

“State of the Nation” Data Aggregator

Dr. Loredana Radu – Director, Communication Department & Coordinator, “State of the Nation” Project, NUPSPA

Dr. Alina Bârgăoanu – Dean, College of Communication and Public Relations & Institutional Development Coordinator, “State of the Nation” Project, NUPSPA

Dr. Nicoleta Corbu – Executive Director, Centre for Research in Communication, FCRP-SNSPA, Sociology Communication Expert, “State of the Nation” Project, NUPSPA

Background: major challenges in today's economy (1)

- Post-crash world
- Export crisis
- Hyper-globalization
- Technological changes – triggering more and more inequality
- The new protectionism – “new” national selfishness
 - in the economic field
 - big players

Background: major challenges in today's economy (2)

- How about the medium and small players?
 - Inter-regional arrangements around one big export-oriented player (Germany, China)
 - Reinforcement of the internal premises for development: demographics, qualification of the labor force, strength of the social fabric, quality of government and of macro-institutions.

Context

- The implementation of the EU-funded project

State of the Nation – Designing an Innovative Instrument for Evidence-Based Policy Making

Project objectives: the creation of a statistical data aggregator covering multidisciplinary areas, to be used by the Romanian Government in the process of strategic policy-making and implementation

A dashboard to guide the country's development

Project objectives

1. To develop a system of socio-economic indicators to be used in the process of policy-making and policy implementation (100 – 150 main indicators);
2. To design and implement the “State of the Nation” aggregator – an online statistical data aggregator / organizer (dynamic, user-friendly, data consistency over longer periods of time);
3. To study public opinion on issues related to Romania’s current socio-economic status and its potential for development;
4. To contribute to the strengthening of evidence-based policy making by the Romanian government.

Key Deliverables


Key Deliverables	Start	End
1. Preparing the system of socio-economic indicators for evidence-based policy-making & the research methodology	April 2016	February 2017
2. Designing the "State of the Nation" online data aggregator (with available public data only)	September 2016	February 2019
3. Implementing public opinion surveys on relevant topics (Barometres)	May 2016	March 2019
4. Drafting public policy on evidence-based policy making	April 2018	August 2018

Key Fields and Indicators

DEVELOPMENT



12 KEY FIELDS

Each key field  several subfields
10-15 key indicators

Which will be included in the online data aggregator - www.starea-natiunii.ro

Indicators:

- ☐ Objective ("hard data")> data aggregating
- ☐ Subjective (perception-based)> data generating

Demography,
labor market
and the
quality of life

Economic
development
and
infrastructure

Energy and
natural
resources

Finance.
Financial
capital

Agriculture
and food
security

Environment.
Sustainable
development

Health

Education
and
culture

Research,
technology
and
innovation

Governance
and social
capital

The European
and global
environment
for
development

National
security and
public order

Why 12 Key Fields?

The 12 fields have been selected based on relevant research, literature review, as well as building on the lessons learned from the study visits at Globalstat (EUI), Eurostat, European Comision, Eurofound, GESIS.

The following aspects have been carefully considered:

- DEVELOPMENT as a key-concept (economic growth, inequality, cohesion, premises for development, the global environment etc.);
- THE "BIG PICTURE" (overview, possibility to build correlations between key fields and indicators).

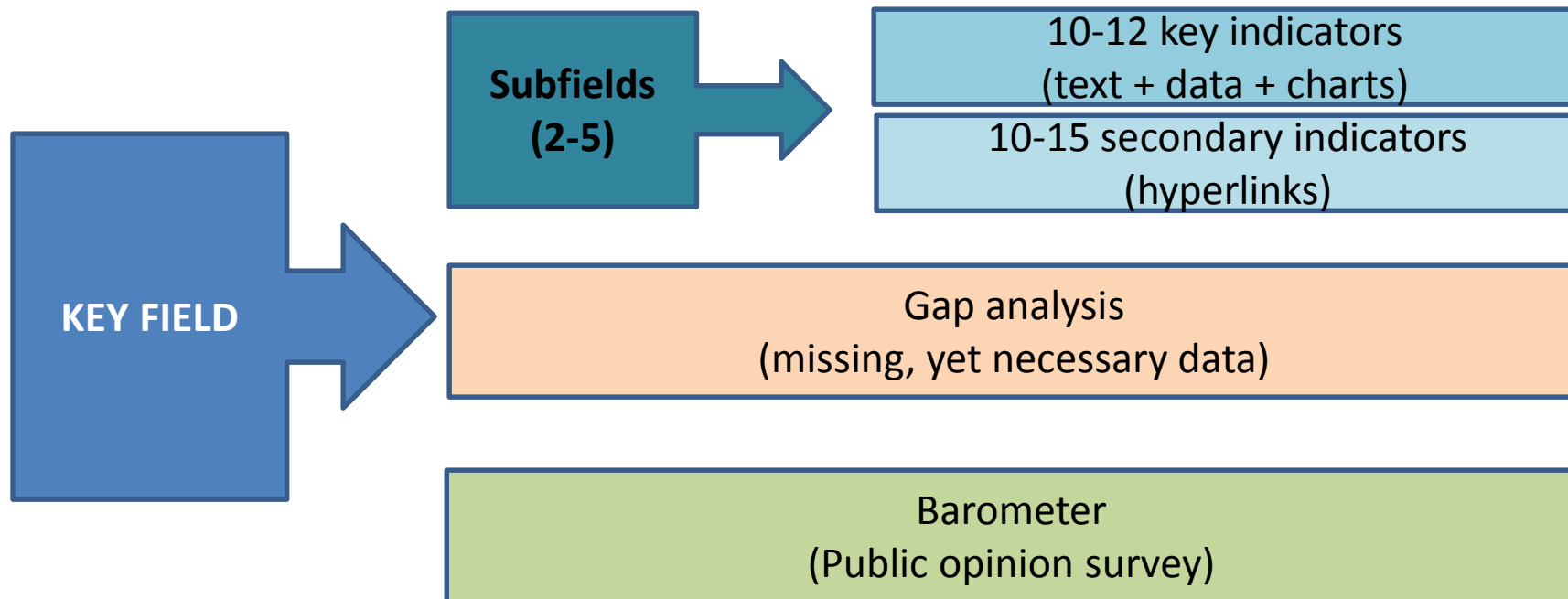
Important Constraints

Factors influencing the choice of key fields and main indicators:

- data availability and comparability at the **national level** (data series, time series, methodological coherence);
- data availability and comparability at the **sub-national level** (NUTS 2) and for both rural and urban areas;
- data availability and comparability in **Central and Eastern Europe** (peer countries: Poland, Hungary, and Bulgaria).

Key indicators - categorization

1. **Main indicators** (data series)
2. **Secondary indicators:** relevant, in line with dedicated scientific contributions, are found in stand-alone research or reports;
3. **Gap analysis:** data lacking due to various reasons; needed to build the "big picture";
4. Library of indicators.



FEEDBACK WORKSHOPS

No.	Key field of analysis	Stakeholders	Data
1	Economic Development Financial Capital	Romanian Academy – Research Institute for World Economy	22/06/2017
2	Health	Research Institute „Matei Balș” – Professor Adrian Streinu-Cercel	17/07/2017
3	Demography, quality of life	Romanian Academy – National Institute for Life Quality Research	4/10/2017
4	Economic Development Financial Capital	Bucharest University for Economic Studies	11/10/2017
5	Education, Research	Professor Adrian Curaj - Chair, UNESCO	24/10/2017
6	Health	Romanian-American Workshop	26/10/2017
7	Security	Ministry of Defence, IGSU, Police Academy	1/11/2017
8	Demography, labour market	National Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection	8/11/2017
9	Governance	Laurențiu Ștefan, Ioan Alexandru, Claudiu Tufiș	10/11/2017
10	Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture	20/11/2017

Competența face diferență!

Proiect selectat în cadrul Programului Operațional Capacitate Administrativă cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană, din Fondul Social European.

Innovative character of the project (1)

- Focus on the key concept of development (normative approach: vision-driven data gathering)
- Tool for the identification of Romania's structural weaknesses and challenges in terms of development
- Big picture (not stand-alone domains, but their correlation); demography – education – labor force
- Progress-oriented approach

Innovative character of the project (2)

- Increased awareness as to the need for evidence-based policy making
- Statistical data:
 - key instruments to quantify, qualify and measure;
 - make “real” abstract concepts/ processes/ structures;
 - create realities and impact behavior.
- Major effort of organizing the existing data:
 - Aggregator – data organizer – national progress monitor

Innovative character of the project (3)

- Benchmarking:
 - EU average;
 - Peer group: Central and Eastern Europe (Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria);
 - Subnational level;
 - Urban/ rural.
- Public communication tool (dialogue, feedback loops, public debate)
 - Agenda setting function: reinforcing major topics of public debate, signaling pseudo-topics



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC DEBT



SECRETARIATUL GENERAL
AL GUVERNULUI

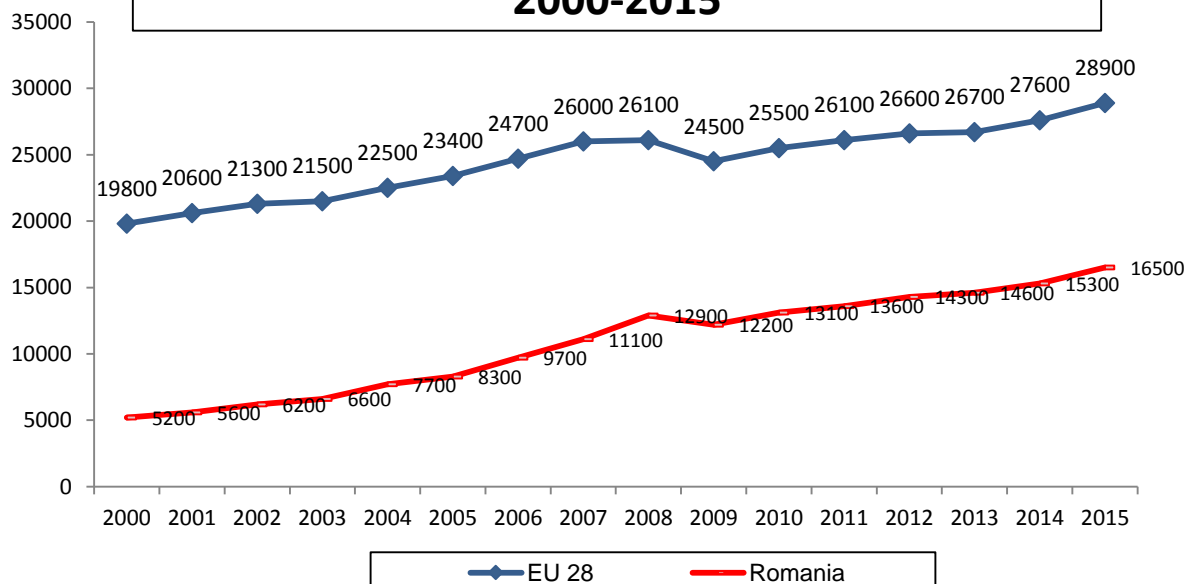


ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII
POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE

Competența face diferență!

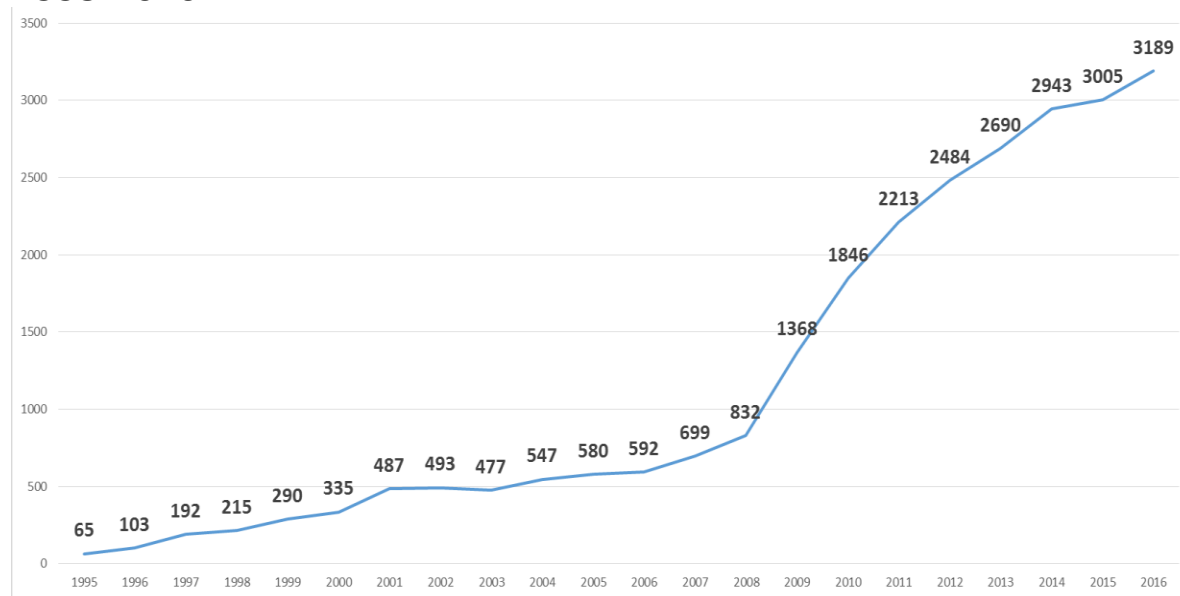
Proiect selectat în cadrul Programului Operațional Capacitatea Administrativă cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană, din Fondul Social European.

The evolution of the GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Standards), EU-28 and Romania 2000-2015



- Disparity between Romania and the average EU – constant after 10 years of EU membership

The evolution of the Government debt per capita in Romania, during 1995-2016



- Continuous increase of Government debt per capita, coupled with the demographic decline
- Gov. debt per capita increased 50 times during the period of analysis



INEQUALITY AND REGIONAL DISPARITIES



SECRETARIATUL GENERAL
AL GUVERNULUI

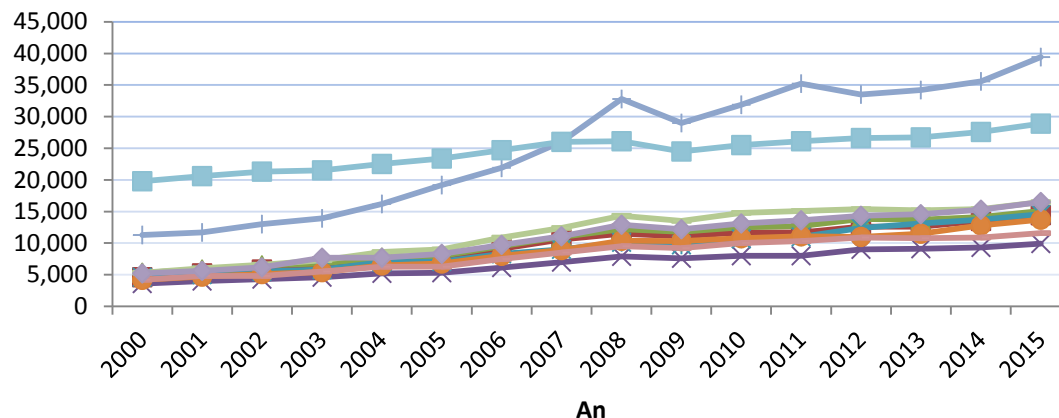


ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII
POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE

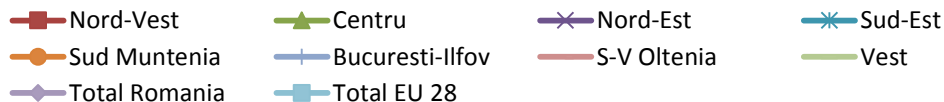
Competența face diferență!

Proiect selectat în cadrul Programului Operațional Capacitate Administrativă cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană, din Fondul Social European.

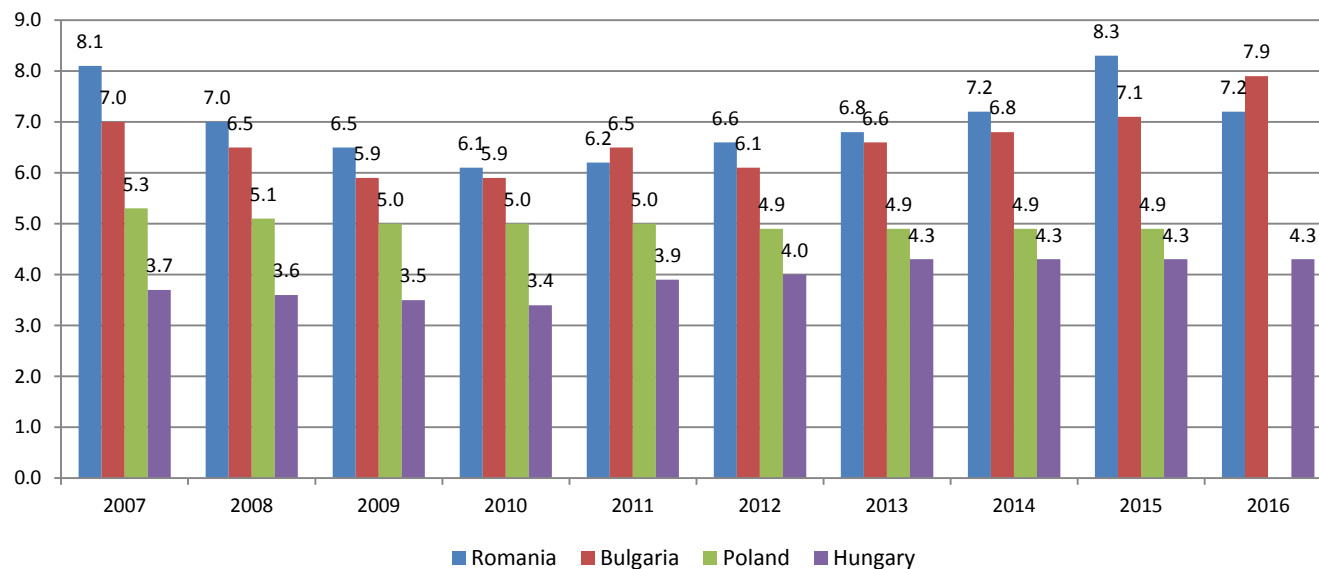
The evolution of the GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Standards) at EU 28 level and within Romania (NUTS 2) (2000-2015)



- Striking regional disparities
- In 2015, the most developed region (Bucuresti-Ifov) had a GDP per capita in PPS more than two times higher than the least developed region (North-East)



Income inequality - the S80/S20 income share ratio



- Romania has one the highest levels of income inequality in the EU (increase)
- The income of the richest 20% is 8 times higher than the income of the poorest 20%



DEMOGRAPHY



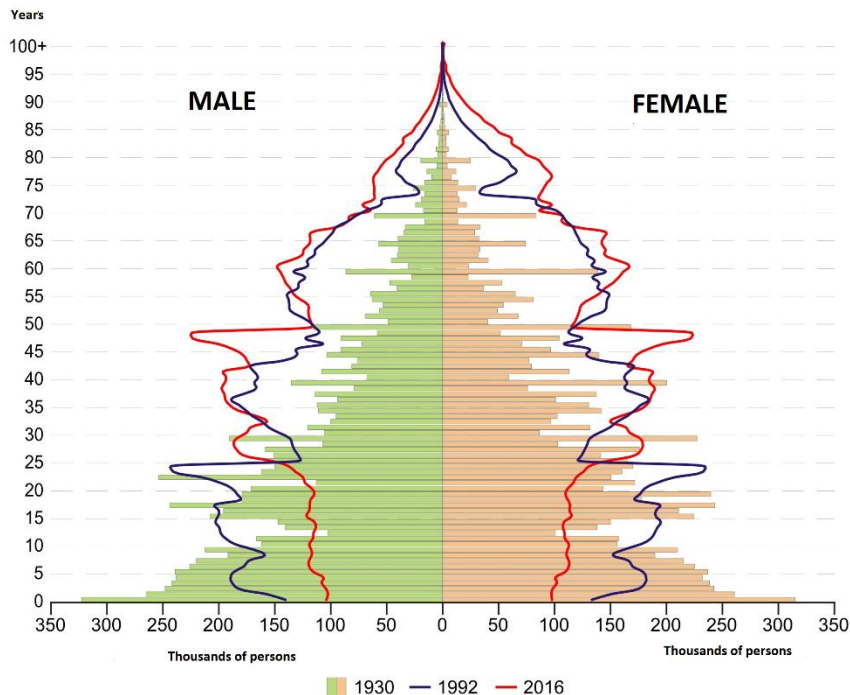
SECRETARIATUL GENERAL
AL GUVERNULUI



ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII
POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE

Competența face diferență!

Proiect selectat în cadrul Programului Operațional Capacitatea Administrativă cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană, din Fondul Social European.



Constant decrease of population:

19.372.734 inhabitants (1965)

Population pyramid (Resident population by ages, sex, urban/ rural area, January 1st)

- unbalanced (amphora-shaped instead of pyramid)
- Ageing + increase in life expectancy + low birth rates – common EU trends
- Nevertheless, Romania is at risk due to high levels of youth migration (its labour force)

UN report - Romania entered the world's top 20 countries that are source of migrants

- over 3.4 million Romanian citizens living in another country
- the second highest increase of the diaspora between 2000 – 2015:
 - I. Syria - 13.1%
 - II. Romania - 7.3%
 - III. Poland - 5.1%



LIFE EXPECTANCY



SECRETARIATUL GENERAL
AL GUVERNULUI

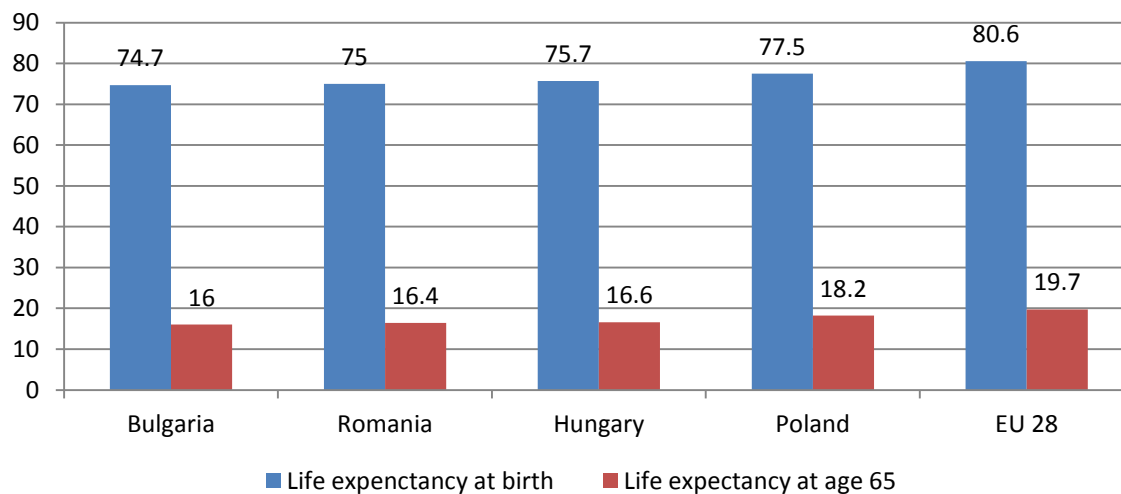


ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII
POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE

Competența face diferență!

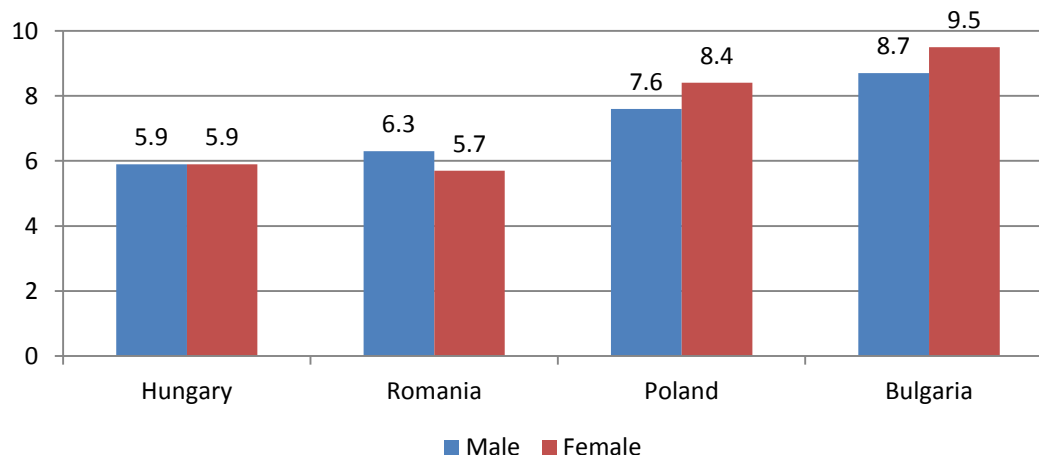
Proiect selectat în cadrul Programului Operațional Capacitate Administrativă cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană, din Fondul Social European.

Life expectancy at birth versus life expectancy at age 65 (in 2015)



- Romania is second to last for both indicators

Life expectancy at age 65 - Romania within its peer group (in 2015)



- Ageing + health problems
- Within its peer group, Romania has the lowest life expectancy of 65 year-old females



INEQUALITY AND REGIONAL DISPARITIES



SECRETARIATUL GENERAL
AL GUVERNULUI

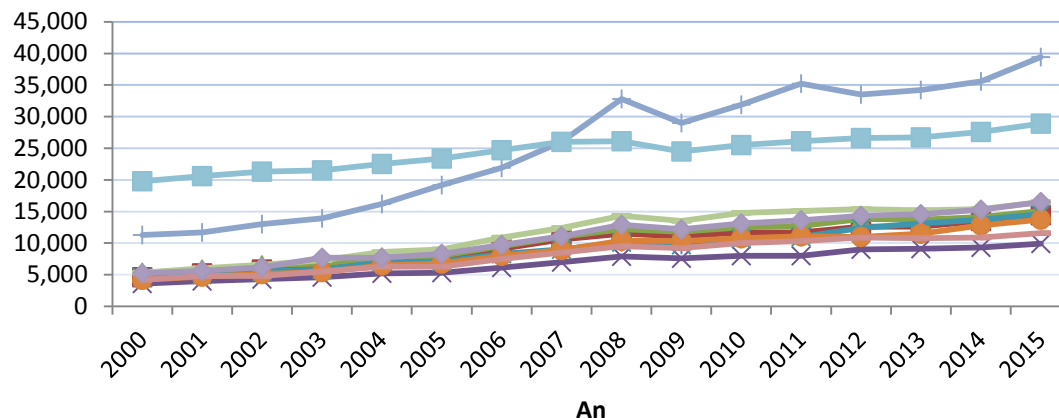


ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII
POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE

Competența face diferență!

Proiect selectat în cadrul Programului Operațional Capacitate Administrativă cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană, din Fondul Social European.

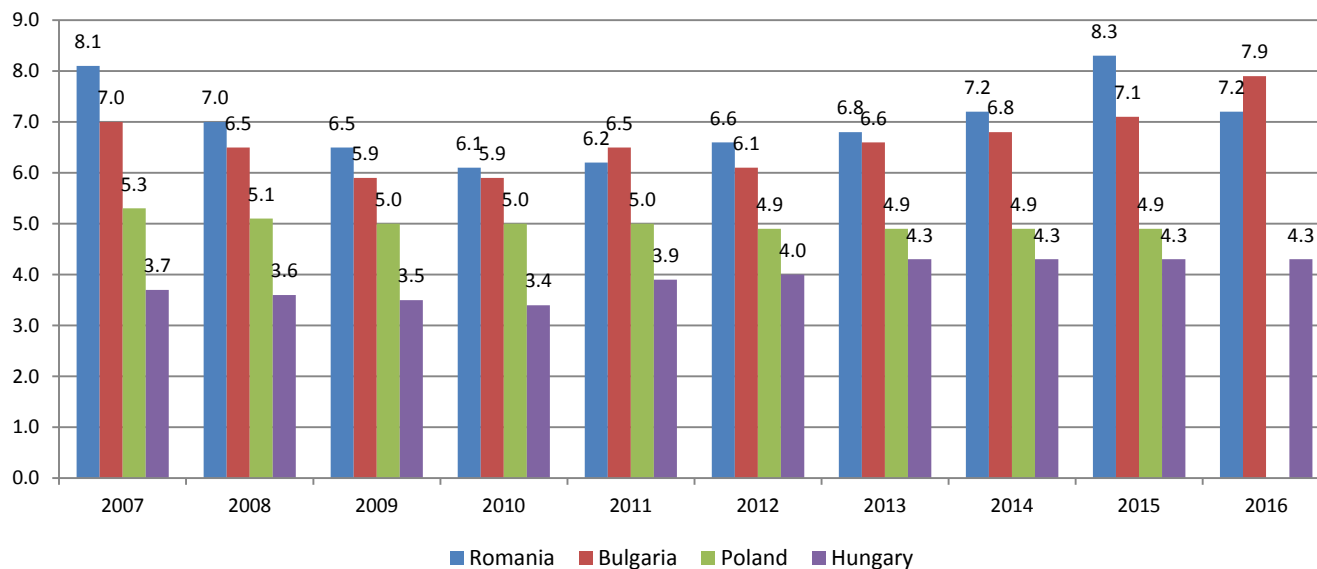
The evolution of the GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Standards) at EU 28 level and within Romania (NUTS 2) (2000-2015)



- Striking regional disparities
- In 2015, the most developed region (Bucuresti-Ifov) had a GDP per capita in PPS more than two times higher than the least developed region (North-East)

Nord-Vest Centru Nord-Est Sud-Est
 Sud Muntenia Bucuresti-Ilfov S-V Oltenia Vest
 Total Romania Total EU 28

Income inequality - the S80/S20 income share ratio



- Romania has one the highest levels of income inequality in the EU (increase)
- The income of the richest 20% is 8 times higher than the income of the poorest 20%



EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



SECRETARIATUL GENERAL
AL GUVERNULUI

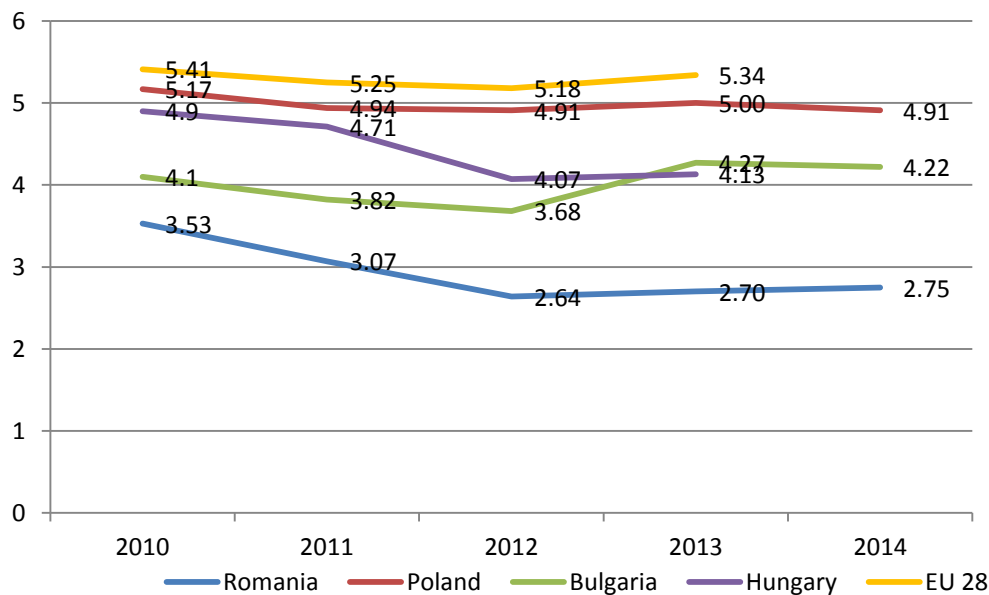


ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII
POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE

Competența face diferență!

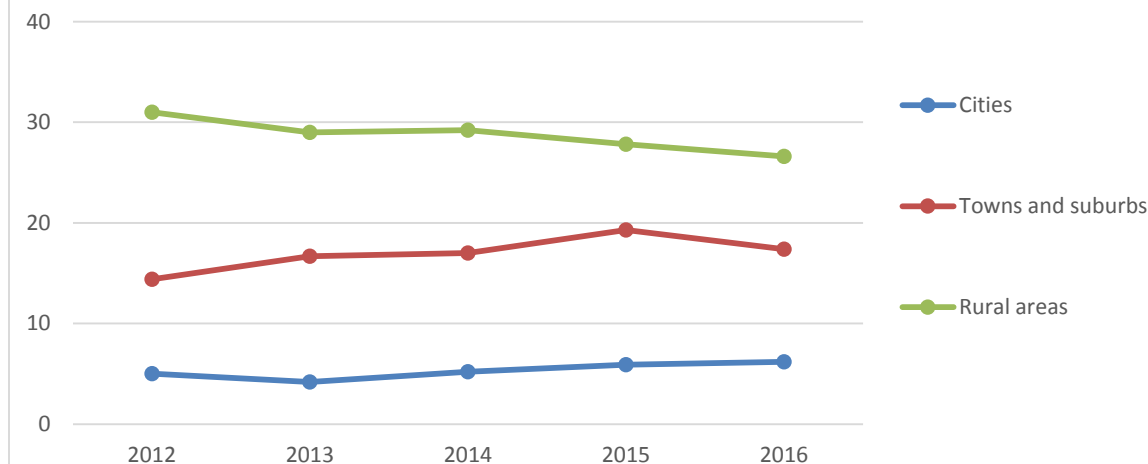
Proiect selectat în cadrul Programului Operațional Capacitate Administrativă cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană, din Fondul Social European.

Government expenditure on education (% of GDP)



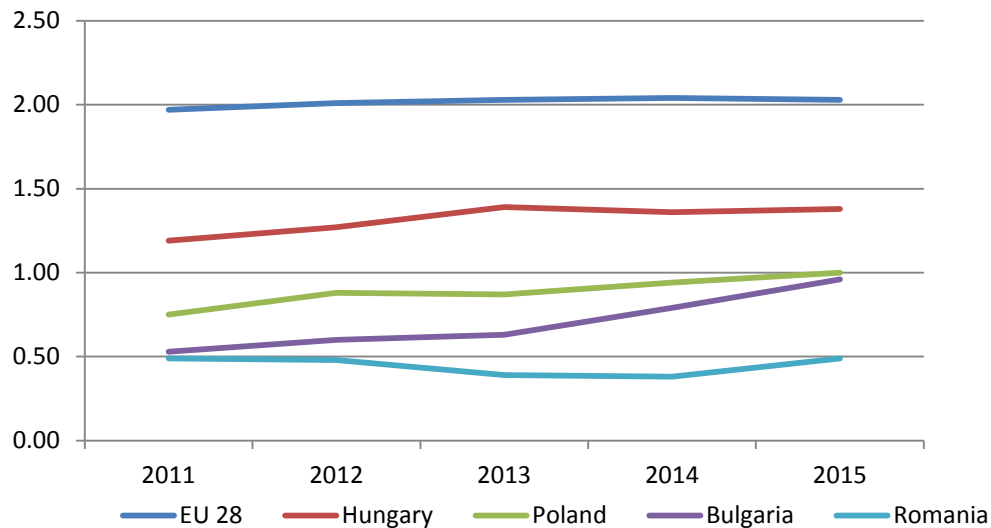
- Romania's government expenditure for education is the lowest in the EU, and two times lower than EU average
- Romania's peers invest twice as much in education

Early leavers from education and training, by degree of urbanization (2012-2016)



- 2016: 18,5% (increase)
- Five times higher in rural areas than in cities and urban areas

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) % of GDP



- In 2015, Romania spent only 0,49% of the GDP on R&D
- The country's performance levels in R&D are the lowest in within its peer group



AGRICULTURE



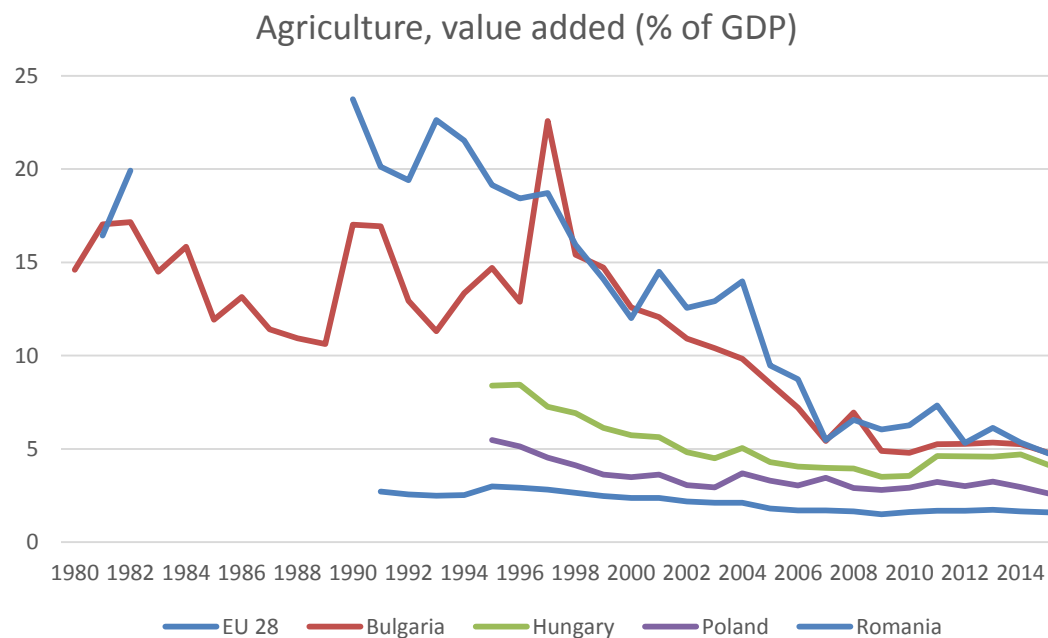
SECRETARIATUL GENERAL
AL GUVERNULUI



ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII
POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE

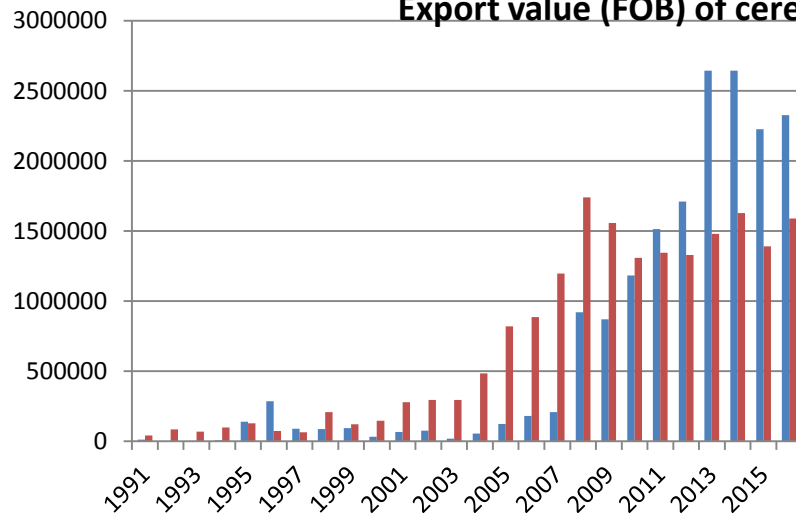
Competența face diferență!

Proiect selectat în cadrul Programului Operațional Capacitatea Administrativă cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană, din Fondul Social European.



- Steep decrease of agriculture added value (% of GDP), albeit 23.1% of the population in Romania works in the agriculture sectors (2016)

Import value (CIF) of live animals and animal products vs. Export value (FOB) of cereals



■ Export value (FOB) of cereals (thousands USD)

■ Import value (CIF) of live animals and animal products (thousands USD)

- Romania exports low price unprocessed goods and imports high price processed goods



LABOUR FORCE



SECRETARIATUL GENERAL
AL GUVERNULUI

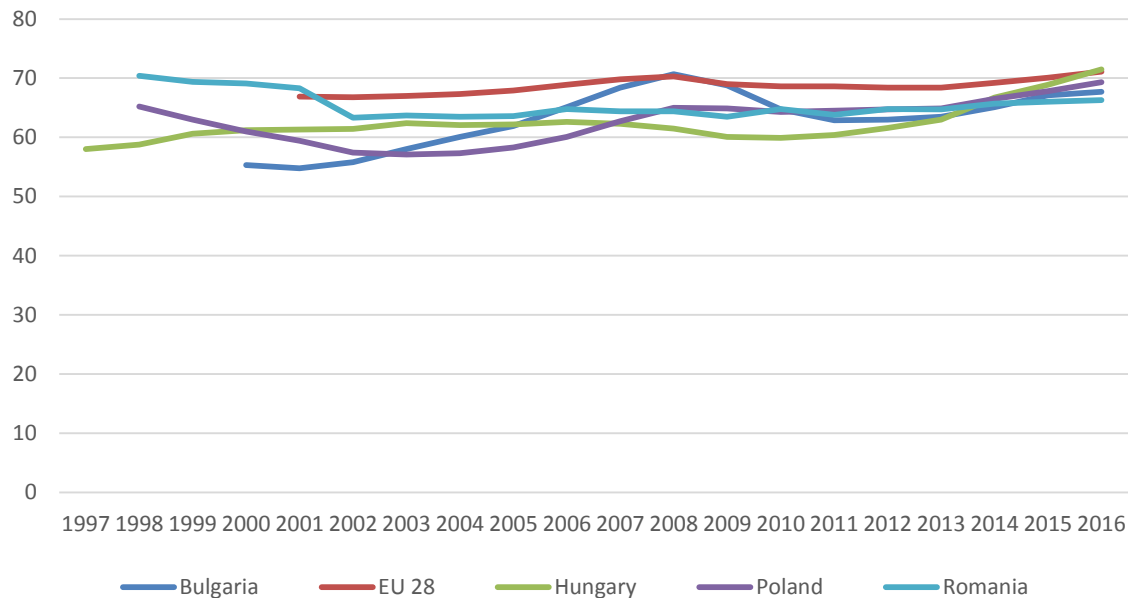


ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII
POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE

Competența face diferență!

Proiect selectat în cadrul Programului Operațional Capacitate Administrativă cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană, din Fondul Social European.

Employment rate



- Employment rate decreased during 1999-2016 (from 70.4% in 1998 to 66.3% in 2016)
- Romania – last within its peer group

Conclusions

- Purpose of the presentation: not to draw a grim picture of today's Romania, but to underline, in an evidence-based manner) structural problems:
 - that are key to development (demography, debt, lack of territorial cohesion, natural potential)
 - that have grown over time
 - and whose resolution requires medium to long term



www.starea-natiunii.ro

[Contact: info@starea-natiunii.ro](mailto:info@starea-natiunii.ro)



SECRETARIATUL GENERAL
AL GUVERNULUI



ȘCOALA NAȚIONALĂ DE STUDII
POLITICE ȘI ADMINISTRATIVE

Competența face diferență!

Proiect selectat în cadrul Programului Operațional Capacitatea Administrativă cofinanțat de Uniunea Europeană, din Fondul Social European.