

THE ROMANIAN POPULATION PROJECTION AT REGIONAL LEVEL

Paper submitted by the National Commission for Statistics, Romania¹

1. Regional policy in Romania is conceived to having regional development units, 8 macroregions and priority/problem areas are to be defined. The present paper is intended to portray the probable future evolution of the macroregions' population and their subregions.
2. Each region is described in terms of demographic behaviour and the factors that influence fertility, mortality and internal migration: the natural environmental, human settlements system, economic infrastructure and level of living conditions.
3. The regions have been proposed by the Green Paper for Regional Policy in Romania, published by Romanian Government and European Commission in May 1997. Since the large debate has been taking place in Romania's media and local and central administration on regional policy and regions, including the topic concerning population evolution.
4. The institutional structure that is proposed for the regional policy in Romania is mainly oriented to supporting the development of competitiveness of the regions: they have been delimited not in terms of similar levels of development but as potential functional units. In the long term this could be the key function of regional policy in Romania.
5. Within each region are delimited subregions or clusters. They are grouping of judets (NUTS 2) that are similar from the point of view of level and structure of development. The functions of the structuring criteria, the subregions could be different. Their specification is very important as a way to locate the territorial targets for regional development. Judets and subregions that are very low on human capital index (composite measure of education stock, infant mortality and communication environment) are very likely, problem areas for long terms.
6. The goal of this present paper is to show the effect on future populations in different regions of assumptions on the most likely future fertility, mortality and migration which are judged to be plausible in the context of recent trends. The assumptions are made on a consistent basis for each judets (the actual administrative territorial unit). The projection is made at the judets level and then the regions are recreated by grouping the judets (that belong to each region). This 'bottom-up' approach ensures that the regional projections reflect more properly the future situation, in the condition that regions were created more according to the economic criteria instead on demographic ones.
7. Inside the regions exist a diversity in fertility, mortality and internal migration timing and intensity of trends that make assumptions at the regional level very difficult. The regions are different from the socio-economic and

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socio-cultural point of view. The pace of change differs across regions but some major economic and cultural trends have developed in a similar direction. Even most judets witnessed some similar demographic trends: the level of fertility has declined (but with different intensity), internal and international migration has increase, we assumed that on short run, no matter of future economic development, the differences in demographic behaviour at judets level will still persist (perhaps in some directions the situation will be improved and the differences will be reduced, but not eliminate).

8. For each of the 41 judets **three** assumptions were made: **high, constant and low tendencies**.
9. The first results of the population projection until 2020 at regional level are then presented and compared with the national projection.