
DEMOGRAPHIC DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – CASE STUDY: REGION SOUTH -MUNTENIA

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Abstract: *The demographic implications and the changes produced in their structure at national/regional level generated fierce debates in the sustainable development context, whose solving up presupposes joint and conjugated efforts of all decision-makers in each country. The alarming increase of elderly population, under the background of the fluctuations of the other population categories raise questions referring to the efficiency of public policies from the social and economic field, as well as to the sustainability and viability of social security pension schemes. Starting from these considerations, the present approach attempts to make a diagnosis of the region South-Muntenia on the basis of available data, from the point of view of demographic dimension, as starting point in building up any alternative of sustainable local development.*

Key words: *sustainable development, demography, territorial gaps.*

INTRODUCTION

The analysis of population and modifications produced in its structure represents an important element in the design of any sustainable development scenario, practically representing the element that supports the local economy as well as the beneficiary of direct and indirect effects of the economic and social measures adopted in a given area. From this point of view, knowing the evolutions of the population's structure from the perspective of specific indicators that characterize a demographic phenomenon gives credibility and stability to any local development model.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

From the methodological point of view, the present paper attempts to investigate the changes produced in the structure of the population from the Region South-Muntenia, in the period 2007-2014 (in the case of certain indicators being limited to the year 2013).

Taking into consideration the changes that have been lately produced in the statistical reports, the analysis has as starting point the population by domicile on July 1 each year, as well as series of resultative indicators, namely: death rate, birth rate and average lifespan.

At the same time, in relation to the demographic ageing indicators, in the analysis we intended to calculate certain synthetic indicators, namely the dependency rate of elderly people and the demographic ageing index.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The region South-Muntenia, with an area of 34,453 km², representing 14.45 % of Romania's area, is located in the South-Eastern area of this country, bordering on the Region Center in the north, Region South-East in the east, Bulgaria in the south, with the limit given by the natural border – the Danube river, and on the region South-West in the west. The presence of the Danube river in the south of this region facilitates its communications with the 8 riverain countries; by the Danube-Black Sea Canal, it has the

possibility to have access to the Black Sea and Constanța harbour, the country's main maritime gate.

Not being an administrative structure, the region South-Muntenia has in its componency 7 counties (Argeș, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Ialomița, Giurgiu, Prahova and Teleorman), 16 municipalities, 32 towns and 509 communes with 2018 villages. The relief of the region, characterized by variety and displayed under amphitheatre form, consists of three main relief units: mountains 9.5 %, hills 19.8%, plain and riverplain 70.7%. While in the 4 counties in the south (Ialomița, Călărași, Giurgiu, Teleorman) the characteristic relief unit is the plain, the other 3 counties in its northern part (Argeș, Dâmbovița, Prahova) cover both plain and hills and mountains, in this area being also located the highest mountain peaks from Romania – peaks Moldoveanu (2544m) and Negoiu (2535m) from the Făgăraș massif and Omu Peak (2505m) from the Bucegi massif. The quite rich hydrographic network is dominated by the Danube river, in which the main rivers of the region flow (Olt, Argeș, Dâmbovița, Ialomița and Prahova). This is completed by a series of natural and anthropic lakes with complex usages. Thus, the region has rich and important water resources (3.4% of the region's area), which have a special role in the region's economic development, by their use in different fields of activity.

As regards the modifications produced in the region's demographic structure, the period 2007-2014 is characterized by a decreasing trend of the population, both per total country (-1.2%), and at macroregion level (-1.3% Macroregion III) as well as at the level of the region South-Muntenia (-3.1%). The 3.1 percentage points by which the population of the region has decreased are the result of the negative oscillations produced in the seven component counties, ranging from -1.5% (Dâmbovița) to -7.7% (Teleorman) (**Table no.1**).

Table no. 1. The evolution of population in the period 2007-2014 (no.)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014/2007 (pp)
Total	22562913	22542169	22520477	22492083	22441740	22401865	22359849	22299730	-1.2
Macroregion III	5845758	5847322	5845871	5843334	5835464	5826029	5808149	5771193	-1.3
Region South-Muntenia	3394547	3384932	3373155	3360408	3343770	3327723	3309182	3289404	-3.1
Argeș	663975	665281	663075	661091	658421	655633	653212	650332	-2.1
Călărași	329900	329015	328282	327085	325353	324089	322394	320302	-2.9
Dâmbovița	539540	538231	537877	537414	536623	535852	533954	531715	-1.5
Giurgiu	286663	285730	284567	283502	282525	281869	280114	278630	-2.8
Ialomița	305763	304680	303822	302845	301342	299880	298203	296162	-3.1
Prahova	838963	836893	834600	831992	827940	823687	819498	815741	-2.8
Teleorman	429743	425102	420932	416479	411566	406713	401807	396522	-7.7

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

The modifications produced per total country/macroregion/region/counties as regards the number of the population in the last 8 years have been generated by the significant oscillations by residence areas (urban/rural) as well as by genders (M/F). From these points of view the following aspects can be signalled out:

- Much greater negative oscillations in the urban area compared to the rural area, with only one exception, i.e. Teleorman county, where the population was down by about 8% in the rural area in the year 2014 compared to the year 2008;
- Compared to the women population, the number of men had a higher diminution trend in the 8-year period, both per total country and by residence areas, the strongest diminutions being noticed in Teleorman county.

As share in total population, the population in the rural area increased by 0.4% per total country, with oscillations at macroregion and region level (**Table no.2**), except for the counties Ialomița and Teleorman, which follow a negative trend.

Table no. 2.

**Share of rural population in total population in the period 2007-2014
in the territory (%)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014/2007 (pp)
Total	43.2	43.3	43.3	43.3	43.4	43.5	43.5	43.6	0.4
Macroregion III	35.9	35.9	35.9	35.9	35.9	36.0	36.0	36.1	0.2
Region South-Muntenia	56.8	56.9	56.9	56.9	57.0	57.1	57.1	57.1	0.3
Argeș	50.5	50.8	50.8	50.8	50.9	50.9	51.0	51.0	0.4
Călărași	59.9	60.0	59.9	59.9	59.9	60.0	60.0	60.0	0.0
Dâmbovița	66.9	67.1	67.2	67.3	67.5	67.6	67.7	67.8	0.9
Giurgiu	67.3	67.4	67.3	67.3	67.3	67.4	67.3	67.3	0.1
Ialomița	53.1	53.0	52.9	52.8	52.8	52.8	52.7	52.7	-0.4
Prahova	48.2	48.3	48.4	48.5	48.6	48.7	48.8	48.8	0.6
Teleorman	64.1	64.1	64.0	63.9	63.8	63.9	63.8	63.7	-0.4

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

By categories of age (0-14 years, 15-64 years and over 65 years), the analysis of the period 2007-2014 revealed a noticeable increase of the elderly population by 3.6% per total country and by only 0.3% in the region South-Muntenia. Out of the seven component counties, in four counties a diminution of elderly population was noticed, ranging from -2.2% (Ialomița) to -6.9% (Giurgiu) (**Table no. 3**). While at the level of elderly population there is a relative diminution tendency in certain counties, for the other two categories of age the period 2007/2014 is characterized by a strong diminution tendency, both of the future “base” of the population of working age (i.e. the group 0-14 years), and of the population included in the age group 15-64 years.

Table no. 3.

**Percentage modifications produced in the structure of the population
in the year 2014 compared to the year 2007 (%)**

	0-14 years	15-64 years	over 65 years
Total	-4.5	-5.5	3.6
Macroregion III	-0.2	-6.6	2.7
Region South-Muntenia	-7.6	-6.0	0.3
Argeș	-8.3	-6.3	8.0
Călărași	-5.8	-5.0	-3.5
Dâmbovița	-6.8	-4.3	2.1
Giurgiu	-8.7	-1.6	-6.9
Ialomița	-5.2	-6.4	-2.2
Prahova	-5.9	-7.5	2.2
Teleorman	-14.4	-8.4	-4.5

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

The diminution tendencies are also noticed in the rural area, in significantly negative higher shares,. From this point of view, it is worth mentioning the tendencies in the counties Argeș and Teleorman with regard to the dynamics of the population in the category 0-14 years (-10.6% Argeș and -17.1% Teleorman), under the background of a slight increase of the population from the group 15-64 years in the counties Argeș, Dâmbovița and Giurgiu).

Calculated as ratio of the population aged over 65 years to the population aged 15-64 years, *the demographic dependency rate* had an increasing trend, with percentages ranging from 9.6% (per total country) to 6.7% (in the region South -Muntenia), mainly as a result of the noticeable and significant oscillations at county level. Practically, in two out of the seven counties (i.e. Argeş and Prahova) the dependency rate increased by over 10% in the year 2014; the dependency rate increased in the other counties as well, except for Giurgiu county, where the dependency rate declined by 5.4 % (Table no. 4).

Table no. 4.
Evolution of the demographic dependency rate per total in the period 2007-2014 (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014/2007 (pp)
Total	24.3	24.5	24.7	24.9	25.2	25.5	25.9	26.6	9.6
Macroregion III	25.8	25.9	26.1	26.4	26.6	27.0	27.4	28.3	9.9
Region South-Muntenia	28.2	28.3	28.5	28.7	28.9	29.2	29.5	30.1	6.7
Argeş	23.8	23.9	24.4	24.9	25.3	25.8	26.5	27.4	15.3
Călăraşi	29.1	29.1	29.1	29.1	29.1	29.2	29.1	29.6	1.5
Dâmboviţa	25.0	25.1	25.2	25.3	25.4	25.7	26.0	26.7	6.7
Giurgiu	34.8	34.3	33.8	33.4	33.0	32.9	32.8	33.0	-5.4
Ialomiţa	27.3	27.6	27.7	27.8	28.0	28.1	28.1	28.6	4.6
Prahova	26.7	27.0	27.2	27.7	28.0	28.4	28.6	29.5	10.4
Teleorman	39.3	39.3	39.5	39.4	39.6	39.8	40.5	41.0	4.2

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

Unlike the situation per total country, in the rural area, the demographic dependency rate followed a decreasing trend, in the conditions in which, in value terms, it exceeds the national level (Table no. 5). Practically, all the seven counties are characterized by a decreasing trend of the dependency of elderly people, ranging from -12.7% (Giurgiu) to -0.9% (Prahova).

Table no. 5. Evolution of the demographic dependency rate in the rural area in the period 2007-2014 (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014/2007 (pp)
Total	34.1	33.7	33.4	33.0	32.6	32.3	32.0	32.0	-6.2
Macroregion III	37.1	36.6	36.3	35.9	35.5	35.0	34.7	34.7	-6.5
Region South-Muntenia	37.9	37.5	37.2	36.9	36.5	36.2	35.9	35.9	-5.2
Argeş	35.4	35.0	35.1	35.1	34.8	34.7	34.7	34.8	-1.5
Călăraşi	39.2	38.8	38.4	37.9	37.3	36.7	36.1	35.8	-8.5
Dâmboviţa	30.6	30.4	30.1	29.9	29.7	29.5	29.4	29.7	-3.0
Giurgiu	44.3	43.2	42.3	41.3	40.4	39.7	39.1	38.7	-12.7
Ialomiţa	41.0	40.8	40.5	40.2	39.6	38.9	38.1	37.7	-8.1
Prahova	31.3	31.2	31.1	31.2	31.1	30.9	30.7	31.0	-0.9
Teleorman	56.4	55.8	55.4	54.7	54.0	53.4	53.3	52.9	-6.2

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

However, an alarming evolution was noticed in the case of the *demographic ageing index*. With percentages that exceed 100% in almost all cases, the demographic ageing index reveals a noticeable ageing trend of the population both per total country and in the territory (Table no. 6).

Table no. 6. Evolution of the demographic ageing index per total in the period 2007-2014 (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014/2007 (pp)
Total	93.9	94.4	95.2	95.1	95.7	96.7	98.4	101.9	8.5
Macroregion III	110.8	110.5	110.5	109.4	109.3	109.7	110.9	114.0	2.9
Region South-Muntenia	107.3	108.1	109.2	109.3	110.0	111.1	113.1	116.5	8.6
Argeș	97.1	99.0	101.3	102.4	104.0	106.2	109.7	114.3	17.8
Călărași	101.3	100.5	101.1	100.7	100.4	100.3	101.3	103.7	2.4
Dâmbovița	92.0	92.9	94.0	94.1	94.7	95.8	97.3	100.8	9.6
Giurgiu	122.8	122.5	122.5	121.2	121.3	122.2	123.5	125.2	1.9
Ialomița	93.8	94.3	94.9	94.8	94.5	93.7	94.2	96.9	3.2
Prahova	108.6	109.5	110.1	110.6	111.6	112.9	114.3	117.9	8.6
Teleorman	149.1	150.4	152.7	153.0	154.7	156.9	162.1	166.3	11.5

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

Like in the case of demographic dependency rate, the demographic ageing index followed an increasing trend yet lower in the rural area compared to that per total country, as in three counties (Călărași, Giurgiu și Ialomița) this indicator had a slightly decreasing trend (Table no.7).

Table no. 7. Evolution of the demographic ageing index in the rural area in the period 2007-2014 (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014/2007 (pp)
Total	102.7	103.0	103.5	103.2	103.3	103.5	104.5	106.9	4.0
Macroregion III	123.3	123.6	124.3	123.6	123.2	122.8	123.6	125.2	1.6
Region South-Muntenia	123.7	124.3	125.4	125.1	125.2	125.4	126.7	128.9	4.2
Argeș	118.9	120.9	123.4	124.2	125.0	126.1	128.6	132.1	11.1
Călărași	118.9	117.8	118.5	117.3	116.1	114.9	115.1	116.3	-2.2
Dâmbovița	100.0	100.5	101.6	101.1	101.3	101.6	102.6	105.0	5.0
Giurgiu	141.0	140.0	139.1	137.1	136.8	137.4	137.7	138.0	-2.1
Ialomița	121.7	122.1	122.4	121.7	120.4	117.8	117.1	118.1	-3.0
Prahova	107.4	108.4	109.0	109.8	110.4	111.2	112.0	114.8	6.9
Teleorman	187.7	189.8	193.0	193.6	195.7	197.7	203.2	206.6	10.0

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

The *death rate* (calculated as number of deaths /1000 inhabitants) also followed an increasing trend, yet by lower percentages. From this point of view, in the year 2013 compared to 2007, the death rate increased by 1.6% per total region South-Muntenia, and in two counties this indicator decreased by percentages ranging from -0.6% (Teleorman) to -2.5% (Giurgiu) (Table no. 8).

**Table no. 8. Evolution of death rate per total in the period 2007-2013
(number of deaths/1000 inhabitants)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013/2007 (pp)
Total	11.7	11.8	12	12.1	11.8	12	11.7	0.0
Macroregion III	12.2	12.2	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.5	12.1	-0.8
Region South-Muntenia	12.8	13	13.3	13.3	13.1	13.4	13	1.6
Argeş	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.7	11.8	11.5	11.3	0.0
Călăraşi	13.5	13.7	13.9	14.1	13.8	14	13.9	3.0
Dâmboviţa	11.6	12	11.9	12.1	11.5	11.8	12	3.4
Giurgiu	15.7	15.7	16.4	16.2	15.3	15.9	15.3	-2.5
Ialomiţa	12.6	13.2	13.1	13.3	13.6	13.5	12.9	2.4
Prahova	11.7	11.9	12.4	12.2	12.1	12.6	12.1	3.4
Teleorman	16.4	16.8	17.6	17.2	17.3	17.7	16.3	-0.6

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

Unlike the overall death rate, in the rural area the death rate followed a decreasing trend, both per total country and in the territory, except for the counties Călăraşi and Prahova, where the indicator increased by more than 1.5% in the year 2013 compared to 2007 (**Table no. 9**).

**Table no. 9. Evolution of death rate in the rural area in the period 2007-2013
(number of deaths/1000 inhabitants)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013/2007 (pp)
Total	14.2	14.3	14.6	14.7	14.2	14.3	13.8	-2.8
Macroregion III	15.1	15.2	15.5	15.5	15.2	15.4	14.8	-2.0
Region South-Muntenia	15.2	15.4	15.7	15.8	15.5	15.7	15.1	-0.7
Argeş	14.5	14.4	14.4	15.1	15.1	14.7	14.3	-1.4
Călăraşi	15.5	15.9	16.3	16.5	16.3	16.5	15.9	2.6
Dâmboviţa	13.1	13.3	13.1	13.2	12.6	13	13.1	0.0
Giurgiu	18.1	18	18.8	18.7	17.4	18.3	17.2	-5.0
Ialomiţa	16.1	16.5	16.1	16.8	17.2	17.1	15.8	-1.9
Prahova	12.9	13.3	13.4	13.5	13.2	13.6	13.1	1.6
Teleorman	19.7	20.1	21.2	20.6	20.6	21.1	19.4	-1.5

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

A strong negative tendency was noticed in the case of *birth rate*, calculated as number of live births /1000 inhabitants. From this point of view, the period 2007/2013 was characterised by a diminution trend, by percentages ranging from -13.9% (Călăraşi) to 0% (Teleorman) (**Table no. 10**).

**Table no. 10. Evolution of birth rate in the period 2007-2013
(number of live births /1000 inhabitants)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013/2007 (pp)
Total	10	10.3	10.4	9.9	9.2	9.4	9.3	-7.0
Macroregion III	9.7	10.1	10.5	10.1	9.2	9.4	9.2	-5.2
Region South-Muntenia	9.3	9.6	9.9	9.4	8.6	8.7	8.4	-9.7
Argeș	9.1	9	9.4	9.2	8.4	8.5	8.1	-11.0
Călărași	10.8	11.2	11.4	10.5	9.7	9.8	9.3	-13.9
Dâmbovița	9.1	9.9	10.1	9.8	8.9	9	8.7	-4.4
Giurgiu	9.2	10	10.1	9.5	9.4	9.3	8.9	-3.3
Ialomița	11.4	11.9	11.7	11.1	10.4	10.2	10	-12.3
Prahova	9.2	9.2	9.6	8.8	8	8.1	8	-13.0
Teleorman	7.3	7.7	8.3	7.8	7.2	7.6	7.3	0.0

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

The same tendency was also noticed in the rural area, where, for instance, the birth rate decreased in the county Prahova by almost 18%, followed at small distance by Ialomița and Călărași (Table no. 11).

**Table no. 11. Evolution of birth rate in the rural area in the period 2007-2013
(number of live births /1000 inhabitants)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013/2007 (pp)
Total	10.2	10.4	10.4	9.8	9.3	9.6	9.3	-8.8
Macroregion III	9.3	9.6	10	9.4	8.8	8.9	8.5	-8.6
Region South-Muntenia	9.1	9.4	9.8	9.2	8.6	8.7	8.2	-9.9
Argeș	8.6	9	9.3	8.9	8.4	8.3	7.9	-8.1
Călărași	10.5	11.1	11.2	10.2	9.9	10.1	9.3	-11.4
Dâmbovița	9.3	9.9	10.1	9.8	9.1	9.1	8.6	-7.5
Giurgiu	9.2	10	10	9.4	9.3	9.3	8.8	-4.3
Ialomița	10.6	11.2	11.6	11	10.2	10.3	9.3	-12.3
Prahova	9.6	9.1	9.8	8.8	8.1	8.2	7.9	-17.7
Teleorman	6.8	7	7.6	7.3	6.6	7.2	6.7	-1.5

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

Finally, the average *lifespan* tends to increase both per total and in the territory, by percentages ranging from 1.7% (Ialomița) to 3.3% (Argeș) (Table no. 12).

Table no. 12. Evolution of average lifespan per total in the period 2007-2013 (years)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013/2007 (pp)
Total	72.61	73.03	73.33	73.47	73.77	74.26	74.74	2.9
Macroregion III	73.14	73.55	73.81	74.01	74.31	74.76	75.17	2.8
Region South-Muntenia	72.5	72.97	73.07	73.14	73.49	74.02	74.52	2.8
Argeş	72.87	73.26	73.67	74.05	74.3	74.69	75.26	3.3
Călăraşi	71.54	71.51	71.81	71.84	72.16	72.89	73.29	2.4
Dâmboviţa	72.85	73.36	73.48	73.62	74.02	74.76	75.2	3.2
Giurgiu	71.24	71.51	71.6	71.96	72.54	73.07	73.36	3.0
Ialomiţa	72.31	72.61	72.25	72.32	72.59	72.98	73.54	1.7
Prahova	73.14	73.98	73.96	73.85	74.21	74.57	75.05	2.6
Teleorman	72.07	72.53	72.56	72.26	72.56	73.3	73.96	2.6

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

A similar situation is found in the rural area as well, where the average lifespan increased by similar percentages to those per total country (**Table no. 13**).

Table no. 13. Evolution of average lifespan in the rural area in the period 2007-2013 (years)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013/2007 (pp)
Total	71.64	72.05	72.23	72.26	72.63	73.21	73.76	3.0
Region South-Muntenia	71.88	72.31	72.3	72.33	72.72	73.23	73.82	2.7
Argeş	72.02	72.36	72.65	73.06	73.34	73.66	74.4	3.3
Călăraşi	70.91	71.05	71.41	71.18	71.33	72.12	72.6	2.4
Dâmboviţa	72.58	73.11	73.25	73.38	73.88	74.61	74.91	3.2
Giurgiu	70.79	70.99	70.77	71.04	71.84	72.45	72.84	2.9
Ialomiţa	71.79	71.81	71.39	71.55	71.45	71.59	72.4	0.8
Prahova	72.5	73.29	73.12	73.02	73.32	73.61	74.3	2.5
Teleorman	71.43	71.84	71.54	71.25	71.9	72.63	73.35	2.7

Source: Calculations based on Tempo-Online data, 2014.

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of modifications produced in the population structure in the region South-Muntenia revealed the following aspects:

- Obvious population decreasing trend, both per total country and in the territory, by a higher rate in the urban area compared to the rural area;
- Diminution of the male population by a net higher rate compared to the female population, with the highest diminution rates in the county Teleorman;
- By categories of age, it is worth mentioning the increasing tendency in the population over 65 years of age, under the background of significant oscillations in the age structures 0-14 years, 15-64 years respectively, which raise problems with regard to the available labour force in the future;

- Most elderly population, correlated with the decreasing evolutions of the categories of age 0-14 years and 15-64 years generated the decrease of the dependency rate of elderly people and of the demographic ageing index; practically, the diminution of the population of working age and the decline of young population, together with the increase of the lifespan and of the population over 65 years old implicitly, can have only negative effects, both of social and mainly economic nature;
- The death rate increase and the birth rate diminution, as well as the increase of average lifespan, correlated with a high population ageing index do not provide to the region South-Muntenia the necessary attributes for the design, at least in this stage, of certain local sustainable development alternatives, the “essential starting point” – population, both as regards their effects upon the welfare of their own inhabitants, and of inducing certain positive effects in the territorial economy, being permanently subject to continuous negative structural modifications

Yet, it is obvious that an important role in this field is played by the decision-makers, who, through the economic-social policy measures should contribute to the attenuation of negative effects produced in the demographic structure, with a direct impact upon local sustainable development.

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