

# THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE MOUNTAIN AREA IN ROMANIA

## CALITATEA VIEȚII ÎN SPAȚIUL RURAL AL ZONEI MONTANE DIN ROMANIA

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**Abstract.** *This section has as primary objective determining the coordinates of the standard of living in the Mountain Area of Romania. Achieving this goal involved the identification of the available information off/from specialty literature and the public documents developed by the national authorities empowered in this issue. The methodology used consisted in selecting and processing the information obtained after which it proceeded to interpreting the results and identify solutions. The results obtained represent bench-marks for developing national, regional and local policies and on the other hand, a base for applicative research.*

**Key words:** poverty, mountain area

**Rezumat.** *Această lucrare are ca obiectiv principal stabilirea coordonatelor nivelului de trai în Zona Montană a României. Atingerea acestui obiectiv a presupus identificarea informațiilor disponibile din literatura de specialitate și documentele publice elaborate de instituțiile naționale abilitate în această problemă. Metodologia utilizată a constat în selectarea și prelucrarea informațiilor obținute după care s-a procedat la interpretarea rezultatelor și identificarea unor soluții. Rezultatele obținute reprezintă repere pentru elaborarea politicilor naționale, regionale și locale iar pe de altă parte un fundament pentru cercetarea aplicativă.*

**Cuvinte cheie :** sărăcie, zona montană

### INTRODUCTION

**Welfare** is an essential component of the human situation and it defined in simple terms as an optimal state to which aspires the individual, through it methods of producing, consuming and saving.

It requires a distinction between **individual welfare and collective well-being**.

**Individual welfare** – reflects a system of needs, correlated with the socio-economic context in which everyone is included, from the perspective of property, the level of consumption, the material and financial status, the social and cultural hierarchy. [1]

**Collective well-being** is that "type of welfare understood as meaning that all members of the community must have a minimum stock of economic assets to be considered decent, normal" [2].

At the opposite side of the concept of welfare is the concept of **poverty**.

Defining poverty is important for knowing the proportions of the phenomenon, the causes and factors that generate it, as a basis for proper combat of the poverty. [1]

In the specialty literature there are many demarcations of this concept:

It is believed that people in poverty are individuals and families whose income or other resources, especially in the form of educational and vocational training, conditions of existence and material heritage, are below a medium level of the society in which they live. [2]

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

The methodology used to define the dimensions of life quality in the rural environment of the Mountain area was based on results provided by the use of public documents of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development. These studies used as a reference the World Bank's method of measuring the poverty.

After that, it is considered a poor person, the one who does not have the minimum amount required per month to a person to provide a caloric consumption of 2550 calories per day.

The socio-economic indicators used were:

- the number of poor people,
- the rate of poverty,
- the depth of poverty (consumption deficit),
- the severity of poverty.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The total number of poor people there are in the rural environment of the Mountain Area is 699.159 poor persons registering an average of 65.223 poor persons per county (figure 1).

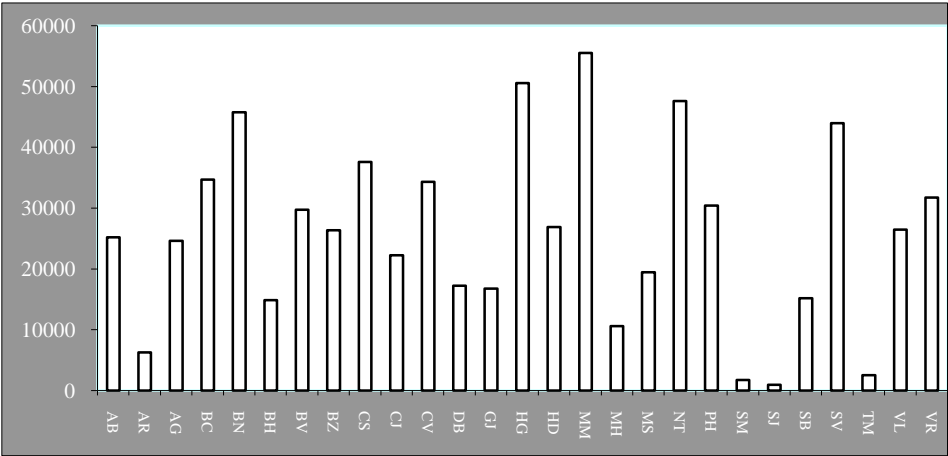


Fig. 1. The number of poor people

The most poor people are in the rural mountain area of the counties Maramureş with 55.496 poor persons, Harghita with 50.547 poor persons and

Neamț with 47.594 poor persons. The minimum value of this indicator it's possessed by the county Sălaj with 959 poor persons.

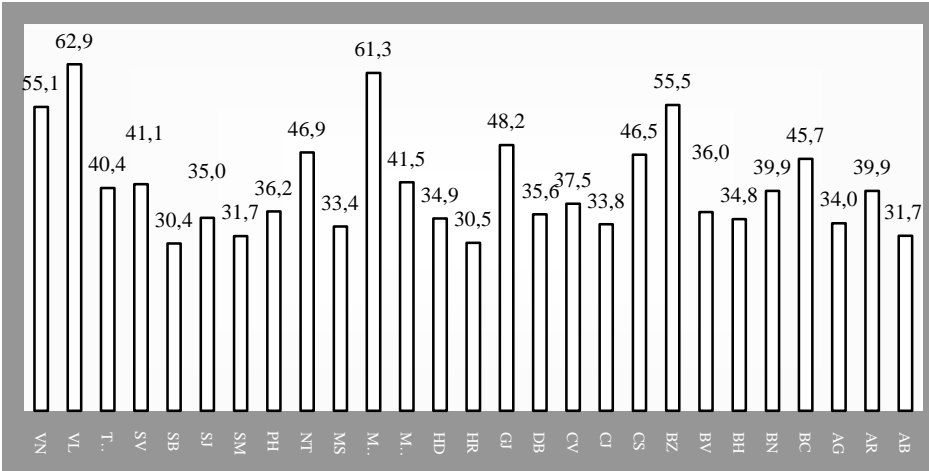


Fig. 2. The rate of poverty

The total number of poor people from the rural space of the Mountain Area represents 17,2% from the total number of poor people at national level.

This indicator has a value of 39,7% in the researched area with 2,8% smaller than the national level (figure 2).

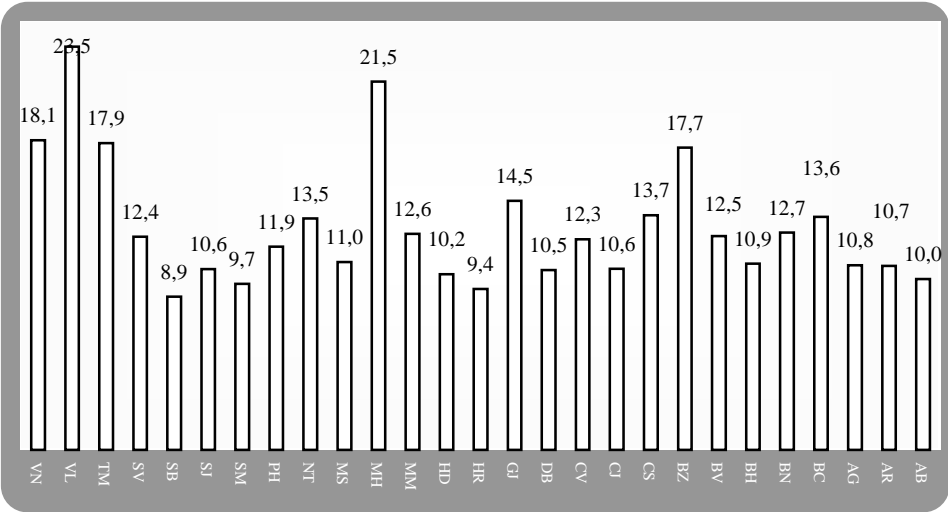


Fig. 3. The depth of poverty (consumption deficit)

The highest concentration of powerness is in Valcea county with a value of 62,9%, Mehedinți with 61,3% and Buzău with 55,5%. The poverty degree with the lowest values are being registered in the Sibiu, Harghita and, evenly, Salaj and

Alba counties with 30,4%, 30,5% and respectively, for the last two counties 31,7%.

The depth of the poverty of the indexed deficit of consumption has an average value of 13,0%, with 1,8% higher than the same indicator at national level. The deepest poverty in the researched area is proven to be also in the Valcea county with 23,5% followed by Mehedinti county with 21,5% and Vrancea county with 18,1% (figure 3). The minimum values of this indicator are being registered in Sibiu county with 8,9%, Harghita with 9,4% and Satu Mate with 9,7%.

The severity of poverty is with 2,2% higher in the Mountain Area than at national level having an average value of 5,9%. This phenomenon registers maximum values in the mountain area of Valcea county with 10,1%, Mehedinti with 10,0% and Timisoara with 8,7%. The minimum value are represented in the Sibiu, Harghita and Hunedoara counties.

## CONCLUSIONS

The total number of poor persons that are in the rural zone of the Mountain Area is of 699.159 persons.

The average of the depth of poverty has an average value of 13,0%.

The poverty ratio is of 39,7%.

The average poverty severity is of 5,9%.

## REFERENCES

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