemployed

- Prisoners and former offenders
- People living in rural areas
- People who do not have access to knowledge
- Minorities i.e. ethnic minority groups, religious minority groups
- Women (the traditional model –persistent patriarchal)

Additionally, consequent to the anterior observations regarding the partly inclusion and the more and more raised exclusion in the conditions of rapid change of economic and socio-professional environment, we will emphasize the necessity of sustaining the „continuous education” at the whole population level.

## **S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS**

### **STRENGTHS**

- The liberty of decision, financial and executive autonomy
  - Education network well developed and diversified, with a rich offer at all the levels
  - Free access to the majority of the profiles
  - The professional preparation standards and the curriculum focused on competitions
  - The school of arts and professions with arborescent and modular structure
  - CDS – the curriculum at the school decision
  - The market studies in adaptation view of the educative system at the social-economic demands.
  - The new legislative system

- The social scholarship program
- The information and counselling program of career (at school units with 700 hundred students)
- PHARE programs for professional and technical education
- BIRD programs of professional formation and the school infrastructure rehabilitation.
- Implication in the European Union's programs - Socrates, Leonardo etc.
- Educational fairs
- The reduced school desertion
- Reserved places for gypsies

## **WEAKNESSES**

- The inadequacy types of superior private and public education , both between them and with demands from the labour market
- The leaving of the educational system; high educational price.
- The lack of workshops and labs endowed according to normative; the workshops are not protected for students with special needs, the increased number of students/schooling class in labs and workshops; the reduced funds given to the maintenance, exploitation and endowment with didactic material.
- The superficial treatment of the form mastering hours, the educational insufficiency in the artistic, sanitarian, civic, physical education domains.
- The teacher's problem in the rural areas.
- The absence of SPP specification list for the newly introduced qualifications:
  - SPP don't include modalities of capacities' certification

- The weak implication of the patronage in the process of professional formation
  - A private education isn't organised (the computerised assignment centred on the school performances, without relation to the students aptitudes)
    - The local partnership relations are in the red
    - The education emphasis on information, not formation, the human resources formation for theoretical and practical preparation is on the red; the theoretical preparation doesn't limit at the essential elements strictly necessary to the occupation
      - The tendency of relating the educational success according to performance limit.
      - The weak implication of schools in the professional formation of adults

## **THREATS**

- The depopulation of school units from marginal quarters
  - The school desertion
  - The decrease of interest for the educational act
  - The decrease of the teacher's credibility
  - The limitation of the studies' s access because of the need of financial maintenance

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- The development of some partnerships between the school unities and the local business medium
  - The diversity of qualifications in all educational levels.
  - The improvement of school's internal organization



- The development of informational technology and information's use in the educational process;
- The organisation of some school competitions –on school disciplines, at international and national level

### **“Rural population endangered by social exclusion”**

**Target groups:** poor people, unemployed people, young people, women and old people from the countryside in the SWR

**Pivot audience:** the University of Craiova staff and students; the SAPARD Regional Branch; City Halls from the villages in Oltenia and the Prefecture of Dolj; mass media and churches representatives.

**Objectives:** to raise awareness on the particular needs that rural population has, as well as the threats that make it vulnerable to social exclusion; to assess the level of training and employment in the rural areas in Oltenia and to make prognosis; to create incentives for including the rural sector in an integrated society.

## **7. Rural population endangered by social exclusion**



### **Rural population in danger of social exclusion**

General view and active support measures

#### ***1. ACTUAL DESCRIPTION***

The poverty and the social exclusion in Romania are not a marginal product of a functional system which worked presumably efficiently but the product of the system failure: first the deep crisis of the socialist project and the strategic errors of the transition era, responsible for the disastrous

economic fall and for the deficit in social compensation policy.

A industry developed in a megalomaniac an irrationally way subject to a restructuring and privatization process witch failed to produce take-off but succeeded to speed-up the desegregation; and contains large areas entered in a long agony, with small chances of reconstructive privatization.

An agriculture which reinstates public property, but in small lots, with a high degree of fragmentation, with lack of technology and undercapitalized, demoralized and inhibit by the numerous trials of establishing collective farms. A village with economic activities secures more likely the plain survival, incapable to produce efficiently and competitively.

A public utility services system which was never restructured and not technically update, and whose crisis became explosive after 12 years of transition.

A public administration, used for a long time as an instrument of propaganda of the socialist state, with a difficult time in recovery after the legacy of frustrations a destruction missions, subject to continuous attacks of various groups off interest.

A society which relieves itself of the illusions of a socialist model, but prays to another, new illusions, generated by the naive model of a society witch is unregulated market economy, poorly backed-up, is the wonder solution off all the accumulated problems. The poverty and social exclusion in Romania doesn't affect marginal groups, weak integrated in a efficient, well organized economy, but large segments of the society stroked by the collapse of the economy. The aspect is more dramatic at the level of some large groups, integrated in the modernization process of the former socialist project, stopped halfway, and pushed back in social disorganization.

Demographic reality of the villages confirms the presence of ageing, the feminization effect, and a low level of instruction in the midst of active population. Under



economic view the rural communities are dominated by the small peasant farm with 2 – 3 hectares of land shaped by a subsistence economy, and which results in an agriculture.

In the problem of rural development, local disadvantages exist concerning the infrastructure, the quality and the medium of the human housekeeping ,also concerning the quality of the medical services.

A far more complex problem is that of rural culture, mentality and education. The main cultural institutions of the rural area (the Church, school, community home) manifest different cultural and spiritual functions.

As for the Church, in the last decade, we find that a multiplication of the clerical units takes place. The rural communities, are in a true, spiritual and Christian rebirth, new materialized through the appearance of some new monastic establishments where they rediscover the place and the social-human actions.

The rural schools, with some exceptions are on the wane because of the rural school population's decrease, of the modern medium absence, much more favourable from this point of view.

The community homes had a more accentuated decline, than that of the rural schools, which in many communities lost their destination.

### ***1.1 Key features of regional economy***

Located in the South-West part of Romania at the boundary with Serbia and Bulgaria, Oltenia from a geographic point of view, is characterized by a rural population, with a number of 2.400.000 inhabitants , which represent 10,7% from the total population of Romania, with a density of 80 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> (31.7.2001).

Oltenia confronts with specific problems of infrastructure and medium and with a number of structural difficulties to manage the transit economy.

On the one hand, between 1995-2000 a massive agricultural returning has taken place, when more than half of available workers from industry and mining returned to agriculture.

On the other hand the high persistent level of the economy's dependence on the mono-industrial cities which suffered severe industrial crises, completed by the low capacity of attraction of the foreign investments and by a late development of the SME sectors and services, contributed to the discrepancies' recession between Oltenia and the regions most developed in Romania: in many sectors, Oltenia, next to Moldavia represents the regions with the powerless indicators of the socio-economic performances.

Between 1995-2000 (year for which the last statistical dates are available), regional GDP per inhabitant decreased from 95% the national average, to 83,7%. The GDP structure demonstrates an unbalanced economic

structure in which the agriculture still registers 15% from GDP, the industrial sector over 36%, the services 31%, the transportation and the buildings over 12%, the rest of 11% derive from the public sector. The low level of the sector's services development, particularly the financial services (where Oltenia occupies the last position in Romania) indicates the existence of some uncharted potential.

In fact, the socio-economic analysis emphasizes the opportunities that, efficiently exploited could invert the negative regional economic tendencies formerly mentioned, like:

- The new possibilities created by the economic integration of the region;

- The development of the raw material's transportation on the Danube;

- The exploitation of the rural and agricultural potential, through the output with high added value, the improvement of the processing systems in the rural;

- The fructification of the export capacities for the productive sectors in region;

- The high potential of the sector's services in;

- The Craiova University's role in the assistance of the enterprises' development like the development of the SME's in sectors with high added value;

- The high potential of the tourism as a possible "sector" market ,through the development of the "mountain adventure" types adventures (alpinism, speology), rural tourism , inclusive in the protected regions.

## **1.2 Agriculture and Rural Economy**

The agriculture of Oltenia is characterized by a low productivity and a low capacity of export , as an effect of the agricultural products' preponderance with low added value.

The low productivity in agriculture is a national phenomenon, which, partly is explained by the crumbling of the fields in very small lots. The national average area of the individual lots in agriculture was of 2,2 ha in 2000, that determined the low mechanization of the agricultural activities..

Secondly, the rural population's poverty represents a real impediment for investments.

The analysis on the Oltenia's house holding shows the relevance on the input for own resources: while an employee registers cash costs in proportion of 83% out of total, from which 17% for the own input , the costs' profile of the Oltenia's farmers contains only 33,8% cash costs and 66,2% as an input equivalent .

All the mentioned factories seriously affect the regional economy in general, and first of all the rural medium, concerning the relevance of this sector for region ,where the rural population represented ,in 2001, over 55% from the total population (comparative with the EU region of 17,5% and the average in Romania of 44%), the agricultural sector hiring over 50% from the active population , but hardly having a contribution of 15% at the formation of the regional GDP.

The migration from the urban regions to the rural ones is a recent phenomenon: since 1992, the population hired in agriculture grow up to over 8%, a far more high procent than that on national level.

A great discrepancy between the rural and urban zones is found in education.

The urban-rural discrepancy is also marked out in other sectors: transport, medium infrastructure, health and other social services are weakly represented by the rural communities.

An interesting aspect is the decrease of the cultivation balance (2001) substituted by an increase of the animal farms importance. This shows the possible tendency towards the substitution of the traditional output with an higher added value.

It's also a tendency backing the protection of the medium, knowing that the mono-cereals' persistence in time determines the poverty and erosion of the soil. Specific infrastructure, that might contribute to the increase of the economics' performance in the agricultural sector in Oltenia, is identified :

- Infrastructure for the storage/distribution of the fresh products (the agro alimentary market en gross);
- Forged facilities for the commercial transport (like cereal containers transported on the Danube);
- New/modern facilities and equipments for the alimentary processing.

### **1.3 Enterprises and Business Infrastructure**

In Oltenia the enterprises' distribution according the magnitude is the following: 90% in the class 0-9 employers, 8% in the class 10-49, 2% in the class 50-249, under 1% in the class over 250 employers. In any case, in the terms of contribution at the creation of new places of work, micro, small and medium enterprises sum only 45% of all, meanwhile the enterprises that hires 55% of all.

Enterprises area continues to be characterized by a strong presence of big enterprises having slower economical results. These are concentrated in processing and mining areas. The employment in the big enterprises represents over 35% of all, that consists a meaningful risk for regional economy.



In 2001, the number of active enterprises has declined with 7% regarding 1999.

This decline confirms the negative tendency, since the total number of enterprises has declined between 1997 and 2001 with 10%. In 2000, Oltenia has registered the lowest SME number in Romania: 8,4% of all SMEs. Since 1997 the number of 1000 inhabitants enterprises has continuously decreased, there were 20,19 in 1997 and 18,14 in 2001-the national average being 21,73.

#### **1.4 The Poverty and Social Exclusion**

Poverty is widespread in Oltenia: it is estimated that 32,4% inhabitants live under poverty rate. Meanwhile in six Romanian regions poverty rate has registered a decrease in 2001 comparatively with 2000, in Oltenia and Moldavia (North-East) this indicator has grown in same year with 8,9% respectively 2,7%. Social services expenses in Romania, although have grown progressively, cover 18,2% of GDP, comparatively with 27,6% of GDP registered in European Union's countries(1999). Social assistance regards only a minor part of poor persons. These register a small rate of participation in educational system and, especially in rural regions, they remain isolated and excluded.

The poverty and social exclusion are interrelated and there is a risk for certain groups of population, especially the old ones with low income, those with special needs, abandoned children and single mothers.

Gipsies (rromi) represent an ethnic minority and they are a vulnerable group. In Oltenia the census has identified over 60,000 persons of Rrom ethnic totalising a 2,5% of the population, still it is estimated that this minority is much larger with over 5% of all. There is no available data that would indicate a discrimination of Rrom ethnic on labour market.

## Social Services

Although it was considered that before 1989 the social services organisation was satisfactory in Romania (unreasonable fact), the economical decline of the last ten years has produced a double effect: on one hand the growth of social needs and on the other hand the poverty of public budgets designed for satisfying such needs in a proper way. During last years, among the Romanian regions, Oltenia has registered last but one lowest contribution to regional GDP of social and healthy assistance.

Oltenia is placed in the top of the list regarding average media of maternal mortality indicators, heart diseases (first place), number of cases of tuberculosis infections and parasitical diseases. Infantile mortality is above national average in Mehedinti and Dolj counties. These can be regarded as indirect factors which belong to an infrastructure of social services that are not rising on modern standards-with all factors indicated previously higher in rural regions than in urban ones, helping social services are improperly covered.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 Education system rehabilitation in rural regions

- Buildings rehabilitation
- Modernization of learning processes
- Qualified and motivated teachers
- Transport providing for children who live far away of school

**2.2 Social cohesion:** a much larger social, in which socially excluded groups suffering a lot of multiple lacks, to be minimized:

- the elimination of social exclusion resources, discrimination, promotion of some powerful mechanisms of social inclusion.
- minimum decent live level and the access to fundamental social services
- a society without economical and social polarities, in which the differences are fairly and stimulative , and not generating social conflicts.

**2.3 Opportunities for everybody:** a society in which each member has real chances of actively participate in all social life domains:

- economic opportunities – active and profitable participation at the economic life;
- opportunities of social and personal development: access at the school system, medical services, culture, opportunities for professional training;
- access at fundamental goods and services: firstly a dwell, goods and services necessary to a civilized life, civilized and sure social-communitarian medium;
- opportunities of social and political participation.

## **2.4 The active disproof of the social exclusion – objectives**

*Objective 1:* The complete eradication of extreme poverty

*Objective 2:* The diminution of the regional imbalances, and the prevention of some new zone imbalance's appearance

*Objective 3:* The access assurance of all the society's members at the fundamental social services: health, education, occupancy and social assistance

*Objective 4:* Investment in the new generation: the assurance of decent life conditions for children and their access at the development opportunities

- The children's poverty eradication in a period of 15 years (2017)
- Equal access at education: for children from rural medium and from social underprivileged regions

*Objective 5:* Support for the young' s integration in the mature life: the young shouldn't be regarded as a problem, they should be regarded as a crucial resource of the social-economic development :

- The augmentation of the school and professional training participation
- The augmentation of opportunities
- Support for the procurement of a dwell
- Opportunities for the social and political participation

*Objective 6:* The substantial improvement of the access at the fundamental public social services:

- *Health:* the assurance of everybody's access at the basic health services ; the renewal of the primary medical assurance system, especially in the rural regions
- *Education:* the augmentation of the educational chances for the regions and social segments educational underprivileged – rural medium, poor, gypsies
- *National assistance:* the assurance of a substantial coverage with social national assistance in family and community

*Objective 7*: The access's increase of medical insurance for the underprivileged population: rural population, poor segment, etc.

#### OTHER OBEJECTIVES

- THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WITH LOCAL, EUROPEAN AND GOVERNAMENTAL FINANCE
- THE STATE INTERVENTION IN THE SUBSIDIZATION AND SUSTAINING OF THE AGRICULTURE
- THE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL OF THE NON AGRARIAN ACTIVITIES: SERVICIES, TURISM, AGROTURISM (IN THE REGIONS WHERE IS POSSIBLE)
- THE CONSERVATION THROUGH MODERN MEANS OF LOCAL MODERN PATRIMONIES, ECOLOGICAL MEASURES OF CONSERVATION OF THE NATURE FROM THE RURAL MEDIUM

### 3. The SWOT analysis

The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were analysed for each identified sectors by the national socio-economic priorities, by the components of the social exclusion causes as well as by the regional priorities, like:

#### 3.1 INFRASTRUCTURES

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Transportation infrastructure (roads network) well developed comparing with the national average but strengthened just in some regions	Entire regions deprived of the transportation system especially in the south
Distribution network of electric energy well developed	The low quality of roads. In the mountains region, the roads network isn't developed (difficulties in the efficient exploitation of the wood )
Located at the intersection of two from those three European passageways that cross Romania	The non-existence of a highway in the region
The province airport most accessible in country, disposing of the facilities and satisfactory technical endowment	Not even a road/railway of bonding with
	Weak developed ports
	The network of the electric energy distribution ,even though is well developed ,

	isn't of quality
	Big deficiencies in the purveyance of drinkable water and a weak developed sewerage network
	Weak developed systems of collecting and recycling of the dump goods
	Weak developed gas network (Mehedinti –the only county in Romania without a network of purveyance of the metan gas)
	The most reduced number of telephony subscriptions from Romania
	The lack of the basic infrastructure in the rural medium prevents the industrial development outskirts the big cities
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
Potential of exploiting the Danube as a low cost corridor of transport	Oltenia can be excluded from the informational society because of the low possibilities of the computers' procurement , low access to internet etc.
The building of the Calafat-Vidin bridge (access on railway and road)started in 2003	The insufficiency of the research facilities can prevent the process to industrial operations with an high added

	value
Flow of investments regarding the main transportation infrastructure already planned in the region	

### 3.2 THE RURAL MEDIUM

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Region with an suggestive agricultural potential	Agriculture's unprofitableness because of the crumbling of the fields ,the small productive units, the reduced mechanization ,the old labour force ,the weak development of the infrastructure
Important reserves of wood (wide areas covered with forests)	Vegetable monoculture ( a high concentration on the cereals' cultivation – the low diversification of the agricultural production )
A proper relief to the tourism's practice Different sorts especially agroturism (mountains, hills ,Danube, natural parks and protected zones with unique flora and fauna)	The poverty -is an obstacle in the investment route For the variety of the rural economy
The existence of a big number of research centres specialised in the agricultural domanins (wine, apples, potatoes)	The insufficient development of the basic units and of the public services (education , health) in the rural regions



Low costs for the agricultural fields	The insufficient promotion of the traditional alimentary and non-alimentary products from the rural regions (inclusive the handicraft products manually made up)
The existence of the development plans in the rural medium for the creation of some polarisation centres with urban function	The lack of the collecting products
	The non-existence of an agro-alimentary merchandise that can lead to the existence of a free market in the domain
	Uncertified agricultural products
	Low opportunities of hiring in other sectors than agriculture
Opportunities	Threats
Finance opportunities for the improvement of the basic infrastructure and the agricultural mechanization (Romania will be the most important beneficiary of the structural funds for the agriculture in 2007)	The migration of young population towards the urban regions
The association between farmers for sharing the costs of the production and for increasing the profit in	The EU' s widening will lead to the competition augmentation for the agricultural products

agriculture	
The possibility of realizing ecological products	The globalisation phenomenon

### 3.3 SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE RURAL MEDIUM

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
The increase of the life's hope (comparative with the national level)	The insufficient education infrastructure and maladjusted to the modern standards in matter in rural medium
The existence of a special human potential	The insufficiency of the transportation utilities is yet an serious obstacle for many children that go to school
The non-existence of the sex disparities regarding the education	Participation difficulties at secondary education forms for students for the rural medium.
The tradition for the professional education	Postponement between the training offered by school and the demands of the labour market
The generalization of the education opened and at the distance purpose	Low population access at the higher education (index 0,007 comparative with 0,12 For Romanians ethnics )
The existence of at least one higher education institution in every county	The insufficiency of the medicaments and of the medical gear - acute problem in the rural medium. The insufficient medical

	personal in the rural medium.
	Emergency aid services
	The maternal mortality is the highest in Romania
	Low degree of integration in the society for the persons with handicap.
	The augmentation of the derelict
	The poverty has effects on the access possibilities to education and health conditions

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
The growing interest for the University's education	The augmentation postponement between the rural and urban medium
The existence of structural funds for social services	The emphasis of the educational polarization (the augmentation of the participation in the higher education in parallel with the school desertion )
	Small wedges in education and health, having like effect the crises of the training in education, respectively the insufficiency of the educational and medical personal in the villages.