

**DANUBIUS UNIVERSITY OF GALATI, ROMANIA
THE ROMANIAN REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION**

P R O G R A M M E

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BETWEEN RECENT EXPERIENCES
AND FUTURE CHALLENGES**

9th Edition

April 26-27, 2013

The 9th International Conference
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN RECENT
EXPERIENCES AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

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Romanian Regional Science Association

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Cristian Baci, Danubius University, Romania

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Friday, 26.04.2013

8³⁰ – 09⁰⁰ **Welcoming and registration of participants at
“Danubius” University of Galati**

Venue: Danubius University Hall, B building, 2nd floor

9⁰⁰ – 10³⁰ **Opening Ceremony**

Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor

Speakers:

Victor Romeo Ionescu, Vice-Rector of Danubius University of Galati, Prime-Vice President of the Romanian RSA

Andy Pusca, Rector, Danubius University of Galati

Daniela-Luminița Constantin, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, President of the Romanian Regional Science Association

Sevil Shhaideh, Secretary of State, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration

Constantin Mitrut, Vice-Rector of Bucharest University of Economic Studies and President of the Romanian Society of Statistics

Peter Nijkamp, Free University of Amsterdam, Past President of the Regional Science Association International and Past President of the European Regional Science Association

Maciej Turala, University of Lodz, Secretary of the European Regional Science Association

10³⁰ – 11⁰⁰ **Coffee break**

Venue: Danubius University Hall, B building, 2nd floor

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- Book Stall (Danubius University Press)

Venue: Danubius University Hall, B building, 2nd floor

11⁰⁰ – 12³⁰

Plenary Session

Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor.

Chairs: Daniela-Luminita Constantin and Victor Romeo Ionescu

Keynote Speakers:

Peter Nijkamp, *The Death of Distance Revisited*

Karima Kourtit, *Socio-Economic Diversity and Urban Buzz*

Anca Ginavar, *The Preparation of the Territorial Strategic Planning for 2014-2020: Applying the Policentricity and Territorial Cohesion Principles in Regional Development*

Maciej Turala, Justyna Danielewicz, *Political Fragmentation and External Sources of Funding in Local Governments: Do Power Struggles Matter?*

12³⁰ – 13³⁰

Lunch

Venue: Seniors Club, B building

13³⁰ – 15⁰⁰

Plenary Special Session

Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor.

The New Urban World: Life and Death and Life of Central and East European Cities

Convenors: Peter Nijkamp and Karima Kourtit

Speakers:

Peter Nijkamp, *The Urban Universe: The Sky is the Limit*

Karima Kourtit, *A Facebook for City Novastars*

Daniela-Luminita Constantin, *City Stars in Regional Systems: Bucharest-Ilfov Region as a Rising Star in the Regional Competition and World Globalization*

Maciej Turala, *Lodz: Looking into the Future – Stuck in the Past*

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Stela Raleva, *Place of Sofia in South and East Europe*

15⁰⁰ – 16³⁰ **Parallel Sessions**

• Territorial Governance, Institutions and Regional Policy

Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor

Chairs: Dorel Ailenei and Gabriel Pascariu

Ioan Ianos, University of Bucharest – Interdisciplinary Center for Advanced Researchers on Territorial Dynamics (CICADIT)

Irina Saghin, University of Bucharest – Interdisciplinary Center for Advanced Researchers on Territorial Dynamics (CICADIT), Romania

Gabriel Pascariu, University of Architecture and Planning “Ion Mincu” from Bucharest, Romania

Regions and the Territorial Cohesion

Dorel Ailenei, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Alina Magdalena Manole, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Amalia Florina Cristescu, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania
Economic and Social Cohesion in the South-East of Romania

Daniela Antonescu, Institute of National Economy – Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania

Evaluating Methodology of Community Regional Funds

Daniela Antonescu, Institute of National Economy –Romanian Academy, Romania

Estimated Impact of the Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013 in Romania

Gabriela Marchis, Danubius University of Galati, Romania

Is There an Amazing Way to Deal With the Crisis of EU Integration?

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• **Clusters and Regional Competitiveness**

Venue: B16, B Building, 1st floor.

Chairs: Fabio Musso and Carmen Beatrice Pauna

Luiza Nicoleta Radu, Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, Romania

Clusters - Territorial Networks. Where to?

Carmen Beatrice Păuna, Institute for Economic Forecasting – Romanian Academy, Romania

Clusters in Times of Economic Crisis; Case Study Romania

Mădălina-Ștefania Dîrzu, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Centre for European Studies, Romania

Gabriela Carmen Pascariu, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Centre for European Studies, Romania

A Comparative Study on Changes in the Spatial Industry Agglomeration in Eastern EU Developing Countries: Romania vs. Bulgaria

Ana Cristina Adumitroaei, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Claudia Ionescu, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Simona Curpan, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Innovation Cluster and Economic Development in Bucharest Ilfov Region

Fabio Musso, University of Urbino “Carlo Bo”, Italy

Is Industrial Districts Logistics Suitable for Industrial Parks?

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• **Territorial Governance, Institutions and Regional Policy**

Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor

Chairs: Constantin Mitrut and Romeo Ionescu

Constantin Mitruț, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania
Mihaela Bratu (Simionescu), Academy of Economic Studies,
Romania

The Indicators' Inadequacy and the Predictions' Accuracy

Pontus Tallberg, Coordinator Trend Analysis at Region Skåne,
Sweden

Fredrik Rakar, Deputy Director, Malmo, Sweden

The Logic of Regional Development

Victor Romeo Ionescu, Danubius University of Galati, Romania

EU'S Enlargement vs Global Crisis

Daniela-Luminita Constantin, Bucharest Academy of Economic
Studies, Romania

*Romania's Regional Policy between the Current Realities and the
Challenges of the 2014-2020 Programme Period*

Andrei Hrebenciuc, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Economic Structure Convergence in the European Union

• **Entrepreneurship and Regional Networks**

Venue: B16, B Building, 1st floor.

Chairs: Anca Dachin and Claudia Ionescu

Anca Dachin, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania
Alexandru Rusei, Bucharest University of Economic Studies,
Romania

*Regional Determinants of Small Business Survival during the Crisis
in Romania*

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Claudia Ionescu, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania
Universities, Entrepreneurship and Regional Networks Chances for a Welfare

Bogdan-Vasile Ileanu, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania
SME's Priorities, IC Development and Management Authorities Directions. A Regional Approach in Romania

• **Territorial Governance, Institutions and Regional Policy**

Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor

Chairs: Dorin Jula and Liliana Mihaela Moga

Marius-Nicolae Jula, Nicolae Titulescu University of Bucharest, Romania

Dorin Jula, Ecological University of Bucharest, Institute for Economic Forecasting – Romanian Academy, Romania
Forecasting the Presidential Election with Regional Level Economic and Political Variables

Mihaela Neculita, Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Romania

Liliana Mihaela Moga, Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Romania

Valentin Neculita, Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Romania
Economic Growth and European Funds Absorption in Central and Eastern European Countries

Erika Marin, Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest
Opportunities, Challenges and Results of the Regionalization Process in the Romanian Water Sector

Claudia Elena Paicu, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Diana Andreia Hristache, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Nilgün Ismail, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania
The Management of Environmental Resources and its Regional Implications

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Laura Elly Naghi, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania
The Impact of Uniform Prudential Regulations Implemented at the Level of European Insurance Industry

Marcela Slusarciuc, University “Stefan cel Mare”, Romania
Partnership and Cooperation Models in Cross-Border Areas

• **Tourism, Cultural Heritage and Regional Development**

Venue: B12, B Building, 1st floor

Chairs: Gabriela Carmen Pascariu, Claudia Ionescu

Claudia Ionescu, Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Simona Curpan, Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Ana Cristina Adumitroaei, Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Tourism and Cultural Heritage: Sector Priorities of Regional Development Policy within Bucharest-Ilfov Region

Adina Berbeniciuc-Mititiuc, “Al. I. Cuza” University of Iasi, Romania

Comparative Study on the Competitiveness of Romanian and Bulgarian Tourism Industry

Cipriana Sava, Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Romania
Sustainable Development of Spa Tourism in the Romanian West Development Region

Gabriela Nicoleta Diaconescu, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Initiative and Innovation in Tourism, Discussion on their Applicability in the Context of Sustainable Tourism in Delta Destinations

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• **Territorial Governance, Institutions and Regional Policy**

Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor

Chairs: Pierre Chabal and Daniela Antonescu

Pierre Chabal, Le Havre University, France

Pan-Kazakh Centrism and the Construction of a Regional Axis in the 'Innovated' Asia

Cristina (Covaci) Voicu, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

The Regional Dimension of the Underground Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development

Silvia Cristea, Academy of Economic Sciences, Romania

Comparison between the Juridical Regime of the Debt Instruments: Bill of Exchange, Promissory Note and Cheque

Fioralba Vela, University of Vlora, Albania

Luciana Koprencka, University of Vlora, Albania

Migena Petanaj, University of Vlora, Albania

Lorena Cakeri, University of Vlora, Albania

Analyzing E-Government Development in Albania. Problems and Conditions

• **Infrastructure Investments, Transport and Territorial Cohesion**

Venue: B12, B Building, 1st floor.

Chairs: Izabella Gilda Grama and Andrei Teofil Postolachi

Grama Izabella Gilda, Spiru Haret University, Romania

Changes in Global Economy Influencing the Maritime Industry

Claudia Ionescu, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Simona Curpan, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Infrastructure Investments: Need for a Higher Territorial Cohesion in Bucharest-Ilfov Region

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Andrei Teofil Postolachi, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi,
Doctoral School of Economics, Romania
*Ensuring Security of Supply of Natural Gas in the European Union`s
Common Energy Policy*

Patricia-Sabina Macelaru, Academy of Economic Studies,
Romania
Transfer Pricing and FDI

• **Demographic Changes, Labour Markets and Migration**

Venue: B13, B Building, 1st floor

Chairs: Laura Patache, Simona Curpan

Laura Patache, Spiru Haret University, Romania
Employment and Regional Inequality in Romania

Raluca Mariana Grosu, Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies,
Romania

Daniela Luminița Constantin, Bucharest Academy of Economic
Studies, Romania
*The International Migration in the EU. A Descriptive Analysis
Focused on Romania*

Raluca-Mirela Antonescu, University of Bucharest, Romania
*Analysis of Regional Disparities in the Development of Human
Settlements in Valcea County*

Ana Cristina Adumitroaei, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development
Agency, Romania

Claudia Ionescu, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency,
Romania

Simona Curpan, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency,
Romania
Creative Industry a Pattern for Growth in Bucharest Ilfov Region

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Romana Emilia Cramarenco, Babes Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
The Out-migration of the Romanian - A Matter of Concern?

• **Central and East European Regional Issues**

Venue: B13, B Building, 1st floor

Chairs: Liliana Craciun, Bogdan-Vasile Ileanu

Mara Ursache, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, University, Center of European Studies, Romania
Comparative Study of Sustainable Development Indicators in CEE Countries (2000 – 2010)

Claudia Ionescu, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Wiolleta Wereda, University of Podlasie, Poland

What are the Investments Opportunities in the European Capital Regions?

Craciun Liliana, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Regional Development Disparities in Europe

Alina-Mirela Marcu, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania

The Situation of Investment Projects for Modernization of Agricultural Holdings in Moldova Before and After Romania's Accession to the European Union

Tudorel Andrei, Bucharest University of Economics, Romania

Bogdan-Vasile Ileanu, Bucharest University of Economics, Romania

Claudiu Herteliu, Bucharest University of Economics, Romania
Discrepancies in Health System. A Quantitative Analysis in Romanian-Bulgarian Cross Border Region

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• **Municipal Property Management in Bulgaria and Romania**

Venue: B12, B Building, 1st floor

Chairs: Stela Raleva and Daniela Feschiyan

Statty Stattev, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Stela Raleva, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Tatyana Daskalova, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Effectiveness of Usage and Management of Municipal Real Property in Bulgaria

Daniela Feschiyan, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Stela Raleva, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Valuation Bases and Accounting System Entries in Financial Analysis of the Municipal Real Property

Daniela Feschiyan, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

A System of Indicators for Financial Analysis of the Municipal Real Property

Daniela-Luminita Constantin, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania

Constantin Mitruț, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania

Zizi Goschin, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania

Raluca-Mariana Grosu, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania

Alina Elena Iosif, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania

The Employment of Multi-Criteria Analysis for Municipal Property Management: Some Theoretical Considerations

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• **Territorial Governance, Institutions and Regional Policy**

Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor

Chairs: Marioara Iordan and Laura Cismaș

Marioara Iordan, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Romania

Ion Ghizdeanu, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Romania

Mihaela -Nona Chilian, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Romania

Evolution of Romanian Households' Consumption Behavior after the EU Accession – Some Regional Insights

Cismaș Laura, West University of Timisoara, Romania

Oșil Maria, West University of Timisoara, Romania

Miculescu Andra, West University of Timisoara, Romania

Possibilities for Assessing the Romanian Regions' Level of Development

Ioana Teodora Dinu, National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania

Catalin Daniel Dumitrica, National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania

Checkmate: The Metropolitan Area Left with no Legal Moves when Facing the Cost Coverage Pertaining to the Negative Externalities

Sotiris Karkalakos, University of Piraeus, Greece

Schooling, Production Structure And Growth: An Empirical Analysis On European Regions

• **Entrepreneurship and Regional Networks**

Venue: B16, B Building, 1st floor

Chairs: Ioan Ianoș and Christina Suciș

Ioan Ianoș, University of Bucharest – Interdisciplinary Center for Advanced Researches on Territorial Dynamics (CICADIT), Romania

Igor Sîrodoev, University of Bucharest – Interdisciplinary Center for Advanced Researches on Territorial Dynamics (CICADIT),

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Romania

Daniel Vârdol, National Institute for Statistics (Bucharest), Romania
Foreign Direct Investment as a Factor of Diminishing or Increasing Regional Inequalities?

Christina Suci, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Corina Grigore, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania
Innovation Effect on Employment

Marioara Iordan, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Bucharest, Romania

Adriana Grigorescu, National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania

Chilian Mihaela-Nona, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Bucharest, Romania
Entrepreneurial Developments and Challenges in the South-East Region of Romania

Laura Mina, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Do Public-Private Partnerships Enhance Local Economic Development? Evidence from Romanian County Councils

16³⁰ – 17⁰⁰

Break

Venue: B16, B12 and B13, B Building, 1st floor and Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor.

17⁰⁰ – 18³⁰

RRSA General Assembly

Venue: Senate Room, C building, 2nd floor.

20⁰⁰

Gala Dinner

Venue: Blue Acqua (Pescarul) Restaurant

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Saturday 27.04.2013

- 10⁰⁰ – 12⁰⁰ **Round Table: Challenges to Romania's Regionalization**
Chair: Daniela-Luminita Constantin
Key speakers: Anca Ginavar, Gabriel Pascariu
Panelists: Dorel Ailenei, Daniela Antonescu, Claudia Ionescu, Romeo Ionescu, Dorin Jula, Constantin Mitrut, Carmen Beatrice Pauna, Luminita Mihailov
Venue: Senate Room, C building, 2nd floor.
- 12⁰⁰ – 12³⁰ **Closing Session and Conclusions**
Venue: Aula Magna, B building, 2nd floor.
- 13⁰⁰ - 15⁰⁰ **Boat Cruise on the Danube (The Vega Ship)**
(Departure from Vega Hotel)

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ABSTRACTS

TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONAL POLICY

Regions and the Territorial Cohesion

Ioan Ianos, University of Bucharest – Interdisciplinary Center for Advanced Researchers on Territorial Dynamics (CICADIT)

Irina Saghin, University of Bucharest – Interdisciplinary Center for Advanced Researchers on Territorial Dynamics (CICADIT), Romania

Gabriel Pascariu, University of Architecture and Planning “Ion Mincu” from Bucharest, Romania

Abstract: Territorial cohesion is an important target of European Union, constantly promoted by its institutions and their representatives. In the context of the Europe 2020 strategy, one of the most important support documents, the region represents a very important issue, being considered to be the key to its successfulness. The region is seen as a support for the smart growth and all the operational policy concepts try to make use of the spatial potential, by taking better account of the territorial specificities. Two main questions play attention: the need to transform the present-day developmental regions into administrative ones is a priority? What kind of regionalization it must to be promoted? Correlating these issues with already defined territorial cohesion, the administrative region is a real tool for the future territorial development. The experience of the last 14 years asks urgently the building of a new territorial administrative reform, giving competences to regions. For instant, each development region is a construction resulted from a free association of the counties. Their role in the regional development is much reduced one, because their regional councils are not elected; decisions taken at this level are consultative for the social, economical, cultural or political actors. So, need to have a real power is essential for building the premises,

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touching the next regional cohesion. The second discussion is on what kind of region is more compatible with the territorial cohesion? There is a trend to change the present-day regional structure and to use other principles, and especially historical one. The authors will demonstrate that this principle, now, could constitute a break for the future development, and totally ineffective for the territorial cohesion process. Among different argues the huge discrepancy between historical regions (Bukovina versus Transylvania; Muntenia versus Dobrogea) is one of the most important. Looking to the future the next regions it must to have a critical mass of population and a functional settlement system. This last issue means to have in the top of hierarchy one of the urban centers situated on the first level under the Capital. Such kind of regions could constitute the best framework not only to achieve the territorial cohesion at the national level, but at the bottom levels, too.

Economic and Social Cohesion in the South-East of Romania

Dorel Ailenei, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Alina Magdalena Manole, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Amalia Florina Cristescu, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: In the midst of struggling with the global economic crisis the European Union is working to maintain its integrity while applying the motto “United in diversity”. Even while turning a deaf ear to the euro-enthusiasts and the euro-skeptics one wanders just how cohesive this diverse unity is. To analyze this is to dwell into the cohesion principle that underpins the whole European construct, going beyond the models presented by politicians – a Europe of the Regions or The United States of Europe. Our aim is to identify the disparities that might exist so far as economic and social cohesion in Romania goes. Thus, continuing a previous study concerning economic and social cohesion in Romania in the year 2010, based on a methodology developed by professor Shalom H. Schwartz from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, we set out to research the cohesion elements in the Southern and Eastern regions in our country and compare the findings of the two scientific inquiries. The existence of significant disparities among the South-Eastern part of Romania and the whole country would add to the concerns

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expressed by the authors of the previous study regarding the low level of economic and social cohesion in our country.

Evaluating Methodology of Community Regional Funds

Daniela Antonescu, Institute of National Economy – Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania

Abstract: The evaluation process is a basic element of modern public sector management practice. If this process is well conducted, it can contribute to improved public interventions, increased transparency, accountability and cost-effectiveness. In the European Union, old Member States have a relatively long record of conducting evaluations and acting on their results, especially regarding Structural Funds. For Romania and other new Member States, this process is being introduced increasingly, in particular, after integration. The study has a major key-objective: to present the main categories of evaluation used for assessing the Structural Fund expenditure and the logical framework process and to examine how the evaluation co-financed public programmes is organized and conducted in the EU.

Estimated Impact of the Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013 in Romania

Daniela Antonescu, Institute of National Economy –Romanian Academy, Romania

Abstract: The evaluation process is a basic element of modern public sector management practice. If this process is well conducted, it can contribute to improved public interventions, increased transparency, accountability and cost-effectiveness. In the European Union, old Member States have a relatively long record of conducting evaluations and acting on their results, especially regarding Structural Funds. For Romania and other new Member States, this process is being introduced increasingly, in particular, after integration. The study analyses the estimated impact of Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013 in Romania.

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Is There an Amazing Way to Deal With the Crisis of EU Integration?

Gabriela Marchis, Danubius University of Galati, Romania

Abstract: Nowadays, we talk about economic crisis, financial crisis, political crisis, Eurozone' crisis and the criticisms on 2007-2013 EU cohesion policy is facing makes me wonder if it isn't about a crisis of European integration? The economic booms of 1993-2007 as well as the recession started by the end of 2008 have fallen unequally across EU population, regions and cities, increasing spatial economic inequality. This is because regions differ with respect to their local economic activity, employment opportunities, social and cultural infrastructure, public services, governance structure, environmental quality and so on. Therefore, EU cohesion policy must not be concerned only with reduction of regional inequalities of prosperity across Europe, but also with the construction of an European regional identity, with the aim to promote regional development in a globalized world. Through this paper I want to explore the question of whether there is a path not to lose our European sense in these tormentors' times. This is because the EU anti-crisis marathon started and there are already many debates regarding the Multiannual Financial Framework for the EU Budget 2014-2020 and which instruments must be developed in order to maintain the accent of cohesion policy over the delivery of the Europe 2020 objectives.

The Indicators' Inadequacy and the Predictions' Accuracy

Constantin Mitruț, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Mihaela Bratu (Simionescu), Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: In this article, we proposed the introduction in literature of a new source of uncertainty in modeling and forecasting: the indicators' inadequacy. Even if it was observed, a specific nominalization in the context of forecasting procedure has not been done yet. The inadequacy of indicators as a supplementary source of uncertainty generates a lower degree of accuracy in forecasting. This assumption was proved using empirical data related to the prediction of unemployment rate in Romania on the horizon 2011-2013. Four strategies of modeling and predicting the unemployment rate were proposed, observing two types of indicators' inadequacy:

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the use of transformed variables in order to get stationary data set (the difference between the unemployment rates registered in two successive periods was used instead of the unemployment rate) and the utilization of macro-regional unemployment rates whose predictions are aggregated in order to forecast the overall unemployment rate in Romania. The results put in evidence that the predictions of the total unemployment rate using moving average models of order 2 are the most accurate, being followed by the forecasts based on the predictions of active civil population and number of unemployed people. The strategies based on the aggregation of the predictions for the four macro-regional unemployment rates imply a higher inadequacy and consequently a lower degree of forecasts' accuracy.

The Logic of Regional Development

Pontus Tallberg, Coordinator Trend Analysis at Region Skåne, Sweden
Fredrik Rakar, Deputy Director, Malmo, Sweden

Abstract: In this time of political and economic crises, the term growth has become central to the EU and its member states. Growth should be smart – socially, economically and environmentally sustainable, and will determine Europe's future competitiveness in a globalized world. All current and prospective member states are expected to work towards smart growth through further specialization, as it is defined and outlined in the EU 2020 strategy. But how should this smart growth and specialization be implemented and at which level of government can these strategies have the greatest impact? In this paper we will try to widen the term growth to encompass development, and show its' impact on the local and regional level, as we argue that it is precisely at these levels the EU strategies sooner or later have to be implemented, in order to have any impact. The paper is short version of our recently published anthology called *Why Regions?* ("Behövs regioner?" REGLAB, 2013) which covers various aspects of regional development and why there is a need of a well-equipped and institutionally strong coordinating level connecting the local with the national (and global). The book is based on several cases from all corners of Sweden, demonstrating the need of an intermediate institutional framework to connect, coordinate, and sometimes drive, local and regional actors throughout the implementation process in order to succeed in achieving the goals of the EU 2020 strategy.

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EU'S Enlargement vs Global Crisis

Victor Romeo Ionescu, Danubius University of Galati, Romania

Abstract: The paper deals with the idea that the global economic crisis' challenges for the EU economy are too powerful and the enlargement process has to be very carefully managed. Even that there are five candidate countries and an acceding country, the socio-economic situation across the EU27 and, especially, across the Euro area are not able to support new entrances as Member States. The analysis in the paper is based on the latest official data and is supported by pertinent statistical tables and diagrams. The main conclusion of this analysis is a pessimistic one. We consider that the main objective of the EU27 is to survive and to support a real economic recovery, nowadays. The enlargement has to continue only after the above objectives' achievement.

Romania's Regional Policy between the Current Realities and the Challenges of the 2014-2020 Programme Period

Daniela-Luminita Constantin, Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

When it comes to its results, the 2007-2013 cohesion policy has already faced a serious criticism: the experts consider that the actual functioning of this policy takes up a lot of resources whereas a good set of other policies could produce the conditions for healthier growth. Possible improvements are discussed in relation to the increase in competitiveness, with the industrial structure, human resources, accessibility, innovation, environmental quality as the main drivers. They are expressed by the "Europe 2020" agenda, which envisages as thematic priorities the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, connected to the headline targets translated into the national ones. However, voices especially from the lagging behind countries express worries about the chances offered to these countries by the new cohesion policy architecture to support their current priorities, predicted to manifest after 2013 as well. One of the possible responses consists in the contribution of various national and sub-national economic policies to economic, social and territorial cohesion combined with the assessment of the relative

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importance of the EU cohesion policy in the design and implementation of national economic policies meant to promote cohesion (e.g. EPRC, 2010). Based on these overall considerations, this paper proposes a discussion on the challenges to the Romania's regional policy in the next programme period, aiming at revealing how the new objectives can be reached given the existing economic and institutional framework on the one hand and the drawbacks of the previous financial exercise on the other hand: in other words, it examines whether the facts of the past and present can serve as useful lessons about "do's" and "don'ts" in the 2014-2020 period.

Economic Structure Convergence in the European Union

Andrei Hrebenciuc, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: The determining role of the single market was to provide a set of economic advantages to the Member States through the liberalization of economic barriers designed by policy makers. The theoretical premise was that the Eurozone will act as a stimulus for greater economic structure convergence within the system. In this paper I test whether Krugman's criticism on this topic is valid. Does the system construction leads to a growing convergence of economic structures in the European Union as many economists preach or the Krugman theoretical premise of high degree specialization and asymmetry in the economic structures inside the system is endorsed by the reality. But, the shocks of the actual global economic crisis changed dramatically economic structures and I suppose there are significant signals for other patterns of structures path convergence. That means new patterns of spatial distribution of economic activities. In these circumstances a new vision for E.U. convergence and cohesion policies seems to be a priority for regional science specialists.

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Forecasting the Presidential Election with Regional Level Economic and Political Variables

Marius-Nicolae Jula, Nicolae Titulescu University of Bucharest, Romania

Dorin Jula, Ecological University of Bucharest, Institute for Economic Forecasting – Romanian Academy, Romania

Abstract: This paper proposes an econometric forecasting model concerning the electoral chances of President who apply for a second term or of the candidate for his first term if this new candidate comes from the same political family as the president in office. The model is built at regional level. To estimate the impact of retrospective evaluations of the incumbent President's administration (responsive hypothesis), we look for both economic and political variables. Like a robust approximation of region economic wellbeing, we use the changes in regional GDP/capita, in regional unemployment and in average net monthly earnings. As political variables, we analyse the cost of ruling, the effect of party's captive electorate and influence of regional political elites.

Economic Growth and European Funds Absorption in Central and Eastern European Countries

Mihaela Neculita, Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Romania

Liliana Mihaela Moga, Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Romania

Valentin Neculita, Dunarea de Jos University of Galati, Romania

Abstract: Integration of Central and Eastern countries in European Union assumes obtaining certain benefits. Upon joining the European Union internal market and free movement of labour, absorption of European funds could help the convergence go on and reduce disparities between countries. This study aims to provide insights in regionalization, absorption of European funds and economic growth. There are various ways of defining the regional growth. The most common refer to the increase of the total output of a region, output increase per employed person, output increase per capita. In turn, the output can be assessed by the gross production of a region, the region's gross domestic product or net domestic product

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of that region. The paper proposes an integrated analysis of European situation by means of data and statistics provided by European and national statistics institutions. A better absorption of European funds can lead to growth and economic development and thus reduce regional economic disparities. One of the main objectives should be the absorption as much financial support as possible by continuous efforts from the Central and Eastern European Countries and also regional and local government involved in every stage of the process.

The Management of Environmental Resources and its Regional Implications

Claudia Elena Paicu, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Diana Andreia Hristache, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Nilgün Ismail, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: The environmental resource management at the regional level is closely correlated with the economic, social and community activities. The latter should be conducted taking into account the environmental sustainability. Given that protecting and improving the environment is one of the priority objectives of national interest in Romania, our research aims to bring in the scientific debate these issues. Therefore, the study of economic and social impact on the environment is a major problem faced by any modern human community. Therefore, it requires careful management of environmental resources according to certain rules and conditions, not only locally, but also regionally and nationally.

The Impact of Uniform Prudential Regulations Implemented at the Level of European Insurance Industry

Laura Elly Naghi, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: While the financial markets have to face systemic and systematic risks, especially the insurance industries, the national supervisory authorities intend to implement regulation systems as uniform as possible at regional level and in the same time as conservatory as possible from the point of view of the risks accepted. The present paper intends to accurately analyze the regulation systems of important insurance markets (as tradition or volume of premiums) – such as RBC, SST,

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Solvency II in order to stress the similarities of these models but more important the differences that generated a different rigidity degree of the insurance companies, in other words, a different minimum capital requirement. The paper intends to illustrate the financial and organizational impact of the European model Solvency has on the insurance companies, through its supplemental requirements, introduced by the supervisory authorities as a reaction to the recent financial crises.

Partnership and Cooperation Models in Cross-Border Areas

Marcela Slusarciuc, University “Stefan cel Mare”, Romania

Abstract: The paper aims at exploring the partnership and cooperation issues in cross-border areas in European Union. The theoretical part of the papers is defining the role of the borders in the framework of the European Union enlarged and it includes a review of forms of cooperation and principles applicable in cross-border cooperation considered by the Council of Europe and the European Union or the Association of European Border Regions. Further there are identified in the specific literature important challenges and key points that are marking the cross-border partnerships. The last part of the paper is focusing on examples of cross-border cooperation, making distinction between two main situations: the border between Member States and the borders between EU and neighbouring countries.

Pan-Kazakh Centrism and the Construction of a Regional Axis in the ‘Innovated’ Asia

Pierre Chabal, Le Havre University, France

Abstract: The interest of Kazakhstan for Central Asia is the interest of a ‘constructor’. Since 1991, it has been at the direct or indirect origin of several key initiatives: CICA, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and even a project of a Union of Central Asia. Theories of regional integrations have been enriching Asia for 20 years, and for 60 years in Europe. The key concept is that of a regional axis: a region is multilateral but needs to build itself around a privileged bilateralism among two neighbors-partners. The definition of such an “axis” is: two countries that have born among themselves the seeds of tension but that decide, voluntarily, to turn the page of history, through a strong and enduring bilateral relationship,

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sometimes through a founding Treaty, investing in the irreversible, political link with the aim of ‘radiating’ throughout the region. The link between the concept of “regional axis” and Ibrachev’s concept of “Pan-Asia Centrism” is simple. But there are two ways of understanding the concept of “Pan Asia Centrism”. 1) Pan “ASIA CENTRISM”: Asia is at the center everywhere in the world. Asia is at the center of Eurasia. Eurasia is at the center of the world. In a reverse pattern from Mackinder’s, Central Asia dominates the world. 2) ‘PAN ASIA “centrism: Asia is united and becomes a center among the several centers of a multi-polar world. Central Asia, here, is animated by a more realistic and credible project, that of a legitimate pole. The second manner of understanding Ibrachev’s concept of “Pan Asia Centrism” inspires the present analysis applied to Kazakh centrism and the concept of a regional axis, through three concentric circles around Kazakhstan, which form the three sections of my analysis: I - First circle: the IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD/II: THE expanded “GOOD NEIGHBOURS”/III - Third circle: the STRATEGIC INTER-REGIONAL dimension. In total, 12 possible axes for Kazakhstan are examined, starting from the idea of an 2-country “axis” and coming to that of a “3-parter” axis (among 3 countries or 3 organizations). The 3 “circles” analyzed suggest 3 different axes: i) Kazakhstan-Russia, ii) Kazakhstan-India iii) Kazakhstan-ASEAN according to 3 different logics (i-neighborhood, ii) extended SCO ii, iii-continent). Reflection is therefore open towards all options.

The Regional Dimension of the Underground Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development

Cristina (Covaci) Voicu, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: This paper attempts, through a series of arguments, to correlate the concept of underground economy with that of sustainable development from a regional perspective. We intend to highlight the idea that the level of underground economy is strongly correlated with the level of economic development from one country. In addition I plead for the necessity of approaching this subject from a regional perspective. Because the subject of underground economy is sufficiently spectacular by its nature we consider it is necessary to get close to its scientific perspective. In addition, the underground economy is an unavoidable ingredient of any economy. Data shows that for the majority countries the most efficient part of

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an economy is the underground component. Lack of taking into account this component can lead to severe economic slippage analysis leading to the adoption of unrealistic strategies. Hence, a balanced conclusion of all consideration above, I support that we have chosen to treat in this paper, the correlation between underground economy and sustainable development from a regional perspective, because the phenomenon of underground economy had taken huge dimensions and this phenomenon varies among regions, institutional frame and cultural profile.

Comparison between the Juridical Regime of the Debt Instruments: Bill of Exchange, Promissory Note and Cheque

Silvia Cristea, Academy of Economic Sciences, Romania

Abstract: The bill of exchange, the promissory note and the cheque are debt instruments regulated by the bill of exchange law. The debt instruments are differentiated from other instruments used in civil and commercial relations by the inclusion of the debt in the instrument, hence the name of debt instrument. The main features of the debt instruments are: formal, literal and autonomous nature. The debt instruments are formal in the sense that the creation, the existence, the circulation and the exercise and the use of the patrimonial rights included depend on the existence of the elements included in the instrument. Moreover, the high rigorous nature of the debt instruments is reflected by the obligation to meet some requirements regarding the form (the bill of exchange, the promissory note and the cheque imply some compulsory requirements in order to be valid). The debt instruments are literal, in the sense that the existence and the coverage of the patrimonial rights are established through the wording included in the instrument; thus, the juridical relation that caused the issuing of the debt instrument no longer influences the right deriving from the instrument (whether a sales-purchase agreement, or a loan or a debt opening); no possibility for the debt instrument to be interpreted or completed with other documents. The autonomous nature of the debt instruments can be seen, on the one hand, in relation to the fundamental juridical relation that caused it, and in this case, we shall consider that the individual who issued the instrument has an obligation which is not under the existing fundamental relation but exclusively under the instrument which the individual signed; on the other hand, each new signatory has an autonomous juridical position and acquires a

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new, original right, not a transferred right. The autonomy of the debt instruments explains the principle according to which the holder of the instrument exercises one's own right and exceptions cannot be opposed to him, namely the protection measures that could be opposed to the previous holders (principle of non-opposability of exceptions).

Analyzing E-Government Development in Albania. Problems and Conditions

Fioralba Vela, University of Vlora, Albania

Luciana Koprencka, University of Vlora, Albania

Migena Petanaj, University of Vlora, Albania

Lorena Cakeri, University of Vlora, Albania

Abstract: E-government development is considered one of the crucial factors for achieving an advanced stage of development in Albania. The number of e-government services introduced to the user in Albania is increasing, although its development and ICT development in general is not in the same level as other countries of the region, due to a lot of problems which Albania faces regarding it. This paper firstly presents a review of e - government for developing countries. The paper then presents the actual situation of ICT development in Albania, with a focus on e – government development stages and services. The paper then proposes an analytical framework for e-government development problems within the context of developing countries, such as Albania.

Checkmate: The Metropolitan Area Left with no Legal Moves when Facing the Cost Coverage Pertaining to the Negative Externalities

Ioana Teodora Dinu, National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania

Catalin Daniel Dumitrica, National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania

Abstract: The paper objectifies the first part of a larger projects aiming at establishing a public decision-making map pertaining to the negative externalities

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in the framework of the economic approach of subsidiarity in multilevel governance (case of Romania). Its first part tests whether the economic theory of the European Union multilevel governance, with its core consisting in the subsidiarity principle, puts more pressure on the national public decisions (related to market failures). The paper's general objective is to identify whether the metropolitan areas – a form of cooperation established at the level of the administrative-territorial units that due to the constraints of the law, were established as associative organizations, composed of several administrative-territorial units – represent a form of territorial governance meant to have a direct impact upon local and regional development process. The in-depth analysis shall focus upon the relationships that are institutionally established between the metropolitan structures and the administrative-territorial units, which are part of the metropolitan areas, as well as upon the competences specific to the metropolitan areas in the regional policy context. Our aim is to establish a possible direct relation between the metropolitan area and the development regions in terms of their general objectives.

The observation of the decision-making mechanism pertaining to the metropolitan areas shall be the block-start of our analysis, from the legal and statutory provision, and working our way towards determining to what extent the present organization form of the metropolitan areas – in terms of the delegated competences and principles on the basis of which they were established – can develop a prevision function used in the context of the sustainable local development. The investment opportunity is often substantiated upon the immediate costs and benefits, with no impact analysis measuring the costs of the negative externalities and their medium and long term consequences upon the local/regional development. Therefore, the derived objective of our paper is to analyze the legislative capacity of the metropolitan areas to estimate these costs and their implications in view of the sustainable development of local communities.

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Do Public-Private Partnerships Enhance Local Economic Development? Evidence from Romanian County Councils

Laura Mina, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: Worldwide governments are currently facing a trade-off between providing high quality public services and infrastructures and dealing with budgetary constraints. In this context, more and more public sector entities take into consideration public- private partnerships (PPPs), as solution for financing general interest projects. Most views of PPPs emphasize the benefits for both the public and the private sector, stressing out the key elements for this kind of agreement: appropriate allocation of resources, risks and rewards. The paper is aimed at analyzing the relationship between PPPs and local economic development (LED), seen as a process of continuously increasing citizens' welfare by creating new jobs and enlarging the fiscal base. In this specific context, PPP arrangements are ment to contribute constant and predictable budgetary resources, as well as assuring economic and social cohesion. That is why public-private partnerships are seen as an instrument for local development financial management. The study of the interactions between PPPs and LED is achieved through a questionnaire addressed to local authorities in Romania and is aimed at highlighting the local dimension and impact of PPPs on local communities welfare. The results of the questionnaire prove that in Romania, PPPs have a positive and significant impact on local economy.

Schooling, Production Structure And Growth: An Empirical Analysis On European Regions

Sotiris Karkalakos, University of Piraeus, Greece

Abstract: This paper analyses the growth effects of high levels of human capital at the industry level. By favouring schooling and technology adoption, human-capital-intensive industries grow faster compared to less human-capital-intensive industries in regions that have higher levels of human capital. This result is related to a series of sensitivity checks such as other measures of growth and different indicators of human capital. This finding is particularly important for European

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Union, as it has always had a model of industrial specialization focused on the traditional sectors which have a low content of technology and human capital.

Political Fragmentation and External Sources of Funding in Local Governments. Do Power Struggles Matter?

Maciej Turala, Lodz University, Poland

Justyna Danielewicz, Lodz University, Poland

Abstract: The rationale for taking up the notion of political fragmentation in connection with local governments' capacity to secure external sources of funding comes about from the economic, social and political context in which local governments across Europe operate. Local governments, in particular in new EU-member states, continuously face shortages of funding. Their socio-economic development thus depends to a great deal on their capacity to secure external funding. EU membership provides ample opportunities to do so. However, there are significant differences between localities in terms of fund-raising effectiveness. To a certain degree they may be explained by differences in location, infrastructural and economic development and other factors, both endogenous and exogenous. The aim of this paper is to analyze the role which political fragmentation in local government councils plays in that respect. The main hypothesis tested in the paper is that "political fragmentation is negatively correlated with local governments' capacity for absorbing external funding, in particular EU funds". The research focuses on relating data on EU funding obtained by Polish municipalities with the level of political fragmentation in municipal councils. Analyzed data covers the period between 2006 and 2009 in case of obtained EU funding and is related to election results for the 2006-2010 term of office.

CLUSTERS AND REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters - Territorial Networks. Where to?

Luiza Nicoleta Radu, Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, Romania

Abstract: Globalization has led to an increased international trade relations between organizations spatially separated. This determinates a greater spatial differentiation influenced by local and regional competition production systems. Territoriality has been considered as the main cause for the development of active areas (Perrin 1983, Planquet 1983, Raveyre, Saglio 1981, Gilly 1987, Creivoisier, Maill 1989, Colletis 1990, Soulage 1994, Grosjean 1999), explaining also the success of certain local systems of production that became competitive on a global scale. The new school of regional competitiveness promoted by Porter (2003) identifies the cluster industry as a source of competitive advantages, supporting the identification and cluster setting – up as an objective of the public policy. In the last few years, clusters became an important basis for the new policies promoted at the level of the European Union. The challenges established through the Lisbon Strategy, respectively “to make the Europe the most competitive and dynamic based knowledge economy”, determinate a new approach of the economic policy in order to increase competitiveness. For the regional economy, the cluster has the aim to develop new strategies focused on the economic sectors of the regional development, by taking into account sectoral advantages. However, in terms of economic activities promoted at regional level, the spatial development is an essential component for increasing EU competitiveness in terms of economic globalization trends, regional networks being considered the most advanced form of cluster in the economic sector.

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Clusters in Times of Economic Crisis; Case Study Romania

Carmen Beatrice Păuna, Institute for Economic Forecasting – Romanian Academy, Romania

Abstract: The small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are deeply affected by the current economic crisis, especially due to decrease in demand and much harder access to financing sources. Most of the small and medium-sized companies (over 90% of them) face major difficulties due to decrease in orders and diminution of their financial resources. Other impacts of the financial crisis identified at work within the SMEs environment are the decline in exports, the lower investments and, not least, the psychological effect of the market hindrances. In order to alleviate and/or fight back the impacts of the crisis, programs and measures are envisaged, including certain solutions, both at governmental, as well at local and company level, destined to support the development and efficiency of the viable SMEs. The financing solutions for the SMEs may be oriented also to a modern type of industrial activities organization namely clusters and clusters networks. The concept of cluster has gained a lot of popularity in the past few years, policy-makers, practitioners and scientists having equally referred to it. A lot of policies have been initiated and implemented in Europe in the past few years with the purpose of stepping up the activity of the current clusters and of providing favorable conditions for the creation of new ones, especially innovative clusters. The paper intends to present the records registered in this field by Romania on regional level, and the challenges faced by the Romanian firms under the circumstances of the financial crisis and the lack of institutional framework and of clusters governance tools.

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A Comparative Study on Changes in the Spatial Industry Agglomeration in Eastern EU Developing Countries: Romania vs. Bulgaria

Mădălina-Ștefania Dîrzu, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Centre for European Studies, Romania

Gabriela Carmen Pascariu, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Centre for European Studies, Romania

Abstract: Taking a closer look at the spatial distribution of industrial sectors, it becomes quite obvious that there is an increasing disposition for industries to concentrate in certain regions in order to benefit of agglomeration assets. In this context, we consider necessary to analyze how industrial agglomerations have evolved over time and to what extent major transformations have affected agglomeration phenomenon in lagging regions of Eastern countries, finally our paper bringing supportive evidence from Romania and Bulgaria. To what extent, have patterns of industrial agglomeration modified during the transition period? Has relocation of economic activities taken place? What are the main determinants of industrial concentration patterns? These are some crucial questions that we try to find a realistic response through the present paper. Eastern economies are notably challenging from this point of view because they experienced several decades long economic development period which was earmarked by socialist industrialization. Under the planned economy, these countries have faced more barriers to an efficient geographical allocation of economic activities across regions than their peers in the Western Europe especially because they faced the legacy of a planned economy system that determined locations for economic activities based on political decisions, not based on economic efficiency. Thus, our effort can be seen as a contribution to knowledge about agglomeration in the non-Western countries in general, and in developing regions in particular. Focusing our study on two-digit industrial sectors of 14 regions at NUTS2 level, this paper aims to identify and explain the changes regarding the evolution of industrial agglomerations in the last years across Romania compared to Bulgaria. In the end, our analysis will be able to conclude in what manner the effects of transition period influenced the patterns of industrial agglomeration in these two neighboring countries.

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Innovation Cluster and Economic Development in Bucharest Ilfov Region

Ana Cristina Adumitroaei, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Claudia Ionescu, the Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Simona Curpan, the Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Abstract: Simultaneous globalization and localization tendencies have created policy challenges for national and local governments. One response to these challenges has been a dramatic proliferation of development policies based on clusters of firms and industries. In EU Strategy 2020 – COM 546/6.10.2010 Initiative “ An Union of Innovation”, COM 614/27.10.2010 Initiative “Industrial Policy in the Globalization Era” innovative clusters were considered the “engine” of economic development. They represent a framework for business development, collaboration between companies, universities, research institutions, suppliers, customers and competitors located in the same geographical area. Clusters of small and medium sized firms in developing economies are coming under increased pressure from competition as products mature, technology becomes widely available, and companies seek lower cost locations for production. In this paper, we consider that clusters is important to consolidate the interaction process among firms favoring knowledge spread and we must have a regional strategy for clusters.

Is Industrial Districts Logistics Suitable for Industrial Parks?

Fabio Musso, University of Urbino “Carlo Bo”, Italy

Abstract: Integrated logistics inside industrial districts, in spite of its potential, still faces infrastructural and cultural barriers. The paper will discuss the industrial district evolution by a logistics perspective, highlighting both the current status and intervention areas for building up a higher level of innovation and for integrating logistic structures and activities. Industrial districts are characterized by the agglomeration of medium and small-sized industries, localized within a certain geographic area with precise social and cultural connotations. A crucial element of industrial districts is the existence of a wide immaterial flow of knowledge and information. In this sense, the industrial districts seem to have a network shape,

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rather than a hierarchical one. The analysis, based on the Italian experience and literature, stresses the role of logistics as support of relationships between providers and users of outputs. After analyzing the industrial districts by a logistics perspective, a logistics model supporting the providers-users relationships will be proposed. Finally, a comparative analysis of the logistic conditions and perspectives of industrial districts with those of industrial parks will be conducted. The comparison with industrial parks will be made with reference with Romanian industrial parks (and related concepts such as business incubators, clusters, free zones), which are a relatively new phenomenon in Romania. The model of industrial parks seems to fit better Romanian market that has lack of industrial tradition. Unlike industrial districts, industrial parks are usually administered by a company which holds the title of industrial park while the land must meet certain conditions, provide certain facilities (access to road infrastructure and / or rail, exemption from tax *Romania's Regional Policy in the 2014-2020 Programme Period: Challenges and Lessons from the Past*, for example) and obligations. Potential of adaptation of industrial district based logistic models to industrial parks will be discussed.

A Comparative Study on Changes in the Spatial Industry Agglomeration in Eastern EU Developing Countries: Romania vs. Bulgaria

Mădălina-Ștefania Dîrzu, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Centre for European Studies, Romania

Gabriela Carmen Pascariu, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Centre for European Studies, Romania

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Has relocation of economic activities taken place? What are the main determinants of industrial concentration patterns? These are some crucial questions that we try to find a realistic response through the present paper. Eastern economies are notably challenging from this point of view because they experienced several decades long economic development period which was earmarked by socialist industrialization. Under the planned economy, these countries have faced more barriers to an efficient geographical allocation of economic activities across regions than their peers in the Western Europe especially because they faced the legacy of a planned economy system that determined locations for economic activities based on political decisions, not based on economic efficiency. Thus, our effort can be seen as a contribution to knowledge about agglomeration in the non-Western countries in general, and in developing regions in particular. Focusing our study on two-digit industrial sectors of 14 regions at NUTS2 level, this paper aims to identify and explain the changes regarding the evolution of industrial agglomerations in the last years across Romania compared to Bulgaria. In the end, our analysis will be able to conclude in what manner the effects of transition period influenced the patterns of industrial agglomeration in these two neighboring countries.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND REGIONAL NETWORKS

Regional Determinants of Small Business Survival during the Crisis in Romania

Anca Dachin, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

Alexandru Rusei, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: The economic crisis in Romania has increased the business vulnerability since 2009. The recessionary gap and the high uncertainty of the economic environment have determined many companies to leave the market. The regional differences in the entrepreneurial performance suggest that the regional dimension should be included in the firm demography analysis. Most studies refer to the favourable conditions which stimulate the entry of new firms. However, during the crisis, for many small businesses the main problem has been the survival. The paper focuses on the analysis of adjustment processes within the SME's sector in terms of changes in number of enterprises and turnover. The regional differences in

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the four-year survival rate (2008-2012) show the structural particularities of the economic activity. The paper aims at identifying the empirical relationship between economic determinants and entrepreneurial performance at regional NUTS2 level in Romania.

Universities, Entrepreneurship and Regional Networks Chances for a Welfare

Claudia Ionescu, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Abstract: Entrepreneurship has been recognized as an engine of both growth and economic development. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) account for 99,8% of all businesses in Europe and their role in the economic growth and job creation has been recognized at the regional, national and European level. This leads the policy makers at all levels to look for measures enhancing the firm creation activity and in the same time they have to harmonize with Universities Curricula. In the Information Era network is a current tool that build bridges and develop business and people's knowledge. In this paper we'll present some effects on welfare development in the Bucharest Ilfov Region, as an European Union region.

SME's Priorities, IC Development and Management Authorities Directions. A Regional Approach in Romania

Bogdan-Vasile Ileanu, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: Especially during periods full of financial instabilities, the problems regarding inconsistent policies or related to different directions of action are easily visible. The current study is analyzing the priorities of different Management Authorities like: Central Management Authority, Local Management Authority and SMEs Management. The analysis is made on a 500 sample of management specialized respondents from all types of management authorities. After applying the quantitative method of correspondence analysis, significant differences are shown. The second part of the study concentrates on finding some join strategies at regional level. In each case special mentions are made for Intellectual Capital development strategy as a key-factor in SMEs development.

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Foreign Direct Investment as a Factor of Diminishing or Increasing Regional Inequalities?

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Daniel Vârdol, National Institute for Statistics (Bucharest), Romania

Abstract: In well-established market economies FDI has positive effects, while in the transition countries there are issues to be clarified. In Central and Eastern European former communist countries, as reported by previously published works, the role of FDI varies depending on the phases of transition. These countries are especially vulnerable in the early stages, when the insertion of FDI in a region adds additional disturbances into the process of post-socialist restructuring. If most of the Central European countries have successfully passed this period, some of them and the majority of economies in Eastern Europe are still vulnerable to the negative effects of FDI. Among such effects one can mention (based on literature review) unclear impact of FDI on economic growth, no relationship between FDI, exports and economic growth, no linkages with local economies, increasing regional inequalities etc. Assessments at the scale of Central and Eastern Europe suggest that Romania is one of the countries to suffer from these effects because of unfinished economic transition. A detailed analysis of the Romanian regions in order to evaluate regional impact of FDI in the country will be provided; whether FDI contribute to increasing imbalances in economic development of the regions, or they are the factor of stability helping the less developed areas to catch-up the richest ones. The authors try to demonstrate that the structure and volume of FDI can diminish in the economic boom period the regional disparities, by a generalized spreading of the growth. The regional development of Romania, in the 2000-2008 period, shows the importance of FDI in the reducing of the territorial disparities. Obviously, there aren't changes on the hierarchical scale at the regional level attracting the FDI, but it was an interesting trend to diminish the existing decay. During the economic crisis, due to the fact that only the big urban agglomerations have a large capacity to attract the FDI, the situation changed to increasing the disparities. Some of foreign investments comeback to the origin countries, or reduced their activities. The result is an increasing of the proportion of

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the big cities in the total national volume of the FDI, and the accentuating of the centre-periphery discrepancies.

Entrepreneurial Developments and Challenges in the South-East Region of Romania

Jordan Marioara, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Bucharest, Romania

Adriana Grigorescu, National School of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania

Chilian Mihaela-Nona, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Bucharest, Romania

Abstract: Entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship are crucial drivers of the economic development of a region. Using entropy and shift-share analysis, as well as complex indices, the authors present a detailed picture of the entrepreneurial milieu of the South-East region of Romania, pointing both towards the presence of an overall development process, both over the pre-accession period and the post-accession period, and also to significant inter-county and intra-county sectoral imbalances, evolutionary discrepancies and insufficient use of territorial resources. Some policy recommendations are proposed to address the future challenges to the balanced development of the South-East region of Romania and achievement of a higher territorial cohesion.

TOURISM, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Claudia Ionescu, Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Simona Curpan, Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Ana Cristina Adumitroaei, Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Abstract: The sustainable development gets a great importance in the context of Romania integration in the EU and globalization, a context in which the intersection of the economic, social environmental but also cultural and recreational sector is more and more complex. Having in mind this complex context, in this paper, we present a personal point of view regarding the potential

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for growth in tourism of Bucharest-Ilfov region, due to vast range of tourist offer (cultural, business, recreational). The Bucharest-Ilfov region has a great tourism potential: the attraction capacity of the Bucharest urban centre is enriched by the environmental and cultural value of the areas and sites surrounding the capital city. This combination of urban, business, cultural and environmental resources is a powerful basis for developing the tourism sector in the region. The tourism sector must be a priority of the regional development policy, because of the importance of the tourism contribution to growth and job creation so the infrastructure improvement is therefore a necessity for tourism development. In line with the above, the main goal of this paper is to demonstrate the necessity of increasing the economic importance of the tourism sector within the regional economy.

Comparative Study on the Competitiveness of Romanian and Bulgarian Tourism Industry

Adina Berbeniciuc-Mititiuc, "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iasi, Romania

Abstract: Tourism is one of the most important sectors of the global economy, given its contribution as the main generator of jobs and sustainable development path for developing countries. Many experts consider this sector as one of the sectors with the greatest potential to deliver internationally development and economic growth. Thus, tourism can be an important driver of economic growth and prosperity, especially in emerging economies, and a key element in reducing poverty and regional disparities. Despite its potential contribution to economic growth, development of the tourism sector may be hampered by a number of economic and legal barriers that can affect its competitiveness. In this context, the World Economic Forum proposes, through the Tourism Competitiveness Index (TCI), in addition to a methodology for identifying key factors that contribute to increasing the competitiveness of tourism, also tools for analysis and evaluation of these factors. Thus, this study** aims to analyze the determinants underlying TCI in terms of two directly competing states, Romania and Bulgaria, to highlight the positive effects through the benefits of the analyzed markets, in terms of competitiveness in tourism sector. The purpose of this analysis is to provide some answers, especially from the perspective of the necessity of strategies that should be adopted on market competitiveness in the two countries and the exposure of the

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factors that could explain the different performance of the two national economies in the tourism sector.

Sustainable Development of Spa Tourism in the Romanian West Development Region

Cipriana Sava, Christian University “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Romania

Abstract: Sustainable development of tourism includes itself in world development politics based on respect and care towards the surrounding environment. Spa tourism is one of the ancient types of tourism developed by mankind and it attracts presently more people than those who have health problems. Romania has numerous spa resorts at several levels such as local, regional, national or international ones, and they are all based on diverse tourism resources. Spa tourism is also present in the West Development Region and its revival can be attained by taking into consideration the principles of sustainable development.

Initiative and Innovation in Tourism, Discussion on their Applicability in the Context of Sustainable Tourism in Delta Destinations

Gabriela Nicoleta Diaconescu, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: In the economic field, especially in tourism, initiative and innovation are effective ways to finding new approaches to various problems occurring with time or unforeseen, which leads to greater adaptation to ever-changing environment of economic life and resistance to shocks, experience having a decisive role. In terms of sustainable tourism not any initiative even if it is an innovative one is appropriate, it is the sector where actions must be thought out long-term and to exist concerns in achieving sustainability in all four branches simultaneously (economic, social, environmental and cultural). In order to achieve sustainable development in the true sense it is not enough to only meet the needs to one of them. Therefore, the challenge lies in finding optimal solutions for each branch separately, but also for making their relationship become sustainable. The need to continually adapt and monitoring the results to improve them, have a primary

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importance. The paper aims to provide a base of information on the variety of programs, models and strategies for tourism and ecotourism at an international level, and a analysis in terms of advantages and disadvantages of their implementation in a fragile environment as delta, which needs special attention in that it can't be operated at high tourism level, such as mass tourism.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS, TRANSPORT
AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

Changes in Global Economy Influencing the Maritime Industry

Grama Izabella Gilda, Spiru Haret University, Constantza, Romania

Abstract: The world economic situation has brightened in 2010. However, multiple risks threaten to undermine the prospects of a sustained recovery and a stable world economy – including sovereign debt problems in many developed regions, and fiscal austerity. These risks are further magnified by the extraordinary shocks that have occurred in 2011, which have included natural disasters and political unrest, as well as rising and volatile energy and commodity prices. Given that for shipping, all stands and falls with worldwide macroeconomic conditions, the developments in world seaborne trade mirrored the performance of the wider economy. After contracting in 2009, international shipping experienced an upswing in demand in 2010, and recorded a positive turnaround in seaborne trade volumes especially in the dry bulk and container trade segments. However, the outlook remains fragile, as seaborne trade is subject to the same uncertainties and shocks that face the world economy. This paper highlights some developments that are currently affecting maritime transport and have the potential to deeply reshape the landscape of international shipping and seaborne trade.

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Infrastructure Investments: Need for a Higher Territorial Cohesion in Bucharest-Ilfov Region

Claudia Ionescu, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania
Simona Curpan, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

This paper presents the current situation and some predictions regarding the development of Bucharest Ilfov region infrastructure, the most developed Romanian region from economical point of view. The cohesion policy investments must be closely aligned to the objectives of Europe 2020 (there should be a balanced approach to investment, a right balance between different types of investments). For this reason, the development opportunities through infrastructure investments using the EU funds is one of the main priority in order to increase Bucharest-Ilfov region's attractiveness, accessibility and mobility across the region. The paper will present the regional development trends, the present regional policy implementation practice and first results regarding the infrastructure investments financed through EU funds in order to increase the capital city functions as an engine for development.

Ensuring Security of Supply of Natural Gas in the European Union's Common Energy Policy

Andrei Teofil Postolachi, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, Doctoral School of Economics, Romania

Abstract: The problematic of energy policy is nowadays widely disputed in the European Union community. In a global context characterized by highly and raising dependency of the economic activity on the energetic resources, the European authorities had launched a strategy in this sector which regards the problems of access to secure and affordable energy products. The aim of this paper is linked to the natural gas field of the European energetic concerns, and it assumes the high dependency of internal consumption on imports, more than half of the natural gas that is used in the 27 states comes from abroad. Ensuring a higher level of security in the supply is one of the goals that European Union wants to achieve on medium and long term. In these circumstances, actual measurements take into

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account different type of actions: stabilize relations with existing partner gas exporters (Russia, Algeria, Norway); diversification of transport routes coming from these countries, especially in the idea of trying to avoid transit countries (mainly Ukraine and Belarus); and finally opening discussions and investing in alternative routes which should transport the gas from new suppliers placed in the Caspian Sea or Central Asia region.

Transfer Pricing and FDI

Patricia-Sabina Macelaru, Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: FDI analysis is usually performed within the frame of the win-win hypothesis. However, we believe that certain circumstances (MNEs following their own business objectives, lack of appropriate regulations, non-observance of the arm's length principle) may generate disproportionate advantages at the level of FDI stakeholders. The disequilibrium between reinvested profits and repatriated profits may be viewed as a proof of such disproportionate advantages of stakeholders involved in FDI. In addition to figures showing the comparison between reinvested and repatriated profits, as well as the way in which such indicators vary e.g. in case of abnormal business conditions (global economy collapse), we try to show that lack/misuse of transfer pricing regulations may generate even more disequilibrium, the MNEs using intra-group transactions as an additional way of repatriating non-taxable/low tax profits.

Opportunities, Challenges and Results of the Regionalization Process in the Romanian Water Sector

Erika Marin, Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest

Abstract: One of the specific objectives of the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment SOP ENV is to *improve the quality and access to water and wastewater infrastructure, by providing water supply and wastewater services in most urban areas by 2015 and by setting efficient regional water and wastewater management structures.* (Priority Axis 1 – Water: regional projects). In order to implement the investments needed to comply with the relevant EU environmental

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directives for improving the quality of water services and environment, the regional operators have access to the EU Funds from the current programming period 2007-2013. For the Priority Axis 1 the allocated funds raise up to 2,78 billion Euros from Cohesion Funds and 0,49 Billion Euros from national co-financing. The paper presents a comparative approach of current status of the regionalization process in the water sector in Romania as well main problems encountered by the regionalization process, in general and the regional operators, in particular, presenting some solutions and success factors in the regionalization process in the Romanian water sector.

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT IN
BULGARIA AND ROMANIA

Effectiveness of Usage and Management of Municipal Real Property in Bulgaria

Statty Stattev, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Stela Raleva, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Tatyana Daskalova, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Abstract: The paper provides an assessment of the effectiveness of usage and management of municipal real property (MRP), using data gathered through 173 questionnaires, addressed to representatives of 39 municipalities in Bulgaria. The paper is structured as follows: The first section gives information about the municipalities and is based on the following criteria: evaluation of the conditions in the cities; appraisal of the financial situation of the municipalities, the main sources of funding, and the sources that should be used in order to improve their finances; existence of the relevant planning instruments, etc. The second section focuses on MRP and refers to criteria such as: rating of different aspects of MRP; existence of MRP inventory, municipal strategy and municipal unit dealing exclusively with MRP; evaluation of the selling values and the level of actual MRP rents in comparison to market rents; outsourcing of MRP management functions; assessment of the interdependence between different units of the municipalities; analysis of the focus of the attention of the elected decision makers. The paper ends

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with some conclusions concerning the identified problems in the process of MRP management in Bulgaria, and outlines some possible steps for the improvement of this process.

Valuation Bases and Accounting System Entries in Financial Analysis of the Municipal Real Property

Daniela Feschiyan, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria
Stela Raleva, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Abstract: The paper introduces a conceptual framework for an accounting of the municipal real property, and defines a respective system of indicators. The development of this framework is seen as an important prerequisite for the efficient property management. It aims to overcome the lack or poor accessibility of the information, and thus to ensure the successful municipal real property management in a strategic context. The developing of the applied approach implies that accounting indicators are divided into three main groups – values, revenues, and costs. Beside the above mentioned classification, the municipal revenues and costs are classified also as existing and proposed. The existing indicators are defined by International Accounting Standards in public sector, and some of them are considered as being appropriate for the inclusion in the financial analysis as accounting system entries. The proposed indicators are perceived as appropriate to carry out a detailed analysis of the municipal property at a lower level of desegregations. The first paragraph explains the main bases for the municipal property valuation - historical cost, current price, market value, present value, with a special emphasis on the use of the historical value. The second paragraphs is concentrated mainly on the accounting indicators for the municipal property assessment, whereas the third paragraph provides a short list of some additional indicators. The fourth paragraph represents several major accounting bases - an accounting value, a carrying value, a market value, an accumulated depreciation, revenues from the sale of assets and services, costs by economic elements, revenues from future periods and costs for future periods, and revenues from other events and costs for other events. The last paragraph presents a brief comparative analysis of accounting systems of 6 municipalities in South-Eastern Europe and the identified “good practices”.

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A System of Indicators for Financial Analysis of the Municipal Real Property

Daniela Feschiyan, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Abstract: The paper presents a system of financial indicators for the efficiency of use of municipal real property. Such a system must provide for meeting the information needs of a number of internal and external consumers and is of primary significance in the analysis of municipalities' overall financial condition. The following may be pointed out as the major aspects of the practical analysis: i) the analysis of the municipality's provision with immovable property; ii) the analysis of the efficient use of certain categories of municipal real property. The paper aims at clarifying the major moments in the analysis of the structure, composition, and effective use of municipal real property, and the determination of definite indicators to be applied to this analysis oriented towards its implementation. The wide variety of parameters is reduced to a system of 16 indicators: reporting value, depreciation, ratio of replacement, ratio of cost efficiency, ratio of revenue efficiency, return on total assets, return on revenues, return on expenses, ratio of the fitness, ratio of the repair, ratio of real energy provision, ratio of workload, present value of a series of regular cash flows, equivalent yield model, return on investment, return on investment. The paper presents the structure and content of the indicators of the analysis of the municipal real property, as well as the input of these indicators. The estimation /values/ necessary to determine the indicators, the indicators themselves and their meaning make it possible to study the effectiveness of the operations /functioning/ of the municipal real property in terms of description of its physical condition, structure, content, purpose and functions, which generates revenues or brings expenditures to the municipality. The system of indicators provides for decision making with a view to boosting the efficiency of public sector management and more specifically – the management of municipal real property.

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The Employment of Multi-Criteria Analysis for Municipal Property Management: Some Theoretical Considerations

Daniela-Luminita Constantin, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania

Constantin Mitruț, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania

Zizi Goschin, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania

Raluca-Mariana Grosu, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania

Alina Elena Iosif, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania

Abstract: In most decision making situations more than one criterion is involved and, as a consequence, confusion can arise if there is no logical and well structured decision-making process in place. The multi-criteria analysis (MCA) constitutes a tool that can help evaluate the relative importance of all criteria involved and reflect on their importance during project management and decision making. MCA is a management tool aiming at supporting decision makers faced with making numerous and conflicting evaluations by deriving a way to come to a compromise. This paper discusses the possibilities of applying MCA in the field of municipal property management, where the decision-makers have to find the most convenient destinations of municipal assets that can be used for various purposes such as: governmental, business, social use. Based on the principles that lay the foundations for applying MCA, it focuses on the specific criteria and indicators employed in each case in the ranking and rating process, so as to get the corresponding weighted score. The paper is drawn on the research carried out for the project entitled “Municipal Property Management in South- Eastern Cities (PROMISE)”, funded by the ERDF within the South-East Territorial Co-operation Programme.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, LABOUR MARKETS AND MIGRATION

Employment and Regional Inequality in Romania

Laura Patache, Spiru Haret University, Romania

Abstract: It is no doubt that thinking about inequality plays a part in the judgments and actions of politicians, sociologists, economists and ordinary people, too. This paper examines which factors substantially influenced regional employment. The labour market, the employment and the unemployment have been the subject of various researches and the labour market object has been subject of dispute. The employment and the unemployment are both decomposed and analyzed by separate components (such as: full employment, effective employment, atypical employment, precarious employment, regional/local employment etc., respectively, total unemployment, partial or hidden unemployment, technical and structural one and so on). The specific literature about the regional inequalities considered the income per capita as the most relevant indicator measured by Gini coefficient. Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. At regional level we studied several indicators that generate regional disparities, such us: share of rural population, female population, population outside the labour market, employment in primary sector, occupied population with low educational level; gross domestic product per capita; economic dependency ratio, wages, unemployment and others. We developed a scoring based on the deviation from the average of a group of key indicators and made a map of employment sensitivity resulting from the multi-criteria analysis.

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The International Migration in the EU. A Descriptive Analysis Focused on Romania

Raluca Mariana Grosu, Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania
Daniela Luminița Constantin, Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: Migration represents one of the main means humans have chosen for improving their standards of living. Even though it is an important phenomenon manifested since ancient times, migration has never been so much in the attention of scholars and policy makers as it is in present times, especially for its implications in different areas such as demography, economy, sociology, politics, etc. As well, migration is a vital component of the contemporary society and in the same time plays a key role in the development of regions, from various perspectives such as economic, social, or cultural. Taking into consideration the previously outlined framework, the present paper aims at analyzing in a descriptive manner the international migration phenomenon in the European Union (EU) countries between 2006 and 2010, in order to highlight the frame in which Romania is placed from the perspective of the quantitative dimension of international migration. Also, with the aim to provide a better image of the quantitative dimension of international migration in Romania, its in-depth analysis is accomplished. Even though a very precise and complex image of the international migration phenomenon represents an ideal desideratum almost unreachable, the research envisaged a comprehensive frame for future investigations of its implications in different areas. Based on data provided by Eurostat and by the statistical institutes of the EU countries, the analysis revealed that between 2006 and 2010 Romania registered a general tendency of decreasing in the number of immigrants (as well as The Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Austria, Portugal, and Slovenia) and emigrants (as well as Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Austria, Finland, and the United Kingdom). However, the results of the inquiry into international migration balances indicate that Romania is still an important provider of immigrants for the other EU countries. From a demographic perspective, the in-depth analysis of the data provided by the National Institute of Statistics pointed out a structure of immigration dominated by males aged between 26 and 40, mainly coming from the

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Republic of Moldova, while emigration is dominated by Romanian females aged between 26 and 40 that have chosen Germany as main country of destination.

Analysis of Regional Disparities in the Development of Human Settlements in Valcea County

Raluca-Mirela Antonescu, University of Bucharest, Romania

Abstract: This paper aims at analyzing the level and nature of regional disparities in Valcea County. The main objectives of the paper are: to present the most relevant aspects of Valcea County, individualization different types of territorial disparities after rank of county municipalities (cities, towns and villages), using, mainly, statistical analysis method and indicators graphic method, identifying disadvantaged geographic areas in Valcea county and proposals the actions to reduce the disparities identified in accordance with the trends set in Europe Union (Strategy 2020).

Creative Industry a Pattern for Growth in Bucharest Ilfov Region

Ana Cristina Adumitroaei, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Claudia Ionescu, the Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Simona Curpan, the Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania

Abstract: Creative industries comprise the creation, production, marketing and distribution of products and services resulting from human creativity. The European cultural and creative industries (CCI) represent a significant set of industries. Social, cultural and technological changes have helped fuel our thirst and demand for cultural products, new forms of entertainment, distraction, and inspiration creative and cultural industries manufacturing and production activities are the most regionally concentrated, and consumer oriented activities such as retail the least regionally concentrated. In this paper, we consider that the creative and cultural cannot be seen simply as cyclically dependent service functions to the rest of the economy. In Bucharest Ilfov region the creative and creative industries is a model of economic development.

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The Out-migration of the Romanian - A Matter of Concern?

Romana Emilia Cramarenco, Babes Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

The brain drain phenomenon is a global one, influencing dramatically both the sending and the receiving countries. The present paper aims to identify the main push and pull factors - salary differentials, job satisfaction, organizational environment – including access to research infrastructure - career opportunities, social security and benefits (both professional and personal) fuelling the brain drain among Romanian medical staff, as well as its dimension (taking into account poor statistics) and consequences (upon health system and its actors, primarily). Despite media focus on the matter, this phenomenon is either under evaluated or ignored by national authorities. Nevertheless, we consider that a clear need for a strategy of brain exchange must be take into account for our own health!

**CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN REGIONAL
ISSUES**

**Comparative Study of Sustainable Development Indicators in CEE Countries
(2000 – 2010)**

*Mara Ursache, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, University, Center of European Studies,
Romania*

Abstract: Environment is the basic factor for continued human survival and long-term prosperity of mankind is unthinkable if we are not able to ensure that future generations can enjoy the full benefits of nature. At the same time, development is needed to tackle poverty in developing countries and to empower people everywhere to live in a civilized manner in a more favorable environment. The aim of this article is to examine if the sustainable development indicators (*greenhouse gas emissions, resource productivity and people at risk of poverty or social exclusion*) have an impact on the economic growth (using the *GDP indicator*) and if there are significant discrepancies between countries in 2010 compared to the

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base year of analysis (2000), using this indicators. The analysis focuses particularly on the countries situated in Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia). Based on the result obtained, the author shall try to trace, in the conclusion, a few guiding lines which could be of strategic importance for stimulating action and awareness that environmental protection and economic development must be contemporary concerns.

What are the Investments Opportunities in the European Capital Regions?

Claudia Ionescu, Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency, Romania
Wioletta Wereda, University of Podlasie, Poland

Abstract: There might be some specific problems for Central East European Countries to comply with the additionality principle and to avoid excessive deficits at the same time. The main reason is that the budgets of the CEECs still face some risks for revenues and expenditures. Therefore, maintaining structural expenditure at a stable level without allowing for temporary public deficits will be difficult for CEECs. In this paper we will provide several arguments that suggest not to target EU structural assistance exclusively at the reduction of regional disparities within CEECs. Doing so would not only face problems due to missing administrations and statistics at the regional level, but might also be at the expense of national economic growth and extend the process of catching-up. Each CEEC has its own specificity that is reflected more or less on capital region. According to our analysis we will find what are the opportunities for investments in these Capital regions.

Regional Development Disparities in Europe

Craciun Liliana, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania

Abstract: Regional economic integration provides both, developing countries and the least developed, the ability to enjoy the benefits of a larger „European “market, whether it is their home or their adoptive home. This issue gains a larger dimension in the context of economic crisis and euro zone. The argument for this statement is that regional development disparities may negatively affect economic cohesion

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from European space. There were identified two obstacles of the efficient use of European resources. The first one is the geographic barrier: the inability to make labor division due to barrier restrictions. The second one is the lack of an entrepreneurial culture. The entrepreneurial culture provides the flexibility of economy - in particular, the structural flexibility to cope with changes in the division of labor. These disparities can be gradual changed, and they are primarily result from autonomous technological innovations made in response to depletion of resources or affected environment. Analyzing regional development disparities there were applied well known research methods: analytical and statistical method. The analysis consists on selecting and describing a set of indicators “measures” for regional competitiveness, able to show the situation of the region in metric terms, but also from economic point of view.

The Situation of Investment Projects for Modernization of Agricultural Holdings in Moldova Before and After Romania’s Accession to the European Union

Alina-Mirela Marcu, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania

Abstract: The purpose of this article is to present the situation of EU funds absorption for modernization the agricultural holdings in Moldova, geographical region considered to be among the poorest in Romania. After 1989, the essential changes in the land structures ownership on the replacement the old structures land ownership of socialist economy with private property, have profoundly marked the Romanian rural space and the food trade balance of Romania suffered a continuing deterioration. The funding based on projects implemented once the SAPARD pre-accession funds, has provided many perspectives Romanian farmers, especially by increasing the budget for investments in the field. This approach shows that the economic performance of representative agricultural holdings in Moldova has evolved positively, but differently across the region.

Discrepancies in Health System. A Quantitative Analysis in Romanian-Bulgarian Cross Border Region

Tudorel Andrei, Bucharest University of Economics, Romania

Bogdan-Vasile Ileanu, Bucharest University of Economics, Romania

Claudiu Herteliu, Bucharest University of Economics, Romania

Abstract: Health System represents always represents a key factor in national or transnational economic and political strategies. The present paper tries to underlines the discrepancies between Romanian and Bulgarian regarding this field, by, analyzing the cross-border common region of the two. A quantitative analysis, consisting in descriptive methods, correlations methods and regression analysis reveals the weaknesses of both systems and points on the discrepancies between districts or counties from this region in order to give a base point for further cross-border cooperation in the area.

Evolution of Romanian Households' Consumption Behavior after the EU Accession – Some Regional Insights

Jordan Marioara, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Romania

Ion Ghizdeanu, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Romania

Mihaela -Nona Chilian, Institute for Economic Forecasting, Romania

Abstract: The dynamics of household consumption, expenditures and incomes in Romania showed mixed developments after the EU accession, the upward trends being followed by crisis-induced downturn, with some regional specific features. By structure, the expenditures on and the consumption of food still have the largest shares, while the expenditures on and the consumption of services have lower shares, which places Romania and some of its regions at the bottom of the EU hierarchy. Significant changes occurred also in the saving capability of households, diminished in the last years due to the hardships the households had to face as consequence of economic crisis and austerity policies enforced by the government. A careful balancing of the national and regional policies aiming, explicitly or indirectly, at reducing the financial pressures on households, the stimulation of

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consumption and the limitation of budget expenditures is further required, but also a re-evaluation of the current consumption pattern(s) as economic growth driver(s).

Possibilities for Assessing the Romanian Regions' Level of Development

Cismaş Laura, West University of Timisoara, Romania

Oşil Maria, West University of Timisoara, Romania

Miculescu Andra, West University of Timisoara, Romania

Abstract: The sectorial structure or the one according to branches puts forward the study of the economy from the point of view of production, of the productive sector of the economy, and of the ability to attract and capitalize available resources, important being the real material flows. In this context, the focus is on the activities' productive character by correlation with material production and basic distribution of the national income, but also on the relationship between the sectorial structure and the level of performance of the real economy and, hence, the possibility of assessing the level of the region's development and of identifying ways to increase it. The characterization of the regional economy structure highlights the actual status of the economy. The purpose of this paper is to identify possible paths of growth and development at regional level in Romania, taking into account both the existing potential and the nature of the inter-regional relationships.

Innovation Effect on Employment

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Abstract: Differences across regions within countries are often greater than differences between countries. Regions should promote their own growth by mobilizing local assets and resources so as to capitalize on their specific competitive advantages, rather than depending on national government to help them grow. Traditional policies based only on infrastructure provision or schooling are not sufficient for this task; instead, a more comprehensive policy is called for, one that integrated these two policies in a coordinated agenda across levels of

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government and that foster business development and innovation. Little attention has been paid to the innovation effect on employment at regional level. This paper aims to look into the determinant role of innovation at regional level for potentially explaining the variations in employment among regions in some European countries. The paper provides in the first section a literature review on existing studies related to employment and innovation. The second section provides a brief description of the methodology and continues with the results before outlining the conclusions.

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