

DISPARITIES IN RURAL ECONOMIC FUNCTIONALITY. CASE STUDY: BOTOȘANI COUNTY

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Abstract

The economic functionality of rural communities is important in order to highlight their economic peculiarities. The study aims to identify the economic disparities in Botoșani County towns, they achieved by excluding urban and using methods of statistical analysis to highlight correlation indicators and types of rural areas from the economic point of view. Economic disparities indicate the the inhabitants' standard of living in the area under study and main ideas activities, thus indicated poor areas, poorly developed economically.

Key words: economic functionality, economic disparities, indicators, rural area, rural development.

The problem regarding global disparities is increasing due to differences between developed and less and development policies are being initiated to reduce disparities. There have been major changes in the global economy because economic disparities emphasizes the gaps in each country.

According to dictionary definitions, "disparity" is associated with inequality, discrimination dissimilitude of harmony. It also means the absence of harmony between elements, lack of similarity, diversity, disparity, dissimilarity, difference. In geographical studies, "disparity" means an inequality which may correspond to a level difference in different areas (economic, social, cultural, etc.). Disparities if they reach high levels, can have an impact (qualitative or quantitative, positive or negative) on the operation area and the economic development (George P., 1980). Disparities highlight "spatial justice", "fairness", "equality", "development", etc.

Global economic level boosted competitiveness to be optimized in terms of economic resources, especially that within countries, the gap between rich and poor increases. The appearance was determined disparity studies conducted phenomena in the past 50 years, frequent regional studies, which made the main themes to this: location of economic activities; organization and economic structure of space; spatial interactions; urban systems; regional development (economic theory of development, spatial disparities, economic growth, economic

structure, spatial planning and regional policy). (Tudora D., 2010)

Geographical studies are influenced by the explosion of urban population growth, post-industrialization, which demonstrates that the disparities have become a frequent topic for researchers (Muntele I., 2010). The study analyzes the economic disparities and economic functionality in Botoșani County municipalities, which are divided into topological disparities, demographic, social and economic.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Identifying economic disparities in rural areas was carried out by calculating indicators: Herfindhal concentration and specialization in industry specialization index, then ascending hierarchical classification method was used using a significant number of indicators to achieve a typology of rural areas based by: employees of the tertiary sector, the land occupied by agricultural activities, the number of animals is indicated poor areas of the county analyzed. Cartographic analysis was performed by transforming statistical data from the Population and Housing Census of 2002 and the Agricultural Census of 2003, data from the Statistical Institute Botoșani County and calculating indicators necessary the study.

Cartographic analysis will highlight economic disparities and function spaces economically, their concentration and intensity, especially for a study that relevant and objective were excluded cities (Darabani, Săveni) and municipalities (Botoșani, Dorohoi) in the division administration in 2003, as they would be attracted large amounts highlighting

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economic situation concentrated in urban areas, while rural areas would have been a precarious economic situation, rural-urban gap has a negative image for the countryside.

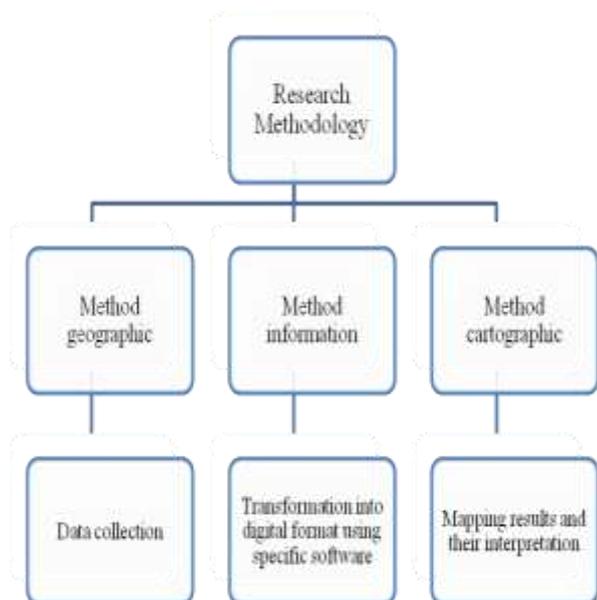


Figure 1. The research methodology used

Indicators have been used to synthesize several variables and to highlight disparities in rural economy. Such statistical and cartographic methods are designed to complete the study, to confirm / refute the hypothesis and identify disparities in the economic environment, as indicated poor and underdeveloped areas of the county analyzed.

REZULTATS AND DISCUSSIONS

Economic functional analysis consists in representing the following indicators: specialization territorial industrial activities Herfindhal specialization and concentration, then index the livestock unit and typologies of rural areas, as indicated areas that may develop in the future depending on the type of space they define. Territorial specialization of industrial activities and other activities that reflect the professional structure highlights the areas most experienced people in the employment of people.

Activities are under-represented in this county due to lack potential, but stands near the cities and areas in the south county. Localities in which industrial activities (Flămânzi, Todireni, Răchiți, Hudești, Bucecea, Mihai Eminescu) are areas with natural resources being developed to resources is often industry, thus provide jobs for locals or those skilled in those areas. Indices Herfindhal² of specialization and concentration,

² Herfindhal index fall in the index of specialization and concentration index. Herfindhal index values between

although different, are aimed at highlighting the specialization villages in the study area. The difference between them is that the first index of specialization, a high value is found in a village disadvantages, while concentrating on the high value indicates benefits.

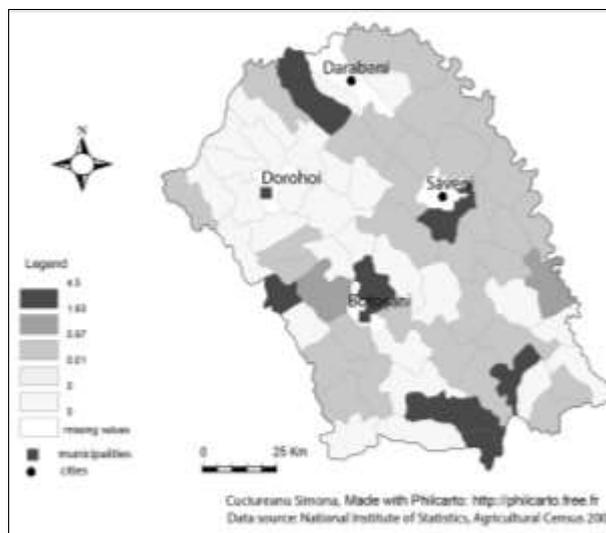


Figure 2. Index Industry specialization in Botoșani

The - index values Herfindhal specialization meet values between 1921.81 and 5452.5. The most common values are between 2531.5 and 4610.55, are distributed over the entire surface of county. Lowest values are found in the north and north-east. Common activities are diverse and Rădăuți-Prut, Coțușca, Prăjeni, Todireni. High values are in places Mihai Eminescu, Leorda, Românești, denoting monospecialization.

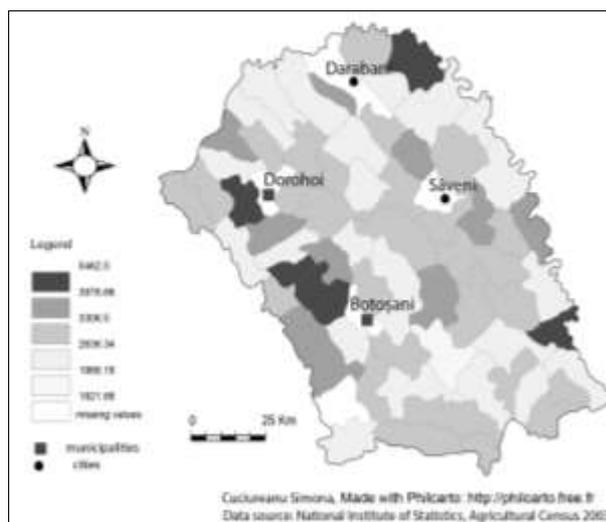


Figure 3. Index Herfindhal of specialization

1500-300 of specialization indicates an area or locality specific activities with a local brand and high values indicate a weak area. High values Herfindhal concentration index is developed localities.

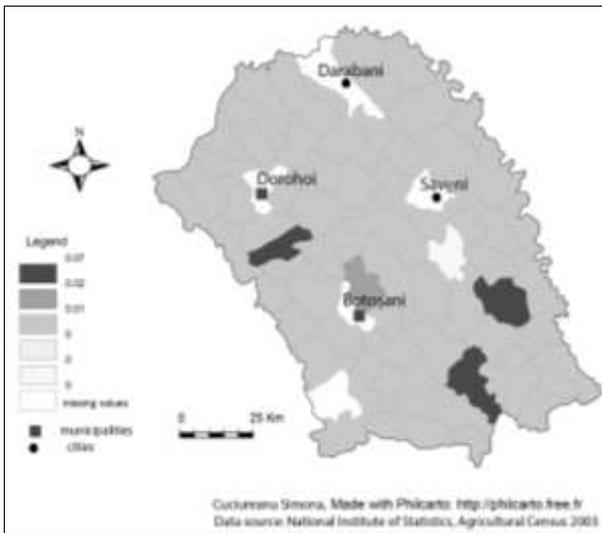


Figure 4. **Herfindhal Index of concentration**

The Herfindhal concentration index presents values between 0.4-79161.76, and most have values between 0.65-6.94, the highest class is 424.72-79161.76. Smaller values indicate that there are commuters in this county, and industrial activities are concentrated in the south, south-western or major cities (Botoșani, Darabani, Săveni, Bucecea). It can be seen that values up to 424.72 show that commuters exist in this county, but the only localities that have high values are Durnești, Brăești and Lunca, which means concentrated industrial activities, providing benefits.

Livestock specialization indexes reveal villages that are specialized in animal husbandry, but to summarize the zootechnical indicators has been used the index unit livestock which represents the standard occupancy of farmland with animals, providing for each class of livestock intensity factors. Thus for cattle is 1, pigs - 0.3, sheep 0.15, and poultry - 0.04. When the value is 1 or higher in those localities livestock units meets specialization, that community is characterized by livestock, valuing the available agricultural land, and for the communities where the value is below 0.25 or 0.25, we believe that those localities have BAU subsistence, residents only grow animals for domestic consumption only.

It can be seen that in the eastern part of the county there are small values, up to 0.54, which demonstrates that it is a poor part of the studied area, being only for subsistence farming. The highest values are found in Tudora, Mihai Eminescu, Hudești, George Enescu, Vorona, Corni, demonstrating that in these commons livestock are a source of income, being the more developed areas of the county, with prospects for livestock specialization.

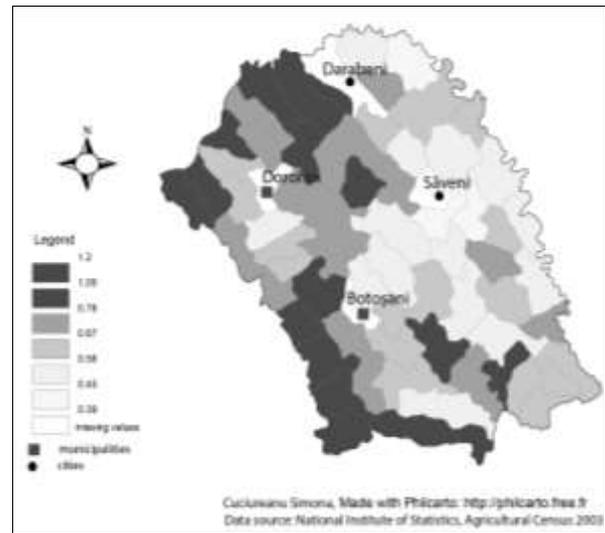


Figure 5. **Index livestock units**

Will analyze further the economic functionality of rural areas, respectively of communes in Botoșani County, according to the indicators corresponding to the tertiary sector employees, and then areas under crops, number of animals bred kept in a location and their type. Depending on these indicators will make several types of rural areas, thus showing the economic profile and indicate the prospects of economic development.

The first typology of rural areas is carried out in terms of employees, thus resulting the predominantly sector of activity in rural areas. Settlements are classified in spaces whit employed in industry, manufacturing and agriculture (Răchiți), areas with employees in the tertiary sector (Curtești), areas with employment in the secondary and primary sector (Vorona, Prăjeni, Vlăsinești, Hlipiceni, Bucecea, Mihai Eminescu) areas whit large numbers of employees in industry and manufacturing (Flămânzi) and localities with very few employees (most towns in Botoșani County). It shows that at the level of the numbers of employees and the industry in which it involves a precarious situation of the area, because in most villages are not employees, which means that the sector of activity is the primary one, but the main occupation is subsistence agriculture, and for this field are not employed. Municipalities with a greater number of employees are those in proximity of Botoșani city or Săveni town, but also towns that became cities in 2004 (Bucecea, Flămânzi), which denotes a „tragic” situation in terms of acive employability population in rural areas through lack of employee.

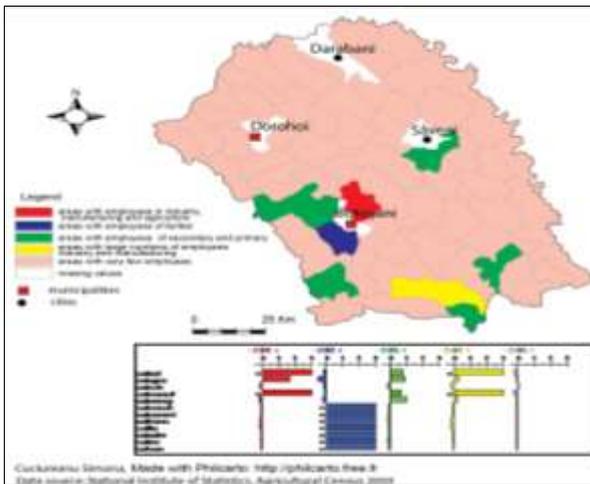


Figure 6. **Typology of rural areas in terms of employees in the tertiary sector**

The agricultural and livestock functionality of communes in Botoșani County highlights the types of crops, their prevalence, livestock and animal classes. Types of agricultural areas found in Botoșani County are: places with large areas cultivated with all crops, except wheat and rye (Răchiti, Mihai Eminescu, Hudești, Suharău, Rădăuți-Prut, Manoleasa), places with small cultivated areas, but growing corn and vegetables (the southwestern part of the county, north-western, south-eastern and settlements concentrated around the city Săveni), places with large areas planted with corn, sunflower and vegetables (Ungureni Mileanca, Drăgușeni, Coțușca) localities with small areas cultivated (the area near the city Dorohoi, Tudora, Frumușica) and localities with large areas of agricultural land, occupied by all cultures (Flămânzi, Ștefănești, Albești). It may be noted that two of the villages turned into cities in 2004 have agricultural profile, standing out with large areas under cultivation, suggesting their specialization for a modern agriculture to exploit the owned land.

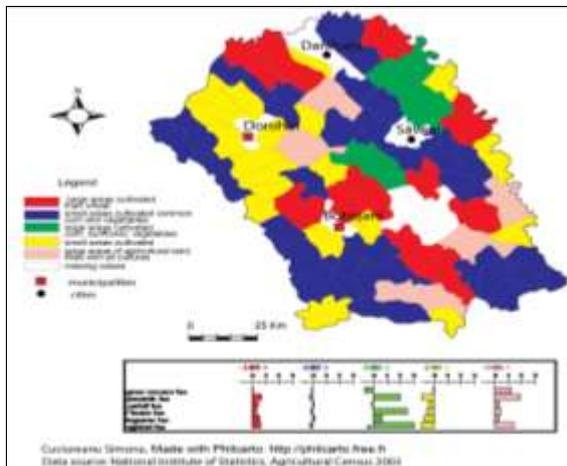


Figure 7. **Typology farm of communes in Botoșani County**

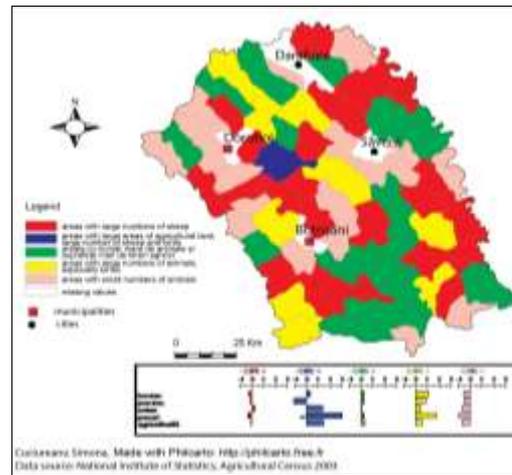


Figure 8. **Typology livestock communes in Botoșani County**

Breeding areas in Botoșani County are classified as: areas with a high number of sheep (Coțușca, Mileanca, Drăgușeni, Corni, Cristești), localities with large areas of agricultural land and large herds of sheep and birds (Corlățeni), areas with large herds livestock and large areas of farmland (central-southern part of the county, Hudești, Manoleasa, Frumușica), areas with large numbers of animals, especially fowls birds (Tudor, Vorona, Mihai Eminescu, Suharău) and areas with a small number of animals (Prăjeni, Mihăileni Unțeni). It highlights the profile of rural livestock in Botoșani County because livestock are high in most villages.

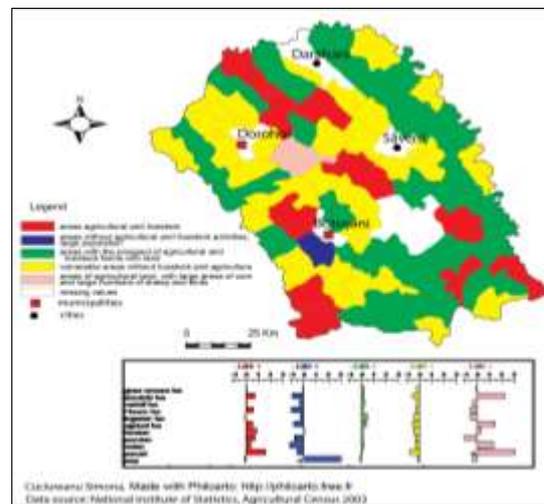


Figure 9. **Typology agricultural and livestock of communes in Botoșani County**

The agro-zootechnical profile of localities from Botoșani highlights areas where modern agricultural is practiced, those who practice subsistence agriculture and specialized localities. Thus the communes in the area of study are ranked: agriculture and livestock localities (Vorona, Tudora, Suharău, Mihai Eminescu, Santa Mare), localities with no agro-livestock activities,

but with a large population (Curtești), localities with the prospects of becoming agro-livestock, with large areas for agriculture (the eastern and southern counties), vulnerable localities, without adequate primary sector activities (central-northern part of the county) and localities with large areas of farmland, with large areas planted with corn and large flocks of birds and sheep (Corlăteni). Following this typology is identified few specialized localities with agro-livestock activities, and a large number of municipalities which would be able to specialize in this sector through development policies, but also a significant number showing vulnerabilities in this regard.

The final stage of highlighting the social and functionality disparities in rural spaces from the economic point of view outlines the typology of settlements based on 14 indicators, which are summarized in the economic analysis of Botoșani County.

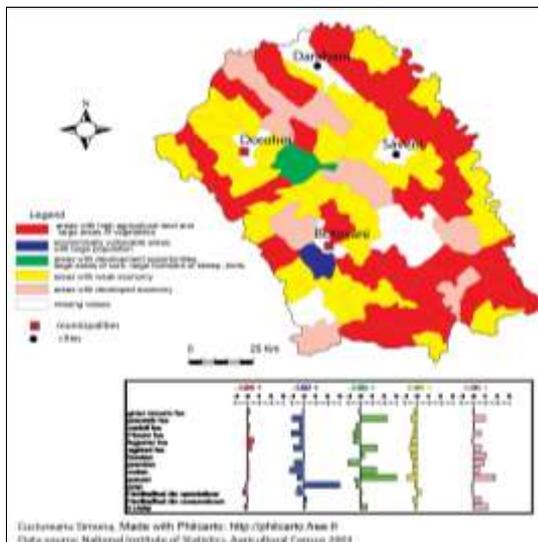


Figure 10. **Economic typology of settlements in Botoșani County**

Types of facilities identified economically in Botoșani County are: places with large areas of land and large areas planted with vegetables (southern and eastern part of the county, Dersca, Lozna) economically vulnerable localities with large populations (Curtești), localities with economic development perspective, large areas of corn, large herds of sheep and birds (Corlăteni), settlements with underdeveloped economy (Mihăileni Rădăuți-Prut, Mitoc) and localities with developed economy (Tudor, Mihai Eminescu, Ungureni Suharău, Durnești).

Rural areas in Botoșani County have many failures on the economy, disparities were identified both in the employees and in the primary sector activities. Rural-urban relationship is obvious, although towns and cities where not analyzed,

most municipalities with economic development prospects are located close to them, which shows the influence of urban economic activities in rural development.

CONCLUSIONS

Economic disparities in Botoșani County highlights the rural vulnerability from the economic point of view. In most rural areas there are no employees, which is a disadvantage for rural areas, rural development being provided by them in the first place. A significant number of employees are in towns that became cities in 2004 (Flămânzi, Bucecea, Ștefănești), but also in more developed villages close to urban areas or in areas with natural resources that have developed industry. Also at the level of agro-livestock stands a practice for subsistence agriculture, there isn't a clearly specialized for one type of crop or breed of animal. However, there are in some communities the perspectives for development through modern agriculture because there are large areas of farmland, and through development policies and the support of modern agriculture practices some rural areas can develop.

Economic functionality in the area of study shows a reduced development, small population and rural-urban relationship favoring settlements in proximity to urban areas have a more developed economy. Such economic disparities in rural areas underdeveloped reveals a poorly developed county, with multiple economic failures, that can be reduced by implementing rural development policies and by valuing natural resources.

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