

**"BABEȘ-BOLYAI" UNIVERSITY CLUJ-NAPOCA
GEOGRAPHY COLLEGE
DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY**

**THE DISTRICT OF THE PĂDURENI. REGIONAL
ANALYSIS
Summary**

Scientific coordinator:
Prof. Univ. Dr. Călin-Cornel Pop

PhD,
Dănuț Huciu

Cluj-Napoca, 2022

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KEY WORDS: the District of the Pădureni, forest mental space, identity landmarks, hilltop settlements, depopulation, supracommunal polarizing center, functional dependency

1. THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

1.1. The aim, research objectives and working hypotheses

The purpose of the present study is to carry out a regional analysis of a territorial unit of the "land" type with an applicability role in the local planning and development of the Forest Land. The specific objectives of the work are the following:

- clarifying some concepts regarding the highlighting of the "land" type territorial entity;
- multicriteria delimitation of the study area;
- integrated analysis of the components of the analyzed territorial system;
- acquiring research skills.

Starting from the specific objectives, the present study aimed at validating two general hypotheses applied to the entire territorial system analyzed, respectively:

1. A territorial unit of the "land" type, respectively the District of the Pădureni, associated or not with a form of association of the micro-region type, is a functional territorial unit.
2. The external environment of the District of the Pădureni influenced the housing structuring process more strongly than the internal environment.

Also, the entire work is structured on the validation of several working hypotheses related to each spatial phenomenon addressed:

1. A "land" type unit, implicitly the Forest Land, meets the valences of a functional region by superimposing a form of association of the microregion type.
2. the District of the Pădureni is the result of an old and continuous humanization.
3. the District of the Pădureni became individualized as a medieval political-administrative form.
4. The mental criterion represents a delimitation criterion of the geographical space of the Forest Land.

5. Ethnographic landmarks, through architecture, port, customs, gastronomy and local personalities, individualize the District of the Pădureni compared to other territorial units of the "land" or "country" type.
6. the District of the Pădureni has several natural assets that can economically counterbalance the restrictiveness given by the existing natural framework.
7. The viability of settlements is conditioned by the degree of social and local vulnerability and access to services.
8. Local development in the District of the Pădureni is directly conditioned by the economic profile of the region.
9. The degree of connectivity of forest settlements increases as they get closer to urban centers outside the region.

1.2. Theoretical foundations

1.2.1. Connotations of the notion of "land":

- territory, surface, fragment of geographical space;
- literary;
- as a political-administrative entity;
- as a mental spatial entity;
- with ethno-cultural valences.

1.2.2. Delimitation methods and criteria for the typology of "district"

One of the methods that can be used in the delimitation of "district" is the method of analyzing the existing situation of the phenomena and polarization processes that appeared with the configuration of new urban centers (Agnita, Botoșani, Toplița, Zalău), identifying territorial dysfunctions, focusing on the functions of delimited units, on the links between neighboring territories, as well as on the increase of territorial cohesion and balance.

Another useful method for establishing the boundaries of some "district" with a more pronounced history and which refers to the self-identification of the inhabitants with the place is the mental method (The districts of the mountain or plain Banat, Bârगाie, Ciceu, Codrului, Gorju, Pădurenilor, Reghinului, Mărginimii Sibiului , Momârlani, Teleorman, etc.).

1.2.3. "Districts" in relation to other regional taxa

Reporting "land" to other regional taxa was absolutely necessary, especially because it has multiple meanings and is not as well individualized among regional taxa. The uncertain position it occupies within the regional taxa, leads to certain uncertainties when it comes to its outline, by comparison with "countries" in a first phase, since these taxa show similarities from certain points of view, then by referring to microregions or intercommunity project associations (in the present case GAL - Local Action Group).

1.2.4. "Districts" as a territorial system

The functionality of the territorial system is ensured by the flows of matter, energy and information, as well as by input-output relations (feed-back type relations) with the territories in the vicinity. Also, the territorial system has several basic principles: functionality, dynamic balance, uniqueness, causality, integration, coherence and synergism, self-regulation and control (Ianoş I, 2000).

Given the fact that territorial systems are of several types, from micro-territorial, to meso-territorial and macro-territorial units, with various meanings and principles of analysis, it was necessary to capture the features of the "land" superimposed on the micro-region, which give it the attributes of territorial system.

The uniqueness of the "land" is given by the material, historical, cultural and spiritual endowment, which represents the axis that connects the systematic points of this territorial unit. Through this principle, the District of the Pădureni stands out as a territory with distinctive elements from a cultural perspective (ethnographic, traditional, architectural, etc.), which differs from the neighboring regions.

In another way, the interrelationships between the natural and anthropogenic elements of the "land" ensure the coherence of this territorial structure. In addition, the integrity of the "land" is rendered through the collective identity as well as the connections between the elements that make up the "land". In fact, resilience is a characteristic especially of the "districts" where the consciousness of belonging of the inhabitants is more pronounced, as is the case of the Forest Land, but also of Mărginima Sibiului, Codrului, Banatul Montan, Bârgău, Ciceu, Neamţu, Câmpulungu, Teleormanu, Gorjuu and so on.

1.2.5. The District of the Pădureni in the attention of researchers

The unmistakable history of the studied region, the mining and metallurgy practiced, the high tourist potential, the particular ethnographic characteristics made the District of the Pădureni attract the attention of several researchers. The most representative references for this area refer to the following categories of information:

- monographic publications: Teglas G. (1879), Szabo I. (1909);
- demographic characteristics: Solyom Fekete Fr. (1882), Roman C.C. (2008);
- historical aspects: Radu I. (1903), Popovici J. (1905), Sawicki L. (1907); Boda G. (2015);
- economic characteristics: Șerban O. (1996), Ișfănoni D. et al. (2004);
- ethnography: Szabo I. (1909), Vuia R. (1926, 1945, 1959), Ișfănoni R. (2006), etc.

1.3. Methodological foundations

A first stage was the creation of the database; after choosing the study region, its limits were established, based on complex criteria (mental, functional, landscape criteria, etc.). The digitization of the level curves was followed by the vectorization of the main elements found on the map (access roads, hydrography, etc.). This database has been continuously updated with a number of spatial attributes. The obtained data were processed and represented in Microsoft Office software, ArcGIS 10.6.1, Global Mapper, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop CS6.

Field documentation is the second stage in the study. This allowed obtaining qualitative and quantitative data, for establishing the limits of the region, highlighting the existing situation on various components that can demonstrate the functionality of the area, but also the various correlations that can argue some proposals. Field documentation took place in all localities belonging to the UATs in the Forest Land, from June 26 to July 6, 2017, April 20-28, 2019, July 25-31, 2019. In order to mentally delimit the Forest Land, 208 questionnaires were applied and a series of semi-structured interviews on targeted themes such as ethnography (14 interviews), agriculture (107 interviews) and industry (93 interviews). In addition to these qualitative data, a series of statistical data was obtained from the following institutions: the town halls of Batrâna, Bunila, Cerbăl, Ghelari, Lelese, Toplița, the National Meteorological Administration, the National Administration "Romanian Waters", the Hunedoara Forestry Directorate, the Garda Hunedoara County Forestry, Hunedoara County Office for Pedological and Agrochemical Studies, Hunedoara County Agriculture Directorate, Hunedoara County School Inspectorate, etc.

Making the plans and writing the thesis represents the third stage, which contributed to the completion of this regional analysis. This concerned the consultation of specialized literature through bibliographic documentation, using numerous books, articles, websites and various national and international databases as working tools; analysis of the components and interrelations of the studied territorial system.

2. THE HISTORICAL PREMISES OF THE INDIVIDUALIZATION OF THE DISTRICT OF PĂDURENI

2.1. Preliminary

Area overlapping the Poiana Ruscă mountain unit, whose endokarst forms preserve the traces of the appearance of human presence, the District of the Pădureni represents a life basin that has known humanization since the prehistoric period, despite the existing apparent restrictiveness.

The following aspects were analyzed in this chapter:

- the identification of archaeological evidence, from different historical periods, which attest to the past and continuity of the habitation of the Forest Land;
- capturing the role of historical evolution on the analyzed region.

2.2. Archaeological records of the District of the Pădureni from the prehistoric and Roman period

As a result of the archaeological research carried out in the caves on the eastern side of the Poiana Ruscă Mountains, some vestiges, in the form of tools, were identified in 55 caves. Among the caves are the one from Cerisor (Lelese), Runcu Mare (Lelese), Ghelari, Govăjdie (Ghelari). Other discoveries dating back to the Roman period were found in the communes of Ghelari, Toplița, where traces of gold mining were identified, a grave in an urn.

2.3. The District of the Pădureni in the Middle Ages

For the Forest Land, the Middle Ages left a legacy of various objects and materials. In Cerisor (Lelese) ceramic objects and various archaeological materials dating back to the early Middle Ages were found.

2.4. The District of the Pădureni in the modern and contemporary era

Leaving aside the events and aspects of historical origin regarding the evolution of blacksmithing and mining in the Poiana Ruscă Mountains and from the proximity of this relief unit, it should be noted that this industrial region in Romania, which was based mainly on the labor force of foresters, was appreciated at European level due to the extraction and processing of iron.

2.5. Conclusions

At the end of this chapter, we can conclude that the District of the Pădureni is the result of an old and continuous humanization that individualized itself as a medieval political-administrative form. This statement is supported by the identification of some archaeological evidence from different historical periods, which attests to the past and continuity of the habitation of the Forest Land, implicitly by capturing the role of historical evolution on the studied region.

3. IDENTIFICATION MARKS OF THE DISTRICT OF PĂDURENI

3.1. Preliminary

The identity of a place derives from the degree of belonging of the population to the native space or the one in which they live, identity that can be determined by attributes such as local architecture, language/speech, customs, social behaviors, etc. Individualized as an ethnographic subzone, the District of the Pădureni still persists in the minds of those who remain as an area with distinct geographic specificities, amplified by the relatively high degree of isolation of the localities included.

The objectives proposed in this chapter concerned the following aspects:

– identification of the boundaries of the District of the Pădureni by means of questionnaires applied within the territory itself and its neighboring localities;

→ the analysis of all the ethnographic landmarks of the Forest Land, focusing on those still viable but also on the felt influences.

3.2. The mental criterion in the delimitation of the Forest Land

The mental criterion was used in a series of "country" regional geography studies (Ilovan O-R., 2009; Josan I., 2009; Boțan C.N., 2010; David N., 2010; Pop A-M., 2011; Ianăș A-N., 2011; Vîlcea I-C., 2012; Filimon L., 2012; Pavel I.H., 2012; Mihalca I.A., 2015; Hognogi Gh., 2016), as well as "land" type regional analyzes (Potra A.C., 2015, 2018; Chita S-M., 2015, 2018; Huciu D., 2018).

3.3. Ethnographic landmarks from the District of the Pădureni with an identity role

3.3.1. The popular port

As for the folk costume, some of the pieces of the folk costume remained unchanged in its composition, while others knew the influences of the neighboring areas or even became obsolete, a situation justified by the change of the materials used, the work technique or the change of fashion.

3.3.2. Pădureni customs

The customs in the rural environment have always been more individualized, regardless of the area we are referring to, through certain specificities, conditioned by the occupations of the inhabitants, relief, etc. From the point of view of the specific customs in the Forest Land, with the express marking of those that still give life to the forest community, we will refer to the following categories of events:

- village events related to the usual cycle of life (wedding, funeral);
- events associated with traditional occupations, the oldest of which, also practiced in the Forest Land, is sheep breeding;
- socializing events, found in the past in the traditional village in the form of clacci, sezatori, hore and nedei.

3.3.3. The pădureni mellow

Among the most important traditional folk dances from the District of the Pădureni are: ear of wheat, Transylvanian under the hand, game of two, the old man's girdle, the forest girdle.

3.3.4. Local gastronomy

The local gastronomy of the District of the Pădureni is particularly individualized by the forest pies whose origin is unknown, although the foresters say that they date back to the time of the Dacians. Other food products from the analyzed region are: dairy products (milk, cheese), beef, bee honey, blueberry and raspberry jam, mushrooms, etc.

3.3.5. The architecture of traditional households

The vernacular architecture found in the District of the Pădureni is the result of the local raw materials used (wood, stone), the occupation of the locals or the existing physical-geographical restrictions. The preservation (still) of a consistent number of traditional households is also due to the relative isolation enjoyed by the villages here, to the low income of the local communities translated into a lower standard of living than the neighboring urban areas, but also to the relatively advanced age of the resident population.

3.4. Conclusions

In conclusion, we mention the following aspects as landmark elements:

- foresters have a very high awareness of belonging to their region;
- the self-identification of the inhabitants with the geographical space in which they live is also supported in the specialized literature, by highlighting the most representative ethnographic elements that contribute to creating an even clearer image of the analyzed territory;
- the identity of the foresters is very strongly rooted in the values, traditions and traditional practices of which they are proud;
- Drăgan Muntean represents an identity mark of the Forest Land;
- on a micro scale, the District of the Pădureni reflects the features of the Romanian space;
- the perpetuation of this identity landmark by organizing some thematic events (Drăgan Muntean Forest Festival, Pădurenești Festival, etc.), the existence of traditional forest ensembles (Lelese – Leleşana Folk Ensemble, Drăgan Muntean Ensemble) or the establishment of associations (Pădurenilor Association);

- the forest pies became a registered trademark and promoted including through a homonymous festival;
- the stilt house and the existence of a still growing number of such vernacular households throughout the area.

4. THE NATURAL FRAMEWORK IN THE DISTRICT OF THE PĂDURENI

4.1. Preliminary

The natural framework conditions and is conditioned, in turn, by each of its individual components, that we are talking about morphological parameters and resulting landforms, geological constitution and resources of the subsoil, elements of biodiversity generated by the biopedogeographic cover or hydrography and climatic elements; at the same time, it represents a support base for the anthropic component and the derived economic activities. Depending on how they work together, we can talk about a certain favorability or restrictiveness of the territory. We mention, from the very beginning, that together with the other localities found within the Poiana Ruscă Mountains, the District of the Pădureni is part of the category of disadvantaged mountain areas (ZMD), a status regulated by Regulation (EC) 1257/1999.

The main objectives pursued in this part of the study were:

- identification of favorable elements associated with the natural environment;
- determination of underground resources and their exploitation and economic exploitation;
- the impact of relief and other physical-geographic components on transport routes, the development of economic activities, the development of habitats or the individualization of distinct landscapes;
- the role of the climate in favoring certain economic activities;
- identification of alternatives to mitigate the existing natural restrictiveness.

4.2. Relief – resource and support base for multiple human activities

4.2.1. Landmarks of tectogenesis and geological evolution reflected in basement resources

The tectogenesis of the Poiana Ruscă Mountains, a mountain unit of which the District of the Pădureni is a part, is based on the geological processes of the Getic Domain.

4.2.2. Territorial implications of morphometric indicators

X-raying the territorial implications of the morphometric indicators has an essential role in a regional analysis, because through them the potential of the relief can be highlighted, as well as its interrelationships with the anthropic factor and the surrounding environment. The definition of the general features of the relief in the District of the Pădureni and the effects of their spatial distribution constitute a premise of the analysis of the main component of the natural framework, namely the relief. Thus, the following morphometric indicators were taken into account: altitude, fragmentation depth, slope, slope exposure and surface insolation.

4.2.3. Implications of current relief in settlement distribution

The relief of the "land", through its function of shelter, protected the locals from the migrants who over time intended to occupy their territory, creating a strong consciousness of belonging to this geographical space in the memory of the forest dwellers.

Also, the relief through its altitude, as well as through its other morphometric indicators (slope, exposure of the slopes, depth and density of fragmentation), together with the geological structure dictated the isolation and difficult accessibility especially from the northwestern part of the "land" which overlaps the central part of the Poiana Ruscă Mountains and imposed the establishment of human settlements, especially on the high peaks (26 localities out of a total of 33 belonging to the Forest Land).

4.3. The climatic component

Through its characteristics (for example those that formed the shelter topoclimate), the climatic component of the District of the Pădureni allowed the construction of settlements and the realization of economic activities, and together with the relief dictated the stratification of the vegetation, fauna and soil, as well as the regionalization of agriculture and industry. the land".

From a climatic point of view, the District of the Pădureni feels the influence of the mountain climate, with the existing topoclimate specificities that determine a certain type of landscape or the practice of a certain economic activity.

4.3.1. Climatic parameters

a). Air temperature

The District of the Pădureni has a temperate-continental climate with the western influences of moist and slightly cold air masses. Western air masses give the analyzed region a relatively humid and cool climate.

b). Atmospheric precipitation

Atmospheric precipitation is another element of the climate component, which influences soil moisture and the feeding of rivers and streams, as well as the conduct of human activities. The significance of this climate indicator is very important because it has direct implications on the main function of the Forest Land, namely the agro-pastoral function.

c). Circulation of air masses

Located in the western part of our country, more precisely in the west of Hunedoara county, respectively in the central-eastern part of the Poiana Ruscă Mountains, the District of the Pădureni is exposed to the air masses from the west (the orography of the relief influencing the circulation of the winds), which changes slightly at the local level, being also directed by the rather fragmented relief.

4.3.2. Topoclimates at the level of the Forest Land

Topoclimates are influenced by the elevation of the relief, which imposes distinct territorial features, individualized by mountain, hill, depression topoclimates, and according to the shape of the relief, mountain topoclimates, slopes, hilly ridges, terraces, valleys, gorges and gorges, etc.

4.4. The water component

The water component is an essential element for ensuring the viability of any geosystem. This is closely related to the geology of the land, as well as to the physical-geographical factors, which due to the climatic and metrological phenomena, determine the precipitation, thus ensuring the necessary volume of water. In addition to precipitation, water reserves are also provided through the process of evapotranspiration. Through its morphometric indicators (the depth and density of fragmentation, the slope of the slopes, the altitude), the relief obviously influences the

flows and the speed of the runoff. The plant component in turn contributes to surface runoff, influencing water interception and infiltration into the soil, as well as evapotranspiration. Also, the geological structure of the land, implicitly the pedological component, facilitates the flow to the surface through the permeability of water infiltration, ensuring at the same time optimal values for the supply of underground water.

The main collecting rivers that cross the District of the Pădureni are Cerna and Dobra.

4.5. The bio-pedagogical cover – support of economic activities

4.5.1. Geographical distribution of vegetation and district use in the Forest Land

For the the District of the Pădureni, the vegetation, especially through the forest, fulfilled several functions, among which we note: the function of shelter, source of raw material for the construction and heating of human settlements, source of food (through hunting, picking mushrooms, forest), landscape function. Over time, the forest has protected the forest dwellers from the invasions of migratory peoples, as well as from the occurrence of natural phenomena and processes.

4.5.2. The impact of ferns on the extent of natural grasslands and district use

The District of the Pădureni is faced with the presence of this toxic plant, on quite large areas, moreover, it can be noted that the fern has expanded more and more over the natural meadows. Also, its spread can affect the way the district is used. Thus, we recommend the previously mentioned control methods to stop the spread of this poisonous weed, as well as to remove it from the surfaces already affected.

4.5.3. Fauna

Completely overlapping the Poiana Ruscă Mountains, the District of the Pădureni has an important hunting fund made up of wild animals that live in deciduous and mixed forests.

4.5.4. Biodiversity of protected natural areas

According to IUCN (2008), Law no. 5 of March 6, 2000 regarding the approval of the National district Development Plan – Section III, protected areas or Emergency Ordinance no.

57/2007 regarding the regime of natural areas, wild flora and fauna, protected natural areas have an important role in preserving the biodiversity they possess.

4.5.5. Features of the pedological cover

The pedological cover is essential in the evolution of any territorial entity, because it has several functions: support for vegetation and fauna, source of nutrients, thus favoring animal breeding, plant cultivation, forest utilization.

The soil classes are the product of the interrelationship of several factors of a physical-geographical nature (geology, relief, climate, hydrography, vegetation, fauna), anthropic (way of use, capitalization or exploitation, pastoral habits, etc.), differentiating in this way several types of soils (cambisols, cernisols, spodosols, protisols, luvisols, hydrisols, pelisols, salsosols, protisols). In the the District of the Pădureni, the areas occupied by forest predominate, followed by pastures and hayfields, despite the arable district occupying limited areas, obviously conditioned by the soils that do not favor the cultivation of plants, thus, animal husbandry and forestry being the basic occupations of the forest dwellers.

At the level of the Forest Land, two large classes of soils are distinguished: cambisols and cernisols. In addition to these major classes, there are also undeveloped or truncated soils.

4.6. Conclusions

In conclusion, from the point of view of the natural setting, the District of the Pădureni stands out for the following aspects:

- The connections between the elements of the natural framework (relief, hydrography, climate, vegetation, fauna and soils), as well as the links between them with other components of the territory, represent an essential factor in the formation and evolution of a territorial entity.
- The paleogeographical evolution led to the formation of the relief of the District of the Pădureni on narrow and deep valleys, more difficult to access and with high humidity; on terraces and hills, which determined the location of human settlements on the tops and the practice of agriculture on the terraces.
- The geological structure in the subsoil does not cause the occurrence of geomorphological risk phenomena.

- The potential of the relief can contribute to the economic functionality of the studied region, by the fact that the substrate has considerable natural resources that can lead to the resumption of industrial activity, due to the presence of iron ores and marble.
- The climate favors the realization of certain human activities such as growing plants and raising animals, but also the location of human settlements.
- The presence of hydrographic resources ensures domestic consumption, but also the development of economic activities (industrial activities, fishing, milling, etc.).
- Vegetation, especially through forest resources, fulfills several functions, among which, we mention: the climatic function, anti-pollution, anti-erosion, anti-aridification, edaphic, etc.
- The the District of the Pădureni has an important hunting fund made up of numerous wild animals.
- Several protected natural areas of national and community importance are included in the analyzed area, which have an important role in preserving the biodiversity held (ROSCI0250 Șinutul Pădurenilor, ROSCI0028 Cheile Cernei, Nature Reserve "Secular Woods from the Valley of Dobrișoara and Prisloapei").
- The soil allows the realization of some agricultural crops in terraces (wheat, barley, oats, corn, potatoes, etc.) that provide part of the food consumption of the forest dwellers.

5. GEODEMOGRAPHIC AND HABITAT PARTICULARS IN THE DISTRICT OF PĂDURENI

5.1. Preliminary

A heavily humanized area during the mining resource exploitation period, a fact amplified by the socio-political context of the respective times (the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the socialist period), the District of the Pădureni experienced a strong demographic decline with the cessation of industrial activity, the local community failing to find the necessary levers for the revitalization of settlements. Following a general downward trend at the national or even county level, at the local level all registered demographic phenomena reach alarming levels, calling into question the viability of these settlements.

Among the pursued objectives we mention:

- analysis of social capital in the Forest Land;

- assessment of the demographic characteristics of the local community in the Forest Land;
- assessment of social vulnerability recorded in the Forest Land;
- analysis of the specificity of habitats.

5.2. Geodemographic evolution

For a complex analysis of the Forest Land, it is absolutely necessary to x-ray the numerical evolution of the population, as well as the other geodemographic structures that make up the human resource of the region. Located entirely in the Poiana Ruscă Mountains, respectively in the administrative territory of Hunedoara county, the District of the Pădureni is a depopulated region with many fluctuations over time, in terms of geodemographic evolution.

5.3. Geodemographic structures

Considering the fact that the number of the population represents a quantitative value usually reflected by the rate of migratory movement and natural growth, which highlights certain demographic trends such as demographic aging, depopulation, on the other hand, we also have a qualitative value of the population, represented by the structure of the population by age groups and sexes.

5.4. Characteristics of the habitats in the District of the Pădureni

Most of the localities in the District of the Pădureni are documented from the 15th century (24 out of a total of 33 localities).

In the beginning, the forest settlements were located in the valley and had only 5-10 households. With the increase in the number of inhabitants, the anthropogenic impact on the forested hills increased, so the population moved to the hill where it had more space for households, but also for agriculture. Deforestation of the hills in the District of the Pădureni gained momentum especially during the socialist period of maximum industrial exploitation, when the wood was used in the furnaces of the iron ore foundries in the region.

The localities belonging to the District of the Pădureni are mostly small, comprising about 60 households on average. The smallest forest villages are Arănieș, Goleș, Merișoru de Munte,

Ulm, each of which has less than 100 inhabitants. Among the largest forest villages, there are Dăbâca, Hășdău, Cerbăl, Lelese, Ruda with about 400 inhabitants each.

The evolution of human settlements through the prism of building infrastructure development is closely related to people's needs, but it is definitely conditioned by socio-economic and political factors. In order to capture the existing situation of the urban endowment in the Forest Land, we took into account the following indicators: the length of the water supply and sewerage networks, the number of educational, sanitary, religious and cultural units.

5.5. Conclusions

Starting from the question: Who are we planning for?, we realize that the human resource is essential for any planning and regional development work, as it ensures the originality, continuity and evolution of any geographical space.

The District of the Pădureni is a rural environment with extremely limited human resources at present, the demographic component being strongly affected over time by the effects of historical, political-administrative events (the first and second world wars, the socialist political regime, etc.), socio-economic (industrialization and collectivization, etc.).

6. ECONOMIC FUNCTIONALITY OF DISTRICT OF THE PĂDURENI

6.1. Preliminary

The District of the Pădureni acts as a micro-region, along with the neighboring territory, țara Hațegului, both of which are included in the LAG Microregion Tinutul Pădurenilor-țara Hațegului. The current funding sources, the existence of some promoters of the region, the already existing good practice models, even if they are few in quantity, become arguments for accessing opportunities to mitigate the increasingly significant social disparities, to modernize the access infrastructure and increase in travel times for certain services needed by the resident population or for the individualization of an updated economic profile (mountain economy, agritourism/ecotourism, etc.).

The objectives proposed in this chapter were:

- evaluation of the economic activities in the Forest Land, from all sectors of activity, by analyzing the potential for agricultural, industrial, commercial or tourist exploitation and the current forms of capitalization;
- analysis of the accessibility of the transport infrastructure and the degree of connectivity of the settlements in the Forest Land;
- analysis of localities' accessibility to various health, education and commercial services.

6.2. The economic structure of the land's population

The economic structure of a territory must take into account several factors and indicators for each economic sector. This is given by the degree of employment of the labor force. Thus, for a clearer picture of the economic structure of the Forest Land, the occupational structure of the population was analyzed (active population, inactive population, unemployed), as well as the structure of the population by sectors of economic activity (primary sector, secondary sector and tertiary sector).

6.3. Entrepreneurship in the District of the Pădureni

There are 73 active companies in the Forest Land, most of them from the tertiary sector (n=67), followed by the secondary sector (n=4) and the primary sector (n=2).

6.4. Agro-forestry activities

Natural and anthropogenic factors in a microregional territorial entity dictate the way district is used. Therefore, the collaboration of natural factors (geological, morphometric, climatic, hydrological, biopedogeographical) with anthropogenic ones, gives the District of the Pădureni a varied way of district use. Here we have areas with various uses, such as animal husbandry, plant cultivation, forestry, industrial activities and built spaces.

6.5. Industrial activities

Over time, the existence of natural resources in the area of the Poiana Ruscă Mountains favored the development of iron mining and processing crafts. Even if the basic occupation of our Dacian ancestors was growing plants and raising animals, at the same time our ancestors were also skilled craftsmen in the extraction and processing of iron, as evidenced by the archaeological finds

of tools used for this occupation. Mining tools, slag pots and weapons from the Daco-Roman period were also discovered in the town of Ghelari in the Forest Land. The processing of the ore deposits was also ensured by the presence of the surrounding forests, through the wood needed for their smelting. The foresters, especially those from the village of Ghelari, have been keepers of these crafts since ancient times. The inscription in Latin, found at the end of the 19th century in Ghelari: "Natus ibi, ube ferum nascitum", demonstrates the expansion of this activity in the District of the Pădureni and in the Roman period. The traces identified here also give us an image of the working method used at the time in the exploitation of iron deposits, this was done especially by digging pits and breaking rocks with different tools such as: chisel, hammer, hoe or pickaxe. The ore was transported in baskets with the help of animals. After the departure of the Romans from the territory of Dacia, this mining occupation and the processing of iron deposits had several stages of regression that alternated with periods of development influenced by historical and social circumstances (Vlad A., 2003).

6.6. Tertiary activities

Tourism - an alternative economic development of the District of the Pădureni

The natural and anthropic tourism resources in the District of the Pădureni have a significant value and create favorable conditions for tourism to become an essential alternative for the economic development of the analyzed region.

6.7. Accessibility and interconnectivity in the District of the Pădureni

When we talk about the transport infrastructure of a territory, we automatically refer to accessibility and interconnectivity, the economic development of a territory being dependent on the two concepts. If when we analyze the accessibility of transport arteries, we refer to their quality, implicitly to the impact on housing construction, when we do a study on interconnectivity, we must emphasize the links between human settlements, through the available and necessary means of access.

6.8. conclusions

In a regional analysis of territorial planning and development, the economic component plays a primary role, through the agricultural, industrial and touristic potential, correlated with the

other natural and anthropic resources, focused on particularities, it obviously ensures the functionality of any area.

7. REGIONAL SYNTHESIS OF DISTRICT OF THE PĂDURENI

In the last chapter of this paper, we performed the SWOT analysis of the District of the Pădureni and validated the general working hypotheses. Also, through chorematic modeling, we highlighted the development axes, the functional dependence and interdependence relationships that the studied region has created to ensure its viability and continuity.

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