

No. 1

Newsletter

November 2016

DISRUR

Demographic disparities in rural areas

DISRUR represents a complex international project of inter-university collaboration, with a strong interdisciplinary character. Its impact materializes into a joint working methodology, a complex database, results recognized nationally and internationally, transfer of knowledge and best practice models, and new prospects of academic collaboration, or with other institutions, on similar topics.

DISRUR project aims to become a scientific, objective support for decision makers in policies and documents on alleviating regional disparities.

The **overall objective** of the project is to develop recommendation guidelines on alleviating demographic disparities in the Romanian rural areas, focused on the Poiana Ruscă Mountains.

Project coordinator:

Babeş-Bolyai University, Centre for Regional Geography, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Partners:

West University of Timişoara, Centre for Regional Development, Cross-border Studies and Territorial Planning, Timişoara, Romania

Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Université d'Angers, ESO-Angers-CNRS, Angers, France

Subscribing to the provisions of the existing European and national documents, the specific objectives of the project include identifying the rural demographic gaps existing in the analysed areas, highlighting the local communities' perception on demographic disparities, identifying some feasible solutions, including the proposal of recommendations to alleviate demographic disparities in rural areas, and raising the awareness of the academic and local community on the consequences of perpetuating these social phenomena.



Between the 5th and the 9th of October 2016, the project team of the Centre for Regional Geography, composed of Pompei Cocean, Gheorghe-Gavrilă Hognogi, Ana-Maria Pop, Lelia Papp, Nicoleta David, and Camelia-Alexandra Potra, undertook a research visit to Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, within the project “Demographic Disparities in Rural Areas”, funded under PN III Programme/ Sub-programme 3.1. Bilateral/multilateral/ Module AUF-RO.

During this mobility visit, a meeting was held with the team conducted by Mr Valeriu Sainsus, Associate Professor and Project Manager from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, on the 6th of October. The discussions were focused on issues related to the demographic development of the Republic of Moldova, the existing Moldavian demographic disparities, as well as the establishment of future collaborative proposals for the 2017 project competitions.

Between the 23rd and the 26th of October 2016, the team composed of Prof. Nicolae Popa and Teaching Assistant Alexandru Drăgan (Department of Geography of the West University of Timișoara), as Project Partner 1, had a research visit to Chişinău, Republic of Moldova and a meeting with the project team of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova.

The main objectives of the visit were to understand the ways in which disparities can be mitigated in rural areas, to have discussions on the demographic disparities in rural areas and to identify the perception of local authorities and academics on this issue.

Visit of the Centre for Regional Geography project team to Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

5-9 October 2016

The following two days, the 7th and 8th of October, were dedicated to the participation in the 3rd national conference with international participation on “Environment and Sustainable Development”, organized by the State University of Tiraspol, Faculty of Geography. During this event, four of the Centre for Regional Geography team members, Gheorghe Hognogi, Ana-Maria Pop, Lelia Papp, and Alexandra-Camelia Potra presented a paper entitled *Post-Socialist Demographic Developments of Some Mountain Communities. Case Study on the Poiana Ruscă Mountains*.

Case Study on the Poiana Ruscă Mountains.



Visit of the West University of Timișoara project team to Republic of Moldova

23-26 October 2016

Three professional meetings were organized, one with the Geography Section of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, one with Helpage Association (specialized in helping older people in depopulated rural areas) and one with the local authorities in Călărași District.



The 7th International Conference “REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIAL DISPARITIES ”

15-16 October 2016

Between the 15th and the 16th of October 2016, the Centre for Regional Geography of Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, in collaboration with the Romanian Academy, Cluj Subsidiary, Geography Section and the South Muntenia Regional Development Agency, Călăraşi, organized the 7th International Conference on “Regional Development and Territorial Disparities”. The members of the project teams from Romania and the Republic of Moldova participated with presentations correlated both with the conference theme and with the theme of DISRUR/14-AUF project. Mr Valeriu Sainsus, Associate Professor and Project Manager from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, had a plenary communication entitled *Demographic Inequalities in the Population of the Republic of Moldova*.

Ms Silvia Godonoagă, from the same institution, presented a paper on *Health – Population Quality Indicator*.

To emphasize some representative activities in the Romanian mountain area, currently under restructuring process, the team of the project coordinator institution, Babeş-Bolyai University, Centre for Regional Geography, consisting of Pompei Cocean, Gheorghe-Gavrilă Hognogi, Ana-Maria Pop, Lelia Papp, Nicoleta David, and Camelia-Alexandra Potra had a communication on the *Peculiarities of Fruit Tree Growing in the Southeast of the Poiana Ruscă Mountains*.



Planned phases and activities

In order to ensure the interdisciplinarity of the created partnership and the transfer of best practice models from the partner states, three distinct work phases were established, each of them focused on a specific type of activity, as follows:

Phase I. Diagnostic analysis of the rural areas in terms of demographic disparities

- I.1. Theoretical and methodological benchmarks on rural demographic disparities
- I.2. Diagnostic analysis of some rural areas by addressing demographic disparities
- I.3. Field research

Phase II. Best practices on alleviating regional disparities in rural areas

- II.1. Identification of best practices in the European area on alleviating demographic disparities in rural areas
- II.2. Elaboration of recommendations on alleviating demographic disparities in rural areas

Phase III. Dissemination of DISRUR project results

- III.1. Elaboration and dissemination of studies
- III.2. Elaboration of progress and final reports



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