



**„BABEŞ-BOLYAI” UNIVERSITY CLUJ-NAPOCA**



**FACULTY OF GEOGRAPHY**

**DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY**

## **SUMMARY**

# **THE ROLE OF SMALL-SIZED CITIES IN TERRITORIAL COHESION. CASE STUDY: JIBOU**

**PhD student :**

**Daroczi Mihai Iosif**

**Coordinator:**

**prof. univ. dr. Popescu Rodica Claudia**

**Cluj-Napoca,**

**2021**

# Contents

## PART I

I.Introduction .....	6
1.1.Motivation and the importance of scientific research. Scope and objectives .....	6
1.2.Thesis structure.....	10
1.3.Methodological basis. ....	12
1.4. Originality and the practical relevance of the paper .....	16

## PART II

2. Theoretical and methodological basis .....	17
2.1 Territorial cohesion.....	
2.2.Regional and local planning .....	43
2.3.Sustainable development .....	62
2.4. Urban regeneration within European Union .....	67
3. Towns. The urban agenda.....	71
3.1. Definition and individualization criteria for towns. ....	72
3.2. The connection between urban settlements. Urban system and consolidation of functional urban areas. ....	95
3.3.The role of towns in the regional development policy from Romania.....	96
4. Small-sized towns.....	101
4.1. Definition of small-sized towns.....	106
4.1.1. Small-sized towns in scientific literature .....	107
4.1.2. Definition of the small-sized towns in Romania .....	107
4.2. Types of small-sized towns .....	112
4.3. Economic development of small towns.....	113
4.4.Development factors of the small-sized towns .....	114
4.4.1. Geographical location of the small-sized towns .....	115
4.4.2. Small-sized towns' area of influence .....	115
4.4.3. The quality of infrastructure and human resources .....	118
4.4.4.Historical evolution and the cultural heritage .....	118
4.4.5. Administrative status .....	118
4.5. Functions of small-sized towns .....	119
4.6. The role of small-sized towns as a liaison between the rural and urban area .....	119

4.7. The role of small-sized towns based on the ESPON studies.....	121
4.8. Small-sized towns in the context of globalization .....	121
4.8.1. The impact of structural changes and globalization .....	121
4.8.2. Small-sized towns: future and perspectives .....	122
4.8.3. Priorities and directives at national and regional level .....	123
4.9. The role of small-sized towns in regional development policies.....	124
4.9.1. The role of small-sized towns in developed countries and in developing countries.....	124
4.9.2. Small-sized towns- Issues at national level.....	127
4.9.3. Particularities of the small-sized towns from North-West developing region .....	128
4.9.4. Particularities of small-sized towns from Salaj county .....	135
 PART III	
5. Jibou- General presentation .....	139
5.1. Geographical localization and historical aspects .....	140
5.1.1. Geographical localization.....	140
5.1.2 Historical aspects .....	141
5.1.3 The evolution of the town's name.....	143
5.2. Natural environment aspects .....	143
5.3. Socio-demographic characteristics .....	144
5.3.1. The evolution of population .....	144
5.3.2. Housing conditions.....	151
5.3.3. Elements of population dynamics.....	152
5.3.3.1. Natalitaty.....	152
5.3.3.2. Mortality .....	153
5.3.3.2.1 Infant mortality .....	154
5.3.3.3. Natural growth rate .....	155
5.3.3.4. Migration growth rate .....	156
5.3.3.5 Geodeographic trends .....	159
5.3.4. Population density .....	161
5.3.5 Demographic structures.....	161
5.3.5.1 Age-sex population structure .....	161
5.3.5.2. Socio-economic structure .....	165
5.3.5.3. Unemployment rate.....	174
5.3.5.4. Educational structure .....	178

5.3.5.5. Ethnic structure.....	179
5.4. Urban/local economy.....	184
5.4.1. Accesibility and connectivity.....	184
5.4.2.Economy .....	184
5.4.2.1. Industry .....	186
5.4.2.2. Industrialization and Deindustrialization .....	186
5.4.2.3. Jibou’s Industrial Park .....	188
5.4.2.4. Agriculture .....	189
5.4.2.5.Transportation .....	190
5.4.2.5.1.Rail transportation .....	190
5.4.2.5.2. Road transportation.....	191
5.4.2.6. Commerce.....	192
5.4.2.7. Tourism .....	193
5.4.2.7.1. Tourism infrastructure .....	193
5.4.2.7.2. Types of tourism .....	195
5.4.2.7.3. Forms of tourism.....	196
5.4.2.7.4. Tourist attractions.....	197
5.4.2.8. Education and research .....	200
5.4.2.8.1. Education .....	200
5.4.2.8.2. Research.....	204
5.4.2.9. Culture.....	204
5.4.2.10. Health system .....	205
5.4.2.11.Banking system .....	207
5.4.2.12. Other economical activities .....	207
5.5. Economical disparities .....	207
5.6. Strategic management.....	208
6. Jibou’s area of influence .....	209
6.1.Delimitation of the town’s area of influence and types of influences .....	209
6.2.Practical delimitations of the area of influence.....	214
6.3.Ways to determine areas of influence for small-sized towns .....	217
6.4. The general area of influence for Jibou .....	231
7. Development projections. ....	236
7.1. Proposals for the future.....	237

7.1.1 Heliport .....	237
7.1.2. High-speed railway.....	237
7.1.3 Expres road Baia Mare-Jibou .....	239
7.1.4.Navigable Someş .....	239
7.1.5 Nuclear power plant .....	240
7.1.6. Mineral spring water from Jibou.....	241
7.1.7. A future university center .....	241
Conclusions and recommendations	
Bibliography .....	248
ANNEXES .....	276

**KEY WORDS: TERRITORIAL COHESION, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SMALL-SIZED TOWNS**

Both territorial cohesion and small-sized towns are relevant topics of research and many scientists have different approaches while tackling on these concepts.

The first mention of the territorial cohesion was made by Assembly of European Regions in the report *Regions and Territories in Europe*. The report mentioned the necessity of a coordinated planning at European level, based on the fact that there is a direct link between the territorial cohesion and socio-economic cohesion.

Another early mention of the territorial cohesion was in 1983, in the Torremolinos Charter. “The planning activity, including strategies, policies and sectorial programs, as well as specific documents integrated in the aim of the balanced and sustainable spatial development, becomes essential in achieving territorial cohesion. The improvement of this activity involves individualising operational spatial entities, such as regions that become fundamental in the rational territorial planning process, in the environmental protection and in the achievement of socio-economic objectives” (Spatial planning charter – Torremolinos Charter, 1983).

Davoudi (2007), published a paper titled *Understanding territorial cohesion*, that provided a deeper understanding of the concept of territorial cohesion by positioning it within the wider debate about the European model of society. It suggests that the concept is not only rooted in the European Model.”

Faludi (2006), explained that Concepts change depending on who uses them. First discussed by the Assembly of European Regions, Barnier invoked territorial cohesion in lieu of spatial planning for which Member States denied the Community a proper role. In the same paper, Faludi said that “addressing the informal ministerial meeting at the Azores in 2007, Commissioner Hübner already gave a glimpse of the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion: Many interpretations notwithstanding, a common understanding of territorial cohesion was needed, but no ‘one size fits all’ solutions. Indeed, the Green Paper puts the definition up for debate. Concepts are like wax in our hands: we can shape them to suit our purposes, and as they change, so do meanings. In different contexts different words may even have the same meaning. Thus, territorial cohesion may mean the same as what sometimes has been subsumed under spatial planning which in turn has multiple interpretations, too. So to understand the concept, we must ask: who has invoked it, when, and why?”

As we can see, there is not an exact definition for territorial cohesion, yet this is a concept that transforms itself and can be looked upon from different perspective.

The thesis is structured in 3 main parts. The first one presents the motivation and the importance of this research, define the main topic, the methodology, the source of information and the practical applicability of the paper.

The second part has 3 chapters, mostly theoretical, and they present an analysis of the main process of territorial cohesion. The first chapter introduces aspects related to the political and socio-economic context. The second chapter defines notions such as regional development, urban regeneration or territorial cohesion. The third chapter defines the towns with their different types, the european urban agenda, etc. Moreover, this chapter approaches the main issues of the small-sized towns from NV of Romania and from Salaj country.

The third part, and the most comprehensive one, also has 3 chapters and dives deep in Jibou;'s aspects and problems. It analyzes all aspects of Jibou: agriculture, industry, education, health system, natural aspects, geodemographic structure, etc.

As methodology, I have gathered data from the local high-school, hospital, financial institutions, courthouse, supermarkets, churches, etc. For each part of the study I have analysed the relevant data and with the use of ArcGIS software I was able to create the map of the entire county. After analysing each aspect, I have combined the maps and I got the general influence of Jibou within the county.

Achieving territorial cohesion should be a priority of all local, regional and national governments, as the quality of their citizens would improve considerably. We live in a world where scientists are splitting the human genome in some parts of the world, yet dying of diseases that can be easily cured and eradicated by antibiotics or vaccines in other part of the world. We live in a world where we can send terabytes of information in under one second from one continent to another, yet other people need to travel on foot for days just to send a message to their loved ones. The struggle with disparities and inequalities will be a long one and most likely a never-ending one, but we must fight it on all fronts.

One of our best weapons to fight the pandemic of inequalities are the small-sized towns. These towns can increase the territorial cohesion and be the coordinating force behind the development of the entire region. By investing more in these towns, we can make sure that they are developing at a fast pace and growing, and that could lead to the creation of other small-sized towns where years ago we only had villages and underdeveloped rural areas.

With the proper know-how and under a performant leadership, these towns can attract specialists and highly qualified people who can invest and create jobs. Once a small town has more and more complex functions and the standard of living increases, the old functions can be relocated to the nearby villages and those villages can become small towns and thus reducing the inequalities even more.

Even though it started as a European concept, I believe further research and discussions are needed on this topic. More and more organizations are trying to make borders things of the past, to let people and goods travel freely across countries or continents, so in the context of globalization, the territorial cohesion must be an objective for every country or region. We need to make sure that we are all equals and we should all have the same chances of survival different diseases, the same opportunities for a higher education, etc.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic showed us how divided we are and how territorial cohesion was not an objective everywhere. Nevertheless, COVID-19 pandemic proved once again how important these small towns are, as in many countries the testing and vaccination centres were created in these towns, and people from rural areas travelled dozens or even hundreds of kilometres to the nearby town in order to get tested or vaccinated.

To end in a positive note, the pandemic accelerated the rise of digital transformation, reduced bureaucracy and made people and government aware that we are all together in this battle. This approach should be extrapolated to the territorial cohesion and we should build more bridges between the areas with a high standard of living and the ones that are less fortunate by living in underdeveloped places.

I would like to present my findings to the local authorities, and based on this research we can easily identify which village or commune would need a dental clinic, which would need a doctor, etc. As specialists usually do not set up practices where the population is scarce, the local authorities would need to step up and offer some tax exempts for entrepreneurs that would want to open a business and create jobs or doctors that would like to move there.

One limiting factor for such studies is the lack of available information in rural areas, the willingness of the local governments to listen and to plan for the medium and long-term and even corruption.