

TWO REPRESENTATIVE COMMUNITIES IN APUSENI MOUNTAINS, ROMANIA

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ABSTRACT: *The community's problems in the Apuseni Mountains were still inception Romanian rural sociology, a perpetual object of study. Sociological School of Bucharest had an important role in boosting research in the area by investigations carried out in 1937 in the village of Vidra.*

Knowledge, research, improvement and development of the countryside are vital activities for the country, both in terms of rural expressed by area owned and the population occupied in productive activities, social services, cultural, housing and tourism.

Keywords: *rural; community; poverty; village;*

Council of Europe and the European Union raised the issue of rural policy at European and Community. Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation nr.1296 1996 on the European Charter for rural, paper - framework, political and legal context of rural development and settlement in Europe.

Report on the European Charter of rural areas, the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Council considers that Europe's rural areas represent 85% of its total area and affecting, directly or indirectly, more than half of the European population. At the same time, it appears that rural development and land at the confluence of the trend of urban expansion, aggressive development of the industry at the expense of rural areas and the need to maintain as far as possible areas to its current size. The problem of rural development and settlement is one of the most complex issues of the contemporary world, because, in essence, require a balance between the requirement of preservation of rural economic, environmental and socio-cultural country, on the one hand, and modernization trend of rural life, on the other hand [1].

In this sense, knowledge, research,

improvement and development of rural areas are activities vital for the country, both in terms of rural expressed by area owned and the share of employment in productive activities, social services, cultural, habitat and tourism.

Rural communities in Romania have been affected historically by years of centralized economy and then transition to a market economy. All this made the villagers to be nice departure from temptations or to urban areas, in many cases leading to phenomena of alienation. In the period after 1989, the village was restored in the center of many of the concerns of politicians, academics and practitioners.

The villages in Romania are strongly differentiated by several dimensions, of which the main are: population, accessibility (distance from a city or a European road) and administrative type of village (commune center or village). Rural populations are 10 to 14 million people and accounts for nearly half (47%) of the population, resulting in a relatively low density of under 48 inhabitants/km². From the administrative point of view, according to the Population Census of 2011, it consists of 2,686 rural communes, including 12 713 villages. The

surface of the rural area, delimited, totaling 212 700 km², accounting for over 89% of the country. Almost all villages in Romania (92%) include a common village center and one or more villages belonging or "peripheral" as they are called in sociological literature. [2]

The rural population of the country is divided almost equally between the village's center and outlying villages. While the villages focus administrative and institutional resources (municipality, police, post office, health center, coordinating school, community center), most belonging villages have only a church and an elementary school.

1. Specific features of rural communities in the Apuseni Mountains

Following Decision nr. 813 1999, Apuseni Mountains, Alba County (Fig.1), was declared a disadvantaged area with existing mining areas here.

Mining areas were not much of a "gold mine" for these people because most of them work in the sector. With the closure of mining increased the number of unemployed and most of them were directed to other places that could provide jobs.

Thus, these areas will become, over time, unpopulated areas or with large numbers of elderly people alone.

Often, older people in these areas are helped by the community to which they belong; the state is less involved in solving their social problems.

Lack pensions, pensions very small farmers, large distances between village centers and villages, age, health problems, lack of specialized medical personnel, lack of minimum comfort (electricity, water, gas) are just some of the obvious problems, which generates most social problems in these areas.

Depopulation Apuseni Mountains due to negative natural growth in 1984 exceeded expectations: -27% and in 1991 reached the lowest possible level: -35%. [3]

To better highlight the issue of western of Romania rural, I chose to study *two different municipalities* in terms of size, the location and number of inhabitants.

A. Village Bistra is one of the oldest settlements on Aries Valley, being first mentioned in 1437 as "princely village" and known since the time of King Carol Robert of Anjou. Village name comes from the Slavic word bistra which means "clear water".



Fig. 1. Appearance in the Apuseni Mountains

Bistra is located in northwestern Alba County, on the middle of the Aries river, just 7 km from the town of Câmpeni.

In terms of administrative, Bistra common is bordered to the northwest by Câmpeni city, that lies just 4 km, to north with Cluj county, to east with Lupșa and Poșaga villages, to south with Rosia Montana village (Fig. 2).

communities consist of dirt and total an overall length of 170 km.

Center village is crossed by the national road 74 paved, which is the main way of communication of residents.

Transportation is provided exclusively by road after being disbanded narrow railway which connects Abrud and Turda. Infrastructure still exists and can be

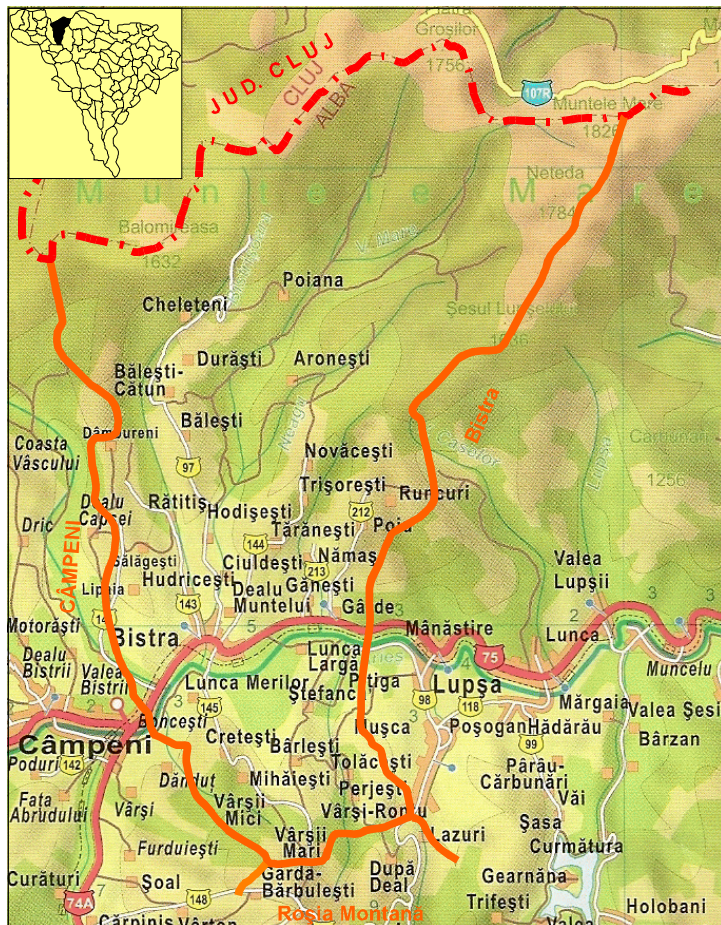


Fig. 2. Territory of Bistra common

The surface of Bistra common is 132 km² and represents 1.8% of the county Alba, the most village tension in the country and in Europe.

Bistra village has one of the longest networks of internal roads in the country: 14 roads and 83 rural roads. The roads between

harnessed for tourism narrow railway (Mocănița).

Thus, we can say that is a common favored by the proximity of a city that brings many benefits, but suffers from the large area that extends the 35 villages in the commune are dispersed over a distance 2 - 14 km north

and 2 - 8.5 kilometers south, some from great distances even to the commune.

According to the Population and Housing Census of 2011 the total population was 5140. Today the 35 villages of 5356 comprise a number of people who are divided by age groups: 0-15 years: 827 persons 15-65 years: 3560 and people over 65 years: 753 people.[4]

B. Village Avram Iancu is on the river Ariesul Mic, 30 km from the town of Câmpeni.

Avram Iancu village is located in the middle to north of the Avram Iancu common, 25 km from Campeni city, in the meeting place of Raul Mic (Ariesul Mic) with Raul Mare (Ariesul Mare) and is considered the capital of "Moti country"

Situated in the north-west of Alba County, Avram Iancu village is bordered in south, southwest and west, with villages in three neighboring counties: Bulzestii de Sus (Hunedoara County), Hălmăgel (Arad County), Crisciorul de Sus (Bihor County) (Fig. 3).



Territory of Avram Iancu common

Even if a town smaller as the number of inhabitants and stretching, remoteness from a city often lead to the emergence of poverty (due to the small number of jobs), the aging population (young people wanting to live in the city), marginalize them and so the appearance of social problems.

Vidra (today Avram Iancu) was documented for the first time in 1595 the privilege of Cristofor Bathory, Prince of Transylvania, when renewing the act of donation on its Tzopanfalva houses and estates (Câmpeni) to Nicolae Filimon.

The administration of Avram Iancu common is made up of 33 villages and at least as many as "crânguri", small groups from 14 to 20 isolated houses, especially in the lands surrounded by forest, located at 1-2 km from larger groups, 50-200 houses [4].

Rural areas are rich in ecological diversity and cultural.

The size and complexity of rural communities are difficult to generalize in terms of problems and values even if there are some common characteristics. For a long time in their existence, rural communities

have relied on the abundance of natural resources.

But in the twentieth century, the major technological changes, political and economic brought a profound transformation in agriculture, industry and other renewable resources, which led to rural communities dependent on them. Despite these changes, there are still quite a few reasons for optimism.

Resilience and self-determination are two features which characterize many rural communities. For rural areas, the rapid pace of change brought with it not only challenges, but equally good opportunities. In some ways, sustainable development helps to achieve the change that is inevitable, and to do so in an economically responsible in terms of environmental and socially equitable.

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