

## STATE OF EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN WEST REGION OF ROMANIA

MANUELA-DORA ORBOI<sup>1</sup>, ANGELA BOGLUȚ<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Agricultural Management, Timisoara, Romania; orboi@usab-tm.ro*

<sup>2</sup>*Psychological individual Cabinet Angela Bogluț, Timisoara, Romania*

**Abstract.** *The essential factor to develop a national economy, as well as a region, is human capital. If our country wants to achieve and maintain high rates of economic growth, remaining competitive in the next decade, it will have to achieve a productivity and increased efficiency necessary for a higher education, meaning a larger number of graduates from high school and tertiary education, as well as effective systems of continuing education.*

*Although it is difficult to quantify, being a controversial concept, the human capital could include human resources with a certain level of education. The West Region has an education system providing an education and appropriate vocational training at all levels. In the West Region, disparities of development and education infrastructure can be found. In Timis County, as a consequence of demographic trends in the last years, characterized by a population decrease and by increasing external migration, the school population of all educational levels showed a continuous decrease. In contrast to the economic infrastructure and largely to the social one, the vocational training infrastructure shows a great potential for sustainable development of the region.*

**Key words:** *infrastructure, west region, education.*

### INTRODUCTION

The West Development Region, also called the West Region, is one of the eight development regions of Romania. The West Region was established on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by the association of Arad, Caras-Severin, Hunedoara and Timis Counties.

Historically, the region includes *the province of Banat* (respectively, Arad - the territory to the south of Mures, Timis and Caras-Severin Counties), a Romanian historical province with an early economic and much stronger development compared to other provinces of the country. The West Region includes the land of ancient Dacia with the capital in Sarmisegetusa which currently overlaps Hunedoara County.<sup>1</sup>

The West Region has a diverse and harmonious relief composed of plains, hills and mountains. The plains are part of the Great Western Plain and they are characteristic to Timis County. The climate is moderate continental, with sub-Mediterranean influences, especially on the Danube corridor and Cerna Valley, with average annual temperatures that range from 10 to 12°C.

The precipitations are around an average of 560-580 liters/m<sup>2</sup>, slightly higher in mountain areas. The region is linked to Hungary and Serbia by European roads and railways. Arad and Timisoara have airports with modern capacities for air flow.<sup>2</sup>

The West Region is part of Danube - Kris - Mures - Tisa Euroregion (DKMT), which consists of three counties of Western Region, two counties of Hungary (Bács-Kiskun and Csongrád) and Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in Serbia.

The Euroregion was established in 1992, based on a bilateral agreement signed by local authorities within the components regions (Timis and Csongrád Counties). The

<sup>1</sup>\*\*\*, *Planul de Dezvoltare Regională 2007-2013. Regiunea Vest România*, Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională Vest, versiunea mai 2007, <http://www.adrvest.ro>

<sup>2</sup>\*\*\*, *Programul Operațional Regional 2007-2013*, Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Turismului, București, 2010

Regional Cooperation Protocol DMT was signed in 1997 which proved to be a strong support for the occurrence of the first cross-border institutions and for the development of relationships as intense as possible between administrations located on both sides of the border.

One of the characteristics of West Region consists of varied and harmonious relief composed of plains, hills and mountains, which confer it an outstanding tourist potential. The West Region is an area relatively rich in natural resources, which has led in time to an increasing economic development, with a superior position, being one of the most developed regions of the country. The positive economic development of the region is determined by a balanced distribution of economic sectors.

Natural, economic and demographic coordinates of the region are represented by important subsoil resources (coal, anthracite -in exhaustion or at economic limit of exploitation-, iron ore, oil, copper, precious metals, silver, gold, building rocks, radioactive deposits, hot and mineral springs), relief and various soils on large areas of fertile soils, forests with valuable essences, moderate climate with sub-Mediterranean influence, dense and diverse transport network, easy connection to central Europe and a population well qualified, disciplined.

The development of West Region has been influenced and continues to be supported by existing natural resources in the region with various relief, including both highly fertile plains in western part of Timis and Arad Counties and hilly areas with significant mineral resources, as well as an important segment of Occidental and Meridional Carpathians, which includes one of the most important natural parks in Europe, Retezat National Park. Taking into account this rich endowment, we cannot currently speak about a full exploitation of natural resources in the West Region. In this regard, two sectors with great potential for growth are the agro-food sector and the tourism.

In 2010, Romania had a population of 21,431,298 inhabitants, declining with 67,604 inhabitants compared to 2007, and this decrease took place in all development regions of Romania, except for the Bucharest-Ilfov Region, where the population increased by 6,718 persons compared to 2009.

Also in 2010, the West Region was on the last place with a total population of 1,916,907 inhabitants and a density of 59.8 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, far below the national average of 89.9 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>.

In 2010, the population of West Region was 1,916,907 inhabitants, representing 8.92% of total population in Romania. In the last years, under the combined influence of different levels of natural growth, internal migration flows and external migration intensity, the population of region, respectively of components counties, has decreased.

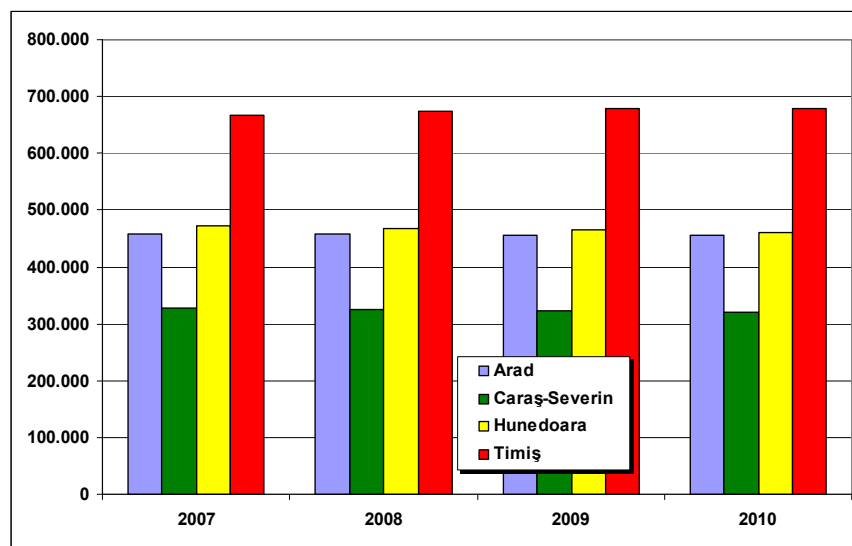
In 2010, Timis County had the highest number of inhabitants from the region (679,695 persons), followed by Hunedoara, Arad and Caras-Severin Counties. Timis County is ranked 8 in the country by population.

Table 1

**Population and density in the West Region (2007 - 2010)**

Macroregion/ Development region/ County	Total population				Density (Inhabitans/km <sup>2</sup> )			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<b>21,537,563</b>	<b>21,504,442</b>	<b>21,469,959</b>	<b>21,431,298</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>89.9</b>
<b>MACROREGION 4</b>	<b>4,204,291</b>	<b>4,187,651</b>	<b>4,172,265</b>	<b>4,155,550</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>67.9</b>
<b>West</b>	<b>1,924,442</b>	<b>1,925,377</b>	<b>1,921,700</b>	<b>1,916,907</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>59.8</b>
Arad	457,713	457,257	455,952	454,922	59.0	59.0	58.8	58.7
Caras-Severin	327,579	325,269	322,941	320,840	38.4	38.2	37.9	37.7
Hunedoara	472,284	468,318	464,739	461,450	66.9	66.3	65.8	65.3
Timiș	666,866	674,533	678,068	679,695	76.7	77.6	78.0	78.2

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011



**Figure 1.** Evolution of the population by county in the West Region (2007-2010)

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, INS, 2010, 2011

In Figure 1, we presented the population distribution of counties which comprise the West Region of Romania during 2007-2010, and we noticed that in all counties in 2010 the population has decreased, except for Timis County, where it increased by 1,627 persons.

In 2010, the population of county seats in the region was: 164,665 inhabitants in Arad, 82,458 inhabitants in Resita, 66,178 inhabitants in Deva, respectively 311,428 inhabitants in Timisoara<sup>3</sup>. Arad and Timisoara municipalities are the most developed cities of the region in terms of economic, as real growth poles; this is also reflected on population. Total population of the four county seats is almost a third of the total population of West Region – 32.59%.

It appears, on long-term, that the demographic dynamics of populations from Transylvania and Banat was always lower than in the country, a trend that was accentuated in recent years. Another explanatory factor of population decrease in recent years would be the emigration. The emigration to Hungary, Germany or other Western countries, more distant, knows a new growth, especially for the population with higher education. This loss of "gray matter" appears to raise currently bigger problems than a few years ago to leading enterprises.<sup>3</sup>

In terms of economic development level, the West Region is considered to be a developed region with economic results higher than the national average and with high growth potential.

The economic dynamics of West Region is the result of several factors, of which the most important would be the highest level of labor qualification, cosmopolitan mentality and multilingualism that characterize an important segment of population in the region, the proximity to Western markets and important natural resources in the region.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study aims to analyze the education infrastructure both in the West Region and in Timis County; it was performed using especially a quantitative method - secondary analysis of quantitative data, analysis that is based on the data presented in the Statistical Yearbook of Romania (2011) and Statistical Yearbook of Timis County for

2010. The secondary analysis of quantitative data refers to the analysis of data collected by another researcher or institution, often from another question. The secondary analysis of data series can provide tools that researchers, often with limited funds, can use. The secondary analysis is a modern technique of archived data processing which consists in using data already collected and recorded by other people and institutions, for other purposes than those of researched subject.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In The West Region, disparities in development and education infrastructure could be found. Due to the multi-ethnic character of population in the region, a characteristic of education in West Region is given by the existence of many primary and secondary schools where ethnic minority languages or an international language are used (Hungarian, German, Serbian, Slovak and Romani). There are also high schools where minority languages or an international language are used (Hungarian, German, Serbian and Slovak).

9.6% of the total number of kindergartens in the country is located in the West Region. Regarding the primary and secondary school, the smallest number of the country except the Bucharest-Ilfov is noted in the West Region.

The situation of high schools is not a good one, the West Region being situated on the third place in a ranking of the smallest number of high schools after Bucharest-Ilfov and South West Oltenia Regions. The vocational education is not developed, but it is one of the regions where an educational establishment exists; regarding the post-secondary school education, it is not developed, the region being on the last place in the country in terms of educational establishment's number.

The number of educational institutions in the academic year 2010/2011 in West Region is shown in Table 2.

Table2

### Educational establishments on macroregions, development regions and counties in the school year 2010/2011

Macroregion/ Development region/County	Kindergar tens	Primary and secondary schools		High Schools	Professional schools	Post- secondary school	Higher education institutions	Faculties
		Total	Of which: in secondary education					
<b>ROMÂNIA</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>4,248</b>	<b>4,202</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>629</b>
<b>Macroregion 1</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>478</b>	-	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>175</b>
Nord-Vest	204	551	541	260	-	12	17	97
Centru	279	563	561	218	-	14	13	78
<b>Macroregion 2</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>128</b>
Nord-Est	186	753	749	274	-	15	15	74
Sud-Est	195	533	528	213	2	17	7	54
<b>Macroregion 3</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>207</b>
Sud-Muntenia	156	760	758	216	2	13	4	36
Bucureşti-Ilfov	232	240	238	133	-	5	34	171
<b>Macroregion 4</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>119</b>
Sud-Vest Oltenia	102	493	489	163	-	8	4	42
<b>Vest</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>77</b>
Arad	37	81	80	42	-	1	2	25
Caraş-Severin	25	84	83	28	-	-	1	2
Hunedoara	14	60	48	35	-	-	2	5
Timiș	68	130	127	61	1	1	9	45

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 2011

47.2% of the total number of kindergartens in the region are located in Timis County, 25.7% in Arad, 17.3% in Caras-Severin and 9.7% in Hunedoara. For primary and secondary education, the differences between counties are not so large: 36.6% of schools are located in Timis County, 24.5% in Caras-Severin, 23.6% in Arad, 14.2% in Hunedoara.

The situation of high schools is relatively balanced in the territory, except of Timis County, where the most high schools are located (36.7% of total high school). In other counties, the situation of high school is similar: in Arad County, there are 25.3% of high schools of the region, 21.0% in Hunedoara and 16.7% in Caras-Severin.

Professional and post-secondary school education is not developed in the region, being on second lowest place in the country in terms of such educational establishment's number. Although the number of such schools is low in the region, it is noted, however, their total lack in Caras-Severin and Hunedoara Counties.

Higher education is very developed in the capital and less developed in the south of country. The West Region ranks fourth on the country in terms of number of higher education institutions (14 units). On the first place, there is Bucharest-Ilfov region with 34 such institutions followed by North West Region with 17 institutions of higher education. Within universities, 77 faculties operate in the West Region.

Timis County, most well-developed of the counties in the region in terms of education infrastructure, is by far the first into a ranking of the four counties and in the case of higher education with nine universities compared to Arad and Caras-Severin with two universities, and Hunedoara with a single university.

Consequence of demographic trends in the last years, characterized by population decrease and by increasing external migration, the school population in all educational levels showed a continuous decrease. So, in the West Region, from the analysis of the students number enrolled in the educational institutions, there is a decrease in the last years with 34,726 of students, from 404,191 in the school year 2004/2005 to 369,465 in the school year 2010/2011. (Table 3)

Table3

**School population in the West Region and counties in the school year 2004/2005, 2010/2011**

Indicator	West Region		Arad		Caras-Severin		Hunedoara		Timiș	
	2004/2005	2010/2011	2004/2005	2010/2011	2004/2005	2010/2011	2004/2005	2010/2011	2004/2005	2010/2011
Total school population	404,191	369,465	92,042	94,086	59,998	52,949	91,754	78,899	160,397	143,531
Preschool	55,044	56,592	12,771	14,040	9,858	9,545	12,955	12,406	19,460	20,601
Total primary, secondary and special	176,979	144,539	41,793	35,527	30,388	24,810	44,733	35,028	60,065	49,174
Primary	83,431	68,769	20,479	17,216	14,388	11,861	20,660	16,007	27,904	23,685
Secondary	90,348	73,352	20,743	17,879	15,525	12,293	23,386	18,655	30,694	24,525
Special	3,200	2,418	571	432	475	656	687	366	1,467	964
High school	70,989	85,193	15,168	18,685	10,491	13,894	19,176	22,013	26,154	30,601
Professional and apprentices	24,672	4,810	4,856	1,015	4,835	1,031	6,600	1,259	8,381	1,505
Post high school and foremen	4,087	6,070	742	981	421	592	1,116	2,843	1,808	1,654
Higher education	72,420	72,261	16,712	23,838	4,005	3,077	7,174	5,350	44,529	39,996

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 2005, 2011

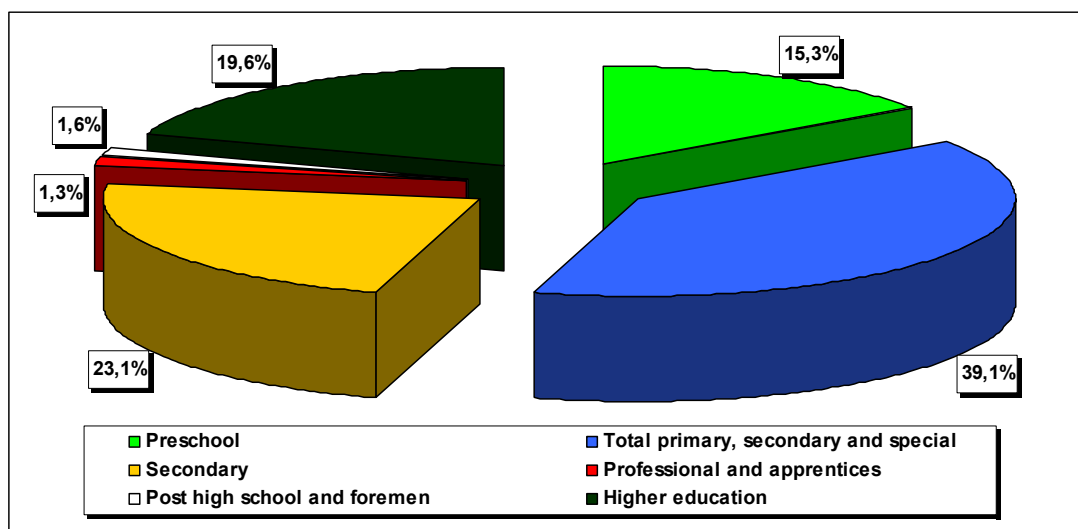


Figure 2. School population in the West Region, by level of education in the school year 2010/2011

In the school year 2010/2011, 56,592 children were enrolled in preschool education, the region being on the last place in the country in terms of the number of children enrolled. Regarding primary and secondary education, 144,539 students were enrolled in the West Region, the lowest number of students in the country, except for Bucharest-Ilfov Region. The secondary education comprised school population included in high school, professional and apprenticeship education. In the school year 2010/2011, 85,193 students were enrolled in the high school, up to 14,200 students compared to the year 2004/2005.

Table 4

School population, on macroregions, development regions, counties and levels of education in the school year 2010/2011

Macroregion/ Development region/County	Total	Preschool education	Primary and secondary education				High school education	Professional education	Post- secondary school and foremen education	Higher education
			Total	Primary (I-IV)	Secondary (V-VIII)	Special education (I-VIII)				
<b>ROMANIA</b>	<b>4,029,226</b>	<b>673,736</b>	<b>1,691,441</b>	<b>822,620</b>	<b>852,480</b>	<b>16,341</b>	<b>866,543</b>	<b>54,538</b>	<b>69,967</b>	<b>673,001</b>
<b>Macroregion 1</b>	<b>1,022,586</b>	<b>186,295</b>	<b>416,957</b>	<b>206,485</b>	<b>205,703</b>	<b>4,769</b>	<b>215,021</b>	<b>13,854</b>	<b>18,133</b>	<b>172,326</b>
North-West	533,240	95,496	217,818	106,293	108,693	2,832	118,357	7,463	9,405	84,701
Center	489,346	90,799	199,139	100,192	97,010	1,937	96,664	6,391	8,728	87,625
<b>Macroregion 2</b>	<b>1,193,389</b>	<b>210,538</b>	<b>556,075</b>	<b>271,118</b>	<b>280,110</b>	<b>4,847</b>	<b>258,813</b>	<b>16,719</b>	<b>20,217</b>	<b>131,027</b>
North-East	707,377	125,682	337,738	164,376	170,165	3,197	150,334	9,676	11,091	72,856
South-East	486,012	84,856	218,337	106,742	109,945	1,650	108,479	7,043	9,126	58,171
<b>Macroregion 3</b>	<b>1,041,116</b>	<b>152,675</b>	<b>397,952</b>	<b>193,329</b>	<b>201,014</b>	<b>3,609</b>	<b>207,994</b>	<b>13,060</b>	<b>15,034</b>	<b>254,401</b>
South-Muntenia	523,362	95,141	258,360	124,731	132,247	1,382	120,920	9,217	7,610	32,114
București-Ilfov	517,754	57,534	139,592	68,598	68,767	2,227	87,074	3,843	7,424	222,287
<b>Macroregion 4</b>	<b>772,135</b>	<b>124,228</b>	<b>320,457</b>	<b>151,688</b>	<b>165,653</b>	<b>3,116</b>	<b>184,715</b>	<b>10,905</b>	<b>16,583</b>	<b>115,247</b>
South-West Oltenia	402,670	67,636	175,918	82,919	92,301	698	99,522	6,095	10,513	42,986
<b>West</b>	<b>369,465</b>	<b>56,592</b>	<b>144,539</b>	<b>68,769</b>	<b>73,352</b>	<b>2,418</b>	<b>85,193</b>	<b>4,810</b>	<b>6,070</b>	<b>72,261</b>
Arad	94,086	14,040	35,527	17,216	17,879	432	18,685	1,015	981	23,838
Caras-Severin	52,949	9,545	24,810	11,861	12,293	656	13,894	1,031	592	3,077
Hunedoara	78,899	12,406	35,028	16,007	18,655	366	22,013	1,259	2,843	5,350
Timiș	143,531	20,601	49,174	23,685	24,525	964	30,601	1,505	1,654	39,996

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, 2011

The educational system in Romania also includes special education, organized for students with disabilities (mental, physical, sensory, motor, language, socio-emotional and behavioral or with associated disabilities) for training and education, rehabilitation and social integration purposes<sup>86</sup>. It is worth noting that the situation of students with special needs in the West Region has improved in recent years; the number of students enrolled in special education system decreased in the analyzed period by over 700 persons.

Regarding the professional education in the school year 2010/2011, 4,810 students were enrolled, with a decrease about 20,000 students compared to the school year 2004/2005.

The mobility of labor market demand, accompanied by the diversification of occupations, determines the orientation of high school graduates to post-secondary school studies, characterized by a shorter duration of schooling compared to the university education. However, more and more students enroll in post-secondary school education. So, in the school year 2010/2011 in this educational level 6,070 persons studied, up to 1,983 students than in 2004/2005

The higher education was very attractive in the last years for the population of the age group 19-25 years. The explanation for this phenomenon was given by the attraction exercised by the university center of Timisoara for high school graduates not only from the region but also from neighboring areas. So, in the West Region we can see that the number of students enrolled in higher education institutions decreased from 72,420 in university year 2004/2005 to 72,261 in the university year 2010/2011.

In the school year 2010/2011, the education institutions in the region and components counties are presented in Table 5.

Table5

**Network utilities in the West Region and on county, at the end of 2010**

Indicator	Region West	Arad	Caras-Severin	Hunedoara	Timiș
Kindergartens	144	37	25	14	68
Primary and secondary schools	355	81	84	60	130
High schools	166	42	28	35	61
Professional schools	1	-	-	-	1
Post-secondary schools	2	1	-	-	1
Higher education institutions	14	2	1	2	9
Faculties	77	25	2	5	45

Source: own processing of INS data

In Timis County, there is 47% of the total number of kindergartens in the region with 68 kindergartens. Regarding primary and secondary education, the highest number of schools of the region stands in this county, with 130 units (36.6%). Also, the situation of high school is a good one, Timis county being on the first place in the region, with 61 units (36.7%). The professional and post-secondary education is not developed, but it is the county from the region where there is a single educational institution in terms of the number of such schools. The higher education is strongly developed, Timis County having the largest number of higher education institutions, with 9 higher education institutions and 45 faculties. (Table 6)

Consequence of demographic trends in the last years, characterized by population decrease and by amplification of external migration, the school population of all educational levels showed a continuous reduction. So, in Timis County, from the analysis of the students enrolled in the educational institutions, there is a decrease in the last years by almost 16,000 persons, from 159,520 persons in 2007/2008 to 143,531 persons in the school year 2010/2011. (Table 7)

Table 6

**Education infrastructure of Timis County (2007/2008, 2010/2011)**

Specification	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011
<b>PRIMARY EDUCATION</b>				
<b>Kindergartens</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>68</b>
Children enrolled	19,699	19,975	20,225	20,601
Educational staff	1,184	1,213	1,177	1,174
<b>PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (including persons with disabilities)</b>				
<b>Schools</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>130</b>
Students enrolled	53,008	51,386	50,685	49,174
Educational staff	4,298	4,269	4,225	3,798
<b>HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION, ARTS AND CRAFTS SCHOOL</b>				
<b>Schools</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>
Students enrolled	33,618	33,223	33,458	32,106
Educational staff	2,263	2,363	2,134	2,130
<b>•HIGH SCHOOL</b>				
<b>High school</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>
Students enrolled	27,347	28,109	30,176	30,601
Educational staff	1,925	2,059	1,945	2,093
<b>POST-SECONDARY AND FOREMEN SCHOOL</b>				
<b>School</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Students enrolled	1,601	1,573	1,692	1,654
Educational staff	39	23	-	-
<b>INSTITUTE OF TERTIARY EDUCATION</b>				
<b>Institute</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
Faculties	49	48	47	45
Students enrolled	51,594	48,433	43,265	39,996
Educational staff	3,058	3,098	2,336	2,216

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Timis County in 2010, 2012

Table 7

**Educational infrastructure of all levels in Timis County, (2007/2008, 2010/2011)**

Specification	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
<b>Total establishments</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>School population, of which:</b>	<b>159,520</b>	<b>154,590</b>	<b>149,325</b>	<b>143,531</b>
<b>Children in kindergartens</b>	<b>19,699</b>	<b>19,975</b>	<b>20,225</b>	<b>20,601</b>
<b>Students enrolled - total, of which:</b>	<b>88,227</b>	<b>86,182</b>	<b>85,835</b>	<b>82,934</b>
• Primary school (including special education)	25,100	24,827	24,694	24,065
• secondary school(including special education)	27,908	26,559	25,991	25,109
• High schools	27,347	28,109	30,176	30,601
• Arts, crafts, apprentices schools	6,271	5,114	3,282	1,505
• Post-secondary schools	1,523	1,482	1,633	1,592
• Foremen	78	91	59	62
<b>Students enrolled- total:</b>	<b>51,594</b>	<b>48,433</b>	<b>43,265</b>	<b>39,996</b>
•Day classes education	45,250	41,825	37,732	35,517
Educational staff	<b>10,842</b>	<b>10,966</b>	<b>9,872</b>	<b>9,318</b>

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Timis County in 2010, 2012

Due to the multiethnic character of the population in the region and county, a feature of education in the county is given by the existence of many primary and secondary schools that use minority languages, especially Hungarian and German languages. In the school year 2010/2011, 2,282 students were enrolled in national minority languages so,

2.75% of all students enrolled in the county. (Table 8)

Table 8

**Primary and secondary education in national minority languages in Timis County**

Specification	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
<b>Students enrolled, of which:</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>2,282</b>
•German language	1,310	1,288	1,262	1,101
•Hungarian language	711	684	585	1,181
<b>Educational staff – number, of which:</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>163</b>	-
•for German language	...	79	73	53
•for Hungarian language	25	68	12	33

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Timis County in 2010, 2012

**CONCLUSIONS**

In terms of economic development level, the West Region is considered to be a developed region with economic results above national average and high growth potential.

The economic dynamics of the West Region is the result of several factors, of which the most important would be the highest level of labor qualification, cosmopolitan mentality and multilingualism that characterizes an important segment of population in the region, the proximity to Western markets and important natural resources existing in the area.

The current profile of overall development of the West Region confirms that it is on upswing, in full development, which have to deal with many Romanian and foreign investors who appreciate the business environment favorable to the economy; this is based on entrepreneurial spirit and free competition, economic spirit of competition which provides favorable prospects in order to develop the economy on functional market.

In the West Region, disparities in development and education infrastructure could be found.

Due to the multiethnic character of population in the region, a feature of education is given by the existence of many primary and secondary schools that use ethnic minorities languages (Hungarian, German, Serbian, Slovak, Romani languages) or an international language. There are also schools where ethnic minorities languages (Hungarian, German, Serbian, Slovak) or an international language are used.

9.6% of the total number of kindergartens in the country is located in the West Region. Regarding primary and secondary education, the lowest schools number of the country stands in West Region except for Bucharest-Ilfov Region. The situation of high schools is relatively balanced in the territory except for Timis County, where are the most high schools in the region (36.7% of total). In the other counties, the situation of high schools is similar: 25.3% of high schools of the region are located in Arad County, 21.0% in Hunedoara and 16.7% in Caras-Severin. The professional and post-secondary education is not developed in the region, being on second lowest place in the country in terms of schools number. Although the number of such schools is low in the region, it is noted, however, their total absence in Caras-Severin and Hunedoara.

In Timis County, there is 47% of the total number of kindergartens in the region with 68 kindergartens. Regarding primary and secondary education, the highest number of schools of the region stands in this county, with 130 units (36.6%). Also, the situation of high school is a good one, Timis county being on the first place in the region, with 61 units (36.7%). The professional and post-secondary education is not developed, but it is the County from the region where there is a single educational institution in terms of the

number of such schools. The higher education is strongly developed, Timis County having the largest number of higher education institutions, with 9 higher education institutions and 45 faculties.

If our country wants to achieve and maintain high rates of growth, remaining competitive in the next decade, it will have to achieve a productivity and increased efficiency necessary for a higher education, meaning a larger number of high school and tertiary education graduates, as well as effective systems of continuing education.

#### REFERENCES

1. \*\*\*, *Planul de Dezvoltare Regională 2007-2013. Regiunea Vest România*, Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională Vest, versiunea mai 2007, <http://www.adrvest.ro>
2. \*\*\*, *Programul Operațional Regional 2007-2013*, Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Turismului, București, 2010
3. \*\*\*, *Statistical Yearbook of Romania*, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012