

Name PP: **Vaslui County School Inspectorate**  
Name P1: **Galati County School Inspectorate**  
Project code: **PN2018**  
Grant contract number and date: **1/30.10.2020/N**  
Project implementation period: **30.10.2020-30.04.2023**

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**Norwegian Grants 2014 - 2021**  
**Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma**  
**Inclusion Programme**  
**Project PN2018 - "A school for all and for everyone!"**

# School desegregation strategy

Vaslui-Galați 2021

## Argument

The phenomena of school segregation have been insufficiently analysed, have not been systematically evaluated, and there has been little use of the existing legal framework to implement consistent measures on school desegregation. Although there is some research on school segregation of Roma pupils (where the estimated extent

of school segregation phenomena reaches alarming levels), there is practically no statistical data on other forms of school segregation in the Romanian education system (school segregation of children with disabilities, school segregation of students according to the socio-economic status of the families, etc.). As such, it is necessary to monitor all these forms of school segregation (for which there are indications provided by various researches or school inspections) and to develop monitoring, prevention and intervention methodologies specific to each segregation criterion.

Existing research data show that:

- In 2007-2008, out of a group of 90 schools, 67% of these schools had school segregation;

- In 2015, a European Commission report noted that "26% of Roma pupils in Romania study in ethnically segregated classes".

In the school year 2015-2016 a monitoring of school segregation of Roma pupils in the North-East and South-East Regions (at school unit level, at building level, at class level and at the level of the last two desks) points out that in one school out of 5 at least one of the four forms of school segregation of Roma pupils is present (20,1%, i.e. 82 pre-university schools out of 407 that provided sufficient data to analyse the different forms of school segregation of Roma pupils).

Another research carried out in 2009-2010 in 100 schools and kindergartens in 20 counties showed a strong correlation between schools where segregation of Roma pupils occurs and the low quality of education.

Other research in this area has shown that mixing pupils (by ethnicity, socio-economic status of families, academic performance, etc.) does not have a detrimental effect on the academic performance of high-achieving pupils, but instead contributes significantly to improving the academic performance of low-achieving pupils, to the effective educational inclusion of pupils from vulnerable groups, to strengthening an inclusive school ethos, and to increasing school-wide educational performance and cognitive skills development.

and non-cognitive skills of all students.

In this context, through the project PN2018 - "A school for all and for everyone!", developed within the Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma Inclusion Programme, with funding of 787,500 Euro through Norwegian Grants 2014-2021, the partners (IŞJ Vaslui-promoter and IŞJ Galaţi-partner) and the pilot schools have developed this strategy for the prevention and elimination of any form of school segregation (regardless of the criteria of segregation: segregation by ethnicity, segregation by

The project aims to improve the social inclusion of 475 children from Vaslui and Galaţi counties, who are at risk, by aiming, in particular, at their inclusion in school and community.

**Project Manager,  
Prof. Landiana Mihnevici**

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## Cap. I. External environment diagnosis

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#### I.1.1. Geographical location. Brief history.

##### I.1.1.1. Geographical location

The North-East region covers the north-eastern part of the country and is part of the old historical region of Moldova, consisting of six counties: Bacau, Botosani, Iasi, Neamt, Suceava and Vaslui. According to the Eurostat classification by the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS1), the counties represent the NUTS 3 level, the North-East region is classified in the NUTS 2 level, together with the other development regions of the country, which are included, in turn, in larger statistical territorial units (NUTS 1). The North-East region is part, together with the South-East region, of Macroregion 2 of Romania.



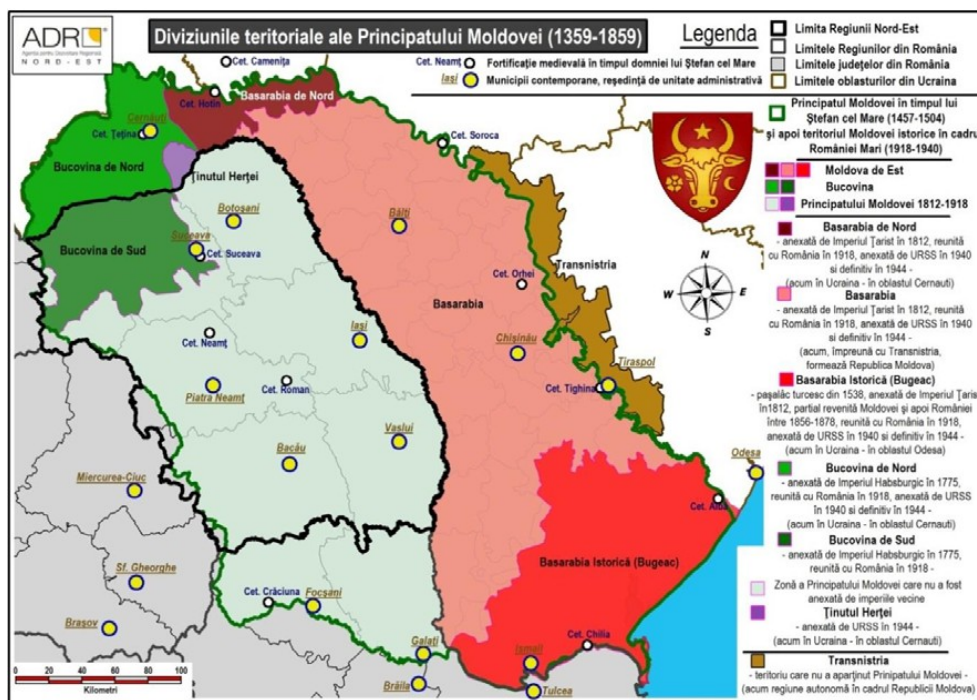
Territorial unit	Total area(sq.km)
<b>Bacau</b>	<b>6.621</b>
<b>Botoșani</b>	<b>4.986</b>
<b>Iasi</b>	<b>5.476</b>
<b>Neamt</b>	<b>5.896</b>
<b>Suceava</b>	<b>8.553</b>
<b>Vaslui</b>	<b>5.318</b>
<b>North-East Region</b>	<b>36.850</b>

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania, NSI

The area of the region is 3,684,983 hectares (36,850 sq.km), representing about 15.46% of Romania's surface), the largest counties being Suceava, with an area of 8,553 sq.km and Bacau with 6,621 sq.km. In the region there is the locality located at the highest latitude in Romania - Horodiștea - 48° 14'9". The region lies between 48° 15'N - 46° 00'N north latitude and 28° 15'E - 24° 56'E east longitude. The maximum altitude in the region is 2,100 m on the peak of Pietrosul Călimani, located on the border between Suceava and Mures counties.

### 1.1.1.2. Brief history

The historical region of Moldavia - the former Principality of Moldavia (1359 - 1859) reached its peak of expansion during the reign of Stephen the Great (1457 - 1504), after which it lost certain regions over time (Bugeac in 1538 - partially regained in 1856, Bucovina in 1775, Bessarabia in 1812). After the union with Wallachia (1859), Bugeac was lost again (1878) in exchange for the acquisition of Dobrogea by the newly created Romania. After the First World War, the Great Union (1918) is achieved, when all the historical regions of the Principality of Moldavia are reunited within the framework of Greater Romania. During the Second World War, Romania loses northern Bukovina, Herce County, Bessarabia and Bugea to the USSR from 1940. After the war, the annexation of these territories by the USSR is definitively recognised, and after the break-up of the USSR in 1991, northern Bukovina, Herta County and northern Bessarabia form the oblast of Chernauti, Bugevka becomes part of Odessa oblast, both of which are part of Ukraine, and the rest of Bessarabia forms, together with Transnistria - the Republic of Moldova. Following the last territorial reorganisation in 1968, the remaining territory of the former Principality of Moldavia in Romania was divided into 8 counties: Botoşani, Bacău, Iaşi, Neamţ, Suceava, Vaslui, Galaţi and Vrancea. The last two counties are now part of the South-East Region, while the other 6 make up the North-East Region.



### European Union border

Geographically, the region is bordered to the north by Ukraine (Chernivtsi oblast/region) - the border is 184.2 km long, to the south by Galati and Vrancea counties (South-East Region), to the east by the Republic of Moldova (North, Centre and South Regions) - the border is 562.3 km long, and to the west by Maramures and Bistrita-Nasaud counties (North-West Region) and Mures, Harghita and Covasna counties (Centre Region).

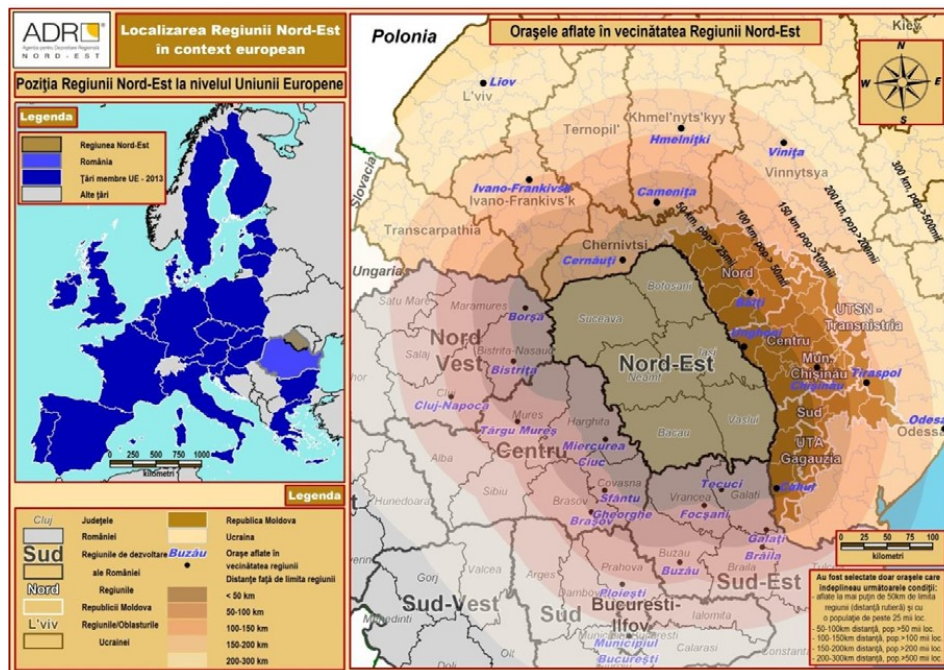
A key aspect of the geographical location of the North-East Region is that it is the eastern border of the European Union, with major implications in terms of securing border crossings, having a 184.2 km long border with Ukraine (land and river) and 562.3 km with the Republic of Moldova (entirely river - formed by the Prut River). In the region there is only one road border crossing point to Ukraine - Siret (SV) and one

railway crossing point - Vishani (SV). To the Republic of Moldova there are four road border crossing points - Rădăuți-Prut (BT), Stanca (BT), Sculeni (IS), Albița (VS) and two railway crossing points - Ungheni (IS) and Fălciu (VS), the last one being currently closed.

In addition to these, there are a number of border crossings with Ukraine, but with little traffic:

- roads - Ulma (SV), Vicovu de Sus (SV), Racovăț (BT);
- pedestrian - Izvoarele Sucevei (SV), Climăuți (SV), Văscăuți (SV).

Its location on the eastern border of the European Union gives the region a strategic advantage in terms of cross-border cooperation with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, with a view to bringing them closer to European structures.



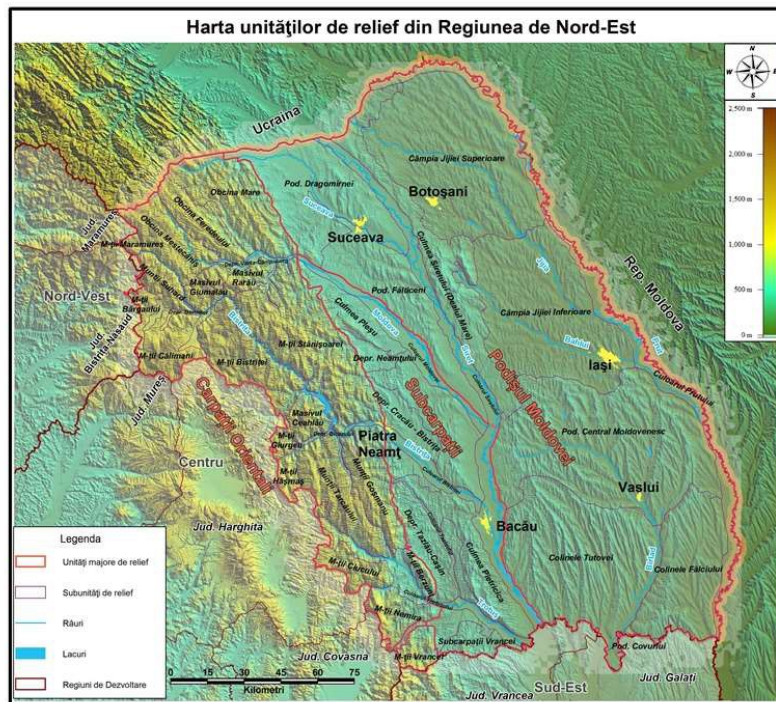
- **Key aspects**
  - The neighbouring countries (Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova) are not part of the European Union, which hinders the development of coherent transport axes at European level, with negative implications for the North-East Region.
  - Absence of a road connection between Romania and the Republic of Moldova in Ungheni.
  - The North-East Region is located on the eastern border of the European Union, 184.2 km representing the border with Ukraine (land and river) and 562.3 km the border with the Republic of Moldova (entirely river, formed by the Prut river), having cultural and historical relations with neighbouring countries.
  - In the region there is one road and one rail border crossing point to Ukraine and 4 road and one rail border crossing points to the Republic of Moldova.
  - The nearest larger city less than 50 km from the border is Chernivtsi (236 thousand inhabitants), and the cities with more than 500 thousand inhabitants in the vicinity of the region are Chisinau (690 thousand) - 130 km, Bucharest (1.9 million) - 230 km, Odessa (1 million) - 270 km, Lviv (717 thousand) - 300 km;
  - Four of the region's counties are part of three cross-border Euroregions.

-The Joint Operational Programmes with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova have included 4 counties in the North-East Region in the 2014-2020 programming period.

### I.1.2.Natural setting

#### I.1.2.1.Terrain

Analyzing the major landforms, we find that the region is divided into 3 areas: the Carpathian mountain area in the west, occupying 28% of the territory, the subcarpathian area in the middle part towards the south, with 12% of the territory and the podis and plain area in the east, occupying the largest area - 60% of the territory. The counties of Botosani, Iasi and Vaslui lie entirely in the latter area. The mountain area is characterized by the three geological alignments that create a different landscape from one area to another. The western alignment, represented in this region only by the Calimani Mountains - 2100 m, offers a specific volcanic landscape, by the presence of volcanic cones and craters. The central alignment, formed by hard, crystalline rocks, is characterized by a dry, monotonous relief, with the exception of the Rarau mountains - 1651 m and Hasmas - 1792 m where, due to the geological activity, spectacular elements have appeared such as Pietrele Doamnei, Piatra Soimului or Piatra Singuratica, objectives that increase the tourist potential of the area.



The last range, located in the eastern part of the Eastern Carpathians, is made up of sedimentary layers and offers a landscape of domed peaks, among which the Bukovina Hills stand out - with altitudes up to 1500 m, famous for the historical monuments in the area and the tourist resorts. The Ceahlau Mountain - 1907 m, considered the symbol mountain of Moldavia, is also part of this alignment, an important tourist point due to the presence of the Durau resort, the Duruitoarea waterfall, the Toaca peak and the Izvorul Muntelui reservoir in the east.

The subcarpathians have average heights of 400-500 m (max. 911 m - Plesu Ridge) - separating from the mountain area through a series of depressions crossed by the Bistrita and Trotus rivers.

The Podis area characterizes the eastern part of the region and is subdivided into Podisul Sucevei in the central-northern area, Podisul Barladului in the southeast and Campia Moldovei in the northeast. Podisul Sucevei is crossed by the rivers Siret, Suceava and Moldova and is characterized by an uneven relief of low hills and depressions, Podisul Barladului is strongly influenced by the erosive action of the Barlad river and its tributaries, generating north-south oriented valleys, and Campia Moldovei is so named because of its important agricultural function, the relief being dominated by low hills.

A longitudinal section over the region, it presents itself as a slope descending from west to east, with numerous variations due to the fragmentation of the relief. The fragmentation of the relief and the north-south oriented valleys create difficulties in the organization of road links between the localities in the west of Vaslui county and in the east of Bacau county, there are few transversal roads, with winding routes, which do not allow a good connectivity with the main nearby towns (Bacau, Vaslui, Barlad).

#### Climate

The different types of relief create climatic zones with significant differences between mountainous and hilly and lowland areas.

The mountain area is influenced in the north by Scandinavian-Baltic air masses, and in the west-east direction by oceanic air masses carried by westerly winds which cause an increase in average annual precipitation up to 1200 mm in Ceahlau. The climate is mountainous on the whole with average annual temperatures of 7oC at 1000 m, but there is also an alpine climate above 1800 m with average annual temperatures of zero degrees Celsius.

In the subcarpathian area the air circulation prevails on the north-west - south-east direction, on the main rivers valleys, sometimes with a northeast wind. In the subcarpathian depressions there are thermal inversions in winter and foehn-like phenomena in spring. Average annual temperatures rise from north to south, around 8-9oC, and rainfall does not exceed 700 mm/year.

The Podis area is characterized in the east by eastern continental influences, arid, with average annual temperatures of 9-10oC and rainfall of 400-500 mm/year, winters being cold, with cryvates present, and summers very hot and dry. In the north average annual temperatures drop to 6oC, but annual rainfall increases to 900 mm, with Baltic influences.

Analyzing the data from the last two decades of time, for the three meteorological stations in the region (Bacau, Iasi and Suceava) there is an increase in the annual air temperature amplitude (difference between the highest and lowest temperatures) by 2.4 oC in Bacau, 2.5 oC in Iasi and 3 oC in Suceava. There is also an increasing trend in the absolute maximum air temperatures in all three municipalities, with 2-4 degrees Celsius.

#### 1.1.2.3. Hydrography

The region is crossed by eight major water courses, which drain the territory on the North-South direction, the entire hydrography belonging to the Siret (42.890 kmp) and Prut (10.990 kmp) river basins.

The latter represents the natural border with the Republic of Moldova, on a distance of approx. 562,3 km.

Some of the region's waterways have benefited from extensive improvement and regulation works.

On the Bistrita river, seven hydroelectric power stations and the largest reservoir of the region - Izvorul Muntelui, with a normal retention volume of 1.130 million cubic meters, have been built since the 70s and 80s. In Neamt county, there is also the largest natural dam lake in Romania - Cuejdel Lake, with a surface of 13,9 ha. In the counties of Botosani and Iasi there are numerous man-made lakes, formed by damming the valleys, which are a feature of the territory of the Jijia hilly plain (e.g. lakes Stanca-Costesti, Dracsani in Botosani county and lakes Chirita and Ezareni).

#### 1.1.2.4. Vegetation and fauna

From a biogeographical point of view, the fauna and flora of the North-East region are part of:

- Alpine region in the western part (west of Suceava, Neamt and Bacau counties),
- continental region in the central and north-eastern part (east of Suceava, Neamt and Bacau counties, Botosani, Iasi and partially Vaslui counties),
- steppe region in the east and south of Vaslui county.

The existence of different species of plants and animals, as well as the presence of different specific habitats, has led to the creation of protection areas either for habitats - protecting species of wild flora and fauna of Community interest other than birds (Natura 2000 - SCI), or only for birds - avifauna (Natura 2000 - SPA).

In Bacau County there are 4 major habitat classes<sup>8</sup>, as follows:

- Temperate zone meadows and bushes (European dry bushes, alpine and boreal bushes, herbaceous vegetation on the banks of mountain rivers, rivers with muddy banks, etc.)
- natural and semi-natural grassland formations (meadows of various types: alpine and subalpine, alluvial, low-lying, etc.; mountainous plains, ponto-sarmatic steppes, etc.);
- oligotrophic swamps, peat bogs and alkaline swamps;
- forests (beech, oak, oak and hornbeam forests, white poplar and white willow groves, etc.).

The conservation status of the habitats present is favourable.

From the plant species of community interest, located in the protected natural areas of the county we list: bellflower, lady's slipper, iris, throat grass, marigolds, marigold, snakehead.

The fauna of Bacau county is diverse, the following species of European interest being evaluated on the territory of the county:

- mammals: wolf, brown bear, lynx, otter, little horseshoe bat, common bat, popandau;
- birds: wetland birds (e.g. barn owl, barn owl, little cormorant, winter swan, polar loon, crane, red duck, great egret, red kite, black stork, little grebe, etc.), woodland birds (black woodpecker, woodcock, owl, great grey owl, peregrine falcon, little eagle, etc.), in parks and gardens (garden woodpecker, meadowlark) and on farmland (white stork, evening vantage, meadow chough, meadowlark);
- amphibians and reptiles: carpathian newt, crested newt, yellow-bellied and red-bellied pond turtle, water turtle;
- fishes: slag, cicada, scabbardfish, porgy, sandy porgy, wrasse, sandpiper, sandpiper, wrasse, dunlin, spindle, stonecrop, wagtail, wrasse, grayling;
- invertebrates: transylvanian snail, radasca, grey croaker, Vertigo angustior (snail species).

In 2016, the populations of strictly protected carnivore species (bear, wolf, lynx, wild cat) on the territory of the county were assessed. The comparative situation reveals a slight decreasing trend of bear populations - Ursus arctos, for wolf populations - Canis



lupus a slight decrease in the number of animals, wild cat populations - *Felis silvestris* are so far in balance, and lynx populations - *Lynx lynx* do not register significant increases (although since 2012 hunting of this species has been strictly prohibited). The possible causes are solitary behaviour and the large range this species needs for feeding, which has been significantly reduced due to human activities.

In Botosani county there are 5 major classes of habitats, as follows:

- forest, representing approx. 11% of the county territory;
- secondary meadows (pastures and fallow), representing approx. 18% of the total area, with a good general condition;
- peat bogs and swamps, represented by the Lozna-Dersca peat bog (10 ha), hosting about 200 plant species;
- aquatic ecosystems: flowing waters and standing waters, the latter being represented by Stanca Costesti lake on the Prut river, Bucecea and Rogojesti accumulations on the Siret river, Cal Alb, Negreni, Hanesti accumulations on the Baseu river and Mileanca on the Podriga river. These aquatic areas are habitats for numerous bird species, many of them of community interest;
- rocky habitats: in the valley of Prut (Ripiceni).

The protected flora is represented by: lady's slipper, spotted tulip, spring rusty, white and yellow honeysuckle, wood lily, rosebush, earwig, autumn honeysuckle, etc. The protected fauna of the county includes the species of white stork, raven, eagle eagle, summer hare, finch, grouse, badger, red squirrel, bat, wild cat, etc. Following the 2017 assessment of the wild cat population, 128 animals were found, down 18 from the previous year.

In Iasi county<sup>10</sup> there are 2 of the 5 biogeographic regions: continental - mostly, respectively steppe - a small area in the south of the county - with the following habitat types: forests, steppe and wet habitats: the Prut, Siret, Jijia rivers and the related ponds and Vladeni.

Thus, on the territory of Iasi county, there were inventoried:

- 14 habitats of European Community importance (mentioned in Annex 2 of GEO 57/2007);
- 6 species of wild flora of European Community interest with certain presence (mentioned in Annexes 3b, 4a and 5a of GEO 57/2007), plus 4 species mentioned in the literature for Iasi county, but which require further studies for confirmation;
- 107 wild flora species of national interest (mentioned in annex 3b of GEO 57/2007, national red list, international conventions, red list of Iasi county);
- 164 wildlife species of European Community interest (mentioned in Annexes 3a, 4A and 5A of GEO 57/2007);
- 58 wildlife species of national interest (mentioned in annexes 4B and 5B of GEO 57/2007, national red list, international conventions).

25 habitat types were identified in Neamt county:

- 5 types of freshwater habitats,
- 9 types of grassland and scrubland habitats (*Pinus mugo* and *Rhododendron myrtifolium* scrublands and calcareous rock communities or *basifolia* grasslands),
- 1 type of peat bog and swamp habitat (petrifying springs with travertine formation),
- 3 rock and cave habitats
- 7 forest habitats (alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*).

The database on flora and fauna species in the county includes 481 species of animals and 2287 species of plants, of which 8 protected plant species.

Fauna is represented by:

- 32 fish species, of which 10 species mentioned in the Habitats Directive;

- 15 amphibian species, of which 10 species mentioned in the Habitats Directive;
- 11 species of reptiles, of which 3 species mentioned in the Habitats Directive;
- 225 bird species, of which 103 species mentioned in the Birds Directive;
- 55 mammal species, of which 25 species mentioned in the Habitats Directive.

The inventory of fauna species of Community interest includes: 11 mammal species (Bison bonasus-priority, Myotis bechsteinii, Myotis blythii, Myotis myotis, Barbastrella barbastrellus, Rhinolophus hipposideros, Spermophilus citellus, Lutra lutra, Lynx lynx, Canis lupus and Ursus arctos-priority), 4 amphibian and reptile species (Triturus cristatus, Triturus montandoni, Triturus cristatus, Bombina variegata), 8 fish species (Cottus gobio, Barbus meridionalis, Cobitis taenia, Gobio uranoscopus, Misgurnus fossilis, Gobio kessleri, Rhodeus sericeus, Sabanejewia aurata) and 5 invertebrate species (Odontopodisma rubripes, Rosalia alpina - priority, Pholidoptera transsylvanica, Cerambyx cerdo, Callimorpha quadripunctaria - priority species). There are also 48 species of birds of Community interest that are found in special protection areas for birds. As regards the species of the bison (Bison bonasus), 37 animals have been released by the administration of the Vanatori-Neamt Nature Park since 2012.

In Suceava county there are 5 major habitat classes<sup>11</sup>, as follows:

- Forest ecosystems: important resource of the county, the existing forests are beech, oak, fir, hornbeam, maple, sorb, maple, spruce and fir; in the composition of the forests spruce represents 65-70%, beech and fir 25-30%, and the other species 5%.

The fauna of these areas is represented by: brown bear, carpathian deer, lynx, wolf, fox,

wild boar, rabbit, squirrel, marten, as well as numerous species of birds (woodpeckers, sandpiper, pipit, pipit, coot, grouse, buzzard, buzzard, eagle screamers).

- Grasslands: alpine and subalpine, habitats for rare plant species (Cephalanthera longifolia,

Epipactis atrorubens, Epipactis helleborine, Festuca porcii, Festuca carpatica, Gentiana punctata, Gymnadenia odoratissima, Listera cordata, Listera ovata, Luzula pallescens, Filipendula ulmaria, Geranium sylvaticum etc). In the alpine zone we find the alpine finch and the birch grouse, and in the coniferous forests we can find the mountain grouse, the heron and the coyoaica. Mammals are represented by bears, wolves, lynx, dormouse, deer, common deer, bicoloured bats, etc. Reptiles encountered are: viper, turtle dove, hazel snake - Peat bogs and swamps: located in the Dornelor basin (Poiana Stampei, Cosna) and Sarul Dornei, which host a rich flora, with frequent species of Scots pine, birch, fern, cherry, blueberry, mountain ash, rockrose, Arctic and sub-Arctic leaf moss, etc.

The fauna consists of species common to the area: bear, wolf, fox, jder, etc.

- Meadow ecosystems: in the Siret, Suceava and Moldavian Sessions. Their flora consists of forest vegetation (oak, ash, hornbeam, lime, wild cherry, aspen) and herbs. (snowdrops, snowdrops, snowdrops and nature's monuments - the spotted tulip and the lady's slipper).

The fauna is well represented by mammals (deer, wild boar, wild cat, fox, etc.), birds (pheasant, jackdaw, jackdaw, etc).

- Aquatic ecosystems: flowing waters (rivers Siret, Bistrita, Moldova, Suceava) and standing waters (small natural lakes and 6 anthropic lakes on the Somuzu Mare river, upstream from Falticeni). The flora of these ecosystems is represented by river plankton (bacterioplankton, phytoplankton and zooplankton). The man-made lakes

host more than 20,000 migratory water birds (ducks, gulls, owls, reed buntings, dwarf starlings, swans, etc.).

In the protected natural areas of Vaslui County there are 112 protected species of flora, important for community, national and local biodiversity. Among these species 14 are endemic and whose conservation requires a strict protection regime: zavascuta, yellow tulip, dwarf soft salba, big grass, sadina, sipica, carcel, garnita, stanjenel, barba boierului, woody bush, piestrita tulip, ruscuta, sanziene.

On the territory of the county we find the following types of habitats:

- Ponto-Sarmatic steppes: on hills unsuitable for agriculture and on land where forest has been cut. In these habitats live approx. 48 important species, including snake grass, stanjenel, tartan, popanda, etc.

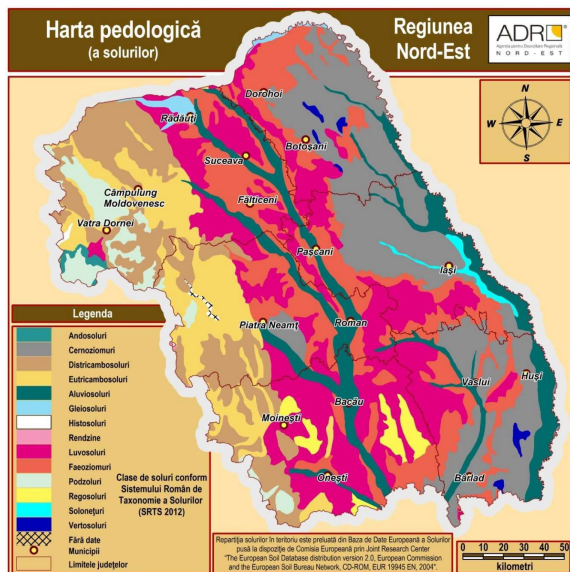
- Forests: oak and hornbeam forests, ponto-sarmatic forests with downy oak and silvostepa

eurosiberian. The fauna of these habitats is represented by species of protected birds (evening wagtail, black grouse) and common mammals (roe deer, wild boar, hare, fox).

- Wet habitats: the Prut and Barlad rivers, the Osesti-Barzesti marshes, the Mascura lakes, the Manjesti pond. In these habitats we find an impressive biodiversity, consisting of several dozen species of birds (white swan, white pelican, red caliphar, whistling duck, diving duck, pontic fisher, razorbill, little egret, duck species, etc.) amphibians and protected mammals (barn owl, crested newt, river turtle, otter, steppe ferret, pochard, etc.). The 2016 wild cat population assessment found 45 animals, compared to 46 the previous year.

The impact of the growth of the socio-economic system is the simplification of natural capital associated with the reduction of biological diversity and the decline in the share of renewable resources produced in natural and semi-natural systems. If one takes into account that these phenomena of ecosystem deterioration occur over large areas, it is understandable that they affect not only local ecological balances, but also the overall ecological state of the ecosphere, and thus the quality of life of human populations. Uncontrolled and intensively practised tourism creates negative impacts through the deterioration and degradation of wild flora, disturbance of animal species, and the abandonment of household waste.

#### 1.1.2.5. Soils



The pedogeographic envelope is particularly varied due to geomorphological, climatic and geological substratum conditions. The classification by soil classes and types is in accordance with the Romanian Soil Taxonomy System (SRTS 2012), using the European Soil Database (2004).

In the Carpathian area the following soil types are present:

- Rendzine - calcareous skeletal material formed on limestone, gypsum, sandstone or calcareous conglomerate. Low productive potential, rich in humus (4-8%) and do not possess high water and nutrient

holding capacity. They are used for pastures, hayfields or forests in mountainous areas - in the Bicaz Gorge area.

- Eutricambosols - occur on ridges and slopes, terraces or high plains, at altitudes up to 1300 m, developed on base-rich rocks: clays, marls, clayey or marly systems, calcareous sandstones, clays, limestones, etc. The texture varies from luto-sandy to luto-clay, resulting in a satisfactory aërohydric regime, and the humus content varies between 3 and 10%, with a good supply of nutrients. They are used for various field crops: wheat, maize, sunflower, potato, fruit and vine growing, and in upland areas for beech and coniferous forests. Erosion processes can occur on sloping land - in mountainous areas: Stanisor, Ciucului, Ceahlau, Tarcau, Hasmaș, Rarau mountains, etc.

- Districambosols - widespread in mountainous areas, between 600 and 1200 m, formed on slope deposits resulting from the disaggregation and alteration of crystalline systems or granites. It has a satisfactory water regime, high permeability and low nutrient retention capacity. It is an acid soil, with a humus content of 5-8%, reaching up to 20%, used especially for plantations of trees, forests (mixed and resinous), hayfields or pastures - in the mountainous area - Obcina Mare, Feredeș, Suhard, Bistritei, Tarcau, Gosmanu, Ciuc, Nemira.

- Podzoluri - at altitudes above 1800 m, on broad ridges, gently sloping slopes, formed on acidic rocks: sandstones, conglomerates, crystalline schists, magmatic rocks. They are poorly supplied with nutrients and have a low biological activity, being used for spruce forests and natural meadows - in the mountain area - Calimani, Mestecaniș, Bistritei, Ciuc, Nemira, Ceahlau, Giumalau.

- Andosols - formed on volcanic rocks (boulders, tuffs, volcanic ash, dacite, rhyolite, andesite), having a high water holding capacity and high permeability. It can be used for forests (spruce and fir), pastures and hayfields - in the area of volcanic mountains - Calimani.

In the subcarpathian and hilly area the following soil classes are found:

- Regosols - poorly contoured soil with varied texture, low in humus (1-2%) and nutrients. Naturally corresponds to low quality grasslands. Can be used for viticulture and fruit growing.

- Central and eastern part of Bacău County - Tutova Hills, Solont Hills, Berzunt and Zabratăul.

- Luvisols - widespread in hilly and podis areas, developed on sedimentary rocks (clays, clays, sandstones, conglomerates, sands), or on materials resulting from the processes of disintegration and alteration of magmatic and metamorphic rocks, the natural vegetation being composed of gorun forests and mixtures. It has unfavourable aërohydric properties, with a low humus content (1.5-2.5%) and poor nutrient supply, with low fertility for most crop plants.

- In the western and central part of Podis Dragomirna, subcarpathian area, north of the hills

Tutova, west of the Central Moldovan Podis, Siret Ridge (Dealul Mare).

These low fertility soil types, poor in humus and nutrients, would require complex improvement measures, as well as the use of organic fertilizers to increase production

- Faeozioame - occupy areas with a wetter climate than cernoziome, the natural vegetation being represented by deciduous forests. They are formed on loess, clays, clays or marls. They have a loamy or loamy-clayey texture, with a humus content between 3 and 4.5%. Having a good fertility, they are used for cereals, potatoes, sugar beet, viticulture, fruit growing, but also for pasture or forest - higher areas located on either side of the rivers Siret, Moldova, Suceava, North of the Jijia Campia, Podisul

Central Moldovenesc, Tutovei Hills, North Subcarpathian Zone, Podisul Dragomirnei and Podisul Falticeni.

- Vertisols - formed on clay deposits, with low permeability, they are compact, heavy and hard to work, which is a limiting factor for most crop plants. They are used for wheat, maize, sunflower crops, but also for pastures and hayfields - in the Falciului Hills and in the Upper Jijia Plain.

In the lowlands (Jijia plain), in depressions and in the river beds we can find the following soil types:

- Alluvisols - formed on recent fluvial, fluvio-lacustrine or lacustrine deposits, at least 50 cm thick. In areas where they are no longer under frequent flooding (drained, indigolous) they have a favourable aero-hydric regime, humus content 2-3%. Favourable for wheat, oats, sunflower, maize - Siret, Prut, Trotus, Bistrita, Moldova, Suceava, Jijia river beds;

- Chernozemic - spread on flat or gently sloping surfaces below 550 m altitude. They are generally formed on loess, but also on clay deposits. Rich in humus (2.5-6%), with good water and aeration properties and rich in nutrients, having the highest natural fertility. A limiting factor may be the lack of moisture during the growing season of the crops - the eastern part of the region - the upper and lower Jijia Plain, the south-east of the Central Moldovan Podis, the Falciului Hills, the east of the Tutovei Hills, the Cracau-Bistritei Depression.

- Gleisols - formed mainly on fluvial or fluvio-lacustrine deposits with a luteous or luteous-clayey texture, the main formation factor being the presence of groundwater at shallow depths (1-2 m), which also determines a defective aerohydric regime. They have a high humus content (2-15%) and are well supplied with N, P and K. In natural conditions they are used as pastures and hayfields, but through improvement measures, they can be used for wheat, corn, oats, rye, but also for vegetables - in the Radauti depression and in the north of Botosani county.

- Solonchetsuri - associated with gleic cernozomes, they are found in low areas, where there is a source of mineralized water at depths of 3-5 m, which determines a poor development of spontaneous vegetation. They have a low humus content (1-2%), are poorly supplied with nutrients and with a very low soil biological activity, and can only be used for low or medium quality meadows - in the Bahlui and partially in the Jijia meadows.

- Histosols - form in a water-saturated environment under the influence of abundant hydrophilic vegetation.

Turbidization processes are present, consisting of the accumulation of incompletely decomposed organic matter (2-10 m thick). Having a low fertility, they can only be used for pastures and low quality hayfields - in the peatland area of Poiana Stampei.

#### 1.1.2.6. Natural resources

The following resources are present in the North-East region:



- uranium ore - Crucea-Botusana mining sectors - Suceava county - the only unit of mining of this type of ore in the country;
- Grinties, Neamt county - in the process of obtaining permits for a new exploitation;
- polymetallic ore - Manaila, Breaza commune, Suceava county, with mechanochemical preparation for obtaining copper concentrate at the Iacobeni preparation plant - Suceava county;
- copper ore - Fundu Moldovei

- (Dealu Negru) - jud. Suceava - discontinued activity (2004) ;
- baritina - Ostra, Lesu Ursului, Alunis - closed activities (2003-2006) ;
- manganese - Dornelor Basin (Ulm quarry - Dorna Arini), Oita quarry - Ciocanesti, Arsita quarry - Iacobeni), Carlibaba (Dadu deposit), Ciocanesti (Tolovan, Mestecanis); Iacobeni (Nepomuceni, Argestru, Capraria); Saru Dornei (Dealu Rusului) - Suceava county - closed;
- rock salt - Cacica Saltworks, with preparation of rock salt by recrystallization in the preparation plant at Partestii de Jos - Suceava county; Moinesti, Sarata, Targu Ocna - Bacau county; resources, but not exploited: Targu Neamt, Dobreni, Piatra Neamt, Borlesti - Neamt county
- sulphur - Prajeni, on Teisoara and Ursoaia valleys - Botosani county; Calimani mountains - Suceava county - (final shutdown 1997);
- tuff ardeziec - Hudesti - Botosani county ;
- peat - Poiana Stampei (exploitation and mechanical processing) - Suceava county; Dersca - Botosani county;
- quartz sands - Miorcani, Hudesti, Suharau, Bajura - Botosani county;
- gypsum - Paltinis, Crasnaleuca - Botosani county; Perchiu, Onesti - Bacau county;
- Potassium salts - Arsita, Solont, Stanesti, Galeanu - Bacau county; Cracaoani, Negresti, Garcina, Cut, Mastacan, Borlesti, Baltatesti, Tazlau - Neamt county;
- namoluri - Letcani, Lungani - Iasi county;
- useful rocks : andesite - Dornisoara, Poiana Negri, Voroava - Suceava county; limestones - Pojorata, Lelici and Valea Seaca - Carlibaba - Suceava county; Bicz-Chei, Damuc - Suceava county. Neamt; dolomitic limestones - Paraul Cailor - Suceava county; reef limestones - Ripiceni and Stanca-Stefanesti - Botosani county; oolitic limestones - Vorona, Cosula, Magura-Ibanesti, Holm hill - Botosani county; Harmanesti, Crivesti, Repedea - Iasi county; serpentinite - Breaza - Suceava county; sands and gravels - Tudora, Corni - Botosani county; Cornatel, Urechesti Garleni, Orbeni - Botosani county. Bacau; Buda-Siretel, Barnova, Scheia, Paun, Cristesti-Miroslovesti, Lespezi-Mircesti, Pascani, Grozesti, Victoria, Probota, Stolniceni-Prajescu, Luncasi, Butea, Motca - jud. Iasi; Bistrita, Moldova, Siret and Girov, Caciulesti, Cracauani, Targu Neamt, Vanatori, Leghiu, Braniste river basins - Neamt county; Siret, Suceava, Moldova river basins and with a much smaller share of the

Bistrita river - Iasi county. Suceava; clays - Doftoana, Magura, Luizi-Calugara - Bacau county; Ciritei, Sagna, Raucesti, Gadinti, Tasca-Bicaz, Roman, Vanatori-Targu Neamt, Tarcau - Neamt county; Dorohoi, Mihaileni - Botosani county; Tomesti-Vladiceni - Botosani county; Tomesti-Vladiceni - Botosani county. Iasi; loessoid clays - Tomesti, Holboca, Vladiceni, Ciurea - Iasi county; sandstones - Ghimes Faget and east of Slanic Moldova area - Bacau county; Deleni-Harlau - Iasi county; Tarcau-Paraul Capra, Ardeluta - Neamt county;

- oil and natural gas - Frasin, Todiresti, Valea Moldovei, Comanesti, Fratauti - Suceava county; in the area between Tazlau and Oituz with exploitations at Zemes, Moinesti, Lucacesti, Solont, Stanesti, Darmanesti, Doftoana and in Podisul Moldovei - Bacau county; Tazlau, Roman, Pipirig - Neamt county;

- brown coal - Comanesti - Bacau county ;

- bituminous shale - Neamt county ;

- Therapeutic mineral waters: sulphurous and ferruginous - Dranceni, Murgeni, Pungesti, Gura Vaii - Vaslui county; Moinesti, Lucacesti - Bacau county; chlorinated, chlorinated, iodinated, brominated - Nicolina, Raducaneni - Iasi county; Lucacesti, Schela Moinesti, Lunca, Poiana Sarata, Targu-Ocna, Sarata-Bai - Iasi county. Bacau; Durau, Baltatesti, Oglinzi-Bai, Piatra Soimului - Neamt county; bicarbonate, magnesian, calcic - Parcovaci - Iasi county; Poiana Cosnei, Poiana Vinului, Dorna Candrenilor, Poiana Negri, Rosu - Suceava county; sulphurous, bicarbonate, sodic, sulphated - Strunga, Breazu, Gradina Botanica Iasi, Baiceni, Bohotin, Cucuteni - Iasi county;

- carbonated mineral waters - Tosorog, Bicazu Ardelean, Dealul Gherman - Neamt county; Poiana Negri, Vatra Dornei, Dorna Candrenilor, Paltinis - Suceava county; Iasi - Iasi county

- non-carbonated mineral waters (flat) - perimeter Munticelul, Bicazu Ardelean, Leghin-Pipirig, Izvorul Muntelui, Tazlau-Ardeluta - Neamt county; Iasi, Harlau, Strunga, Cucuteni, Raducaneni, Deleni, Reditu, Aroneanu, Mircesti - Iasi county; Dealul Floreni, Moara Dracului, Izvorul Alb - Iasi county. Suceava.

- Areas prone to natural hazards

- Flood risk

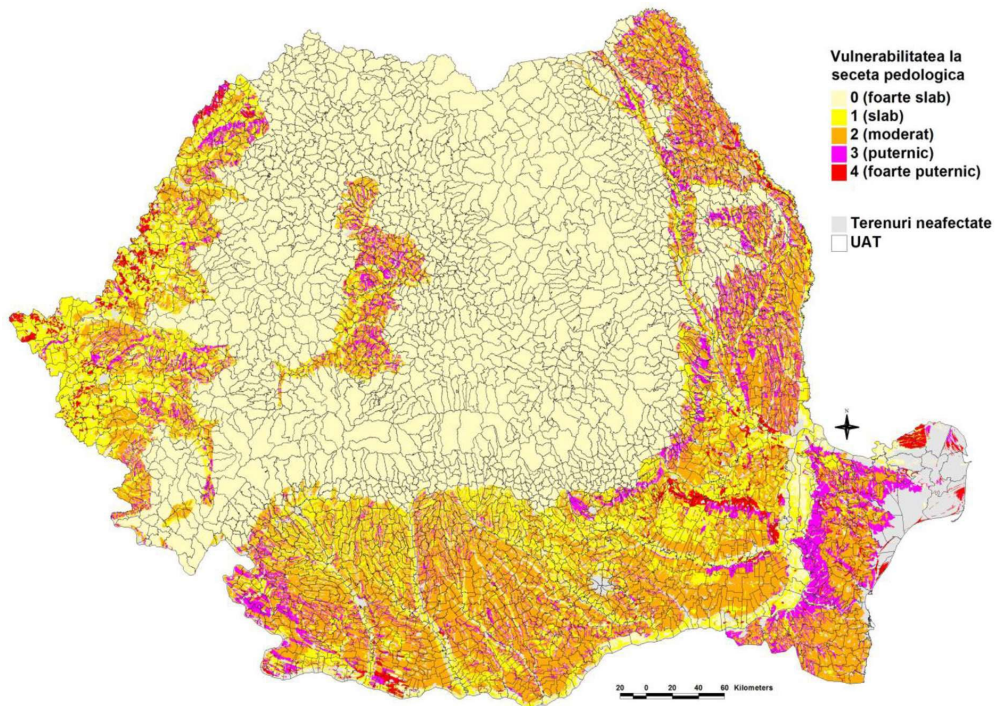
Among the best known areas at risk of flooding are the Prut River Basin, with major floods in the years 1970, 1991, 1998, 2005, 2008 and 2010, and for the Siret River Basin in the years 1969, 1974, 1991, 2005.

if 2010.

- Drought risk

The spread of droughts and desertification is closely linked to global climate change and the increasing pressure of human society on the environment. The destructive impact of droughts and their increasing area of occurrence mean that the phenomenon is considered, after pollution, to be the most significant environmental risk. This is because droughts, especially prolonged droughts occurring in successive years, cause multiple negative ecological, economic and social impacts affecting the quality of life of human communities.

The ecological, economic and social consequences of drought are: reduction of agricultural yields and their quality, limitation of the cultivation of some plant species, decline of forests, degradation of grasslands, reduction of soil resources and their quality, reduction of biodiversity, increase of conflicts of interest regarding resources.



- **Earthquake risk**

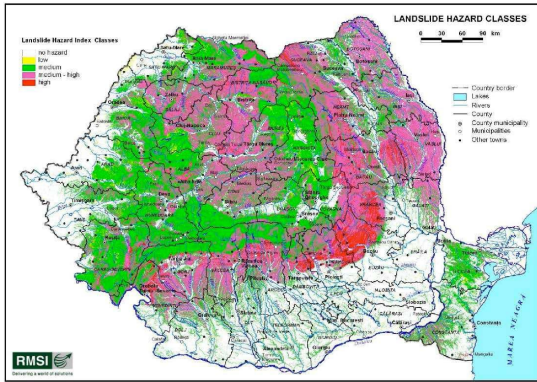
Romania's seismicity comes from the energy emitted by crustal earthquakes (surface earthquakes - below 40 km depth) and sub-crustal earthquakes (intermediate depth earthquakes - 60-200 km depth), the latter coming from the Vrancei area, one of the most active seismic zones in Europe. As for the North-East region, the most affected by a strong earthquake could be Vaslui, Bacau and Iasi counties, with the seismic wave diminishing towards the North-West, the mountainous part of Suceava county being the least affected.

**Risk of landslides**

The landslide hazard map has a qualitative value and is prepared on the basis of considering the interaction of several factors which, through their combined action, can influence the state of equilibrium of the slopes<sup>19</sup>. To assess the possibility of landslide occurrence in Romania, six triggering factors were considered: lithology, altitude differences, slope, land use, precipitation and seismicity. The landslide risk index was divided into five classes: no risk, low risk, medium risk, high risk and very high risk.

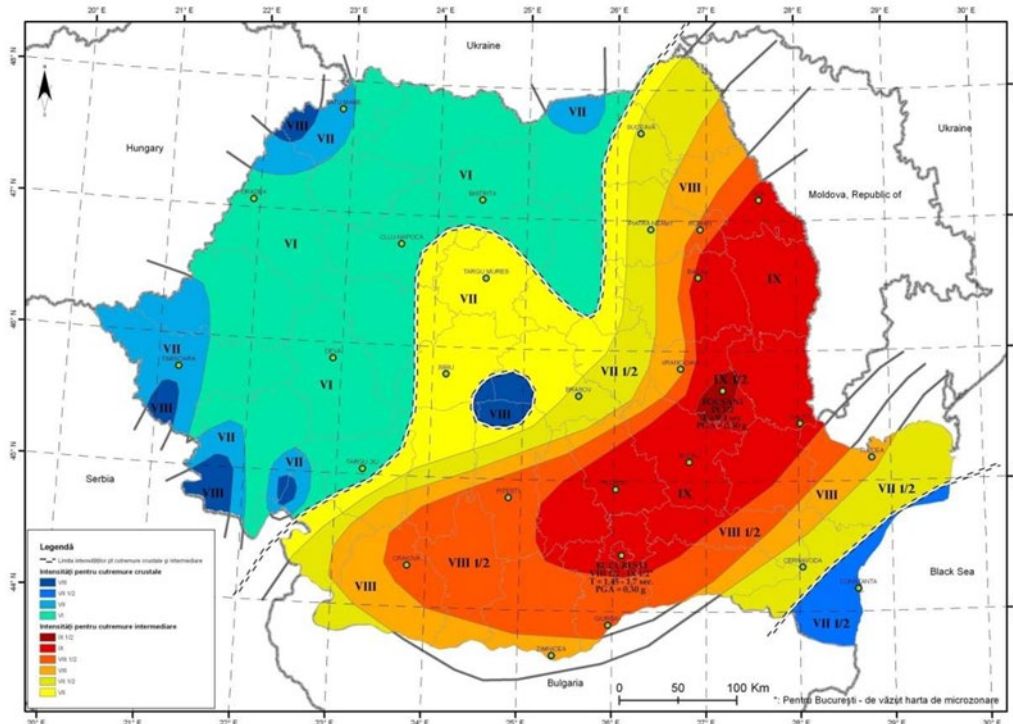
In the North-East region, the areas most susceptible to landslides are the Tutovei Hills (Bacau and Vaslui), Obcina Mestecanis (Suceava) and the Trascau, Gosmanu, Nemira and Vrancei mountains. Basically, in the medium-hilly category are the eastern half of Suceava and Neamt counties, the eastern half of Iasi county, most of the surface of Bacau and Botosani counties and the entire surface of Vaslui county - generally falling in the medium-high and even high category (east of Bacau county).





• **Key aspects**

- The fragmentation of the relief and the north-south oriented valleys create difficulties in the organization of the links road between the localities in the west of Vaslui county and the east of Bacau county;
- Annual increase in the amplitude of air temperature over the last 20 years by 2.4 °C in Bacau, 2.5 °C in Iasi and 3 °C in Suceava; trend of increasing absolute maximums of air temperature in all three municipalities by 2-4 °C;
- Existence of vulnerable, endangered or rare species of flora and fauna requiring conservation actions;
- Presence in the podis areas and in the subcarpathians of some types of soil with low fertility, poor in humus and nutrients (Regosols, Luvosols), which would require improvement measures.



- complex, as well as the use of organic fertilizers to increase production;
- Existence of areas with significant potential risk of flooding on the rivers Siret, Prut, Jijia, Moldova, Bistrita, but also on other tributaries;

- Vaslui, Bacau and Iasi counties are in the area most strongly affected by a potential high intensity earthquake;
- Presence of areas with high susceptibility to landslides;
- The region has a wide, diverse range of soil and subsoil resources;
- Varied landforms - the mountainous area occupies 28% of the territory, the subcarpathian area - 12% and the podis area - 60%, which offers varied possibilities of land use;
- The region is crossed by rivers belonging to the Siret (42,890 km<sup>2</sup>) and Prut (10,990 km<sup>2</sup>) river basins;
- In Neamt county there is the largest natural dam lake in Romania (Cuejdel Lake), but also the largest accumulation lake on the inland rivers in Romania (Izvorul Muntelui Lake);
- From a bio-geographical point of view, the flora and fauna of the region are part of the alpine (in the west), continental (in the centre and north-east) and steppe (in the east and south) regions, with a wide range of plants and animals.

### I.1.3. Demographics

#### I.1.3.1. Numerical evolution of the population

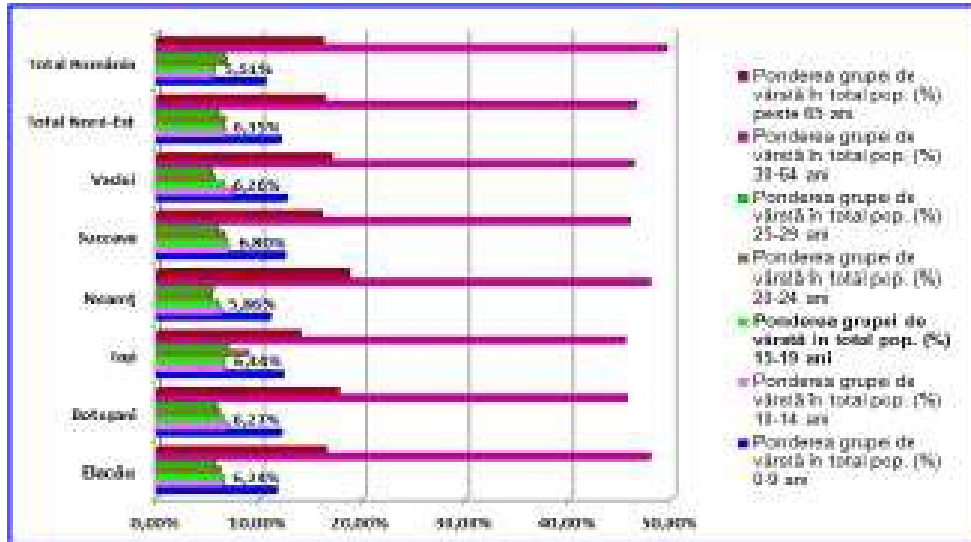
The North-East Region is made up of six counties (Bacau, Botosani, Iasi, Neamt, Suceava, Vaslui), with a resident population of 3,210,481 inhabitants (2018), ranking first among the eight regions of the country (16.49% of the total population of Romania). The population of the region is concentrated in 46 urban centres and 506 communes. The share of rural population in the total population is 58.26%.



#### I.1.3.2. Population structure

The gender structure of the global population by region shows a balanced distribution, with 49.74% of the total population being male and 50.26% female.

Regarding the distribution of the population by age group and sex, the male population is in the majority (50-53%) for the age groups 0-59 years. The localities in the region facing a marked phenomenon of population ageing (decrease by more than 10% of the population in the age group 0-14 years, accompanied by an increase by more than 10% of the population in the age group over 60 years) are the municipalities of Onesti, Dorohoi, Pascani and Barlad, the towns of Comanesti, Slanic Moldova, Biczaz, Siret and Negresti, as well as 6 other communes, most of them in Suceava county (4 communes), Bacau and Vaslui counties having each one commune in this class.



As regards ethnic diversity, according to the final results of the 2011 census, the population declared to be of an ethnicity other than Romanian numbered approximately 260 thousand people, i.e. 7.85% of the total population.



Of these, 5.45% refused to declare their ethnicity. Analysing their distribution in the territory, it can be observed that for some ethnic groups, there is a concentration of population in a certain area, mainly due to the specificity of the population or historical considerations.

Ukrainians are mainly present in the northern part of Suceava county, but also in two communes in the extreme north-western part of Botosani county. The commune with the highest percentage of Ukrainians is Balcauti, in Suceava, where almost 70% of the population belongs to this ethnic group. Also, several communes in the northern part of the Mestecanis Obinja are inhabited by ethnic Ukrainians (forming the Hutu community).

The Russian-Lipovans have an unconcentrated distribution, being present in towns and cities or in their vicinity, but mainly in the western part of Iasi county and in the east of Suceava county. Their traditional occupations being gardening and viticulture, they permanently supply the markets in the cities, especially those in Targu Frumos, where the community is quite well organized. The commune with the highest

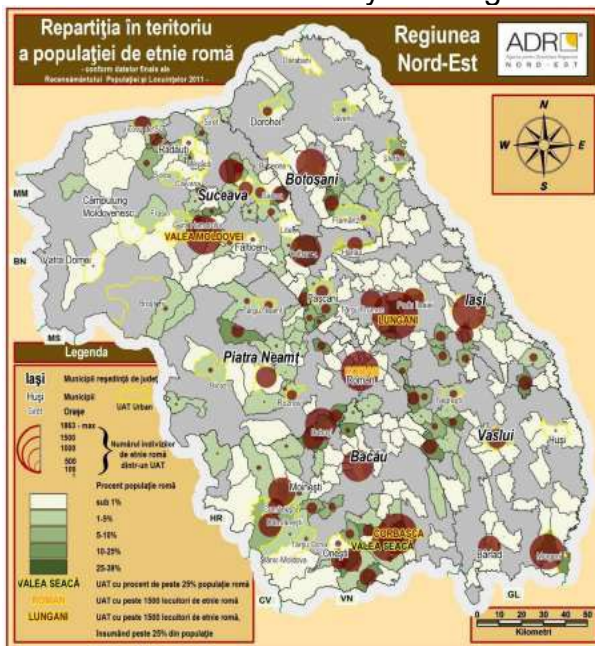
percentage of Russian-Lipovians is Musenita (19.6%), located in the north of Suceava county.

Hungarians from the North-East region are mainly present in Bacau county, in the central and western part. The most important Hungarian community is found in Ghimes-Faget commune, where 50.6% of the population (2578) declared themselves as belonging to this ethnic group (more than half of the Hungarians in the region). This commune was part of the Ciuc county of Transylvania until 1950.

Poles are an important community in the central part of Suceava county, especially in the Cacica - Humor Monastery area. The percentage of Poles in Cacica reaches 20%, an important community being present here since the end of the 18th century, when the salt mine works started. The Roman Catholic Church in Cacica is an important Catholic pilgrimage centre.

Germans are mainly present in the urban areas of Suceava county, but also in Iasi. However, the highest percentage of Germans is found in Carlibaba commune, in the extreme north-western part of Suceava county (5.1%).

The Czechs are a branch of the Hungarian population, settled in the Moldavian area. The largest community of Czechs is located in the commune of Racaciuni (2.4%), south of Bacau. In most of the communes where there is a community of Czechs, there is also a community of Hungarians.



Roma population. According to the final results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census, 55,216 Roma live in the North-East Region (1.67% of the total population of the region), being more numerous in rural areas - 32199, than in urban areas - 23017.

Bacau County is on the first place in terms of the share of Roma population, both in rural and urban areas, at the other pole being Botosani County, with the lowest values for both environments. Analyzing the situation at the level of the basic administrative territorial unit (municipalities, cities, communes), it is possible to identify some communes where a large number or percentage of Roma population is concentrated. Thus,

Lungani commune in Iasi county has the largest stable Roma population in the region - 1863 inhabitants, representing 31.8% of the total population of the commune. Among the local authorities where there are more than 1000 Roma, we mention the communes of Corbasca, Bacau county - 1601 Roma, Valea Moldovei - 1500 Roma and Valea Seaca - 1280 Roma, but also the municipalities of Roman - 1549, Iasi - 1376, Bacau - 1253, Botosani - 1245 and Moinești - 1108, as well as the towns of Murgeni - 1384, Buhusi - 1264 and Dolhasca - 1258. As for the percentage of Roma population in the total number of inhabitants in the TAU, the communes that exceed the 25% threshold are Valea Moldovei - 39% (Suceava county), Valea Seaca - 33.1% and Corbasca - 32.6%, both in Bacau county and Lungani - 31.8% (Iasi county).

In 2018, at the regional level, the potential labour supply, expressed through the civilian labour force, amounted to 1,192.4 thousand people, representing 13.71% of the civilian labour force in Romania. The active population is decreasing in the

analyzed period (2007-2018), with 9.3% compared to 2012 and 11.5% compared to 2007. The activity rate of the population (expressed as the ratio between the active civilian population and labour resources) was 60.70%, lower than the national average (71.1%) and the EU average (73.7%). At the county level, for 2018, the highest employment rate is in Neamt county (66%) and the lowest in Iasi county (55.7%).

At the end of 2018, the civilian employed population of the Northeast region was 1,134,800 people, representing 13.5% of the country's total employed population.

At the regional level, most of the employed population works in services (49.6%) and agriculture (31.1%), while in industry the share is only 19.4%.

The unemployment rate in the North-East region has had a sinusoidal evolution, with periods of highs (6.6% in 2013-2014, 6.5% in 2016) followed by years of decline (4.8% in 2018). The evolution is somewhat similar to that at EU level, which recorded highs in 2012 and 2013, followed by a continuous period of decline. It should be noted that for the whole horizon the values at regional level are lower than the EU average (by 2.2 p.p. in 2018) and higher than the national average (by 1.5 p.p. in 2018).

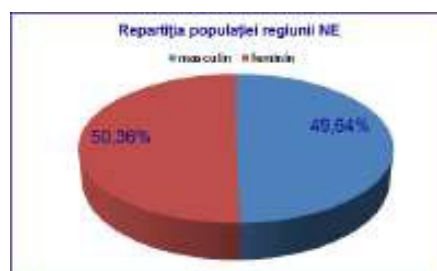
At county level, the highest unemployment rates were recorded in Vaslui county (8.6% in 2018), 2.6 p.p. more than the next county Bacau. The lowest levels are present in the counties of Iasi with 3% and Botosani with 3.1%.

### I.1.3.3 Population dynamics

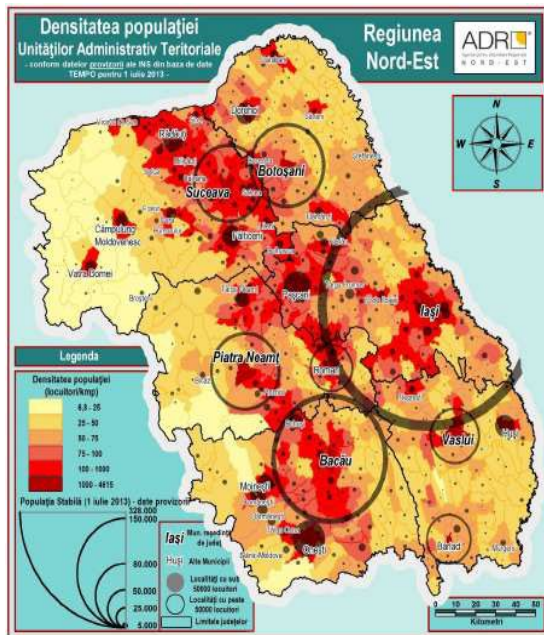
The region's resident population is slightly decreasing (by 1.98% between 2013 and 2018), with a rate of decrease close to that recorded nationally (2.23%).

The proportion of those living in urban areas remained constant during the period under review at around 41%.

The distribution by counties is as follows: Bacau - 742.053 places, Botosani - 452.328 places, Iasi - 944.074 places, Neamt - 569.851 places, Suceava - 757.679 places and Vaslui - 493.234 places. At the same time, the resident population (an indicator introduced by INS since 2012) amounted to 3,209,206 inhabitants on 1 July 2018, representing 16.4% of the country's population. The distribution of the resident population by counties is as follows: Bacau - 587,901 places, Botosani - 382,361 places, Iasi - 792,000 places, Neamt - 444,483 places, Suceava - 625,616 places and Vaslui - 376,845 places.



In 2019, the rate of natural increase in the North-East region was -2.2‰, the sixth consecutive year in which a negative value was recorded. From the graph presented it can be seen that only Iasi county consistently records positive values of the natural increase rate. Regarding the differences by residence environment, in the urban area there are positive values (but decreasing) for the period 2013-2018 and -0.2‰ in 2019, while in the rural area there are pronounced negative values (except Suceava county: -0.7‰ in 2019).



In 2018, the region had an average population density of 107.7 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, which is higher than the national average (93.1 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>). The county with the highest density is Iasi with 173 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> and the lowest density is Suceava with 88.8 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. As for

the people who emigrated permanently, there is an increase in their number in the period under analysis, as well as compared to 2007. Thus, in 2018 the total number of permanent emigrants amounted to 5,486 people, most of them coming from Iasi and Bacau counties. However, compared to the total population of the region the level is very low. In the period 2013-2018, a total of 21,526 people emigrated permanently, of which most from Iasi county - 6,636 people and Bacau county - 4,303 people. Analyzing their distribution by age categories, we find that 32% of them are children and young people aged up to 19 years, 25.5% are aged between 30 and 39 years, and 17.7% between 40 and 49 years. Also, 55.4% of all those who have emigrated permanently are women (2018).

#### I.1.4. Settlements

##### I.1.4.1. Urban settlements

With regard to urban settlements, according to the classification of localities in Law no. 350/2001 with subsequent amendments and additions, the region includes:

- 2 Tier I localities (municipalities of national importance, with potential influence at the national level)

European) - Municipalities of Iasi and Bacau.

- 15 localities of rank II (municipalities of inter county, county importance or with a balancing role in the network of localities) - Barlad, Botosani, Campulung Moldovenesc, Dorohoi, Falticeni, Husi, Moinesti, Onesti, Pascani, Piatra Neamt, Radauti, Roman, Suceava, Vaslui, Vatra Dornei,

- 29 rank III localities (cities):

- Buhusi, Comanesti, Darmanesti, Slanic Moldova, Targu Ocna - Bacau county,
- Bucecea, Darabani, Flamanzi, Saveni, Stefanesti - Botosani county,
- Harlau, Podu Iloaiei, Targu Frumos - Iasi county
- Bicz, Roznov, Targu Neamt - Neamt county
- Brosteni, Cajvana, Dolhasca, Frasin, Gura Humorului, Liteni, Milisauti, Salcea, Siret,
- Solca, Vicovu de Sus - Suceava county
- Murgeni, Negresti - Vaslui county

## Bacau Municipality

Bacau is the second largest city (demographically) in the region after Iasi, with a population of 197,097 people, according to data provided by INS at the end of the first half of 2019. According to Law 351/2001, it is one of the 11 urban localities of rank I in Romania, being declared a pole of urban development, according to Government Decision no. 998/2008.

The city of Bacau is crossed by the European roads E85 and E574 which connect with Bucharest, the north of the country and Transylvania. The "George Enescu" international airport is located on the territory of the municipality, which ranks 7th in the ranking of Romanian airports in terms of commercial air passenger traffic, with a total number of 447,465 passengers in 2018.

The points of interest of Bacau consist of a series of important tourist attractions - Precista Church, the ruins of the Domnesti Court, the Art Museum, the History Museum, the astronomical observatory "Victor Anestin", the George Bacovia Memorial House, the Municipal Bacovia Theatre, the "Radu Beligan" Summer Theatre, the "Mihail Jora" Athenaeum, etc. Bacau also has two universities - the public university "Vasile Alecsandri" and the private university "George Bacovia", which in 2018 attracted 5,709 students, representing about 3% of the population.

From an economic point of view, the most representative fields of activity for companies operating in Bacau are the retail trade of ironware, glassware and paint in specialized shops, wholesale of chemical products, processing and preservation of poultry meat and wholesale of beverages. In 2007, the Bacau Metropolitan Area was founded, which at the end of 2019 had as members: Bacau Municipality, Buhusi City and the neighbouring communes of Beresti-Bistrita, Buhoci, Faraoni, Filipesti, Gioseni, Hemeius, Itesti, Izvoru Berheciului, Letea Veche, Luizi-Calugara, Magura, Margineni, Girleni, Odobesti, Prajesti, Sarata, Saucesti, Secuieni, Tamasi, Blagesti, Horgesti and Traian. In terms of demographic size, it is the second largest in the region after the Iasi Metropolitan Area, with a population of 319,668 inhabitants (2019), of which approximately 68.74% live in urban areas and 31.26% in the 22 member municipalities. The population of the metropolitan area represents 43.33% of the population of Bacau County. The largest part of the rural population of the Bacau Metropolitan Area (between 2.2% and 3.14% of the metropolitan population) was registered in the communes of Margineni, Blagesti, Letea Veche and Girleni. The lowest value - 0.48% - was recorded in Itesti commune. In the area there are 8,628 companies with a total turnover of 4.02 billion euro.

Regarding the distribution of the population of the Bacau metropolitan area by gender, 49% of the total population are men and 51% are women. Analyzing the population structure by age groups, young people aged 0-14 years have a share of 15.06% in the total population of the Bacau metropolitan area. Adults aged 15-64 years represent 70.81% of the total population, while the elderly cover 14.12%. For the age groups 0-44 years, the share of men in the total population in the corresponding age segment exceeds the share of women, the situation being reversed for the following segments.

## Botoşani Municipality

Located in the south-western part of the county, Botosani municipality is near the border with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. The population of Botosani in 2019 was 119,793, accounting for around 27% of the total population of the county. Compared to 2013, the population of Botosani decreased by 3.5%. Botosani is classified under Law 351/2001 as a class II urban locality in Romania. The main points of interest of the municipality are Sf. Nicolae Popauti, the foundation of Stefan cel Mare in 1496, the church of St. George the Great and the Church of the Assumption of the

Mother of God, the buildings with special architectural value, such as: Antipa House, Bolfosu House, Silion House, Town Hall Building, "Nicolae Iorga" Memorial House, "Octav Onicescu" Memorial Museum, County Museum, "Mihai Eminescu" State Theatre, State Philharmonic, "Rapsozii Botosanilor" Ensemble, "Mihai Eminescu" County Library, etc. The most important economic fields covered by the companies operating in Botosani municipality are: fiber preparation and spinning of textile fibers, production of fabrics, production and preservation of meat, wholesale of food products, beverages and tobacco.

The Botosani Metropolitan Area was established in 2012 and is composed of Botosani municipality, Mihai Eminescu, Stauceni, Rachiti, Curtesti, Baluseni, Roma, Vladeni and Bucecea city. The total population of the metropolitan area in 2019 was 161,630 persons, representing about 36% of the population of Botosani county. Of the total population, 77.52% were located in urban areas. The largest share of the rural population was located in Mihai Eminescu commune, accounting for more than 5% of the population of the Botosani metropolitan area.

### Iasi Municipality

It is the second largest city in Romania, after Bucharest, with a population of 382,767 (2019). Iasi has been designated one of the 7 national growth poles, according to the Government Decision no. 998/2008 and is included among the 11 urban localities of rank I in Romania, according to Law 351/2001. Iasi municipality is located in Campia Moldovei, on the Bahlui river. In medieval times, the city was located on one of the major trade routes - Lvov (Poland) - Constantinople, which contributed to its early development. Iasi was the capital of Moldavia between 1564-1859, one of the two capitals of the United Principalities between 1859-1862 and the capital of the Kingdom of Romania between 1916-1918. The city has a diverse cultural infrastructure (libraries, theatres, opera, philharmonic, museums, etc.), some of the most important objectives being: "Sf. Nicolae Domnesc", Stefan cel Mare's foundation, "Trei Ierarhi" Church and Golia Monastery, Vasile Lupu's foundations, Metropolitan Cathedral, Dosoftei House, Palace of Culture, Pogor House, Copou Park, "Mihai Eminescu" University Library, etc. Also in Iasi, there is the oldest university in Romania, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University, founded in 1860. Besides this, in Iasi there are the Technical University "Gheorghe Asachi", the University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Gr. T. Popa", "George Enescu" University of Arts,

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine "Ion Ionescu de la Brad", "Petre Andrei" University. Iasi is the third largest university city in Romania (after Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca), with a number of 52,971 students, as indicated by the data provided by INS for 2018. According to the study conducted by the World Bank on migration and commuting in Romania, the highest unemployment rate among migrants is recorded in medium-sized cities with poor economic performance, such as the municipalities of Botosani and Vaslui in the North-East Region. As for commuters, they are captured in low and medium to low technological industrial sectors, such as food processing, textiles and clothing, footwear, wood processing, which require less qualified personnel and offer below average wages, a phenomenon also found in cities such as Botosani and Vaslui in the North-East Region. As for commuters, they are captured in low and medium to low technology industrial sectors, such as food processing, textiles and clothing, footwear, wood processing, which require less qualified personnel and offer below average wages, a phenomenon also found in cities such as Botosani and Vaslui, in the North-East Region.

The presence of universities has been an important factor in supporting the development of high value-added industries in the Municipality of Iasi, such as the IT



and IT consulting services industry and the pharmaceutical industry. Iasi has been chosen by Amazon to open the company's first development centre in Romania, and Microsoft uses the workforce of young people in Iasi. At the CEE Shared Services and Outsourcing Awards event, held in Poland, Iasi was awarded the "City of the Year 2018" prize for the development of the IT & Outsourcing industry in Central and Eastern Europe.

Thus, from an economic point of view, in Iasi municipality, the most productive fields of activity are: IT, production of steel tubes and pipes, manufacture of pharmaceutical products, wholesale of parts and accessories for motor vehicles, wholesale of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and derived products.

On the territory of the municipality, there is Iasi International Airport located on the 4th position in the ranking airports in Romania, according to INS data for 2019, with a total of 1,312,611 passengers.

Iasi was the first local authority in Romania to set up a metropolitan area. It was established in 2004 and has as members the Municipality of Iasi and 19 other rural localities - the communes of Aroneanu, Barnova, Ciurea, Comarna, Dobrovat, Holboca, Letcani, Miroslava, Mogosesti, Movileni, Popricani, Prisacani, Reditu, Schitu Duca, Tomesti, Tutora, Ungheni, Valea Lupului, Victoria. The population of the Iasi Metropolitan Area was 529,769 inhabitants in the first semester of 2019, of which about 73% belong to the urban area and 27% to the 19 member municipalities. The population of the metropolitan area represents 56.61% of the population of Iasi County and 13.42% of the population of the North-East Region.

Most of the rural population in the Iasi Metropolitan Area (between 2.6-4% of the metropolitan population / municipality) was registered in the municipalities tangent to the eastern, western and south-western limits of Iasi Municipality: Holboca, Tomesti, Miroslava and Ciurea. The lowest value - 0.4% - was recorded in the communes of Dobrovat and Tutora. In the area there are 17,097 companies with a total turnover of 4.4 billion euros (2018).

### **Municipality of Piatra Neamt**

Piatra Neamt is situated on the valley of the Bistrita river, where it developed as an urban settlement since the 14th century. According to the Law no. 351/2001 on the classification of localities, Piatra Neamt is classified as a rank II locality. The municipality has a population of 112,451 people (2019), down 4% from 2013. There are a number of historical monuments of reference, including: the Curtea Domneasca, an architectural complex consisting of the Church "St. John the Baptist", the Bell Tower and the Curtea Doamneasca. Also, in the historical centre around which the city developed, there is the Theatre

Youth Museum, Cucuteni Museum, Ethnography Museum, Art Museum, etc.

From an economic point of view, the most important areas of activity of the companies in Piatra Neamt are: wholesale of parts and accessories for motor vehicles, wholesale of electronic and telecommunications components and equipment, non-specialized wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco.

In June 2020, the Intercommunity Development Association Piatra Neamt Metropolitan Area was officially established, with the following members: the municipality of Piatra-Neamt, the city of Bicaz and the communes of Alexandru cel Bun, Bodesti, Garcina, Razboieni and Tarcau. Other localities within a radius of 30 km around the municipality of Piatra Neamt have also expressed their intention to join the Piatra-Neamt Metropolitan Area in the following period.

The population of the Piatra Neamt Metropolitan Area, at the end of June 2019, was 141,813 people, of which 85.11% is urban population. The municipalities with the highest share of population (between 3.2 and 4.2%) in the total domiciled population of the Piatra Neamt metropolitan area are Alexandru cel Bun, Garcina and Bodești.

### **Municipality of Suceava**

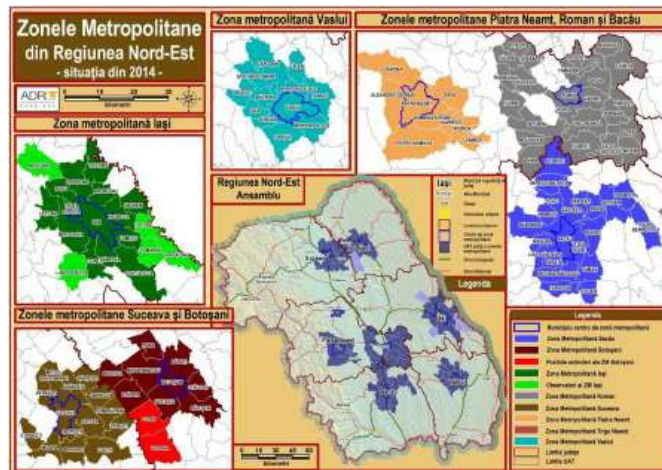
It is located in the northeastern extremity of Romania, in the Suceava podis, in the south of the historical region of Bucovina. The population of the municipality was 124,986 in mid-2019, an increase of 67.14% compared to 2013, representing around 16% of the total population of the county. Suceava municipality is classified according to Law 351/2001 among the urban localities of rank II in Romania, being declared a pole of urban development, according to Government Decision no. 998/2008. Suceava is one of the oldest cities of the country and the former capital of the Principality of Moldavia for two centuries. Thus, the municipality has a number of important historical and tourist attractions - the Citadel and the Museum of Bucovina Village, the Monastery of St. John the New, which is on the UNESCO list, the fortified medieval complex Zamca, the church Mirauti, the former Metropolitanate of Moldavia and the Church of St. Dumitru, a foundation of the ruler Petru Rares, the Planetarium, etc.

The cultural heritage of Suceava, together with the natural environment that the municipality has at its disposal, have determined an orientation of the local authorities towards the tourist promotion of this locality. Thus, as a result of the investments made in tourism and efforts to promote this area, Suceava received the distinction of "European Destination of Excellence" from the European Commission in 2017. The most important fields of activity of the companies operating in Suceava Municipality are: paper and cardboard manufacturing, construction works, manufacture of mill products, wholesale of chemical products<sup>49</sup>. The only higher education institution in Suceava municipality is the state university "Stefan cel Mare", which brings to Suceava municipality a number of 8,387 students, according to data provided by INS, 2018. The Suceava metropolitan area was created in 2011. Currently, this associative structure includes besides Suceava Municipality, 14 other localities - the city of Salcea and the communes of Bosanci, Adancata, Ipotesti, Mitocu Dragomirnei, Moara, Patrauti, Veresti, Siminicea, Stroiesti, Dumbraveni, Darmanesti, Udesti and Hantesti<sup>50</sup>. In this area, more precisely in the city of Salcea, there is the International Airport "Stefan cel Mare" Suceava, located on the 8th place in the top airports in Romania, according to data provided by INS at the end of 2019, with 429,974 passengers. The population of the Suceava metropolitan area comprised 215,167 people, of which 63% - urban population. Regarding the rural population, the communes with the highest share in the total domiciled population of the Suceava metropolitan area are Bosanci, Dumbraveni, Ipotesti, with percentages ranging from 3.70% to 4.63%.

### **Municipality of Vaslui**

It is located in eastern Romania, on the border with the Republic of Moldova. The town was the royal residence in 1435, during the reign of Stefan II (son of Alexander the Good) and the capital of Southern Moldavia. In this context, the Court was built, representing one of the historical and cultural vestiges of Vaslui. Besides this historical monument, the Mavrocordat Castle, the Domneasca Church of St. John the Baptist - founded by Stefan cel Mare, the Museum of History, are some other tourist and cultural attractions of the city. As of mid-2019, the total population of Vaslui was 125,780, representing 23.17% of the total population of Vaslui County. According to the Law no. 351/2001 on the classification of localities, Vaslui municipality is classified as a rank II locality. From an economic point of view, in the Municipality of Vaslui, the most

important companies by turnover at the end of 2018 were active in the following fields: cultivation of cereals, leguminous plants and oilseed-producing plants, manufacture and processing of poultry meat, distribution of gaseous fuels through pipelines. The Vaslui Metropolitan Area was established in 2015 as an inter-community development association, consisting of Vaslui Municipality and ten other surrounding communes: Balteni, Delesti, Laza, Lipovat, Muntenii de Jos, Muntenii de Sus, Puscasi, Stefan cel Mare, Valeni, Zapodeni. The population of the metropolitan area was 161,578 people, 78% of them living in urban areas. As for the rural population, most of it is concentrated in the communes Muntenii de Sus, Muntenii de Jos and Lipovat (3% in each commune).



#### 1.1.4.2. Rural settlements

With regard to rural settlements, according to the classification of localities in Law no. 350/2001 with subsequent amendments and additions, the region includes:

- 506 villages of rank IV (villages of commune)
- 1974 V-rank localities (villages of communes and villages belonging to municipalities and cities).

The rural space in the North-East region presents, in the current socio-economic context, a series of elements that contribute to define the particularities of the territories of the 505 communes and 2,414 villages in the counties of Bacau, Botosani, Iasi, Neamt, Suceava, Vaslui (2006). The commune is the basic administrative unit on whose territory the rural policy is implemented. Communal authorities are the local partners of county and regional authorities in the implementation of rural policy. In the rural area of the region in 2006 there are 505 communes, comprising a total of 2,414 villages where 2,103,333 inhabitants live and work, representing 56.35% of the region's population. The population is distributed by gender in approximately equal proportions. At the county level, the largest share of rural inhabitants is found in Neamt County (61.6%).

Among the causes of ruralism we can mention those of historical order (the withdrawal of human communities in areas difficult accessible to invaders), of secular-religious order (preservation of traditions and popular beliefs) or those of economic order, related to the low standard of living of some social categories (rural migration). In the NE Region there are 505 communes with 2414 villages.

By classifying them according to the predominant relief formations, we can characterize the types of rural settlements and specific activities as follows:

- the ses area - characterized by villages of the gathered type, with economic

functions presenting agricultural cereal and orchard - vineyard character;

- agricultural area of hills and hills - characterized by scattered villages, on both sides of the roads, with gardens and orchards, vineyards among groups of houses. As an economic function, there is an emphasis on orchards, vineyards and livestock farming. There are also more complex economic activities, such as those related to primary to secondary wood processing, manufacturing, and sometimes even mining;
- mountain area - characterized by scattered villages in the mountains, with isolated households or small groups of houses, many of which are not connected to public utilities: methane gas, drinking water, electricity.

The basic economic activities in rural areas are: agriculture (cereal crops, potato and sugar beet growing being practiced in almost all counties, viticulture - Vaslui, Bacau and Iasi counties, fruit growing - Iasi, Suceava and Neamt counties), wood exploitation and processing - Suceava, Neamt and Bacau counties and rural tourism in Suceava and Neamt counties.

According to the Territorial Development Strategy of Romania 2035, at national level, a number of territories can be classified as development axes (defined as strips, corridors or corridors that concentrate human settlements, anthropic activities or flows of matter, energy and information), due to the competitive advantage gained from a high accessibility to neighbouring areas. Among these we mention those that are also present in the region:

- Axes with interregional development potential: Iasi - Bacau - Brasov;
- Axes with development potential at intraregional level: along hydrographic corridors - Siret, Bistrita or Trotus valleys; along geomorphological corridors, such as the corridor of intramontane depressions in the Eastern Carpathians: the Vatra Dornei - Campulung Moldovenesc - Gura Humorului alignment.

- **Key aspects**

- Over 58% of the region's population lives in rural areas;
- Existence of many areas without cities within a radius of 25-30 km;
- In urban areas 40.4% of the population live in disadvantaged or marginalised areas, and in rural areas 11.3% of the population live in marginalised areas; 28 of the 29 cities and 2 of the 17 municipalities in the region have more than 50% of their population in disadvantaged areas;
- High share of population living in marginalized areas 11.3%; inter-county disparities: the highest percentages of the rural population living in marginalized areas are found in Vaslui county with 22.7% and Iasi with 14.6%, and the lowest percentages in Suceava county with 5.5% and Neamt with 5.7%;
- The North-East region ranks first among the eight regions of the country in terms of total population - 16.4% of Romania's population (resident population);
- Region with the largest number of inhabitants in Romania - in 2018 the total domiciled population and the total resident population of the region represented 17.8% and 16.4% respectively of the national total;
- The average population density in the region is higher than the national average - 107.7 places/km<sup>2</sup> in the region compared to 93.1 places/km<sup>2</sup> nationally (2018);
- The (demographic) replacement rate at regional level is higher than the national and EU level;
- Increasing levels of activity and employment rates at regional level, higher than national and EU levels - 2018;
- Increase in the number of employees in the period 2013-2018 by 14.4%;
- The very low unemployment rate, below the national and EU level;

- Activity of regional and local partnership structures dedicated to education (TVET), with attributions in the realization and implementation of regional and local action plans in the fields of education.
- Descending trend in the share of young people who are not employed, not included in education or training (NEETs), with levels below the national and EU levels -9,4% (2018).
- Presence in the region of a regional pole, three county poles and 2 local poles; Iasi and Bacau municipalities framed as first rank cities; Iasi municipality national growth pole, Bacau and Suceava municipalities urban development poles;
- Existence in the region of 7 metropolitan areas in different degrees of development;
- In 2019 there were 47 LAG (Local Action Groups) - LEADER associations in rural areas that had developed and implemented local development strategies;
- Existence of very large companies located in the Iasi metropolitan area, which excel nationally in the pharmaceutical field, in the manufacture of electrical equipment and motors and in the distribution of electricity;
- Existence of very large firms in Bacau, which excel nationally in road construction, processing and preserving of poultry meat and manufacturing of aircraft, trade in iron, glass and paint;
- Existence of large companies in Suceava, which excel nationally in paper and cardboard manufacturing and ice cream making;
- In the region there are metropolitan associations around the municipalities of Iasi, Bacau, Botosani, Suceava, Piatra Neamt, Vaslui, Roman and Targu Neamt;
- The cross-border connections of the region are ensured by three regional airports (Bacau, Iasi, Suceava), two railway border crossing points and five road border crossing points (to Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova);
- Use of the DLRC territorial development instrument in the 2014-2020 programming period by local action groups in the urban area of Bacau, Botosani, Monesti, Husi and Radauti for the implementation of development strategies aimed at reducing poverty and increasing social inclusion;
- The National Strategy for Territorial Development horizon 2035 mentions axes with interregional and intraregional development potential that cross the North-East Region.

### **I.1.5.Economy**

Between 2008 and 2019, the Regional Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) increased both in nominal and real terms, reaching 55,022 million lei (nominal value) in 2018 (the last year of the economic growth period).

Due to the region's entry into the economic recession phase, a decrease in Gross Domestic Product of 5.64% was recorded, lower than that recorded at national level (regions with a higher degree of connection to EU markets, with a higher exposure in relation to loans contracted, experienced more severe contractions in 2009). In 2010 the economic downturn continued, with a decrease in RO GDP of 1.3%, while at regional level GDP decreased by 3.3%.

Although the region has the largest population of all regions and a high level of employed population, its contribution to the national Gross Domestic Product is only 10.1%, constant between 2013-2017. In 2017, Iasi (32.1%) and Bacau (18.1%) counties contribute the most to the Regional Gross Domestic Product, practically half of the regional wealth. Suceava and Neamt counties provide contributions of 17.8% and 13.5% respectively, while Botosani and Vaslui counties contribute the least with 9.6% and 8.8% respectively.

The World Bank, through the study conducted in June 2017 - "Magnet Cities - Migration and Commuting in Romania", delimits functional urban areas in five categories: national, regional, inter-Judet, county and local poles.

As far as the North-East region is concerned, the study classifies the related functional urban areas into three of the above mentioned categories. Thus, Iasi municipality is included in the category of regional poles, Bacau, Suceava and Piatra Neamt municipalities in the category of county poles, and Botosani and Vaslui municipalities in the category of local poles.

Regional poles are functional urban areas with the following characteristics:

- receive over 50,000 commuters daily;
- have the prerequisites to sustain economic growth;
- are university towns, which provide a steady flow of skilled labour and which can carry out high-value activities;
- supports innovation and development of business centres and thus facilitates the link between professionals, academics and civil society.

County poles are defined as functional urban areas that attracted more than 10,000 migrants between 2001 and 2011, primarily from the counties to which they belong. The municipalities of Bacau, Piatra Neamt and Suceava were included in this category.

In this category were also included some municipalities in the North-East Region: Bacau, Piatra Neamt and Suceava. The above mentioned study identifies a number of characteristics of these poles:

- have a potential for rapid urbanisation, with a large pool of population around them that could migrate and contribute to the urban growth of these areas if given development opportunities;
- have a high tourism potential, especially Piatra Neamt and Suceava in the North-East Region;
- have a share of the working population below the national average, as well as average wages at county;
- attract migrants mainly from rural areas;
- receive between 10,000 and 20,000 commuters daily;
- requires investment in the industrial sector;
- relies mainly on the manufacturing sector to stimulate growth and development

Local poles, as presented in the mentioned study, are those functional urban areas that attracted less than 10,000 migrants between 2001 and 2011 and have a catchment area of migration that is rather local (i.e. a sub-region of the county). From the region, Botosani and Vaslui municipalities were included in this category. These administrative structures are characterized by:

- a workforce largely involved in the public sector;
- migration of skilled labour to larger poles in Romania and abroad;
- Difficulties in maintaining and upgrading public utility infrastructure.

#### I.1.5.1. Agriculture

The total cultivated area of the region in 2006 is 3,684.9 thousand hectares (15.45% of the total area of Romania), of which 2,142.5 thousand hectares represent the agricultural area (14.54% of the agricultural area of Romania), divided by categories of use. In private ownership there are 2.081 thousand hectares (97,13 % of the agricultural area). The private sector in agriculture was created by the application of the Land Law. The way in which this application of the Land Law was conceived and

implemented and, above all, the delay with which it was carried out, generated a number of disruptive factors, namely: - the spread of agricultural holdings; - the failure to correlate the application of the Land Law with the emergence of the land market, which appeared late, in 1998 (Law 54/1998 on the legal circulation of land); - the failure to provide, together with the right of ownership of land, adequate means for carrying out agricultural work.

In the region, the main agricultural crops cultivated are grain cereals (maize, wheat and rye), potatoes, sugar beet and perennials (alfalfa and clover). The values recorded for crop cultivation could be much higher if not for a number of factors such as:

- land quality, with a pronounced diversification, alternation of soil categories, fragmentation of soil compared to other surface units: Roman Plain, Western Plain or Transylvanian Podis;
- fragmentation into small parcels of land on individual owners, which often makes it impossible for them to pay for agricultural work;
- adverse climatic conditions;
- reduced use of fertilisers;
- the low level of mechanisation of agricultural work, as landowners find it more convenient to carry out agricultural work by hand or with the help of farm animals.

Livestock holds an important place, the value of animal production being 244,681 tons live weight, representing 17.47% of the national livestock sector. Under these conditions, the region has: - 682 thousand cattle; - 848 thousand pigs; - 1.245 thousand sheep; - 15.992 thousand poultry.

It should be mentioned that there are few specialised livestock farms in the region, and most animals are raised in personal households and used to provide a minimum standard of living. After 1989, the number of livestock has declined sharply, but this trend is now globally evident throughout the country.

Another problem is the insufficient capacity of the region to process agricultural raw materials, to promote and sell them using specific marketing techniques, in order to gain stable market segments and to enlarge the overall market. If we refer to the processing capacities of vegetable, fruit, wine and livestock production, the region has almost sufficient potential at present (potential that could be increased by accessing the National Rural Development Programme), but in terms of product promotion and application of marketing strategies in the sale of products we can say that it is deficient, especially considering the massive import of food products from abroad, as well as from other regions of the country.

#### Industry

Within the North-East Region, it is worth noting the evolution of industrial production in Neamt county, with an increase estimated at over 5%, but also the continuation of the decline of industrial production in Suceava county, of about 10%, a county that accounts for about 18 percent of the gross value added of the region and which is experiencing for the second consecutive year drastic reductions in industrial production. As for the growth rate of industry in the North-East region, it will accelerate year by year, with growth estimated at 4.5% in 2017 and 5.2% in 2018.

The share of industry in the regional GDP was 23.05%, down from previous years, and the same situation was recorded at national level. The regional specialisation index in the industrial sector shows the following peculiarities:

- The textile and clothing industry has a significant share in the total industrial activities in the North-East region (23.3% of all manufacturing units in the region);
- The wood industry is specific to the North-East region (20,9), this characteristic being due to the abundance of natural resources.

Key conclusions for the industry sector:

- o The evolution of industrial production in the North-East Region is characterized by intra-regional disparities, thus in Suceava county there is a massive decline in industrial production of -20.2% in 2015 and -10% in 2016;
- o Gross value added in industry increased by 2% compared to 2015, but well below the national average of 6.4%;
- o The industry's contribution to regional GDP is decreasing.

#### I.1.5.3.Transport

##### **Railway infrastructure**

The railway network is comparable to the national average in terms of technical equipment and length of sections, but geographical and location conditions impose some traffic restrictions. Thus, the share of the regional railway network in the total national railway network was 13.70% at the end of 2002, higher than the national average. As regards the density of the regional rail network, it is presented in the table below together with the national data and similar data from all other regions. It can be seen that the density of railways per 1000 km<sup>2</sup> in the region is 40.9, below the national average of 46.1.

The region is crossed by two of the eight main railway lines: - Bucharest - Bacău - Suceava - Siret to Ukraine - line 500; - Bucharest - Iași - Ungheni to the Republic of Moldova - line 600.

Road infrastructure The North East Region is crossed by a number of European road corridors, as follows:

- Bucharest - Bacau - Roman - Suceava - Siret (checkpoint and border crossing) - E85 European road;
- Suceava - Vatra Dornei - Cluj (E576) which connects with the European road E60 Cluj Napoca-Oradea; - Bacău - Brașov - Pitești European road E574, which connects with the international road E70 Craiova - Vidin - Scopje;
- Bucharest-Bârlad - Albița - Chișinău - E581 European road through Vaslui county;
- Roman -Tg. Frumos with ramification to Botosani (E58) and Iasi (E 583).

##### **Air infrastructure**

Air transport in the region is supported by a specific infrastructure consisting of three airports serving domestic flights and occasionally external flights, with scheduled flights connecting to the country's capital, Bucharest.

The three airports are located in the cities of Bacau, Iasi and Suceava. Bacau Airport, located 6.5 km south of the city of Bacau, provides the necessary infrastructure for the safe operation of aircraft up to 400 tons, organizing internal and external flights and providing services for 12-hour and 24-hour air operations, currently serving 7 external routes to Italy and Germany.

Iasi Airport is the oldest airport in Romania, having been established in 1932. It is located 8 km north of Iasi, at an altitude of 120m and is dedicated to internal and partly external air traffic of passengers, with short-haul aircraft. There have been 6,000 flights: 1,600 commercial flights, of which 60 foreign ones, and 70,000 passengers have been transported. Iasi Airport currently has a concrete runway with a length of 1800 m, a taxiway of 135 m X 15 m and a platform with dimensions of 64 m X 132m. At the moment, the condition of the airside structure does not allow the landing and handling of aircraft with a maximum weight of more than 47 tons, providing a PCN (Pavement Concrete Number) of only 16. The PCN is a coefficient determined by special technical methods and describes, for a given runway, the weight of aircraft that can land and their frequency over a given period of time. Community air operators regularly operate 60-120 tonne aircraft which offer high returns on each transport,



which means that if traffic were liberalised, they would not be able to operate regular flights to Iasi. As a regular flight programme, the activity of Iasi Airport is characterised by operations with aircraft of 19 and 14 tonnes respectively belonging to Tarom and Carpatair. These types of aircraft can carry 48 and 33 passengers respectively. The parking and disembarkation/embarkation apron can receive a maximum of 4 aircraft at the same time, which leads to serious operational limitations, as the requests for operating permits at Iasi, especially in irregular regime, from other companies, are numerous and far beyond the available capacity. Radio navigation systems, which in the case of airports are used for terminal area navigation (TMA), are currently category I at Iasi Airport. The upgrading of these systems to category II, a project implemented by ROMATSA S.A. - the autonomous company designated at national level for air traffic control - is carried out by installing an ILS (Instrumental Landing System), a device that can automatically direct aircraft to land even in poor weather conditions with reduced visibility.

#### I.1.5.4.Trade

In the North-East Region there was a percentage increase of 9%, higher than the national figure of 8.1%. The upward trend was reflected in the growth of the services sector, which was 6.5%, close to the national level of 6.8%. In this sector, the emphasis is on exploiting the tourism potential. The North-East region benefits from the presence of numerous historical monuments and objectives and a landscape of particular beauty that can constitute the premises for a future development of this sector. Emphasis is also placed on the development of other types of services such as communications, financial, banking and insurance services, IT and related activities.

Services, including trade, contributed 48.1% to regional GDP, with a steady increase from 43.5% to 48.1%. It is noted that the upward evolution is higher than that recorded at national level. The sector is characterized by:

- the existence of a strong concentration in the developed centres of the region, Iasi and Bacau, the rest of the territory having a very small share;
- is concentrated on trade and public food activities, direct services to the population being insufficient and of poor quality;
- health and social care services are below the required quality standards;
- Freight and passenger transport activities are oriented in two directions:
- Rail transport remained in the state sector and underwent restructuring at regional level to modernise the existing infrastructure;
- Car transport has experienced a particular development, especially in the private sector, with the emergence of modern and efficient freight and passenger transport companies.

In construction, trade and transport, the region contributes to the national total close to the national average. In public services in education, the contribution to the national value by each sub-sector mentioned is above average and provides the most significant contribution. A smaller contribution is observed from the subsectors: financial-banking activities, real estate transactions.

#### I.1.5.5.Tourism

Due to its favourable conditions, the beauty of the places, the purity of the air, the waters, the mountain areas in Bacau, Neamt and Suceava counties, as well as the inestimable cultural and religious heritage, the North East Region has a relatively high tourist potential, which can be compared with other famous tourist areas in the country and abroad. Together with the picturesque region, the well-known hospitality, popular

traditions, customs, specific Moldovan gastronomy, traditional wine tasting in Cotnari and Husi vineyards give local colour to attract tourists.

Tourism activity can be structured as follows:

- Cultural, knowledge and information tourism supported by historical and architectural values. This can include:

- museum tourism supported by a significant number of museums (art, history, ethnography and folklore, technology, etc.), memorial houses that belonged to famous people of culture, art, science; citadels, royal courts, etc.

We mention:

o The Rosetti-Tescanu House (Bacau county) built in 1898 by the Tescanu family is where the great musician George Enescu lived (the opera Oedipus was created here).

o The "Mihai Eminescu" memorial house in Ipotesti turned into a museum in 1950 holds furniture and other old objects that belonged to the family.

o "George Enescu" Memorial Museum in Dorohoi, where the personal objects of the great artist are exhibited.

o The Palace of Culture in Iasi, built between 1906 and 1925, stands on the ruins of the medieval court. The palace houses four major museums: the Museum of History of Moldavia, the Ethnographic Museum of Moldavia, the Museum of Art and the Museum of Science and Technology.

o Roznovanu Palace built in Viennese neoclassical style where today is the Iasi City Hall.

o The National Theatre "Vasile Alecsandri" built between 1894-1896 is richly ornamented in Baroque style, having one of the most beautiful halls in the country with a capacity of over 1000 seats.

o The Old University of Iasi is a former palace that served as a royal court and was the first pinewood in the country.

o Copou University is famous for its monumental marble hall, known as the "Hall of Lost Steps", decorated with fresco paintings by Sabin Balasa.

o The Central University Library of Iasi - is an edifice with Doric columns and dome, dominating the foothills of the Copoului.

o The Manor House is one of the oldest civil buildings of Suceava and houses the ethnography and folk art section of the Suceava County Museum.

o The Citadel of Suceava built during the reign of Petru I the Musatin has nearby the Museum of the Bucovina Village, set up in the open air and containing a valuable collection of traditional buildings from the 17th-20th century.

o The "Ion Creanga" memorial house in the village of Humulesti (Neamt) contains a series of personal objects of the great storyteller.

o The fortress of Neamt, built by Petru I Musatinul between 1674-1391, resisted the sieges of the Austro-Hungarian and Polish armies.

o The Ciprian Porumbescu Museum Complex in Stupca (Suceava) consisting of three objectives: the tomb of the great musician, the Memorial House and the Ciprian Porumbescu Museum.

o The "Emil Racovita" Memorial Museum in Suranesti (Vaslui) is made up of the house where the great explorer was born and contains his documents from his school years and correspondence with various personalities.

o Vasile Pârvan Museum in Bârlad, located in the former Prefecture building, built in neoclassical style by Italian architects in 1899. The museum has three sections: art, natural sciences and history.

- o "Ștefan cel Mare" County Museum in Vaslui includes sections of archaeology, medieval and contemporary history, ethnography, plastic art, as well as a humor salon "Constantin Tănase" - named in memory of the founder of the Romanian revue theatre.
- o The village museum "Tăcuta", founded in 1986, has sections of archaeology, ethnography, folk art and, which is rare for a village museum, rich collections of fine art, rare objects and 400 books with the authors' autographs. Some exhibits are unique in the country.
- o Vetrișoia Village Museum - with ethnographic and historical exhibits.
- o Dimitrie Cantemir Museum of History where you can find the archaeology collection with pieces from the Paleolithic to the medieval period, ethnographic collections, plastic art collection: Gheorghe Tattarescu, Dan Hatmanu, Octavian Angheluta.
  - ethnographic tourism related to folk events (such as the National Festival "Trandafir de la Moldova" in Strunga, Iasi, festival "Datini si obiceiuri de iarna" in Iasi, fairs of folk craftsmen ("Cucuteni 5000" - Iasi); International Folklore Festival "Ceahlaul" (Neamt); International Folklore Festival "Arcanul" (Suceava); International Festival "Hora din bătrâni" (Vaslui);
  - artistic tourism (festivals, seasons, tours, openings, etc.); Tescani International Fine Arts Festival (Bacau), Vaslui Humour Festival.
  - Ecclesiastical tourism - The large number of churches and monasteries on the territory of the region contributes to the development of religious tourism, offering the possibility of organizing pilgrimages by creating tourist routes that highlight these places of worship and spirituality. Among these we mention:
    - Bacau county: The Church and the Court (1491) from mun. Bacau, Rachitoasa Monastery, the church of Borzesti famous for its system of arches and pendants specific to the Moldavian style built during the reign of Stefan cel Mare, the church of Casin Monastery, Tazlau Monastery ("Nașterea Maicii Domnului") built during the reign of Stefan cel Mare in 1496;
    - Botosani county: St. Nicolae church founded by Stefan the Great in 1497 (with a combination of Gothic and Byzantine elements), St. George and Uspenia church, the monastery complex of Vorona consisting of three churches, with an important folkloric area, Cosula monastery famous for oil paintings inside and outside.
    - Iasi municipality and its surroundings (Galata Monastery, Cetatuia Monastery, Frumoasa Monastery, Golia Monastery, Trei Ierarhi Monastery, Metropolitan Cathedral, Barnovschi Church, Barnova Monastery, Piatra Sfanta Monastery, Hlincea Monastery, Dobrovat Monastery, Hadambu Monastery). - Neamt county: the Neamt Monastery known as "Inaltarea Domnului" built in the time of Stefan cel Mare in 1497 was a famous place of culture, Agapia Monastery was painted in 1858 by Nicolae Grigorescu and includes a museum with pieces of religious art from the 17th century. XVI-XIX, Varatec Monastery built in 1785 by Mother Olimpiada has the tradition that many girls from noble families were monks in this place, Secu Monastery which houses the tomb of Nestor Ureche, Sihastria monastery which is an old monastery of Isisha monks, Sihla Hermitage, the church of Horaita monastery with a less usual shape has a roof containing eight spires, Bistrita monastery where is the tomb of Alexander the Good.
    - Suceava county (Voronet Monastery, founded by Stefan cel Mare in 1488, has interior painting dating from the time of Stefan cel Mare. Its fame is due to its exterior painting on an inimitable blue background known throughout the world "Voronet blue", Humor Church known as the Church of the Assumption of the Mother of God is highly appreciated for its exterior painting depicting the Last Judgment, Moldovita Monastery built by Petru Rares after 1532 is surrounded by strong walls 6 m high, too, famous

for its exterior painting, Sucevita Monastery which has the most remarkable system of fortifications among Moldovan monasteries and is known as the "testament" of Moldovan exterior painting, this being done on seven superimposed registers, Dragomirna Monastery which strikes by its proportions with an exaggerated height compared to its width, there are actually two superimposed churches delimited by the twisted braul. The monastery of Putna, where the tomb of Stephen the Great is located, was built between 1466 and 1470 with the intention of becoming the necropolis of the dynasty. The church has been included on the list of UNESCO monuments.

- Vaslui county: The church of St. John erected during the reign of Stephen the Great in 1490 is a triconical building with apparent stone facades, the Episcopal church of Saints Peter and Paul containing interior paintings by Gheorghe Tatarescu, Moreni Monastery, 10 kilometres from Vaslui, houses the relics of Saints Tarahie, Prov and Andronic, brought from Jerusalem in 1996; Florești Monastery, founded in 1590, is one of the most important monastic settlements in the county and is dedicated to St. Ilie, the wooden church of Pârvești, Costești commune - built in the 17th century with a Byzantine style painted catapet; the Church of St. Nicholas - Golgofta in Ivănești - built of oak, on a stone foundation; the wooden hermitage of St. Voievozi, in Mălinești-Gârceni, with a slender and elegant spire and situated in an area which, after 1999, experienced a revival of monastic life, many new places of worship being built here.

-Scientific tourism through participation in scientific communication sessions, colloquiums, international courses (especially in Iasi, Bacau, Suceava), stimulated by the existence, on the one hand, of natural and archaeological reserves: the floristic reserves Stanca-Stefanesti, Ripiceni, Tudora yew reserve.

-balneotherapeutic tourism - the mineral springs of Slanic Moldova (dating back to 1800) and Targu Ocna (Bacau), the balneoclimatic resorts of Campulung Moldovenesc and Vatra Dornei (Suceava), the salt mine of Targu Ocna-Bacau, the balneoclimatic resorts of Strunga and Nicolina (Iasi county); - the spa centre at Ghermănești, about 25 kilometres from Huși, which draws water from the sulphurous mineral springs nearby.

-recreational tourism - this type of tourism is supported by scenic beauty:

- Bacau county: the Trotus valley with a succession of gorges and depression basins, the valley and gorge of Uzului, the Poiana Uzului reservoir, the Bistritei valley with its series of reservoirs. Also, the following natural reserves stand out: the secular forest of Runc-Racova, the forest reserve situated on Paraul Alb.

- Botosani County: the Stanca Costești reserve is characterized by a geological and floristic complexity; the natural yew reserve on Dealu Mare Tudora.

- Iasi County: the paleontological reserve on Repedea Hill, the botanical reserve at Valea Lunga, where the yellow salcam is protected, the floristic and faunal reserve "Fanatele de la Valea lui David".

- Neamt county: the Bicz gorges, the Izvorul Muntelui reservoir, the Ceahlau massif, the "Codrii de Arama" forest reserve, the "Silver Forest", the Grumazesti dendrological park, the Vanatorii Neamtului jaguar reserve, the Duruitoarea waterfall, the paleontological reserves around Piatra Neamt. - Suceava County: the relief of the Calimani Mountains with the related volcanic complex, the "12 Apostles" ruiniform rocks, the 15300 ha National Park, the karst and residual relief of the Rarau massif, the Giumalau secular forest, the Bistrita Aarii gorge, the upper valley of Moldavia, the nature reserve of Radauți, the paleontological reserve and the secular spruce forest of Pojorata.

- Vaslui County: forest reserves of Balteni, Badeana, Seaca Movileni; paleontological reserve of Mălușteni, fossil reserve of Hulubăț Sandpit. 85 - Transit tourism (for work, business or personal purposes), stimulated to a certain extent also by people travelling to and from the Republic of Moldova;
- agrotourism - the development of rural tourism, especially agrotourism, has great development possibilities, because the rural areas of the region have, besides a picturesque, unpolluted natural environment with multiple recreational options, a valuable cultural and historical potential.
- The low and constant contribution of the region to the National Gross Domestic Product - 10% (2013-2019);
- The lowest level of development among the regions of Romania, expressed by the lowest value of gross domestic product per capita - 27,498 lei in 2017 and the lowest disparity index (regional/national gross domestic product per capita) - 61-63%;
- Intra-regional disparities, persistent in the formation of regional gross domestic product - Iasi and Bacau counties provide 50% of GDP, while Botosani and Vaslui counties only 18% - 2017;
- Region's low contributions to the RO GDP for industry - 8.28% and information and communication technology sector - 5.97% (2017);
- Low level of regional competitiveness - index level = 9.04 (maximum 100) -2019;
- The region is framed as a modestly negative innovator, with performance that has worsened over time - Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2017 and 2019;
- Low density of active enterprises: 19.4‰ place, 10 p.p. less than average national - 2018;
- Regional versus national productivity disparity index, low and relatively low. stagnate 75% - 2015-2018;
- Difficulties faced by newly created enterprises related to both supply and demand;
- High and increasing share of newly created enterprises closed after one year of activity (14.7%) and inactive (19.9%) - 2017;
- Low level of foreign investment in the region - only 2.4% of total national foreign investment in 2018;
- Very low contribution of the region to the total value of exports - only 4.48% of the total national exports in 2018;
- Intra-regional disparities in the contribution to the total value of regional exports - Iasi and Bacau counties provide 51% of the total value of regional exports compared to 16.4% provided by Vaslui and Botosani counties - 2018;
- Intra-regional disparities in the distribution of active firms - 70% are concentrated in Iasi, Bacau and Suceava counties while in Botosani and Vaslui only 16% - 2018;
- Lowest contribution of active enterprises to total turnover (among all regions) - only 7.1% of the total, relatively constant over the period 2013-2018;
- Low number of SMEs (and activities) in the region in the ICT field - only 8% of the national total, 6.4% of the national total turnover, 7.5% of the total number of employed persons;
- Very low and decreasing share of R&D expenditure in total GERD, 0.17% R&D expenditure in GDP compared to 0.50% at national level - 2017;
- Increase in the number of researchers (15%) and in the total number of employees in the R&D (11%) - 2013 -2018;
- Very low proportion of those using the internet to place online orders for purchases of goods and/or services for personal purposes - 17% in 2018;

- Positive trend in the evolution of gross domestic product in the period 2013-2017, with growth rates in the range of 5-7% in the last 2 years of analysis;
- The region contributes 15.33% to the formation of national gross value added in agriculture - 2016;
- positive dynamics for new enterprises created in 2015-2017, 41,037 units created in 2014-2017, with an annual increase in the share in rural areas;
- High share of innovative enterprises in the region in total enterprises, 13.8% in 2014-2016;
- Development of fixed and mobile electronic communications networks through the implementation of the national RO-NET project and local projects related to the 4 calls of the WIFI4Europe Community Initiative;
- Developed, diversified, well distributed business infrastructure;
- Existence in the region of 11 clusters in various fields: textile-clothing, medical imaging, agri-food industry, tourism, construction, information and communication technology, IT, new media, etc.

#### **I.1.6.PESTEL analysis and influence on education**

- The low and constant contribution of the region to the National Gross Domestic Product - 10% (2013-2019);
- The lowest level of development among the regions of Romania, expressed by the lowest value of gross domestic product per capita - 27,498 lei in 2017 and the lowest disparity index (regional/national gross domestic product per capita) - 61-63%;
- Intra-regional disparities, persistent in the formation of regional gross domestic product - Iasi and Bacau counties provide 50% of GDP, while Botosani and Vaslui counties only 18% - 2017;
- Region's low contributions to the RO GDP for industry - 8.28% and information and communication technology sector - 5.97% (2017);
- Low level of regional competitiveness - index level = 9.04 (maximum 100) -2019;
- The region is framed as a modest negative innovator, with performance that has worsened over time - the Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2017 and 2019;
- Low density of active enterprises: 19.4‰ place, 10 p.p. less than average national - 2018;
- Regional versus national productivity disparity index, low and relatively low. stagnate 75% - 2015-2018;
- Difficulties faced by newly created enterprises related to both supply and demand;
- High and increasing share of newly created enterprises closed after one year of activity (14.7%) and inactive (19.9%) - 2017;
- Low level of foreign investment in the region - only 2.4% of total national foreign investment in 2018;
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- High share of innovative enterprises in the region in total enterprises, 13.8% in 2014-2016;
- Development of fixed and mobile electronic communications networks through the implementation of the national RO-NET project and local projects related to the 4 calls of the WIFI4Europe Community Initiative;
- Developed, diversified, well distributed business infrastructure;
- Existence in the region of 11 clusters in various fields: textile-clothing, medical imaging, agri-food industry, tourism, construction, information and communication technology, IT, new media, etc.

## I.2.South-East Region

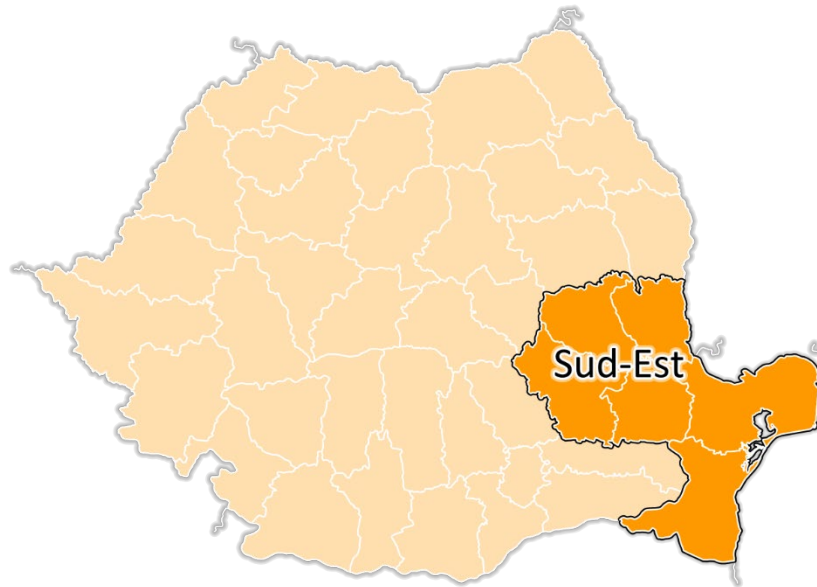
### I.2.1.Geographical position. Brief history.

#### I.2.1.1 Geographical location

**Sud-Est** is a development region of Romania, created in 1998. Like other development regions, it has no administrative powers, its main functions being the co-ordination of regional development projects and the absorption of European Union funds.

The counties that are part of this development region are Brăila, Buzău, Constanța, Galați, Tulcea, Vrancea. The headquarters of the South-East Regional Development Agency is located in Braila.

The South-East region is located in the south-eastern part of Romania, covering 35,762 km<sup>2</sup> or 15% of the country's total area, making it the second largest of Romania's eight regions.



South-East Romania Region was established according to the Law no. 315/2004 on the Regional Development of Romania and includes the counties: Braila, Buzau, Constanta, Galati, Tulcea and Vrancea.

The region has natural borders formed by the Prut River and the Danube River to the east and the Black Sea to the southeast on a length of 245 km. The region's neighbours include the national borders with Bulgaria to the south, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to the north-east, as well as other administrative regions: the South-Muntenia Region to the south and south-west, the Centre Region to the west and the North Region to the north.

### **I.2.2.Natural setting**

#### **I.2.2.1.Reliable**

On the territory of the region there are almost all landforms: the Macin Mountains in the northern part of the Dobrogea Podis and part of the Curved Carpathians and the Curved Subcarpathians in the north-western part of the region (Buzaului Mountains and Vrancei Mountains), the Danube Plain, the Baragan Plain in the centre and the Covurl Plain in the north, the Dobrogea Podis in the east and south.

More than 2/3 of the region's total area is made up of plains and low hills. The north-western part also includes a portion of the Curved Carpathians, a highly seismic area. The altitudes range from 0 m in the Danube Delta (sea level), 2-10 m in the Black Sea coastal towns (Mangalia, Costinesti, Eforie, Navodari), to over 1600 m in the Vrancei and Buzaului Mountains.

#### **Climate**

The climate is temperate-continental with frosty winters in the west and more moderate in the south. The Danube plain area usually has hot summers and mild winters. In the east, influenced by the Black Sea which delays cooling or warming of the air, there are long autumns and late springs.

On the general climatic background, the Siret, Prut and Danube river basins introduce in the values and regime of the main meteorological elements, changes that lead to the creation of a specific meadow topoclimate, wetter and cooler in summer and rather wet and less cold in winter.



The prevailing winds are from the east and north, mainly the gale, in winter. There are also local winds, for example sea breezes on the coast and mountain breezes in the area of the Curved Carpathians. Also in the area of the Carpathians and the Curved Subcarpathians there are winds of foehn character.

#### 1.2.2.3. Hydrography

The main watercourses flowing through the region are: Danube, Siretul, Prutul, Bârladul, Buzaul, Calmatuiul, Trotusul, Putna, Râmnicu Sarat.

The Danube and the Black Sea constitute distinct ecosystems which, on the territory of Romania, have a particular economic and ecological importance.

The Danube is a source of water for various uses and a source of food (fish fauna). At the same time, due to its exceptional natural characteristics (the volume of water in the river) it also has an influence on other natural elements, as well as on navigation. Thus, a large part of the exports and imports of Central European countries without access to the sea or with access to other seas now use the Danube and Black Sea waterways.

The Black Sea is of major importance for Europe, together with the Danube, constituting an international transport route for ten European countries, five of them: Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Moldova (landlocked) have, on the Danube - Black Sea route, access to the global ocean.

#### 1.2.2.4. Vegetation and fauna

Four biogeographical regions are found in the South-East Region: the Alpine zone, the continental-steppe zone and the Pontic zone.

From a floristic point of view, more than 150 plant associations have been determined, and in the mountain and hilly area there are numerous endemic species as well as species that are monuments of nature.

The main forest formations in the South-East Region are: spruce, fir, beech and coniferous mixtures, beech, fir and beech forests. It is interesting to mention the existence of more particular varieties of trees such as the sessile oak and the downy oak. Other species of trees growing in the region are the acacia, anise, native poplar and willow.

The fauna belongs to the steppe and forest biotope as well as to the lake and pond biotope. The spontaneous fauna is represented by both sedentary and migratory animals.

In the mountainous area, deer can be found, sometimes descending into the depression. Bears occur in much the same mountain areas, but mainly in the Black Forest. Its range extends as far as the Odobesti Magura. The roe deer lives over a very wide area from the mountain to the forest, as does the wild cat. Among the mammals the following species can be mentioned: the wolf, the wild boar, the marten, the squirrel, the weasel, and in the hills and plains the rabbit and the hedgehog.

The faunal elements that populate the forest area are adapted to agrobiocenoses and we can mention: the poplar, the gopher, the steppe ferret, and among the birds: ducks, geese, starlings, crows, droppings.

The fauna that populates the meadows and ponds consists of: fox, otter, Enot dog, hazel, ferret, badger, and among the birds: duck, goose, gull, gull, nuthatch, lizard. Birds are represented by: pelican, swan, duck and wild goose, egret, cormorant. Fish are found in a wide variety: carp, pike, pike-perch, grayling, sturgeon (moray eel, nyster, trout, pike-perch), turbot, plaice, wrasse, widow, silver carp, burbot, red mullet, etc.

#### 1.2.2.5. Soils

As far as soils are concerned, the following zonal characteristics stand out:

-low relief, corresponding to the Lower Siret Plain and the Râmnic Plain, is characterized by the presence of alluvial soils in the plains and low areas, of cernozomites on the interfluves and of grey soils in the contact zone with the hills which favoured the development of agricultural crops.

-in the area of the subcarpathian hills, the brown podzolic, clayey-alluvial and brown soils offer favourable conditions for the development of pastures, hayfields and forest vegetation, the agricultural crops finding here less favourable conditions; the greyish forest soils and greyish brown soils are also found in the eastern part of the sandy area Hanu Conachi - Tecuci and, in some places, in the communes of the north of Galati county, where the humidity is richer.

#### I.2.2.6.Natural resources

The main mountain formations (Macin Mountains in the east, the Curved Subcarpathians and the Curved Carpathians in the west and north-west) present on the territory of the region represent the main sources of wood, limestone, granite and gravel in the region, the economic-productive activities around these resources being in full development process.

Oil and gas are added at Berca, Sarata-Monteoru, Oprisenesti and Iancu, but also in the continental shelf of the Black Sea, coal at Ojasca injud. Buzau, limestone, salt, etc. A special category of subsoil richness is constituted by sulphurous, ferruginous, chlorous waters (Braila, Buzau, Constanta).

### I.2.3.Demographics

#### I.2.3.1.Numerical evolution of the population

In 2004 the region had a population of 2,850,318 inhabitants, representing 13.1% of the country's population; the population density of 79.7 places/km<sup>2</sup> is below the country's average (90.91 places/km<sup>2</sup>), with the highest population density in Galati county (139.5 places/km<sup>2</sup>), dominated by the industrial and commercial centre of the same name, and the lowest in Tulcea county (29.9 places/km<sup>2</sup>), where natural and economic conditions are less favourable.

#### I.2.3.2.Population structure

The South-East region is characterized by a great ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity. Data from the population and housing census show that 4.8% of the population of the South-East Region are ethnic minorities.

The ethnic structure of the region is as follows:

- etnia roma -1.7% ;
- Russian Lipovenian community - 0.9% - concentrated in Tulcea county representing 16,350 people out of 25,464 people in the region;
- Greek community - 0.1%;
- Turkish community - 1% - concentrated in Constanta county representing 27,914 people in this county compared to 32,098 people at regional level;
- the rather large Tatar community, concentrated in the county of Constantaa, where 23,230 people out of 23,935 people in the whole country were registered.

### I.2.4.Settlements

#### I.2.4.1.Urban settlements

On the territory of the region there are 3 of the 10 most populated cities in Romania: Constanta - 302242 inhabitants, Galati - 291608 inhabitants and Braila -212981 inhabitants, followed by Buzau - 132368 inhabitants, Focsani - 98646 inhabitants and Tulcea - 91286 inhabitants.

#### I.2.4.2.Rural settlements

Rural settlements comprise 355 communes with 1447 villages.

### I.2.5.Economy

#### 1.2.5.1. Agriculture

Being, by tradition, an agricultural area, due to the very favourable soil and climatic conditions, the South-East Region holds 15.86% of the country's agricultural area, with agricultural production representing 15.76% of the national production. The production of extensive crops is substantial - the region ranks 39th out of 267 European regions for maize production and 29th for rapeseed production - other important sectors are horticulture and fruit tree cultivation.

A special mention should be made of the wine sector: the South-East Region is the country's leading region in terms of the area of fruitful vineyards, holding 40.2% of the country's vineyard area, mostly located in Vrancea county.

The livestock sector is well developed - especially goat, pig and poultry farming - with livestock production accounting for 12.91% of the country's total agricultural output.

The disparities between counties are important: in Constanta county, the structure of the property, more oriented towards large farms, suggests a more modern agriculture, while in Buzau and Vrancea counties the agricultural sector, characterized by an extreme sprawl of property, is still linked to traditional methods.

#### 1.2.5.2. Industry

The industrial sector in the South-East Region is oriented towards low value-added industrial sectors (food, clothing), while at the same time concentrating a significant number of economic agents in the field of mechanical industry and metal products. The traditional field of remarkable importance in almost all counties is the construction of water transport. More diversified is the industrial sector in Buzau county which, even if it remains linked to the traditional industry, has remarkable shares of companies operating in sectors with higher added value - such as light and heavy mechanics, as well as electrical machinery manufacturing.

#### 1.2.5.3. Transport

The region ranks second nationally in terms of density of railway lines per 1,000 km, with a density of 48.9 compared to the national average of 45.2, but only 476 km of railway line are electrified, the region being in this respect in fifth place nationally. Romanian ports are divided into two categories: maritime - Constanta, Mangalia and Midia and river-sea - Braila, Galati, Tulcea and Sulina, which have technical characteristics that allow access to maritime vessels.

There are four airports in the region: an international airport at Mihail Kogalniceanu located 24 km from Constanta, one at Tulcea (currently operating only for charter flights), a utility airport at Tuzla (Constanta) and a utility airport at Buzau.

#### 1.2.5.4. Trade and tourism

The rich heritage of natural and cultural resources has been the precondition for the development of the tourism industry in the region. The degree of diversification is high and includes coastal, mountain, cruise, rural and ecological tourism, cultural and religious tourism, which however show different levels of development, the most important and well-known destinations being the Black Sea coast which concentrates 2/3 of the tourist resources and approx. 43% of the country's accommodation capacity, i.e. about 60% of the domestic and international tourist traffic, the Danube Delta, the seaside resort of Lacu Sarat in Braila county, the Buzaului Valley where many churches built between 1800 and 1850 are located, with a special architectural and historical value, the muddy volcanoes of Pâclele Mari and Pâclele Mici, as well as a series of geological and paleontological reserves, the Slanic Valley with the natural reserve "Focul Viu" and numerous monumental churches.

A very high degree of attractiveness also exists for the historical and religious monuments (in particular the triangle of the three monasteries located in the north of

the county: Celic-Dere, Cocos-Niculitel, Saon and the Paleo-Christian Basilica located in the village of Niculitel, the Roman, Italian, Byzantine fortresses of Troesmis, Arrubium, Dinogetia, Noviodonum, Halmyris, Arganum, Enisala). Also, in all the counties of the region there are the most famous vineyards and wine production centres in Romania. In Romania, the region holds an excellent position, confirmed by all indicators concerning the national tourist market.

### I.3.Vaslui county (ISJ Vaslui)

#### I.3.1.Geographical location. Brief history.

##### I.3.1.1 Geographical location



Vaslui county is located in the eastern part of Romania, on the middle course of the river Bârlad, in the North-East development region.

Vaslui county is located in the north-eastern region of the country, part of the old region of Moldavia. It has an area of 5,318 km<sup>2</sup> which represents 2.23% of the total area of Romania and 14.4% of the area of the North-East Region; it borders on the South with Galati county, on the West and South-West with Neamt, Bacau and Vrancea counties, and on the North with Iasi county. The eastern boundary is marked by the Prut Valley, which is also the natural border with the Republic of Moldova.

The extreme points of Vaslui County (and their corresponding geographical corridors) are as follows:  
- to the north: village of Protopopești - north latitude: 46°57'

- to the south: village of Pochidia - north latitude:

46°01'

- to the west: village of Băcești - east longitude: 27°12'

- East: village of Săratu - east longitude: 28°16'

##### I.3.1.2.Brief history

Archaeological researches carried out on the present territory of Vaslui County have revealed that it has been inhabited since prehistoric times (about 9,000-13,000 years ago). Thus, they have brought to light vestiges from the Paleolithic period (Mălușteni, Arsura, Tăcuta, Huși etc.), Neolithic (Poieniști, Perieni, Mălușteni, Dodești, Vaslui etc.), Eneolithic (Poieniști, Huși etc.), Metal Age (Zăpodeni, Vaslui, Arsura, Olteniști, Berezeni, Bârlad etc.). There are also numerous vestiges of Geto-Dacian settlement discovered in the county (e.g. Arsura, Vetrișoara, Albești, etc.). The Dacian civilisation left its mark on this area for the last centuries BC, as evidenced by the settlements discovered at Olteniști, Trestiana, Giurcani and Cârja. The Vaslui area was not part of the borders of Roman Dacia, but certain objects discovered in the area indicate the existence of trade with the Romans. In the pre-Feudal period, the territory of the county was intensely inhabited, with settlements dating from the 4th to the 11th centuries being discovered in

around Văleni, Bârlad, Epureni, Bogdănești, Murgeni, etc. The permanent invasions of various migratory populations led the locals to organize themselves into prestate formations, which later led to the formation of the feudal state of Moldova in the mid-14th century. Bârlad is the oldest documented settlement on the territory of Vaslui County (1174), while the rest appear in inscriptions only in the 14th century (Vaslui -

1375) and especially in the 16th century (e.g. Dragomirești - 1439, Huși - 1441, Crasna - 1450 etc.). However, the fairs and villages in the area developed rapidly, especially under the reign of Stephen the Great, with the battles won by Bogdan II (Stephen the Great's father-in-law) in 1450 at Crasna against the Polish army and by his son against the Turkish and Montenegrin troops in 1475 at Podul Înalt. It is also worth mentioning that Vaslui was a royal residence during the reign of Stephen II (1435-1442), and the remains of a beautiful royal court, restored and brought into the historical circuit, are preserved from that period. After this period of glory, the settlements of Vaslui (Vaslui, Huși, Bârlad, etc.) were plundered and burned by the Tartar and Ottoman invaders, and were almost completely destroyed in the 17th and 18th centuries. Then, in the 18th and 19th centuries, the county was the scene of major armed clashes between Ottoman and Russian armies, memorable being the Battle of Stănilești (1711).

However, the people of Vaslui were actively involved in the events of the second half of the 19th century, such as the Revolution of 1848, the Union of the Principalities of 1859 or the War of Independence of 1877-1878 and 1918, from where many units of dorobants left to fight at Plevna and Grivița. From here left the famous dorobanti who proved to be recognized for their bravery and courage, leaving legendary heroes, the most famous being the sergeant Constantin Țurcanu, known as Peneș Curcanul. The beginning of the 19th century was marked by the Peasants' Revolt of 1907, in which locals from Pogonești, Huși, Vaslui, Muntenii de Jos, Băcești etc. participated. This was followed by the First World War, many locals losing their lives at Mărășești, Mărăști or Oituz. The Great Union and the inter-war period brought an improvement in the quality of life, especially in urban areas, where industry and services developed, but also in rural areas, through the purchase of property by peasants, especially veterans and war widows. However, this part of Romania was still strongly underdeveloped, predominantly rural-agrarian, with a high rate of illiteracy and infant mortality, etc. The Second World War brought an end to this cycle of socio-economic growth, but also to the loss of local lives, with the 25th Vaslui and 12th Bârlad Infantry Regiments, which crossed the Prut into Basarabia at Huși in June 1940, at the beginning of the fighting, being notable on the front. In 1945, after the end of the war, Vaslui County, like the whole country, entered the Communist era, which lasted 45 years and involved profound changes in society, especially through the processes of collectivisation of agriculture, nationalisation of private property, industrialisation and forced urbanisation. From the point of view of land management, in 1864, the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza passed the first law on the modern administrative-territorial organisation of Romania. The law provided for the division of the country into 33 counties, with the subdivisions of plazes and communes (urban and rural). The counties and communes were invested with legal personality and deliberative and executive bodies: the county council and the prefect (the latter as representative of the government in the territory), respectively the commune council and the mayor (as representative of the government in the territory). The plazes were simple subdivisions of the counties, without legal personality, headed by sub-prefects, with supervisory and control powers over the communal authorities. However, many of the net residences remained in the collective memory as polarising centres long after their abolition in 1950, some even becoming towns (Negrești, Murgeni). In the inter-war period, the current county territory belonged to three separate counties:

- Vaslui county, residing in the city of Vaslui and 3 plași (Movila lui Burcel - residing in Codăiești, Peneș Curcanul - residing in Pungești, respectively Ștefan cel Mare - residing in Negrești);

- Fălciu county, residing in the town of Huși and 3 plăși (Mihail Kogălniceanu - residing in Huși, Răducăneni - residing in the village of the same name, today in Iași county, respectively Dimitrie Cantemir - residing in Fălciu);

- Tutova county, residing in Bârlad and 4 plăși (Alexandru Vlahuță - residing in Puiеști, I.G. Duca - residing in Banca, Manolache Epureanu - residing in Murgeni, respectively Vasile Pârvan - residing in Grivița). Also, some villages in the southern extremity were part of Covurlui County, with residence in Galați.

In 1950, the inter-war counties were abolished, most of the current territory being administered by the region of Bârlad, with residence in the city of the same name, and with districts of Vaslui, Huși, Murgeni, Răchitoasa (today in the county of Bacău), while the northern part became part of the region of Iași (with districts of Negrești and Codăiești). Between 1952 and 1956 another administrative reform was implemented, the current territory being divided between the regions of Bârlad, Bacău, Iași and Galați, while between 1960 and 1968 the entire territory became part of the region of Iași, with districts in Bârlad (with the status of regional city), Vaslui, Huși and Negrești. In 1968 an administrative-territorial reform took place, which established the boundaries and administrative composition of the county, which is still in force today, and which established Vaslui as the county seat.

### **I.3.2.Natural setting**

#### **I.3.2.1.Terrain**

Vaslui County has a predominantly hilly and lowland relief, with low slopes, small differences in altitude, relatively smooth interfluvies, crossed by wide valleys of water courses. The major relief unit over which the county territory overlaps is the Moldavian Plateau. Its dominant features are:

-relative geomorphological uniformity, given by the presence of a single dominant landform, that of the plateau, the plateau;

-modest altitudes (the maximum reaches only 484 m);

-low average altitude (about 250 m);

-moderate relief energy (100-300 m);

-high accessibility, due to the wide extent of flat and pseudo-flat surfaces, low slopes, flattened ridges and wide valleys;

-limited tourism value to diversify the landscape detail;

-current geomorphological dynamics, manifested by mass displacement, torrential flow and erosion. The processes are subsidised by a lithological constitution composed mainly of soft rocks: clays, gravels, sands, but also by current neotectonic movements, with values between 1-3 mm/year;

-various geomorphic risks: landslides, torrential rain, erosion.



### Relief and hydrographic network of Vaslui County

At a more detailed level, the relief sub-unit within the Podișului Moldovei that is present on the territory of Vaslui County is the Podișul Bârladului, which has, in turn, five subdivisions, namely: the Podișul Central Moldovenesc, Colinele Tutovei, Dealurile Fălciului, Depresiunea Elanului and Valea Prutului, to which is added the Culoarul Bârladului, with a very important role in the development of the county.

#### 1.3.2.2. Climate

The climate of Vaslui County is temperate-continental, with some local influences, caused by warm and dry air masses coming from Asia, which make summers very hot and dry, by the Atlantic air masses, which make rainfall heavy in May-June, and by cold Siberian air masses, which bring frost and blizzards in winter. Average annual temperatures in the county vary between 8 and 10 degrees Celsius, with higher temperatures in the south, July temperatures vary between 18 and 21 degrees Celsius and January temperatures average between -2 and -4 degrees Celsius. However, temperature extremes can reach +39 (in 2000)/-32 degrees Celsius (in 1963), posing problems for the population, businesses and local authorities. The typical frost period is October-March. Average annual rainfall varies between 450 and 600 mm/year, being higher in the north-west, lower in the central-eastern area and in the river valleys, where there are frequent periods of drought (especially in July-September), affecting

agricultural production. Rainfall distribution is uneven, with about 1/3 of the total falling between May and June, when it is mainly convective (torrential), increasing the risk of floods. For example, on 16 June 2019, 123 l/mp of rain fell in Plopana, on 5 June 2001 in Murgeni it was 112 l/mp, and on 23 June 1999 123 l/mp of rain fell in less than 24 hours. In recent years, dry years (e.g. 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2018) alternate more and more with rainy years (2010, 2012, 2016). In addition, the low degree of afforestation of slopes and the poor state of maintenance of land improvement works mean that torrential rainfall exacerbates soil erosion, with negative effects on agricultural productivity, and also raveling (landslides in the form of gullies on streams), which can cause material damage and lead to the clogging of water reservoirs in the county. According to the Territorial Risk Scheme of the ISU "Podul Înalt" Vaslui, drawn up in 2019, works are required to establish forestry barriers on the slopes of the Prut, Elan, Mihona, Epureni, Buda, Bârlad, Vasluiet, Racova, Crasna, Simila and Tutova rivers - precisely to limit these phenomena of rapid water runoff. The average annual wind speed varies 2-3 m/s, being lower in the west and higher in the east (Prut Corridor), but also at the confluences of some valleys (e.g. Crasna), where there is even a potential for its energy exploitation. The velocity varies throughout the year, being highest in February-April and lowest in August-October. The strongest storms occur in June-July (windstorms accompanied by rain) and January-February (blizzards), affecting (in the form of destruction of agricultural crops, roofs, flooding, damage to electricity network, snow on roads, etc.), according to ISU, especially the communes of Dragomirești, Negrești, Tăcuta, Deleni, Iana, Bogdănița, Coroiiești, Ștefan cel Mare, Codăiești, Roșiești, Vutcani, Puiiești, Bogdănești.

### 1.3.2.3. Hydrography

Most of Vaslui County's hydrographic network, with a codified length of about 2,300 km, is tributary to the Siret river basin, the only collector being the Bârlad river, which is also its main tributary on the left side. In a small strip in the far east of the county, the river system is tributary to the Prut river basin.

The Bârlad River is over 200 km long (149 km of which are in Vaslui County) and has a catchment area of over 7,000 km<sup>2</sup>, draining most of the streams that have their sources in the Central-Moldovan Plateau. The river has a very shallow slope and a tendency to meander, and its multiannual flow rate at the outlet of the county is modest (about 6 mc/s), as is that of its main tributaries, namely the Vaslui - 0.7 mc/s, Tutova - 0.5 mc/s, Sacovăț - 0.5 mc/s, Crasna - 0.4 mc/s and Racova - 0.4 mc/s. Other smaller tributaries are Simila, Stemnic, Jarovăț, Stavnic, Garboreta, Buda, Rebricea, Durduc, Vasluiet.

The Prut River is 675 km long (174 km of which are in Vaslui County) and has a catchment area of over 28,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 3 countries. Its average annual flow in Vaslui county is 102 mc/s, with tributaries of modest flow (Pruteț, Sărata, Elan). There are 28 permanent and non-permanent flood protection reservoirs in the county, which can store up to 325 million cubic metres of water. The most important are those managed by Apele Române, at Căzănești (373 ha and 21 million cubic metres capacity, on the Durduc river), Vulturești (polder - 600 ha, 24 million cubic metres, on the Bârlad river), Pușcași (457 ha, 23 million cubic metres, on the Racova river), Solești (800 ha, 48 million cubic metres, on the Racova river) and the other two (800 ha, 48 million cubic metres). mc, on the Vaslui river), Mânjești (648 ha, 35 mil. mc, on the Crasna river), Râpa Albastră (330 ha, 23 mil. mc, on the Simila river), Cuibul Vulturilor (691 ha, 43 mil. mc, on the Tutova river), Poșta Elan (148 ha, 7 mil. mc, on the Elan river), Sărata (141 ha, 6 mil. mc, on the Sărata river), Gura Văii (100 ha, 5 mil. mc, on the Gura Văii



river), Rediu Galian (106 ha, 4 mil. mc, on the Rediu river), Dumești, Trohan, Pungești, Delea, Tăcuta, Ferești, Moara Domnească, Roșiești, Valea Seacă, Corodești, Șopârleni, Mușata, Șuletea, Bozia etc. To these should be added another 46 fish ponds and reservoirs for irrigation or flood protection managed by town halls, forestry offices, sports associations or private companies with a catfish farming profile, the most important being Epureni, Teleasa, Tăbălăești, Zăpodeni, Bahna, Topu, Alexandru Vlahuță, Morăreni, Lipovăț, Chitoc, Stroești, Mântu, Negrești. The natural lakes are less represented and are mainly in the form of riverine limanes of the Prut River (Grosu, Ulmu, Broscăria, Balta Hârtești, etc.). The groundwater reservoirs of Vaslui County are relatively rich in flow and diverse in depth. For example, in the southern part of the county they can be accessed at depths ranging from 5 to 30 m, and along the Bârlad and Elan rivers there are even groundwater aquifers with a flowing and even artesian character. In the northern part of the area, deep waters have been identified at about 80 m depth and have a high level of potability. The county therefore benefits from significant groundwater/groundwater reserves, an important resource for the future. On the other hand, the continuous supply of drinking water from surface sources is relatively problematic (except for the Prut River and possibly the lower course of the Bârlad), most rivers having low flows and even a temporary drainage regime (they dry up in summer, after which in spring they will cause floods by collecting the runoff from the unploughed slopes), which also explains the large number of reservoirs developed in the area. In the context of the high risk of flooding on several watercourses in the county, the Bârlad river and its tributaries (416 km of dams and 320 km of regularisation) and the Prut river (85 km of dams) are flood-proofed in Vaslui county.

#### 1.3.2.4. Vegetation and fauna

As a result of an intense and long-lasting process of anthropization (human intervention), the natural vegetation on the territory of Vaslui County has been mostly replaced by agricultural crops, pastures, roads, built-up areas, which now cover more than 80% of the territory. As a result, the areas occupied by forests, once predominant in the area, have gradually shrunk, now accounting for about 15%, half the national average. Thus, up to heights of 300 m there are islands of quercetrees (downy oak, misty oak) mixed with silver maple, and on the higher peaks there is a mixture of oak and other deciduous species such as oak, lime, hornbeam, palms, elm and even beech. As the forests are not very extensive and often have a protective role, the logging and processing of wood does not have a very long tradition or a central role in the sphere of industrial activities, as is the case in the counties of western Moldavia (Suceava, Neamț, Bacău).

The vegetation cover is mostly forest-steppe (alternating meadows with xerophytic plants, such as hawthorn, fir, columbine, with forest islands), while in the lower areas in the south-eastern part of the territory it is steppe (grasses and thorny shrubs specific to dry climates). The county's grasslands are therefore of relatively low nutritive value, being more favourable to small horned animals (sheep, goats) than large ones (cattle, buffalo). However, the beekeeping potential of the area is high. The presence of rare species of herbaceous and arborescent plants has led to the establishment of botanical reserves (Rupturile-Tanacu Coast, Glodeni Forest, Burcel's Movila) and forest and botanical reserves (Bădeana Forest, Hârboanca Forest, Balteni Forest, Seaca Movileni Forest). These are, at least for the time being, attractions for locals rather than for tourists from other counties or countries, but they can form the basis of eco-tourism tours, a growing niche market at European and global level.

Closely correlated with the type of vegetation, the fauna is typically arranged on the two biogeographical levels, forest and forest-steppe (steppe). In the forests of the county live a large mammal fauna (wild boar, deer, red deer, wolf, fox, jder), and in the steppe and forest, in addition to numerous species of rodents, small bird species, quail or partridge. Among the species of game value, the wild boar and the roe deer stand out in the deciduous forests, and in the Prut valley there are animals with precious fur, such as the otter, the bison and the enot (bearded badger). The waters of the Prut are rich in fish species such as carp, pike, perch, roach, etc., and the smaller rivers are home to species of bass, clean, bream, wrasse, walleye, etc. However, the most attractive places for locals and tourists interested in sport fishing are the cat ponds managed by cat fishing companies or the lakes in the county (Pușcași, Cuibul de Vulturi, Dumești, Mânjești, Colacul Banului, Cârja, Moara Domnească, Negrești, Puiești, Solești, Șofronești, etc.), which are often stocked with various species by their managers.

#### 1.3.2.5. Soils

Vaslui County has relatively low altitude differences; the relief is, in most of the county, not very prominent, with wide valleys, smooth interfluves and low slopes. The soil is characterized by relief layering and as a monoclimate geological structure with moderately south-easterly sloping layers with petrographic composition of deposits, in which the clay-sandstone complex predominates. From a geological point of view, the Vaslui county terriorium comprises two series of different formations:

- Precambrian fundamentals, constituting the oldest deposits in our country, covered with a package of old Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary strata, the last of which appears at the surface in the Prut valley;
- Neogene sedimentary deposits, which comprise the largest area of the county, covered by a thin layer of Quaternary formations.

From a geotechnical point of view, the following bedrock terrains can be distinguished on the territory of Vaslui County:

- a) belonging to the covering formation, made up of new, quaternary, unconsolidated sediments and constituting difficult founding grounds - it is mostly in the area of Vaslui and Huși municipalities and includes the area of loessoside deposits of category A and B, sandy with alluvial muds and clays, constructible and bedrock soils;
- b) belonging to the alluvial facies developed in the major bed of the river Bârlad; the alluvial deposits are mainly in the area of Bârlad municipality and Negrești town and include areas with basic Dacian rocks.

On the territory of Vaslui County there are several areas with landslide potential, which will be treated in detail in Module II; so far no areas with landslide potential on large areas have been detected (underground developments, quarries, etc.).

#### 1.3.2.6. Natural resources

Natural resources are all the natural elements of the environment that can be used for human activity: *non-renewable resources* - minerals and fossil fuels and *renewable resources* - water, air, soil, flora, wildlife, including inexhaustible *resources* - solar, wind, geothermal and wave energy.

The principle of sustainable development requires a style of management and stewardship of natural resources that must meet the vital needs of society now and create the conditions for future generations to live.

The harmonious development of Vaslui County in all fields, the rational exploitation of natural resources on ecological principles, will ensure the preservation and durability of all natural beauties, of the rich local natural heritage, as well as of the entire information treasure.

### **Non-renewable natural resources**

In Vaslui County, non-renewable natural resources are not very varied and are represented by:

-building materials that are used locally: loess clays and clays, clay limestones, riverbed sand, calcareous sandstones, yellowish sandstones, greyish sandstones;

-Sulphurous and ferruginous mineral waters from the springs of Drânceni, Murgeni, Pungești, Gura Văii.

### **Renewable natural resources**

Renewable resources can recover if they are not overvalued and if they are used wisely. They are vital for the economic and social development of human society. Although renewable and highly diversified, they are nevertheless limited. In Vaslui County the most important renewable resources are:

- (a) flora;
- b) fauna;
- c) soils;
- d) water resources.

#### **a) Flora:**

There is a great variety of phytocenosis in Vaslui county: 197 plant associations, angiosperm species with many rare species of great phytogeographical interest. The specific and varied plant cover is determined by the presence of autochthonous physico-geographical conditions, being composed of both Central-European (gorun, beech) and Eastern-European species (colilia, steppe pine, etc.). Medicinal and honey plant species represent 30% of the total species.

In the east and northeast of the county there is a forest-steppe area, represented by centuries-old meadows with pampas, collie, beech, pine and birch. The forests of scrub oak and downy oak, mixed with sugar maple, occur insularly. The deciduous forest floor occupies heights of more than 300 m in the W and N-W and at the water ridge between Bârlad and Prut. The forests represent an ecological value, but also an economic value, because of the wood mass that can be exploited.

#### **b) Fauna**

The varied relief of the county favours the presence of a rich and diversified fauna.

The Prut River is characterized by ichthyofauna including species such as red mullet (*Scardinius erythraplitalmus*), carp (*Cyprinus carpis*), silver carp (*Carassius auratus gibelis*), catfish (*Silurus glanis*), sand bass (*Stizostedion lucioperca*) and perch (*Perca fluviatilis*).

During migration, species such as the moray eel (*Vimba vimba*), the scoter (*Chondrostoma nasus*), the sandpiper (*Pelecuus cultratus*) and the porcupine (*Gabia gobro*) appear. The pike (*Esox lucius*) has also become very rare.

Small fish are found in the waters of smaller rivers: redfish (*Scardinius erythraplitalmus*), petroc (*Gobio kessleri*), boar (*Rhodeus sericeus amanes*), stonecrop (*Zingel zingel*), fusar (*Zingel streber*), the sabre (*Pelecus cultranus*), the grebe (*Aspius aspius*), the varlar (*Misgurnus fossilis*), the wagtail (*Cobitis taenia*), the duiker (*Leucaspicus delineatus*), the eel (*Misgurnus fossilis*). In the unimproved pools of the Prut live species such as: octopus (*Carassius carassius*), carp, red mullet, linnet (*Tinca tinca*), winkle, perch, pike.

Amphibians are represented by two species of newts and seven species of anurans. Reptiles are poorly represented, with the wolverine (*Lacerta viridis*), grass lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) and the nuthatch (*Anguis fragilis*) dominating. Water snakes (*Natrix tessellata*) and house snakes (*Natrix natrix natrix*) live in the ponds and can also be found around houses. In forests the hazel snake (*Coronella austriaca*) can be seen.

Relatively richly vegetated ponds are home to the pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*) and the pond owl (*Bombina bombina*).

The inventoried avifauna includes almost 200 species, among which passerines are dominant: pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), partridge (*Perdix perdix*), quail (*Cortunix cortunix*), mallard (*Anser platyrhynchos*), little duck (*Anas crecca*), wood nuthatch (*Scolopax rusticola*), the grey crow (*Corvus corone cornix*), the magpie (*Pica pica*), the mourning dove (*Columba palumbus*), the turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*), the wren (*Streptopelia decaocto*), the starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), the woodcock (*Fulica atra*). Among the mammals, rodents are dominant; in cultivated areas there are many species of rodents: *Citellus citellus*, *Cricetus cricetus*, *Apodemus agrarius*, *Spalax leucodon*; in the forests there are: squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), hare (*Lepus europaeus*), *Muscardinus avellanarius* and *Apodemus sylvaticus*, and near the waters live the bison (*Ondatra zibethica*) and otter (*Lutra lutra*).

Carnivores occur in the forest area: fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), wild cat (*Felis silvestris*), jackal (*Canis aureus moreoticus*), weasel (*Mustela nivalis*), wolf (*Canis lupus*) which has become a rarity; sometimes the presence of the swimming dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) is reported in wetlands (Bârlad Valley and Prut Valley).

Insectivorous mammals are represented by hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*), moles (*Talpa europaea*), tree martens (*Martes martes*), ferrets (*Putorius putorius*) and scallops (*Meles meles*).

#### c) Soils

Due to the diversity of geographical conditions and lithological composition, the territory of Vaslui County is covered by a varied soil cover. Zonal soils are the most widespread. There are two groups in this category: forest soils and cernozoic soils of steppe and forest-steppe.

Brown forest soils and brown podzolic soils are found at altitudes above 400 m. The forest brown-brown soils occur in the northern part of the Tutova Hills and insularly in the high hills of the Falci and are specific to the forest area. The forest grey soils are found on the lower and middle hills, unforested or with patches of forest.

The levigated cernozomes are found on hills below 250 m altitude and, together with the grey forest ones, are specific to the silvosteppe.

The typical steppe cernozomes are found in the hilly plains of the Elan-Sărata and Huși depressions, as well as on the terraces of the Bârlad valley and its tributaries in the northern sector.

Carbonaceous cernozomes occur on the lower terraces of the Prut.

In the Prut and Bârlad plains and in the major riverbeds of their tributary streams there are azonal soils of the following types: alluvial soils, lacustrine soils.

The soils (halomorphic soils) occur in the plains and plains of the Prut, Bârlad, Crasnei, Elan and Săratei. They have low fertility.

#### d) Water resources

**Surface water:** in Vaslui county the usable surface water resource is 27.64 million m<sup>3</sup>/year, surface water being of vital importance for the economic and social development of the region.

The most important waterways that run through the county are:

- the upper and middle course of the river Bârlad, which flows from Valea Ursului, Neamț county and crosses Vaslui county for a distance of 173 km, with important tributaries: Vaslui, Crasna, Juravăț, Simila and Tutova, Dagâța, Lohan;
- Vasluiet River;

- Tutova River;
- a stretch of the Prut between the localities Drânceni - Fălciu, which forms the natural border (east), which separates Vaslui county from the southern counties of the Republic of Moldova.

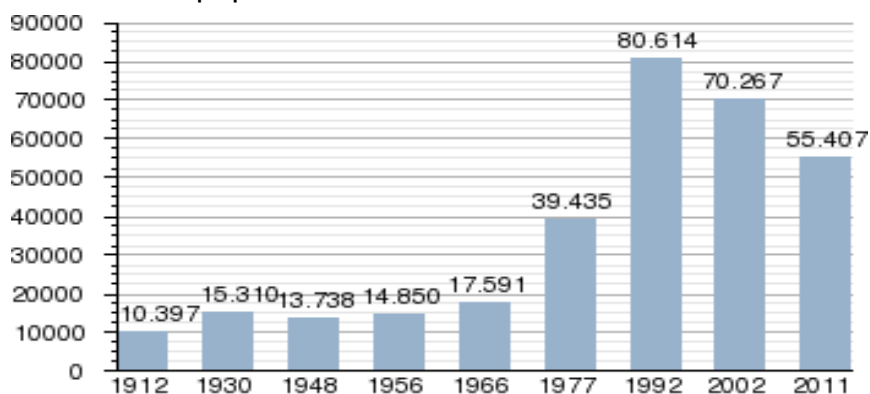
The shallow drainage gradient is the main characteristic of the county's collector rivers. This property is the expression of an advanced degree of evolution, of ageing, as a result of the thick pack of sediments that have accumulated, brought by tributaries with a pronounced youthful character. They are generally hill-domed rivers with a gentle slope towards the river mouth, low banks, which allow water (in the case of floods) to flow into the main riverbed and even into the meadow. They have small tributaries and a highly variable flow regime, both in terms of slope and seasonal influences. In Vaslui county, the territory is drained by the Bârlad river, 70% of it and its tributaries, except for the E and S-E area, which is crossed by the Prut river.

*Groundwater:* in the northern part of the county, i.e. in the Central Moldovan Plateau, there are groundwater lenses confined in superficial lutous and luto-isospheric deposits. The aquifers are hosted in coarse- and medium-grained Pliocene-Quaternary sedimentary formations, ranging from 5 to 30 m in depth, found in the southern half of the county. The aquifers with artesian character are found along the Bârlad and Elan rivers.

### 1.3.3. Demographics

#### 1.3.3.1. Numerical evolution of the population

According to the 2011 census, Vaslui county had a stable (resident) population of 395,499 inhabitants, a historical low of over 50 years (a similar number of inhabitants was also recorded in the 1956 census). At the time of this last census, the county's population represented 12% of the total population of the North-East development region and 1.6% of Romania's. In terms of the number of inhabitants, Vaslui ranked last at regional level and 24th/42nd at national level, thus being a medium-populated county, like other counties in the country such as Ilfov, Sibiu, Teleorman or Botoșani, which had a similar population.



Date recensăminte. Grafică realizată de Wikipedia.

For the period since the 2011 census, only data on the number of persons residing in Vaslui County are currently available, i.e. INS estimates of the resident population. However, the latter are only indicative and will be revised when the 2021 census is published, the only instrument that allows an exhaustive count of the number of people still living in the county.

The evolution of the two above-mentioned indicators calculated by the NSI between 2012 and 2019 was different. Thus, the resident population estimated by INS decreased by 5.1% (above the rate of -2.9% at the regional level, respectively -3.4%

at the national level), while the population residing in the county increased by 6.6%, a percentage exceeded only by Ilfov county (where the suburbanization phenomenon around Bucharest is manifested). However, this increase is purely scriptural, and was achieved exclusively through the phenomenon of people from the Republic of Moldova, who have also obtained Romanian citizenship but do not actually live in the county, establishing their residence in the county. This phenomenon is specific to several counties in the North-East region (Iași, Suceava, and more recently also Bacău, Botoșani or Neamț) and in the South-East region (Galați). Without the impact of these domicile settlements of persons with dual citizenship, the number of the population having only Romanian citizenship residing in Vaslui county decreased between 2012 and 2019 by 3.2%. Therefore, in this period alone, more than 45,000 people from the Republic of Moldova settled in the county (second place after Iași county, with more than 58,000 people). Thus, the population of Co. Vaslui reached 497,710 inhabitants in 2019.

#### 1.3.3.2. Population structure

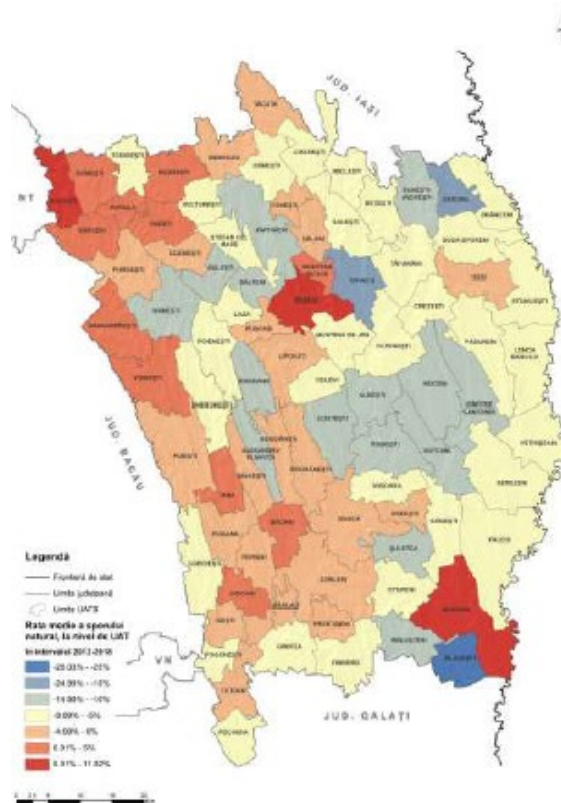
In terms of age group structure, as of 2019, 19% of all county residents were children, 62.4% were adults (15-64 years), and 18.6% were seniors (65 years and older). Thus, the ratio of young to old was slightly overunited (1.02), compared to a subunited ratio at regional (0.99) and national level (0.85), the explanation being the higher birth rate recorded in the last 15 years in Vaslui County.

The gender structure of the resident population (estimated) of Vaslui County for 2019 indicates a percentage of 50.5% male population and 49.5% female population. In comparison, at national and regional level, the share of women was higher than that of men (51.1% and 50.2% respectively). This atypical situation is typical of areas strongly affected by migration, with women being more prone to territorial mobility (e.g. due to marriage) than men.

In terms of the share of the population by residence, only 41% of the county's inhabitants lived in urban areas, and these figures are obviously estimates. This share, although slightly increasing compared to the time of the 2011 census (when it was 38.7%) makes Vaslui county one of the least urbanized areas in Romania (with an average of 53.5% of urban population) and even in the North-East region (41.9%). The lack of large and dynamic urban centres, acting as an economic engine and attracting talent (such as Iasi, Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara, Brasov, etc..) is one of the main reasons why Vaslui has a lower level of socio-economic development than other areas of the country, a situation that is also specific to other counties with a low degree of urbanisation (e.g. Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarasi, Vrancea, etc.).

#### 1.3.3.3 Population dynamics

The birth rate for live births with usual residence in Romania was 11.3‰ in 2018, higher than the national average (10.4‰), but below the regional average (11.9‰). The mortality rate has had an upward curve in recent years, which can be explained by the increase in the share of elderly people by 2 percentage points between 2012 and 2019, but also by the relatively low life expectancy compared to the national and regional average. Thus, in 2018, the mortality rate in the county reached 15.4 deaths/1000 inhabitants, above the regional (14.2) and national (13.6) averages.



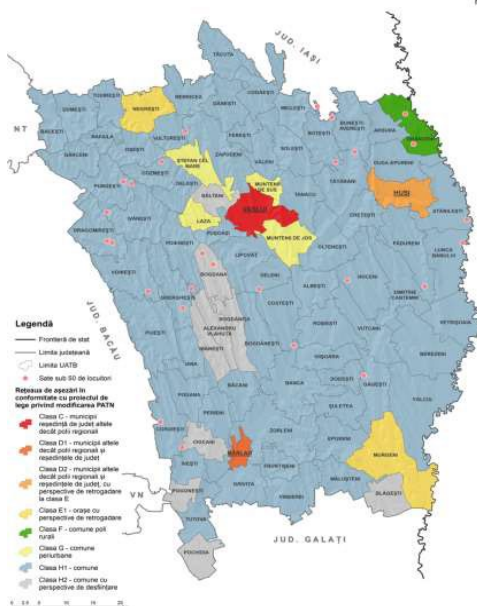
Average rate of natural increase (2012-2018).  
Source: TEMPO Online database

### 1.3.4. Settlements

#### 1.3.4.1. Urban settlements

According to the National Land Use Plan - Section IV "Network of settlements", approved by Law 351/2001 and still in force, there are 5 urban centres in Vaslui County, classified as follows:

**-Vaslui:** second rank municipality, with the status of county seat. The characteristics of this category are a stable population of over 50,000 inhabitants, an area of influence of over 200,000 inhabitants and a service radius of 60-80 km. The law also provides for a set of minimum facilities for this type of municipalities for the provision of certain services of public interest. Of these, Vaslui municipality does not meet those related to education and scientific research (lack of educational institutions, research institutes), culture (theatres, concert halls), and tourism (minimum 200 places in hotels of minimum 3 stars).



**-Bârlad:** rank II (non-county municipality). This type of municipalities have a population between 25,000 and 70,000 inhabitants, an area of influence of more than 30,000 inhabitants and a service radius of about 20 km. Of the minimum criteria for this category, Bârlad does not meet those related to scientific research (branches of research institutes), but has some functions specific to county seats, which Vaslui municipality does not have (e.g. theatre, zoo, planetarium).

**-Huși:** second rank municipality (non-county residence), like Bârlad. It does not fully meet the cultural (lack of a functioning cinema) and tourist (3-star hotel with a minimum of 50 seats) criteria.

**-Negrești:** town of rank III. They have a population of more than 5,000 inhabitants, an area of influence of more than 5,000 inhabitants and a service radius of more than 10 km. Of the minimum criteria for this category, Negrești does not meet those relating to administration (court, public prosecutor's office), health (hospital, maternity ward), education (nursery), tourism (minimum 2-star hotel with at least 50 places) and culture (museum, cinema).

**-Murgeni:** a rank III town, like Negrești, which received urban status only in 2004. Of the minimum criteria for facilities, it does not meet those for administration (court, prosecutor's office - closed in 2011), health (maternity ward), education (nursery), tourism (minimum 2-star hotel with at least 50 places) and culture (library, cinema, museum).

Vaslui is in an atypical situation for Romanian counties, given that, according to the 2011 census, the municipality of Bârlad has a slightly higher population than the county municipality. From the perspective of the resident population, the municipality of Vaslui had in 2019 almost 50,000 more inhabitants than the municipality of Bârlad, but this is exclusively the result of immigration from the Republic of Moldova, which is a "scriptural" phenomenon, in the sense that these people do not actually live in the municipality of residence. Moreover, the territorial competition between the two municipalities is a long-standing one, especially given that until 1968 the municipality of Bârlad was the county seat and even the regional capital (including in the context that the communist leader Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej came from this city). In addition, the city was more populated and industrialised since the inter-war period. After 1968, Vaslui recovered this development deficit, benefiting from a large volume of investments, especially in the 70s and 80s. A reduction of the polarizing role was also recorded in the case of Huși municipality, with a larger population than Vaslui municipality until the end of the 1960s, but which evolved rather slowly in the last two decades of the communist period.

Overall, we can conclude that the intensive industrialisation and urbanisation process carried out by the communist authorities led to an accelerated development of the two main urban poles, through the massive migration of labour from rural areas to them. However, the effects of this artificial growth were felt after 1990, when the decline of communist enterprises caused these two cities to lose a large part of their obvious surplus labour force through both internal and external migration.

#### 1.3.4.2. Rural settlements

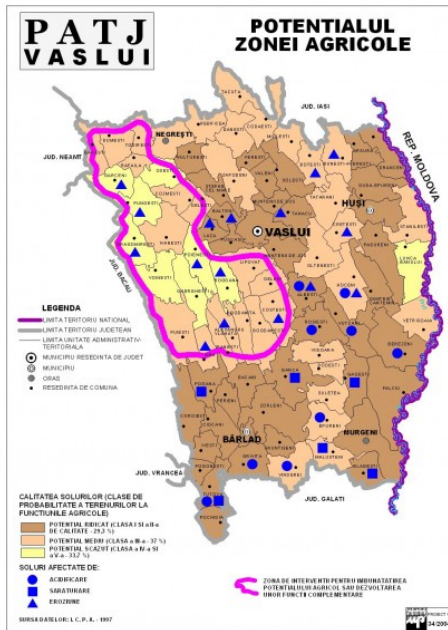
In jud. Vaslui county there are 81 communes with 449 villages, of which 6 belong to urban localities. There are scattered villages, typical of the hill and podis area, but also linear villages, along the transport roads.

#### 1.3.5. Economy

**The economy of Vaslui County** is predominantly agrarian in nature, primarily due to the large area of agricultural land and the high number of people living in rural areas and engaged in agriculture.



### I.3.5.1. Agriculture



Benefiting from fertile soils, Vaslui county has a huge potential for agricultural development. The total agricultural area (representing 75% of the county area) is 399,762 hectares, of which:

- Arable land-287.307 hectares**
- Grassland-86,446 hectares**
- Meadows-7,809 hectares**
- Vineyards-14,656 hectares**
- Orchards-3.178 hectares**

In Vaslui county there are 450 economic agents of food industry, processing all sources of agricultural raw materials, vegetable and animal. Grain cereals have the largest share of arable land, with 69% of the land planted with wheat, corn, barley and oats. Technical crops occupy 49,000 hectares (17% of arable land).

Viticulture has a long tradition in Vaslui and represents a sector with great potential for attracting investors. Vasluian vineyards have been appreciated by connoisseurs in the field since several hundred years ago. At the moment, like other sectors of the economy, viticulture needs a financial infusion to recover successfully. Every year, 80 thousand tons of grapes are produced from the vineyards of Vaslui. Half of this is destined for vinification in specialised centres. Vaslui vineyards are part of the "Hills of Moldavia" wine-growing region, with renowned vineyards such as Podgoria Husi (with wine-growing centres in Husi, Averesti, Vutcani, Murgeni, Vaslui) and Podgoria Colinele Tutovei (with wine-growing centres in Iana and Tutova).

The fruit orchards, spread over an area of 3,178 hectares, provide an annual production of 10 thousand tons of fruit (apples, plums, cherries, sour cherries, apricots), to which another 12 thousand tons of fruit trees are added. Animal husbandry accounted for 35 percent of the county's economy at the end of 2003.

#### Rural development and diversification

The statistical data shows the predominantly agricultural character of the county, if we consider only two statistical indicators: agricultural area, which represents 75% of the total area of the county and the structure of the employed population (currently, more than 50% of the employed population is engaged in agriculture). Another characteristic of the county is the concentration of industrial activity in the urban localities of the county (98 percent), the inhabitants of the villages earning their living almost exclusively from agriculture.

In the perspective of accession to the European Union and the reduction of the share of the population employed in agriculture, it is imperative to develop other economic activities in the villages - small-scale industry, processing of agricultural products, handicrafts and other traditional crafts, agro-tourism.

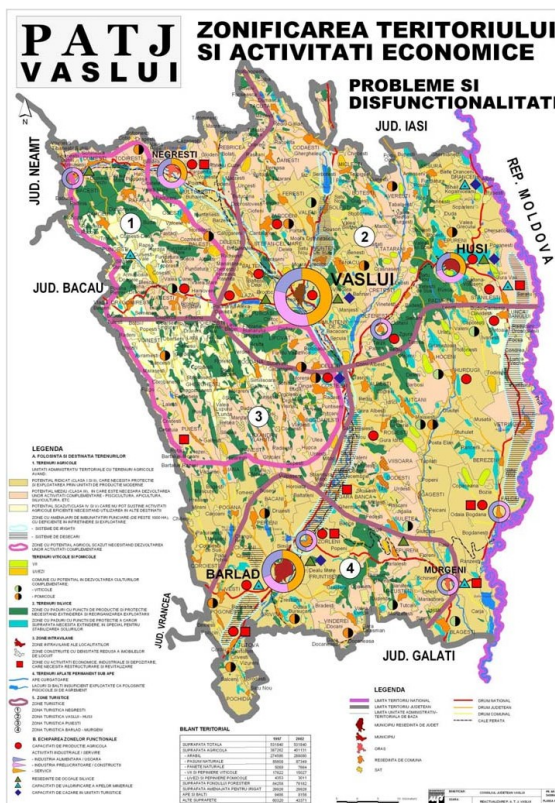
#### Industry

During the communist period the area underwent forced industrialization to reduce the gap with the other counties of the country. Industrial units were built and the workforce was trained for various fields: textile industry, food industry, wood industry, machinery and equipment industry. After the fall of communism, enterprises in the area were put up for sale, and today

most of the industrial units are privately owned. This does not mean that the problems in the Vasluian industry have been solved. Many of the enterprises have great difficulty in adapting to the new requirements of the market economy, and require investment in high-performance equipment and quality management. The most important industrial branch is light industry: fabrics, clothing, knitwear, footwear. Most of the women in the area work in light industry. Other representative products for the county are bearings, measuring and control devices, furniture, food products.

In terms of foreign investment, Vaslui County is one of the last places at national level, due primarily to its geographical position, but also to the not exactly favorable image it has in the country. lei. The top countries in terms of investment volume are Turkey (80.5%), Italy (6%) and Cyprus (5.3%). The most significant foreign investments are registered in the machinery and equipment, textile and food industries. There is a strong concentration of industrial production in the urban areas of the county, while rural areas are predominantly agricultural. As regards the distribution of industrial activity by locality, there is a certain local specificity: in the municipality of Vaslui the textile industry predominates, in the municipality of Bârlad the machinery and equipment industry, and in the municipality of Huși the leather and clothing industry. The food industry has an even geographical distribution. Taking into account these aspects, as well as the requirements of adaptation to the European Single Market, the economic branches with the greatest prospects for development in the medium and long term are the food industry, services and tourism.

As far as the construction market is concerned, the number of houses under construction in the county is 1,109 and the number of completed houses is 88. The demand for housing is much higher, however, and because of this, construction activity has been on an upward trend for several years. Considering this trend, on the one hand, and the need for massive investments in transport and environmental infrastructure, on the other hand, it is certain that the construction sector represents one of the most important investment opportunities in the county.



### I.3.5.3. Transport

Although Vaslui County is located on the eastern border of Romania and, by extension, of the European Union, it has access to only one European transport corridor, which is part of the extended TEN-T network, namely the E 581 European road. It crosses the county from south-west to north-east, through the Bârladului Corridor and the Lohan Valley, linking the county to the Siret axis, the Republic of Moldova, Transnistria and Ukraine. It is practically the busiest road link to the country's eastern border, with traffic at Albița Customs reaching about 3 million vehicles a year. It should also be mentioned that this corridor only passes through the municipalities of Bârlad and Huși, not the county seat.

In terms of rail accessibility, Vaslui County is not crossed by any rail transport corridor of the TEN-T network, while the Siret Corridor, with branches to Iasi (from Pașcani) and Transylvania (from Suceava), continues to play a central role for the network in the Moldavian area.

As far as the TEN-T air corridors are concerned, Vaslui County does not have its own airport. The closest airports are Iași and Bacău, both with numerous international flights to various destinations in Europe and even the Middle East. 49 Also, in the context where the Prut River is not navigable (although plans in this regard have existed but have not materialised), the closest port in the TEN-T network is Galați, which allows not only traffic on the Danube, but also the entry of ships of a certain tonnage from the Black Sea. In this context, investments in the major transport infrastructure in the county should focus on strengthening the road transport corridor of the extended TEN-T network - represented by the DE 581 (e.g. by building the Bârlad and Huși bypasses, proper maintenance of road surfaces, increasing travel safety, etc.), respectively on increasing the accessibility of the county to the main TEN-T corridors in the region (e.g. investments in roads connecting Iasi, Bacau, Galati, Roman, Adjud etc. - whether national or county).

### I.3.5.4. Trade

*Exports of goods (FOB)*, at the level of Vaslui County, in October 2019 amounted to 9847 thousand euros, 28.0% less than in the same period of the previous year (13649 thousand euros). The representative industrial products in total exports remain: textiles and articles thereof, with 2803 thousand euros (36.7% less than in the same period of 2018) and machinery, electrical appliances and equipment, with a value of 3173 thousand euros (48.4% less).

*Imports of goods (CIF)* in October 2009 amounted to 7380 thousand euros, which is about 36.5% lower than in the same period of 2008 (11624 thousand euros), mainly textiles and textile articles with 2349 thousand euros (44.2% lower than in the same period of 2008) and machinery, electrical appliances and equipment with an import value of 1051 thousand euros.

After 10 months, the trade balance shows a surplus of 20642 thousand euros, much reduced compared to the same period in 2018 when a surplus of 41109 thousand euros was recorded. Although in October exports are also above the value level of imports, compared to last year absolute values remain very low.

### I.3.5.5. Tourism

#### I.3.5.5. Tourism



Without having the wealth of tourist attractions that exist in other areas of the country, they are not lacking in Vaslui County. We can say, however, that they are not sufficiently known and exploited. This county is remarkable for the archaeological treasures found here, ethnographic and folk art values, historical sites and monuments that testify to the millenary existence of the Romanians in this area, as well as their contribution to universal culture. The Mavrocordat Castle, built in the 19th century, the Fortress of Stephen the Great, dating from the 15th century, the Church of St. John, also founded by Stephen the Great in the 15th century are some of the many historical and cultural relics preserved in Vaslui County. It is also worth mentioning that the most

important towns in this county, Vaslui and Bârlad, were built in the 14th and 15th centuries respectively. The municipality of Huși, the third largest in the county, is famous worldwide for its vineyards and the quality of its wines. Situated in a hilly area with numerous forests and rivers, this county is rich in beautiful landscapes, historical monuments, tourist attractions that are a real delight to the eye and mind of the visitor and a warm invitation to come and visit them.

#### Museums:

- Stefan cel Mare County Museum in Vaslui
- Art Hall in Vaslui
- Vasile Pârvan Museum in Bârlad, from 1914
- The House of Bârlad Personalities in Bârlad
- Sturdza House in Bârlad
- Stefan cel Mare Municipal Museum in Huși
- Wine Museum in Huși
- Dimitrie Cantemir Memorial Museum in Huși
- Eparchial Museum of Religious Art in Huși
- Village Museum Bank
- Eugenia and Costache Burada Collection from Dănești
- Dimitrie Cantemir Memorial Exhibition in Dimitrie Cantemir
- Emil Racovita Memorial House in Emil Racovita
- Giurcani Village Museum
- Grumezoaia Village Museum
- Elena Cuza Memorial House in Solești
- Rosetti-Solescu Castle in Solești
- Tăcuta Village Museum
- Vulturești Village Museum

- Vutcani Village Museum

**Other buildings and monuments:**

- Statue of Stephen the Great at the High Bridge
- Ruins of the Court of Stephen the Great in Vaslui
- Bronze statue of Stephen the Great in the Vaslui Civic Centre (work of Eftimie Bârladeanu)
- The Mausoleum of Penès the Turkey in Copou Park in Vaslui
- Independence Monument in the Palace of Justice Square in Vaslui
- Rosseti Solescu memorial house where Elena Cuza's tomb is located, in Solești.

**Churches and monasteries:**

- Church of St. John (1490) in Vaslui
- The Domnească Church, built since 1634 during the reign of Vasile Lupu, located in Bârlad
- The church of St. George built in 1843 in Bârlad;
- The church built by Stephen the Great between 1494 and 1495, and became an Episcopal church in 1598 during the reign of Eremia Movilă, located in Huși
- Monastery of Moreni
- Monastery of Florești (built in 1652)
- Monastery of Gârceni
- Monastery of Movila lui Burcel
- St. Nicholas Church Vaslui
- Bujoreni Monastery
- Grajdani Monastery

**Parks and nature reserves:**

- Bârlad Zoo
- The secular forest of Movila lui Burcel
- Movileni Dry Forest
- Fossil site Mălușteni
- Fossil site Hulubat Sandpit
- Tanacu Ruptures Coast
- Bădeana Forest
- Balteni Forest
- Meadows of Glodeni
- Paleontological reserves at Mânzați commune Ibănești

**Tourism and leisure:**

- Recreation centre for children and youth "Poiana Căprioarei"
- Copou Park in Vaslui
- 1 May Park in Huși

**Culture**

**Bands and musical ensembles:**

- Rotary Fanfare
- Big Valley Fanfare
- Choir Fantasy
- The Rose Ensemble from Moldova
- Izvoarașul Ensemble
- The Shepherd Shepherd with three hundred sheep
- Folk group "Mugurel"

**Theatre and films:**

- Victor Ion Popa Theatre in Bârlad

- European|The "Europea" Theatre and Cinema Group of the Europea Cultural Association - Vaslui
- GET" (Gesture, Expression, Theatricality) Theatre Company

**Cultural institutions:**

- The Academy

**Festivals, exhibitions and cultural events:**

- "Constantin Tănase" International Humour Festival
- Craftsmen Fair
- Fanfare Festival
- "Hora" Festival in Pădureni
- "Unknown Constellation" light music festival-competition
- **Key aspects**

According to INS data, in 2017 (the last year for which data are available), Vaslui County had a GDP of 7.8 billion lei, equivalent to 1.7 billion Euro. This value placed it in last place in the North-East region and 35th place nationally, with a share of 8.8% and 0.9% respectively. Compared to 2008, the county's GDP grew by 19% in European currency, which is below the regional (+25%) and national (+28%) averages.

The existing situation of the economy of Vaslui is the result of the profound changes that the county has gone through in recent decades: from the forced industrialization of the communist period to the collapse of industry after 1990. All the indicators characterising the county's economic situation show negative (if not disastrous) situations, in a context of lack of funds for local economic development which is the most important factor in the county's development.

The total number of active local units in Vaslui county was 5,338 units. Of these, only 0.3% were large enterprises, and of the SMEs, 90% were micro-enterprises. Nearly half of the Vaslui firms are active in trade (46.8%), 12.2% are industrial units and 10% are active in the construction sector. Only 4.4% of firms in the county are in agriculture. Compared to the county population, the SME density is 1.17 SMEs per 100 inhabitants, which is below the regional average (1.53 SMEs per 100 inhabitants) and below the values of the other counties in the region, except for Botosani.

Agriculture has great potential for development, thanks to the large areas of land suitable for farming. In the perspective of the future economic development of the county, agriculture has the greatest development potential and can be a serious option for the revival of the economy of Vaslui.

An analysis of disparities in economic activity by territory shows that the economy is concentrated mainly in urban areas (89.24% of turnover). Urban areas also provide the majority of jobs. Moreover, in rural areas, the majority of employees are civil servants, employed in public administration, local police stations and education. The main economic centres of the county are the municipalities. The corresponding shares of total turnover are 43.1% for Vaslui, 31.6% for Bârlad and 11.3% for Huși.

Vaslui County's economic problems are, in fact, the problems of the local business environment and investment climate. The local business environment faces a number of

problems that are valid for the whole country and do not fall within the competence of local authorities: the tax system, low and unprofitable credit, etc.

The few investors who had developed local businesses in recent years, especially in the clothing sector, have started to move to countries that offer cheaper production costs (taxes, labour, utilities, etc.).

But there are also issues related either to the efficiency of their own management or to possible public actions to support the business environment. Vaslui County's wage incomes are low and this, together with the very high unemployment rate and the very high number of welfare recipients, contributes to maintaining a very low level of purchasing power. This creates a vicious circle, with companies offering low wages but suffering from low local demand. In addition, the unmotivated wage level creates a shortage of skilled labour. For example, most young university graduates rule out the option of returning to the county to build a career.

The outlook is equally bleak, with high school students almost in corpore declaring that they do not want to return to the county after completing their higher education, the main reasons given being the lack of jobs and the salary level.

A seemingly paradoxical situation is related to the two business centres in the county, in Vaslui municipality and in Bârlad municipality, both with generous spaces and modern technical conditions. Although their offer is much more advantageous than most similar services available to the business community, their occupancy rate is still far below expectations. (As for the Tutova Business Centre in Bârlad, activity is expected to be boosted by the construction of the future ring road of the city.)

The conclusions of the local business consultations are that the existence of these centres is known, but not their offer. It is therefore assumed that the business community is insufficiently informed.

Moreover, information is a general problem observed in the local business environment, especially regarding the opportunities that can be exploited (non-reimbursable funds, access to markets, technology, etc.). In addition, local entrepreneurs, most of whom are also managers of their own businesses, need to acquire essential knowledge about efficient (modern) methods of managing and developing a business. In general terms, the local entrepreneurial culture is poorly developed. One factor that can boost collaboration between the private and public sectors is communication in terms of identifying and solving problems effectively.

The county's economy is highly dependent on the public sector (public administration, education, health, social assistance), which generates a quarter of gross value added, 5 percentage points more than the regional average and 10 percentage points more than the national average;

Although Vaslui County is perceived as an agricultural county, in terms of the landscape and the occupational structure of the rural population, agriculture generates just over 10% of value added, less than real estate transactions (land sales, houses), trade and accommodation and food services, and manufacturing. This can be explained by the fact that much of the county's agricultural production is carried out within the informal framework of subsistence farming, oriented not towards the market but towards ensuring the self-consumption and subsistence of the inhabitants;

Economic activities closely linked to the purchasing power of the inhabitants and companies (such as trade, professional and business support services, financial intermediation) have lower shares than the regional and national average, due to the higher poverty rate and the low development of entrepreneurship;

Economic sectors that rely on highly skilled labour, such as IT&C services or creative industries, have an extremely low share in the county's economy, amidst the migration of talent to university centres and other countries, leading to a vicious circle of underdevelopment.

### **I.3.6. PESTEL analysis at county level. Vaslui**

#### **POLITICAL FACTOR**

A first political factor that affects/may affect the development of Vaslui County refers to the link between the political parties in government and the political structures that administer the territorial units within the county. In Vaslui the most represented political party is the Social Democratic Party, followed by the National Liberal Party. There is a risk that this may create some tension between the central and local administrations. Possible misunderstandings that may arise between the aforementioned entities may harm the public interest of all citizens, including the people of Vaslui. Another political factor that may influence the development of Vaslui County is the political crisis that has characterised Romania in recent years. Its correlations with economic development have often been demonstrated, as it is known that moments of maximum tension on the political scene have led, for example, to the depreciation of the exchange rate.

Other problems that may arise are: legislative instability, decrease in foreign investment, favouring of direct party interests to the detriment of the public interest, blocking of government programmes and objectives, etc. Political instability at national level may lead to early elections which would have indirect effects on the development of Vaslui County.

Decentralization of public services implies not only the transfer of authority and responsibilities from the central public administration to the local public administration in Vaslui County, but also the transfer of related funding sources to ensure the proper functioning of these services.

Last but not least, the budget salary reform also has implications for Vaslui County. The reduction of the local public administration apparatus, but also of budget salaries by 25%, has multiple implications for Vaslui as well: decrease in purchasing power, increase in the number of unemployed, increase in labour migration, etc.

Other political factors that may affect the development of Vaslui County are: national and international pressure groups (lobby), military conflicts, Romania's accession to the Schengen area, Romania's membership in various international alliances or organizations, etc.

From an education point of view, the political factor can influence:

-the legislative framework specific to education which provides for decentralisation and autonomy of the education system -the strategic plan of the Ministry of Education and Research with the priorities: decentralisation, quality assurance, human resources, lifelong learning, flexible educational provision, accessibility to education, cultural diversity, European standards, digitalisation, especially in the current context created by the COVID pandemic<sup>19</sup>;

-the proximity of the school to the community by adopting favourable political decisions in administration and financing and the existence of development strategies that exploit the potential of the educational units - Vaslui County Development Strategy 2013-2020, N-E Region Development Strategy for the period 2013-2020, PRAI, PLAI;

-the shift of interest in management from control to self-assessment, evaluation and advice;

-liberalisation of some sectors and areas of activity, as well as the existence of programmes at government level with an impact on educational activity (book and textbook market, procurement of teaching materials, staff training programmes);

-the existence of strategies to adapt the Romanian education system to European and international standards;



- legislative framework conducive to attracting additional financial resources for the development of education infrastructure - Programmes for financing pre-university education;
- provision of material and information resources to educational establishments through projects and programmes financed by the Romanian state or by European bodies - programmes for equipping laboratories and cabinets, sports equipment, improvement of the book fund, SEI (computerised educational system);
- funding by the state of social assistance programs for students - the governmental program "High School Grants", the "Euro 200" program, scholarships for students from the Republic of Moldova and for students capable of performance, etc.;
- existence of teacher training and further training projects and programmes for education and training purposes;
- the legal framework favourable to the access of schools to non-reimbursable European funds.

### **ECONOMIC FACTOR**

After emerging from the serious economic crisis of 2009 - 2011, the economy of Vaslui County is experiencing a revival integrated in the annual economic growth recorded at national level in the last three years. An important economic factor is the level of taxation in Romania, with two categories of tax obligations that businesses must comply with: tax obligations to the state budget and tax obligations to the local budget and especially recent measures to reduce these obligations.

The main tax liabilities to the state budget - corporate tax (flat tax), income tax, value added tax, excise duties (harmonized excise duties, non-harmonized excise duties) - have a significant influence on the socio-economic development of Vaslui County. It is expected that an increase in taxation will lead to a decrease in the number of active enterprises in Vaslui County, a decrease in their turnover and, at the same time, an increase in the unemployment rate. Another important economic factor for Vaslui County is the level of wages.

From this point of view, there has been an increase in the average wage in recent years and, consequently, an increase in consumption. On the other hand, the existence of a minimum wage threshold in the economy and its implications for the economic environment in Vaslui should also be taken into account.

From an education point of view, the economic factor can influence:

- the legal framework that favours the attraction of reimbursable or non-reimbursable funds from various economic agents (donations, sponsorships) as well as partnerships to finance the actions of the education system (internships, scientific research, etc.);
- decentralisation of financial mechanisms for financing education so that schools can make better use of their financial, human and material potential;
- the closer link between school, the economic environment and the business environment ensures to a greater extent the integration of graduates into working life (increased interest of companies in hiring graduates, dual education);
- the current orientation that requires the transfer of the interest of schools towards a culture of projects;
- Labour migration abroad leading to an increased demand for labour from the internal and external market in various skills and professions.

### **SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTOR**

One of the most important socio-cultural factors influencing the development of Vaslui County is the demographic evolution. The period after 1989 was marked by a strong downward trend, exacerbated by the lack of a concrete demographic policy. At

national level there are a number of measures to stimulate the birth rate, but these are counterbalanced by the economic difficulties faced by young people.

Another social factor that also affects demographic change is external migration. It is now predicted that with the increase in the number of unemployed, salary cuts in the budget and staff reductions, the number of specialists going abroad will increase significantly.

This is also a major problem for Vaslui County as there is a shortage of skilled labour. Obviously, the effects of migration are not only economic, but also social: an increase in the number of single-parent families, an increase in school dropouts, an increase in the crime rate among young people, an increase in the divorce rate, etc.

The axiological system of the Romanians as a socio-cultural factor influencing the development of Vaslui County must also be taken into account. The change in the value system of the population in recent times, as well as in the role models, attitudes and behaviour of the population, is being increasingly discussed.

The attitude of the population towards cultural values/elements should also be taken into account, as well as the interest of central public authorities in developing cultural infrastructure and modernising cultural heritage.

Last but not least, a social factor affecting the development of Vaslui County is the social assistance policy.

From the point of view of education, the socio-cultural factor can influence:

- demographic changes which in turn influence the enrolment figures of educational establishments such as;
- increasing number of single-parent families, increasing school drop-out rates, increasing youth crime rates, increasing divorce rates;
- educational offer (profiles and specialisations in which schools provide training) which is dependent on changes in the labour market and in the system of professional absorption;
- community expectations of the school;
- trade union and civil society involvement that changes institutional development objectives;
- increasing community demand for adult education and lifelong learning programmes that transform educational institutions into educational service providers.

### **TECHNOLOGICAL FACTOR**

Research funding, the level of technological endowment, the rate of renewal of technological products, information and communication technology, access to fast electronic communication networks, are factors that fundamentally influence the development of Vaslui County.

In Romania, funding for research and development has decreased with the onset of the global economic crisis. The lack of investment in this area has repercussions on all fields, leading to a major break with global trends in science and technology.

Thus, an important technological factor is public R&D funding. Of course, the territorial distribution of R&D institutes and companies is also important, with most of them currently located in the Bucharest/Ifov Region. Another factor influencing the development of Vaslui County is the technology regulations in force.

For a county where the main economic sectors are industry and agriculture, any legislative change requiring the application of a certain technological process will have a significant impact. Imposing the introduction of advanced technologies in various socio-economic sectors will improve the county's economic competitiveness and energy consumption.

Technology is a driving force for all economic sectors, which is why special public policies are needed to develop ICT. At national level, according to the National Institute of Statistics, the share of households with access to a computer at home stands at 42.2%, 20.6% more than the previous year. The share of households with internet access is 35.1%. The involvement of the ICT sector and the development of the information society in Romania is therefore another factor influencing Vaslui County. However, the price of technologies and the extent to which the public, public institutions and the economy can afford new technologies is also important. It is well known that the introduction of technological innovations involves high acquisition and familiarisation costs for the population and/or workforce, a situation in which the high level of poverty in Vaslui County is a major disadvantage.

From an education point of view, the technological factor can influence:

- the evolution of the information civilisation, which requires knowledge to be updated at relatively short intervals, and requires the resizing of the teacher training system;
- the spread of modern communication and computing technologies (internet, cable TV, mobile telephony, etc.) which facilitate the transmission of information in a short time;
- high rate of scientific and technological progress which forces individuals to learn throughout their lives, and which implies a refreshing of professional knowledge at every career step;
- generalization of innovative educational practices (e-learning, distance learning, blended learning) leading to the modernization of the traditional educational act;
- the emergence of virtual schools and e-learning spaces and the provision of training and education in their use.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR**

Environmental factors can affect the development of the county, all the more so as one of the main activities of the population is agriculture (in particular subsistence farming). Under these conditions, extreme weather events can pose a threat to agricultural productivity and beyond.

Public policy and legislation in this area must also be considered. For example, one of the most important programmes implemented in recent months is the National Car Fleet Renewal Incentive Programme ("Rabla"), which also aims to reduce pollution caused by cars. Such public policies also have an impact on the development of Vaslui County, not only from an environmental point of view, but also from a social and economic point of view. An important environmental factor is the legislative framework, the European / global regulations on environmental protection, rules that must be respected and Romania.

From an education point of view, the environmental factor can influence:

- integration into the European Union, which requires schools to comply with specific environmental protection rules;
- environmental education in educational establishments becoming a priority;
- involving schools in tackling environmental problems;
- maximum saving of heat, electricity, water, etc. to protect the environment.

### **LEGISLATIVE FACTOR**

With Romania's accession to the EU, the European legislation in force is a constraint that must also be taken into account by our country. It is necessary to take into account all treaties, international agreements, legislation in force and preparatory acts in all areas of interest.

Among the most important documents to be considered are the European Constitution, the Treaty of Accession of Romania to the EU and the EU Treaties

(Treaty of Lisbon, Treaty of Nice, Treaty of Amsterdam, etc.). Another legal factor is national legislation, with the amendments and additions that may arise.

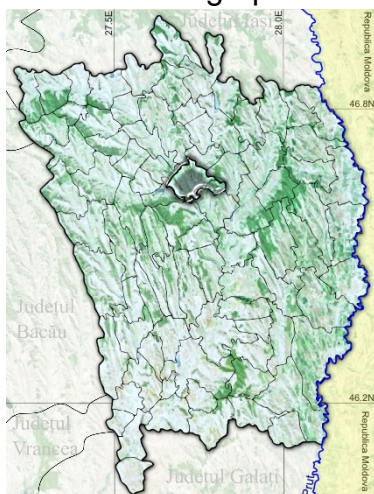
From the point of view of education, the legislative factor can bring an element that would have a significant impact on the socio-economic development of Vaslui County and implicitly on the educational system, namely the adoption of the law on public-private partnerships. These are a generally recommended and promoted solution for solving problems or making public services more efficient. The adoption of a law on public-private partnerships can increase the number of investors in the county, strengthening the local business environment, but also the development of other sectors of the community: education, culture, health, etc. Since 2011 the National Education Law has been in force, but the implementation of its provisions is very cumbersome because it requires the development of more than 100 methodologies and application instructions. In the last three years this law has undergone multiple amendments, trying to bring it in line with the reality of the Romanian education system. We believe that the legislation relating to the education system should be more explicit, take into account the realities in all areas of the country and be immediately applicable. This would lead to a reduction in the large number of MEC orders, clarifications and notes.

The normative acts issued at county level contribute to the better functioning of educational institutions in Vaslui County, favouring the partnership of the IŞJ with other deconcentrated units, with local administration bodies and community relations.

### **I.3.7.Municipality of Vaslui**

#### **I.3.7.1.Geographical position. Brief history.**

##### **I.3.7.1.1 Geographical location**



Vaslui is the county seat of Vaslui County, Moldova, Romania. It is located 70 km south of Iasi, at coordinates 46°38'18" north latitude and 27°43'45" east longitude. The administrative territory of the municipality also includes Bahnari, Brodoc, Moara Grecilor, Reditu, Viişoara. Vaslui municipality is bordered by the communes of Zăpodeni to the north, Bălteni to the north-west, Puşcaşi to the west, Lipovăţ to the south-west, Muntenii de Jos to the south, Tanacu to the east, Muntenii de Sus to the north.

##### **I.3.7.1.2.Brief history**

A distinct entity in the history of Romania and Moldova's glorious past, Vaslui was a reference point on the trade route linking the cities of the Baltic Sea to those of the Danube, and from there to the Black Sea settlements.

An ancient home of culture and civilization, Vaslui still preserves priceless treasures of beauty and spirituality from the past. From the first archaeological testimonies from the Paleolithic, to those from the Iron Age and then to those from the Geto-Dacian and Dacian-Roman period, to the formation of the Romanian people - all discovered in the areas of Reditu, Brodoc, Industrială, Spitalul Nou and "Curţile Domneşti", Vaslui demonstrates its appreciable antiquity, as well as the creative continuity of the local population.

About the great events - which marked important moments in the medieval history of Vaslui - we are told by chronicles and internal documents from Moldova, but also by foreign travelers who passed through here.

Its first documentary mention dates from 31 March 1423, when it is mentioned "pan Serbea from Vaslui". The fact that Vaslui was an important strategic political-military and commercial centre led the descendants of Alexander the Good to choose it in 1435 as their royal residence and even as the capital of the Lower Country of Moldavia, building the "St. John the Baptist" royal church here (1490). After his death, the settlement declined and the existing buildings fell into ruin. In the 16th-18th centuries, the peace of the town was often disturbed by the cruel incursions of the Tatars. In the 19th century, the town was reborn again, thanks to the cultural contribution of various ethnic groups (Greeks, Turks, Hungarians, Jews, Serbs, Poles, Bulgarians, Russians, Lipovenes) who lived peacefully with the locals.

In the modern and contemporary eras, whole generations of town councillors, scholars, philanthropists, men of culture and, especially, teachers of Vaslui worked on its residency, contributing to the crystallization of an autochthonous spirit and to the affirmation of the city beyond the borders of the county. After the ideas of the Revolution of 1848 found a wide echo among the inhabitants of Vaslui - through the propaganda activity of the cultural society "Patriotic Association" - the achievement of the Union of the Principalities in 1859 was a defining stage in the modern development of the city, the outstanding local personalities (Mihail Kogălniceanu, Teodor Rosetti, Anastasie Panu, Theodor Rășcanu, Vasile Mălinescu, Ioan Racliș, Teodor and Gheorghe Sion) were enthusiastically involved in the materialization of this national desideratum.

During the War of Independence (1877 - 1878), the famous sergeant Peneș Curcanul (in fact, Constantin Țurcanu) from Vaslui and the soldiers of the 13th Dorobanți Regiment distinguished themselves through acts of bravery, and the names of General Ioan Rășcanu and Marshal Constantin Prezan are linked to the War of National Reintegration (1916-1918). The Union of 1 December 1918 was also celebrated in Vaslui, with the inhabitants rejoicing at the creation of the Romanian national unitary state. Participating in the Second World War, the local 25th Racova Infantry Regiment inscribed a new page of glory in the history book of the homeland.

The establishment of the communist regime was a defining stage for the city of Vaslui, which became the seat of the current county in 1968, including the former counties of Fălciu and Tutova. For this reason, it was to experience not only an expansion and modernization of the urban perimeter or excessive industrialization, but also a flourishing economic and social development, in line with the newly acquired status.

### **I.3.7.2.Natural setting**

#### **I.3.7.2.1.Terrain**

Vaslui Municipality is located on the Bârlad valley, in the confluence area of the Vasluiet and Racova rivers, in the contact area between the Tutovei Hills and the Central Moldovan Plateau. The average altitude is 110 m. The relief conditions, represented by terraces of 10 - 20 m suitable for construction, bordered by the marshy valley at the confluence of the rivers Bârlad, Vaslui and Racova, have built a real natural barrier against attacks from outside. It can be said that the factors that

determined the emergence of the town in this place are both natural and social-economic.

The relief consists of interfluves separated by wide valleys, accompanied by well-developed terraces and slopes with intense geomorphological processes, especially landslides. Geographical and historical conditions have led to a strong economic gap between the North-East Region, of which Vaslui County is a part, and the counties of Bacau, Botosani, Iasi, Neamt, Suceava and the other regions of the country.

#### I.3.7.2.2. Climate

The city's climate is temperate-continental with regions of foothills. The thermal regime measured over a period of one hundred years (1896 - 1996) shows the following:

- ✓ average annual temperature of 14.3 °C, close to the national average of 10.5 °C;
- ✓ the transition from cold to warm season and vice versa is sudden;
- ✓ there are large temperature differences between March and May (12.5 °C - 13.2 °C);
- ✓ the number of days with frost (120) and the number of days with temperatures above 30° (70);
- ✓ In recent years, minimum and maximum temperatures even exceed  $\pm 35$  °C.

The wind regime highlights the dominance of the N-NW and S-SE currents. This has a direct influence on the rainfall regime which is poor during the months of November to March, when E and NE winds are more frequent and richer in the other months of the year when the frequency of N and even SW winds increases. High precipitation amounts fall in the warm period of the year, with highs recorded in May and June (multi-year average of 80.7 mm). The snow cover varies in thickness from 12.2 to 33.6 cm.

#### I.3.7.2.3. Hydrography

Vaslui's hydrographic network includes the Vaslui, Bârlad and Delea rivers, plus an autochthonous hydrographic network (their tributaries).

- ✓ Solești Reservoir - located in the Vasluiet river meadow, upstream of Vaslui municipality, with an area of 414 ha and a total volume of 46.89 million cubic meters;
- ✓ Pușcași reservoir - located in the Racova river meadow, in the western part of Vaslui municipality, area - 296 ha and a total volume of 17.49 million cubic meters;
- ✓ Delea Reservoir - located on the Delea River, 2 km north of Vaslui municipality, occupies an area of 13 ha and has a total volume of 2.42 million cubic meters;

These reservoirs are managed by the Water Management System. The administrative territory of the municipality covers an area of 6844.25 ha, of which 4963.04 ha is agricultural land.

The network is represented by groundwater that is unevenly distributed and has low and surface flows (the groundwater table is at 10 - 15 m). During summer and winter the river waters decrease, but the water deficit for the city is covered by the reservoirs at Puskas and Solești, respectively by pumping from the Prut River.

#### I.3.7.2.4. Vegetation and fauna

The flora and fauna are specific to the forest-steppe area. Characteristic of the forest is the presence of forests, where the downy oak (*Quercus pubescens*), the scrub oak (*Quercus pedunculiflora*), the yew and the elm are common. Forests occupy a small area (about 8000 ha.) in Vaslui. They are grouped in two main massifs: one at Chițoc - Lipovăț - Oprișița (about 6000 ha.) and the second at Bălteni - Mărășeni (about 600 ha.). In the past the forests occupied a larger area which has been continuously

reduced over the years. The remaining documents from the reign of Stephen the Great mention "Codrii Vasluiului" and "Codrii Racovei", which in time were abolished. Among the stands of trees found in the existing forests we mention: beech (*Fagus silvatica*), pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*), lime (*Tilia tomentosa*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) and other species of plants. Natural grasslands and meadows cover an area of approximately 1000 ha. and are located along the main river valleys and slopes affected by geographical phenomena.

In the forests and on the hills there are many animals that are part of the game fund: wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), hare (*Lepus europaeus*).

#### 1.3.7.2.5. Soils

Soil resources are represented by several types of soils, mainly cernozones. The forest grey soils are found on low and medium unforested hills, mostly long deforested.

#### 1.3.7.2.6. Natural resources

Natural resources are all the natural elements of the environment that can be used for human activity: *non-renewable resources* - minerals and fossil fuels and *renewable resources* - water, air, soil, flora, wildlife, including *inexhaustible resources* - solar, wind, geothermal and wave energy.

The principle of sustainable development requires a style of management and stewardship of natural resources that must meet the vital needs of society now and create the conditions for future generations to live.

The harmonious development of Vaslui in all fields, the rational exploitation of natural resources on ecological principles, will ensure the preservation and durability of all natural beauties, of the rich natural heritage of Vaslui, as well as of the entire information treasure.

In Vaslui, non-renewable natural resources are not very varied and are represented by building materials (loess clays and clays, clay limestones, sand from riverbeds, calcareous sandstones, yellowish, greyish sandstones) and sulphurous and ferruginous mineral waters from the springs of Drânceni, Murgeni, Pungești, Gura Văii. Renewable resources can recover if they are not overvalued and if they are used wisely. They are vital for the economic and social development of human society. Although renewable and highly diversified, they are nevertheless limited. In Vaslui the most important renewable resources are: flora, fauna, soils and water resources.

### 1.3.7.3. Demographics

#### 1.3.7.3.1. Numerical evolution of the population

According to the 2011 Population Census, the population is 55,407, down from 70,571 in the previous census in 2002. Vaslui is the 40th largest city in Romania.

The first period of demographic revival began in the 15th century and ended in the 19th century with the arrival of large numbers of Jews from Galicia. During this period the city of Vaslui, being located at the crossroads of important trade routes and in a region with few urban settlements, soon came to play an important role in the social and political life of Moldavia. In addition to Moldovans, a significant number of Jews, Armenians and Greeks settled in Vaslui. Between 1830 and 1899, 3142 inhabitants were registered in the catagraphs. The first period ends around 1899 with the arrival of a large number of Jews, reaching 37% of the population of the town.

The second period of demographic development (1900 - 1930) corresponds to the economic boom, which is reflected in the emergence of small industries that exploit local raw materials. The first scientifically based census was taken in 1912, when the town had 10,397 inhabitants. In 1930 the number rose to 13,827 inhabitants. The

period of population growth was short, followed by 35 years of slow population growth, with periods of decline during the world wars.

- ✓ In 1941 - 13,923 inhabitants;
- ✓ In 1948 - 13,738 inhabitants;
- ✓ In 1956 - 15,197 inhabitants;
- ✓ In 1966 - 17,591 inhabitants.

The third step in the demographic evolution begins in 1968, with the implementation of the administrative-territorial reform, when Vaslui became the county capital.

- ✓ In 1968 - 17,960 inhabitants;
- ✓ In 1970 - 22,825 inhabitants;
- ✓ In 1980 - 46,181 inhabitants;
- ✓ In 1990 - 74,615 inhabitants;
- ✓ In 1992 - 80,614 inhabitants.

According to the 2011 census, Vaslui municipality has a population of 55,407 inhabitants. Between 2002 and 2011, Vaslui lost 27.8% of its population.

#### I.3.7.3.2. Population structure

The majority of the inhabitants are Romanians (53.678%), with a minority of Roma (1.19%) and a minority of Lipovanian (0.06%). For 0.12% of the population, ethnicity is unknown. In terms of religion, the majority of the inhabitants are Orthodox (53.758%). For 9.29% of the population, the religious affiliation is not known.

#### I.3.7.3.3 Population dynamics

In relation to the demographic dynamics, the natural movement and especially the birth rate highlight the demographic peculiarities of Vaslui, with very large variations. Between 1890 and 1916 the birth rate varied between 310 and 380 inhabitants per year, it dropped during the First World War to 223 in 1916 and remained low until 1920.

Another period of decline corresponds to the Second World War (1941-1944) of 200 inhabitants, the demographic crisis is prolonged due to drought in the years 1945 - 1946.

If we refer to the structure of the population, after the census of 15 March 1946, in the city of Vaslui, the Romanian ethnic group represented 99% of the population, a structure that has been broadly maintained until today. Existing documents attest to the presence of other ethnic groups over the centuries. Thus, in the 15th century, there are allochthonous populations. The Catholic missionary Marco Bandini (Latinized - Bandinius), mentioned in 1646, the presence of Hungarian Catholics 20 years earlier, in 1626. With 300 houses at the beginning, and due to attacks by the Poles, Bandini finds only 16 Hungarian Catholics. Also mentioned are approx. 400 Armenians. Their presence in these places dates back to 1418, when Alexander the Good colonised Moldova with 3000 Armenians brought from Poland. Their main occupation was trade. Their numbers began to decline after 1439, following the invasions of the Tatars and the destruction of the city.

Another ethnic group that engaged in trade were the Jews. They are mentioned in documents as early as 1525. In small numbers at first, their numbers increased considerably after 1838 with the massive influx from Galicia. During the boom period of trade (1869-1899), the number of Jews reached 3742 inhabitants. The Lipovans who came from Russia before 1880 occupied the places on the outskirts of the town and are still engaged in gardening. The Roma settled on the outskirts of the city in the suburbs of Rediu and Brodoc, being the descendants of the old monastery and manor servants.



### **I.3.7.4.Economy**

#### **I.3.7.4.1.Industry**

After a forced industrialization in 1968, Vaslui had a restructured industry, with small and medium-sized enterprises, more flexible and easily adaptable to the requirements of the market economy, with investments in modern equipment and efficient management. The most important firms were in the following sectors: clothing and textiles (70), building materials (56), agri-food industry (44), wood processing (26), construction and machinery, equipment and means of transport (20), chemical industry (7), metallurgical industry (2), energy industry. These include Confecții SA, Textile SA, Moldosin SA, Romatex SA, Vastex SA, Varotex SA, Pancarprod SA, Vasconstruct, SRL (clothing and textiles), Hidrotehnica SA, Hitrom SA, Antrecons-ID SRL, SCIR SA, Conbetas SA, SC Lucrări Drumuri și Poduri SA, Vasconstruct and Fabrica de Cărămizi etc. (construction), Ulvas SA, Ilvas SA, Racova Com Agro Pan SA, Safir SA, Tivas Impex SRL, Vascar SA, Koket SRL, Comcereal SA, Vascovin SA, Prodalcool SA, Cyprinus SA, Pescom SRL, Avicom SA, Fortus SA (agri-food industry), Movas SA, Selvarom SRL and Mobilserco SRL (furniture), Mecanica SA and Badotherm SA (machine building), Stetmar SRL (chemical industry), GazEst SA, Termica SA, E-On (energy industry), etc. Some of these companies are still part of the business environment in Vaslui.

#### **I.3.7.4.2.Transport**

Access to the city of Vaslui is done:

- ✓ Public: by city buses provided by Transurb Vaslui, and by taxis;
- ✓ By rail: via Vaslui railway station, which is crossed by the CFR 600 Făurei - Ungheni main line (border crossing point with the Republic of Moldova, connecting Bucharest and Constanta);
- ✓ Road: on national roads:
  - DN24 Vaslui - Iași (N) and Vaslui - Bârlad (S);
  - DJ248 Vaslui - Iasi (NV);
  - DN2F Vaslui - Bacau (E);
  - DN15D Vaslui - Piatra Neamt (NV).

Also 17 km south-east of the town is the E581 European road.

- ✓ Aerial: The municipality does not have an airport, the nearest airports being at Iași (76 km) and Bacău (89 km).

#### **I.3.7.4.3.Trade**

Vasluian commerce has grown through the creation of shopping centres such as Silver Mall, Penny, Kaufland, Lidl, Altex, Dedeman, Flanco, Big, Winmarkt Mall. In addition to these, there are the agri-food companies mentioned above (which sell their industrialised products) and other smaller outlets. Restaurants also play an important role, including Crismona, Racova, Vaslui, Vecchia Roma, Aroma, Stil, Copou, Casa di Maria, Vascar, Hitrom, Classic, Tosca, Everset, La Livada, Crama Domnească, etc.

#### **I.3.7.4.4.Tourism**

The Vaslui Municipal Centre for Tourist Information and Promotion is currently concentrating on details of tourist, leisure and recreational opportunities in Vaslui, the county and the region of Moldova, and is also initiating attractive projects.

Vaslui is an important link on the eastern border of the European Union. There are several tourist accommodation units - with a capacity of 412 places, the area is visited annually by more than 50,000 overnight tourists. The hotels Racova and Vaslui, the motels Petrom, Everest, La Livada, together with the guesthouses Tosca, Youth Hostel and Enigma, the tourist rest stop Cișmeaua Moldovencei and the camp for children and students Poiana Căprioarei are worth mentioning. The most important

tourist attractions in Vaslui are: the archaeological site "Curțile Domnești", churches, architectural monuments and statues, cultural institutions, Copou Park, etc. Through the travel agencies OTT, Saiz Tours, Eurolines, etc. tourists can also get to know the idyllic world of the surrounding villages, they can visit the nature reserves "Movila lui Burcel", the "Rupturile" coast in Tanacu, the Plopul de la Rafaila, the Bălteni forest, the bridge at Căntălărești, the monumental ensemble "Podul Inalt" at Băcăoani, the village museums at Dănești and Tăcuta, the manor houses at Pribești, Solești and Schinetea.

### Historical monuments and sites

- ✓ The princely church "The Cutting of the Head of St. John the Baptist" - located near the Mihai Eminescu Secondary School no. 6, was founded by Stephen the Great;
- ✓ The Orthodox Church of Saints Constantine and Helen and Saint Mina;
- ✓ The Orthodox Church "The Assumption of the Mother of God" - located near Hotel Vaslui, founded by Stephen the Great in 1490. In 1859 the place of worship was burned down. In the same year Neculai Hagi Chiriac started to build the present church and it was finished by his nephew Dimitrie Castroian and became the Cathedral of the city. It is built in neoclassical style with Russian influence;
- ✓ Orthodox Church "Saints Arch. Mihail and Gavriil" - built in 1998 in Moldavian style;
- ✓ Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Eternity Cemetery;
- ✓ The Mausoleum of Penès the Turkey - built in 1934, it was made of marble, stone and bronze, erected in memory of the Vasluian heroes who fought in the War of Independence and the First World War;
- ✓ Independence Monument in Independence Square;
- ✓ Monument "The Heroes of Vaslui fallen for the unification of the nation" - in front of the Army House;
- ✓ Monument to the Heroes fallen in World War II - located opposite Mihail Kogălniceanu High School;

### Archaeological remains

- ✓ The Earth Fortress - located on Paiului Hill 2.5 km southwest of the town;
- ✓ The archaeological site "Curtea Domnească" - represents an archaeological complex of the type of a manor house, dating from the 15th century to the 19th century. It is located next to the royal church "The Cutting of the Head of St. John the Baptist". The park covers an area of 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

### Cultural institutions, museums

- ✓ Mavrocordat House - was built at the end of the 19th century (1892) by Gheorghe Mavrocordat. Today it houses the Children's Palace;
- ✓ Ghica House - the oldest secular building in Vaslui, belonging to Elena Ghica, sister of the last ruler of Moldavia - Grigore Ghica, built in the early 19th century;
- ✓ Vaslui Palace of Justice - located next to the Independence Monument, built at the end of the 19th century (1891);
- ✓ The Mădărjac and Ornescu houses - built in the 19th century;
- ✓ The "Constantin Tănase" Syndicate Culture House - built in 1972 with a 575-seat auditorium. The "Constantin Tănase" Humour Festival is held here every year at the beginning of October, as well as all the other important cultural events of the city during the rest of the year;
- ✓ County Library "Nicolae Milescu Spătarul";

- ✓ County Museum "Stefan cel Mare" - the museum includes sections of archaeology, medieval and contemporary history, ethnography, contemporary plastic art and a humor salon "Constantin Tănase";
- ✓ Mihail Kogalniceanu Gymnasium - built between 1890 and 1893, (today "Constantin Parfene" Gymnasium School No. 3);
- ✓ Normal School for Boys - 1926 (today the Pneumophthisiology Department).

#### **Architectural monuments, statues and busts**

- ✓ Statuary ensemble - near Vaslui Prefecture;
- ✓ Bas-relief with moments of the struggle for independence - from Independence Square;
- ✓ Bust of Alecu Russo, by sculptor Dan Covătaru;
- ✓ Bust of writers Costache Negri, Ion Creanga, Mihai Eminescu, Vasile Alecsandri;
- ✓ The bust of Nicolae Milescu Spătarul near the County Library;
- ✓ Bronze bust of Mihail Kogalniceanu - located in front of the Mihail Kogalniceanu Theoretical High School. Made by sculptor Gheorghe Alupoiaie in 1997;
- ✓ Bust of General Ioan Rășcanu - located in Mihail Kogălniceanu Park at the intersection of Mihail Kogălniceanu Street and Nicolae Iorga Street. Made by sculptor Gheorghe Alupoiaie;
- ✓ Bronze statue "Victoria" - located between the Army House and the Mavrocordat Palace, inaugurated on 24 June 1925;
- ✓ Statue of Stephen the Great in the Civic Square - made of bronze by sculptor Iftimie Bârleanu, the statue was unveiled in 1972.

#### **Ethnography and folklore**

- ✓ The Craftsmen's Fair - takes place every year at the beginning of September;
- ✓ In 2003 the cultural-artistic band "Rapsodia Vasluiului" was founded;
- ✓ The instrumental brass band group "Rotaria" was founded in 2001 at the initiative of professor and conductor Romeo Tălmăciu;
- ✓ Fantasia is a choral group from Vaslui county and is conducted by Vasile Negură, a music teacher at secondary school. The choral group Fantasia was created in 1995 by teacher Vasile Negură.

#### **I.3.7.5.SWOT analysis at local community level**

<b>SWOT analysis</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vaslui's role as county seat and polarizing centre;</li> <li>- Residential areas are growing</li> <li>- The infant mortality rate followed a negative trend;</li> <li>- Modernization of the main roads in Vaslui municipality;</li> <li>- The existence of a network of bicycle lanes on upgraded streets;</li> <li>- The existence of parks, pedestrian-only areas and modern public spaces;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negative evolution of the urban population;</li> <li>- The marked demographic ageing trend;</li> <li>- The birth rate is decreasing and the death rate is increasing; current trends predict a negative natural increase in the medium term;</li> <li>- Divorce rates on the rise, especially as one partner migrates to work abroad;</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Availability of a modern video surveillance system for public areas in the municipality;</li> <li>- Modern infrastructure and modern facilities available at the County Emergency Hospital;</li> <li>- Extension and modernization of some social day centres in Vaslui municipality;</li> <li>- Existence of active local units with tradition (e.g. Vascar, Safir, Mopan, etc.);</li> <li>- The existence of the County Emergency Information and Preparedness Centre;</li> <li>- The possibility of practicing different types of non-traditional tourism, from religious to scientific cultural tourism;</li> <li>- The existence of events of folkloric value;</li> <li>- The existence of the Tourist Information Centre within the Vaslui County Council;</li> <li>- Continued development and diversification of social services for children;</li> <li>- Developing rehabilitation services for adults;</li> <li>- Large number of qualified teachers;</li> <li>- Training of teachers and support teachers for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in mainstream education;</li> <li>- Outstanding results obtained by students from Vaslui at international school competitions;</li> <li>- High quality of teaching (reflected in the very good results of students in national and international competitions);</li> <li>- Establishment of the SMURD emergency response services within the ISU;</li> <li>- Existence of specialised services and emergency services (UPU, CPU) in hospitals;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The migratory movement of the population has a negative effect on the population in the urban area of Vaslui, as a result of a slightly increasing negative balance in the last five years (both migration to other counties for a higher standard of living, but also to the countryside);</li> <li>- Lack of a ring road within the municipality;</li> <li>- Very low level of foreign investment;</li> <li>- Very low share of IT, R&amp;D, R&amp;D-innovation;</li> <li>- High number of parents working abroad;</li> <li>- Lack of service housing in territorial profile for medical specialists;</li> <li>- Some of the cultural objectives are in an advanced state of decay, requiring immediate intervention;</li> <li>- The non-existence of a theatre in Vaslui;</li> <li>- Parking shortage in Vaslui municipality and inefficient management of existing parking spaces;</li> <li>- The very high proportion of housing located in blocks built during the communist period in Vaslui municipality, with low energy efficiency, untidy appearance, low comfort and limited and poor quality adjacent spaces;</li> <li>- The existence of abandoned or partially abandoned industrial areas;</li> <li>- The physical and moral wear and tear of the educational infrastructure in the municipality, the shortage of nurseries, kindergartens and sports facilities;</li> <li>- Decreasing interest of secondary school graduates in vocational education in favour of theoretical secondary education and insufficient adaptation of theoretical training to employers' requirements;</li> <li>- Insufficient number of hospital beds compared to the addressability</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The existence of traditional cultural institutions (County Museum, House of Culture, County Library, Summer Theatre, etc.);</li> <li>- The existence of a rich cultural history;</li> <li>- The existence of cultural sites of particular importance (archaeological site, museum, historical monuments, etc.);</li> <li>- Existence of a valuable book collection likely to be part of the heritage (e.g. books from Vaslui Museum and County Library);</li> <li>- The existence of partnerships between cultural institutions and educational establishments;</li> <li>- The existence of professional folklore ensembles.</li> </ul>	<p>registered at the Vaslui County Emergency Hospital, including the UPU, leading to overcrowding of the existing infrastructure and staff;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The very high shortage of highly educated medical staff (doctors) and middle-level medical staff (nurses, auxiliary staff) in public health units, leading to a staffing load well above standard limits;</li> <li>- Heavy car traffic is the main source of noise pollution in Vaslui Municipality, with values exceeding the maximum permitted values on several roads;</li> <li>- The low tourist traffic in the Vaslui Metropolitan Area, the low share of foreign tourists and the very short length of stay of visitors, which does not allow the HORECA sector to develop.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European non-reimbursable funds for Sustainable Urban Development (rehabilitation of infrastructure and improvement of urban services);</li> <li>- The existence of the First Home Programme which helps young families to buy or build their own home;</li> <li>- Updating the General Urban Plans;</li> <li>- The existence of Iasi and Bacau International Airports at a distance of 73 km and 76 km respectively (one hour drive);</li> <li>- European funds supporting the development of the entrepreneurial environment;</li> <li>- Developing the environment to support and sustain the local economy of Vaslui;</li> <li>- Cheap and skilled labour can lead to the creation of new businesses;</li> <li>- Existence of waste electrical and electronic equipment collection initiatives among the population;</li> <li>- The possibility of developing partnerships between local public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The economic crisis and lack of jobs may result in migration from urban to rural areas of the county;</li> <li>- Skilled labor migration out of the county and across borders;</li> <li>- The mismatch between labour supply and demand;</li> <li>- Rising inflation and rising unemployment lead to a decline in the purchasing power of goods and services among the population;</li> <li>- Insufficient concern of economic operators for packaging reuse;</li> <li>- Low level of education of the population on separate waste collection;</li> <li>- The economic crisis may lead to labour repatriation, increasing the number of unemployed people in the labour force;</li> <li>- Continuing rise in unemployment;</li> <li>- Unmotivated pay for people with higher and specialist education working in social work;</li> </ul>

<p>authorities and the non-governmental sector;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing public-private partnerships in education and training;</li> <li>- Possibility to take up and adapt good practice models from EU countries on teaching activities;</li> <li>- Possibility of taking up the "After school" best practice model;</li> <li>- International exchanges that can add value to the educational system and the dissemination of Romanian educational experience;</li> <li>- The existence of European funds for the rehabilitation of health and medico-social structures and the corresponding equipment;</li> <li>- Existence of financing projects for the rehabilitation, modernization and equipping of health and medical-social structures;</li> <li>- Development of the private medical environment (development of specialist medical practices);</li> <li>- The possibility of accessing non-reimbursable European funds for cultural activities, including cross-border projects;</li> <li>- Adaptation of the book collection to new technology (acquisition of documents in electronic format);</li> <li>- Computerisation of libraries and library services;</li> <li>- The possibility of promoting cultural objectives by including them in the tourist offer of the county;</li> <li>- Increasing public interest in sport and culture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primary and secondary school enrolment decreasing due to demographic decline;</li> <li>- The negative effects of the increasing ageing and sickness of the population;</li> <li>- The extent of migration of health care workers to other counties and to the European Union;</li> <li>- Migration of talented people to other areas outside the geographical area of Vaslui.</li> </ul>
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### **I.3.8.Municipality of Bârlad**

#### **I.3.8.1.Geographical location. Brief history.**

##### **I.3.8.1.1 Geographical location**

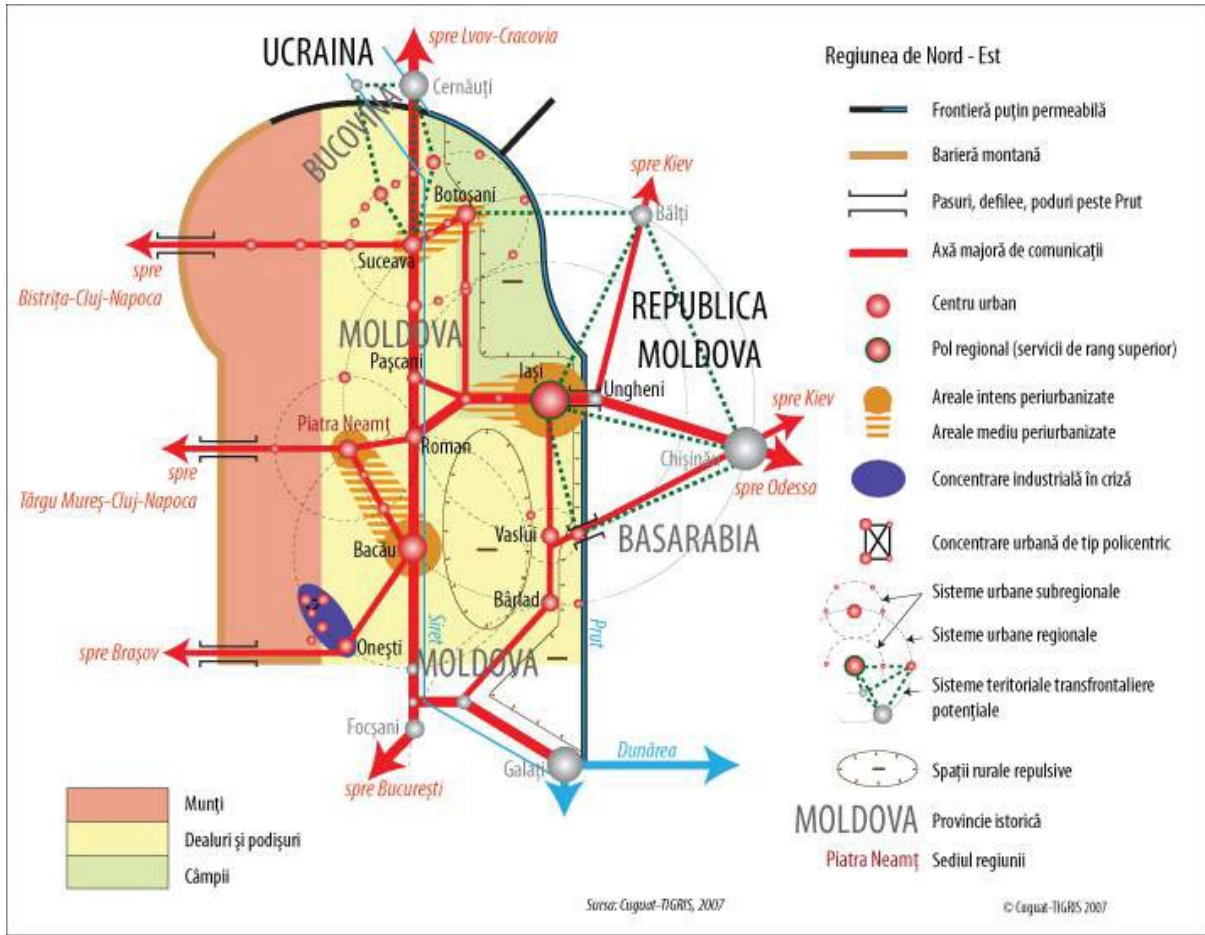
The town of Bârlad is geographically located at the intersection of the parallel of 46°14 north latitude with the meridian of 27°42 east longitude. Within the country it occupies a central-eastern position. In the physico-geographical unit of the Moldavian Plateau, it lies in the contact zone between the Falci Hills to the east and the Tutova Hills to the west. Most of the territory is located in the Bârladului Corridor and on the slopes of the

Crângului and Țuguia Hills, with an area of 1456 ha. In the area there are several confluent valleys: from the east the Popeni, Trestianei and Jăravățului valleys; from the north the Horoiata and Simila valleys; from the north-west the Tutova river. Along the valleys, roads have always been organized, allowing the city good connections with the human settlements in the vicinity and from considerable distances: from the valley of Prut, the Lower Danube, the Siret. Analysing the origin of the locality, the geographer Vintilă Mihăilescu considers Bârlad as a typical valley fair, as a stage town, on the feudal road Iași-Galați, to which is added the connection with other roads, such as those to Fălcui and Bacău. The maximum altitude in the urban area is 172 m and the minimum 89 m.

After 1989, the city entered a new phase of expansion which led to the appearance of new built-up areas. Thus appeared the Deal II housing estate, the School Complex, Țuguia II, the ANL block complex at the foot of the Great Hill.

According to the National Land Use Plan - Section IV, Bârladul is a rank II urban locality, having the status of municipality since 1968.

According to the 2011 Census, Bârladul is the most populated urban centre in Vaslui County, the sixth largest city in the North-East region, after Iași, Bacău, Botoșani, Suceava and Piatra-Neamț, and the 39th/320th largest urban locality at national level. The municipality of Bârlad lies at the intersection of the polarization zones of the 0 and 1 rank municipalities, especially the territorial systems coordinated by Bucharest and Iași, very dynamic cities, but also of Galați, Focșani and Bacă, the latter less attractive in the last two decades due to the severe economic decline. At county level, the polarisation area of the municipality of Bârlad competes with that of Vaslui, which became more prominent between 1968 and 1989, when the county seat moved there. On the other hand, the municipality of Bârlad is surrounded by a vast rural area that is poorly developed, with villages in demographic decline, a population dependent on subsistence farming and a low quality of life.



### **The location of Bârlad municipality within the regional development corridors**

#### **I.3.8.1.2. Brief history**

The current territory of the municipality of Bârlad has been populated, in terms of its favourable living conditions, since prehistoric times. Archaeological finds from the Eneolithic, Iron Age and Bronze Age are proof of this. Since that time, the people of the area have been processing iron ore and deer antlers to make agricultural implements and tools. However, the most marked development of the locality took place in the medieval period, when Bârlad became an important craft centre. The development of the economic function was also accompanied by a political-administrative one, the Byzantine sources indicating the existence here of the capital of the medieval state of Țara Berladnicilor.

In the 15th century, the town was already known as a fair and customs point at the crossroads of the trade routes linking northern Moldavia to the eastern markets and Byzantium. The city's documentary evidence dates from the time of Alexander the Good, more precisely from 1401. An important stage in the city's development was the reign of Stephen the Great, who established here the residence of the vornic of Lower Moldavia, as well as the chancellery.

However, the development of the locality in the medieval period experienced various cycles of growth and recession, influenced especially by the numerous military conflicts in the area and the invasions of the Turks, Tatars, Cossacks, Poles. In the 19th century, the town continued to develop mainly as a commercial and craft centre, but its growth was affected by numerous cataclysms (earthquake of 1802, fire of 1826, etc.).



For this reason, few buildings from before that time remain standing today. The time of the Unification of the Principalities in 1859 had a positive impact on the development of the towns, especially as the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza was born in Bârlad. With almost 30,000 inhabitants around the time of the First World War, Bârlad was the strongest urban centre in the area delimited by the cities of Iași, Bacău and Galați. However, the built environment was modest, with small houses made of mud, with extensive gardens typical of the rural environment, and a few more imposing public buildings, located on a central street, the only paved one. However, it played an important administrative role as the seat of the inter-war county of Tutova. It was only in the 1930s, a period of great national economic growth, that the town began to undergo a wider process of urbanisation, but demographically it stagnated at less than 30. The city's population remained at less than 30,000 inhabitants until the 1950s, also due to the losses of the Second World War, the deportation of the Jews (who represented more than 14% of the population in 1930), the earthquake of 1940, etc. The communist period saw an unprecedented economic and demographic growth for Bârlad, also due to the fact that the first communist leader - Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej - was a son of the city.

In 1952 the town became the residence of the Bârlad region, and one of the largest industrial units of that time, the Bearing Plant, was built here, which played a very important role in the development of the town. Although it lost its status of county seat in 1968, in favour of Vaslui municipality, Bârlad continued to grow, its population reaching 41,000 inhabitants in 1966, 56,000 in 1977, and over 80,000 around 1990. During this period, more than 15,000 apartments were built for the labour force attracted mainly from rural areas, public buildings were erected (educational, health, cultural, social facilities, etc.), the bearing factory was expanded, industrial units were set up in fields such as abrasive products, automation and measuring equipment, textile, yarn and fabric, food products, etc.

After 1989, amidst the gradual transition to a market economy, many of the industrial objectives in the municipality have restricted or even stopped their activity, leading to massive staff layoffs (almost 20,000 employees) and, subsequently, to the massive migration of the workforce in the country and, especially, abroad. As a result, the city's population has shrunk from 80,000 to just 55,000, of whom fewer than 15,000 have jobs. However, the decade since accession to the European Union has brought a major revival of public investment in the city's infrastructure, mostly with European funds, a process that continues today.

Once considered the cultural centre of Lower Moldavia, in competition with Galați, Bârlad has undergone some unexpected changes over the years. George Călinescu, in "The History of Romanian Literature", said of Bârlad that it was a second Weimar, the city of Goethe and Schindler, precisely because of the emulation that existed in the Moldavian fair and for the multitude of people of culture (Al. Vlahuță, V. I. Popa, N. N. Tonitza, George Tutoveanu, G. G. Ursu). Even Eminescu was inspired by these places in 1876 and dedicated the poem "Sus în courtea cea domnească" to them. Bârlad is the only city in the country that has given two heads of state, Al. I. Cuza and Gheorghiu Dej. The city of culture became a "city of the rolling mills" and with the decline of the economy, Bârlad remained only a shadow of its glory years.

### **I.3.8.2. Natural setting**

#### **I.3.8.2.1. Terrain**

Bârlad is defined as the topical geographical region overlapping the plateau unit of the same name, crossed axially by the river of the same name and polarized, in large part, by the city of Bârlad. As a result, three morphological, hydrographical and residential

factors contribute to the attribution of a name which we consider to be appropriate. The region is located between the two north-south oriented river corridors of the Prut and the Siret, and reveals defining landscape features derived from the broad expanse of a lowland relief modelled on soft sedimentary structures (hence the excessive development of erosional processes). Even if the absolute altitude and energy bring it closer to lowland relief, the degree of fragmentation in the surroundings of Bârlad justifies the classification of the relief as hilly.

In the perimeter of the city, the maximum altitude reaches 146 m (Cemetery Hill), and the minimum altitude is 61 m in the Prodana Lake area, in the Bârlad valley. To the north is Țuguiata (mound Țuguiata, 186 m), to the north-west the Crâng Hill (205 m) and to the east the Mare Hill (240 m).

From a geomorphological point of view, the administrative territory of the municipality of Bârlad falls within the subunit of the Central Moldovan Plateau, namely the Bârlad Plateau, which is entirely drained by the hydrographic system of the river of the same name. The Bârlad municipality's hinterland overlaps with the Bârlad Valley/Launch, which in turn is part of the Bârlad Depression (a subunit of the Bârlad Plateau). The region is a collection of low-lying hills, which have the appearance of gently undulating plains at the top, bordered by river valleys. The Bârlad plain, situated at an average altitude of 220-230 m, with a width of between 1.5 and 3 km, has a sandy-clay composition and a specific micro-relief of deserted albs (locally called 'Prutețe'), subsidence micro-depressions, gullies, etc. It has been evolving for several decades under a developed regime, so that, in the current physiognomy, alongside the natural microforms (mostly levelled), there are elements of anthropic origin (dykes, canals) which have

to increase its agricultural usefulness.

#### 1.3.8.2.2. Climate

From a climatic point of view, the municipality of Bârlad is part of the temperate-continental transitional climate, of excessive shade, characteristic of the Moldavian Plateau, due to its geographical position and its wide opening towards continental air masses of Asian origin. Although Bârlad is not a large urban centre, local factors contribute to the particularity of the climatic elements compared to the surrounding areas.

The multiannual average air temperature recorded in Bârlad over the last 40 years has been 9.3° C. The annual air temperature regime has maximum values in July (20.9° C) and minimum values in January (-3.0° C). The multiannual average rainfall is 474 mm, but it varies significantly from year to year as well as from month to month.

The multi-year average number of clear days is 50.6 and the number of days covered is 117.8. The global solar radiation received by this region averages between 117/118 kcal/cm<sup>2</sup>/year (favourable for photovoltaic energy production), but depending on the characteristics of the active surface, there are important differences in the diurnal, seasonal, seasonal and annual regimes. The average annual wind speed is 3.0 m/s. The area often experiences (in about 49% and 35% of the years of data collection respectively) both long periods of drought, especially in summer (July-September), affecting agricultural productivity, and heavy rainfall in a short period of time (especially in spring), leading to temporary flooding.

#### 1.3.8.2.3. Hydrography

The average density of the river network is 0.37 km/km<sup>2</sup>. Vaslui County is crossed by two major rivers: Prut and Bârlad. The Bârlad River, which has its sources in Neamț County (Bear Valley), flows through Vaslui County for 173 km and has as its most important tributaries the Vasluiet, Crasna, Juravățul, Simila and Tutova streams. The

Prut River flows through 160 km of the county's territory with the Elan stream as its most representative tributary. There are numerous natural and man-made lakes in the county, especially in the basins of the main rivers.

The water network on the territory of the municipality of Bârlad belongs to the Bârlad water system, which crosses the administrative territory from north to south. At the Bârlad hydrometric station (on the Bârlad river), the multiannual average flow rate is 4.15 m<sup>3</sup>/s, 42% of which is recorded only in the period March-May, when there is also an increased risk of floods (such as those which occurred in 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1979, 1985 and 1999). In this context, the Bârlad river has been regularised since 1986 and dammed since 1988. The hydrography is also represented, in the strict perimeter of the city, by several deserted meanders of the Bârlad, with more stationary water.

From such a meander, the Prodana recreational lake was created in the southern part of the city. There are also a number of streams in the town, such as Simila (on the northern border with Zorleni commune) and Valea Seacă (through the town centre), which have been regulated and have a very low flow. Last but not least, the town is criss-crossed by a number of uncovered sewers, but these are now largely blocked due to the fact that they pass through many private properties.



The position of the Bârlad river basin.

#### 1.3.8.2.4. Vegetation and fauna

The vegetation has the characteristics of the forest, where oak forests alternate with dry grasslands. The soils are of the cernoziomic type. Excess moisture in some areas has favoured the development of aquatic vegetation and the emergence of willow and Canadian poplar swamps. Ornamental species (pines, spruces, firs, thuja, magnolias) and fast-growing tree species (poplars, acacias, maples) have been planted.

The steppe vegetation in the peri-urban area of the municipality has been, like the forest vegetation, almost entirely replaced, due to the expansion of agricultural crops, both on terraces, slopes and interfluves. To the west of the Bârlad valley, where the climate is more humid, there are oak forests, where there are frequent glades, so that in these glades there are herbaceous and undergrowth species typical of deciduous forests. The vegetation of the Bârlad plain is characterized by the presence of hygrophilous and mesophilous species. In the herbaceous flora there are species of rogoz, clover, murul, troscotul, field grass, foxtail.

#### Fauna

Due to the varied relief and the three vegetation zones, the fauna is rich and varied: wild boar, roe deer, rabbit, wild cat, less frequently, wolf and roe deer in the forest area; Characteristic rodents: gophers, gophers, orbs, field mice, field rats, field rabbits,

burrowing rabbits, steppe ferrets and wrens. In the Lunca Bârladului, along with a number of wide-ranging species, there are also elements adapted to local conditions: the prigoria, the bank sedge, the codobatura. The cuckoo, the woodlark and the woodcock live in the meadows.

In the surrounding oak forests you can find some mammals such as deer, squirrel, rabbit, collared mouse, wolf, fox. Birds include blackbirds, mistle thrushes, song thrushes and in the bushes partridges and woodlarks.

Also tending to migrate continuously is the hemp tree, the orchard pipit. There are also a number of raptors, among which the red jay is common, the pupa is found in glades and on the edge of woods, and the nightingale in the bushes.

The fauna of the steppe and forest is poor, more numerous are the birds and reptiles: the lizards, the wild duck, the wild goose, the moorhen. Birds include blackbirds, mistle thrushes, song thrushes and woodlarks in the bushes. Also with a tendency to migrate continuously are the hemp grouse, orchard pipit. A number of raptors are also found, among which the red jay is common, the skylark is found in glades and at the edge of woods, and the nightingale in bushes. Woodpeckers, starlings and pipits are found over large areas, occupying steppe, forest and woodland. The starling, woodpecker, woodpigeon, turtle dove, turtle dove and woodpecker nest in the scrub. The fish fauna is rich: carp, sandpiper, pike, pike-perch, catfish, linen, carp, perch.

#### 1.3.8.2.5. Soils

In the Bârlad area there are both zonal and intra-zonal soils, imposed by natural conditions, lithological facies, relief (by altitude, fragmentation, exposure, ) water table depth, vegetation, anthropic activities. Within the zonal soils, there is a class of clayey-viscous soils with grey soils (at altitudes higher than 200 metres, under forest patches within the silvosteppe) and a class of molisols (the most fertile soils) with cambic (levigated) cernoziomes at altitudes of 80-200 metres and typical cernoziomes in the lower terraces of Bârlad.

The intrazonal soils occupy areas with moisture in the Lunca Bârladului, being hydromorphic and halomorph soils. Also, on small areas, unevolved soils such as alluvial soils are present.

#### 1.3.8.2.6. Natural resources

Natural resources are all the natural elements of the environment that can be used for human activity: non-renewable resources - minerals and fossil fuels and renewable resources - water, air, soil, flora, wildlife, including inexhaustible resources - solar, wind, geothermal and wave energy.

Subsoil resources - not very varied being almost entirely represented by building materials. More locally quarried sandstone, oaly limestone, sand, clay and loess.

#### Water resources

Surface water: in Vaslui county the usable surface water resource is 27.64 million m<sup>3</sup>/year, surface water being of vital importance for the economic and social development of the region.

The Bârlad River, the largest left tributary of the Siret, has a catchment area of 7,220 km<sup>2</sup>, with a length of the coded river network of 2,565 km.

The total surface water resources in the Prut - Bârlad hydrographic area amount to about 3661 million cubic meters/year, of which about 960 million cubic meters/year are usable. The stock of 3661 million cubic meters/year represents about 94% of the total resources and is mainly formed by the Prut and Bârlad rivers and their tributaries.

Groundwater: in the northern part of the county, i.e. in the Central Moldovan Plateau, there are groundwater lenses confined in superficial lutous and luto-isopic deposits. The aquifers are hosted in coarse- and medium-grained Pliocene-Quaternary

sedimentary formations, ranging from 5 to 30 m in depth, found in the southern half of the county. The aquifers with artesian character are found along the Bârlad and Elan rivers.

### I.3.8.3. Demographics

#### I.3.8.3.1. Numerical evolution of the population

According to the final results of the General Population and Housing Census of 2011, the municipality of Bârlad had a stable population of 55,837 inhabitants, making it the most populated urban settlement in Vaslui County and the sixth largest in the North-East Region.

After the year of the most recent census (2011), there is no comprehensive data on the population of Bârlad, only annual estimates of the resident population.

Thus, on 1 July 2017, 71,832 people were resident in the municipality, of which 34,420 (47.9% of the total) were men and 37,412 (52.1%) were women. By comparison, in 2011, 75,265 people were resident in the municipality and in 2007, 77,066 people were resident in the municipality. The difference between the stable population and the domiciled population, of about 20,000 people, is given by the inhabitants of Varna who de facto live in another country or in another locality in Romania, the effect of massive internal and external migration in the last 20 years. Only in the period 2007-2017, the city's resident population decreased by more than 5,200 people, i.e. by an average of 520 inhabitants/year (-0.7%). The rate of decrease of the city's population is higher than the county average (+0.27%), an increase caused by the large number of Romanian citizens of Moldovan origin settled in Vaslui municipality), but also the national average (-0.16%).

Year	Romanians	Roma	Turci	Jews	Greeks	Other ethnicities
1992	76768	673	4	13	14	46
2002	681984	906	14	11	19	39

As regards the migratory movement (internal and external), the estimates of the National Institute of Statistics, based on changes of residence, indicate that it has resulted in a deficit of more than 5,500 people between 2007 and 2016.

#### I.3.8.3.2. Population structure

**Gender structure:** In terms of gender distribution, the population of Bârlad is fairly balanced: 52.3% female and 47.7% male. On the other hand, the structure by age group points to a first problem at municipal level: the ageing of the population. Thus, on 1 January 2016, the population of Bârlad was **67,818** made up of 14.0% young people, 74.1% adults and 11.9% elderly people.

As regards the structure of the population, the following features stand out: a large number of persons registered in the statistical category "housewives" and a significant number of persons registered in the category "pupils, students".

**From an ethnic point of view**, analyzing the population of Bârlad, Romanians represent the vast majority, holding weights over 98% of its population. From the recent census data, there is an increase of Roma from 673 people to 906 people, Turks, Greeks and a decrease in the number of Everians, in the process of emigration.

### Denominational structure

In terms of religion, the vast majority of the population of Bârlad is Orthodox (98%). Roman Catholics represent 1.5%, Old Orthodox 0.2% The other religions are represented by a small number of people, less than 0.1%.

### Economic and professional structure

From an economic point of view, the total population is divided into two categories: the

Year	Orthodox	Roman Catholic	Seventh-day Adventist	Greek Catholic	Christian according to the gospel	Pentecostal	Old Rite	Other
1992	76327	217	140	18	517	40	30	229
2002	67964	205	126	17	451	86	88	246

economically active population and the economically inactive population. In turn, the working population is divided into the employed working population and the unemployed working population. The employed active population has constantly changed in volume and structure across the three main sectors of activity: primary, secondary and tertiary.

#### I.3.8.3.3 Population dynamics

As regards the migratory movement (internal and external), the estimates of the National Institute of Statistics, based on changes of residence, indicate that it has resulted in a deficit of more than 5,500 people between 2007 and 2016.

As a result, the municipality loses more than 500 inhabitants annually, just through officially registered migration. Migration is more pronounced among young adults, so that it mainly affects the 20-39 age group and to a very small extent the population over 60.

Bârladul is the busiest urban municipality in the North-East Development Region. Moreover, the municipality of Bârlad ranks second nationally, being preceded only by Bucharest (8,074.2 places/km<sup>2</sup>).

The high population density in the municipality of Bârlad is also confirmed by the higher value of persons living in a dwelling, the municipal average of 2.6 persons/inhabitant being higher than the national average (2.4 persons/inhabitant). According to the results of the Population and Housing Census carried out at the Romanian level in 2011, 77.6% of the dwellings in the municipality of Bârlad have an indoor bathroom and 91.5% have an indoor kitchen. Unlike the county average, the municipal situation is much better.

### I.3.8.4. Economy

#### I.3.8.4.1. Industry

The main industrial branch of the Municipality of Bârlad is represented by the machine-building and metalworking industry, which is statistically one of the top places of employment in the city. There are two large industrial units: S.C. Rulmenți S.A. and S.C. FEPA S.A., the first of which dates back to the middle of the 20th century. These two companies together with smaller ones (Fabrica de Bucse, S.C. Compas S.R.L., S.C. Prod-Prest S.A., S.C. Majestic SRL, S.C. Onismart SRL, etc.) still comprise half of the town's workforce.

The garment industry is close in terms of share of the employed population (36%), consisting of the main company S.C. Confecții S.A. followed by other smaller companies. The number of employees in this sector has been increasing and is generally female. The companies work in the lohn system, having commercial links

with prestigious Western European firms. It should also be noted that in the bearing and machine parts industry, more than 75% of profits are made from exports.

The third important branch of industry, and the oldest in terms of history, is the food industry. As one of the earliest locally developed activities, it annually accounts for the largest share of agricultural commodity production. Among the many companies of the food industry, S.C. CIB S.A., a meat processing company with a tradition of half a century, which serves customers from Vaslui county and nearby counties, stands out. Another company with a history is S.C. Mândra S.A., the town's oil factory which produces and sells well-known brands such as Clariol oil. There is also the IRIS company, the milling and bakery factory, the wood industry with numerous smaller companies, of which S.C. Mobila S.A., also founded in 1950, is representative, adapting today to the new challenges of the lack of raw materials.

Industry in Biarritz is going through a period of stagnation, after a long period of decline due to the transition from a centralised to a free economy, which led to rising unemployment. The decline of the communist factories has been compensated only to a small extent by the development of local entrepreneurship and the attraction of some foreign investment (e.g. in the textile industry, the takeover of the Bearing Factory by a majority shareholder from Turkey), which has led to massive labour migration within the country and especially abroad. The municipality of Bârlad is part of the North-East development region, which has the lowest GDP/capita in Romania and is one of the 20 poorest regions in Europe, reaching only 34% of the EU-28 average for this macroeconomic indicator in 2015, the last year for which EUROSTAT collected data. Vaslui county ranks last at national level in terms of GDP/capita (PPS), reaching only 25% of the EU-28 average. In 2014, Vaslui county contributed only 8.9% to regional GDP and 0.9% to national GDP. The main reason for this poor performance is the low share of the population employed in high value-added activities (e.g. IT services, financial services, high-tech industries, etc.), in favour of subsistence agriculture, as well as the low volume of private, foreign and domestic investments.

#### 1.3.8.4.2. Transport

##### Rail transport

The town of Bârlad was founded at the crossroads of important trade routes so the transport function developed early. Included since 1872 in the internal railway circuit, Bârlad railway station is located along the CF 600 main line, which connects Bucharest, Iasi and the Republic of Moldova (via Ungheni Customs). The town is transited by 23 pairs of trains daily (15 Regio and 8 InterRegio), the predominant orientation of passengers being towards Vaslui, as the county seat, Iasi (large number of students), Tecuci, Galati, Bucharest. This is a single line (on the Tecuci-Bârlad section) and a double line (on the Bârlad-Munteni section), which is not electrified. Two secondary lines branch off from this main line - line 603 Bârlad-Fălciu-Granita with the Republic of Moldova (currently closed to passenger traffic for economic reasons) and line 703 Bârlad-Galați (where passenger traffic is handled by a private operator - TFC). Rail transport links most of the country's major cities, offering direct trains, accelerated trains, personal trains, etc. Rail transport is also preferred by economic operators because of lower costs.

##### Road transport

Road transport, thanks to its flexibility, allows better territorial accessibility, favouring passenger transport. One of the major problems facing the municipality is the shortage of public and residential parking spaces. Thus, in 2017, according to the records of the Economic Department of the City Hall, there were 14,195 transport vehicles of

individuals and 2,782 of legal entities in the municipality, resulting in a total of 16,977 units, an increase of over 500% compared to 2007.

The town's main public road is the D.N. 24 (D. E. 581), which runs north-south through the town for about 8 km. Road access to Bârlad is also possible on the D.N. 11A Bârlad- Podu Turcului- Adjud, D.J. 242 Bârlad-Galați, D.J. 243 Bârlad-Puiеști-Dragomirești. According to the traffic census conducted in 2015 by CESTRIN, DN 24 is transited daily by an average of 5,180 vehicles, DN 11A by 3,933, DN 24A by 1,752 and DN 24D by 2,036 vehicles. Thus, the main traffic flows through the municipality are from the north-south direction along the E581.

Road passenger traffic is handled by the bus station, located in the south-eastern part of the city, next to the CFR station. There are 44 routes to various towns in the county, with about 204 daily trips operated by private companies.

The most intense links are with Zorleni, the commune located in the northern part of the town, thanks to the pupils and staff working in the town but also to the pupils and teachers commuting to the institutions in Zorleni, especially to the Marcel Guguianu Technological High School.

#### Urban public transport

In the municipality of Bârlad, the local public transport service has been provided since 2016 on the basis of a delegation contract concluded with the Local Council for a period of 6 years by the company S.C. VERTRANTIS S.R.L. The company operates a fleet of 9 Mercedes minibuses with 20-23 seats and 12 Otokar buses with 85 seats (of which 4 are in reserve). They have air conditioning, video surveillance and monitors displaying the operating schedule. The number of routes operated in the municipality is 6, as follows: a) Bus routes: Ø Gară - Centru - IRB: length 5 km, 11 stops; Ø IRB - Centru - Liceul Mihai Eminescu: length 6.5 km, 13 stops; b) Minibus routes: Ø IRB - Centru - Str. Vlahuță/Al. I. Cuza - Podeni neighbourhood (ANL): length 7 km, 15 stops; Ø Railway station - Centre - 1 Decembrie Street/Confecții - Deal neighbourhood: length 5 km; 10 stops; Ø IRB - Centre - Str. 1 Decembrie - Deal district: length 7.5 km, 14 stops, with extension to Deal II district - School no. 10 (length 2 km, 6 stops); Ø Munteni district - Centre - Confecții: length 4 km, 12 stops, with extension to Mihai Eminescu High School (length 1 km, 1 stop).

Bârlad City Hall has so far issued about 180 taxi permits and the average price is 1.7 - 1.8 lei/km. In addition to the 4 companies operating legally

#### Air transport

Bârlad does not have its own airport, the nearest such facilities being in Bacău (103 km) and Iași (117 km). The "George Enescu" International Airport in Bacău operates only international flights, and the Iași International Airport also operates domestic flights (to Bucharest). Air services cover destinations in Italy, Spain, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Turkey, etc. Despite the distance, many Bârlădeni residents also use the services of "Henri Coandă" Bucharest-Otopeni International Airport.

#### 1.3.8.4.3.Trade

##### Internal trade

The city of Bârlad has always had an important commercial function in the eastern part of the country, being founded on an old trade route that ensured the movement of goods between the West and the East. The very name of the town, called in old documents a fair, shows its function as a commercial hub where goods were exchanged, where the surrounding villagers came to barter, to sell the products they produced/harvested and to buy the necessary things that were not available in the village, such as cloth, tools, crockery, etc. Today this free trade is still practiced in the



two markets, the 9 May Market - the market of agri-food and industrial products in the centre of the town and the Small Market on Epureanu Boulevard. There is also the Obor Market - a market for livestock and agricultural grain products, wood and wood products for construction. These markets provide fresh food products, obtained by farmers from the villages near the city. Trade is mainly carried out on market days, Tuesdays and Sundays, when there are strong flows of people from suburban areas to the city.

The structure of commercial units in the municipality of Bârlad presents three unequal categories in terms of surface area: the main category, representing 79% of all commercial companies, is retail trade, the second category, occupying 16%, is wholesale trade, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (car parts shops), the third category is wholesale trade and intermediary services, occupying 5% of all commercial units.

The main commercial areas of the city are the central area, the Railway Station, the Stadium, Munteni, Confecții, but each neighbourhood has its own commercial companies serving the population, most of them being small neighbourhood shops, boutiques, bakeries, terraces. The supermarket market in Bârlad is currently served by the discount chains Penny Market, Lidl (with three branches: Centru, Grădina publica, Confecții), Profi. There are also smaller local supermarket chains, such as Berlin which has 4 branches (Stadion, Vasile Pârvan, Grădina publica and Republicii-Cinema Bârladul), and Cleopatra, as well as the Chinese chain Dragon Shop with two branches.

Residents are eagerly awaiting the construction of a Dedeman-Carrefour-Kaufland shopping complex, which is currently under construction and due for completion in winter 2021. Many jobs will be created and the local budget will be boosted by the taxes collected. The developer, who has leased the land from SC Rulmenți SA, has put forward a timeframe of 6-8 months from the start of work in spring this year for the completion of the extensive investment.

Impact on the institution: increases the attractiveness of the area, will attract young people, families, which can lead to an increase in student numbers.

External trade

The city's participation in foreign trade is an indicator of its level of economic development. The most important companies that export products from the factories in Bârlad are S.C. Rulmenți S.A., with 60% of production delivered abroad, and S.C. Confecții S.A., which works in the Lohn system and exports over 90% of production. These partnerships with Western European and Asian countries offer security and stability to the companies that provide the largest number of jobs to the people of Targu.

#### 1.3.8.4.4. Tourism

The tourist fund of Bârlad is mainly represented by the cultural fund, the nearby natural environment is not exploited from a tourist point of view. The most popular areas for walks and leisure are the lake and the forest of Prodana, located in the southern part of the city, the Zoo, the Public Garden, the dam at the exit of the city towards Vaslui. The appearance of these places has improved recently, with the installation of sports facilities, new parks for children and green spaces.

In terms of cultural tourism, the town attracts with restored buildings dating back to the 17th century, including the Manor Church. Built by Vasile Lupu in 1636, it was damaged by fires and earthquakes, rebuilt between 1804 and 1807 and completely restored in 1937. The church of Saint George near 9 May Square was built by the ruler

Stephen the Great in 1496 and rebuilt by Vasile Lupu in 1636. The Church of St. Elias and the Vovidenia Church date from the 17th century.

In the town there is also the Roman Catholic Church dating from the 16th-17th centuries and dedicated to the Queen of the Holy Rosary, and a Synagogue dating from 1787.

Among the cultural institutions, Bârlad boasts the beautiful buildings of the Vasile Pârvan Museum, a monument built in the 19th century after a project attributed to the Italian architect Giovanni Baldorossi. The Sturdza House is a monument dating back to 1818, belonging to the backward Alecu Sturdza, and the Cuza House was built in 1812. The Red House dates back to the late 19th century and was part of a grand project in the heyday of Bârlad, the "King Ferdinand" Normal School for Teachers, modelled on the Arsenal in Venice.

From the point of view of school tourism, the most attractive places in Bârlad are the Zoo, the only one in the county and the largest in the area, the Vasile Pârvan Museum, together with its sections on Republicii Street, the Observatory.

### **I.3.8.5.SWOT analysis at local community level**

<p>The municipality of Bârlad has a quality education system with tradition; Highly trained faculty with outstanding performance; The cultural tradition is maintained by numerous cultural institutions: the Vasile Pârvan Museum, Stroe Belloescu Library, Bârlădeană Academy, Marcel Guguianu Pavilion, Mihai Eminescu Centre, V. I. Popa Theatre, etc.;</p> <p>The existence of a large number of cultural, social and educational NGOs that can be involved in projects and partnerships; Involvement of the religious segment (associations that have educational programmes involving children from the vulnerable segment in the target groups); Satisfactory school infrastructure, with institutions in need of modernisation; Decrease in infant mortality over the last five years by about 39.6% locally, 40.3% regionally and 34.5% nationally; Increasing the number of qualified and re-qualified county social work specialists, which ensures effective communication and resolution of potential conflicts at school; The existence of the Manolache Costache Epureanu School Parents' Association; Willingness of parents to carry out school projects, extra-curricular activities, etc. Local cultural institutions are open to partnerships within local/county projects (Vasile Pârvan Museum, Stroe Belloescu Library, Victor Ion Popa Theatre, etc.)</p>	<p>The migratory movement of the population has a negative effect on the population in the urban area of Vaslui, as a result of a slightly increasing negative balance in the last five years (both migration to other counties for a higher standard of living, but also to the countryside); Falling birth and school populations; High unemployment; The number of parents working abroad has been on an upward trend; Lack of associative culture; There are no spaces for sports activities: multi-purpose hall, swimming pools, insufficient gyms; Insufficient involvement of the local community in school activities; Unmet need for parenting education services, not only in families of children in care, but also in families with relationship problems;</p>
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>

<p>Development of local partnerships, cooperation projects with cultural institutions, NGOs; Involvement of students in extra-curricular activities within CSS Bârlad, Children's Club, sports NGOs - rugby, gymnastics, N.N. Tonitza School of Arts; The existence of a legislative framework creating incentives for economic units employing people from vulnerable groups to integrate them into society; Developing volunteering and civic spirit; Development of rural development partnerships (partnerships, dissemination consortia); The possibility of developing partnerships between local public authorities and the non-governmental sector; Establishing public-private partnerships in education and training;</p>	<p>Increasing numbers of children whose parents are working abroad and who are not properly supervised, cared for and guided; Lack of devices for carrying out online activities or activities requiring the use of the internet; The increase in the number of pupils with SEN and the still insufficient number of specialists and teachers trained to support this category of pupils; Increase in the number of single-parent or broken families; Lack of adequate adaptation to the educational and emotional needs of students in this pandemic period may lead parents to turn to other schools.</p>
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### **I.3.9.Zorleni Commune (with reference also to Zorleni village)**

#### **I.3.9.1.Geographical position. Brief history.**

##### **I.3.9.1.1 Geographical location**

Zorleni Commune is located in the geographical sub-unit of Tutova Hills (part of the Central Moldovan Plateau) and in the southern part of Vaslui County. It has access to the European road DE 581, which connects the municipalities of Vaslui (54 km) and Bârlad (7 km) and to the national road DN 24 A Bârlad-Murgeni. Zorleni commune borders to the north with Banca commune, to the south with Bârlad municipality and Grivița commune, to the east with Epureni and Șuletea communes and to the west with Băcani and Perieni communes.

##### **I.3.9.1.2.Brief history**

The first documentary record of the village dates back to March 28, 1594, but tools used in the Upper Paleolithic were discovered on the surface of the village. Archaeological research has uncovered traces of settlement on the territory of the commune dating back to the Palaeolithic. Thus, in the area called "Bujorenilor valley", chips and a flint blade from the Upper Palaeolithic were discovered and in the area where the Simila stream meets the Bârlad river, fragments of pottery and tools, specific to the Neolithic era, were discovered. Also, to the north of the centre of the commune (on the Bârlad valley) traces of Bronze Age, Iron Age and 4th century settlement have been found.

On March 28, 1594, Aron Voda sells to Toader Chiriac, the great customs officer, for the sum of 2000 aspri and 6 horses the village "ZORILENII AND WITH A PLACE TO DIE IN THE WATER OF BÂRLADUL ABOVE TÂRGUL BÂRLADULUI, WHICH SAT WAS ON THE HORSESHIP OF TÂRGUL Bârladul....." This is the first written testimony about the existence of the village of Zorleni, in the former county of Tutova. There are numerous traces of settlement in these lands, dating from the Palaeolithic to the present day.

Archaeological research has so far established over 20 points. In the valley of the Bukhorens, for example, flint chips and a flint blade from the Upper Palaeolithic were discovered. In the area of the confluence of the Simila stream with the Bârlad river, ceramic fragments and some stone fragments specific to the Neolithic era have been found.

To the north of the present-day village on the valley of the river Bârlad, traces of settlement have been discovered belonging to the Bronze, Iron and 4th, 8th, 9th and 12th centuries. It should be mentioned that a potter's kiln was discovered near the "Fântânele" point on the bank of the river Bârlad, with all the pottery in it, belonging to the 4th century BC.

In the point "Plopi" there is a necropolis dating back to the 4th century and until the interwar period, the traces of the old villages Bujoreni, Zorlenii - vechi, Vârlez and Praja were evident in the old village Zorleni, which was located between the hill Copăcelul and the hill Zorleni in the area of the point "Livada".

The name of the village appears in a document written in 1594 and comes from Zorilă, which according to the dictionary was the popular name of the daylily. Zorilă was also the name of a person who had the quality of an industrious man, waking up with the dawn.

So Zorilenii may be the village of Zorila's lineage. Do not forget, that even today there is on the site of the old village, a point called "Zorila's Fountain". We note that over time the vowel "I" between the consonants "R" and "L" was no longer pronounced and so it has come from the Zorilenilor to a faster (rolled) pronunciation of ZORLENI.

Throughout the years the inhabitants of the commune have actively participated in important events in the history of the country such as the War of Independence, the Anti-Hitler War.

In memory of these events, a monument to the heroes and a commemorative plaque were erected in the village.

### **I.3.9.2.Natural setting**

#### **I.3.9.2.1.Terrain**

Zorleni commune is located in the geographical sub-unit of Tutova Hills, part of the Central Moldovan Plateau. The average altitude is between 100-250 metres, the hills are bordered by numerous ridge-like slopes.

#### **I.3.9.2.2.Climate**

The territory of Zorleni has a temperate-continental climate, a climate specific to the low and medium hill regions, with some local influences, caused by warm and dry air masses coming from Asia, which make the summers rich in rainfall in May-June, respectively Siberian cold air masses that bring frost and blizzard in winter.

The climate is temperate-continental with a more excessive temperate climate, with average annual temperatures between 9 and 10 C. Winds blow generally from the north (30.9%), south (13.5%) and south-west (10.1%).

#### **I.3.9.2.3.Hydrography**

As surface water flowing through the territory of Zorleni commune, the Bârlad river is a tributary of the Siret river. The regime of this watercourse is permanent, characterized by variations in flow and levels through the spring and summer runoff from the slopes, having as tributaries the Simila stream, Trauș stream, Zorleni stream and Sohădău.

Groundwater is encountered at depths between 3 and 30 m and is confined in sandy deposits. The groundwater table is part of the free water table category and the water table bed is formed by clays, which are impermeable to vertical infiltration and form a good accumulation base.

#### 1.3.9.2.4. Vegetation and fauna

Due to its geographical position, the territory of Zorleni commune is part of the forest and steppe area. Nowadays, the natural landscape of the forest-steppe has changed because many areas of land have been brought under arable farming and the forest pastures have been modified by the influence of spontaneous vegetation.

The vegetation consists mainly of steppe-steppe meadows dominated by fescue, stipa and astemisia, but also deciduous forests (oak, ash and acacia).

#### 1.3.9.2.5. Soils

The soils are generally of the levigated cernozomic class, but at higher altitudes, mainly grey forest soils are found.

#### 1.3.9.2.6. Natural resources

The commune has fertile soil resources, favourable for agricultural, wine and fruit growing and timber resources.

### 1.3.9.3. Demographics

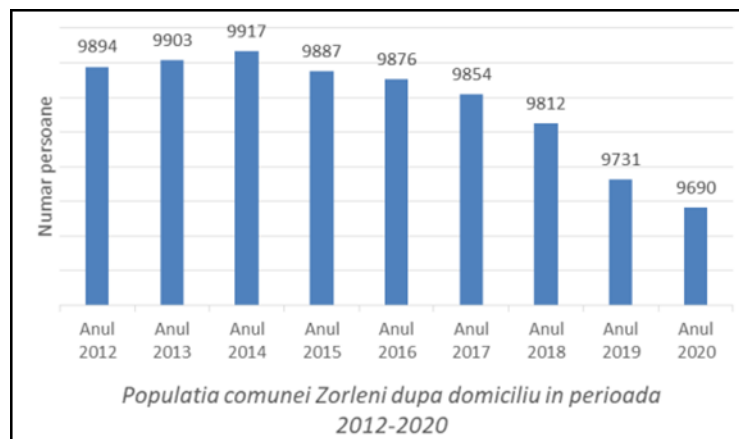
#### 1.3.9.3.1. Numerical evolution of the population

According to the 2011 census, the population of Zorleni is 8,595 inhabitants, down from the previous census in 2002, when there were 9,522 inhabitants.

#### 1.3.9.3.2. Population structure

The majority of the inhabitants are Romanians (94.16%). For 5.36% of the population, ethnicity is unknown. From a confessional point of view, the majority of inhabitants are Orthodox (93.12%). For 5.36% of the population, confessional affiliation is not known.

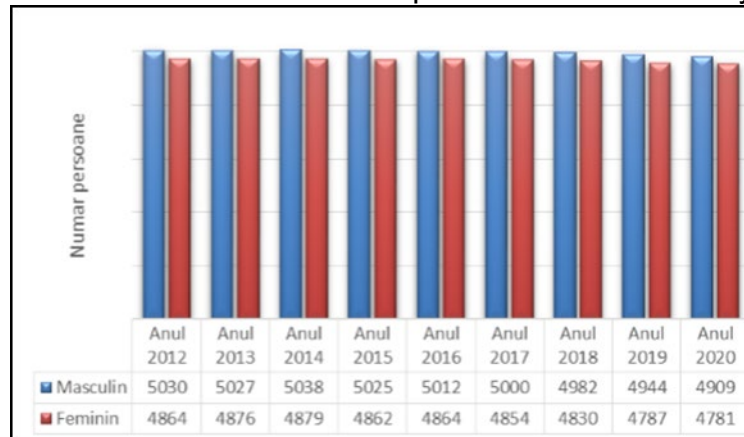
The proximity of Zorleni commune to the municipality of Bârlad has generated the phenomenon of remigration and suburbanization towards the village, due to the fact that land for building houses is cheaper and conditions are better for the quality of life. This positional influence is diminished by the phenomenon of migration to more developed areas or other countries that offer the prospect of professional and social development. This positional influence is diminished by the phenomenon of migration to more developed areas or other countries that offer the prospect of professional and social development.



Source: NSI. TEMPO Online database

Regarding the distribution of the population by age groups in Zorleni commune, there is a predominance of the middle age, i.e. the mature population aged between 15 and 64 years, which represents 70% of the total number of inhabitants registered in 2020. The population aged 0 to 14 years is in second place with 16.6%, which indicates a high labour potential for the local economy.

The elderly population, aged 65 years and over, represents the smallest share in the total number of inhabitants of the commune, registering a value of 13%, which is a positive aspect, since Zorleni commune has a mostly active population, able to contribute to the economic and social development of the community.



Source: NSI. TEMPO Online database

The distribution of the population by sex continues to show that the number of males is higher than that of females, with the sex ratio of the population reflecting a slight difference between the two categories.

In Zorleni commune, in the last 10 years, the number of unemployed registered in September of each year shows decreasing values, with small exceptions.



Source: NSI. TEMPO Online database

The majority of jobs are still in agriculture and the public sector, which are the main employers in Zorleni. The number of employees has been increasing over the last 10 years, due to the development of business and investment in the commune in both the public and private sectors.

### 1.3.9.4. Economy

#### 1.3.9.4.1. Agriculture

The total area of the commune is 13343 ha, broken down by categories of use as follows:

- agricultural - 9776 ha;
- forest land - 2659 ha;

- other areas - 908 ha.

The agricultural area has the following composition:

- arable land - 6734 ha, of which 2372 ha are leased to S.C. AGRODOR TRANS S.R.L., S.C. AGROCOMPLEX S.A., S.C. INTERAGROALIMENT S.A., S.C. DALEX IMPEX S.R.L. and the difference is in the administration of individuals put in possession under Law 18/1991.

- pastures - 2322 ha, administered by Zorleni Town Hall;

- meadows - 85 ha, administered by Zorleni Town Hall;

- vii - 228 ha, managed by private owners;

- orchards - 14 ha, managed by private owners;

- forests - 2659 ha, under the administration of the Bârlad Forestry Office, Zorleni Town Hall and IELIF Vaslui.

#### I.3.9.4.2. Industry

On the territory of the commune there is S.C. CRISMIH S.R.L. having as its field of activity the wholesale trade of wood material. It has an area of 2200 m<sup>2</sup> and 5 employees.

The commune does not have a specific industrial character, developing mainly in the agricultural sector. The land is worked by S.C. AGROCOMPLEX S.A. Bârlad, S.C. AGRODOR-TRANS S.R.L, S.C. DALEX-IMPEX S.R.L., S.C. INTERAGROALIMENT S.R.L, with their own machinery and equipment. The commune owns 34 tractors, 34 ploughs, 27 seed drills, 30 disc harrows and 6 combine harrows, which are privately owned.

Small industry is poorly developed, currently there are 3 corn mills (S.C. ULVILGAN S.R.L. S.C. MORĂRIȚA S.R.L, S.C. AGROMEC S.A.,) and an oil press on the territory of the commune.

#### I.3.9.4.3. Transport

It is located on the DE 581, which connects the municipalities of Vaslui and Bârlad. It also has access to the railway on the Iasi-Vaslui-Bârlad-Tecuci-Buzau-Ploiesti-Bucuresti main line. I.3.9.4.4. Trade

The supply of food products to the population is done through the stores S.C. TIMPURI NOI S.R.L., S.C. IRIS COMPANY S.A., S.C. ONALEX S.R.L., S.C. NIROLF S.R.L. , S.P. PADOGI S.R.L., S.C. BONVOYAGE S.R.L.

The population is also supplied by private shops run by 30 individuals (FP).

#### I.3.9.4.5. Tourism

Zorleni commune does not have a rich tourist heritage but its location in a natural setting, away from pollution, creates the necessary conditions for the promotion of recreational tourism, which could ensure, in addition to the economic development of the commune, also a promotion of traditions and customs of the area, rural areas being those where they are still preserved. The presence of places of worship in Zorleni helps to attract visitors to the area. The main places of worship in Zorleni are:

- Bujoreni Monastery;
- Church of St. George;
- Church of St. Michael and Gabriel;
- Church of St. Constantine and Helen;
- Zorleni Seventh-day Adventist Church;
- Zorleni Pentecostal Church.

Among the representative events for the commune, we mention:

- Autumn Celebration
- Feast of St. Constantine and Helen;
- Christmas customs and traditions.



- Fanfare Festival, unique festival in Romania.

### **I.3.9.5.SWOT analysis at local community level**

A snapshot of the current reality (December 2020) in order to identify the key points SWOT analysis will focus on the main areas that indicate local development:

#### Highlights

##### Administrative capacity:

The staff of Zorleni Town Hall consists of qualified people with experience in implementing projects financed by both European and national funds.

Local public authorities operate according to the principles of transparent decision-making.

Effective involvement of top management in raising awareness and implementing actions related to reform in administration.

The existence of procedures governing the flow of documents in the institution.

Transparency in staff recruitment and promotion.

Existence of an accounting and payroll program.

The City has its own website.

Experience in writing, implementing and monitoring projects financed by European funds for over 8 years.

##### Demographics:

Zorleni is the commune with the largest number of inhabitants in Vaslui County.

Balanced gender distribution of the commune's population.

Increased employment opportunities due to the location near the municipality of Bârlad.

The number of employees has increased over the last 6 years.

The number of unemployed people has decreased by about 43% since 2018 compared to 2017, and this decrease is maintained until today.

The commune has maintained a relatively constant population over the last 10 years.

##### Infrastructure:

Easy accessibility in the area: Zorleni commune is located on the European road E581 Tisita - Barlad - Chisinau.

Most households are electrified.

The main arteries are equipped with street lighting.

Positive developments in the rehabilitation of paved municipal roads.

The existence of a drinking water supply network, which ensures the necessary water for the inhabitants of Zorleni, Popeni and Simila villages.

Existence of a sewerage network.

The existence of a natural gas network in the villages of Simila and Zorleni.

The share of households in Zorleni commune with access to the water supply network is 95%.

Medical infrastructure provided by 3 doctors (1 dentist), 7 nurses and 2 pharmacists.

Modern educational infrastructure that meets the requirements of quality assurance of educational activity.

##### Economy and business environment:

The existence of economic agents, companies and authorised individuals.

Available land and favourable pedo-climatic conditions for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry.

The partnership within the Podu Înalt LAG, an important promoter of cooperation between private and public members, with the common goal of accessing European funds for the development of the area.

The existence of several companies that have accessed non-reimbursable funds through GAL Podu Înalt.

The location favours the development of businesses whose market is the municipality of Bârlad.

Potential for new business location: large area of undeveloped land in close proximity to the E581 road.

Large number of jobs in non-agricultural fields.

More than 40% of the turnover of companies based in Zorleni comes from the service sector.

72% of the agricultural area is arable land.

The agriculture practised can have yields/ha, above the national average, and there is potential for irrigation systems.

Environmental protection:

Undertaking action by local public authorities to enforce environmental protection legislation.

There are no "big polluters" in the area of the commune and its surroundings.

Heritage and recreation:

The existence of a rich cultural history of Zorleni.

The existence of a community library.

The existence of annual events aimed at preserving traditions and customs.

The existence of places of worship.

Weak Points

Demographics

Lack of equal opportunities for people who are subject to social exclusion.

Low degree of diversification of occupational structure.

Lack of attractive job offers for people with higher education.

Low standard of living, compared to the average of the European Union regions.

Administrative capacity

Insufficient financial resources to modernise and develop the institution's activities.

Inefficiency of the public policy-making mechanism at the city hall level.

Insufficient awareness of the notions of efficiency, cost-effectiveness and transparency in the management of the public and private domain of the municipality.

Impossibility to promote employees.

Reduced possibilities for financially motivating staff and attracting highly qualified people into civil service structures.

Limited financial resources to support the training programme.

Limited funds allocated to continuous training of civil servants.

Impossibility of additional staff motivation.

Absence of a computerisation and digitisation department.

Insufficient number of desktop systems and some of them are morally worn out.

Insufficient financial resources for computerisation of local public administration.

Lack of interest of citizens to be actively involved in local decision-making.

Infrastructure

The need to carry out upgrading works on more than 50% of the road infrastructure.

Damaged footpaths, lanes, bridges, driveways and car parks.

Insufficient multi-purpose machinery for the maintenance of roads and public spaces in the commune.

Lack of natural gas network in Popeni and Dealu Mare villages.

Lack of material resources for infrastructure development.

Insufficient health and social care infrastructure.

Insufficient drinking water and sewage network.

Lack of priorities related to the provision of the necessary infrastructure to develop green transport.

Educational units in need of rehabilitation, modernization and specific equipment.

Insufficient street lighting network.

Poorly developed infrastructure for emergency response services.

Economy and business environment

The local business environment does not have the capacity to provide jobs that match demand.

Lack of IT jobs.

The shortage of skilled construction workers, amidst their migration to other areas for a motivating salary.

Low capacity of the local business environment to support investment for development.

Poor development of entrepreneurship.

Lack of partnership culture, poor collaboration between enterprises, especially in agriculture, where partnership is an essential element for development.

Lack of associative and entrepreneurial culture among small farmers.

Agriculture is predominantly practised with used machinery and equipment, with low productivity and high maintenance costs.

Significant share of individual subsistence and semi-subsistence farms. This situation implies that they do not produce income that can potentially be invested, and their viability as trading partners seems to be limited because of this.

Lack of collection networks for agricultural and livestock products.

Low use of compost in agriculture due to lack of information and public confidence in the use of this product.

Lack of application of modern agricultural methods among the population.  
Lack of irrigation systems.

Poorly developed trade.

High degree of fragmentation/fragmentation of agricultural land.

Lack of facilities/infrastructure according to European standards for the sale of live animals.

Environmental protection

No projects with national, European or other sources of funding for environmental protection have been implemented in the municipality.

Lack of information and education campaigns at the level of Zorleni Municipality on environmental and nature protection.

Insufficient equipment of the Vaslui Environmental Protection Agency for monitoring the quality of environmental factors.

Lack of waste recycling systems.

Low level of education of the population on separate waste collection.

Poorly equipped with the means and equipment needed to manage environmental emergencies.

The lack of public awareness of the need to protect the environment and combat global warming.

Lack of charging points for electric and hybrid vehicles.

Lack of resources to implement complex projects to avoid environmental pollution.

#### Heritage and recreation

Advanced state of deterioration of some heritage sites.

Poor promotion of cultural objectives.

Lack of related activities around cultural objectives.

#### Opportunities

##### Demographics

Develop more effective public health policies aimed at lowering infant and child mortality rates.

Promote pro-natalist policies at national level by implementing social programmes targeted at families and children.

Maintain the trend of increasing life expectancy at birth at national level.

Involve doctors and social workers in activities to raise awareness of the need for maintenance.

Development of European funded programmes to stimulate employment.

Increasing the skills of the workforce.

##### Administrative capacity

The possibility of cross-border, transnational, or regional cooperation partnerships to identify viable solutions to identified local problems.

Maintain an active partnership with community representatives, business representatives, other community or community interest institutions.

Maintaining membership in the Podu Înalt Vaslui LAG Association, in order to obtain the necessary funding for the development and modernization of Zorleni Commune.

Possibilities of accessing non-reimbursable funds for developing administrative capacity and increasing organizational efficiency in the public administration of Zorleni commune.

More opportunities for staff training through training agencies and access to European funds through programmes that finance human resource development.

##### Infrastructure

Business development is favoured by the possibility of transporting goods by road directly on the E581 European road.

The existence of European funds for the development and modernisation of road infrastructure.

The existence of European funds for the development of technical and public infrastructure.

##### Economy and business environment

European funds to support the setting up and development of rural businesses in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

Encourage and develop public-private partnerships.

Stimulating the association of agricultural producers and companies through cooperation measures financed by European funds.

Increasing the added value of agricultural products through non-reimbursable financing of processing capacities at farm level.

The existence of government programmes to support the SME sector.

European Union policy on research and innovation activities in micro-enterprises.

The existence of consultancy firms that carry out technical and technological information transfer and the preparation of documentation for the absorption of non-reimbursable funds.

The existence of the Local Action Group (LAG) Podu Înalt Vaslui, which supports and guides small farmers.

#### Environmental protection

Public receptiveness to incentive campaigns promoting the collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment.

Increased interest of local authorities in promoting partnerships for environmental protection.

Existence of waste electrical and electronic equipment collection initiatives among the population.

Availability of funding for environmental projects through European non-reimbursable funds.

Involvement of non-governmental organisations in environmental protection.

#### Heritage and recreation

The possibility of accessing non-reimbursable European funds for cultural activities, including cross-border projects.

Computerisation of libraries and library services.

The possibility of promoting cultural objectives by including them in the tourist offer of the county.

Establishment of play and recreation parks for children and young people.

#### Threats

##### Demographics

Rising unemployment and labour migration.

Increasing share of undeclared work, with a negative impact on the local economy.

The rate of population decline is increasing every year.

The trend towards a more ageing population due to labour migration abroad.

Slower adaptation of the older population to the changes and challenges of today's world.

##### Administrative capacity

Understaffed and unprepared for the implementation of larger EU-funded projects in various fields.

The tendency of the media to report mainly, usually without checking, negative aspects of certain activities in the administration, often misinterpreting or misunderstanding information.

##### Infrastructure

Decreasing financial allocations for grant programmes aimed at upgrading rural infrastructure.

Exclusion of municipalities from the category of eligible applicants for certain funding lines aimed at upgrading rural infrastructure.

##### Economy and business environment

High taxation and excessive bureaucracy.

Lack of liquidity can lead to the bankruptcy of active local micro-enterprises and even medium-sized enterprises.

Reduced activity and revenues of companies as a result of the COVID pandemic19.

Credit crunch due to the economic crisis and financial bottlenecks.

Rising inflation and rising unemployment will implicitly lead to lower purchasing power of goods and services among the population.

Legislative instability.

Skilled labor migration out of the county and across borders. Poor awareness of European rules among farmers.

Lack/reduction of agricultural subsidies. High frequency of droughts in agriculture.

Environmental protection

Reduction of forest area with environmental implications.

Increasing public indifference to separate waste collection. Increasing extreme weather events due to climate change.

Erosion and soil quality degradation leading to yield reduction.

Heritage and recreation

General disinterest in heritage.

Lack of opportunities for artists in the commune.

Disappearance of local craftsmen and folk creators due to the lack of possibilities to valorise the products created.

Decreasing interest in traditions and customs.

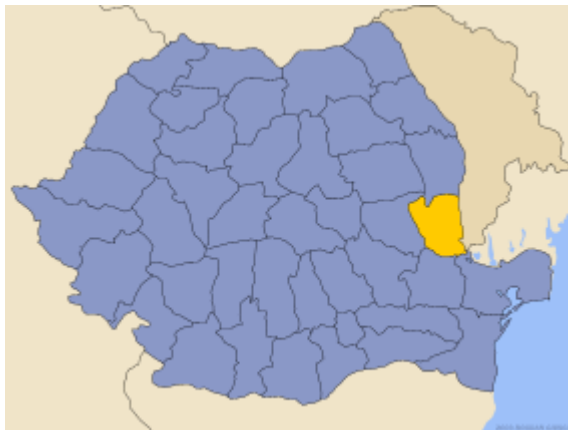
Resource: Local Development Strategy - Zorleni Commune, Vaslui County 2021-2027

## I.4. Galati county

### I.4.1. Geographical location. Brief history

#### I.4.1.1 Geographical location

Galati County is one of the counties that are part of the South-East Region.



Geographically, Galati County is located in the south-east of Romania and occupies an area of 4,466.32 km<sup>2</sup>, representing 1.87% of the total area of the country. Situated between 45°25' and 46°10' north latitude and 27°20' and 28°10' east longitude, at the confluence of three major rivers - Danube, Siret and Prut, Galati is part of the pericarpatic, Danubian counties and part of the historical province of Moldova. In the north, it borders Vaslui county, in the east the Prut forms the natural border with the Republic of Moldova, in the south the

Danube forms the border with Tulcea county, in the south-west, along the Siret, it borders Brăila county, and in the west and north-west, mostly along the same river, it borders Vrancea county. The county's capital, the municipality of Galati, is the fifth largest city in Romania in terms of population and the largest port on the Danube in Romania, located 150 km (80 nautical miles) from the Black Sea and about 250 km from Bucharest, Iasi, Ploiesti, Constanta, Chişinău (Rep. Galati County is part of the South-East Development Region, together with Vrancea, Buzău, Brăila, Tulcea and Constanţa counties, and of the Lower Danube Euroregion, together with Cahul and Cantemir districts in the Republic of Moldova and Odessa region in Ukraine.

From an administrative point of view, Galati county is composed of 2 municipalities, Galati and Tecuci, 2 cities, Targu Bujor and Bereşti, 61 communes and 180 villages.

#### I.4.1.2. Brief history

The first documentary attestation of the city of Galati, then a fair, dates back to 1445 and can be found in an act signed by ruler Stephen II.

From the point of view of historical periodisation, three main periods have been identified which, resulting from the general historical development of the city, have different characteristics, each of which is very well defined:

##### **\*from antiquity to the regulatory period (introduction of Organic Regulations)**

Near a ford of the Danube, a Dacian settlement arose in Antiquity, which was perpetuated until the Roman campaign of 101 - 102 and 105 - 106 AD. After the conquest of the province, the settlement was part of a Roman territorium administrative-territorial unit, integrated into the Roman province of Moesia Inferior. The area was defended by the Romans through a system of fortifications: the castellum discovered in the Danube district of the city, the castrum of Tirighina - Barboși and the earthen wall that has been identified in the area of Tulucești and Traian.

The 15th-18th centuries are defining for the community developed at the Danube-Siret-Prut confluence, it evolving from a commercial and craft fair to an important economic centre of the country, almost all trade in the Lower Danube area taking place through the local market; the activity of shipyards is also booming, in Galati were built merchant ships and warships, especially for beneficiaries of the Ottoman Empire.

##### **\*from the period of the Regulation to the end of the Second World War (1831-1950)**

From 1840 until the end of the century, the built-up area was increased and all the free spaces in the urban area were occupied, either by building small industrial enterprises or by developing areas in parks (now Mihai Eminescu Park is established). A significant number of factories have been located in the urban area, both in the "lower town" and in the "upper town".

Important political events with decisive consequences for modern Romania - the Revolution of 1848, the Union of the Principalities, the War of Independence, the proclamation of the Kingdom, the First World War and the Great Union - had significant consequences on the urban development of the city. During this period, the new urban structure was built and consolidated and the built environment was largely renovated, thus placing Galati in the general line of modernisation of Romanian cities.

##### **\*1950 - 1989. Contemporary period of urban development**

The post-war communist regime recognised the administrative potential of the city and introduced it as part of an ambitious industrialisation and urbanisation plan. Between 1950 and 1984, large enterprises of local, national and international interest were built. At the same time, the city of Galati was systematised according to the requirements of this development in order to satisfy the need for housing and social and economic facilities. In the central areas, all this construction was carried out by destroying old historical buildings, on the pretext that they were no longer architecturally and building-wise appropriate and had been seriously damaged by earthquakes in 1940, 1977 and 1986.

In the development of the city, an attempt was made to follow a systematization plan aimed at directing the location of industrial, social-cultural buildings and housing districts in clear areas, a plan which also meant rethinking the street system. The period, which took place under completely different political, economic and social conditions, is characterised, from the point of view of Galati, by the second major expansion of the urban territory.

#### I.4.2. Natural setting

#### I.4.2.1. Terrain

Galati County is located outside the Carpathian arc in an area where the edges of the physical-geographical provinces of Eastern Europe, Southern Europe and, in part, Central Europe meet, a position that is reflected in the climatic conditions, in the vegetation and soil cover, and in the geological structure. The relief is predominantly lowland (69% of the area), belonging to subunits of the Romanian Plain, namely the Covurlui Plain, the Lower Siret Plain and the Tecucel Plain, which occupy the central-southern and western parts of the county. In the north and north-west, Galati County is occupied by the extensions of the Moldovan Plateau - the Covurlui Plateau and the Tutova Hills. The maximum altitude reached on the territory of the county is 310 m - on the Poleitul hill in the north, while in the south the height of the relief does not exceed 5-10 m.



#### I.4.2.2. Climate

The climate of Galati County is temperate continental. The southern and central part, i.e. more than 90% of the territory, falls into the lowland climate, while the northern part, representing 10% of the total area, into the hill climate. Both regions are climatically characterised by hot, dry summers and winters with heavy blizzards. The Siret, Prut and Danube plains introduce changes in the values and regime of the main meteorological elements, leading to the creation of a specific lowland topoclimate, wetter and cooler in summer and rather wet and less cold in winter. The average annual frequency of winds, predominantly from the north-east, is 18.6% and the average annual intensity is 2.3 Beaufort degrees. The average annual temperature recorded in Galati county is 10.5°C.

#### I.4.2.3. Hydrography

The hydrographic network of Galati County includes surface waters occupying a total area of 13,019 ha of the county's territory and groundwater, representing water reserves from aquifers, deep aquifers (over 100 m in Rotunda, Tecuci municipality), medium depth aquifers (between 50 and 100 m at Vadu Roșca - Nicorești) and shallow aquifers (below 50 m at Cosmești, Salcia - Liești, Cernicari).

Galati's position is peninsular because it is surrounded by water from 3 sides. All these waterways, with their special characteristics, have contributed to the development of the port, which was at a certain historical stage the largest port in Romania.

-The Danube, Europe's second largest river, has been one of Europe's most heavily trafficked routes since ancient times when the Danube was called Ister. The presence of the Danube is undoubtedly the specific attraction of Galati. The Danube is a river with a unique course, with depths of up to 36 metres. The width of the minor riverbed is 776 metres.

-Siret, which springs from Ukraine's Forest Carpathians, is the country's largest inland river, flowing through Moldova from north to south. The most important tributary of the Siret is the Bistrita, which in turn collects other rivers and streams.

-Prutul, the other river near Galati, has an average flow of 85.5 m/s flowing through asymmetrical banks. The Prutul has small tributaries, the most important being the Horincea, with its Oarba and Lișcov tributaries.

-Chineja, a brook flowing on a deserted branch of the Prut River, gathers the waters of the Băneasa, Covurlui, Frumusița, Ijdileni, Slivna, etc. valleys.



-The lake is in the west of the city, in the valley between the city and the steel mill. Together with the former forest on the outskirts of Galati, which has now become the St Lazarus Cemetery, it formed the Green Belt of the City, which had the role of cleaning the air. The lake is used for dumping the waste of the Siderurgic Combine, but also for kayaking training. To the north of the lake is a small stream. To the south it is bordered by the railway leading to the Barboși railway junction.

-Brateș Lake is located in the north-eastern part of Galati. The connection with the Prut river was made by the development of the Ghimia valley.

#### I.4.2.4. Vegetation and fauna

Vegetation and fauna belong to the steppe and sylvasteppe that characterize southern Moldova, as well as the biotope of ponds and marshes.

Throughout the county we find wild boar, deer, grouse, gophers, gophers, gophers, hedgehogs, goshawks, partridges, quails, larks, storks, ducks, lizards, crocodiles, foxes, wolves, rabbits, gulls, sparrows, swallows (summer only), cuckoos, nightingales, thrushes, wrens, pigeons, etc. Due to excessive and uncontrolled hunting, some animal populations have declined alarmingly, and measures have been taken to protect and repopulate them. As a result, red deer, roe deer, pheasants, etc. have been brought in to breed. As for fish, the waters of the Sire and Prut are predominantly inhabited by carp, halibut and, less frequently, catfish. In the waters of the Bârlad, Ger and Chinejei we find bass and clean. In the Danube, near Galati, there are large migratory fish such as nyster, mullet, wels catfish, moray eel and semi-migratory fish such as catfish, carp, plaice, burbot, horse mackerel, jacks, etc. In spring, the Danube scabbardfish also appears.

#### I.4.2.5. Soils

There are many types of soil in Galati County, and within the same type there are great variations. Most soil types have loess parent rock, less so on clays and marls. Texture varies from one soil group to another. In most, sandy and less clayey textures predominate.

In Galati county there are cernoziomic soils with a normal profile or degraded cernoziomic soils with a moderately to strongly eroded profile, colluvial or alluvial soils of slope and valley, as well as regosols and psammoregosols.

#### I.4.2.6. Natural resources

As regards underground resources, Galați County has important sources of hydrocarbons - crude oil and natural gas - which are currently exploited in the Schela - Independența, Munteni - Berheci and Brateș areas. Clays, sands and gravels are exploited in Galați, Tecuci, Braniștea and in the minor bed of the Prut river, with a major impact on the building materials industry.

### I.4.3. Demographics

#### I.4.3.1. Numerical evolution of the population

The municipality of Galați, the county seat, is the largest city in the county, holding a share of almost 50% of the total county in terms of the number of inhabitants (305,805 people). The second largest city in terms of size and development is the municipality of Tecuci (46,028 inhabitants). The largest commune in terms of surface area is Smârdan (131.57 km<sup>2</sup>), but in terms of the number of inhabitants, the largest commune is Matca (12,545 inhabitants).

#### I.4.3.2. Population structure

The age structure of Galati County shows relatively higher shares of the elderly population (22.6%), over 60 years of age, compared to the South-East Region (21.3%), but lower than the country (23.1%). In the case of the young population of

the county (0 - 19 years) there are lower shares (18.9%) compared to the South-East Region (19.9%) and Romania (19.7%).

Regarding the structure of the population of Galați municipality by ethnicity declared during the 2011 census, it is as follows: the majority population, 90.79%, is of Romanian ethnicity, and the next largest is the Roma population, with a proportion of 0.6%. It is worth noting that the rest of the population - 8.61% - comprises a diversity of ethnic groups: 0.07% Russians-Lippovans, 0.06% Greeks, 0.028% Turks, 0.02% Germans, 0.016% Ukrainians, 0.019% Italians, 0.045% Hungarians, 0.019% Jews, the difference being represented by other nationalities.

#### I.4.3.3 Population dynamics

For county. For the county of Galati, the indicator on the number of births had a fluctuating evolution, without showing a clear trend (2.081 per thousand inhabitants in 2018). As for the number of deaths, an increasing evolution is observed at the municipal level (3.025 per thousand inhabitants in 2018). This results in a negative natural increase of - 0.94 per thousand inhabitants and a decreasing trend of the population on a background of accentuated ageing.

In terms of migratory movement, at the county level. Galați the balance of changes of residence (the algebraic difference between the number of arrivals and departures from the municipality) is negative, the departures with residence being much higher, with a tendency to leave the municipality and accentuating the trend of population decrease.

### I.4.4.Economy

#### I.4.5.1.Agriculture

Agriculture occupies an important place due to the agricultural and arable land area farmed, the number of livestock and poultry, the technical potential in land improvement and the equipment with tractors and agricultural machinery. For agricultural activities, Galati County has 358,456 ha of land, of which 289,800 ha are arable land, 42,771 ha pasture land, 548 ha hay meadows, 23,050 ha vineyards and vine nurseries and 2,287 ha orchards and fruit nurseries. The county also has 44,881 ha of forests and other wooded land, 13,047 ha of water meadows and ponds and 30,278 ha of other areas. Thus, agriculture has a number of natural resources, which, if properly exploited, can play an important role in the economic and social development of Galati County.

In this context, agriculture is a very important sector for the regional economy: about 40% of the employed population works in this sector, which contributes 16% to the regional GDP. In Galați county there are, in 2015, 717 operators operating as producers, processors, traders, importers and suppliers of seeds. In Galați county, the main crops grown on the agricultural area are grain maize (39.71% of the total cultivated area) and wheat/dry (22.92%). Both crops account for more than 50% of the cultivated area, giving the image of an agricultural county, although in some areas there are no suitable conditions for growing grain cereals

The evolution of agricultural animal production in Galati County shows a series of fluctuations, depending on market requirements. Meat production (tonnes live weight) is showing a slight upward trend (1.36%), mainly due to an increase in demand for poultry meat (32.21% up on 2000). The only decrease was in beef and veal (-29.1%), while other meat production increased. At the same time, at regional level, there are decreases in almost all agricultural animal production, with the exception of pigmeat production, which shows an increase of 17.05%. Chronic problems affecting the agricultural sector limit the exploitation of the extraordinary potential of both the county and the South-East Region. At regional level, about 57% of the agricultural area is

used by very small agricultural units (2.53 hectares), where subsistence or semi-subsistence farming is practised and which is currently an obstacle to the development and modernisation of the agricultural sector. Organic farming In Galati county there are, in 2015, 102 operators operating as producers, processors, traders, importers and suppliers of organic seeds. The agricultural area cultivated organically in our county totals 10,310.34 ha. Of this area 1,575.15 ha are in conversion year 1, 641.35 ha are in conversion year 2 and 111.29 ha are in conversion year 3. The certified organic area is 7,982.55 ha. As far as the livestock sector goes there are certified organic:

- 748 bee families;
- 42 dairy cows;
- 2 bulls;
- 38 head of cattle under 6 months.

#### Industry

Galati County has a diversified industry. Almost all branches of industry are represented: metallurgy, machine building, petrochemicals, food, textiles, construction and building materials. At county level, the highest productivity is found in the metallurgical, building materials, construction and manufacturing industries. An important sector for Galati county is shipbuilding and naval transport - river and maritime. The metallurgy sector has the largest share of investment. Large companies in the county, operating in the metallurgy, shipbuilding, construction and bakery sectors, have a significant share of the number of employees. The Port of Galati is Romania's largest seaport on the Danube, strategically located to supply goods to Central and Eastern Europe. The number of active small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Galati county has increased between 2010 and 2015, mainly through the increase in the number of micro-enterprises, which indicates a dynamic business environment dominated by fierce competition. Small businesses play an important role in economic recovery by creating new jobs and creating a platform for competition based on flexibility and productivity. SMEs have grown increasingly in recent years, thanks to economic growth and funding programmes. Among the sectors of activity, the industrial sector is proving to be booming, while SMEs in the service sector are more flexible and fall into the class of micro-enterprises with a market intermediary function. According to the distribution of SMEs per 1,000 inhabitants, at national level, in 2014, Galati County ranked 2nd in the South-East Region. According to the data presented by the Galati Trade Register Office in the period 2010- 2015 the number of newly established SMEs increased from 1,073 in 2010 to 1,797 in 2014 and 1,974 in 2015 (until September). Research and development activity in Galati county is above the national average, ranking first in the South-East Region, thanks to the "Danube" and "Danubius" Universities, naval and metallurgical research institutes and research centres for the food industry, fisheries and environment. Galati County has a wide variety of business support structures. Thus, one of the 6 science and technology parks in the country, together with the Tehnopol Association, an industrial park, a free zone, 3 business centres, 4 clusters and a regional association for energy and the environment are located in the municipality of Galati.

#### 1.4.5.3. Transport

At the county level, the structure of public road transport activity by regular and special regular services in Galati County is as follows:

- regular passenger transport

The County Public Transport Programme was approved in 2013 and is valid until 30.06.2016.

The architecture of the county programme includes:

- No. of county routes: 59;
- No. of transport operators: 11;
- No. of trips made/day: 500;
- No. of vehicles required = 166 (of which 20 buses with more than 23 seats);
- No. of km driven daily = 6,258.

The transport network provides transport for citizens from all the communes of Galati county, with priority flows to the city, towns and communes (Tecuci, Tg. Bujor, Berești, Pechea).

- passenger transport by special regular services

Galati County Council issues, annually, about 20 transport licenses at the request of transport operators, to provide transport under agreement to employees of companies, students and military personnel, within the county.

#### Rail transport

The railway network of Galati County is higher than the national average and has an important share in the Region. The advantages of rail transport compared to road transport include: 6 times less energy consumption per tonne km, much less pollution (per tonne of freight transported is only 10% of the volume of road pollution), much higher traffic safety (the number of accidents on the railways is 20 times less for freight transport and 5 times less for passenger transport), higher land use (a double railway line occupies 60% of the land needed for a 2-lane road). However, rail transport will only become competitive with car transport (but over distances of 200 km or more) by rehabilitating existing railway lines to eliminate speed restrictions caused by inadequate track geometry, lack of embankment reinforcement and engineering works (bridges, viaducts, overpasses), insufficient drainage, obsolete safety installations (line block), etc. In general, it is worth noting both the insufficient passenger and freight transport capacity and the low level of traffic efficiency and safety due to the poor maintenance of the existing road and rail infrastructure (which requires significant investment not only for refurbishment, but above all for extension and modernisation to meet current and future traffic conditions and to ensure intermodal passenger and freight transport and integrated transport), given the accelerated growth in traffic volume and regional, national and European requirements.

#### I.4.5.4. Trade

The structure of the service sector in Galati County is dominated by:

- domestic and international retail and wholesale trade (over 51% of the total);
- real estate transactions and rentals (11% of the total).

Trade, together with manufacturing and construction, accounts for most of the turnover of enterprises in Galati County, and also provides most jobs. Some of the highest turnover figures were recorded in wholesale and retail trade.

#### I.4.5.5. Tourism

Tourism is an important sector of the economy of Galati County, with a major development potential in the medium and long term. Several types of tourism are practised in Galati County, such as: cultural tourism, religious tourism, leisure tourism, agrotourism, business tourism, cruise tourism, etc. There is a relatively well-developed tourist infrastructure comprising both tourist accommodation and catering facilities and some cultural, religious and leisure tourist attractions. However, the poor transport infrastructure, the limited promotion and the degraded state of part of the built heritage that could be of tourist interest are also weak points of the tourist activity in the county. Closely related to tourism services are also public food services, with over 80 establishments of different types (classic restaurant, day bar, night bar, café, self-

service restaurant, brewery, ice cream parlour, brasserie, snack bar, fast food, etc.) offering such services in Galati County.

The territory of our county is characterized by a great variety of landscapes to which a series of natural monuments are added.

Its geographical location gives it a privileged position, whose tourist importance is enhanced by its impressive recreational resources.

Cultural tourism is at the top of the pyramid of possibilities of affirmation due to an attractive potential constituted by numerous and varied historical, religious, ethnographic, cultural, monuments, economic objectives with tourist attributes existing in the perimeter of the county.

Among the most important categories of sights are:

1. Public gardens and parks: (Public garden, "Mihai Eminescu" municipal park, etc.); Recreational areas (Gârboavele Forest, Danube Cliff, Lake Vânători, Zătun Pond, etc.);
3. Parks and protected natural areas (Gârboavele Forest Protected Area, Lower Prut Lowland, Hanu Conachi Sand Dunes, etc.);
4. Archaeological sites: (Roman Castrum of Bărboși);
5. Religious buildings: (Orthodox Archiepiscopal Cathedral "St. Nicholas", Fortified Church "Precista", Vladimiresti Monastery, Roman Catholic Church, Temple of the Craftsmen etc.);
6. Museums and memorial houses (Museum of Visual Art, "Răsvan Angheluță" Museum Complex of Natural Sciences, "Petru Caraman" Village Museum, "Costache Negri" Memorial House, Cuza Voda House, etc.);
7. Theatres (Dramatic Theatre "Fani Tardini", Musical Theatre "Nae Leonard" etc.);
8. Buildings of historical monument value (Administrative Palace, Crissoveloni Family Mansion and Vault, Nestor Cincu Mansion Complex, Navigation Palace, University Palace, etc.);
9. Statues and statuary ensembles (Statue of Mihai Eminescu, Bas-relief "Concert", Statue of Ion C. Brătianu, Bust of V. A. Urechia, "Statue of Lupoaiței" etc.).

Sightseeing tours

Even if not homogeneous and insufficiently well supported with a base of transport infrastructure, technical and infrastructure, respectively "reception" structures for tourism, there are a number of "routes" that could constitute a network for visiting and understanding the natural and man-made specificities of the county. An example is the museum tourist circuit promoted by the Galati County Council, which includes the Galati Museum of Visual Art, the "Răsvan Angheluță" Galati Natural Science Museum Complex, the "Petru Caraman" Galati Village Museum and the Galati History Museum with the following memorial complexes:

1. Costachi Negri "Memorial House" in Costachi Negri commune, Galati county;
2. The "Hortensia Papadat-Bengescu" House from Ivești commune, Galati county;
3. Ion Avram-Dunăreanu "Rural House" from Suhurlui commune, Galati county;
4. Museum "House of Collections";
5. Museum "Cuza Voda House" and annex building. Periodically, large-scale cultural events are organized in the county, which are an attraction for both locals and tourists. (International Folklore Festival Figure 3 - The Roman Castrum of Bărboși 22 "Doina Covurluiului", the Scrumbia Festival, the Peacock Festival, the "Axis Libri" Book Festival, the "Gulliver" Animation Festival, the National Comedy Festival, etc.). They aim both to maintain and promote the culture, traditions and customs of the area and to mark some of the most important moments in the life of the local community and are a point of attraction for tourists in the event tourism category, i.e. those who come

to the area in order to take part in local events that are well known or publicised at regional or national level.

Also, an important role in increasing the tourist attractiveness of the county by stimulating certain types of tourism such as business tourism, leisure tourism or agritourism is played by the business infrastructure (business centres, conference halls), the infrastructure related to sports activities (stadiums, ice rinks, sports complexes, swimming pools, etc.), facilities for sport fishing, horse riding, lookout points, transport infrastructure and technical and sanitary infrastructure in rural localities.

#### **I.4.6.SWOT analysis at county level. Galati**

The activity of educational institutions in Galati County is influenced to a great extent by political, economic, social, technological and ecological factors, which manifest themselves in the environment in which they operate. Institutional performance is significantly boosted or attenuated by the political and legislative environment, economic developments at local, regional, national and international level, internal social progress and integration into the economic and cultural structures of the European Union.

Technological breakthroughs, industrial inventions and innovations, and the need to preserve an environmentally friendly natural environment can help to make the educational process more effective and to ensure educational goals.

The PEST(E) analysis identified the following factors influencing the activity of schools in Galati County.

Politically, the education governance strategy aims to achieve several objectives:

- Increasing the performance of the Romanian education system;
- Ensuring social equity policies;
  - Providing skills and competences for personal, intellectual and professional development in a lifelong learning perspective;
- Opening up the education, training and research system to society, to the social, economic and cultural environment;
  - Strengthening social cohesion and increasing citizens' participation in economic and social development programmes by promoting active citizenship;
- Stimulating innovation and creativity, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training;
- Building the knowledge society by transforming education into a vector of socio-economic development;
- Ensuring competitiveness at European and international level;
  - Permanence of collaboration with the Romanian scientific diaspora;
- Stimulating creativity, innovation and technology transfer;
  - De-politicising the system and promoting professionals in educational management;
  - Promote public policies based on the needs of the system, identified through studies and analysis;
- Respect the principle of autonomy in education and the principle of public accountability and strengthen the legal mechanisms for the operation of these principles;
- Integrating young people into the labour market by developing policies to ensure high growth and sustainable, knowledge-based employment;
- Increasing Romania's international visibility through education results;
- Coordinate education sector policies with policies and initiatives in other sectors to achieve the above objectives;

- Increasing financial resources for education, including by attracting private sources of funding;
- Respect for the principle of social dialogue;
- Assuming the role of a Member State of the European Union by participating in common policies and initiatives in the field of education and research, both at EU level and beyond (collaboration with Asia, Australia, Latin America, North America and Africa);
- Increasing Romania's role in providing education assistance to other countries in order to achieve the objectives associated with the Education for All initiative, supported by the UN and coordinated globally by UNESCO.

From an economic point of view, at national level, the policy of developing the private sector and small and medium-sized industries is encouraged, which leads to a diversification of schooling offers; at local level, due to differences in economic development, imbalances arise, which generate unequal access to education.

The low level of monthly earnings in students' families negatively influences the possibility

broadening the teaching base through parental contributions at school level.

Therefore, in view of financial decentralisation and the need to adapt supply the actual supply-demand ratio on the labour market, the involvement of the educational environment in the

business and the development of partnerships with economic agents, will be timely solutions that will

contribute to alleviating labour migration.

In Galati county, the rather high unemployment rate (8.56%) has negative effects on school:

- Difficult living and studying conditions for pupils from families with unemployed parents;
- Decreasing students' motivation for learning;
- The break-up of families due to material deprivation;
- The departure of many parents abroad in search of work and leaving their children in grandparents' care;
- Reduced chances for high school graduates to find a job;AL
- Population of Galati on 1 July 2012: 304 340 inhabitants;
- Predominant ethnicity: Romanian (representing 96.8% of the total population)
- Unemployment rate: 8.56%

The main conclusions drawn from the demographic analysis of Galati County:

- The population of Galati County is decreasing, but the population density (120 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>) is above the average for the country;
- The evolution of the school-age population is on a downward curve;
- Lack of jobs has generated migration among the working population abroad for job-seeking purposes;
- The discrepancy between the incomes of the different social categories, family prejudices in choosing a job, lead to unequal opportunities for young people to get a job;
- Increase in the number of single-parent families;
- Rising youth crime rates;

Impact on school:

- Population fluctuations influence the school's enrolment figures, and, indirectly, the recruitment of teaching staff;

- The precarious material situation of many pupils' families, the high cost of purchasing school supplies have negative effects on educational participation, ranging from disinterest to absenteeism and even dropping out;
- Pupils from broken homes or from families with one or both parents in working abroad are exposed to numerous physical and psychological security risks, decreased interest in school, drug use, juvenile delinquency . It requires closer collaboration between the school and local partners: the Galati City Hall, the Proximity Police, the County Centre for Educational Resources and Assistance, the Public Health Department, the Association for Community Safety and Antidrug;
- Increases the role of the school in the community;
- The educational offer must be adapted to the specifics and requirements of the community.

In Galati county there are four cable TV networks, fixed and mobile telephone networks. There are modern means of communication, both at the level of institutions, companies, transport, tourism, telecommunications, and families / individuals in Galati County. Most families have a computer and Internet connection, which gives them access to information.

Technology plays a key role in the progress of society. The technology sector with the greatest impact on increasing the quality and efficiency of education is information technology. For schools in Galati County, the computer network is not very efficient - both hardware and software, which cannot provide students and teachers with a modern material base, being a weak point of many schools. Investment in this area is urgently needed. Teachers have IT skills and use ICT in their teaching and self-study. Pupils are introduced to the use of computers in optional subjects introduced in the Curriculum by School Decision.

Integration into the European Union requires schools to comply with environmental protection rules. Educational projects carried out by schools do not damage the environment through their activities and respect the principles of sustainable development.

Environmental education in schools becomes a priority. Schools get involved in tackling environmental problems by running environmental projects and volunteering in environmental education.

#### **I.4.7.Municipality of Galati**

##### **I.4.7.1.Geographical position. Brief history.**

###### **I.4.7.1.1 Geographical location**

Galați is the municipality of the county of the same name. Geographically, the municipality of Galati is located at the southeastern limit of Romania on the left bank of the Danube, being bordered by surface waters, namely:

- to the northeast and east - by the Prut River and Lake Brateș;
- to the south - by the Danube River;
- to the south-west - by the river Siret.

From an administrative point of view - the city of Galati is located in the south-eastern part of Galati County, being located near the mouths of the rivers Siret and Prut into the Danube River. The municipality's intraurban area covers an area of 5943,4442 ha, and the administrative territory is 24.642 ha, including the Brateș Lake.

The municipality extends over three terraces: The city valley, with altitudes between 5 - 7 m and two others, drawn almost in a fan shape; the first with an altitude between 20 - 25 m (medieval city centre, now the city centre) and the second with altitudes exceeding 40 m (modern city).



#### I.4.7.1.2. Brief history

The first documentary attestation of the city of Galati, then a fair, dates back to 1445 and can be found in an act signed by ruler Stephen II.

From the point of view of historical periodisation, three main periods have been identified which, resulting from the general historical development of the city, have different characteristics, each of which is very well defined:

\*from antiquity to the regulatory period (introduction of Organic Regulations)

Near a ford of the Danube, a Dacian settlement arose in Antiquity, which was perpetuated until the Roman campaign of 101 - 102 and 105 - 106 AD. After the conquest of the province, the settlement was part of a Roman territorium administrative-territorial unit, integrated into the Roman province of Moesia Inferior. The area was defended by the Romans through a system of fortifications: the castellum discovered in the Danube district of the city, the castrum of Tirighina - Barboși and the earthen wall that has been identified in the area of Tuluțești and Traian.

The 15th-18th centuries are defining for the community developed at the confluence of the Danube-Siret-Prut, this evolving from a commercial and craft fair to an important economic centre of the country, almost all trade in the Lower Danube area being conducted through the local market; the shipyard activity is also booming, in Galati were built merchant ships and warships, especially for the beneficiaries of the Ottoman Empire.

\*from the period of the Regulation to the end of the Second World War (1831- 1950)

From 1840 until the end of the century, the built-up area was increased and all the free spaces in the urban area were occupied, either by building small industrial enterprises or by developing areas in parks (now Mihai Eminescu Park is established). A significant number of factories have been located in the urban area, both in the "lower town" and in the "upper town".

Important political events with decisive consequences for modern Romania - the Revolution of 1848, the Union of the Principalities, the War of Independence, the proclamation of the Kingdom, the First World War and the Great Union - had significant consequences on the urban development of the city. During this period, the new urban structure was built and consolidated and the built environment was largely renovated, thus placing Galati in the general line of modernisation of Romanian cities.

\*1950 - 1989. Contemporary period of urban development

The post-war communist regime recognised the administrative potential of the city and introduced it as part of an ambitious industrialisation and urbanisation plan. Between 1950 and 1984, large enterprises of local, national and international interest were built. At the same time, the city of Galati was systematised according to the requirements of this development in order to satisfy the need for housing and social and economic facilities. In the central areas, all this construction was carried out by destroying old historical buildings, on the pretext that they were no longer architecturally and building-wise appropriate and had been seriously damaged by earthquakes in 1940, 1977 and 1986.

In the development of the city, an attempt was made to follow a systematization plan aimed at directing the location of industrial, social-cultural buildings and housing districts in clear areas, a plan which also meant rethinking the street system. The period, which took place under completely different political, economic and social conditions, is characterised, from the point of view of Galati, by the second major expansion of the urban territory.

#### I.4.7.2. Natural setting

#### I.4.7.2.1.Terrain

The relief of Galati municipality is in the form of a meadow and hilly plain with a maximum altitude of 94 m.

From a geomorphological point of view, the administrative territory of the municipality comprises the following areas:

a) the middle terrace of the Siret T2- which occupies the north-western part of the municipality, including the Smârdan hills, has a relatively flat surface with altitudes below 67.0m, slopes down towards the Danube and slopes towards Lake Brateş, the Cătuşa pond and the low terrace;

b) the low terrace of the Siret T3 - occupies the central area of Galati, has a relatively flat surface, descends into the slope and is also sloping towards the Danube and Lake Brateş and has a level between 20.0 and 30.0m;

c) the connecting slope - connecting the two terraces - T2 and T3 have a difference in level of approx. 20m, between +30,0 and +50,0m. The Siret terraces and the area of the connecting slope between them are made up on the surface of about 30 - 70m of quaternary deposits of eolian nature (loess and loessosely structured soils), which rest at depth on alluvial dusty clayey and sandy deposits.

The existence of slopes towards the Danube and Lake Brateş and of slopes in general has favoured, through the water runoff on their surfaces, the production of phenomena of ravines, hollows, gullies, miniature canyons, and towards the edges of the terraces microreliefs - crovasses are formed and pseudocarstic (clastocarstic), sufotional processes etc., which in some areas have widened and given rise to real valleys:

- the valley of the Tiglini and the valley of the Slaughterhouse - which discharge their collected flows into the Danube River. Of these, the Tziglinei valley is well represented, with its ramifications covering a distance of approx. 1000m;

- the valley of Fileştilor and the valley of Viilor, now partially blocked, still flow into the Cătuşa pond, at the mouth of which the alluvium of the Siret forms a real dam that prevents the normal flow of water - the phenomenon of agradare.

#### I.4.7.2.2.Climate

As Galati County is a gateway to the north-east and south-west, it is under the influence of eastern and less southern continental air masses, almost completely lacking the influence of western air which is stopped by the Carpathian mountains. The average annual temperature, calculated over a period of 70 years, is 10 degrees C. The average summer temperature is 21.3 degrees C.

During winter, cold air masses come from the north and northeast over Galati county, causing temperature drops ranging from 0.2 degrees C -3 degrees C.

The annual distribution of rainfall is uneven, with the greatest amounts of water falling in the summer season in the form of showers. The prevailing wind is the Criva wind, which accounts for 29% of the annual wind frequency. The second predominant wind is the Austrul, the southerly, with a frequency of 16%, blows more in summer and is quite dry. There is also a lesser known wind blowing across the county which brings rain and is called the Baltor.

The climate, as shown, is temperate-continental.

#### I.4.7.2.3.Hydrography

Galati's position is peninsular because it is surrounded by water from 3 sides. All these waterways, with their special characteristics, have contributed to the development of the port, which was at a certain historical stage the largest port in Romania.

-The Danube, Europe's second largest river, has been one of Europe's most heavily trafficked routes since ancient times when the Danube was called Ister. The presence of the Danube is undoubtedly the specific attraction of Galati. The Danube is a river

with a unique course, with depths ranging from 20 to 36 metres. The width of the minor riverbed is 776 metres.

-The Sire, which springs from Ukraine's Forest Carpathians, is the country's largest inland river, flowing through Moldova from north to south. The most important tributary of the Sire is the Bistrita, which in turn collects other rivers and streams.

-Prutul, the other river near Galati, has an average flow of 85.5 m/s flowing through asymmetrical banks. The Prutul has small tributaries, the most important being the Horincea, with its tributaries Oarba and Lișcov.

-Chineja, a brook flowing on a deserted branch of the Prut River, gathers the waters of the Băneasa, Covurlui, Frumusița, Ijdileni, Slivna, etc. valleys.

-The lake is in the west of the city, in the valley between the city and the steel mill. Together with the former forest on the outskirts of Galati, which has now become the St Lazarus Cemetery, it formed the Green Belt of the City, which had the role of cleaning the air. The lake is used for dumping the waste of the Siderurgic Combine, but also for kayaking training. To the north of the lake is a small stream. To the south it is bordered by the railway leading to the Barboși railway junction.

-Brateș Lake is located in the north-eastern part of Galati. The connection with the Prut river was made by the development of the Ghimia valley.

#### I.4.7.2.4. Vegetation and fauna

Vegetation and fauna belong to the steppe and sylvasteppe that characterize southern Moldova, as well as the biotope of ponds and marshes.

Throughout the county we find wild boar, deer, grouse, gophers, hedgehogs, blinds, partridges, quails, larks, storks, ducks, lizards, crocodiles, foxes, wolves, rabbits, gulls, sparrows, swallows (summer only), cuckoos, nightingales, thrushes, wrens, pigeons, etc. Due to excessive and uncontrolled hunting, some animal populations have declined alarmingly, and measures have been taken to protect and repopulate them. As a result, red deer, roe deer, pheasants, etc. have been brought in to breed. As for fish, the waters of the Sire and Prut are predominantly inhabited by carp, halibut and, less frequently, catfish. In the waters of the Bârlad, Ger and Chinejei we find bass and clean. In the Danube, near Galati, there are large migratory fish such as nyster, mullet, red mullet and semi-migratory fish such as catfish, carp, plaice, burbot, horse mackerel, jacks, etc. In spring, Danube scabbard fish also appear.

#### I.4.7.2.5. Soils

In the mun. Galați, as well as on the territory of Galați county, there are many types of soil, and within the same type there are great variations. Most of the soil types have loess parent rock, less on clays and marls. Texture varies from one soil group to another. In most, sandy and less clayey textures predominate.

Other soils include normal profile cernozomic soils and degraded cernozomic soils with moderate to strongly eroded profiles, colluvial or alluvial slope and valley soils, and regosols and psamoregosols.

### I.4.7.3. Demographics

#### I.4.7.3.1. Numerical evolution of the population

According to the 2011 Census, Galați ranks 8th in the country in terms of number of inhabitants, with 249,732 inhabitants.

The statistics also revealed the following ethnic structure: 90.79% Romanians, 0.6% Roma, 0.07% Russians-Lippovans, 0.06% Greeks, 0.028% Turks, 0.02% Germans, 0.016% Ukrainians, 0.019% Italians, 0.045% Hungarians, 0.019% Jews, the difference being represented by other nationalities.

The advantages of the coexistence of different ethnicities are manifested in the social field (exchanges of experience), culture and potential for tourism and sport.

The population of the municipality represents about 48% of the county population and about 10% of the population of the South East Region.

The population density in the municipality of Galati is much higher than the county and national level, i.e. 938.33 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. The average household size in Galati is 2.46 members.

The demographic evolution at the level of the Municipality of Galati has been decreasing over the last three years by about 0.6% per year, a level close to that recorded at the regional level and below the national level, by about 65% (-0.4% annual variation recorded at the national level).

#### 1.4.7.3.2. Population dynamics

At national, regional, county and local level, the population decline in recent years has been driven by both negative natural increase and negative external migration. Compared to the rest of the areas, the birth rate in the Municipality of Galati is consistently below the levels recorded at national, regional and county level, representing on average about 80% of the values recorded at county level. In the context of a drastic decrease in the birth rate and a significant increase in mortality, the natural increase of the population in the municipality of Galați decreased from 4.7‰ in 1990 to -2.6‰ in 2013.

External migration has been one of the factors contributing to the population decline, generating a significant negative balance.

#### 1.4.7.4. Economy

The city of Galati, in the past a city with international trade vocation through which the most diverse goods were traded by water, having as destination not only Romania but also Romania's neighbouring countries, became, during the 1960s, a strongly industrialized city. After 1990, the municipality experienced the biggest economic decline among the first rank municipalities (decreases of more than 50% in the number of employees and industrial production), due to the decline of heavy industry, with a very high share in the local economy.

Galati is the second economic pole of the South-East region, after Constanta, and ranks 7th nationally in terms of total turnover. At present, more than 19,000 economic agents are registered in Galați, including 15,000 companies.

The entrepreneurship rate and the number of small and medium-sized enterprises are significantly lower compared to other first-tier municipalities in Romania. The city's development opportunities lie in the encouragement of traditional and profitable sectors as well as new branches, including, in particular, the development of the tertiary sector.

##### 1.4.7.4.1. Industry

The metallurgical industry is the main economic activity in the municipality of Galati. ArcelorMittal Galati (formerly Sidex Galati) is the largest steel and mining company in the world, with a presence in over 60 countries. More than two thirds of its metallurgical production is exported.

The production capacity of the Combine has been continually reduced, with only a few plants currently in operation. Apart from ArcelorMittal, a number of other companies operate in the Municipality of Galati, producing capital flows to the market. Most of these are dependent on the activity of ArcelorMittal, which is the main supplier of raw materials. They produce steel strip and tubes, wire mesh, coated/galvanised sheet metal and galvanised steel profiles, metal sheeting, edge sheeting, fittings for metal profiles, steel pipes, etc.

### Shipbuilding industry

Galati Shipyard has been a leader in the shipbuilding industry for more than 100 years. The shipyard is located on the banks of the Danube between the city and the Free Zone. Damen Shipyards Galati supplies the river and maritime fleet with vessels up to 65,000 tdw (barges, bulk carriers, ore carriers, tugs, oil tankers, military vessels, clippers, large yachts etc) and marine drilling rigs.

Since 1966, Galați has been home to the most important shipbuilding research institute in Romania - ICEPRONAV. Since 2002 it has been a member of the UK-based International Contract Engineering (ICE) group, which holds 98.3% of the company's shares. The British group also owns three major design centres in Hamburg, Oslo and Newcastle. The institute has a large ship, structure and equipment design department and a small production department with model and prototype testing facilities.

### Food and drink industry

In the municipality, large food industry establishments (S.C. GALMOPAN S.A., S.C. GALACTA S.A., S.C. GALCO S.A. Galați) have ceased their activity due to both their inability to adapt to the requirements of the market economy and the poor management of these establishments. There are, however, milling and bakery, meat processing, brewing, fish processing and vegetable oil establishments in the municipality which operate in good conditions. The food industry plays an important role in the economy of Galati, being represented by important companies such as S.C. PRUTUL S.A. (vegetable oil), S.C. ALMERA INTERNATIONAL S.R.L. (dairy and cheese), S.C. SALTEMPO S.R.L. (meat and meat preparations).

In the Municipality of Galati a traditional activity is fishing and aquaculture. According to data from the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture (ANPA), the following fish farms were authorized in the Municipality of Galați on 1 March 2014: - Brateș research and development fish farm - Hatchery (225.2 ha) - Brateș research and development fish farm - Nursery (94.78 ha) - Zătun fish farm - Hatchery (375 ha) These are under the administration of the Research and Development Institute for Aquatic Ecology, Fisheries and Aquaculture Galati (ICDEAPA), respectively of the Galati County Public Service for the Administration of Public - Private Domains.

### I.4.7.4.2.Transport

In the road haulage and passenger transport sector, 280 companies with a total of 2889 employees were active (4.37% fewer than in 2008).

There are 10 companies operating in the water transport sector with 813 employees. The maritime and river traffic of Galati County is handled through the Galati port complex consisting of the Docks Port, the New Basin Port, the Old Commercial Port and the Mineral Port. This port complex offers numerous opportunities for the economy of the whole area. In terms of structure, the share of maritime traffic is higher than that of river traffic in terms of number of ships, but lower in terms of tonnage of goods transported. Although the business of local water transport companies has increased in recent years, the volume of goods transported remains extremely low in relation to the potential of the Danube, which is one of the TEN-T priority axes at European level, and therefore of the port of Galati.

This dynamic is also influenced by the decrease in the volume of activity of ARCELORMITTAL, the main economic operator in the municipality, which imports and exports significant quantities of metallurgical products (raw materials and finished products). The revitalisation of the transport and storage sector requires the development of an intermodal transport infrastructure, continued investment in the modernisation of transport on the Danube and port infrastructure, modernisation of the

road and rail transport network, development of agriculture, as well as the revival of local production activity by attracting new investors.

In the Municipality of Galati, the construction companies cover a wide range of works in the area of road and bridge construction, civil and industrial, technical and civil engineering, hydrotechnical and environmental construction, in addition to the production of construction materials (concrete, mortars, asphalt mixtures, mineral aggregates, metal products, carpentry, etc.), construction laboratories, machinery rental, etc. In 2012, there were 743 construction companies. Galician construction companies provide over 8,000 jobs, with a regional and even national market.

#### 1.4.7.4.3.Trade

In Galati, the service sector is developed, with over 1,000 active companies, and the most important branch is trade. The development of modern trade, with high labour productivity, has also led to the disappearance of many very small commercial establishments, which provided a significant number of jobs, but which cannot be as competitive as the large commercial networks with foreign capital.

Galati is one of the 6 Free Zones in Romania. The existence of the Free Zone is an advantage for the city, as it was created to promote foreign trade and to attract foreign capital for a better use of resources and the introduction of new technologies. The Free Zone is located in the eastern part of the city, with access to the Danube shore. This position gives it the following advantages: access to water transport, road transport, rail transport. The most important characteristic of Galati is its location on the Danube-Rhine-Main trans-European navigation artery. Increasing the attractiveness of the area is conditional on the development of the port and port-industrial areas of the Free Zone and on making the territory more permeable to transport routes of European interest, which means building roadways - bridges to cross the Danube, proposed in the Braila-Galati-Tulcea area - to complete the road corridor on our country's territory, envisaged within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

#### 1.4.7.4.4.Tourism

##### Natural tourism resources

Among the components of the natural framework, a number of 11 hydrographic elements (rivers and lakes), a forest area and two nature reserves have been identified as relevant for tourism in the administrative territory of the municipality of Galati: Ostrovul Prut and Tirighina-Barboși fossiliferous site, plus a series of natural elements in various stages of development.

Green landscaped areas (relevant for tourist development in Galati) Danube waterfront, Public Garden (monument of landscape art), Rizer Park, Libertății Park, Vega Park, Eminescu Park, Botanical Garden.

Anthropic tourist resources - Precista Church, Tirighina-Barboși Roman castrum

Museums and collections - Museum of History "Paul Păltănea", Museum Complex of Natural Sciences "Răsvan Angheluță", Museum of Christian History, Culture and Spirituality, Museum of Contemporary Art. In addition, there is the outdoor monumental art ensemble "Metal Sculpture Camp", most of the pieces being placed in the cliff area. It is a unique object in Romania in terms of the number of pieces, their positioning, the theme, the size of the works, the technique and the artistic symbols.

Cultural events - Navy Day, Theatre Festival, Galați celebrations.

The existence of a large number of Orthodox churches and places belonging to other religious denominations makes the city an area with strong potential for religious and ecumenical tourism. The Archbishop's Cathedral and most of the old churches in the city are the best known points of spiritual-religious attraction. In addition, pilgrimages

have become a particularly active phenomenon in recent years in the diocese of Lower Danube, taking place on the occasion of the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, patron saint of the city.

**I.4.7.5.SWOT analysis at local community level**

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- geographical location, in a basin with high hydrographic and fishery potential</li> <li>- strong potential in terms of regional, cross-border associative relations, in the field of environmental protection, economic relations, development of infrastructure projects, disaster prevention and control, socio-cultural projects;</li> <li>-increased potential in intercultural communication;</li> <li>- development possibilities in the field of tourism infrastructure, diversified natural environment, watershed favourable to development, in correlation with regional poles of attraction;</li> <li>- the existence of a diverse, specific natural and man-made environment with unique elements, access to the Delta, the presence of valuable ecosystems, fishing potential;</li> <li>- important cultural and artistic heritage and an environment that encourages the manifestation of such tendencies;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-the existence of loess soil, sensitive to wetting throughout the municipality (loess deposits are materialised in layers of varying thickness from 30 m to 70 m), with negative effects on the stability of existing constructions and high costs for new constructions;</li> <li>- the existence of the large industrial platform of the metallurgical combine in the western part of the municipality, which prevents the expansion of the administrative territory, the development of communication routes and transport links in this area;</li> <li>- a poorly diversified economy, in some places obsolete, with some sectors in decline and the risk of abandonment of some industrial areas;</li> <li>- poor exploitation of the municipality's resources/potential;</li> <li>- labour force problems, a labour force that can no longer find full employment in the area, especially young people, who are forced to migrate;</li> <li>-ageing population;</li> <li>- Insufficient links and cooperation between academia, applied research and innovation and business;</li> <li>-inefficient management of natural and man-made tourism potential;</li> <li>- poor exploitation of multicultural potential.</li> </ul>

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>-to make the most of the unique potential of Galati will lead to the affirmation and development of sectors that will give it personality; it is imperative to open the city to the Danube;</p> <p>-Galati municipality has a strong strategic profile, favouring the development of the tertiary sector;</p> <p>-raising standards in the university sector and supporting competitiveness will have beneficial effects on the quality of human resources, with an impact on all sectors of activity;</p> <p>-development of the business environment- Galati - innovative, competitive, integrating city;</p> <p>-development of territorial and suprateritorial spatial relations - Galati</p> <p>- sustainable city;</p> <p>-urban development - Galati - community-oriented city;</p> <p>- cultural development and intercultural communication;</p> <p>-agriculture - facilitating market entry for local producers;</p>	<p>-disposals in large economic units due to the economic climate;</p> <p>-decreasing number of SMEs;</p> <p>-decreasing foreign investment inflows, a trend existing in the South East Region;</p> <p>-high pollution level;</p> <p>-deficient public service infrastructure in relation to the needs of the population;</p> <p>-insufficient social protection;</p> <p>-demographic change and migration of the young population;</p> <p>-the risk of degradation of local values in the absence of measures to promote and enhance cultural and tourist potential;</p> <p>-maintaining the current low level of infrastructure development may negatively influence the economic development of the area;</p>

### I.4.8.Munteni Commune (with reference also to Ungureni village)

#### I.4.8.1.Geographical position. Brief history.

##### I.4.8.1.1 Geographical location



The commune is located in the north-west of the county, on the banks of the river Bârlad, in the Tecuci Plain. It is crossed by the national road DN24, which connects Tecuciul to Bârlad. From this road, near Țigănești, the county road DJ240 branches off, leading north-east to Negrileşti, Ghidigeni and Priponești (where it also ends at DN24). The Tecuci-Bârlad railway also passes through the commune, which is served by the Rateș Munteni stop.

##### I.4.8.1.2.Brief history

The history of the village is documented in two dictionaries, namely, "Dicționar Geografic Statistic et Istoric al județului Tecuci" (1894), written by Professor Teodor N. Ciuntu, and "Dicționar Geografic al României" volume 3, written in 1900 by G. Lahovariu, General C.I.Brătianu and G.Tocilescu, documents that are in the Galati State Archives.

In 1700, the landowner Manolache Conache, who owned 221,000 acres of land spread over three counties: Rm.Sărat, Putna and Tecuci, brought the first slaves to



the communes (villages) Slobozia-Blăneasa and Țigăneștii Noi and installed them in houses, gravel and silos on the edge of the forest, point Balta.

The Robii had makeshift houses until 1750 when they left the village of Siliște and approached the manor of the vornic of the Lower Country, Manolache Conachi, settling on the place Blăneasa or Valea Boului. The land of the landowner Manolache Conache was worked with slaves until 1849 when he died, and the son of Cosache Conache continued the slavery, as well as his daughter Cocuța. During the reign of Alexandru Ioan Cuza the gypsies escaping from slavery crossed the left bank of the river Bîrlad to Blăneasa where they improvised their houses. These gypsies mixed with the Rakakas from the village of Blăneasa, the village was named Slobozia and together they formed Slobozia Blăneasa.

From the mountains came other inhabitants with flocks of sheep including Costache Ciungu called "Ungureanu", Marin Scutaru, Sandu Chirilă and others who settled on the right bank of the river Bîrlad from which the village received the name Munteni. The name of the village comes from the inhabitants who came from the mountains, and the village Ungureniprovine from the name of the administrator of Costache Conache called Costache Ciungu called Ungureanu.

At the end of the 19th century, the commune was called Țigănești, was part of the Nicorești net of Tecuci county, and was made up of the villages Munteni, Țigănești and Ungureni, with a total of 4040 inhabitants. The commune had two steam mills, three churches and two mixed schools (in Ungureni and Munteni). The Socec yearbook of 1925 records, in the same plate, the separation of Țigănești commune into Munteni and Ungureni communes. The first, with the village of Munteni, had 3200 inhabitants. The second, with the villages of Slobozia Blăneasa, Ungureni and Țigănești, had 1563 inhabitants.

By 1950, Ungureni commune had disappeared, and Munteni commune was then transferred to Tecuci district from Putna region, then (after 1952) from Bârlad region and finally (after 1956) from Galați region. In 1968, the commune became a suburban commune of the municipality of Tecuci and included the villages of Negrilești, which had been abolished. In 1989, the concept of suburban commune was abandoned and Munteni commune was directly subordinated to Galați county.

#### **I.4.8.2.Natural setting**

##### **I.4.8.2.1.Terrain**

The present relief is the result of the modelling of the Quaternary formations (the loessoside and those associated with them are the most important in terms of grain size and texture and are composed of yellowish sandy and sandy clayey dust with calcareous concretions).Among the factors shaping the relief, a very important and active role has been played by the hydrographic network and slope processes.The general characteristic of the locality's relief is a succession of lowland and hill-type sequences.

##### **I.4.8.2.2.Climate**

Summers are very hot and dry and winters are freezing, marked by heavy blizzards and frequent interruptions caused by advections of warm, moist air from the S and S/S, which cause intervals of warming and melting of the snow cover. On the general climatic background, the Bârladului meadow introduces changes in the values and regime of the main meteorological elements, leading to the creation of a specific meadow topoclimate, wetter and cooler in summer and wetter and less cold in winter.

##### **I.4.8.2.3.Hydrography**

Groundwater is stored in gravel and sand horizons by infiltration of precipitation, snowmelt and water from the river system, forming extensive or local aquifers at depths of 10 - 30 m.

#### I.4.8.2.4. Vegetation and fauna

Vegetation and fauna belong to the steppe and forest biotopes, as well as to the marsh and pond biotopes, and are represented by both sedentary and migratory animals.

#### I.4.8.2.5. Soils

There are normal profile chocolate and brownish chernozemic soils or degraded chernozemic soils with moderate to strongly eroded profile, colluvial or alluvial slope and valley soils, as well as regosols and psamoregosols.

#### I.4.8.2.6. Natural resources

Subsoil resources insignificant.

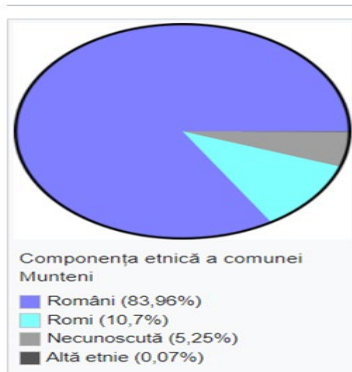
### I.4.8.3. Demographics

#### I.4.8.3.1. Numerical evolution of the population

According to the 2011 census, the population of Munteni is 6,791 inhabitants, down from the previous census in 2002, when 7,137 inhabitants were registered.

#### I.4.8.3.2. Population structure

The majority of the inhabitants are Romanians (83.96%), with a minority of Roma (10.71%). For 5.26% of the population, the ethnicity is not known. From a confessional point of view, the majority of the inhabitants are Orthodox (93.77%). For 5.26% of the population, the confessional affiliation is not known.



#### I.4.8.3.3. Population dynamics

After 1990, due to the decrease in the standard of living in the county and to the economic changes that occurred, the birth rate decreased very much, directly causing a sharp decrease in the young population, but especially an accelerated aging of the population of the commune. Population mobility is the second demographic

phenomenon that has led to a decrease in the population of the commune after 1990, with an increase in unemployment, a fall in the standard of living, further generating rural exodus and encouraging more and more emigration of the able-bodied population, especially men, across the borders.

### I.4.8.4. Economy

#### I.4.8.4.1. Agriculture

Agro-economic zoning in relation to the suitability of land use in Galati County (according to the County Land Use Plan - G.A.T.J. Galati) includes the territory of Munteni commune in the area with predominantly agricultural functions.

The economic activity of Munteni is centered on agriculture, one of the general objectives of the local policy, i.e. the development of agriculture, is convergent with the objectives of the regional policy of the South-East development region.

#### I.4.8.4.2. Industry

The industrial sector is insignificant.

#### I.4.8.4.3. Transport

Transport is mainly by road. The Tecuci-Bârlad railway passes through the commune, which is served by the Rateș Munteni stop.

#### I.4.8.4.4. Trade

The commercial services sector is the most developed: restaurants, bars, road haulage, construction work.

#### I.4.8.4.5. Tourism

Three objectives in Munteni commune are included in the list of historical monuments in Galati county as monuments of local interest, all in Țigănești village. Two of them are historical monuments of architecture: the gate of the poet Costache Conachi's manor house (early 19th century); and the ensemble of the Nestor Cincu manor house (late 19th century) - an ensemble consisting of the manor house itself, a gazebo and a park. Another is the memorial or funerary monument of the mansion of the poet Costache Conachi (1838-1840, 18th century, rebuilt in the 19th century).

#### I.4.8.5.SWOT analysis at local community level

TARI DOTS	SLAVE POINTS
<b>NATURAL SETTING AND STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT</b>	
Relatively flat / flat relief with low gradient over most of the territory Lack of major sources of pollution Land with very good fertility. Existence of rich solar and wind potential Presence of lowland relief (low slopes, favourable exposure) High share of agricultural areas Preponderance of soils with good and very good suitability for arable use Preponderance of agricultural activities	Presence of flood risk areas Insignificant soil resources Unsuitable locations for landfills. Water deficit Insignificant subsoil resources Low diversity for land use
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
Moving towards organic farming Attracting funds to harness unconventional energy potential.	Dependence on a single model of exploiting the natural environment through cereal farming.
<b>POPULATION ,HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	
<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
Willingness to work, relatively good level of professional training.	Strong demographic ageing trend. Negative migration balance Negative natural balance Increase in the number of people with social problems, unemployment, school dropouts Individualistic mentality and practices
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
Transfers and cultural exchanges with the outside world Diversification of occupations in rural areas.	Numerical decline, depopulation Change in population structure by age group, education level
<b>URBAN ASPECTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE LOCALITY</b>	
<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
Compact structure of functional areas Existence of all institutions and their premises within the municipality	Low level of efficiency and safety of traffic on transport networks

Full grid coverage	
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Existence of major projects to upgrade road, drinking water and sewerage networks	Low number of investments and uneven distribution in the territory
<b>ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
High land and agricultural availability Local willingness and openness on the part of authorities and decision-makers	Lack of a fast connection over long distances (airport) Risk of isolation from major land transport arteries Isolation from water transport networks
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
Existence of ongoing projects for the realization of industrial parks in Galati	Isolation - lack of accessibility

## Cap. II. Diagnosis of the internal environment

### II.1. Diagnosis of the internal environment at county level. Vaslui

#### II.1.1. Quantitative analysis

##### II.1.1.1. Human resources

###### II.1.1.1.1. Management, guidance and control staff

In the complex and highly responsible work of the Vaslui County School Inspectorate, we relied on the recommendations, orders and provisions of the Ministry of Education and Research, on the permanent support of the Prefecture and the Vaslui County Council and on an effective partnership with local councils.

The concrete institutional and formative-educational activity was carried out in strict correlation with Law 1/2011 and the transitional provisions in force.

We appreciate that the school inspectorate team is in the process of developing professional skills, knowledge of general and specific legislation, managerial skills. Action has been taken to improve the information communication system, both top-down and bottom-up, by equipping educational and related establishments with computerised means, by developing skills in the use of these means.

In the school year 2019-2020, the organization chart of the Vaslui County School Inspectorate 39.5 norms, of which 18.5 norms for non-teaching staff and 21 norms (26 persons) for teaching staff. as follows:

Crt. no.	Function	Standard
Legal basis	Law No 153/2017	
0	2	3
1	General School Inspector	1
2	Deputy Inspector General	1
3	School inspector for geography	0.5
4	School inspector for mathematics	1
5	School inspector for Romanian language and literature	1
6	School inspector for arts	0.5

7	School inspector for physics (with additional duties in the job description for chemistry)	1
8	School Inspector for Human Resources Management	1
9	School inspector for extracurricular activities	1
10	School inspector for history (with additional duties in the job description and for socio-humanities) School inspector for private and alternative education	1
11	School inspector for educational projects	1
12	School Inspector for Modern Languages	1
13	School inspector for religion	0.5
14	School inspector for primary education	1
15	School Inspector for Human Resources Management	1
16	School Inspector for Early Education	1
17	School Inspector for Informatics	0.5
18	School inspector for vocational and technical education	1
19	School inspector for biology	0.5
20	School inspector for primary education	1
21	School Inspector for Institutional Management	1
22	School inspector for national minorities	0.5
23	School Inspector for Continuing Education	0.5
24	School inspector for physical education and sport	0.5
25	School Inspector for Human Resources Development School inspector for monitoring access to education programmes	1

In the school year 2019-2020, 4 posts of school inspectors were filled following the promotion of the competition held between May and June 2015, with the extension of management contracts based on additional acts, according to the Methodology developed by MEN and approved by OMECTȘ 5558/2011. The other vacant inspector posts were filled by secondment in the interest of education.

As regards the process of management of school institutions in Vaslui County, it is ensured by principals appointed by competition(102) and by decision(53) respectively. In the same context, 31 deputy principals are appointed by competition and 13 by decision.

Number of directors	Number of deputy directors	Total number of directors
155	44	199

#### II.1.1.1.2. Teaching, auxiliary teaching and non-teaching staff

Starting from the consideration that for any institution the human resource is fundamental, the Human Resources Management Department of the Vaslui County School Inspectorate has set out to apply an appropriate policy, considering the employee as a distinct individuality, with specific features. The established goal was essentially to include in the system human resources capable of change and adaptation, creativity and multiple professional skills. By analysing, comparatively for the last three school years, the staffing situation of educational establishments, we identify some elements characteristic of our county, correlated with the socio-economic situation and geographical location.

Total standard	Rules filled with incumbents		Rules filled with part-time or basic substitutes			Hourly paid rules - associate staff and pensioners		Rules occupied by staff without education corresponding to the post			School year
	Holders of basic salary	Titulars (above the basic hourly rate)	Qualified teachers participating in national competitions 2019 - 2013 with minimum 5 grades/medium employed on fixed-term contracts	Qualified teachers participating in the competition organized at county level / during the school year with minimum average 5	Qualified teachers employed on fixed-term contracts (above the basic <u>hourly rate</u> )	Qualified <u>associate</u> teaching staff (employed in other fields of activity) on an hourly-paid basis	Qualified <u>retired</u> hourly paid teaching staff	With higher education in a field other than that corresponding to the teaching post	Qualifying students	With secondary education	
<b>5087.50</b>	3454.95	489.93	425.81	173.81	61.93	71.10	212.57	102.2	22.87	72.51	<b>2017-2018</b>
<b>5019,25</b>	3449,95	492,48	432,29	42,59	62,98	67,33	165,42	89,41	54,26	62,54	<b>2018-2019</b>
<b>4830</b>	3414.32	407,93	395.11	132.99	71.02	66.89	205.65	79.68	14.51	41.9	<b>2019-2020</b>

Compared to the previous year, the 2019-2020 school year has seen a decrease in the number of rules, a situation resulting from a decrease in the number of students and the number of classes at the county level. A relatively constant level of the number of rules filled with tenured teachers is maintained, while there is a slight increase in the number of rules filled with retired teachers. At the same time, there is a decrease in the number of teaching posts occupied by staff without the appropriate qualifications. The occupation of a certain number of teaching posts by retired staff or staff with no qualifications appropriate to the post is a situation specific to our county, especially in rural areas, where it is difficult for teachers to commute due to long distances from urban areas and poorly developed road infrastructure, or for those posts/classes with a shortage of qualified staff (music education, art education, visual education, teachers, Latin language, English language, French language, Orthodox religion, etc.).

For the school year 2019-2020, the situation of the 4830 teaching staff by category was as follows:

- 3414,32 teaching staff occupied by full professors;
- 407.93 rules occupied by hourly-paid incumbents;
- 599.12 teaching posts occupied by qualified substitutes;
- 66.89 teaching staff occupied with associate teaching staff;
- 205,65 teaching staff occupied by retired teaching staff;
- 136,09 teaching staff without the appropriate qualifications.

The breakdown of posts by environment - urban, rural is as follows:

Total	No. of urban posts	No. of posts rural
4830	2578.24	2251.76

**Number of qualified/unqualified/qualifying teachers:**

Qualified teachers	Unqualified teachers	Of which - teachers in training
4693,91	136,09	14,51

**Teachers on permanent/permanent contracts:**

No. of contract teachers indefinitely	No. of teachers on fixed-term contracts
3414,32	1415,68

**II.1.1.2. Material resources**

**II.1.1.2.1. School units**

The school network is made up of all the accredited or provisionally authorised educational establishments that are organised and operate within a given territorial area (geographical area, commune, town, county), coordinated and monitored by the school inspectorate.

In the 2019-2020 school year, the following objectives were considered:

- ❖ ensuring that the school network operates in optimal conditions, in compliance with legal provisions;
- ❖ establishing effective communication with the educational establishments in the network;
- ❖ monitoring statistical data on human resources at school network level (pupils and teachers) by creating/updating electronic databases;
- ❖ collaboration with all the departments of the I.S.J. and in particular with the Personnel, Accounting, Audit and Legal Services, in order to correlate data and make decisions;
- ❖ standardisation of the required statements/forms/questionnaires from schools for electronic data processing;

- ❖ timely transmission of information and legislative news for the correct application of legislation.

In the school year 2019-2020, the network of schools with legal personality in Vaslui County is structured as follows:

- 16 kindergartens with extended hours;
- 101 secondary schools, of which 79 in rural areas;
- 5 high schools and theoretical colleges, of which 0 in rural areas;
- 3 vocational high schools;
- 15 technological high schools and technical colleges, of which 6 in rural areas;
- a post-secondary health education unit;
- 5 special education establishments (including the County Centre for Educational Resources and Assistance);
- 5 units subordinated to M.E.N.

#### II.1.1.2.2.School minibuses

A total of 87 minibuses operate in the county for school transport. Due to the specific geographical conditions of Vaslui county, the large number of localities, the phenomenon of population ageing, the low birth rate and the infrastructure (roads not modernized in many cases between the localities in the communes of the county and the central locality) the average number of pupils.

/The average number of pupils per educational unit is 100, which is quite low compared to other counties.

In view of this situation and the fact that there are educational establishments where teaching is carried out in simultaneous conditions, especially in primary education, where there are study groups consisting of 4 classes taught by a single teacher, the school network must be restructured to ensure equal opportunities for all pupils.

In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to collaborate with the competent institutions to modernise the road network, purchase school minibuses and allocate them on the basis of objective criteria.

#### II.1.1.2.3.School libraries and CDIs

The activity of school libraries in the 2013-2014 school year was carried out in accordance with the legal provisions in force: the National Education Law no. 1 / 5 January 2011, with subsequent amendments and additions, the Regulation on the organization and functioning of the school library, approved by OMECTS. No. 5556 / 7. 10. 2011, Library Law No. 334 / 31. 05. 2002, published in the Official Gazette No. 422 / 18. 06. 2002. At the end of the school year 2013-2014, school libraries in Vaslui County held over 970,000 volumes, with over 46,500 users, students and teachers. The structure of school libraries in Vaslui County is as follows:

- 1 pedagogical library within the C.C.D. Vaslui;
- 14 libraries in high schools;
- 54 libraries in secondary schools

Classification of libraries by number of volumes held:

High schools:

- 1 unit with a book collection of over 50,000 volumes;
- 5 libraries with over 25,000 volumes;
- 3 libraries with over 20,000 volumes;
- 2 libraries with over 15,000 volumes;
- 2 libraries with over 10,000 volumes;
- 1 library with less than 5,000 volumes.



Secondary schools:

- 2 libraries with a collection of over 20,000 volumes;
- 3 libraries with a collection of over 15,000 volumes;
- 15 libraries with over 10,000 volumes;
- 19 libraries with over 5,000 volumes;
- 15 libraries with less than 5,000 volumes.

<b>Functional information and documentation centres set up as a result of the implementation of the Romanian-French bilateral project "Education for information in disadvantaged rural areas"</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Information and documentation centres financially supported by MECTS, set up in the county, according to: OM 4961/28.08.2006, OM 330/13.02.2007, OM 3354/03.03.2008;</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>ICDs carried out with the support of CCD Vaslui and the local community</b>	<b>2</b>

#### II.1.1.2.4. Investment programmes

Through the list of investments for 2019, 300.000 lei were received and used in the first semester of the school year 2019-2020, of which: rehabilitation of CSS Vaslui football field - 170.000 lei and 130.000 lei for I.S.J Vaslui. As a result of some savings recorded in the purchase on SICAP of the rehabilitation works of the IŞJ headquarters, it was requested to MEC by address no. 3879/22.11.2019 the redistribution of the amount of 26.000 lei for independent endowments, approved by MEC through the list item "Other investment expenses" with no.4232/28.11.2019.

In order to carry out the MEC's investment program and to fit into the budget allocated for 2020 under the chapter "Capital Expenditure", the reasoning notes were requested in view of the completion of the works related to the ISJ's related units as well as for the ISJ's own headquarters, which were centralized and sent to the MEC - Directorate of Property and Procurement.

The monitoring of the investment objectives took into account:

1. Monitoring the rehabilitation programmes of educational establishments financed by the EIB and the Romanian Government through MEN-UMPMRSU (collaboration with local authorities for the drafting of the justification notes, protocol for handing over the objective or land, monitoring the execution of the works, acceptance of the objectives, repair of some works during the guarantee period, final acceptance, handing over to the public patrimony of the municipalities):

-4 kindergartens with 2 classrooms (3 are under construction; 1 is updating the technical project); 5 kindergartens with 3 classrooms (5 have signed the contract and are under construction); 6 kindergartens with 4 classrooms (the need for construction and prioritisation is being analysed, then the technical projects will be updated).

2. Monitoring of investment objectives initiated through the National Local Development Programme of the MDRAP:

-176 school units have been approved for funding (32 have been approved on completion; 17 are completed and awaiting approval; 44 have a percentage of completion between 80 and 99%; 69 have a percentage below 1%).

3. Monitoring of educational establishments that have received funds through GD 363/2019 for sanitary facilities in compliance with the criteria for obtaining the sanitary operating

permit; 137 schools have received funds for sanitary facilities (36 have completed the works and are awaiting reception; 56 have accessed part of the funds). By HG 479/2020 funds were allocated to 78 school units; to 72 for the continuation of works for sanitary facilities (at HG 363/2019) and to 6 for sanitary facilities. Work is being carried out on 9 objectives with a completion rate between 45% and 98%.

### **II.1.1.3. Curriculum resources**

#### **II.1.1.3.1. General curriculum**

The new legislative framework explicitly supports the competency-based approach to Romanian education, which started with some specific measures at curriculum level in 2003. According to the law, the national curriculum for primary and secondary education focuses on the 8 key competence areas, while secondary education aims at developing specific competences according to the training/qualification pathway. The assessment system is also restructured in this competency-based context.

Pre-school education units are organized and operate on the basis of the principles established in accordance with the National Education Law No 1/2011 as amended.

In activities with pre-school children, the Curriculum for Pre-school Education and its Implementation Methodology is followed. Pre-school education ensures equal opportunities for school readiness for all children attending kindergarten, according to the legislation in force.

During the school holidays, kindergartens may organize, separately or in collaboration, educational activities with children, based on the decision of the Board of Directors, which also approves the cost of food, in compliance with the rights provided for by the legislation in force and the collective agreements applicable to all staff of the establishment.

At the primary education level, the instructional-educational activity is carried out by reference to the following normative acts: methodology for enrolment of children in primary education for the school year 2015-2016, no. 3171/05.02.2015; Framework plan approved by OMEN no. 3371/12.03.2013 for preparatory, I and II classes; Framework plan approved by OMECT no. 5198/2004 for III and IV classes; Structure of the school year approved by OMEN 3637/19.06.2014;

School curricula in force; Annex no. 2 to OMEN 5123/15.12.2014, approving the Methodology for the organization and conduct of National Assessments at the end of grades II, IV and VI in the 2014-2015 school year; OMECTS no. 5349/07.09.2011, approving the Methodology for the organization of the "School after school" programme.

For vocational and technical education, the aims of training are defined in terms of learning outcomes - competences, knowledge - skills - competences, in line with the constantly updated requirements of the economic environment. In order to encourage access to vocational and technical education, the new legislative framework has introduced measures to reconfigure its structure. Thus, vocational education can be organized in vocational schools which can be independent units or affiliated to technological high schools. Vocational training standards are based on occupational standards validated by sectoral committees. Vocational training programmes end with a qualification certification examination. In order to meet the current requirements of the economy, the vocational education form has also been defined with a duration of 3 years after the end of the 8th grade.

### II.1.1.3.2. Curriculum at the school's discretion

In the school year 2019 - 2020 the education system was affected by the evolution of the SARS - CoV - 2 epidemic.

Given the evolution of the international epidemiological situation caused by the spread of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 in over 150 countries, in which approximately 160,000 people have been infected and over 5,800 have died, as well as the declaration of "Pandemic" by the World Health Organization, on 11.03.2020, a state of emergency was instituted on the territory of Romania by Decree No. 195/2020 of 16 March 2020 for a period of 30 days.

According to Article 1 of Decision No. 6 of the National Committee for Special Emergency Situations (CNSSU), *classes were suspended in all pre-university educational establishments from 11 March 2020 until 22 March 2020, "with the possibility of extension depending on the evolution of the situation"*. This was a preventive measure, not based on medical considerations.

On 7 April, the Ministry of Education and Research agreed with the educational partners - representatives of pupils, students, parents, teachers and the National Council of Rectors - on the measures needed to resume classes and successfully complete the 2019-2020 school and university year.

In the context of the information available at that time on the evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the working scenario envisaged the resumption of classes in pre-university and university education during June.

By [Ministerial Order no. 4.115/10.04.2020](#), the new examination syllabuses for the National Assessment of 8th grade graduates and the new syllabuses for the written tests of the National Baccalaureate Examination for the 2019-2020 school year were approved.

On 22 April, the [Ministerial Order](#) was issued on instructions for creating and/or strengthening the capacity of the pre-university education system through e-learning. The document specifies specific measures for the implementation of e-learning in pre-university education. The online attendance of students and teachers was monitored by the educational units and all relevant information to support and improve access to learning was entered into the Romanian Integrated Education Information System (SIIR).

The Ministry of Education's Order no. 4135/21.04.2020 was intended to order the normative context and to impose certain behaviours/procedures, in the context of the solutions adopted and used by some teachers, by some students. The order explicitly named the objective of its issuance as the conduct of online learning.

The Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Health have approved, in accordance with the provisions of Joint Order 4220/769/8.05.2020, a series of measures for the safe conduct of activities by persons with access to educational establishments in the context of preventing and combating SARS-CoV-2 illnesses, with a view to the safe conduct of examination preparation sessions organised for students in grades VIII and XII (2 - 12 June 2020).

The Vaslui County School Inspectorate has developed the Operational Procedure on the organization of preparatory activities for the national assessment exam / baccalaureate / certification of professional qualification of graduates of vocational and technical education in the context of measures to prevent and control SARS-CoV-2. The procedure has been applied:

- students who participated in the preparatory activity for the National Assessment/Baccalaureate/Certification of Vocational Qualification Examination for

graduates of pre-university vocational and technical education from Gymnasium/High School/College;

- teaching/assistant teaching and non-teaching staff at the secondary school/high school/college;
- Parents of students in the 8th/ 11th/ 12th/ 8th grade of the Secondary School/High School/College.

Main activities on which the procedural work depended:

- identification of pupils who participated in the preparatory activity for the national assessment/Baccalaureate/certification of professional qualifications of graduates from pre-university vocational and technical education;
- identification of teaching/teaching assistant and non-teaching staff who were involved in the activities from 2-12 June 2020;
- the purchase of materials for the sanitation of the school and the organisation of the school premises, i.e. the routes used by pupils and school staff;
- drawing up the timetable for the training activities;
- monitoring the implementation of measures to prevent and control SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks.

The boards of directors of the pre-university educational establishments have drawn up and approved their own procedure, in which the modalities of carrying out the preparatory activities for the examination sessions, their own entry and exit circuit for pupils, teaching, auxiliary teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as the way in which the sanitation/disinfection of the educational establishment is carried out, have been established. The organization and conduct of the national assessment for 8th grade graduates in the 2019-2020 school year was regulated by Order No. 4248/2020 of 13 May 2020 amending and supplementing the Order of the Acting Minister of National Education No. 4.916/2019.

The procedures and modalities for the completion of the averages were approved by Order no. 4249 of 13 May 2020, which amended the Regulation on the organization and functioning of pre-university education units (ROFUIP), established by OMEN 5079/2016. The completion of averages through this procedure was valid for the school year 2019-2020.

By Order 4266/840/2020 of 18 May 2020, a joint Order of the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Health, the measure of suspending classes in all educational units and institutions until the end of the school/academic year 2019-2020, for the duration of the state of alert, in accordance with the provisions of Article 38 of Law 55/2020 on some measures to prevent and combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, was maintained.

By way of exception to the provisions of Article 1, the preparatory activities for the national examinations, involving face-to-face interaction, from 2 June to 12 June 2020, as well as the activities consisting of the national examinations, were carried out under the conditions laid down by joint order of the Minister for Education and Research and the Minister for Health, as well as activities to complete the school situation.

By Order 4267/841/2020 of 18 May 2020, a joint order of the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Health, measures were established to prevent and control SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in educational establishments/institutions, public institutions and all structures under the supervision or coordination of the Ministry of Education and Research. At the level of educational establishments, a procedure has been drawn up for ensuring the continuity of the activities carried out in the educational establishment, which stipulates:

- designating the persons responsible for taking over the duties of absent decision-makers, which may lead to interruptions in work;
- the understanding of the specific legislation governing the activities taken over;

- determining the categories of documents to be signed/approved and activities to be taken over by the persons designated to ensure continuity of work;
- determine the causes that may lead to disruptions in the unit's activity;
- allocating the resources and means necessary to ensure continuity of activity.

Order No 4307/2020 amending and supplementing the Order of the Minister of National Education No 4.950/2019 regulated the organization and conduct of the National Baccalaureate Examination - 2020.

For the start of the new school year, the Vaslui County School Inspectorate has developed the Procedure for the organization of teaching activities in educational establishments, for the start of classes in the school year 2020-2021 in epidemiologically safe conditions for the prevention of SARS-CoV-2 virus illnesses, which regulates the measures for the prevention and control of SARS-CoV-2 virus illnesses applied in educational establishments/institutions, in order to ensure the right to education and the right to health for the primary beneficiaries of the right to education, students and staff of the national education system.

#### II.1.1.4. Relationship with the community

II.1.1.4.1. Educational activity in and out of school. Partnerships at local and national level

In order to become a truly permanent dimension of human existence, education must be holistic, effectively linking formal with informal and non-formal education. It is clear that formal education must be combined with other modes or types of education, which is why the role of schools is essential in relation to other community partners who contribute greatly to the development of a pupil's personality.

National projects CAEN 2020	Regional/inter-county projects CAERI 2020	Local projects EILC 2019-2020
13	119	384

In the organization of activities on the prevention of violence in educational establishments, the Operational Procedures on preventing and combating violence in schools developed both at the level of ISJ Vaslui and at the level of school establishments and the Joint County Action Plan for increasing the safety of students and teaching staff and preventing juvenile delinquency in the premises and adjacent areas of pre-university educational establishments developed by the Vaslui County Prefect's Institution were taken into account.

Centralized situation on acts of violence in the school environment recorded in Vaslui County, in the first semester of the school year 2019-2020:

Total number of violent acts		
Crt. no.	Category	Semester I
1	Assault on person	54
2	Attempt on school security	1
3	Attempt on goods	25
4	Other acts of violence or attacks on security	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>

#### Students sanctioned for violence

Individual observation	Written reprimand	Scholarship withdrawal	Disciplinary relocation	Pre-expulsion notice	Expulsion	Lower marks for behaviour	Total
34	1	0	0	0	0	36	71

There is optimal communication between all stakeholders who can play a role in conflict resolution, with the following activities taking place during the 2019-2020 school year:

- Verification of the application of procedures on preventing and combating violence, access to the school unit, school security and safety, existing procedures in the educational units;
- Secure school buildings and schoolyard areas to prevent accidents;
- Verify compliance with **the Local Action Plan** developed in partnership with the local Police/Gendarmerie to ensure student safety (video cameras, security, local police patrols at the end of the school day, joint activities to prevent violence, etc.);
- Continuous adaptation of public safety systems to the school timetable, examinations and extra-curricular activities in the school environment;
- Undertake approaches to the competent institutions in order to check the commercial establishments located in the area of educational establishments with regard to the categories of products that can be sold to minors;
- Monitor the mandatory inclusion, every semester, in the counselling and guidance classes, in the meetings with parents, of at least one topic that raises the issue of violence between pupils and the relations between pupils - teachers, auxiliary and non-teaching staff;
- Organise debates, workshops in schools on effective communication and conflict management;
- Offer multiple and attractive educational alternatives for leisure time through participation in extracurricular activities;
- Involvement of parents in educational activities at school level;
- Individual and group psychological counselling of students to prevent aggressive behaviour;
- Psychological counselling for students with violent manifestations and students who have been victims of school violence.
- Monitoring absenteeism and promoting plans to reduce it.

Schools have developed measures to prevent and combat violence, procedures for access to the school, school security and school safety.

In all schools, the issue of preventing/decreasing violence and ensuring the safety of students was discussed (in the classes of direction/counselling and guidance, in class councils, in meetings or other meetings with parents, in assemblies with students in the presence of police, local police or gendarmes).

A number of activities were carried out according to the management plans of the School Violence Prevention Committees, including:

- Ensuring the effective security and safety of the school;
- Organise on-call service with teachers, care staff, pupils on duty throughout the period of pupils' presence in school;
- Work with students and parents and display the rules of internal order in a visible place;

- Meetings of students and teachers with representatives of the Police and Gendarmerie on the phenomenon of violence in general and violence in schools in particular;
- Discussing issues of violence in the school environment during counselling and guidance classes;
- Conducting individual and group psychological counselling of pupils to prevent aggressive behaviour, psychological counselling of pupils with violent behaviour and pupils who have been victims of school violence, setting up groups to mediate conflicts between pupils.
- Organise debates in high school on effective communication and conflict management;
- Various activities to combat violence were organised in all schools in the county.

In schools, activities were organized to support students whose parents have gone abroad, to prevent and combat absenteeism and violence in the school environment, to prevent the use of ethnobotanicals and drugs, and human trafficking in partnership with the relevant institutions.

At county and national level, during the school year 2019-2020, the Vaslui County School Inspectorate has signed cooperation protocols with the following institutions:

- National Anti-Drug Agency
- World Vision Foundation Romania;
- Junior Achievement Romania;
- "Stefan cel Mare" County Museum Vaslui;
- National Red Cross Society of Romania Vaslui Branch
- Vaslui County Agency for Payments and Social Inspection
- Vaslui Public Health Department;
- Europe Direct Information Centre Vaslui
- House of the Didactic Body Vaslui
- Vaslui County Directorate for Sport and Youth
- University "Al. I. Cuza" Iași
- "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galati
- Valoare Plus Association Bacau
- Vaslui Penitentiary
- Schools in Vaslui county

During the school year 2019-2020, the teachers' collectives in the schools have drafted and implemented educational projects in partnership with institutions and civil society organizations, with the aim of creating a real partnership and a more active involvement of local communities in education and school life. Thus, in order to provide students with the opportunity to develop skills complementary to those developed strictly through the school curriculum, school teachers have developed local and county educational projects and have entered into partnerships with non-governmental organisations and local, county and national institutions of interest: "Save the Children" organization, World Vision Romania, Police, Gendarmerie, Emergency Situations Inspectorate, Town Halls, other educational institutions in the county or in other counties, Vaslui Environmental Protection Agency, County Library "Nicolae Milescu Spătaru" Vaslui, Europe Direct Centre Vaslui, Prevention, Evaluation and Antidrug Counselling Centre Vaslui, County Museum "Ștefan cel Mare" Vaslui, Casa Corpului Didactic Vaslui, Kiwanis Club Vaslui, School Sports Club Bârlad, The Army House of Bârlad, "Mihai Ralea" Municipal Library Huși, "Obârșii Negreștene" Cultural and

Educational Association, Red Cross Vaslui, Spectrum Iasi International Secondary School, „Coresi” Secondary School Târgoviște, National Agency against Trafficking in Human Beings - Regional Centre Iasi, Junior Achievement Romania, Terre des Hommes Foundation, "Hello, children of Romania" Association, Romanian Association for Recycling ROREC, Colgate Romania, "Child's Life" Association Bucharest, etc. The partnerships developed have led to an increase in educational services thanks to the implementation of successful projects that have been completed with outstanding results:

- outstanding academic achievement and affirmation through art and culture;
- cultivating an interest in reading;
- exchanges of experience, visits, excursions;
- activities to prevent school drop-out;
- support for children with different learning difficulties;
- activities to support children with parents abroad;
- open lectures, debates, role-playing games, competitions, symposia;
- environmental and sports activities, training of appropriate road behaviour;
- preparation of teaching materials and curricular aids;
- knowledge and understanding of the legislative provisions, social, medical and educational implications of drug use;
- voluntary activities;
- development of patriotic feeling;
- various activities in the week of School otherwise;
- encouraging collaboration between kindergarten/school - family - community;
- developing civic spirit by promoting the values of solidarity and generosity;
- developing humanitarian spirit, educating respect and affection towards children with disabilities and from disadvantaged families;
- activities to promote traditions;
- information activities on bullying and its prevention.
- ✓ Campaigns organised at county level:
  - Energy efficiency information campaign in partnership with the National Energy Regulatory Authority.
    - Schools involved: "Adrian Porumboiu" Secondary School Muntenii de Jos, "Ion Murgeanu" Secondary School Zorleni, "Mihai Eminescu" Secondary School Laza;
  - Financial education programme "Let's talk about the non-bank financial market" in partnership with the Financial Supervisory Authority.
    - Schools involved: "Alexandra Nechita" Secondary School Vaslui, "Constantin Parfene" Secondary School Vaslui, "Anghel Rugina" Economic College Vaslui, "Stefan Procopiu" High School Vaslui;
    - Information seminar - Financial education - 20 July 2010, 30 teachers participating.
  - Awareness campaign on responsible dialing of the single emergency number 112 and promotion of the mobile application 112 Call in partnership with the Special Telecommunications Service, Military Unit 0537 Vaslui.
    - Schools involved: "Al. I Cuza" Vaslui, "Constantin Motaș" Vaslui Secondary School, "Elena Cuza" Vaslui Secondary School.
  - Information and prevention campaign within the Stay Free 2.0 project in partnership with Valoare Plus Association Bacau.



## II.1.1.4.2.Partnerships at European level

### 1.European cooperation and integration activity

In the school year 2019-2020, in schools in the county of. Vaslui, as well as at IŞJ and CJRAE Vaslui, the following European cooperation activities were carried out:

#### a) Erasmus+ Programme 2014-2020

In the framework of the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme 2014-2020, launched in 2014, in the county of. Vaslui, in the school year 2019-2020, the following projects were carried out:

#### A.Mobility projects-KA1

##### 1.School education

Crt. no.	School unit	Running period	Year of running
1.	CJRAE Vaslui-Consortium with 5 associated partners	2018-2020	II
2.	Sc. Secondary School "Ep. I. Antonovici" Bârlad	2018-2020	II
3.	Technological High School "Al. I. Cuza" Bârlad	2018-2020	II
4.	Technological High School "Ion Mincu" Vaslui	2019-2021	I
5.	"Ioan Popescu" Pedagogical High School Bârlad	2019-2021	I
6.	Sc. Gymnasium "Vasile Pârvan" Bârlad	2019-2021	I

##### 2.Vocational training-VET

Crt. no.	School unit	Running period	Year of running
1.	Economic College "A. Rugină" Vaslui	2018-2020	II
2.	Agricultural College "D. Cantemir" Huşi	2019-2021	I
3.	"Radu Miron" High School Vaslui	2019-2021	I

##### 3.Adult education

Crt. no.	School unit	Running period	Year of running
1.	Economic College "A. Rugină" Vaslui	2018-2020	II

#### B. Strategic partnerships-KA2

##### 1.School education

School unit	Position
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Crt. no.		Running period	Year of running	Coordinator	Partner
1.	"C-tin Parfene" Secondary School Vaslui	2019-2021	I	-	X
3.	"C-tin Parfene" Secondary School Vaslui	2019-2022	I	-	X
4.	Theoretical High School "Mihail Kogalniceanu" Vaslui	2019-2021	I	X	-
5.	"St. Procopiu" High School Vaslui	2018-2020	II	X	-
6.	Sc. Secondary School "Stefan cel Mare" Vaslui	2018-2020	II	-	X
7.	"St. Procopiu" High School Vaslui	2018-2020	II	-	X
8.	Sc. Secondary School nr. 1 Pungesti	2019-2021	I	-	X
9.	Sc. Gymnasia "V. Parvan" Barlad	2019-2021	I	X	-
10.	Technological High School "P. Rares" Barlad	2018-2020	II	-	X
11.	Technological High School "M. Guguianu" Zorleni	2017-2020	III	-	X
12.	Technological High School "M. Guguianu" Zorleni	2019-2021	I	-	X
13.	Sc. Gymnasium "M. Sadoveanu" Husi	2019-2021	I	-	X
14.	Sc. Gymnasium "M. Sadoveanu" Husi	2017-2020	III	-	X
15.	Agricultural College "D. Cantemir" Husi	2019-2021	I	-	X
16.	High School "Stefan cel Mare" Codaesti	2019-2021	I	-	X
17.	Vaslui County School Inspectorate	2018-2020	II	-	X
18.	CJRAE Vaslui	2018-2021	II	-	X

## 2.Youth

Crt. no.	School unit	Running period	Year of running
1.	Theoretical High School "Emil Racovita" Vaslui	2019-2021	I

With a view to submitting new projects, information and training meetings for project officers from schools in the county were organised and held between September 2019 and April 2020. The schools also received support for the drafting of new projects to be submitted by the deadline of 05.02.2020, under the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission (Șc. Gimnazială "Pr. E. Bibescu" Bârlad, Șc. Gimnazială nr. 1 Draxeni, Colegiul Economic "A. Rugină" Vaslui, Șc. Gimnazială "V. Alecsandri" Vaslui, Șc. Gimnazială "M. Sadoveanu" Vaslui, Șc. Gimnazială nr. 1 Văleni, Șc. Gimnazială Zapodeni, Liceul cu program sportiv Vaslui, Seminarul Teologic Ortodox "Sf. Ioan Gură de Aur" Huși, Grădinița Castelul Copiilor Vaslui, Grădinița cu PP nr. 5 Vaslui, etc.). 17 Erasmus+ KA1 mobility projects were submitted, of which 6 were approved.

School units with ongoing projects have been monitored and advised in order to implement them correctly and achieve the proposed final results ( Șc. Gimnazială "E. I. Antonovici" Bârlad , Șc. Gimnazială "M. C. Epureanu" Bârlad, Șc. Gimnazială "G. Tutoveanu" Bârlad , Liceul Pedagogic "I. Popescu" Bârlad, Șc. Gimnazială "V. Pârvan" Bârlad, Colegiul Național "Gh. R. Codreanu" Bârlad, "Ștefan Procopiu" Vaslui High School, "Ștefan cel Mare" Codăești High School, "Ion Mincu" Vaslui Technological High School, "Emil Racovita" Vaslui Theoretical High School, "D. Cantemir" Husi Agricultural College). In the framework of the monitoring visits, at the schools where general inspections were carried out and which have/have had Erasmus+/KA1 vocational training mobility projects, we have attended classes/extracurricular activities:

- 12 assistances to 12 teachers participating in mobility at Șc. Gymnasium "E. I. Antonovici" Bârlad;
- 5 assistances to 5 teachers participating in mobility at Șc. Gimnazială "M. C. Epureanu".
- 2 nurses at Gr. with PP nr. 13 Vaslui (with structure Gr. with PN nr. 12 Vaslui)
- 3 assistant at Șc. Gymnasium "V. Alecsandri" Vaslui
- 3 assistants at the School Center for Inclusive Education "C-tin Pufan"
- 3 assistants at the Technological High School "N. Iorga" Negrești.

Concrete actions have also been taken to:

- dissemination of** learning outcomes and project products; in this context, during 17-19.10.2019, we organized dissemination and valorization conferences, by area (Vaslui-Negrești, Bârlad and Huși), within Erasmus Days 2019 and VET Week, attended by 100 teachers, both from schools with ongoing projects and especially from schools not yet involved in European cooperation activities through the Erasmus+ Programme.
- publication on the schools' and projects' websites; publication of articles on specialized websites and in the local press; demonstration activities and presentations at methodological committees and pedagogical circles at county level; placement of the final products in the schools' libraries and in the library of the Vaslui Teaching Staff House; presentations at conferences and symposiums organized at local, county, regional, national and international level; permanent exhibition of final products of the projects in the hall of ISJ Vaslui; posting links to the projects' websites and uploading the results (including intellectual results) on the MEC's RED Platform, section "Educational Projects".

-**providing** opportunities for the transfer of best practices and intellectual products to other institutions:

-informing the interested public (teachers, students) about the place and the modalities of accessing the final products of the projects; making the final products available at the schools' libraries and at the library of the Teaching Staff House; making the tangible results/intellectual outcomes available to any interested public at the library of CCD Vaslui.

- **concrete examples of good practices/methods/ products transferred:**

-following the **Internship - Bridging Theory and Practice** project at "**A. Rugina**" **Vaslui Economic College**, useful materials for teachers and students were produced: CDL- "Advertising and Publicity", Practice Booklet and auxiliary material "Advertising and Publicity". During the dissemination activities the teachers from the Vaslui educational units were presented with the didactic materials which are available on the project website <https://erasmus409.webnode.ro/>. They can be used by students and teachers both in counselling and orientation classes and in the subjects Marketing, Quality of products and services and Company management. The "Advertising and Publicity" curriculum aid proposes the following modern teaching methods: problem-solving; cooperative learning; independent or guided observation; case study; role-playing; audio-visual teaching methods which have the advantage of stimulating the pupil's participation and intensifying mental activity. The following initial assessment tools are also presented as examples of good practice: questionnaires; I know/what I know/what I have learned exercises; brainstorming; observation sheets; test sheets; worksheets; self-assessment sheets; progress monitoring sheets; sheets for assessment/self-assessment of 21st century skills; knowledge check tests; project checklist, etc.

- Following the project "**Performance and innovation in teaching-learning**" at the National College "Cuza Voda" Husi, 20 teachers have become more creative in the teaching act, producing new materials, gathered in a **teaching aid**, "Practical benchmarks of innovation in teaching methodology", which provides examples of best practices and innovative ways of teaching, using didactic games, new technologies, WEB 2.0, this can be used as transfer of know-how with other colleagues. A literary-artistic competition, "The beginning of the road in the centenary year", dedicated to 10th grade students and reading lovers, was organized, in which innovative methods were used (dramatization, role play, Prezi presentations); students became more motivated to participate in such activities with the teachers, giving positive feedback to the teachers involved. There was a project competition, organized by the Science Department, "Climate change in the last 100 years", which involved the presentation of Prezi projects and films, the realization of scientific experiments that showcased the design skills of materials using methods learned in Finland, the realization of a functional model for a wind power plant, in the design of which participated a number of 80 students from the real profile, grades IX-XII, coordinated by science teachers who participated in the mobilities and beyond; the activity - competition was carried out in collaboration with the National Agency for Environmental Protection, with the Dimitrie Cantemir Agricultural College, with whom there was also the representative of the Vaslui School Inspectorate, the biology inspector.

- Following the project "**A friendly school**" at "Stefan Procopiu" High School in Vaslui, the learning outcomes were used by the teachers participating in the mobility in two guides. The first guide contains learning activities, methodological suggestions focused on the development of knowledge and skills on the design of teaching approaches adapted to the needs and particularities of students, which facilitates learning by students with educational difficulties or from disadvantaged backgrounds. The second guide contains learning activities,

methodological suggestions focused on the development of knowledge and skills in the field of classroom management (group dynamics, behaviour styles, conflict management, emotional intelligence, communication, teamwork) in order to improve relationships between students and create a positive climate in the classroom and school. These guides can also be used by other teachers, in the school or outside, in the community.

Best practices/methods: problem solving, mosaic, project-based learning, flipped classroom, communication techniques, group cohesion through teamwork methods, conflict management, managing emotions, digital competences in teaching and the use of games in the classroom, development of critical/creative thinking among students, inclusive education techniques and the implementation of the individual personalized plan.

-following the project "**Web 2.0 is our future**" at "Emil Racovita" Vaslui High School, during the regular meetings of the specialized pedagogical circles, the transfer of knowledge and skills was ensured by Prof. Budaca Gina, Ponea Oana, Sprincenatu Monica, Tofan Gabriela, who compared the strengths and weaknesses of the various educational platforms studied in class with other platforms of the same kind used by colleagues from high schools in the city in the study of foreign languages. Also, the method teachers (Ponea Oana, Budaca Gina, Sprincenatu Monica, Tofan Gabriela, Scutaru Cezarina, Leparda Ionela, Litra Paul ), during the various types of inspections carried out, suggested modern ways of working learned in the course to the new teachers or to the teachers from the county who are preparing for their teaching degrees.

**- influencing local education and training policies based on project results**

**-improving management practices and organisational culture in schools:**

-Participants in the courses "Conflict Management, Emotional Intelligence and Bullying Prevention" and "Building team spirit in the classroom" developed their knowledge and skills on group dynamics, behaviour styles, conflict management, emotional intelligence, communication, teamwork.

-to stimulate creativity and innovation to replace traditional approaches and implement successful European models, as well as to facilitate teachers' participation in European in-service training activities aimed at working with pupils with ESC and using ICT tools in lessons.

**- improving the teaching-learning process in schools:**

-the number of attractive, flexible lessons for students has increased compared to previous years, students are actively involved in experimenting, using digital classes, new methods Kahoot, Socrative, QR, Google tools, stimulating their critical thinking.

-Participants in the courses "Inclusive education: tackling with classroom diversity and early school leaving", "Student-centered Classroom: teachers as promoters of active learning" and "Innovative Approaches to Teaching" have developed their knowledge and skills to design teaching approaches adapted to the needs and particularities of students, which facilitate learning by students with educational difficulties or from disadvantaged backgrounds, which contribute to the development of key competences such as critical and creative thinking, problem solving.

-Teachers have developed some skills and abilities that make them more confident in their own strengths, more prepared and more willing to move forward on the road to creating a more friendly school. They will make more efforts to find effective solutions to the problems they face when dealing with pupils with individual personality profiles, with different learning styles, they will show more autonomy and responsibility in updating and diversifying their competences with regard to the

implementation of educational strategies adapted to the needs and individual characteristics of pupils and the application of the principles of inclusive education, of classroom management.

**-using the training courses** developed through projects by the Vaslui Teachers' Training Centre, for the further training of teachers in the county. Vaslui, as well as other categories of adults (training courses "La BD en classe de langues", "Let's Stop Violence!", "Inclusive School, Inclusive Community")

**-providing financial, material and moral support by local authorities (municipalities, County Council, Prefect's Institution - Vaslui County) for the implementation of projects:**

-improvement of the educational environment -doctors, repairs, sanitation, in schools that have run / run projects with European partners and have hosted / host project meetings; official reception of delegations of European partners during project meetings held in the county. Vaslui and participation in the events organized within the projects.

-provision by the Vaslui City Hall of presentation materials of the county and the municipality. Vaslui to all school units that have organized project meetings in Vaslui or have participated in meetings with European partners.

-the official reception of the delegations of the European partners at Vaslui City Hall, Barlad City Hall.

-provision of a suitable space (conference room) for dissemination and information activities by Husi City Hall.

-the Sc. I. Antonovici" Gymnasium Barlad, Barlad City Hall provided financial support for the production of dissemination materials for the project.

In addition, throughout the period of suspension of courses, but also of mobilities to/from partner countries, the schools were informed about the news on the ANPCDEF website and were asked for information on the status of the implementation of ongoing Erasmus+ projects (risk of termination of contracts, extension of contracts according to ANPCDEF instructions, etc.). In June 2020, a webinar was held in the framework of the Erasmus+/VET Programme organised by the European Commission and a national videoconference organised by the Ministry of European Funds, the Ministry of Education and Research and ANPCDEF in which the inspector for educational projects participated; during these conferences issues related to the new financial programming 2021-2027 and the new Erasmus Programme were discussed. As a result of these online activities, news on the accreditation for the Erasmus Mobility Projects Charter, as well as on the launch of an additional call for Erasmus+/KA2 Strategic Partnerships were sent to schools.

#### **b) Implementation of projects financed from other European/international funds**

##### **1.Implementation of the Erasmus+/KA2 strategic partnership project "All-Inclusive School"**

In October 2018 the implementation of the Erasmus+/KA2 strategic partnership in school education entitled "All-Inclusive School" started. The 27-month project is funded through the Erasmus+ Programme and has as its target group pupils with ESC integrated in mainstream schools and teachers working with them. The project is coordinated by an institution in Bologna (Italy) in partnership with organisations/institutions from Italy, Belgium, Germany, Spain and Romania. In October 2019 the third transnational project meeting took place in Leuven(Belgium), attended by 4 members of the implementation team from ISJ Vaslui and 2 members of the implementation team from CJRAE Vaslui. The intellectual result 1 (study-analysis on teacher profile including) was finalized and the work on the other two intellectual results (All Teacher Kit and Social Book Creator) started. The fourth transnational project

meeting took place in Seville (Spain) on 05-06.03.2020, attended by only 2 representatives of CJRAE Vaslui. The other partners did not attend due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The meeting was held online during the two working days. The activities for testing the intellectual outcomes 2 and 3 in the pilot schools were postponed to the next school year. Also, the Italian coordinator is considering extending the project by at least 3 months (expected to end in December 2020) in order to achieve the objectives and successfully complete the project.

## **2. Implementation of the ROSE (Romanian Secondary Education) Project of MEN with funding from the World Bank**

Within the framework of this project, the implementation of the first 8 projects of Round 1 continued, these being in the third year of implementation (Economic College "A. Rugină" Vaslui, High School with Sports Program Vaslui, Technological High School "Ion Mincu" Vaslui, Technological High School "Petru Rareș" Bârlad, Agricultural College "D. Cantemir" Huși, Technological High School "I. Corivan" Huși, Vladia Technological High School, "D. Cantemir" Technological High School Fălciu). The implementation of the projects approved in Round 2 in 9 high schools also continued in the second year, as follows: High School "Stefan Procopiu" Vaslui, Technical College "Al. I. Cuza" Bârlad, Liceul Pedagogic "I. Popescu" Bârlad, Liceul Teoretic "M. Eminescu" Bârlad, Colegiul Tehnic "M. Guguianu" Zorleni, Liceul Tehnologic "N. Iorga" Negrești, Technological High School "G. Coman" Murgeni, Puiești Technological High School, "Ștefan cel Mare" Codăești High School. The projects aim to reduce school dropout and improve the promotion rate at secondary school level, the upper secondary school graduation rate and the results of the baccalaureate exam, over a period of 4 years (2017/2018-2021/2022). The progress of the projects was monitored and project teams in the 17 high schools were supported with expert advice for proper project management. Although the high schools faced a lack of consistent funding, there is no risk of contract termination. During the suspension of classes due to the COVID 19 pandemic, remedial and counselling activities were carried out online. The high schools have been working on the application documents for a new tranche of funding, as well as on the preparation of the IT devices needed to run the school online (in case school does not start under normal conditions). The devices will be purchased with additional amounts ranging from €25,000 to €45,000 under the ROSE project. To the 17 high schools implementing sub-projects under the ROSE project, we add the Liceul Teoretic "Emil Racoviță" Vaslui and the Liceul Tehnologic "Petru Rareș" Vetrișoia which fall within the indicators limits of the ROSE Applicant Guide. The total amount requested by ISJ Vaslui for the purchase of IT equipment for the 19 high schools is €693,200.

## **3. Implementation of the POCU project "DidactForm".**

started in May 2018, the project entitled "DidactForm-FORMED DIDACT Frameworks for quality inclusive education", funded by POCU, AP 6-Education and competences, Operation "Improving the competences of teaching staff in pre-university education in order to promote quality educational services, oriented towards the needs of students and an inclusive school" aims to improve professional competences for 320 teachers (135 from Braila county and 185 from Vaslui county) working in disadvantaged schools.

The project is implemented by the "*Spiru Haret National Society for Education, Science and Culture*" Association in partnership with the Braila County School Inspectorate and the Vaslui County School Inspectorate and will end in 2020.

**The general objective** of the project is to develop professional competences for teachers and management staff, in order to increase the quality and innovation of educational services,

facilitate school inclusion and reduce dropout in 11 pre-university education units in disadvantaged educational environments of Braila and Vaslui counties.

**The specific objectives** of the project are:

- attracting and retaining in 11 target schools qualified, competent and motivated human resources capable of providing quality education and achieving school inclusion through participation in training and continuous professional development programmes
- improving the professional skills of 320 teachers (135 from Braila and 185 from Vaslui) working in disadvantaged schools, through continuous professional training programmes, in order to develop quality educational services, adapted to the needs of the beneficiaries
- improving the competences of management teams in target schools in order to make quality improvement interventions in education sustainable through continuous professional training programmes and the development of educational management and entrepreneurship skills
- creating, developing and implementing mechanisms/tools for monitoring and evaluating the quality of the education process
- creating a core of qualified and motivated human resources in the target schools to disseminate knowledge/methods/practices of quality assurance in education through exchange of good practices
- developing the skills of human resources in disadvantaged schools in accessing/using/configuring modern information and communication technologies integrated in the educational processes carried out in the pre-university environment. The project ended successfully in July 2020.

In June 2020, I.S.J. Vaslui submitted, in partnership with the University "Spiru Haret" Bucharest, a project under the Human Capital Operational Programme, priority axis 6- education and skills, project under evaluation at the competent management authority.

#### **4. Other projects funded by POCU carried out in schools in the county. Vaslui**

**-1 project** carried out by "Al. I Cuza" Vaslui as beneficiary and the Kindergarten with PP Nr. 9 Vaslui, as partner, financed by the Human Capital Operational Programme, Priority Axis 6, Education and competences, with the title "ADMISI-Reduced dropout through sustainable integrated measures in education", in the period 11.04.2018-11.04.2021. The total value of the project is 5.698.194,57 lei.

The project aims to:

- development of the Romanian educational system through measures aimed at preschoolers, students and their parents, as well as teaching, support and management staff of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Secondary School and Pre-school No. 9;
  - prevention and reduction of early school leaving for 587 children in the area of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Secondary School and Pre-school No. 9, Vaslui County, through integrated educational measures, stimulating equal access and active participation of children in quality pre-school, primary and secondary education, especially for groups at risk of early school leaving.
  - the project is financially supported by the Municipality of Mun. Vaslui Municipality, which ensures the co-financing of 2% of the eligible value of the project 113.963,94 lei
- 1 project** carried out by Vetrișoiaia Town Hall and Local Council, as beneficiary, funded by the Human Capital Operational Programme, Priority Axis 6, "Education and competences", from May 2018 to May 2021, in partnership with Pungești Town Hall and Local Council, "M. Eminescu" Oșești and the Association "Love and Trust".



-Vetrișoia Technological High School participates in the project by providing insurance for part of the target group (students and teachers).

The project aims to facilitate access to education, development of educational services and human resources capacity in vulnerable educational units in Vetrișoia, Osești and Pungești villages by implementing actions with direct impact on facilitating access to education and preventing early school leaving, actions aimed at improving and diversifying educational services and actions aimed at human resources development.

**-1 project** carried out by World Vision Romania Foundation, as beneficiary, funded by the Human Capital Operational Programme, Priority Axis 6, "School for all", with the title "Involved communities, quality education in the period June 2018-May 2021, having as associated partners the Technological High School "Nicolae Iorga" Negrești, the Secondary School "Mareșal Constantin Prezan" Dumești and the Kindergarten "Norocel" Negrești. The project aims to reduce the number of children and pupils at risk of leaving school early in the communities of Dumești, Negrești (Vaslui county), Tibana, Tibănești and Mironeasa (Vaslui county).Iasi), through the operationalization and sustainability of a continuum of services and measures for a number of 1045 pre-school, primary and secondary school children and their parents as well as young people/adults in the Second Chance programme, of which 100% benefit from integrated measures and services, implemented by multidisciplinary teams both in educational resource centres and through educational services provided by the associated partners in the project.

#### **5. Projects implemented by World Vision Romania**

To these projects are added those implemented in many schools in the county by the World Vision Romania Foundation, with which ISJ Vaslui has a fruitful collaboration and with which we have initiated and signed a long-term partnership agreement. The projects of this organization have been and are being implemented in schools in Vaslui county where high dropout rates have been recorded and where the causes leading to the amplification of this phenomenon have been identified. The organization has also attracted funding from collaborations with other institutions/companies for the implementation of the following educational programs/projects:

1. **Vaslui Community Development Programme 1 "A better future for our children"** - funded by World Vision Taiwan: **127** (79 in 2018-2019, 48 in 2019-2020) educational mini-projects, implemented by teachers and other partners in 10 schools.

2. **Vaslui Community Development Program 2** - funded by World Vision USA: **65** (31 in 2018-2019, 34 in 2019-2020) educational mini-projects, implemented by teachers and other partners in 7 schools.

3. **"Bread and Tomorrow" project:** funded by Lidl Romania and individual sponsors; 230 students from Valea Mare, Parpanita, Cioatele, Rafaila, Padureni/Osesti schools benefit from after-school and hot meals (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020);

4. **Project "I want to be in the 9th grade"** - 59 high school students from Negresti, Barlad, Vulturesti, Rafaila, Dumesti, Todiresti and Osesti benefit from scholarships, personal development programs, counseling, camps (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020);

5. **Project "Care and Protect"**- 50 vulnerable children from Negresti benefit from after-school program and integrated social services (2018-2019, 2019-2020);

6. **Project "Involved communities, quality education"** funded by POCU - School for all - implemented in Negresti (Technological High School "Nicolae Iorga", Norocel Kindergarten and Dumesti (Secondary School "Constantin Prezan") (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020);

7. **Project "School in a Suitcase"** - Digitization in schools - funded by Vodafone Romania Foundation, implemented in Parpanita/Negresti, Mihai David/Negresti and Nicolae Ciubotaru/Vulturesti schools (2018-2019, 2019-2020);

8. **Project "Prof21 - Developing the competences of teachers and school managers for an attractive and inclusive school"** - ID 105288, funded by POCU- "Motivated teachers": Negresti School Centre for Inclusive Education and Elisabeta Polihroniade School Centre for Inclusive Education (2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020);

9. **Project "Choose School - Quality Education, Future in the Community"** - funded by POCU - School for All - implemented in Parpanita Secondary School (2018-2019, 2019-2020);

### **3.Participation in national competitions and contests**

In September and October 2019, the inspector for educational projects has advised the Pedagogical High School "I. Popescu" Bârlad to participate in the **EUROSCOLA** competition, organized annually by the European Commission Representation and the European Parliament Information Office in Bucharest, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture. The inspector for educational projects also participated, as evaluator, in the National Commission for the evaluation of projects submitted in this competition. Between January and March 2020, 4 school units received advice for the preparation of portfolios necessary to participate in the National Competition "European School" 2020 (Sc. Gimnaziala "C-tin Parfene" Vaslui; Palatul Copiilor Vaslui, Liceul Pedagogic "Ioan Popescu" Barlad, Liceul Tehnologic "Marcel Guguianu" Zorlen); also, the school units with eligible projects in progress received support for the preparation of students to participate in the National Competition of final products of European projects "Made for Europe" 2020. The national competitions "European School", "Made for Europe" and "Youth Debate" Olympiad were cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

### **II.1.2.Qualitative analysis**

#### **II.1.2.1.Human resources**

Obtaining teaching degrees marks the career development of teaching staff, in line with the new National Qualifications Framework and the occupational standards associated with teaching specialisations, as well as in line with new trends in human resource development and quality assurance in education. The award of the teaching grade I signifies the acquisition by the teacher of a high level of professional maturity and expertise, which recommends him/her as a generator of good practice in the school educational environment.

We note that the number of teachers who opt out of special inspections is lower, given that these inspections are valid only in the year of the written examination, while the current inspections are valid for four school years.

In Vaslui County, teachers are interested in continuous training and professional development in the spirit of lifelong learning.

Obtaining teaching degrees marks the career development of teaching staff, in line with the new National Qualifications Framework and the occupational standards associated with teaching specialisations, as well as in line with new trends in human resource development and quality assurance in education. The award of the teaching grade I signifies the acquisition by the teacher of a high level of professional maturity and expertise, which recommends him/her as a generator of good practice in the school educational environment.

Registration for teaching grades II and I took place from 01 to 31 October 2019, according to the methodology in force.

Each school year the number of teachers enrolled differs from the number of teachers who actually attend the inspections: medical reasons, giving up teaching, parental leave.

It is also noted that the number of teachers who opt out of special inspections is lower, given that these inspections are valid only in the year of the written examination, while the current inspections are valid for 4 school years.

According to the legislation in force, persons enrolled in the first teaching grade have the possibility to postpone the completion of this step by one or two school years, depending on the situation. Requests for postponement of the first and second teaching grades have been registered again this school year, most of them for reasons of health or parental leave.

Unfortunately, very few candidates who give up on completing the second degree (9 in the August 2020 session) provide evidence that they are unable to sit the exam. In these circumstances, given that these withdrawals involve a waste of financial resources and time, a strategy must be developed to advise and monitor teachers enrolled in the teaching grades so that their progress does not involve unnecessary expenditure.

Didactic grade	Type of inspection	Session/Series	No. of inspections supported
Grade II	IC 1	Session 2022	120
	IC 2	Session 2021	102
	IS	Session 2020	<b>101 candidates :</b> 28 have taken the special inspection ; 73 have had the special inspection equivalent according to OMEC4303/2020
Grade I	IC 1	Session 2023	91
	Colloquium February 2020	Session 2022	111
	IC2	Session 2021	130
	IS	Session 2020	95
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>750</b>

#### Postponement of teaching degrees

##### Grade II

No. Crt.	TEACHERS / SUBJECT	No. of postponements
1.	TEACHERS	10
2.	EDUCATION	1
3.	TEACHERS	14

##### Grade I

No. Crt.	TEACHERS / SUBJECT	No. postponements
1.	TEACHERS	1

2.	EDUCATION	1
3.	TEACHERS	17

### Student attendance

To illustrate the evolution of student attendance, statistical data from the end of the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years were compared.

As indicators were used:

- the number of non-enrolled pupils in the two school years considered
- the number of students who had low grades in conduct below 7 due to absences.

In the school year 2019-2020, there were 275 out-of-school pupils (0.89%) out of 44087 pupils enrolled in preparatory classes up to and including grade X, mass education, day, as opposed to the school year 2018-2019, when there were 380 out-of-school pupils (0.85%) out of 44205 pupils enrolled in preparatory classes up to and including grade X). The number of non-enrolled pupils includes pupils who leave the country without applying for transfer.

School year					
2018-2019			2019-2020		
Students enrolled in classes preparatory - X, mainstream education, day*	Students enrolled in classes preparatory - X, mainstream education, day*	Students Out-of-school (percent)	Students enrolled in classes preparatory - X, mainstream education, day*	Students enrolled in classes preparatory - X, mainstream education, day*	Students Out-of-school (percent)
44205	44205	0.89	44087	44087	0,62

### Positive aspects

For each of the two indicators analysed, there is an overall decreasing situation compared to previous school years. This is due to the fact that in the second semester classes were held online due to the SARS-CoV 2 pandemic, and student attendance could not be monitored very well.

### Student results

The quality of teaching is reflected in the results that pupils achieve at the end of a school year, in various internal or external assessments, in examinations, in school Olympiads or competitions.

### Objectives

- training key competences in pupils to help them perform and succeed in the knowledge society;
- to increase the quality of the education process by students achieving educational standards;
- increase in the number of students promoted compared to previous school years.

The presentation of the learning results takes into account the statistical situation at the end of the last four school years: 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and 2019-2020. Also, in order to have as realistic a picture as possible of the level of preparation of the students in the educational establishments, written inspection reports, information received from the managers of the educational establishments and A.R.A.C.I.P. reports were consulted.

### Mass education, day, preparatory classes - XIII

a) The number of students remaining enrolled at the end of the 2019-2020 school year decreased compared to the end of the previous school year:

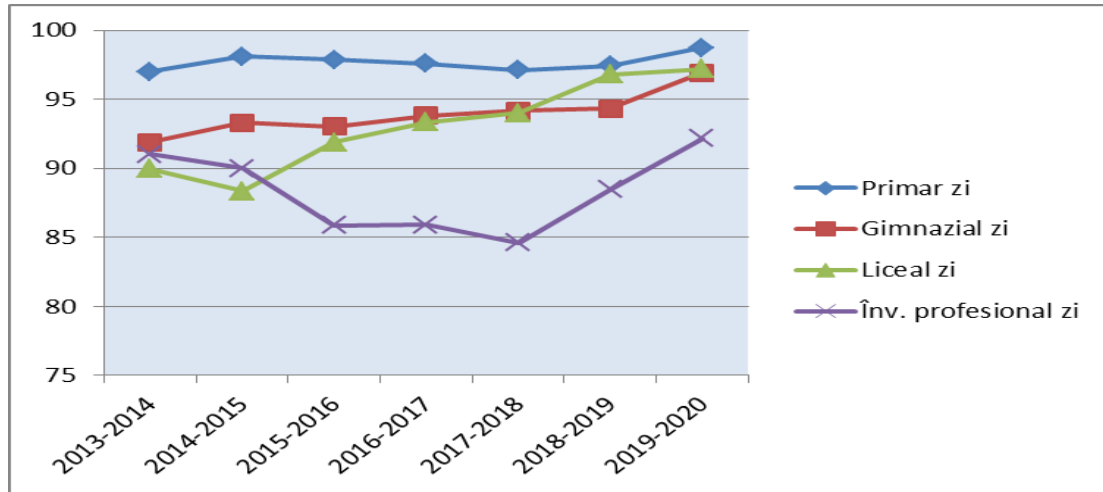
School year	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020
Remaining students enrolled at the end of school year	61.251	59880	58001	57177	55,568	55.133	52.088	50.832

b) Number of students promoted

School year	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020
Students promoted	59.099	58.121	55.567	54.448	52,155	52.263	49.738	49.376
Passed students as a percentage of total enrolled students (%)	92,33	92,95	95.80	95,22	93,85	94.79	95.48	97.13

### Percentage of promotion by educational level

School year	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020
<b>Educational level</b>								
First day	97,02	97,01	98,10	97,85	97,60	97.12	97.42	98.73
Gymnasium day	92,14	91,89	93,32	93,02	93,80	94.17	94.32	96.93
High school day	89,55	89,98	88,34	91,88	93,35	94.03	96.79	97.2
Day vocational education	90,83	91,02	90,02	85,87	85,90	84.63	88.45	92.16



The analysis of the pass rates by level of study allows the following conclusions to be drawn:

- there are no major differences between educational levels;
- The pass rate increased at all levels due to the fact that in the second semester classes were held online due to the SARS-CoV 2 pandemic and student averages were calculated differently.

### c) Number of repeaters

Even if the number of pupils who fail is small, this category requires separate analysis and realistic and effective intervention measures to prevent school failure.

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
<b>Repeaters - classes I-XIII (total)</b>	<b>2729</b>	<b>2413</b>	<b>1831</b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>810</b>
<b>First day</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>Gymnasium day</b>	<b>1155</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>353</b>
<b>High school day</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Day vocational education</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>150</b>

- The number of students with school failure in the school year 2019-2020 was 810, a major decrease compared to the last school year, as a result of the

application of the provisions of Order 4249 of 13 May 2020 amending the Regulation on the organization and functioning of pre-university education units (ROFUIP)

The analysis of statistical data by level of education and school year highlights the following aspects:

- the number of repeaters has changed: decrease at all levels
  - Overall, the repetition rate has dropped substantially from last school year.
- d) The number of students who have been expelled** (in classes XI-XIII and 3rd professional year) is 163 (of which 102 with the right to re-enrolment), down from the previous school year.

School year	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020
<b>Expelled pupils (grades XI-XIII) - total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>Exmatriculated students as a percentage of total enrolment</b>	<b>0,8</b>	<b>0,77</b>	<b>0,72</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0,47</b>	<b>0,31</b>

### 3.Enrolment situation in grade VIII in secondary and vocational education

No. crt.	Profile	No. of pupils	Share (%)
1.	Technical high school	1020	<b>27.35</b>
2.	Real	710	<b>19.10</b>
3.	Uman	748	<b>20.05</b>
4.	Vocational	273	<b>7.30</b>
	Vocational education	977	<b>26.20</b>
5.	Total	3728	

There are 110 students who did not want to enroll in 9th grade.

#### II.1.2.2.Material resources

Both new and refurbished schools and kindergartens ensure that the standards laid down in European standards for space and environmental conditions for learning are met.

The facilities of these establishments contribute to the respect of ergonomic, sanitary, safety and comfort conditions for the pupils (children) of the respective localities.

The increase in the quality of the educational process is supported by the provision of state-of-the-art teaching and multimedia materials through efforts made at school and local authority level, using the suggestions of specialist teachers.

An important measure to improve teaching is the provision of digital textbooks and other electronic materials, which also requires a higher quality training of teaching staff in each school.

It is necessary to know as accurately as possible the quality of the teaching resources in schools in order to replace some of them, repair or modernise others. Teachers should be encouraged to work on the development of teaching aids and materials that meet the requirements of the current stage, with the support of sponsors, parents' associations, economic agents, etc.

IŞJ will work to reduce the differences in the quality of the material base between urban and rural schools.

The provision of school minibuses has radically improved the transport of pupils from the component villages to the central school, helping to raise the quality of pupils' lives and the efficient use of learning time.

#### II.1.2.3. Curriculum resources

The new legislative framework explicitly supports the competency-based approach to Romanian education, which started with some specific measures at curriculum level in 2003. According to the law, the national curriculum for primary and secondary education focuses on the 8 key competence areas, while secondary education aims at developing specific competences according to the training/qualification pathway. The assessment system is also restructured in this competency-based context.

Pre-school education units are organized and operate on the basis of the principles established in accordance with the National Education Law No 1/2011 as amended.

In activities with pre-school children, the Curriculum for Pre-school Education and its Implementation Methodology is followed. Pre-school education ensures equal opportunities for school readiness for all children attending kindergarten, according to the legislation in force.

During the school holidays, kindergartens may organize, separately or in collaboration, educational activities with children, based on the decision of the Board of Directors, which also approves the cost of food, in compliance with the rights provided for by the legislation in force and the collective agreements applicable to all staff of the establishment.

At the primary education level, the instructional-educational activity is carried out by reference to the following normative acts: methodology for enrolment of children in primary education for the school year 2015-2016, no. 3171/05.02.2015; Framework plan approved by OMEN no. 3371/12.03.2013 for preparatory, I and II classes; Framework plan approved by OMECT no. 5198/2004 for III and IV classes; Structure of the school year approved by OMEN 3637/19.06.2014;

School curricula in force; Annex no. 2 to OMEN 5123/15.12.2014, approving the Methodology for the organization and conduct of National Assessments at the end of grades II, IV and VI in the 2014-2015 school year; OMECTS no. 5349/07.09.2011, approving the Methodology for the organization of the "School after school" programme.

For vocational and technical education, the aims of training are defined in terms of learning outcomes - competences, knowledge - skills - competences, in line with the constantly updated requirements of the economic environment. In order to encourage access to vocational and technical education, the new legislative framework has introduced measures to reconfigure its structure. Thus, vocational education can be organised in vocational schools which can be independent units or affiliated to technological high schools. Vocational training standards are based on occupational standards validated by sectoral committees. Vocational training programmes end with a qualification certification examination. In order to meet the current requirements of the economy, a 3-year vocational education has been defined after the 8th grade.



One of the priority objectives has been to organise, monitor and evaluate national examinations for both students and teachers so that the results obtained are significantly higher than in previous years.

In the school year 2019-2020 the Vaslui County School Inspectorate organized the national exams, respectively:

Examination/competition	Date
National assessment for 8th grade graduates	June 2020
Admission to high school	May-July 2020
Baccalaureate exam	June - July 2020 session Session August - September 2020
Competition to fill vacant posts/positions	15 July 2020
National final exam in education	22 July 2020

### 1. National assessment for 8th grade graduates

The National Assessment for the 8th grade graduates, 2020 was held in Vaslui county according to the provisions of Annex no. 2 to the MECTS order no. 4801/31.08.2010, on the organization and conduct of the National Assessment for 8th grade students, of OMEN no. 4916/2019 on the organization and conduct of the National Assessment for 8th grade graduates, of OMEC 4248/2020 amending and supplementing OMEN no. 4916/2019 on the organization and conduct of the National Assessment for 8th grade graduates, of the procedures, addresses and regulations transmitted by MEC and CNPEE, in order to ensure a good organization and conduct of this national examination.

- Statistical data on the participation of 8th grade graduates in the National Assessment**

Environment	No. of 8th grade students registered in SIIIR at the beginning of the school year. 2019-2020 (school records)	No. of 8th grade graduates in the current class	Total number of graduates enrolled in EN 2020	No. of graduates from the current class enrolled in EN 2020	No. of ESC graduates from the current year who did not register to take EN 2020	No. of graduates attending EN 2020	No. of absent graduates at EN 2020
urban	1657	1603	1603	1603	1	1567	35
rural	2492	2241	2249	2249	2	1925	322

- Statistical data on the results obtained by 8th grade graduates in the National Assessment**

Environment	Number of graduates with averages between 1-4.99	Number of graduates with averages between 5-5.99	Number of graduates with average grades 6-6.99	Number of graduates with average grades between 7-7.99	Number of graduates with averages between 8-8.99	Number of graduates with averages between 9-9.99	Number of graduates with average 10
urban	241	140	193	314	405	268	6

rural	845	290	304	283	164	38	1
total	1086	430	497	597	569	306	7

## 2. Baccalaureate exam

The measures undertaken by the Vaslui County School Inspectorate during the 2019-2020 school year to prepare for the baccalaureate exam were complex and were carried out taking into account the provisions of *the Methodology on the organization and conduct of the baccalaureate exam 2011*, approved by OMEN no. 4950/27.08.2019.

For the Baccalaureate exam - June-July 2020 session, a total of 3105 students registered in Vaslui county, of which 2965 took part. The pass rate before the appeals was **64.76%**. After the results were posted, a total of **1109** contested papers were registered in Vaslui County. The papers were re-evaluated by the appeals committee of the Regional Centre Bacau. The pass rate after appeals was **66%**.

The pass rate (after appeals) recorded by high school graduates who took the Baccalaureate exams in the June-July 2020 session in Vaslui County is **71.8%** compared to the current session. From previous sessions, 142 candidates passed, i.e. 32.49%. Compared to last year, the promotion rate increased by 1.24%.

In the June-July 2020 session, 1957 candidates passed out of a total of 2965 candidates. Of these, 1789 candidates are from the current promotion and 142 candidates are from previous promotions.

Four candidates obtained an average of 10 in all subjects - after appeals. Also, the number of A grades per subject increased from 266 to 283, so there were 17 more A grades than before the appeals.

### Special Baccalaureate

A special stage of the 2020 Baccalaureate exam was organized for a student who was in isolation in the E. a) exam of Romanian Language and Literature - Humanities, at the "Nicolae Iorga" Negrești Technological High School. The board of the examination centre CE 1399 was appointed by decision no. 474/04.07.2020. The president of the board was chosen by lot in the videoconference held on Saturday, 04.07.2020 and was appointed by decision 473/04.07.2020.

The test was conducted under normal conditions, with no malfunctions. Two members of the committee transported the thesis to the committee of the Zonal Assessment Centre of Neamt County.

Crt. no.	Name of the school examination centre	Schools	Teaching language	No. of pupils	Total number of candidates registered
1.	Technological High School "Nicolae Iorga" Negrești EC 1399	Technological High School "Nicolae Iorga" Negrești	Romanian	1	1

## Baccalaureate exam 2020, August-September session

At the Baccalaureate exam - August-September 2020 session, in Vaslui county, a total of 785 students registered, of which 467 from the current series and 318 from the previous series and there were 88 absentees. The pass rate before appeals was 34.91%.

After the results were posted, 144 contested papers were registered in Vaslui County. The papers were re-evaluated by the appeals committee of the Regional Centre of Bacau. There were no requests to view the theses after the appeals. The pass rate after appeals was **36.22%**.

### 3.National Final Examination in Education

Initial training for a teaching career involves, in addition to theoretical training at universities or pedagogical high schools, a one-year practical training period in the teaching profession and passing the national final exams. Passing this examination is a prerequisite for a person to acquire the title of teacher with the right to practice in pre-university education.

The granting of a teaching qualification means recognition of the minimum acceptable competences acquired by a person who has chosen a career in teaching and thus guarantees that he/she has the necessary preparation for the teaching profession and can enter a path of upward professionalisation. Initial training for a teaching career involves, in addition to theoretical training at universities or teacher training colleges, a year's practical training in the teaching profession and the passing of the national final examination.

Passing this examination is a prerequisite for a person to acquire the title of teacher with the right to practice in pre-university education.

The granting of a teaching qualification means recognition of the minimum acceptable competences acquired by a person who has chosen a career in teaching and thus guarantees that he/she has the necessary preparation for the teaching profession and can enter a path of upward professionalisation.

In the school year 2019-2020, the enrolment of teachers for the final exam in education was based on OMEN 5211/02.10.2018, according to the Framework Methodology for the organization and conduct of the national final exam published in M.O No. 863 / 11.10.2018 and the Calendar for the organization and conduct of the final exam - M.O OMEN No. 4910 / 23.10.2019.

#### The structure of the exam was as follows:

##### 1. stage I- eliminatory:

- (a) the holding of two specialist inspections;
- (b) assessment of the professional portfolio;

##### 2. stage II - final: a written test.

The grade obtained in the exam was calculated according to the formula:  $ND = (NI1 + NI2 + NP + 7NS)/10$ , where ND is the examination mark, NI1 is the mark for specialist inspection 1, NI2 is the mark for specialist inspection 2, NP is the mark for the personal professional portfolio and NS is the mark for the written examination. **The minimum pass mark is 8 (eight).**

**The timetable for the organization and conduct of the national final examination in education in the school year 2019-2020 was respected, according to OMEN4910/ 23.08.2019 as follows:**

- Decision No 945/ 08.10.2019 on the constitution of the county examination commission;
- Decision No.944/ 08.10.2019 on the designation of the examination centre for conducting the written examination for the national final examination in education.

In the context of the epidemiological situation caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Ministry of Education and Research has adopted the following [amendments and additions to the Framework Methodology for the organisation and conduct of the final examination, according to OMEC 4300/21.05.2020](#):

- the period of maternity leave, as well as the period of suspension of courses due to the declaration of a state of emergency/alert, are considered as seniority in teaching for teachers registered for the national final examination in education;
- In the 2020 session, the exam structure is as follows:

1. **Stage I - eliminatory**

- a) at least one specialist inspection/recognition of the grade obtained at the last classroom inspection, an inspection held in the presence of a qualified teacher;
- b) evaluation of the professional portfolio.

1. **Stage II (final): one written test**

In the 2020 session of the exam, the mark obtained in the exam is calculated according to the formula:  $ND=(2NI+NP+7NS)/10$ , where:

\* ND - final grade

\* NI - inspection mark (i.e. the higher of the marks for the two specialist inspections obtained by the candidate who took both inspections)

\* NP - Portfolio Note

NS - written test mark (all marks obtained by the candidate in the current examination session).

**The minimum pass mark is 8 (eight).**

In the 2019-2020 school year, candidates who did not take the first specialist inspection as part of the examination applied to the school inspectorate for recognition of the mark obtained in the last classroom inspection, an inspection taken as a qualified teacher.

On 05.06.2020, 38 applications for recognition of the last inspection as a qualified teacher were registered at ISJ Vaslui on 05.06.2020.

The school inspectors/methodologists carried out the evaluation of the professional portfolio until 12.06.2020 and recorded the grade obtained at the last inspection in the school inspection register, on the basis of the grade recognition/equivalence report. These documents have been submitted to ISJ Vaslui to the school inspector for human resources development.

An address from ISJ Vaslui with no. 884/ 28.05.2020 was submitted to MEC and registered at MEC with no. 1495/ DGÎP/ 02.06.2020, concerning the approval of a number of 8 candidates who needed a derogation for the granting of a maximum of one month of seniority required to teach for one year, provided for in Article 12, paragraph (4).

- Decision No 475/ 06.07.2020 on the modification of the county examination commission
- Special Delegation No 1/ 20.07.2020 on the appointment of the person responsible for the conduct and monitoring of the audio-video surveillance process of the written examination of the national final exam in education, session 2020;

**STATISTICAL DATA :**

**Number of candidates registered for the 2020 session:**

Number of candidates registered and validated (with the right to participate in the final exam): **173**

**NUMBER OF CANDIDATES TAKING THE EXAM:146**

Number of candidates present at the written test of the examination: 142, i.e. 97.27 (%)

Number of candidates withdrawn during the written test: 20 (of which 16 for personal reasons and 4 for medical reasons)

Number of candidates eliminated from the written test: 0 (due to fraud)

Number of theses taught: 122

Number of examination subjects: 21

Number of candidates passed before the appeals - 89, i.e. 72.95%

Number of candidates who have lodged appeals - 22

Number of successful candidates after appeals - 90, respectively 73.77

NR. CRT.	DISCIPLINE	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES REGISTERED	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES TAKING THE EXAM	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES WHO TOOK THE EXAM	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ADMITTED
1.	BIOLOGY	2	1	1	1
2.	PSYCHO-PEDAGOGICAL COUNSELLING	1	1	1	1
3.	CIVIC CULTURE	4	4	4	3
4.	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	23	19	14	12
5.	MUSIC EDUCATION	2	1	0	0
6.	SPECIALISED MUSIC EDUCATION (INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC)	3	3	2	2
7.	ART EDUCATION (VISUAL ARTS)	1	1	0	0
8.	EDUCATION	36	30	26	22
9.	GEOGRAPHY	1	0	0	0
10	TEACHERS	29	23	19	10
11	HISTORY	1	0	0	0
12	KINEOTHERAPY	1	1	1	0
13	ENGLISH LANGUAGE	10	8	7	6
14	FRENCH LANGUAGE	6	4	4	2
15	ROMANIAN LANGUAGE	19	19	16	12
16	CATERING MASTERS	1	1	1	1
17	FOOD INDUSTRY MASTERS	1	1	1	1
18	TEXTILE MASTERS	1	1	1	1
19	MATHEMATICS	8	6	6	1
20	MECHANICS - MASTER INSTRUCTORS	4	4	3	3
21	MECHANICS TEACHERS	1	1	1	1
22	SPECIAL PSYCHOLOGY	11	11	9	8
23	RELIGION	5	4	3	2
24	TRANSPORT INSTRUCTORS	1	1	1	0
25	TOURISM MASTERS INSTRUCTOR	1	1	1	1
	TOTAL:	173	146	122	90

## NATIONAL FINAL EXAM

ANUL	PROMOTABILITY PERCENTAGE
2020	73,77%
2019	71,77%
2018	66,14%
2017	61,43%
2016	64,53%
2015	42,16%
2014	63,24%

The positive results recorded in this year's final exam are correlated with:

- effective information on obtaining educational completion through the public media and those responsible for continuing training in educational establishments;
- individual counselling offered to teachers by DRU inspectors and subject inspectors;
- raising awareness among beginning teachers of the importance of teacher completion.

### 4.Competition for filling vacant posts/positions

**The national competition for the filling of vacant/reserved teaching posts/positions** at county level was organized in compliance with the Order of the Minister of Education and Research no. 5259/2019, with subsequent amendments and additions, as well as with the provisions of the Calendar of mobility of teaching staff in pre-university education for the school year 2020-2021, and the Procedure for the conduct of the written test, sealing and securing of written papers in the national competition for filling teaching posts/vacant/reserved positions in pre-university education - session 2019 with No. 32446/24.07.2020, Operational Procedure No. 30894/15.06.2020 on audio-video surveillance, Procedure for transporting papers to the evaluation centers No. 32496/24.07.2020, Procedure for taking subjects. 3 examination centres were organised:

- Centre no. 1: "Mihail Kogălniceanu" Vaslui High School,
- Centre no. 2: "Emil Racoviță" Vaslui High School,
- Centre no. 3: "Anghel Rugină" Vaslui Economic College.

The list of vacant/reserved teaching positions was posted at the ISJ headquarters and at the three competition centres, as well as on the ISJ Vaslui website, the list of subjects assigned, the list of teachers who can participate in the competition, in accordance with the methodology and procedure for the written test. Invitations have been sent to the nationally recognised representative trade union federations to appoint observers. Decisions have been issued, in accordance with Article 66 of the methodology, declarations, commitments and minutes have been signed. The multiplication and distribution of subjects was carried out in accordance with the methodology, and the time taken for all candidates to write their papers was respected. Security was ensured throughout the competition and the procedures for social

distancing and measures to prevent and combat SARS CoV2 illnesses were respected.

573 candidates were validated for 43 subjects; 3 files were not validated due to lack of psycho-pedagogical module; 74 candidates were absent, 69 candidates withdrew (11 candidates for medical reasons and 58 candidates for personal reasons); 2 candidates were eliminated from the competition; 425 papers were submitted for evaluation, 1 thesis was cancelled at the evaluation centre. Before appeals, 197 candidates obtained marks above 7.00 representing 46.46%; 146 candidates obtained marks between 5.00 and 6.99 representing 34.44%; 81 candidates obtained marks below 5.00 representing 19.1%; the proportion of marks above 5.00 before appeals was 80.89%.

There were 80 requests for re-scoring of papers, with the final results being:

- 72 scores below 5.00 (16.98%);
- 143 scores between 5.00 and 6.99 (33.72%);
- 209 scores above 7.00 (49.30%)
- the percentage of candidates with marks above 5.00 who can be allocated is 83.01%.

Of the 119 posts advertised for permanent employment, 78 permanent posts were allocated following the competition at the public distribution meeting on 13 August 2020: vocal art - 1 post; biology - 1 post; physical education - 5 posts; plastic education-visual education - 1 post; kindergarten teachers - 16 posts; photo-cineclub - 1 post; teachers - 20 posts; English language - 6 posts, French language - 6 posts; Romanian language and literature - 2 posts; mathematics - 2 posts, technical subjects - 4 posts; itinerant and support teacher - 4 posts; teacher educator - 5 posts; psycho-pedagogical teacher - 1 post; teacher in psycho-pedagogical assistance centres and cabinets - 2 posts.

The public meetings for the distribution of vacant/reserved posts were organized in compliance with OMEC no. 5259/2019, as amended and supplemented, and with the provisions of the Calendar of mobility of teaching staff in pre-university education for the school year 2020-2021, based on the results of the 2020 tenure competition, the previous national competitions, the competition organized at county level, the testing of staff without education corresponding to the post, respectively in the hourly pay system, according to the provisions of the methodology.

For the remaining unfilled positions, the county **contest for filling the remaining vacant/reserved positions/positions** was organized at the county level by ISJ Vaslui, respectively the **Testing of staff without education corresponding to the position**. The county competition for filling vacant/reserved posts/positions was organised in two competition centres, in compliance with all the provisions of the methodology. 150 candidates participated. The test for staff without education corresponding to the post for filling the remaining/vacant teaching posts/positions was organized by ISJ Vaslui, consisting of an interview and a written paper. 172 candidates participated. The candidates who took part in the county competition and in the test for staff without the appropriate qualifications were allocated on the basis of Art. 102 para. (1) and (2) respectively Art.103 para. (1) and (2) of the methodology.

### **School competitions and Olympiads results**

In the 2019-2020 school year, special attention was paid to the selection and preparation of students for school Olympiads and competitions in all subjects. Up to the date of suspension of classes, the county stages of school Olympiads were organized for the following subjects: physics, chemistry, astronomy and astrophysics, earth sciences, history, socio-human sciences, modern languages, Greek, Latin,

biology, computer science, national school sports Olympiad, national instrumental performance Olympiad, technological education, technical subjects. 537 pupils participated in the local and county stages, winning prizes and mentions and qualifying for the national stage. One pupil obtained a MEC mention in the *Evrika* Physics Competition and 32 pupils obtained prizes and mentions in the county stage of the Geography *Terra* Competition.

#### II.1.2.4. Community relations

Collaboration with the local community was materialized in collaboration with the Prefect's Institution-Jud. Vaslui through the contribution made by ISJ Vaslui to achieve the objectives of the County Action Plan, in the Education chapter for 2019 and 2020, as well as to promote access to European funds through the new European Commission programme, Erasmus+ (2014-2020). In this context, monthly, quarterly and semi-monthly reports were prepared. The annual report for 2019 on the achievement of the objectives of the County Action Plan was also prepared. In June 2020, the Report on the economic and social state of the county was issued. Vaslui for the year 2019 - education section (for the Prefect's Institution - Vaslui County). We also collaborated directly with the World Vision Romania Foundation for the promotion of educational projects that it implements in schools in Vaslui County. Vaslui.

In addition, activities from the Action Plan to promote access to European funds were organized in collaboration with Vaslui County Council, Europe Direct Centre, "N.Milescu Spatarul" County Library, Local Social Partnership Development Committee, County Employment Agency, EURES Vaslui Office, Vaslui County Centre for Educational Resources and Assistance, Vaslui General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection, Vaslui CCD, Vaslui, Husi and Negresti (for example. European Week of Sport, in collaboration with MTS, DJTS Vaslui, County Association "Sport for All", school sports clubs, school units in the county, Move Week 2020, funded by the Erasmus+ programme).

The educational activity in and out of school is the space of application that allows the transfer and applicability of knowledge, skills, competences acquired in the education system. Through its specific forms, school and out-of-school educational activity develops critical thinking and stimulates the involvement of the younger generation in decision-making in the context of respect for human rights and the assumption of social responsibilities, thus achieving a working symbiosis between the cognitive and behavioural components. Education is an absolute priority and a key agent for ensuring social cohesion, capable of contributing to improving the European democratic climate.

Positive aspects of the educational activity carried out in schools in Vaslui County:

- Establishing good partnership relations with community educational stakeholders, decentralised institutions, related institutions of the M.E.C. .;

- Educational programmes to prevent and combat violence in schools, juvenile delinquency, trafficking and consumption of drugs and other harmful substances, dropping out and absenteeism, sexual and labour exploitation of minors, trafficking in human beings are operating in all educational establishments in the county;

- Implementation of a unified vision on school and out-of-school educational activities, tailored to the specificities of each of the educational units through the "School Differently" Programme: Know more, be better!";

- The majority of educational establishments in Vaslui County have School Councils of Students elected according to the new organization and operation regulations approved by the Ministry of Education. .;



-The large number of teachers in the county who have attended training programmes on educational topics (health education, counselling and guidance, career guidance and counselling, etc.).

Negative aspects of the educational activity carried out in schools in Vaslui County:

-The existence of a large number of pupils from disadvantaged social backgrounds who have difficulty participating in some extracurricular activities;

-The lack of financial incentives for educational advisors, whose tasks are very numerous in the job description and internal regulations, unpaid, while they are not even relieved, even partially, of their teaching duties, leads to their poor determination;

-The formality of fulfilling some of the tasks of the head teacher (especially in terms of consistently observing the pupil and completing the psycho-pedagogical file with data on his/her complex development and the extracurricular activities in which he/she participates);

Work to prevent and combat violence in schools

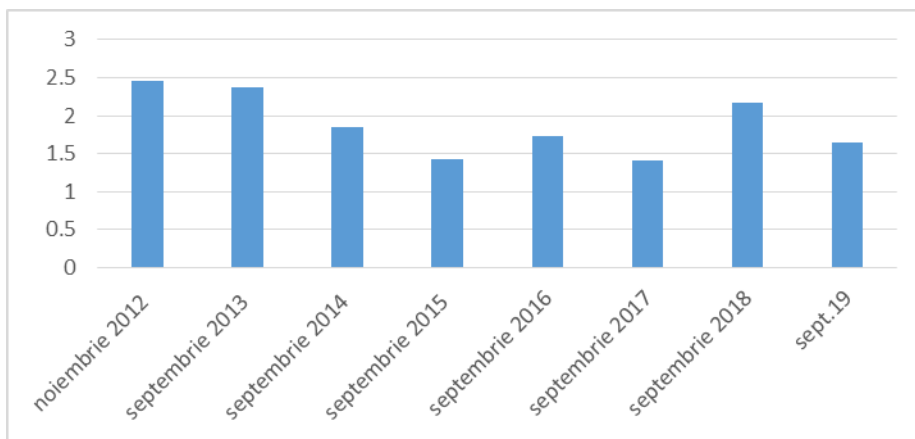
In order to reduce the number of violent manifestations at the level of Vaslui County School Inspectorate, there has been a permanent concern to resolve all types of conflicts that may have arisen during the course of educational activities in and out of school. There is an optimal communication between all the factors that can have a role in solving conflicts (pupils-parents-teachers-Police-Church-Primary). In order to maintain these permanent interactions between the above-mentioned factors, the members of the County Commission for the Prevention and Combat of Violence, legally constituted at the level of the I.S.J., have carried out their activity. Vaslui.

### II.1.3. Analysis of school and social inclusion issues

II.1.3.1. School drop-out. Measures to reduce early school leaving.

The school dropout survey for the 2019-2020 school year covered a sample of 82 schools (53 rural and 29 urban). Compared to previous school years, the situation is as follows:

- November 2012 drop-out rate - 2,46%
- September 2013 abandonment rate - 2.38%
- September 2014 abandonment rate - 1,85 %
- September 2015 abandonment rate - 1.42%
- September 2016 abandonment rate - 1.74%
- September 2017 abandonment rate - 1.41%
- September 2018 abandonment rate - 2.17%
- September 2019 abandonment rate - 1.64%



- number of children out of school November 2012 - 68
- number of children out of school September 2013 - 241
- number of children out of school September 2014 - 89
- number of children out of school September 2015- 31
- number of children out of school September 2016- 112
- number of children out of school September 2017- 66
- number of children out of school September 2018 - 277
- number of children out of school September 2019 - 312

Out of a sample of 28,791 students enrolled by the end of the 2019-2020 school year, 473 students dropped out of school.

The following measures have led to an increase in the number of pupils with special educational needs receiving appropriate psycho-pedagogical assistance:

- continuation of training and counselling courses for teachers in the spirit of optimizing the teaching activity in working with children with special educational needs using effectively the IPPs and adapted programs;
  - early screening of children with ESC - early intervention, diagnosis, re-diagnosis and school guidance for children with ESC for inclusion;
  - increasing the participation of pupils with ESC in school activities through the support services offered;
  - to carry out activities with parents in order to involve them in specific actions for an effective school-family-community relationship, as a basis for school adaptation and social and professional integration of children/young people with ESC;
- reorganisation and allocation of pupils in inclusive education school centres by type and grade of disability, based on the assessments of the comprehensive assessment service and the internal committee.

In the analysis of the dropout risk situation, teachers' perceptions of the factors that can lead to early school leaving were sought. The data obtained reveal that the poor economic situation is the most important factor generating the risk of dropping out. It is also individual factors that lead to a risk of dropping out. Thus, a high proportion of pupils are repeated school failures, who perform poorly and cannot adapt to school requirements.

High absenteeism is related to both school and individual factors, in particular low motivation for school activities or certain learning difficulties. A pupil who is often absent achieves poorer academic results than his or her peers and may also be perceived as having lower motivation for school activities. From the teachers' perspective, absenteeism is one of the most important factors that lead pupils at risk of dropping out to leave school at some point.

A special category is that of minors who have become mothers. The group of under-age mothers is, because of the negative implications it entails, a group at major social risk, a vulnerable group which must be given greater attention by the responsible factors in order to reduce and prevent it from becoming more acute. Teenage parenthood can have a number of consequences: reduced chances of completing school, limited financial resources, poor child-parent relationships, etc.

We can note that most pupils leave school during vocational and secondary education, followed by secondary and primary education. The highest risk of dropping out is at the transition from primary to secondary education and from secondary to high school. The highest drop-out rates are found in grades 9 and 5, where pupils have difficulty adapting to the conditions of the education system. This can be explained by the fact that the transition from one educational cycle to another is conditioned by grades, which are an indicator on the basis of which the pupil considers whether he or she has

a chance to follow an educational path. A higher dropout rate is also found in these situations as a result of the specific conditions and the economic and integration difficulties involved in adapting to a new school environment outside the home community.

The school environment is also a factor in school drop-out. Repeated school failure, failure to reach the minimum performance standard, leads to a drastic decrease in the pupil's interest in school, demotivation and, ultimately, failure. Another indicator that captures the relationship with the school environment is the degree to which the pupil perceives school. If school is not perceived as a friendly place, if it is not a place that manages to provide a comfortable environment, to arouse the pupil's interest, then the pupil's only alternative may be to drop out.

A family's poor socio-economic situation greatly reduces children's chances of access to education. Poverty limits parents' ability to provide their children with the necessary resources for education and is one of the main causes of this phenomenon. As a rule, the costs of educating children (school supplies, clothing, etc.) are very difficult for poor families to bear. This leads some pupils to drop out of school before completing a course or before obtaining a qualification or specialisation. They drop out of school early and enter the labour market to bring in extra income for their families. Children are often sent by their parents to work and contribute to the family income.

Belonging to a vulnerable group is another aspect that explains the high drop-out rate (Roma children, children from single-parent families, children with disabilities, children from poor families or with low educational levels, children from rural areas). A special, extremely vulnerable category found in our county is that of children whose parents are working abroad. Many of them fail to develop coping mechanisms to overcome the difficult moment of separation from their parents and end up showing disinterest in school and in the adults in whose care they have been left. Parents are not informed about their children's school development and are not aware of the major negative consequences on their psychological development due to the decision to leave the country.

Also in the category of family factors that cause school dropouts, we can mention the disorganization of family life, tense family climate, poor parenting styles, etc. Parents pass the responsibility to the school, do not provide support in the school preparation of children, are not interested in the school situation, minimizing the role of education in their personal success. Disorganised families enter a vicious circle from which they cannot escape without specialised help. Family members live in acute poverty and are often victims of alcoholism and domestic violence, factors which, according to experts, precede school drop-out.

Given that there are many causes of dropping out of school, from different spheres, it is necessary to create a real partnership between the school, the family and the community, each of them being directly responsible.

The actions of the educational partners should be aimed both at establishing strategies to prevent dropping out of school for pupils at risk and at the recovery and reintegration into the education system of those who have already dropped out.

**Prevention and control methods can take the form of:**

- informing the community about the extent of school drop-outs and the implications of its socio-professional;
- helping families with a precarious material situation to support their children to go to school;

- identification of students at risk of dropping out of school in each institution by the counsellors/head teachers and analysis of risk factors and supportive factors in school adaptation;
- establishing an intervention strategy, in cooperation with various institutions (social assistance, police, etc.), to reintegrate children who have dropped out of school;
- implementing educational activities to increase the attractiveness of the school and to increase pupils' school engagement;
- preventing repetition by creating special success situations for students, as successes and rewards develop student initiative and increase student self-esteem;
- involving pupils whose parents are abroad in a psychological counselling programme to improve the psycho-emotional development problems they face.
- active involvement of parents in school life through participation in various classes, in various extra-curricular activities with students and teachers;
- the initiation of parental education programmes, focusing on various aspects of the child's learning difficulties and adaptation to the school environment.

#### II.1.3.2.School and social inclusion of vulnerable groups. Measures to desegregate and combat discrimination at school.

The phenomena of school segregation have been insufficiently analysed, have not been systematically evaluated, and there has been little use of the existing legal framework to implement consistent measures on school desegregation. Although there is some research on school segregation of Roma pupils (where the estimated extent of segregation phenomena reaches alarming levels), there is practically no statistical data on other forms of school segregation (school segregation of children with disabilities, school segregation of pupils based on the socio-economic status of their families, etc.). As such, it is necessary to monitor all these sources of school segregation (for which there are indications provided by various researches or school inspections) and to develop methodologies for monitoring, prevention and intervention specific to each segregation criterion.

Research in this area has shown that the mixing of students (by ethnicity, socio-economic status of families, school performance, etc.) does not have a negative impact on the school performance of high-achieving pupils, but contributes significantly to improving the school performance of low-achieving pupils, to the effective educational inclusion of pupils from vulnerable groups, to strengthening an inclusive school ethos and to increasing the school-wide educational performance and the development of cognitive and non-cognitive skills of all pupils, etc.

#### II.1.4.SWOT analysis at the level of Vaslui County School Inspectorate

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<b>Human resources</b>	<b>Human resources</b>
1. High degree of professionalism and job stability of teaching staff (96.12 % qualified, 61.18 % with teaching grade I and II; 68.16 % tenured, in post); 2. Strengthening managerial expertise by conducting training courses in the field, regular training within the ISJ on various	1.Lack of job stability for new teachers, especially in rural areas; 2.The existence of cases of lack of responsibility in the exercise of managerial duties due to the appointment of principals by secondment without competition; 3.Insufficient information and training of

<p>aspects of managerial activity as well as exchanges of experience and dissemination of best practices in the framework of biannual pedagogical circles;</p> <p>3. Training offer in management education - diverse, generous;</p> <p>4. All inspectors and most principals have been selected and entered in the Register of Educational Management Experts;</p> <p>5. Maintain teachers' interest and availability for career development and professional development</p> <p>6. Ensuring participation in free training courses for almost 1000 teachers and teaching assistants;</p> <p>7. Training of auxiliary teachers and training especially of rural teachers, where the greatest need for further training has been identified</p>	<p>teaching staff in quality management and the application of quality systems; priority given to quantitative objectives at the expense of qualitative ones;</p> <p>4. The analysis of the work carried out (half-yearly or annual) remains in some units only a descriptive report, listing positive and negative aspects, without identifying the causes of failures or dysfunctions, without establishing regulatory measures, deadlines and clear responsibilities.</p> <p>5. The still high level of subjectivity in the self-evaluation/evaluation process at the level of the school inspectorate, the management of the educational units, the specialized committees;</p> <p>6. The fluctuation of the teaching staff, the lack of motivation of some teachers have created dysfunctions in ensuring the efficiency of the instructional-educational process in some school units, especially in rural areas.</p> <p>7. Declining population leading to expansion of simultaneous education and secondary education</p> <p>School managers are reluctant to effectively exercise their capacity to build appropriate policies and strategies according to the particularities of the socio-cultural environment, to implement their own development plans, to monitor their uptake and implementation by teaching staff, the quality of teaching activity and the level of attainment of educational standards by pupils, relations between pupils, teachers, parents, community.</p>
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<b>Material resources</b>	<b>Material resources</b>
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<p>1.The creation of operational databases in the specialised departments of the school inspectorate;</p> <p>2. Good infrastructure and material base in most schools in the county, including means and equipment at the level of needs / demands, accumulated through projects run by MECS, managed by ISJ and educational units (rehabilitated buildings, school minibuses, school furniture, teaching means and materials for offices and laboratories, sports equipment, logistics, etc.).</p>	<p>1.The existence of a number of school units without a sanitary operating permit; 2.The limited financial resources that do not allow for improvements, facilities, etc. to transform the school into an autonomous centre;</p> <p>3.Insufficient concern for information and documentation of some managers and teachers in order to obtain non-reimbursable European funds for institutional development;</p> <p>4.Non-completion of investments (150 units school year 2006/2007/2008</p>
Curriculum resources	Curriculum resources
<p>1. Good results in national exit exams in relation to the national average;</p> <p>2. Focus on performance and encourage a large number of pupils to participate in school Olympiads and competitions, including in rural areas;</p> <p>3. Training of CEAC members in schools to implement internal quality assurance and evaluation mechanisms through regional courses organized by ARACIP and courses of CCD Vaslui;</p> <p>4. The existence of adequate strategies in the field of educational management, which allowed monitoring, control and evaluation with regard to ensuring the quality of the instructional-educational process.</p>	<p>1. Modest results in the evaluation of national education in some educational establishments especially in rural areas;</p> <p>2.The formality of the functioning of committees set up at school level;</p> <p>3.Lack, in some educational establishments, of a coherent set of internal evaluation tools, of a reliable quality system to determine the added and new value created by the education provided by the school; .</p> <p>4.The existence of dysfunctions in the CDŞ/CDL proposal at the level of educational establishments, not respecting the real educational needs of the main beneficiaries;</p> <p>5.Poor follow-up on classroom application of knowledge gained from participation in further training/continuing education programmes.</p> <p>6.Inadequacy of proposed objectives (with indicators and target values), policies, strategies in the field of quality, in the short and medium term;</p> <p>7.Decreased student interest and motivation for learning.</p>

Community relations	Community relations
<p>Proper operation with legality, the councils of administration, with the participation of local</p>	<p>1Still high rate of absenteeism and school drop-out rates in establishments in areas with</p>

<p>community representatives and parent representatives;</p> <p>There is an effective interactive, relational/communicative flow with partner institutions, i.e. MECS, county and local authorities with responsibilities in education;</p> <p>Good cooperation between the I.Ș.J. Vaslui and related units (CCD, CJRAE), between schools and the educational environment;</p> <p>Increasing the role of the school as a community centre for networking with NGOs, associations and foundations with educational aims;</p> <p>Strengthening schools as information and documentation centres for young people in local communities, using IT and multimedia equipment.</p>	<p>Roma population and those in disadvantaged areas (poverty);</p> <p>Insufficient collaboration of parents with school in some communities.</p> <p>Failure to involve community stakeholders in combating school drop-out, student absenteeism in supporting local adult education actions;</p> <p>Lack of effective school-community relations in the promotion of local traditions and customs, in the preparation of cultural-educational events held on the occasion of national and local events; 5.</p> <p>Insufficient involvement of some local authorities in ensuring the safety of schools and students with their own means.</p>
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OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p><b>Human resources</b></p>	<p><b>Human resources</b></p>
<p>1.The ISJ's new organisational chart designed to make its work more efficient.</p> <p>2. The ISJ team benefits from opportunities to develop professional and managerial skills, knowledge of general and specific legislation, skills needed in the process of advising and evaluating educational establishments;</p> <p>Diversified offer of managerial and specialist training programmes at county and national system level.</p>	<p>1.Formally regulated and poorly coordinated decisions, often contradictory and therefore difficult to enforce, intervene in the system;</p> <p>2.Declining school population through declining birth rate and emigration of young population;</p> <p>3.Lack of attractiveness of the teaching profession due to the decreasing role of education in society and the attitude of decision-makers towards the quality of life of educators</p> <p>4.The departure of specialists from the system to more attractive sectors with more motivating salaries;</p> <p>5.Insufficient psycho-pedagogical and methodological training of young graduates, some of whom are still going through the system;</p> <p>6.Lack of incentives for young teachers to stabilise their positions, especially in rural areas (housing, material and financial facilities, etc.).</p>







Material resources	Material resources
<p>1. Increasing the capacity of institutions to education to develop and manage programmes and projects in the fields of school infrastructure, training and professional development, interculturality;</p> <p>2. Allocation of budgetary funds for further training/continuing training activities;</p> <p>3. The transfer of financial and managerial control to the responsibility of educational establishments and/or local authorities obliges decision-makers to consider new ways of ensuring the quality of resource management of all kinds;</p>	<p>1. Low level of budgetary resources, more especially in rural areas, combined with a lack of experience at local council level on the specifics of financing educational establishments;</p> <p>2. Inadequate policy intervention in the way funds are allocated (difficulties in understanding educational issues by decision-makers at different levels);</p> <p>3. Failure to involve authorities and specialised bodies in increasing the efficiency of the school network, improving transport infrastructure, supplying teaching materials, etc.</p> <p>4. Insufficient funding to cover the costs per pupil, both from central and local budgets (insufficient funding for education);</p>
Curriculum resources	Curriculum resources
<p>1. Development and approval of the new ROFUIP;</p> <p>2. Unlimited access to information on the tasks and objectives pursued (legislative, legal, specialist, social, economic, environmental, demographic developments, etc.);</p> <p>3. ARACIP projects that include schools in periodic external evaluation and reporting to national standards and performance indicators for the evaluation and quality assurance of education in pre-university education, by level of education;</p> <p>4. Establishment of a national quality system based on evaluation against national standards certifying the school's ability to function as an equitable and effective structure for all categories of beneficiaries of educational services, to carry out competitive activities.</p>	<p>1. Perception of internal evaluation mechanisms as deeply bureaucratic and unnecessary;</p> <p>2. Delays in the provision of textbooks and teaching aids for the primary cycle resulting in shortcomings in ensuring the quality of the teaching process;</p> <p>3. Inconsistency of the formal curriculum and lack of firmness at central and local level in respecting the methodologies for establishing the CDŞ/CDL (failure to consult pupils, parents, economic agents/institutions);</p> <p>4. Failure to update manuals containing outdated and even incorrect data;</p> <p>5. Excessive overload of content taught in too many subjects, with redundant, irrelevant information that has no real-life application.</p>
Community relations	Community relations



1. The existence of Community, regional, European and foreign cultural centres, L.L.P. and Erasmus+ European partnership programmes;  
Increasing the quality of social partnership, private initiative and community support for the development and support of education; the existence of collaboration and partnership programmes at Local Council level, the existence of the Regional Action Plan for Education (PRAI) at regional level, the Local Action Plan for Education (PLAI) at county level and the School Action Plan (PAS), giving the possibility of diversifying the vocational training of pupils, in technological, vocational and post-secondary education, in occupations required by the labour market;

3. Opening the local community to educational institutions through partnerships with I.S.J.;

4. Increase the quality of social partnership, private initiative and community support for the development and support of education;

5. Possibility of rapid information and communication with the M.E.C.S., via portal and forum;

2. The existence of Community, regional, European programmes and foreign cultural centres, the Erasmus+ programme.

1. Insufficient awareness of some decision-makers (local councils, companies, trade unions, parents, pupils, teachers) of the priorities and directions of development needed in education;

2. Resistance to change of factors outside the school involved in the provision of educational services;  
The mismatch between the educational objectives of the school and those promoted by the media (the existence of unfair competition regarding the educational influence of the two institutions)

4. Social environment barriers: tendency of social systems to maintain existing balance; blocking new ideas by ignoring, ridicule, over-analysis; personal-emotional barriers: routines, habit, conformism, fear of risk, preoccupation with judging rather than generating ideas;

5. The image of the school and the teaching profession in society is seriously damaged by the diminishing social role of the educator, insufficient pay and the non-educational attitude promoted by the media;

3. The non-involvement, for various reasons, of many pupils' families in the training and education process.

## II.2. Internal environment diagnosis at the level of pilot schools

### II.2.1. "Dimitrie Cantemir" Secondary School Vaslui

#### II.2.1.1. Human resources

##### **School population**

The "Dimitrie Cantemir" Gymnasium School educates children aged 3 to 6 years old in the Pre-school No.6, from the whole town and nearby rural areas, and students aged 6-15 years old from the surrounding district, but also from outside it. Over the last 4 years we have seen a process of maintaining the number of pupils and a steady decrease in the number of children in the kindergarten.

#### ***PJ staff situation, school year 2017/2018***

No. crt.	Preschool		Primary		secondary	
	F	M	F	M	F	M
	45	43	93	102	72	92
<b>Total PJ</b>	88		195		164	

#### ***PJ staffing situation, school year 2018/2019***

No. Crt.	preschool		primary		secondary	
	F	M	F	M	F	M
	43	39	88	95	63	93
<b>Total PJ</b>	82		183		156	

#### ***PJ staffing table, school year 2019/2020***

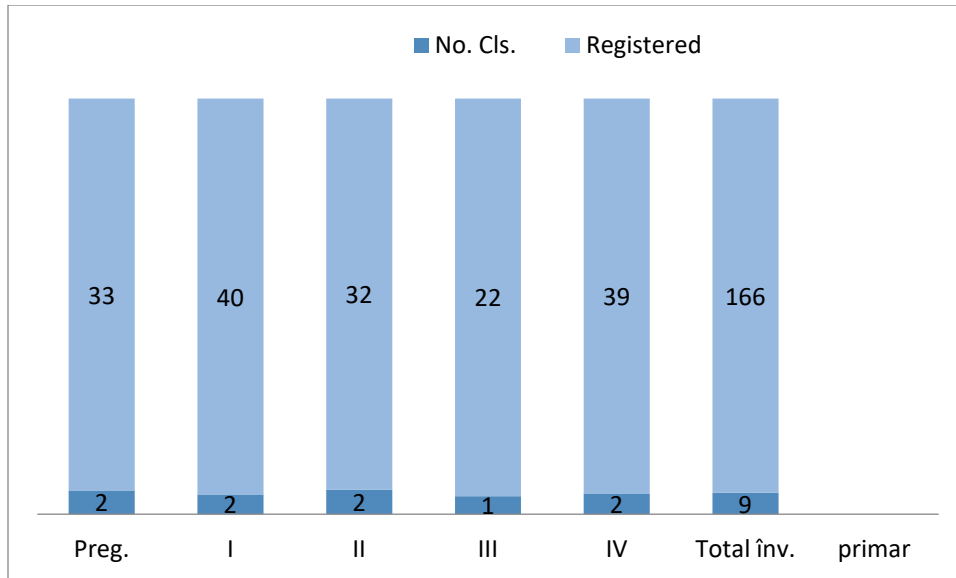
No. Crt.	preschool		primary		secondary	
	F	M	F	M	F	M
	34	45	71	93	74	92
<b>Total PJ</b>	79		164		166	

***PJ staffing levels, school year 2020/2021***

No. Crt.	preschool		primary		secondary	
	F	M	F	M	F	M
	44	45	75	91	71	86
<b>Total PJ</b>	<b>89</b>		<b>166</b>		<b>157</b>	

***Class sizes, primary education, school year 2020/2021***

Class	No. Cls.	Registered	Left	Joined	Remained	F	M
Preg.	2	33	1	0	33	16	17
I	2	40	2	1	39	14	25
II	2	32	0	2	34	20	14
III	1	22	1	0	21	9	12
IV	2	39	0	0	39	17	22
<b>Total inv. primary</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>90</b>

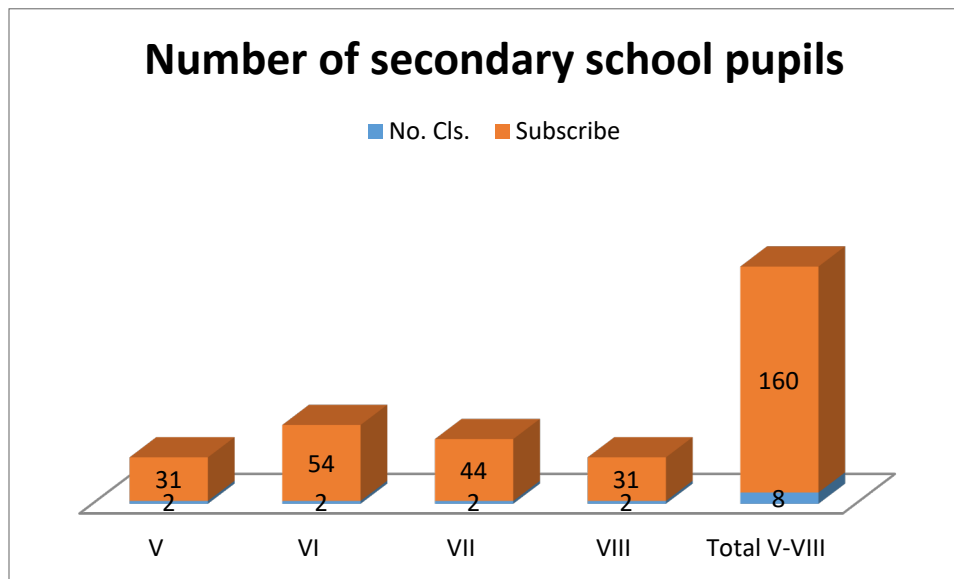


**Situation of secondary school classes, school year 2020/2021**

Class	No. Cls.	Registered	Joined	Left	Remained	Fete	Guys
V	2	31	0	0	31	15	16
VI	2	54	0		54	27	27
VII	2	44	2	1	43	19	24
VIII	2	31	0	0	31	10	21
<b>Total V-VIII</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>88</b>

Most of

our



students come from urban areas and 1/3 from the suburbs of Moara Greci and Gura Bustei , but also from rural areas, localities : Satu Nou, Munteni de Sus - 80 pupils commute daily, the distance being between 15 and 25 km. The school management has developed a strategy to promote the school's results in the local community, which is implemented year after year. The main reasons for maintaining and increasing the number of pupils have been the results obtained year after year in national assessments, competitions and Olympiads, the school's aesthetics and its excellent material base, and last but not least the quality of the teaching staff and of the interpersonal relations. The school has developed an attractive educational offer for pupils and parents, including CDs proposed by pupils and parents and subject circles: "Road education, education for life", "Mechatronics, the science of the future", "Popular dance", "Happy songs and Chansons francaises" , English and Music, "Ciao, buddies!" , Interjudeteian Contest ,, Description of Moldova", activities organized under the heading „School Days", educational program "*School after school*" with a group of 12-15 students (started in September 2016).

### **SCHOOL STAFF**

An important objective of our development as an institution that responds to the demands of the community and to ensure a new quality of education has been to employ qualified teaching staff at both school and kindergarten level.

At Kindergarten No.6 during the last 4 years the teaching process has been organized and coordinated by 8 preschool teachers, 7 with the first teaching grade, 1 qualified substitute and 1 unqualified teacher with higher education. In primary education the work has been organised and coordinated by 8 teachers for primary education, all 8 with grade I, all of them making great efforts to ensure quality education.

In secondary education, the activity was coordinated by 20 teachers, 11 with teaching grade I, 2 with teaching grade II, 3 with permanent teaching grade, 4 qualified substitutes on reserved chairs for plastic education, musical education, or on vacant hours of physical

education and civic culture. In the unit's function list 13, 27 teacher norms, 8 teacher norms, 8 educator norms are approved.

The large fluctuation from year to year in terms of teaching staff was due on the one hand to the decrease in the number of pupils and the existence of teachers in 2 and 3 schools, the secondment of some colleagues and the allocation of two or more teachers, sometimes unqualified, to the reserved hours, as in kindergarten.

**Structure of teaching staff by grade, school year 2014-2015**

No. crt	Grade. I	Grade II	Grade definitively	Qualified Substitute	Unqualified	Total teaching staff
	24	3	3	4	1	35

**Structure of teaching staff by grade, school year 2015-2016**

No. crt	Grade. I	Grade II	Grade definitively	Qualified Substitute	Unqualified	Total teaching staff
	24	2	3	4	1	34

**Structure of teaching staff by grade, school year 2016-2017**

No. crt	Grade. I	Grade II	Grade definitively	Qualified Substitute	Unqualified	Total teaching staff
	24	2	5	4	2	37

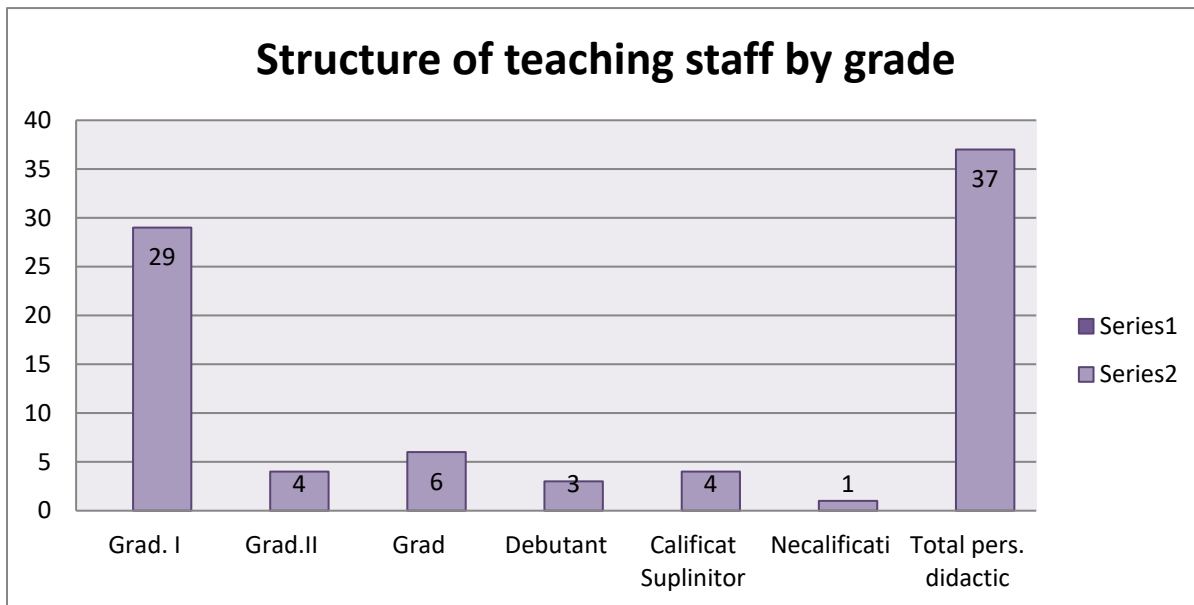
**Structure of teaching staff by grade, school year 2017-2018**

No. crt	Grade. I	Grade II	Grade definitively	Debutant	Unqualified	Total teaching staff
	28	2	5	1	1	37

**Structure of teaching staff by grade, school year 2018/2019**

No.	Grade . I	Grade II	Grade		Qualified Substitute	Unqualified	Total teaching staff

crt			definitiv y	Debutan t			
	29	4	6	3	4	1	37



All the chairs are occupied by qualified and tenured teachers (except for vacant and reserved posts/hours, for which I.S.J. Vaslui has assigned qualified substitute teachers with more or less teaching experience, this is a great disadvantage for the school. It can be said that, in terms of distribution by age group, there is a balance between the enthusiasm and desire for affirmation of the younger ones and the experience of the older ones.

The school's policy is to retain tenured and experienced teachers beyond retirement age because they have confirmed good preparation through outstanding results with pupils, and to attract young, well-trained teachers to replace retired or retiring staff.

The school also benefits from the specialist services of a librarian, secretarial work is carried out by a full-time secretary supported by a 0.5 full-time secretary. The school also has an accounting department with a financial administrator, and the premises are well equipped (new furniture, computer, etc.).

The administrative staff of the school consists of 11 employees (1 property manager, 2 maintenance workers, 2 care workers in the school and 4 in the kindergarten, the kindergarten is also staffed with 1 cook and 1 assistant cook) and a medical assistant.

#### II.2.1.2. Material resources

The school premises consist of a building, opened in the 1977/1978 school year, consisting of a ground floor plus 2 floors, solid and very well preserved, but insufficient for shift work and with narrow and poorly lit corridors. The kindergarten has a building constructed in the 1970s, consisting of a ground floor and first floor. The paved





schoolyard is fully functional, with a football/ handball court and a field tennis court. The kindergarten courtyard was rehabilitated and landscaped as part of the 2016 Urban Green Spaces project in partnership: Parents' Association of Vaslui I-VIII School no.2, MOL Romania and UAT Vaslui, the value of the project exceeded 150 000 lei, 9000 lei Mol Romania 1500 lei Parents' Association and the rest UAT Vaslui.

The school does not have its own central heating system (heating is provided by the central heating system of the Sports High School) and there are no problems with ensuring thermal comfort during the cold or transitional periods.

**The didactic-material base includes:**

- 12 -Classrooms
- 2 Laboratories - 1 (science) and computer science
- 4. Cabinets - 2 (religion. Counselling and speech therapy and AEL, . )
- 1 Cabinet Director
- 1- Chancellery
- 1- Cabinet Secretary
- 1- Financial administrator's office
- Sanitary group - 1 with four cabins for boys; 1 with four cabins for girls - ground floor
- Sanitary group - for preparatory class and classes I with 8 cabins - 1st floor
- 1- Gym
- 1- Milk and Corn Programme Space
- 1- Archive
- 1- Library 72 m<sup>2</sup>, 13 730 volumes, computer network
- 1- Book Depository
- 1- Space / annex for teaching material
- 1- Radio station
- 1 Toy library

**Pre-school no.6- structure**

- Classrooms - 4
- Chancellery -1
- Kitchen -1
- Food storage/food block -1
- Office of the administrator of the patrimony -1
- Medical practice-1
- 2 sanitary groups, one per level
- Lingerie shop-1
- Laundry-1

**PROVISION OF EDUCATION FACILITIES**

- AeL computer network (10 + 1) connected to internet + printer + scanner
- 15 laptops, ECA donation;
- Library computer network connected to the internet + printer;
- 2 RDS-RCS internet connections covering both cable and Wi-Fi throughout the school;
- One computer and one MFP in the reception area, director's office, accounting connected to the internet;

- One computer and video projector in each classroom, laboratory, gym and CDI-12;
- 2 computers and two multifunctional computers in the secretariat;
- Laptop science lab;
- Computer and multifunctional in the speech therapy office;
- Computer and multifunctional at ECAC
- Laminating machine - 1;
- File machine - 1 piece;
- Guillotine - 2 pcs;
- Video cameras - 12 pieces in hallways, student staircase and outside
- NIKON camera
- Radio cassette recorder 2
- Home cinema-1
- Specific kits and materials for chemistry and physics classes;
- Kits and materials for primary school classes;
- Various maps and geographical and historical maps.
- Platform for Mechatronics 1 pc.
- 11 interactive whiteboards, one in each classroom

The school library offers readers, in addition to school literature, literature on literature, literature on literature and pedagogy, sets of alternative textbooks, assessment guides, curricula by curriculum areas; it also provides real support in organizing extracurricular activities, dedicated to anniversaries of national history and culture. It also organizes documentation and information points for teachers, work meetings by committees and departments and some extracurricular activities. In the chancellery and library there are computers connected to the internet, multifunctional, there is also the possibility of using the mobile internet connection provided by RDS/RCS , which can be used in all classrooms, through the network extended since 2014.

### **Financial resources**

The income and expenditure budget allocated to the school, year after year, has been supplemented by own income:

- 4000-8000 lei annually from the Parents' Association
- 10 000- 18 000 lei from renting surplus space to FEG Iasi;
- 1000 lei annually from parties
- 9 000 lei from MOL Romania within the project "Nature we love it, healthy we want to live", the amount supplemented by UAT Vaslui with 100 000 lei buget folost for the interior design of the courtyard of the kindergarten in 2014
- 2,000 euros from Kaufland Romania in January 2016 as part of the Kaufland Top Achievers Olympics;
- 20,000 euros also from Kaufland, between May and August 2016;

The management team is permanently concerned with attracting extra-budgetary funds from sponsorships, donations or accessing funds through various funding programmes:

- 2002-2005 -13 000 euro- Comenius Project 1. "HELATH- NATURE- FUTURE"
- 2012-2014- 15 000 euro Comenius multilateral "LET'S TRY BUSINESS"
- 2016-2017 - 22 000 euro Erasmus + K1 "ALL CHILDREN ARE SPECIAL"



Starting with the school year 2016 - 2017 our school organizes the educational program "School after school", with funds from the parents of the children involved, a program that supports families who cannot supervise their children from 12 to 16.

#### II.2.1.3. Curriculum resources

In the school year 2018 - 2019 our school has 82 preschoolers in the Pre-school No.6, organized in 4 groups, 180 students in primary school, organized in 8 classes with an average of 22.87 students / class and 154 students in secondary school organized in 8 classes with an average of 19.50 students per class. The study programme is organised in two shifts (8.00 - 12.50 for the primary cycle and classes V and VIII of the secondary school, and from 12.10 - 19.00 for classes VI and VII, as proposed by the teachers' council and decided by the board of governors.

The educational offer has diversified in recent years, complies with current legislation and is based on the interests of students and parents. The Common Core (CCT) and Extended Curriculum (EC) hours allocated to the subjects according to the framework plans in force are distributed in the pupils' timetables in such a way as to respect the psycho-pedagogical principles. The curriculum at the school's discretion (CDŞ) presents a rich offer of options designed and developed by teachers, with pupils and parents choosing what suits them according to the real possibilities of the school and the expertise of the teachers.

In the school there are different circles that involve students in interesting and varied activities organized for the development of projects: "Theatre for all - puppet theatre", "Skilled Sanitarians", "Reading Club" in the After school, "Road education, education for life", "Two folk dance troupes". Each group of pupils is involved in various extracurricular activities, according to the annual and semester plans made each year, contributing to the formation and development of their personalities. In support of students and teachers comes the national program "School in a different way - To know more, to be better!", which involves organizing various extracurricular activities during one week in the first semester for grades V-VIII, within the framework of School Days and one week in the second semester for primary classes and preschoolers in our kindergarten. The programme is enthusiastically received by pupils and parents, but it is quite difficult to organise and run at school level.

#### II.2.1.4 Relationship with the community

The "Dimitrie Cantemir" Secondary School educates pupils coming from an economically and socially disadvantaged area of the city and the suburb of Moara Greci, about a quarter of the pupils come from families with an average budget per family member, few families have an above average budget. In these circumstances, the school has taken over a large part of the parents' responsibilities in educating their children and has developed a real partnership between the family and the school, involving parents both in the design/development/evaluation of educational activities and in the decision-making process.

Some of our students come from disorganised families or single-parent families or are in the care of relatives, friends, neighbours, both parents being abroad.



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Our school provides an open educational space, offering equal opportunities to all children, applying the principles of inclusion and avoiding interethnic conflicts. The school is the initiator of partnership projects with local institutions (Vaslui City Hall, County Library „Nicolae Milescu Spătarul”, County Museum „Ștefan cel Mare”, County Centre for Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture, Casa Corpo Corpo Didactic, the Centre for Prevention, Evaluation and Anti-Drug Counselling, the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection, the Children's Palace, the County Police Inspectorate, the County Gendarmerie Inspectorate, other schools and kindergartens in the city, etc.) aiming at institutional development, promoting the school's achievements in the community, providing quality education through active involvement in the actions designed. The mission of Dimitrie Cantemir Secondary School " Vaslui is to pursue the development of each student to his or her maximum potential by stimulating the desire for knowledge, by forming skills and abilities to use information efficiently, by developing values and attitudes, in order to be able to choose the most suitable future and to adapt to a dynamic society.

The European dimension of the school has been developed through a multilateral Comenius project in 2012-2014, with European funding of 22,000 euros (non-reimbursable) through the Lifelong Learning Programme, with partner schools in Poland, Portugal, and Hungary. The European dimension and prestige of the school in Europe has also increased through the participation of a large number of teachers in training courses through the Erasmus Plus Programme "Changing Lives - Opening Minds" provider Info Develop, Seville Spain (12 teachers), in the period 01 09 2016-31 08 2017, project title "**Training teachers for the integration of children with special educational needs in mainstream school**" which has led to a change in the approach to the teaching process by all teachers, following the dissemination of results.

II.2.1.5. Analysis of school and social inclusion issues (combating school drop-out and discrimination. Measures to reduce early school leaving, inclusion, desegregation).

**Inclusion**, as a psychological process of assimilation, can only be achieved within the framework of social inclusion, being a process of incorporation of an individual into social systems: family, group, class, school, community, society. Integrating a group of disadvantaged children refers to the ability of a group, a class, a school to assimilate new members, who need support to adapt, integrate, socialise.

**Inclusive education is about** removing all barriers to education and ensuring the participation of those vulnerable to exclusion and marginalisation (UNESCO, 2000). First and foremost, it is a strategic approach that aims to facilitate learning success for all children. The first requirement of inclusive education is to reduce to eliminate all forms of exclusion. It ensures access, participation and success at school for all children. Inclusive schools develop all the elements necessary for successful social inclusion. Our school is open to all pupils and provides them with the essentials for successful social integration. Inclusive schools are those schools that are open and friendly, that have a flexible curriculum and quality teaching practices that promote continuous assessment and partnerships in education (OECD, 2007). The mission of Dimitrie Cantemir Secondary School " Vaslui is to pursue the development of each pupil to his/her full potential by



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stimulating the desire for knowledge, by developing skills and abilities to use information effectively, to develop values and attitudes, to be able to choose the most suitable future and to adapt to a dynamic society.

As for the choice of terms, I preferred "school inclusion" instead of "school integration" because the term "school integration" is only related to the assimilation process of pupils with learning difficulties, whereas the key aspect of inclusion is the assimilation of pupils who have any kind of difficulties to integrate into the educational process. The term **'disadvantaged' pupils, as** used in the literature, covers a wider spectrum: pupils from poor families, pupils belonging to ethnic minorities, pupils with special needs - virtually all sources of marginalisation. In defining the concept of school inclusion, we have tried to link demographic characteristics (gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status of the family) and those related to the environment in which pupils learn (their perception of school and teachers, safety, etc.) with school performance: in

While the concept of *'inclusive education'* suggests that learners differ in many ways (including ethnicity, socio-economic status of the family they come from), the use of the term *'inclusion'* or *'social inclusion'* seems in most cases to be linked to *learning difficulties* or *barriers*.

#### II.2.1.6.SWOT analysis at pilot school level

### . CURRICULUM

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Compliance with framework plans; CDS programmes developed by the school's teachers; Drawing up timetables in accordance with the legislation in force; The school has all the necessary curricular material (framework plans, ministerial orders, curricula, methodological guides, teaching aids, problem books, tutorials, educational software). Existence of management plans at school level and at the level of each methodological committee; Existence and implementation of the school and out-of-school educational activity plan; Additional training programme with 8th graders for the national assessment and with other students able to perform for participation in Olympiads and other competitions;</p>	<p>Insufficient use of modern equipment; Poor involvement of teachers in domestic and international projects;  The school's offer does not meet the needs of all students, the choices are made according to the decision of the majority of students in the class or according to the human and material resources of the school;  Inadequate exploitation of students' potential due to the lack of interest of some teachers in developing and diversifying scientific circles;  Interdisciplinary openness still modest; Sporadic appearance of the school magazine;</p>



<p>Supplementary training programme also with lower-achieving pupils and those with special needs.</p> <p>Outstanding results obtained each school year in single-subject dissertations, national assessments, school Olympiads and other competitions;</p> <p>The school library has 13,750 volumes, supporting students in the curriculum;</p>	<p>Total lack of involvement of teachers and headmasters in the school guidance of senior pupils;</p> <p>Insufficient diversification and adaptation of the CDS to the needs and demands of students can decrease motivation for learning as well as interest in the school;</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>Increasing the degree of autonomy of the school on CDS issues;</p> <p>Continuing education and training offer in collaboration with CCD ;</p>	<p>Insufficient school space does not allow for all CDS requests and activities in a shift;</p> <p>Many pupils come from disadvantaged backgrounds;</p> <p>Low availability of parents for their children's problems, some parents refusing to work with the psycho-pedagogical teacher.</p> <p>Constraints related to the number of teaching staff from MEN and ISJ Vaslui;</p> <p>Underfunding of the education process;</p> <p>The frequent changes to the National Education Act</p>

## HUMAN RESOURCES

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<p>99% qualified teaching staff;</p> <p>The share of full professors with teaching grade I and II is 88%;</p> <p>Registering for teaching degrees and conducting pre-inspections and current inspections completed with a grade of Very Good;</p> <p>Existing interpersonal relationships (mostly teacher-student, management-subordinates, teachers-parents, teachers-teachers, etc.) are conducive to creating an open, stimulating educational climate;</p> <p>There is a good delineation of the responsibilities of the teachers as well as a good coordination between them;</p> <p>The existence of teachers who use computers in the instructional process;</p> <p>The existence of an itinerant teacher for students diagnosed with CES, ADHD, etc.;</p>	<p>Poor management at the level of some committee leaders</p> <p>The conservatism of some teachers and resistance to change;</p> <p>Poor motivation of teachers given the low salaries;</p> <p>Lack of interest for teachers' participation in training courses organized by ISJ and CCD Vaslui, symposiums and conferences;</p> <p>There are fluctuations in the composition of the teaching staff due to decreasing pupil numbers and class sizes;</p> <p>There are teachers who do not apply interactive, group-based, student-centred learning methods;</p> <p>Small number of auxiliary and non-teaching staff compared to the number of pupils and the school's surface area;</p> <p>Lack of motivation to learn in an increasing number of pupils;</p>



<p>The existence of the school speech therapist and the psycho-pedagogical teacher; Qualified auxiliary teaching staff;</p>	
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p>
<p>Variety of training and refresher courses organised by CCD, NGOs, universities; Frequent meetings between teachers and parents at pre-school and primary school level; Existence of a kindergarten (4 groups) in the unit; Existence of the legal framework that offers the possibility of organising competitions to fill vacant or temporarily vacant posts in the school; Decentralisation of the managerial process in the implementation of personnel policy; Very good cooperation with the Mayor of Vaslui and the Local Council;</p>	<p>Marginalised social status of teachers; The reduction in the number of pupils and the number of hours per subject has meant that teachers are now teaching in two or three schools; Decreased motivation and interest in professional activities (working with parents, further training, extra-curricular activities, making teaching material, preparing lessons professionally, etc.); The time crunch for parents, due to the current economic situation, is reducing family participation in school life, with implications for both the teacher-student relationship and students' academic performance; Migration of pupils to other schools.</p>

## FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Physical condition of school premises and compliance with appropriate hygiene standards - both establishments have health and hygiene permits; The existence of functional laboratories for certain subjects: physics, chemistry, biology, as well as school counselling and speech therapy; The school has a library with 13 750 volumes, reading room, computer network, etc.; Modern teaching materials for the library (books, albums, encyclopaedias, atlases), the psycho-pedagogical counselling office, the physics laboratory and other offices, following projects run by the MECT; Extra-budgetary funds (sponsorships, donations, rent); Teachers have internet access in all areas of the school and kindergarten; Very good material equipment of the school and kindergarten building;</p>	<p>Not all teachers have access to: xerox, their own computer with printer and supplies. Lack of a doctor's surgery in the school; Poor procurement of stationery and cleaning supplies; Lack of a properly equipped gymnasium that would free up a classroom; Coexisting in the same courtyard with the students of the Sports High School; Low level of teacher and pupil involvement in maintaining school resources</p>



<p>Equipping pupils, teachers and teaching assistants with excellent ICT tools; 2 internet connections with wired and WI-FI access in the school and kindergarten, but also in the outdoor areas; Investments in the school premises and yard (asphalting of the inner yard, sports facilities, toilets on the first floor; The supply of consumables ensures the necessary preparation of activities by teachers and students; The provision of sanitary materials offers the possibility of daily sanitation by non-teaching staff; The draft budget approved by the City Council ensures that 100% of the school's current expenses are covered; Teachers who commute receive 100% of their commuting allowance The freedom left by the City Council to rent premises, and the use, on a half-share basis, by the school of the rental income; The expenditure is in line with the budget and the public procurement legislation; Transparency in the use of schools' financial resources (both budgetary and extra-budgetary)</p>	
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p>
<p>Decentralisation and institutional autonomy; Partnership with the local community (town hall, parents), NGOs - Save the Children Organization, Children's Palace, C.S.E.I. Aurora D.G.S.A.P. etc..; The existence of premises (school sports hall, kindergarten assembly hall) that can be rented for the purpose of obtaining funding; Stimulating teaching staff to develop externally funded projects; The possibility of involving students and parents in productive activities and school maintenance; Possibility of redirecting the 2% fund to the Parents' Association ; Very good relationship with the City Council and the Mayor of the Municipality</p>	<p>Insufficient space for work in an exchange or "School after school" programme;  Underfunding the education system; Low percentage collection of local taxes ; Restrictions imposed by current legislation on the purchase of inventory items</p>





## COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Existence of partnerships with institutions within the municipality (Vaslui City Hall, Vaslui Municipal Police, Local Police, County Museum - Stefan cel Mare, Library - Nicolae Spătaru Milescu, General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection, Centre for Prevention, Evaluation and Anti-Drug Counselling</p> <p>Constitution and functioning of the Parents' Representative Committee ;</p> <p>Completion of the school's Board of Directors with 2 representatives of the City Council, 1 representative of the Mayor and 2 representatives of the Parent Representative Council);</p> <p>Addition of a representative of the parents and of the Local Council to the ECAC;</p> <p>Participation in sports activities: the High Bridge Cup - road safety education;</p> <p>Organizing attractive extracurricular and extracurricular activities (excursions, screenings, shows, fairs, charitable actions, etc.), introducing students to the community environment and contributing to their socialization.</p>	<p>Weak partnership links with private companies and NGOs, few activities carried out in the school;</p> <p>Overloaded work of the coordinator of educational programmes and projects;</p> <p>Poor involvement of some teachers in extracurricular projects and activities;</p> <p>Poor parental involvement;</p> <p>Lack of funds to reward students and teachers involved in projects.</p> <p>Little interest in testing the satisfaction of the beneficiaries of the instructional-educational process (pupils, parents, local community);</p> <p>Few partnerships with cultural institutions in the county or nationally;</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Willingness and responsibility of some institutions to support the school (City Hall, NGO, Church, Police, cultural institutions);</p> <p>Interest of high schools to present their educational offer;</p> <p>Legal framework for partnerships with public institutions ;</p> <p>The multitude of partnership projects proposed by different institutions in the country;</p> <p>The cultural level of the families of the pupils in the school and the increased interest of the majority to collaborate with the school, the signing of Educational Contracts</p>	<p>Limited time for participation in educational programmes;</p> <p>Insufficient material;</p> <p>Lack of motivation of teachers and students;</p> <p>Lack of financial resources of some potential partners;</p> <p>Poor involvement of some local institutions in partnerships;</p> <p>Local economic agents have limited resources and do not want to participate in partnerships.</p>



## II.2.2. "Manolache Costache Epureanu" Secondary School Bârlad

### II.2.2.1. Human resources

#### ELEVI

The drop in the birth rate after 1989 and the massive departure of Romanians abroad in search of better-paid jobs inevitably affected this institution as well, by reducing the school population. Thus, from 6 or even 7 classes per grade before 1989, the number has now fallen to 3 classes per grade.

In terms of school results, of actual work in class, these are measured in statistical data that outline the image and status of the school.

The evolution of pupil numbers and promotion rates from the end of the school year in 1974 to 2020 is as follows:

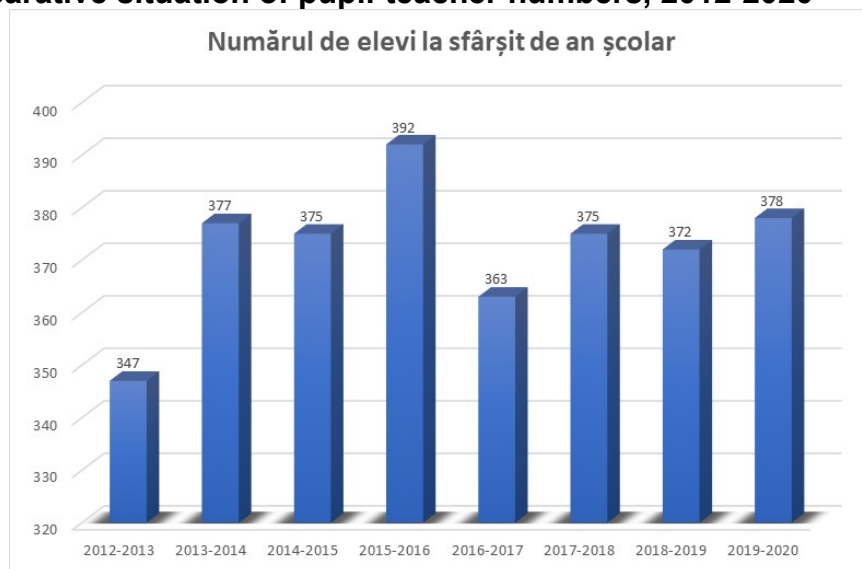
### 1974 - 2020 - PRIMARY EDUCATION

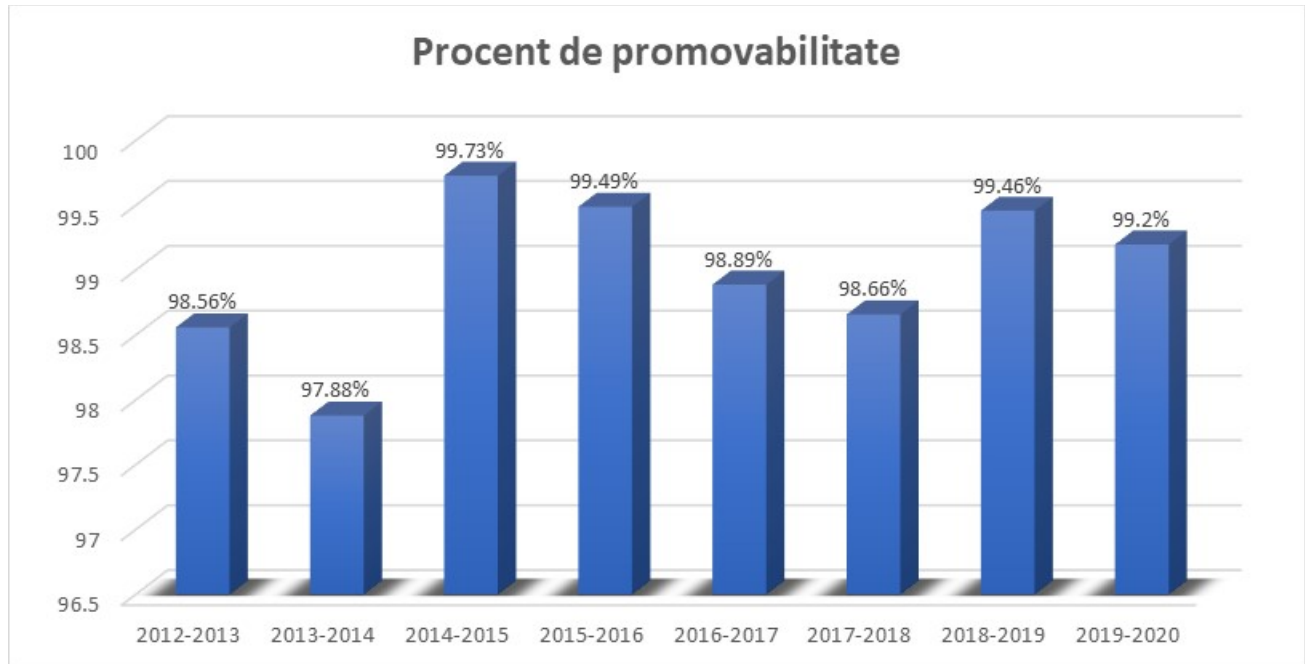
School year	Number of pupils at the end of the school year	No. of pupils promoted	% Promotability percentage
1974-1975	787	766	97.33
1975-1976	732	730	99.73
1976-1977	872	869	99.66
1977-1978	920	913	99.24
1978-1979	931	914	98.17
1979-1980	909	903	99.34
1980-1981	900	900	100
1981-1982	939	938	99.89
1982-1983	894	891	99.66
1983-1984	830	826	99.52
1984-1985	807	800	99.13
1985-1986	767	753	98.17
1986-1987	730	730	100
1987-1988	709	709	100
1988-1989	684	684	100
1989-1990	640	622	97.19
1990-1991	598	584	97.66
1991-1992	553	535	96.75
1992-1993	518	503	97.10
1993-1994	520	510	98.08
1994-1995	579	562	97.06
1995-1996	592	582	98.31
1996-1997	654	634	96.94
1997-1998	638	613	96.08
1998-1999	618	602	97.41
1999-2000	565	548	96.99
2000-2001	512	503	98.24
2001-2002	494	480	97.17
2002-2003	477	470	98.53



2003-2004	457	451	98.68
2004-2005	429	427	99.53
2005-2006	386	384	99.48
2006-2007	349	345	98.85
2007-2008	326	321	98.47
2008-2009	321	320	99.69
2009-2010	297	294	98.99
2010-2011	313	313	100.00
2011-2012	277	276	99.64
2012-2013	347	342	98,56
2013-2014	377	369	97,88
2014-2015	375	374	99,73
2015-2016	392	390	99,49
2016-2017	363	359	98,89
2017-2018	375	370	98,66
2018-2019	372	370	99,46
2019-2020	378	375	99,20
2020-2021			

### Comparative situation of pupil-teacher numbers, 2012-2020





### 1974 - 2020 - SECONDARY EDUCATION

School year	Number of pupils at the end of the school year	No. of pupils promoted	% Promotability percentage
1974-1975	446	442	99.10
1975-1976	468	465	99.36
1976-1977	402	400	99.50
1977-1978	442	438	99.10
1978-1979	616	603	97.89
1979-1980	761	760	99.87
1980-1981	870	868	99.77
1981-1982	856	854	99.77
1982-1983	815	807	99.02
1983-1984	777	775	99.74
1984-1985	777	771	99.23
1985-1986	814	810	99.51
1986-1987	780	777	99.62
1987-1988	760	759	99.87



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1988-1989	779	779	100
1989-1990	754	729	96.68
1990-1991	754	729	96.68
1991-1992	693	640	92.35
1992-1993	660	615	93.18
1993-1994	632	595	94.15
1994-1995	585	572	97.78
1995-1996	522	502	96.17
1996-1997	502	482	96.02
1997-1998	523	509	97.32
1998-1999	581	565	97.25
1999-2000	603	585	97.01
2000-2001	603	579	96.02
2001-2002	581	571	98.28
2002-2003	553	543	98.19
2003-2004	524	509	97.14
2004-2005	465	455	97.85
2005-2006	386	384	99.48
2006-2007	433	415	95.84
2007-2008	397	373	93.95
2008-2009	367	356	97.00
2009-2010	336	322	95.83
2010-2011	311	309	99.36
2011-2012	296	293	98.99
2012-2013	295	281	95,30
2013-2014	273	263	96,33
2014-2015	267	267	100
2015-2016	258	253	98.06
2016-2017	266	259	97,36



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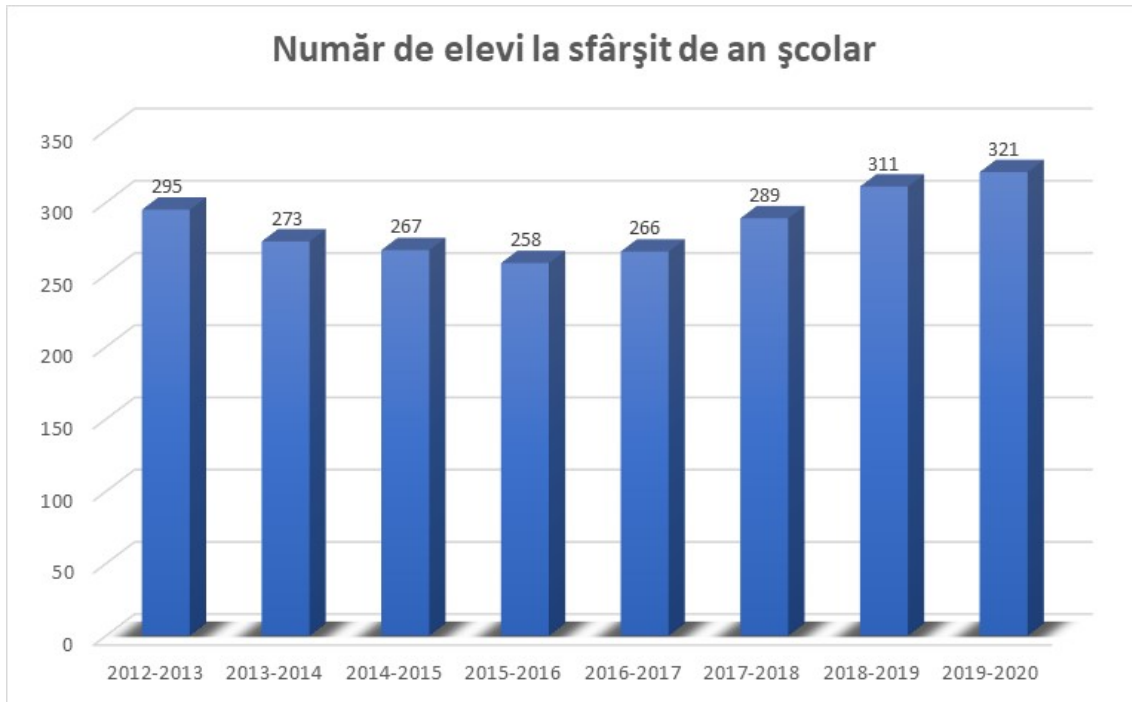


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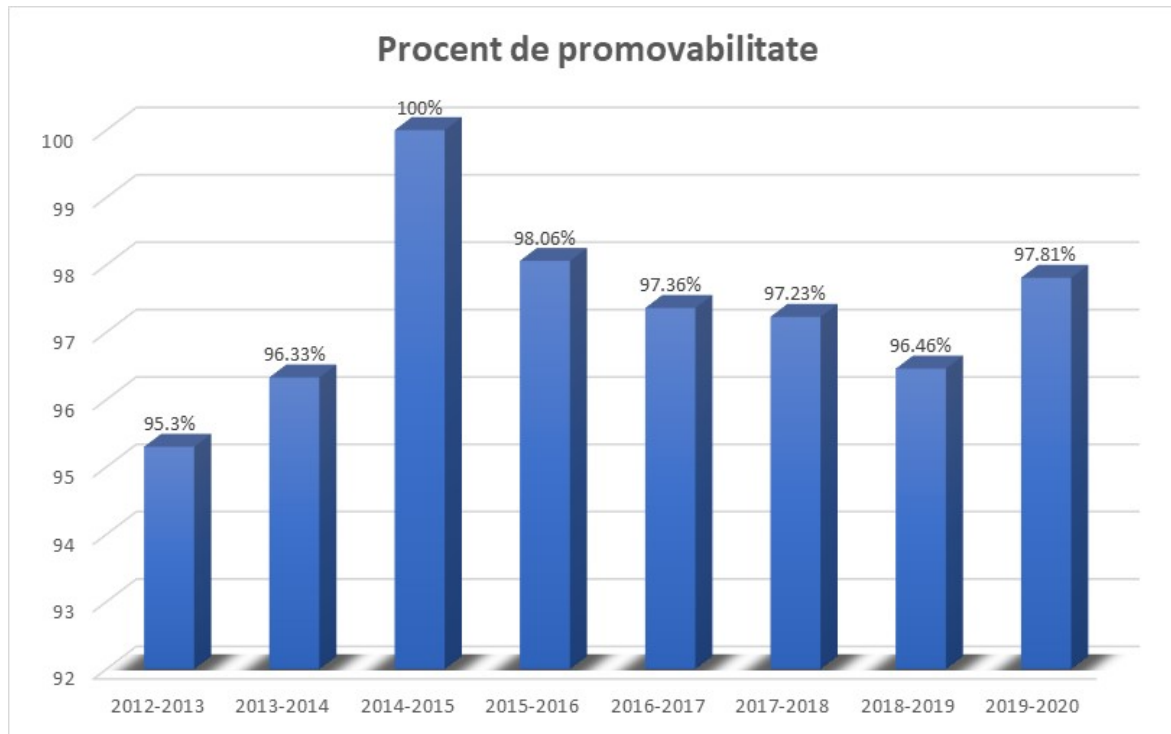


2017-2018	289	281	97,23
2018-2019	311	300	96,46
2019-2020	321	314	97,81
2020-2021			

### Comparative situation of the number of pupils in secondary schools, 2010-2020



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## Parents

The work of any school community is closely linked to the social, economic and educational situation of each family. The family is the educational partner that effectively participates in the education and training of children, with a direct interest in their development. The attitude of school pupils' families towards the school is generally positive. There is a fruitful parent-school partnership, which is conducive to quality education. This underpins the outstanding results achieved in recent years. Lectures with parents and their homework: Erasmus KA1 - School and family together for quality education, Parents' School, Parents' Association.

The level of education of the parents is generally average, with various occupations: labourers, farmers, clerks, mechanics, cashiers, nurses, service workers (security guards, social workers, nurses and childminders), military personnel, etc. The "Manolache Costache Epureanu" Secondary School is located in the industrial area of the town and the bankruptcy of the enterprises has led to a large number of unemployed parents and massive departures abroad in search of better paid jobs (27 pupils with both parents going abroad, 131 pupils with 1 parent going abroad).

## TEACHING STAFF

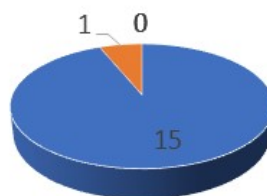
In the school year 2020-2021, the institution is operating with 15 primary classes and 12 secondary classes.

The instructional-educational process is provided by a qualified teaching team of 50 teachers.

**Distribution by status of teaching staff employed:**

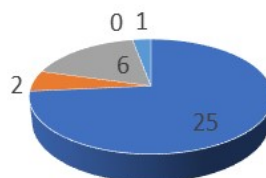
Teaching staff employed	Total	Primary	Secondary
School holders	40	15	25
Seconded from other units	3	1	2
Qualified substitutes	6	0	6
Unqualified substitutes	0	0	0
Associate teaching staff/pensioners	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>

**Distribuția după statut  
a personalului didactic angajat  
- învățământ primar -**



- Titulari ai școlii
- Detașați din alte unități
- Suplinitori calificați
- Suplinitori necalificați
- Personal didactic asociat/pensionari

**Distribuția după statut  
a personalului didactic angajat  
- învățământ gimnazial -**

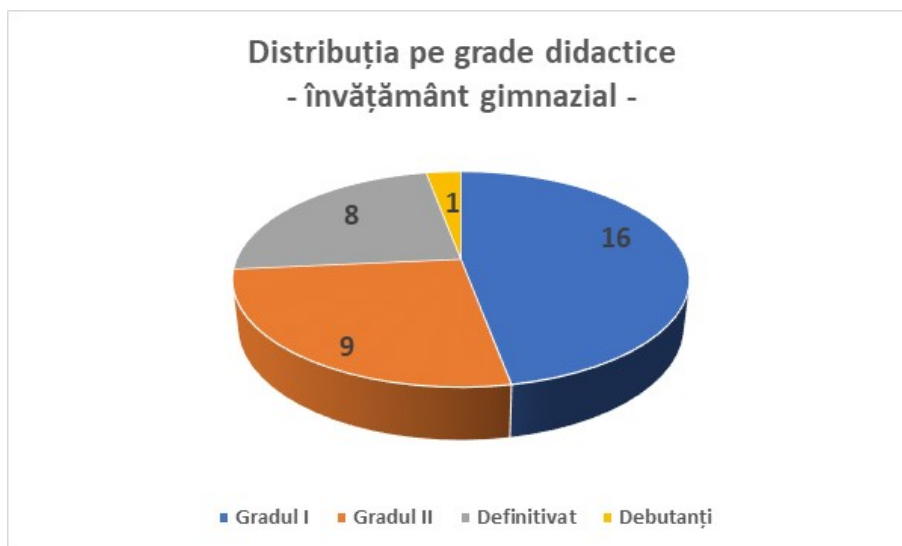
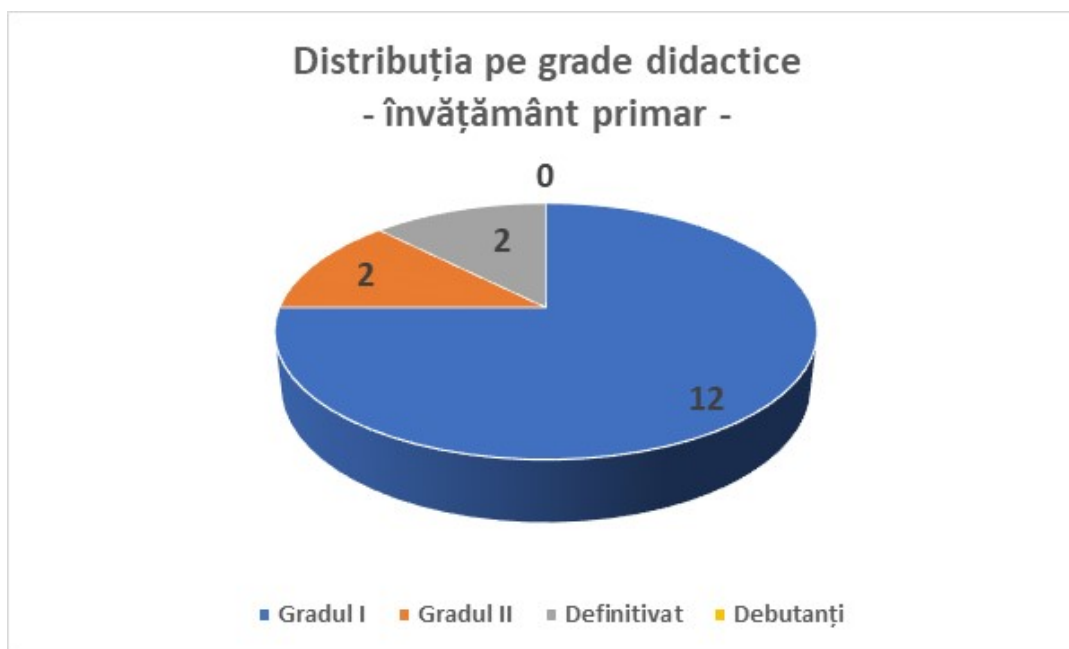


- Titulari ai școlii
- Detașați din alte unități
- Suplinitori calificați
- Suplinitori necalificați
- Personal didactic asociat/pensionari



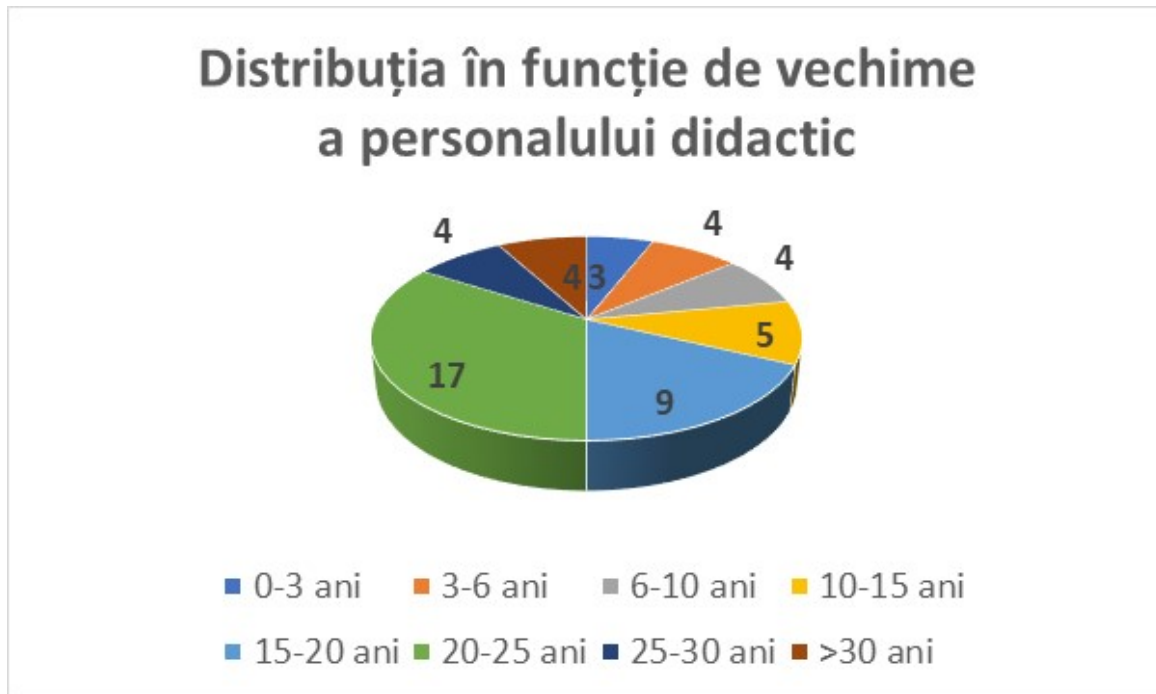
### Distribution of teaching staff by grade:

Teaching staff employed	Total	Primary	Gymnasium
Grade I	28	12	16
Grade II	11	2	9
Definitively	10	2	8
Debutants	1	-	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>



**Distribution by seniority of teaching staff employed:**

Experience	0-3 years	3-6 years	6-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-25 years	25-30 years	> 30 years
in education	3	4	4	5	9	17	4	4



**AUXILIARY TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING STAFF**

**Teaching aids**

Total posts	Secretary	Financial administrator	Wealth manager	Programmer analyst	Librarian
5	1,5	1	0,5	1	1

**Non-teaching staff**

Total posts	School caretaker	Paznic	Labourer/Foiler
8	3 + 2	1	2

II.2.2.2. Material resources

The premises of "Manolache Costache Epureanu" Secondary School Bârlad are the following:

Crt. no.	Space type	Number of spaces
1.	Classrooms	15
2	Physics-chemistry-computing laboratory	1
3.	Sound Laboratory	1
4.	Improvised gym	1
5.	Sports ground	1
6.	Chancellery	1
7.	After school classroom + sanitary facilities	3
8.	Library	1
9.	Modern languages library	1
10.	Milk and horn distribution room	1
11.	Speech therapy	1
12.	Psychological practice	1
13.	Support teacher's office	1
14.	Directors office	1
15.	Medical practice	1
16.	Secretariat office	1
17.	Accounting office	1

The surface area of the premises is as follows:

- + area of the premises (courtyard + land occupied by buildings) - built area 2.904 sq.m.
  - + school building built area 1.000 sqm.
  - + annexed buildings (workshops, gymnasium, storerooms)- built area 1.000 sq.m.
  - + central heating 24 sqm
  - + sports ground, green spaces, 1.379 sq.m.

Most of the school premises are recently modernized, meeting the highest requirements of any school in the European Union: new furniture, modern electronic equipment, computers, INTERNET - (network in all classrooms), copier, printers, scanners, video projectors in all classrooms, electronic-interactive whiteboard in the physics-chemistry-computing laboratory, sound laboratory, video camera, digital camera.

The latest modernizations recently carried out have added comfort, elegance and good taste: the sound laboratory with the most modern equipment, design and ambience, changing the flooring in the classrooms and replacing it with antibacterial linoleum, painting in all the classrooms (antibacterial lime), the first floor and the ground floor, tiling the corridors and staircases, a playground and a gazebo in the school yard, bringing a container for the storage of materials and textbooks, moving the drinking water in the yard near the pupils' entrance.

The activities undertaken on the administrative line in order to ensure decent conditions for the whole educational process have been materialized in:



- ✓ fitting out classrooms on the first and second floors with antibacterial linoleum;
  - ✓ purchase a sound laboratory with interactive whiteboard;
  - ✓ procurement of furniture and equipment (MIMIO interactive system) for the chemistry laboratory;
  - ✓ Rehabilitation of water installations in the chemistry laboratory;
  - ✓ equipping classrooms with desks and chairs;
  - ✓ installation of magnetic boards in the classrooms where the instructional-educational process is carried out in the first classes;
  - ✓ installation in all classrooms of desktop units connected to the Internet via their own network, video projectors, webcams for online learning;
  - ✓ procurement of materials needed for current repairs and carrying them out, improving the aesthetic appearance of the school;
  - ✓ sports hall facilities - purchase of sports equipment;
  - ✓ library - book purchases through the library endowment programme; total number of volumes 20000
  - ✓ modern language library with over 5000 volumes;
  - ✓ office equipment (secretarial, accounting and directors);
  - ✓ purchase of payroll and accounting software;
  - ✓ refurbishment and equipping of the doctor's surgery;
  - ✓ Properly equipped for the speech therapy office, the resources used were the best: story books, games, even educational software that strongly stimulated the students and made them come to the office with pleasure.

### II.2.2.3. Curriculum resources

Secondary School "M. C. Epureanu" Secondary School is a public educational institution, so the curricular resources offered by the school are primarily those contained in the common core for each level of study. These subjects are compulsory and ensure equal opportunities in the education of all students. Thus, in the 5th grade Romanian language - mother tongue, modern language 1 - English, modern language 2 - French, mathematics, biology, social education, history, geography, religion, art education, music education, physical education and technology education are studied. Physics is added in 6th grade, Chemistry in 7th grade. All classes benefit from a Counselling and Personal Development hour, where they connect with the head teacher and go through various topics that contribute to the development of a conducive educational climate at class level and to understanding and forming positive attitudes towards their future. From the curriculum at the school's decision, it is possible to see that the difference in the number of hours is complemented by a concern for the specifics of the pupils' classes and their and their parents' choices. The optional courses proposed for the year 2020-2021 were:

- Orthography through stories - Class III A
  - Holidays - Class III C
  - Fun Maths - Grades 4 A, 8 C
  - Spelling puzzles - Class VI B
- Reading and Life Skills - Grades 5 A,B, 6 A,B, 7 A,B
  - Secrets of Mathematics - Class VIII A, B
- Listening and speaking - Class VI C



The bilingual profile of English classes, which are highly valued for intensive study of the subject, can also be considered as a curricular resource. This profile attracts a large number of pupils who register for the 5th grade exam every year. Their language skills are internationally certified through the Cambridge centre established and authorised in the school. From the school year 2021-2022 students will have the opportunity to prepare for and take the IELTS exams! The school also offers drama and drawing clubs, sports training in rugby-tag, men's and women's football, table tennis, choral ensembles and dance groups. As far as non-formal education is concerned, pupils can get involved in the activities of the IMPACT Club under the aegis of the NEW ORIZONS Foundation.

#### II.2.2.4. Community relations

The "Manolache Costache Epureanu" Secondary School in Bârlad develops collaboration and partnership relations with local authorities, social, cultural partners of the local, national and European community. In addition to our traditional partners (the "George Tutoveanu" House of Culture, the "V.I.Popa", "Vasile Pârvan" Museum, "Stroe Belloescu" Library), "Manolache Costache Epureanu" School is in close collaboration with numerous institutions: Bârlad Academy, National Association Socrates - Bucharest; Youth Association "Concordia" Bârlad; "Saint Nicholas" Bârlad; "Light from Light", Bârlad; "Hello, children of Romania", Bârlad; "New Chance", Bârlad, "Myosotis", Bârlad, "For us", Bârlad. In the framework of the educational partnership we can add other institutions that helped us in our approach towards performance, improvement of the material base and promotion of the school's image: local media: newspapers "Obiectiv" of Vaslui, "Monitorul" of Vaslui", City Hall of Bârlad. Collaboration protocols have been signed with most of the schools in the municipality on the occasion of local, county, intercounty and national competitions.

II.2.2.5. Analysis of school and social inclusion issues (combating school drop-out and discrimination. Measures to reduce early school leaving, inclusion, desegregation).

#### II.2.2.6. SWOT analysis at pilot school level

- Strengths

- Improve participation in online activities through the purchase of IT devices (cameras for all classes, computers, video projectors);
- Tradition of coordination and partnership in projects with European funds: Socrates, Comenius, Erasmus, Posdru, FRDS
- Cooperation with foreign institutions to improve teaching conditions (ADIFLOR Club brought 100 volumes of comics/reading in French to the school)
- Erasmus+ accredited institution for the period 2021-2027
- Teachers' interest in continuous improvement and involvement in various actions;
- The pupils' interest in participating in various activities: sports activities (European Sports Week, rugby team, gymnastics), artistic activities (inter-city photography competition Creative Photographer, regional competition The Voice of the Francophonie, Harmony of the Arts competition);
- Good results in teaching and competitions: 2 class leaders per year, increasing number of students with an overall average of 10;
- Language performance acquired in the Cambridge Centre of Excellence organised in the school;
- Existence of local and national publications that reveal the work of teachers and students;



- existence of circles for the arts: music, dance, theatre;
- involving teachers in further preparing pupils for participation in competitions and Olympiads, and for national assessment.
  - Weaknesses
- High number of commuting students: about 8% of the total number of students enrolled;
- Lack of parental involvement in school activities ;
- Tiresome schedule for middle school classes from 1-8pm (caused by airing and disinfection break);
- Difficult to adapt to changing scenarios, increased stress levels among pupils and teachers
- The uninvolved participation of some students in online classes has led to the creation of large knowledge gaps in school subjects that have been made up with great effort;
- Lack of opportunities to disseminate the school's results and activities to the community (the long period of online schooling prevented the activities from being carried out in public);
- Decreased attractiveness of the institution among the immediate local community after the 2020-2021 school year;
- Low level of diagnosis, analysis, possibly based on feedback at the end of the school year;
- Relatively small number of teachers who have participated in accredited training courses;
- Lack of training at institutional level for the use of the Google platform;
- Outdated digital devices that work slowly.
  - Opportunities
- Improving teaching conditions by making useful use of the school premises (especially the outdoor areas - the school garden);
- Increase the level of cooperation at institutional level by involving all teachers willing to participate in school projects;
- Developing the system of collaboration between primary and secondary school teachers;
- Improving the digital skills of pupils and teachers;
- Facilitating access for teachers and pupils to participate in European projects;
- Increase the prestige of the school at local, regional level;
- The existence of multiple opportunities for information and professional development for teachers.
  - Ongoing zonal, local and international collaborative projects can be successfully completed, new projects can be implemented.
- Threats
- Relatively large number of pupils from families with parents abroad left unsupervised or ineffectively supervised (physically, but also online);
- Flow of families from urban to rural areas /Flow of pupils to schools;
- Misuse of technology, the emergence of device addiction in students.
  - Increased percentage of school failure/dropout among students after the period of pandemic changes (online school, lack of socialization) ;
  - Discontinuation or incomplete implementation of projects, local partnerships, proposed activities due to possible alert/quarantine states;



- Decreased motivation to study among students/ Decreased motivation among teachers due to pandemic changes;
- Superficial involvement in online activities, with low results in subsequent evaluations;

### II.2.3.Secondary School "Ion Murgeanu" Zorleni

During the last twenty years, the general trend of decreasing school population, due to the decreasing birth rate and the migration of the adult population in search of a job, has led to the merger of preschool, primary and secondary schools in Zorleni commune into a single unit with legal personality - "Ion Murgeanu" Secondary School, according to the last act of establishment, **Decision no.7 of 31.08.2018** of the Local Council of Zorleni commune.

The school with legal personality has in its structure the following component educational units:

- ◆ SECONDARY SCHOOL "ION MUGEANU" ZORLENI
- ◆ ZORLENI SECONDARY SCHOOL NO.2
- ◆ SECONDARY SCHOOL NO.3 POPENI
- ◆ SIMILA PRIMARY SCHOOL
- ◆ REGULAR KINDERGARTEN NO.1 ZORLENI
- ◆ REGULAR KINDERGARTEN NO.2 ZORLENI
- ◆ REGULAR KINDERGARTEN NO.3 ZORLENI
- ◆ REGULAR KINDERGARTEN POPENI
- ◆ REGULAR KINDERGARTEN SIMILA
- ◆ REGULAR KINDERGARTEN DEALU MARE

#### II.2.3.1.Human resources

The direct beneficiaries of the educational instructional process are:

- children aged 3 to 6 years corresponding to pre-school education,
- pupils aged 6 to 11 years corresponding to primary education,
- pupils aged 11 - 15 years corresponding to secondary education.

Pupil numbers and promotability at the end of the school year **2020- 2021**, by educational units and level of education, is shown in the summary table:

Educational unit	Educational level	Number of pupils at the end of the school year	No of students promoted	% promoted	% promoted Roma
Secondary School "Ion Murgeanu"	Secondary	181	163	90%	<b>2%</b>
	Primary	180	179	99%	
ZORLENI Secondary SCHOOL no.2	Secondary	71	65	92%	<b>6%</b>
	Primary	87	85	98%	<b>2%</b>
Secondary SCHOOL no.3 Popeni	Secondary	110	108	98%	<b>1%</b>
	Primary	113	113	100%	<b>1%</b>
Simila Primary School	Primary	22	22	100	
<b>Total</b>		<b>764</b>	735	96%	

The numbers of pre-school children attending **pre-school education** in the kindergartens are shown in the table below:



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Educational unit	Small group	Middle group	Large group	Total
Regular kindergarten no.1 Zorleni	0	16	19	35
Regular kindergarten no.2 Zorleni	18	12	10	40
Regular kindergarten no.3 Zorleni	20	21	24	65
Regular kindergarten Popeni	16	19	26	61
Regular kindergarten Simila	4	3	2	9
Regular kindergarten Simila	7	7	5	19
Regular kindergarten Dealu Mare	4	3	2	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>229</b>

Number of pupils attending **primary education**:

Educational unit	Class	Preparatory	I	II	III	IV	Total	Total Roma
Secondary School "Ion Murgheanu" Zorleni	A	13	22	20	17	21	93	
	B	12	19	20	16	20	87	
ZORLENI Secondary SCHOOL no.2	C	16	18	18	15	20	87	2
Secondary SCHOOL no.3 Popeni	D	19	19	22	21	32	113	1
Simila Primary School	-	8	-	4	5	5	22	
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>68</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>402</b>	

Number of pupils attending **secondary education** :

Educational unit	Class	V	VI	VII	VIII	Total	Total Roma
Secondary School "Ion Murgheanu" Zorleni	A	23	24	21	27	95	2
	B	21	21	20	24	86	
ZORLENI Secondary SCHOOL no.2	C	21	17	18	15	71	6
Secondary SCHOOL no.3 Popeni	D	28	23	18	20	89	1
	E	-	-	21	-	21	
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>362</b>	

**Children with certified S.E.C.** and those with learning difficulties, some of whom have not been certified, often due to parental negligence, are integrated and supported in the student groups as follows (**school year 2020-2021**):

Educational unit	Educational level	No. of pupils ESC
Secondary School "Ion Murgheanu" Zorleni	Gymnasium	6
	Primary	1
ZORLENI Secondary SCHOOL no.2	Gymnasium	0
	Primary	1



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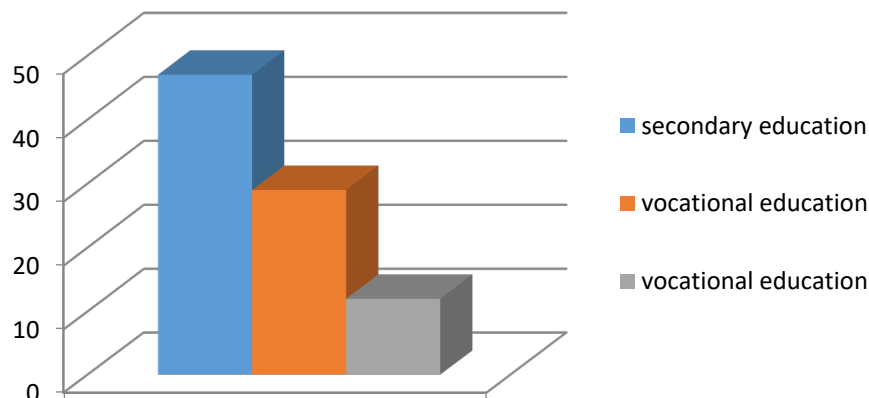
Secondary SCHOOL no.3 Popeni	Gymnasium	4
	Primary	0
Simila Primary School	Primary	0

### Results of the 2021 National Assessment Examination

Educational unit	No. of students enrolled	No. of pupils promote	Promotability percentage
Secondary School "Ion Murgeanu" Zorleni	39	30	77%
ZORLENI Secondary SCHOOL no.2	11	7	63%
Secondary SCHOOL no.3 Popeni	10 (8 abs.)	7	70%
Total	Total 60	42	40%

For secondary school graduates, the offer of high schools in the municipality of Bârlad (the location of Zorleni is 7 km away), as well as the "Marcel Guguianu" Zorleni Technological High School represents an opportunity for further studies. **Distribution of secondary school graduates** in secondary and vocational education, **school year 2020-2021**:

Total number of graduates	Educational unit	Educational level	No. of admitted students
88	National High School "Gh.Roșca Codreanu" Bârlad	high school	2
	Theoretical High School "Mihai.Eminescu" Bârlad	high school	16
	Pedagogic High School "Ioan Popescu" Bârlad	High school - vocational	12
	Technological High School " Petru Rareș " Bârlad	high school	0
		professional	4
	Technological High School " A.I.Cuza " Bârlad	high school	3
		professional	0
	Technological High School " M. Guguianu" Zorleni	high school	26
professional		22	



### Leadership structures at school level

- Coordination and accountability
  - Director
  - Deputy Director
  - Board of Directors: president, 5 teachers, 2 parents, 1 representative of the Mayor's institution, 2 local councillors, 1 observer - union representative.
- Collaborative structures:
  - Faculty Council (87 members)
  - Parents' Committee (45 members)
  - local government authorities.
  - Advisory structures:
    - Trade union organisation (67 members)

The list of functions approved for the 2020-2021 school year by the Vaslui County School Inspectorate includes management rules, teaching rules, rules for auxiliary teaching staff and non-teaching staff.

No. of director positions:	1
No. of deputy director positions:	1
Number of teaching standards	64.777
Number of auxiliary teaching standards	4,25
Number of non-teaching staff	11,75

### Distribution by status of teaching staff employed:

Teaching staff employed	Total	Preschool	Primary	Gymnasium
School holders	63	10	21	32
Seconded from other units	1	-	-	1
Qualified substitutes	21	2	-	19

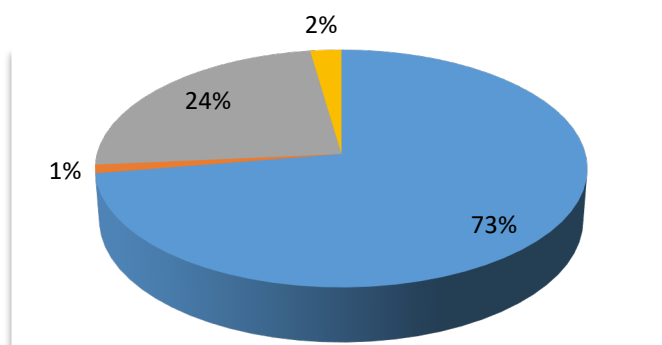
Unqualified substitutes	-	-	-	-
CSEI /CJRAE holders	2		1*	1**
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>53</b>

\* 1 support teacher (0.5 norms) for primary education.

\*\* 1 school counsellor

### Distribution of teaching staff by status

■ Titulari ■ Detaşați ■ Suplینitori calificați ■ Titulari CJRAE

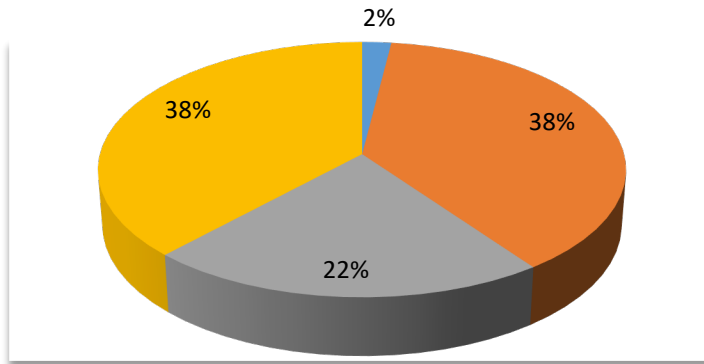


### Distribution of teaching staff by grade:

Teaching employed staff	Total	Preschool	Primary	Gymnasium
PhD				1
Grade I		4	10	19
Grade II			6	11
Definitivat		8	6	19
Debutants			-	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>53</b>

**Distribution of teaching staff by teaching grades**

■ doctorat ■ grad I ■ grad II ■ definitivat



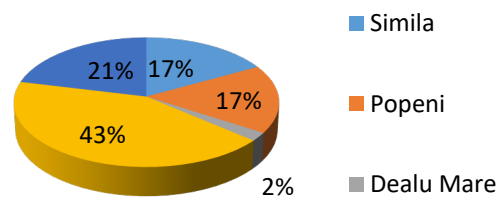
**Auxiliary teaching staff (norms)**

Total standard	Chief Secretary	Secretary	Financial administrator	Librarian	Locker
4,25	1	1	1	1	0,25

**Non-teaching staff**

Total standard	Caretaker	Paznic	Labourer/Foiler
11,75	6,75	1	4

**Distribution of non-teaching staff**



**II.2.3.2. Material resources**

**a. School premises.** The concern of the Zorleni Town Hall and Local Council to ensure a comfortable environment for the educational process has resulted in the implementation



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of investment projects aimed at the construction or modernization of educational facilities, school premises and sports fields, which are mentioned in the table below:

Name	School/ Structure	Type of investment	Source of funding	Duration
School	"Ion Murgeanu" Secondary School	construction	government	2015-2016
Gym	"Ion Murgeanu" Secondary School	modernization	PNDL	2019- 2020
Sports ground	"Ion Murgeanu" Secondary School	modernization	Local budget	2019- 2020
School	Secondary School no.2	rehabilitation	PNDL	2020- 2021
Kindergarten	Kindergarten no.2	modernization	PNDL	2019- 2020
School	Popeni Secondary School no.3	modernization	PNDL	2020- 2021
Sports ground	Popeni Secondary School no.3	modernization	Local budget	2019- 2020
After School	Simila Primary School/ Kindergarten	construction	FEADR	2019- 2020
School	Dealu Mare Primary School	modernization	PNDL	2018- 2019
Land	All schools	arrangement	Local budget	2016-2020

The structures of the "Ion Murgeanu" Zorleni Secondary School are located scattered in the villages of the commune, as well as the kindergartens of Zorleni, which requires the analysis of material resources for each educational unit.

#### 1. "Ion Murgeanu" Secondary School Zorleni:

Space type	Number of spaces	Sanitary permits/ P.S.I.
<b>Body A</b>		<b>From</b>
Classrooms	8	
Physics-chemistry-biology laboratory	1	
Computer lab	1	
Chancellery	1	
Library	1	
Secretariat office	1	
Accounting office	1	
Sanitary groups (interior)	6	
Sanitary group for people with disabilities	1	
Milk and horn distribution room	1	
Wood-fired central heating room	1	
<b>Body B</b>		<b>From</b>
Adapted gym for sports classes	1	



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Shower room	1	
Locker room	1	
Function room	1	
Classrooms	4	
Sanitary groups (interior)	2	
Archive room	1	
Power plant	1	
<b>Body C</b>		<b>From</b>
Preparatory classrooms	3	
Classrooms	4	
Chancellery	1	
School counsellor's office	1	
Sanitary groups (interior)	5	
<b>Attachments</b>		
Generous paved courtyard with parking spaces	1	
Synthetic sports field	1	
Relaxation area - gazebo	1	
Shop	1	
Central heating room	1	

Location of kindergartens in relation to "Ion Murgheanu" Secondary School:

- Kindergarten No. 1 operates on the same premises as the school;
- Kindergarten no. 2 is located at a distance of approx. 3 km;
- Kindergarten no. 3 is located at a distance of approx. 1,5 km.

## 2. Kindergartens - Zorleni

Space type	Number of spaces	Sanitary permits/ P.S.I.
<b>Kindergarten no.1</b>		<b>From</b>
Group rooms	3	
ECAC Room	1	
Sanitary groups	2	
<b>Kindergarten no.2</b>		<b>From</b>
Group rooms	2	
Sanitary groups (interior)	2	
<b>Kindergarten no.3</b>		<b>From</b>
Group rooms	3	
Sanitary groups (interior)	2	



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## 2. Simila Primary School, Kindergarten - Afterschool

Situated in front of "Ion Murgheanu" Secondary School at a distance of approx. 6km.

Space type	Number of spaces	Sanitary permits/ P.S.I.
<b>Corp A</b>		<b>From</b>
Classrooms	5	
Relaxation rooms	2	
Chancellery	1	
Sanitary groups	2	
Central heating room	1	

## 3. Popeni Secondary School no.3

Situated in front of "Ion Murgheanu" Secondary School at a distance of approx. 9km.

Space type	Number of spaces	Sanitary permits/ P.S.I.
<b>Body A</b>		<b>From</b>
Classrooms	8	
Chancellery	1	
Secretariat office	1	
Milk and Corn Hall	1	
<b>Body B</b>		<b>From</b>
Classrooms	3	
Chancellery	1	
Sanitary group (inside)	3	
<b>Kindergarten</b>		<b>From</b>
Classrooms	3	
Chancellery	1	
Sanitary group (inside)	4	
Dress	1	
Wood-fired central hall	1	
Shop	1	

## 4. Dealu Mare Kindergarten

Situated in front of "Ion Murgheanu" Secondary School at a distance of approx. 16km.

Space type	Number of spaces	Sanitary permits/ P.S.I.
<b>Corp A</b>		<b>From</b>
Classrooms	2	
Chancellery	1	
Milk and Corn Hall	1	
Central	1	
Sanitary group (inside)	1	

## 6. School library

No. book volume	10991	
	Received in the school year 2020-2021	268 (35 titles)
	Borrowed in the school year 2020- 2021	7203
No. of readers	Registered	635
	Active	612
Facilities	Computer	1
	Laptop	2
	Xerox	1
	Colour printer	1
	Digital camera	1

### b. Technological facilities and resources.

All teaching spaces are modernized and provide an optimal, friendly climate for educational activities:

- age-appropriate modular furniture for children;
- networks of 30 computers - computer labs;
- Internet networks (including in classrooms);
- 11 plasma;
- 6 video projectors;
- 6 laptops,
- colour printer;
- xeroxes;
- 6 fridges;
- video cameras in all classrooms, hallways, offices and premises;
- teaching material specific to the physics - chemistry - biology laboratory;
- teaching material specific to pre-school and primary education;
- sports equipment.

**The transport of primary school pupils from** the Islaz area of residence to the "Ion Murgeanu" Zorleni Secondary School is provided by the Zorleni Town Hall, through S.C Elbrus.

The transport of secondary school students from Simila to Zorleni is done by the **school minibus**, which also ensures the students' trips to competitions, competitions, activities, educational and extracurricular activities.

### II.2.3.3. Curriculum resources

The concept of curriculum and educational and curricular offer allows a differentiation of two major dimensions that shape the architecture of the process of formation and education of human personality.

The curriculum comprises the very content of the educational process, which is embodied in all school documents of a regulatory nature:

- curricula,
- programmes,
- textbooks,



- methodological guides and guidelines, curricular aids, support material and educational resources.

### General curriculum

Framework curricula, school programmes

Educational level	Framework plan	School programmes
Early education	OMECT nr. 5233/1.09.2008	OMECT nr. 5233/1.09.2008
Primary	OMEN nr. 3371/12.03.2013	OMEN nr.5001/15.01.2014 OMEN nr.5003/02.12.2014 OMEN nr.5004/02.12.2014
Secondary	OMENCS No 3590/5.04.2016	OMEN nr. 3393/28.02.2017

When drawing up the timetables, the allocation of hours in the common core respects the timetables, the minimum/maximum number of hours in the curriculum area and the total number of hours, according to the Framework Plans in force.

### Curriculum at school's decision

The curriculum at the school's decision (number of hours allocated to the school to build its own curriculum project) was established in accordance with the National Education Law, no.1/ 2011, by reference to the vision and mission of the school, aiming, through the optional subjects offered, to expand the school programs to ensure school progress, serving the interests of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the educational act.

When developing the optional curriculum, the Curriculum Committee goes through the selection procedure ensuring a balance between the human and material resources of the School and the demands, interests, needs of the students/parents.

### School year 2020-2021 List of secondary school options School year 2020-2021

No. Crt.	Class	Name of optional	Type of optional
1.	5A	Folklore between tradition and contemporaneity	Optionally integrated Language and communication
2.	5B	Folklore between tradition and contemporaneity	Integrated optional Language and Communication
3.	5C	Reading and life skills	Optionally integrated Language and communication

4.	5D	Local geography	Optional at subject level
5.	6A	History of mathematics	Optional at subject level Mathematics and science
6.	6B	History of mathematics	Optional at subject level Mathematics and science
7.	6C	Mathematics in everyone's life	Optional at subject level Mathematics and science
8.	6D	Health education	Optionally integrated Biology
9.	7A	Practical Mathematics	Optional at subject level Mathematics and science
10.	7B	Practical Mathematics	Optional at subject level Mathematics and science
11.	7C	History of mathematics	Optional at subject level
12.	7D	Health education	Optionally integrated Biology
13.	7E	Health education	Optionally integrated Biology
14.	8A	Artistic communication in literature, theatre and film	Optionally integrated Language and communication
15.	8B	Literature and other arts	Optionally integrated Language and communication
16.	8C	Artistic communication in literature, theatre and film	Optionally integrated Language and communication
17.	8D	Hygiene and first aid	Optionally integrated Biology

#### II.2.3.4. Community relations Educational activity in and out of school.

Constituted by decision of the Administrative Board, the Commission for Educational and Extracurricular Activities carries out its work in accordance with the management plans drawn up at the beginning of each school year, taking into account the educational requirements and needs that arise subsequently.

A higher priority is given to raising performance standards, scaling up and focusing activities on the local and wider community.

**a) Activities - circle, club, teams, formations**

Activity	Partners	Participants
Application circle "Design and decorative art"	Technological High School "Marcel Guguianu" Zorleni Stroe Belloescu Library Bârlad	Students in grades V - VIII
Application circle "Children's talents"	Childs Life Association - Bârlad branch, Zorleni Town Hall	Students cls. III-IV Afterschool
Football team - boys	Zorleni Town Hall	Students in grades V - VIII
Handball team - girls		Students in grades V - VIII
Choral ensemble "Garofița"	Zorleni Town Hall	Students in grades V - VIII
Folk dance band "Dawn"	Zorleni Town Hall Instructor Micu Mihai	Students in grades V - VIII
Band - Fanfare from Zorleni "Struguras"	Zorleni Town Hall Instructor Costel Ene	Students in grades V - VIII

**b) Publications**

Publications	Participants
"Alter Ego" magazine - biannual publication approved by ISJ Vaslui (ISBN)	Pre-primary -VIII students Preschoolers, teachers
Annual review of the regional competition „Open doors for future" (CAER)	Secondary school students
School Facebook page	Pupils VII-VIII

**c) Educational activities (annual)**

No. Crt.	Activity	Contributors Guests, partners,	Participants
1.	Festive opening of the school year	Local, county authorities Local media representatives	Preschoolers, pupils, parents, teachers.
2.	European Day of Languages		Students cls. IV-VIII
3.	World Education Day	Cultural Centre Zorleni	Students grades 0 - VIII Preschool
4.	National Holocaust Remembrance Day		Students cls. V-VIII
5.	Autumn Celebration	CL Zorleni, Zorleni Town Hall, companies, local media	Preschoolers, pupils, parents Folk dance band, brass band Community members

6.	Halloween-Celtic Celebration		Students VI-VIII Parents
7.	GLOBAL EDUCATION WEEK	School library	Preparatory classes I - VIII Parents
8.	1 December - Romania's National Day	CL Zorleni, Zorleni Town Hall	Students cls. I - VIII, preschoolers, parents, community members
9.	Christmas - the gift of joy	CL Zorleni, Zorleni Town Hall, Childs Life Association - Bârlad branch	All teachers All pupils/ Preschoolers Parents, community members
10	National Culture Day	School library Mihai Eminescu" Cultural Centre - Bârlad	Students grades 0- VIII Teaching framework
11	The Union of the Romanian Principalities		Students grades 0- VIII Preschool
12	March apple blossom	Socio-cultural Centre, Zorleni Cultural Home, Popeni	Students 0- VIII, preschoolers, parents, community members
13	22 April - World Earth Day	Sirius Bârlad Astronomy Association	Students grades III- VIII School "I. Murgeanu"
14	Easter Traditions	Churches com. Zorleni Bujoreni Monastery, CL Zorleni, Zorleni Town Hall	Students 0- VIII, preschoolers, parents, community members
15	9 May - Europe Day <i>I am a European citizen too!</i>		Students grades IV- VIII
16	World Family Day <i>Me and my family</i>		Students grades 0 - IV, pre-school children parents
17	Heroes Day	Churches com. Zorleni	Pupils-V-VIII
18	International Children's Day School parties	CL Zorleni, Zorleni Town Hall, Childs Life Association - Bârlad branch, companies	All teachers All pupils/ Preschoolers Parents
19	End of school year celebration		Teachers, pupils/preschool children, parents

#### d) Educational projects - coordinated by school teachers

Crt No	Project title	CAEN/ CAER/ CAEJ position	Partners	Results
1.	Open doors for future" regional English language competition	CAERI 2019, position 2194	-ISJ Vaslui -CCD Vaslui -11 schools in Vaslui county - 18 schools in 17 counties in the country	- awards - annual magazine of the competition with ISBN

2.	Regional contest of Romanian language and literature "Appropriate words" 7th edition	CAERI 2019, position 2226	ISJ Vaslui CCD Vaslui Partnerships with other schools in the county and in the country	- three-phase competition - competition magazine
3.	"Friendship, a gift for you!"	CAERI 2019, position 2277	Vaslui County School Inspectorate, schools in Buzău, Iași, Bacău, Neamț, Arad, Brăila, Galați counties	Regional competition for the subjects Mathematics and Environmental Exploration, Communication in Romanian - Istețel
4.	"Children's Holiday Joy", 8th edition	CAERI 2019, heading 2175	High School "Petru Rareș, Bârlad Secondary School no.1, Gherghești "Vasile Pârvan" Gymnasial School in Bârlad Teh "Al. Ioan Cuza" "Panciu, Vrancea Secondary School no.30, Botosani Iernut Secondary School, Mures Veștem Secondary School, Sibiu	- harnessing creative potential -2 exhibitions -1 photo album(CD)
5.	"Champions", 2nd edition	CAERI 2019, position 2272	Secondary School no.30, Botosani Iernut Secondary School, Mures Veștem Secondary School, Sibiu Petru Rareș High School, Bârlad Secondary School no.1, Gherghești "Manolache C. Epureanu"	- increase the spirit of competition; -development of students' concerns in the field of mathematics, science and the Romanian language
6.	Childhood caravan	CAEJ 2019, position 32	Secondary School "Principesa M. Bibescu" Bârlad	General knowledge competitions
7.	Winter holidays-traditions and customs	EILC 2019, position 91	Pedagogical High School Theoretical High School M. Eminescu, Technological High School "P. Rareș ,	Recital of carols, folk dances, Steaua, Plugușor, Zorleni Goat, Steaua, Haiducii, etc.

			Secondary School "V. Pârvan "Bârlad, Marcel Guguianu Zorleni Technological High School, Gara Banca Secondary School, Zorleni Town Hall	
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**d) Participation in educational projects/programmes**

<b>Crt No</b>	<b>Title Competition/Project of</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Results</b>
1	"Let's do it, Romania!"	15 September 2018	Primary and secondary school pupils	Town Hall com. Zorleni	-waste collection campaign
2	Global Education Week "I choose to communicate!" "The Joy of Giving" - SNAC project activity	20-21 November 2018 19-23 November 2018	28 pupils grades V- VIII Secondary and primary school students.	Community services complex for people with disabilities	1 information panel Posters made by students Minutes, photographs, receipts.
3	SNAC project "The Joy of Giving" - 3 activities	November 2018, March, June 2019	72 students from classes: Prep A, IIA, III A, B, VA, VIA, VIIA, VIIIA	Community services complex for people with disabilities	Minutes, photographs, receipts.
4	National programme "Colgate"	29 May 2019	Primary school pupils	Red Cross Vaslui Branch	- information panels -teaching materials posters
5	National educational project "THE ROLE OF OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS"	March-June 2019	3 students 6th grade A	D' Art Publishing House	1 prize I
6	JA National Programme - Life Skills Development, Our Economy module	School year 2018 - 2019	students of class IV A	JAROMANIA Organization	Student diplomas
7	Net Time	School year 2018 - 2019	students in grades 4 A,	Save the Children Organization	Information panels, posters

			2 A, 5 A, 6 A, 8 A	INSAFE INHOPE	
8	National competition "Mate+"	School year 2018 - 2019	Students cls. II-III		2 prizes I 1 mention 1 prize III 1 mention
9	National contest "THE ROMANIAN LANGUAGE IS MY HOMELAND"	School year 2018 - 2019	students 2nd grade A		2 mentions
10	National competition "STOP BULLYING"	School year 2018 - 2019	6 secondary school students		1 mention
11	County competition of school magazines "THE GAME OF WORDS"	School year 2018 - 2019	Teachers Students		"Alter Ego" magazine - First prize - county phase
12	National competition "Our language is a treasure"	School year 2018 - 2019	students of class IV A		2 prizes III 2 Minutes 1 premium s II 1 minute
13	National contest "THE KNOWLEDGE CHALLENGES"	School year 2018 - 2019	Students cls. I		2 prizes III 3 mentions

e). School competitions and Olympiads 2018-2019

No. Crt.	Title of the competition	Target group	Discipline	Results		
				Local stage	County stage	National/regional stage
1	Olympiad " Universe of knowledge through reading"	Students grades V-VIII	Romanian language	Without	1 mention	
2	Inter-county literary creation competition "Ion Creanga - the most beautiful marzipan of Romanians"	Students grades V-VIII	Romanian language	Without	1 first prize, 1 second prize	
3	Regional Romanian language and literature contest "Appropriate words"	Students grades V-VIII	Romanian language	Without	1 mention	1 mention
4	County Literary Creation Contest	Students grades V-VIII	Romanian language	Without	1 prize III 1 mention	



Norway  
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	"LITERARY LEADINGS"					
5	Open doors for future" English language competition:	Students grades V-VIII	English language	Without	1 first prize, 2 second prizes, 2 third prizes, 1 mention	1 premium I 1 prize II 2 mentions
6	English Language Olympiad	Students grades V-VIII	English language	1 second prize, 1 mention	1 premium I	
7	Focus County English Language Competition	Students grades III-IV	English language	Without	4 prize I, 4 prize II 2 prize III 1 mention	
8	Olympics of Vaslui Villages	Students cls. V-VIII	Mathematics	Without	2 prizes III 1 3rd prize, 1 mention	
9	Inter-county competition "HIGH POD"	Students cls. V-VIII	Mathematics	Without	2 prizes II	
10	County contest "MATHEMATICS, OUR FRIEND"	Students cls. V-VIII	Mathematics	Without	2 prizes I 1 premium II 2 mentions	
11	Gymnasium Olympiad	Handball team		Prize I-boys handball 1 mention - athletics		
12	Inter-county contest "Ion Creanga - the most beautiful Romanian marzipan"	Students cls. V-VIII	Technology education	Without	1 prize II	
13	County contest "VOCEA POPULARĂ"	Folk group "Garofița Soloists	Music	Without	Prize II No 2 mentions	
14	Regional competition "HARMONY OF ARTS"	Vocal folk group "Garofița	Music	Without	Prize II	
15	County Festival "NESTEMATE FOLCLORICE"	Vocal folk group "Garofița	Music	Without	Prize III	
16	Regional competition "HYPERION"	Students cls. IV	Mathematics and science	Without		1 mention



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17	Regional competition "Maths Champions" - online competition	Pupils class II	Mathematics	Without	-	3 prizes I 2 prizes II 2 prizes III 1 mention
18	County competition "CHAMPIONS"	Pupils class III	interdisciplinary	1 awards I 1 awards II 1 awards III 1 mention		
19	Inter-county competition "SMART"	Pre-primary students	Mathematics	Without	1 mention 2 prize I 1 prize II 1 prize III 2 mention 1 prize I 1 mention	1 prize II 2 prize I 1 prize II 2 prize III 1 prize I 1 mention
20	Inter-county competition "Ion Creanga - the most beautiful marzipan of Romanians"	Pre-primary students	plastic creation	1 prize I 1 prize III 2 prize I  1 prize I 1 prize I -	1 prize I 1 prize II 1 prize I - 1 prize I 1 prize III	

### School competitions 2020-2021

#### 1. Pre-school level

Crt. no.	Competition name	Competition type
1.	On the arm of the Autumn Fairy	Regional
2.	Ion Creanga - the most beautiful marzipan of Romanians	Regional
3.	In the world of Ion Creanga's stories	Local
4.	Proud Romanian	Local
5.	Discovery	International
6.	Rhythms of the seasons	County
7.	Smiling cards	National

#### 2. Primary level



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ȘCOLAR JUDEȚEAN VASLUI

Crt. no.	Competition name	Competition type
1.	Healthy mind in a healthy body - art contest .	County
2.	Ion Creanga the most beautiful marzipan of Romanians	Regional
3.	LuminaMath	National
4.	Family - portrait of society	National
5.	A smile, a flower, a bit of colour	International
6.	Mathematical champions	Regional
7.	Superchampions	Regional
8.	Book changes life	Intercounty
9.	Art through the eyes of a child	County
10.	Spring in a child's eye	Local
11.	Little Tonitza	County

### 3. Secondary school level

Crt. no.	Competition name	Competition type	Awards won
1.	The gazeta math Olympiad	Intercounty	2 mentions
2.	Ion Creanga the most beautiful marzipan of Romanians	Regional	2 awards I, 1 prize II
3.	The creative photographer	Intercounty	1 prize I
4.	TEHNO+	County	2 prizes III

The educational services provided by the school as a public institution involve the participation of educational stakeholders: family, public authorities, cultural institutions, health care providers, public order, media. This creates educational environments that exert specific influences on learners and the school ethos.

#### School-Family Partnership

The family is the main factor in the school-local community partnership. On the one hand, the family is a factor of informal education, on the other hand, it has obligations and rights that derive from the status of its children in the formal education system. A number of social factors influence family development and the school-family partnership - socio-economic status, educational attainment of parents, labour migration, marital status of the parties - factors that define the degree of family interest in the education provided by the school.

Family involvement in school life depends on the degree of family interest in the school. In a proportion of 60% the school represents a family value, the degree of parental involvement is high and their children attend school, are supported by their parents, perform well, have a high degree of aspiration towards the level of schooling they want to reach. At the other end of the spectrum, the low level of interest of some parents, as a result of several factors listed above, can be expressed as a "poorly defined parental role" (limited contact with the school, only in exceptional situations of crisis in the child's behaviour or school situation), children have a lower attendance, achieve lower results, in some cases even fail at school.

The school approaches a combined strategy to involve the parents of the students in the activities carried out, from meetings, lectures, focus groups, demonstration activities,



where aspects related to the instructional-educational process are presented, analyzed, solutions are proposed, suggestions for improvement and elimination of some dysfunctions.

### **Zorleni Town Hall and Local Council**

A notable trend in current school development is the concern of local authorities for:

- providing material resources to modernise the commune's school network,
- provides funding for material expenditure and services,
- provides free transport for commuter teachers, commuter pupils and pupils in the Islaz area,
- supports extra-curricular activities - excursions, study visits, bands, artistic and sports activities,
- Involves teachers and students in community projects, especially artistic ones,
- Involvement through the representatives appointed to the School Board and C.E.A.C in the institutional development process of the school,
- collaborates with the school through the Social Welfare department in running government programmes - complementary and single-parent allowances, as well as carrying out social surveys or intervening in situations of abuse, neglect or exploitation and/or when specialised services are required,
- ensures the functional running of the "School after school" programme in the specially built space, providing a hot meal, educational activities, recreational activities, activities to consolidate acquired skills or to accelerate learning.

### **Police - post Zorleni**

The partnership with Zorleni Police concerns joint preventive and intervention actions in special situations, as follows:

- involvement in resolving conflicts between pupils or their parents,
- maintaining public order and peace in educational establishments, outside them (school perimeter, students' route from school to home), in the community,
- intervenes at the request of the school whenever the safety of students is threatened,
- Involvement in specific, preventive activities, from the theme of counselling and guidance classes, educational activities on road traffic, juvenile delinquency, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, bullying, human trafficking.

### **Zorleni, Simila, Popeni, Bujoreni Monastery Church**

The School's partnership with the Church takes the form of:

- organising joint cultural and artistic events on the occasion of major Christian holidays: St. Nicholas, Christmas, Easter, Flowers, Heroes' Day
- participation of church representatives in events organised by the school or church such as the opening of the school year, the celebration of the feast day of the place of worship,
- participation of church representatives in campaigns to help poor families,
- Involvement in the reconciliation of citizens of both ethnicities,
- Involvement with the school in counselling children with parents abroad or families with uncertain status.

### **Individual medical practices**

The school does not have a doctor's office, specific services are provided in partnership with the three medical offices operating in the commune, as follows:





- health assessment, medical triage at the beginning of the semester, other medical services for school students and intervention in special cases,
- Involvement in the development of specific activities in the theme of counselling and guidance classes - topics related to personal hygiene, dietary hygiene, health education.

### County Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection

In the educational units attached to the School there are a large number of pupils in foster care, some with C.E.S., for whom the two institutions collaborate in the regular monitoring and evaluation of the adaptation and integration process, as well as their behaviour and school situation.

II.2.3.5. Analysis of school and social inclusion issues (combating school drop-out and discrimination. Measures to reduce early school leaving, inclusion, desegregation). School success, in addition to biological, psychological and pedagogical factors, is also influenced to a large extent by the psycho-socio-cultural and family environment of the pupil, in terms of the family's attitude towards the formal education provided by the school. Thus, the learning environment at home, parents' expectations of school, family harmony, help received from parents for school activities or parents' lack of interest in education, friends' behaviour, are important factors in ensuring school success.

An analysis of students' **social/economic conditions** can be structured as follows:

- Pupils living in poor conditions, high number of people, in a small space and from families with extremely modest income represent  $\approx 36\%$  of the school population, of which the most - 40% in the area of Islaz, Popeni, Dealu Mare,
- Pupils who have acceptable study conditions and come from moderate-income families represent  $\approx 28.5\%$  of the school population,
- students who have normal working conditions with a favourable climate for studying and come from families with moderate income  $\approx 22,5\%$  of the school population, most of them at "Ion Murgescu" School,
- pupils with normal working conditions come from middle-income families 13% of the school population.

Children from families with a higher economic level, built on an efficient education, are encouraged to socialize, to interact in different contexts, are stimulated towards cognitive development, towards the formation of skills, are supported in the accumulation of a cultural, ethical, moral baggage close to that promoted by school. On the other hand, children from social classes with a low economic level grow up in a less stimulating environment and do not have the opportunity to assimilate knowledge at an optimal level; their families are unable to provide them with the minimum cultural references necessary to make effective use of the school offer, which leads to differences in educational achievement. The majority of pupils come from families with modest material incomes, corresponding to the minimum wage, and where often only one parent is employed. Although the state offers free access to education, this requires financial efforts on the part of parents with several children to purchase school supplies, devices for online schooling, clothing, etc. The precarious economic situation of some families, especially in the Islaz area, characterised by low capacity to bear the costs of schooling, leads to the interruption of the children's educational path, often after they have completed secondary school. The problem becomes urgent if pupils wish to continue their studies in theoretical secondary education (Bârlad municipality), the cost of educational resources



- such as auxiliary materials, school supplies, other teaching materials, transport - can be expensive. It should also be borne in mind that tuition fees at university level are increasing in line with demand, with fewer and fewer places being subsidised by the state and with scholarships or social grants unable to cover maintenance and tuition costs. The community is faced with the phenomenon of **parents migrating abroad**, either in search of a proper job or in search of a better-paid job, leaving behind children deprived of the presence of one or even both parents, who grow up and develop under the supervision of older siblings, grandparents/other relatives. These children feel the absence of communication, emotional, emotional support, protective support from their parents to ensure a proper climate of happiness, love and understanding. Those who take over some of the tasks of the parents who have left - housework, caring for younger siblings - feel abandoned, burdened, which leads to a number of negative behavioural effects such as low school participation and involvement, isolation, poor relationships and communication with peers and teachers. Roma **ethnicity** (undeclared, but in some cases assumed) - especially for pupils at School No. 2, leads to group marginalisation with negative effects on school results (low) and sometimes conflicts between peers, and later, by extension, to conflicts between parents. The economic situation of the families is a major factor in their participation in education, which is often formal rather than full, because they lack resources (school supplies, appropriate shoes and clothing, adequate food) and wrongly perceive schooling as a long-term investment in social, economic and cultural progress. In terms of **religion**, 92% of pupils come from families belonging to the Orthodox Christian faith, 6% Evangelical, 2% Pentecostal, a certain diversity of religious beliefs in which a climate of tolerance prevails. **Relations between pupils** can be considered generally harmonious and tolerant, with no major incidents in recent years. In extra-curricular and out-of-school activities, pupils show collaborative interactions, teamwork and constructive emulation.

#### II.2.3.6.SWOT analysis at pilot school level



<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<p><b>Human resources</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ High pass rate for each year of study.</li> <li>✓ Additional preparation of pupils for national examinations.</li> <li>✓ Very good attendance in primary education, good attendance in secondary education - especially at Ion Murgheanu School.</li> <li>✓ Satisfactory results in the National Assessment exams (classes II, IV, VI, VIII) - especially at the "Ion Murgheanu" School.</li> <li>✓ High degree of involvement in educational activities and projects.</li> <li>✓ Participation in school competitions and Olympiads - especially at the "Ion Murgheanu" School.</li> <li>✓ Good relationships between students in the class and good relationships with peers in other classes</li> <li>✓ Low level of violence/ bullying in the school environment - especially I. Murgheanu" school.</li> <li>✓ Compliance with internal health and safety at work rules, P.S.I. rules.</li> <li>✓ Providing individual and group counselling for students and parents who are experiencing problems of maladjustment or school failure.</li> <li>✓ Ensuring the safety of pupils and pre-school children.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Personal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 100% qualified teaching staff.</li> <li>✓ Responsiveness of teachers to suggestions and proposals for improving the instructional process.</li> <li>✓ Motivated teachers involved in education, in continuous improvement through teaching degrees or continuous training courses.</li> <li>✓ Teachers using interactive teaching-learning-assessment strategies, methods in the instructional-educational process.</li> <li>✓ Use in teaching activities of skills acquired through training courses.</li> <li>✓ Openness of the management team to collaboration and partnerships with similar units.</li> <li>✓ Involvement of staff, parents' representative committee in decision-making.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human resources</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Low motivation of some students for learning especially at School No. 2., and School No. 3.</li> <li>➤ Lack of confidence of some pupils, especially Roma (undeclared), in the role of education as a factor of socio-professional integration and social progress.</li> <li>➤ The lack of interest of some pupils, especially Roma, in continuing their studies and preparing for a future profession, especially at School No. 2.</li> <li>➤ Mediocrity of students' results especially in School No. 2, School No. 3</li> <li>➤ Conflicts between pupils due to ethnicity, especially at School 2.</li> <li>➤ Poor attendance in secondary school - grade VII-A,VIII especially at School no.</li> <li>➤ Unrealistic assessment of knowledge in relation to class level applied by some teachers.</li> <li>➤ Minimal results in national examinations for a large number of pupils from disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>➤ Poor involvement of pupils with ESC in educational activities.</li> <li>➤ Underachievement of pupils with ESC in the assessment subjects.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Personal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Teacher turnover in some departments - School No. 2, School No. 3.</li> <li>➤ Inflexibility to change, conservatism of some teachers in their approach to the educational process.</li> <li>➤ Inability of some teachers to develop remedial programmes.</li> <li>➤ Little concern for professional development by some teachers .</li> <li>➤ Fear or unwillingness of teachers to access educational projects and partnerships.</li> <li>➤ Reluctance of some teachers to use modern information resources in lessons.</li> <li>➤ Insufficient staffing with non-teaching staff.</li> <li>➤ Insufficient support for pupils with ESC from some teachers.</li> </ul>



- ✓ Very good collaboration between the principal, committee leaders, teachers and teaching and non-teaching staff.

### Strengths

#### Curriculum resources

- ✓ Provide textbooks for all school pupils.
- ✓ High degree of use of the School Library by pupils and teachers (dictionaries, atlases, collections, books of literature).
- ✓ Providing auxiliary materials - workbooks, binders, dictionaries.
- ✓ Implementation and running of C.D.S. optional courses in the curricular areas of school subjects.
- ✓ Use of alternative assessment methods (projects, portfolios by subject).
- ✓ Complex, formative and attractive programme of extracurricular educational activities for pupils.

#### Material resources

- ✓ Existence of a modern school infrastructure with health and P.S.I. approval.
- ✓ Fitting out most classrooms and kindergartens with new, modular, age-appropriate furniture for pupils/preschoolers.
- ✓ Operation of the classroom video surveillance and monitoring system.
- ✓ Existence of synthetic sports fields for sports and extracurricular activities.
- ✓ Refurbishment of a functional space as a gym equipped with sanitary facilities.
- ✓ Equipping the computer lab with high-performance computers connected to high-speed Internet.
- ✓ High-speed Internet connection in all teaching spaces.
- ✓ Existence of the school's educational platform for the conduct of classes, parent-teacher meetings or the Teacher's Council, Board of Directors.
- ✓ Equipping the physics-chemistry-biology laboratory with specific teaching material.
- ✓ Operation of the School Counselling Office.
- ✓ Transport of secondary school students from Simila to "Ion Murgheanu" School Zorleni

### Strengths

- ✓ Modern school space, suitable for Simila for the operation of the "After School" programme for primary education.

- Minimal experience of most teachers in counselling and techniques for working with parents and developing adapted programmes for pupils with SEN.

### Weaknesses

#### Curriculum resources

- Difficulty in securing curricular aids for pupils through Parent Committees.
- Difficulty in implementing consistent remedial/performance programs for all students due to insufficient space.
- Inadequate use of pupils' potential through science/ literature/ practical application circles, especially for vulnerable groups.

#### Material resources

- Lack of an Information and Documentation Centre for students.
- Lack of standardised gyms (with changing rooms, showers).
- Lack of teaching material and adequate space for physics, chemistry, biology School No 2 , School No 3.
- Minimal equipment of the School Counselling Office.
- Inadequate space for history, geography materials.
- Minimum facilities for sports activities.
- Insufficient devices (10 tablets) provided for students in online courses.

### Weaknesses

#### Partnerships

- Poor involvement of teaching staff in educational projects.



<p>✓Purchase of technical resources (screens, printers, photocopiers) for the smooth running of all the school's logistical activities</p> <p>✓ Providing the devices, by the majority of students' own means, necessary for online courses.</p> <p><b>Partnerships</b></p> <p>✓ Active involvement and fruitful collaboration with the Mayor's institution and "M.Guguianu" Zorleni Technological High School, Medical Cabinets, Zorleni Police Station.</p> <p>✓Partnerships with similar units in the framework of county (CAEN), regional (CAER) projects.</p> <p>✓Involvement of the Parent Representative Committee in objective analysis (CEAC) and decision-making (CA).</p> <p>✓The interest shown by some parents in their pupils' education and in ensuring optimal conditions for school work;</p> <p>✓Involvement and increased interest of "Childs Life" Association Bucharest, Bârlad branch and SC Fabian SRL in the implementation of the After School Programme - primary education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Human resources</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Students</b></p> <p>✓Running government programmes - Free school supplies, Milk and Corn, Scholarships for pupils, Complementary allowances, Euro 200.</p> <p>✓Proximity to the city provides most students with access to information, diversification of extracurricular activities.</p> <p>✓Zorleni Local Council's concern to support the functioning of artistic groups (brass band, folk dances), sports (football) for pupils.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Personal</b></p> <p>✓ Offer of training and refresher courses of CCD Vaslui and digital platforms.</p> <p>✓University retraining and further training programmes.</p> <p>✓Multiple digital resources to access up-to-date scientific and methodological information.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Curriculum resources</b></p>	<p>➤ Minimum experience of teachers in developing Erasmus projects.</p> <p>➤ Lack of an incentive programme for parents of pupils from vulnerable groups to participate in school life.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Threats</b></p> <p><b>Human resources</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Students</b></p> <p>➤Increasing negative effects in the education of pupils, especially those from vulnerable groups, due to increasingly difficult communication with the family.</p> <p>➤Harmful influence of the environment outside school (entourage, media, social media apps) on adolescents.</p> <p>➤Increase in the number of pupils with parents abroad.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Personal</b></p> <p>➤Decreased teacher motivation due to lack of a reward system.</p> <p>➤Lack of decision-making autonomy of the school regarding teacher mobility.</p> <p>➤ Inadequate legislative changes - abolition of methodological committees.</p> <p>➤Weaknesses in the pay system make the profession unattractive to young people.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Threats</b></p> <p><b>Curriculum resources</b></p> <p>➤Frequent changes in legislation in the field curriculum on the medium and long-term development of education.</p> <p>➤The overloaded curriculum and syllabuses in some subjects focus the educational act on the informative aspect, to the detriment of the formative one.</p> <p>➤The large number of hours in the curriculum per week which has the effect of physically overloading pupils.</p>
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<p>✓Flexibility of the C.D.S. curriculum and curriculum autonomy of teachers.</p> <p>✓Large number of educational resources - platforms, multimedia applications that are available on the Internet and on specialised websites.</p> <p><b>Material resources</b></p> <p>✓Permanent concern of the local administration for the modernisation of school infrastructure - investment works and current repairs.</p> <p>✓Optimal allocation of local budget funds for material expenditure.</p> <p><b>Partnerships - Community</b></p> <p>✓Willingness of the local branch of the Roma Party to get involved in the life of the school.</p> <p>✓Willingness and involvement of the Mayor's institution and the City Council in carrying out educational activities in partnership.</p> <p>✓Experience at commune level in running European projects.</p> <p>✓Interest shown by non-governmental organisations in the field of educational partnerships and programmes.</p>	<p><b>Material resources</b></p> <p>➤Lack of coherent, simple and incentive-based legislation allowing economic agents to support education through donations, sponsorships and scholarships for students.</p> <p><b>Partnerships- Community</b></p> <p>➤The existence of stereotypical attitudes in the community about disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>➤Lack of a clear legislative framework specifying real obligations for parents in the context of partnership with the school.</p> <p>➤High level of delinquency among the adult population, inter-ethnic conflicts.</p>
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### II.3.Diagnosis of the internal environment at county level. Galati

#### II.3.1.Quantitative analysis

##### II.3.1.1.Human resources

###### II.3.1.1.1.Management, guidance and control staff

Management, guidance and control staff.

At the level of Galati County, the management, control and guidance staff is structured as follows:

- 29 school inspectors
- 170 directors
- 65 deputy directors
- 277 methodologists (61 currently in senior management, inspectors or directors)

###### II.3.1.1.2.Teaching, auxiliary teaching and non-teaching staff

In Galati County there are:

- Teaching staff

			<b>Fixed-term teachers</b>
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School year	Total standard	Tenured teachers	With education appropriate to the post	No education appropriate to the post
<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>5599</b>	<b>4138</b>	<b>1369</b>	<b>92</b>
2018-2019	5611	4548	959	104
2017-2018	5687	4463	1104	120
2016-2017	5695	4411	1149	135
2015-2016	5698	4608	985	105

- Auxiliary teaching staff - 817 on 30.09.2021
- Non-teaching staff - 1418 on 30.09.2021

The dynamics of posts for teaching and non-teaching staff differ from month to month with the release of posts.

### II.3.1.2. Material resources

#### II.3.1.2.1. School units

School units

*School year 2021-2022*

- 165 State educational establishments with legal personality
- 242 State educational establishments without legal personality
- 4 related educational establishments (3 with legal personality and one without legal personality) legal personality, CSȘs, Children's Palace and Children's Club)
- 20 Private educational establishments

**TOTAL 431 School units**

*School year 2020-2021*

- 168 State educational establishments with legal personality
- 242 State educational establishments without legal personality
- 4 related educational establishments (3 with legal personality and one without legal personality) legal personality, CSȘs, Children's Palace and Children's Club)
- 20 Private educational establishments

**TOTAL 434 Schools**

*School year 2019-2020*

- 168 State educational establishments with legal personality
- 244 State educational establishments without legal personality
- 4 related educational establishments (3 with legal personality and one without legal personality) legal personality, CSȘs, Children's Palace and Children's Club)
- 19 Private educational establishments

**TOTAL 435 Schools**

#### II.3.1.2.2. School minibuses

School year 2021-2022 102 school minibuses

School year 2020-2021 102 school minibuses

School year 2019-2020 102 school minibuses

#### II.3.1.2.3. School libraries and CDIs



School libraries in Galati County-11

CDIs in Galati County-26

II.3.1.2.4. Investment programmes

Investment programmes carried out by ISJ Galați

-rehabilitation of the CSS Galati sports hall

-rehabilitation of the roof of the CSS Tecuci sports hall

### II.3.1.3. Curriculum resources

II.3.1.3.1. General curriculum

The general/national curriculum for the **pre-primary and I-IV grades** is structured in the following seven curricular areas delimited on the basis of epistemological and psycho-pedagogical principles and criteria (according to Annex 1 OMEN no. 3371/12.03.2013) 1:

-Romanian language and literature (P, classes I-IV),

-Modern Language (P, classes I-IV); Note: in the preparatory class and classes I and II, the subject Romanian Language and Literature is called Communication in Romanian.

**Mathematics and natural sciences:** Mathematics (P, grades I-IV), natural sciences (P, grades I-IV);

Note : in the preparatory class and classes I and II the subject of Mathematics and Environmental Exploration is studied in an integrated way.

### 3.Man and society:

-Civic education (grades III-IV),

-History (4th grade), Geography (4th grade),

**-Physical education, sport and health:** Physical education (P, grades I-IV); Play and movement (grades III-IV) - also responds to thematic area 5; Music and movement (P, grades I-IV) - also responds to thematic area 5.

**5.Arts : Play and movement** (grades III - IV) - also answers theme area 4, Music and movement (P, grades I - IV) - also answers theme area 4, Visual arts and practical skills

(P, grades I - IV) - also answers theme area 6 **6.Technologies : Visual arts and practical skills** (P, grades I - IV) - also answers theme area 5

**7.Counselling and guidance: personal development** (P, grades I-II).

The general/national curriculum for **grades V-VIII** is structured in the following seven curricular areas:

### I. LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

- Romanian language and literature

- Modern language 1 (English)

- Modern language 2 (French)

- Latin language/ Elements of Latin language and Romance culture

### II.MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES:

- Mathematics

- Physics

- Chemistry

- Biology

### III.MAN AND SOCIETY:

- History

- Geography



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- Social education\*
- Civic culture
- Religion

**IV.ART:**

- Art education
- Music education

**V.PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SPORT AND HEALTH:**

- Physical education and sport

**VI.TECHNOLOGIES:**

- Technology education and practical applications
- Computer Science and Information and Communication Technology (C.I.T.)

**VII.COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE:**

- Counselling and personal development

The general/national curriculum for grades IX-XII is structured by lower cycle high school IX-X and upper cycle high school XI-XII:

High School IX-X **THEORETICAL STREAM - REAL PROFILE, SPECIALISATIONS: MATHEMATICS-COMPUTING, NATURAL SCIENCES**

<b>LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION</b>
Romanian language and literature
Modern language 1
Modern language 2
<b>MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES</b>
Mathematics
Physics
Chemistry
Biology
<b>MAN AND SOCIETY</b>
History
Geography
Socio-humanities/ Education for society
Socio-human
Religion
<b>ART*</b>
Music education
Visual Education
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT</b>
Physical Education
<b>ADVICE AND GUIDANCE</b>



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<b>TECHNOLOGIES</b>
Information and Communication Technology
Informatics
Entrepreneurship education

High School IX-X **THEORETICAL STUDIES - HUMANIST PROFILE,**  
**SPECIALISATION: PHILOLOGY, SOCIAL SCIENCES**

<b>Curriculum area/ Discipline</b>
<b>LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION</b>
Romanian language and literature
Modern language 1
Modern language 2
Latin language
<b>MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES</b>
Mathematics
Physics
Chemistry
Biology
<b>MAN AND SOCIETY</b>
History
Geography
Socio-humanities/ Education for society
Socio-human
Religion
<b>ART</b>
Music education
Visual Education
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT</b>
Physical Education
<b>ADVICE AND GUIDANCE</b>
<b>TECHNOLOGIES</b>
Information and Communication Technology
Entrepreneurship education

At the lower secondary level, grades IX-X, we have the following streams that follow the national curriculum:

- **VOCATIONAL STREAM - ARTISTIC PROFILE, SPECIALISING IN MUSIC**



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- VOCATIONAL STREAM - ARTISTIC PROFILE, SPECIALISING IN ACTING
- VOCATIONAL STREAM - ARTISTIC PROFILE, SPECIALISING IN ARCHITECTURE
- VOCATIONAL PATHWAY - SPORTS PROFILE
- VOCATIONAL STREAM - PEDAGOGICAL PROFILE SPECIALIZATIONS: TEACHER/EDUCATOR
- VOCATIONAL STREAM - THEOLOGICAL PROFILE, SPECIALIZATIONS: ORTHODOX THEOLOGY, CHURCH MUSIC

High School XI-XII THEORETICAL STUDIES - REAL PROFILE, MATHEMATICS-INFORMATICS SPECIALIZATION

Curriculum area/ Discipline
<b>LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION</b>
Romanian language and literature
Modern language 1
Modern language 2
<b>MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES</b>
Mathematics
Physics
Chemistry
Biology
<b>MAN AND SOCIETY</b>
History
Geography
Socio-human
Religion
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT</b>
Physical Education
<b>TECHNOLOGIES</b>
Informatics

High School XI-XII THEORETICAL STUDIES - REAL PROFILE, NATURAL SCIENCES SPECIALIZATION

Curriculum area/ Discipline
<b>LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION</b>
Romanian language and literature
Modern language 1
Modern language 2
<b>MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES</b>
Mathematics



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Physics
Chemistry
Biology
<b>MAN AND SOCIETY</b>
History
Geography
Socio-human
Religion
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT</b>
Physical Education
<b>TECHNOLOGIES</b>
Information and Communication Technology

High School XI-XII **THEORETICAL STUDIES - HUMANIST PROFILE, PHILOLOGY SPECIALIZATION**

<b>LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION</b>
Romanian language and literature
Modern language 1
Modern language 2
Latin language
Universal literature
<b>MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES</b>
Science
<b>MAN AND SOCIETY</b>
History
Geography
Socio-human
Religion
<b>ART</b>
Art education
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT</b>
Physical Education
<b>TECHNOLOGIES</b>
Information and Communication Technology

High School XI-XII **THEORETICAL STUDIES - HUMANIST PROFILE, SOCIAL SCIENCES SPECIALIZATION**

<b>Curriculum area/</b>
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Discipline
<b>LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION</b>
Romanian language and literature
Modern language 1
Modern language 2
<b>MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES</b>
Mathematics
<b>MAN AND SOCIETY</b>
History
Geography
Socio-human
Religion
<b>ART</b>
Art education
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT</b>
Physical Education
<b>TECHNOLOGIES</b>
Information and Communication Technology

At the upper cycle of high school, classes XI-XII we have the following streams that follow the national curriculum:

- **VOCATIONAL STREAM - ARTISTIC PROFILE, SPECIALISING IN MUSIC**
- **VOCATIONAL STREAM - ARTISTIC PROFILE, SPECIALISING IN ACTING**
- **VOCATIONAL STREAM - ARTISTIC PROFILE, SPECIALISING IN ARCHITECTURE**
- **VOCATIONAL PATHWAY - SPORTS PROFILE**
- **VOCATIONAL STREAM - PEDAGOGICAL PROFILE SPECIALIZATIONS: TEACHER/EDUCATOR**
- **VOCATIONAL STREAM - THEOLOGICAL PROFILE, SPECIALIZATIONS: ORTHODOX THEOLOGY, CHURCH MUSIC**

II.3.1.3.2. Curriculum at the school's discretion

Discipline	No. of school programmes
Romanian language and literature	111
Information and Communication Technology	103
Biology	19
Physics	20
Technical disciplines	265
Technology Education	12
English language	146
French language	84
German language	60
Mathematics	126
Physical Education	25





Religion	20
Pre-primary education	577
Art	14
History	42
Socio-human	20
Primary education	684
Chemistry	26
Geography	79
Special and integrated special education	51

### II.3.1.4 Relationship with the community

#### II.3.1.4.1. Educational activity in and out of school. Partnerships at local and national level

Educational activities in and out of school were carried out at the level of educational units, in units with specific extracurricular activities (Children's Palace, Children's Club), activities coordinated by the CCD or CJRAE, partnerships between educational units or with other institutions, both at local and national level. The most important ones:

-Workshops were organized in the framework of the following national projects "How to grow up beautiful", "Uncensored", "ABC of emotions", in partnership with the National Antidrug Agency-Centre for Prevention, Evaluation and Antidrug Counselling Galati.

-Educational projects were carried out: educational project "Celebrate Romania" - Romania - country of flowers; educational project "Heroes of great legends" 5th edition; educational project "Ancestral echoes"; educational project "101 years of Romania"; educational project "Inclusive school-a school for the community".

-Other educational projects: "Film generics", "Great little craftsmen", "Traditions and customs on Romanian lands", "Interculturality-contemporary dialogues", "Nutrition and movement-solutions for maintaining good health".

-Educational programmes run through the CJRAE: "Be active, not captive!" prevention of risk behaviours; "Violence is not a solution!" prevention of violence in school; "Learn with CAP!" motivation for learning; "Self-awareness and personal exploration month." School - a place where you can discover and develop yourself; DECEMBER - "Month of giving, tolerance and non-violence." Heart to Heart! Give joy to children! - Humanitarian campaign.

Galati Children's Palace and Tecuci Children's Club propose the following circles for extracurricular educational activities:

Cultural and artistic circles:

- Literary Circle;
- French culture and civilization;
- English culture and civilization;
- Picture;
- Sculpture - graphics;
- The Fantasy Workshop;
- Light music;
- Musical instruments - organ.

Technical and scientific circles:

- Ecology, environmental protection;



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- Naval models ;
- Computing ;
  - Logic games .
- Sports-tourist circles:
  - Table tennis ;
  - Rhythmic gymnastics
- Sports dancing

#### II.3.1.4.2.Partnerships at European level

Most partnerships at European level have been achieved through the ERASMUS+ Programme; the educational establishments that have accessed such projects are:

- "Miron Costin" Gymnasial School, Galați, ERASMUS PLUS Project - Eat Wise
- 7 Galati Secondary School, Project ERASMUS +/K1 European School through Digital Competences-EuroSDIT- Barcelona.
- "Virgil Madgearu" Economic College, Practical Training in Europe, Erasmus +
- Radu Negru Technological High School EUROPEAN CAREER FOR THE FUTURE, Erasmus +
- LICEUL TEHNOLOGIC NR. 1 CUDALBI , CAREER SUCCESS, Erasmus+
- "Elena Doamna" Secondary School Tecuci, Robotics against bullying, Erasmus+
- Elena Doamna Secondary School, Tecuci, Under the same blue sky, Erasmus+
- Elena Caragiani Technological High School, Tecuci, Growing Green Generations, Erasmus+
- Gymnasial School Nr. 7 Galati EuRosDIT EUROPEAN SCHOOL THROUGH DIGITAL SKILLS, Erasmus+
- "Sf. Stelian" Secondary School Umbrărești-Deal, "Let's surf the Internet safely!", Erasmus+
- National College "Mihail Kogalniceanu" Galati, Standing against Violence and Discrimination, Erasmus+
- Technological High School "Eremia Grigorescu" Tg. Bujor, Together to improve our future, Erasmus+
- "Mihail Sadoveanu" Secondary School Galati, Earth Climate Heritage Obtaining, Erasmus+
- "SIMION MEHEDIŢI" TECHNOLOGICAL HIGH SCHOOL GALAŢI, A European Future for Students with Special Educational Needs, Erasmus+
- Spiru Haret National College, European Waves on the Internet Radio, Erasmus+
- Dumitru Motoc High School of Tourism and Food, Sweets' Taste Along Europe, Erasmus+
- "Constantin Gh. Marinescu", Online and offline safety in the school of the future, Erasmus+
- Traian Vuia' High School of Auto Transport Galati, Artificial intelligence, technologies and jobs of the future , Erasmus+
- College of Food Industry "Elena Doamna", Galati, Europe is my future, Erasmus+



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- Partnership in the project "Let's meet and learn about our place and our culture" between Colegiul Național "Vasile Alecsandri" Galați and Istituto Istruzione Superiore "Federico II di Svevia" in Melfi, Italy

### II.3.2. Qualitative analysis

#### II.3.2.1. Human resources

Structure of the teaching staff by grade.

School year	Grade I	Grade II	PhD	Def	No grade	Debutants
2019-2020	2792	961	63	1196	112	405
2018-2019	2788	956	58	1277	124	396
2017-2018	2812	973	56	1170	108	568
2016-2017	2774	1009	54	1110	112	636
2015-2016	2763	1242	45	1258	152	630

#### The Tenure Competition

Year	Candidates present at the competition	Notes obtained			Teachers assigned		
		Note <5	Averages between 5 - 7	Note >7	Headlines	Fixed-term employees educated corresponding to the post	Fixed-term employees uneducated corresponding to the post
2019	468	69	160	239	67	284	24
2018	442	71	157	213	55	263	94
2017	442	69	155	218	76	251	87
2016	444	71	166	207	54	334	56
2015	487	108	171	208	78	346	63

#### II.3.2.2. Material resources

School year 2020-2021

- 168 State educational establishments with legal personality
- 242 State educational establishments without legal personality
- 4 related educational establishments (3 with legal personality and one without legal personality) legal personality, CSȘs, Children's Palace and Children's Club)
- 20 Private educational establishments
- 51 educational establishments without health permits.
- ~94% of educational establishments have a sports hall (separate building or in a classroom)
- 100% of schools have outdoor sports fields.
- Satisfactorily equipping educational establishments with modern teaching material obtained from budgetary and extra-budgetary resources.

School year 2019-2020

- 168 State educational establishments with legal personality
- 244 State educational establishments without legal personality



- 4 related educational establishments (3 with legal personality and one without legal personality) legal personality, CSȘs, Children's Palace and Children's Club)
  - 19 Private educational establishments
  - 92 educational establishments without health authorisation.
  - ~90% of educational establishments have a sports hall (separate building or in a classroom)
  - 100% of schools have outdoor sports fields.
  - Satisfactorily equipping educational establishments with modern teaching material obtained from budgetary and extra-budgetary resources.
  - School year 2018-2019
  - 164 State educational establishments with legal personality
  
  - 244 State educational establishments without legal personality
  
  - 4 related educational establishments (3 with legal personality and one without legal personality) legal personality, CSȘs, Children's Palace and Children's Club)
  - 21 Private educational establishments
  - 73 educational establishments without health authorisation.
  - ~90% of educational establishments have a sports hall (separate building or in a classroom)
  - 100% of schools have outdoor sports fields.
  - Satisfactorily equipping educational establishments with modern teaching material obtained from budgetary and extra-budgetary resources.
- II.3.2.3. Curriculum resources
- Measures to increase the quality of curricular resources:
- School curriculum adapted to the personal development needs of pupils.
  - Use of educational software appropriate to the school curriculum.
  - Selection of curriculum providers for teaching methods of different subjects that best meet developmental needs
  - To select and monitor synthetic and objective indicators for teaching and non-teaching activity.
  - Create a base of assessment tests for pupils in line with national standards that provide an objective snapshot of school progress.
  - Increasing the degree of consultation with parents and other members of the community in the choice of optional subjects and tailoring their content to the specific needs of the social partners.
  - Introducing in the CDSs themes aimed at understanding the role and development trends of socio-occupational policies promoted by the European Union.
  - Providing formal education for all our students according to the assessment standards developed by MECS.
  - To develop in pupils key competences specific to a democratic society and motivation for active participation in social and political life in order to ensure social cohesion.
  - Extension of the computerised educational process.



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- Implementing an optimal personnel policy in the context of developing a democratic educational society.
- Support and promote young people with potential in school performance.
- Education for children with special educational needs.
- Organising and administering national olympiads and examinations and other school competitions.
- Increasing the level of culture in students by implementing educational projects focused on the formation of artistic sense, development of artistic and intellectual skills.
- Promotion of intercultural projects as an effective means of building tolerance and practising artistic skills.

#### II.3.2.4. Community relations

Quality aspects;

- Involvement of local public and private decision-makers in projects, partnerships with educational establishments to support educational activities.
- Adapting the educational offer to the needs of the local community and involving it in decision-making.
- Local projects involving children and parents, with educational establishments being the initiators of these projects.

### II.3.3. Analysis of school and social inclusion issues

#### I.3.3.1. School drop-out. Measures to reduce early school leaving.

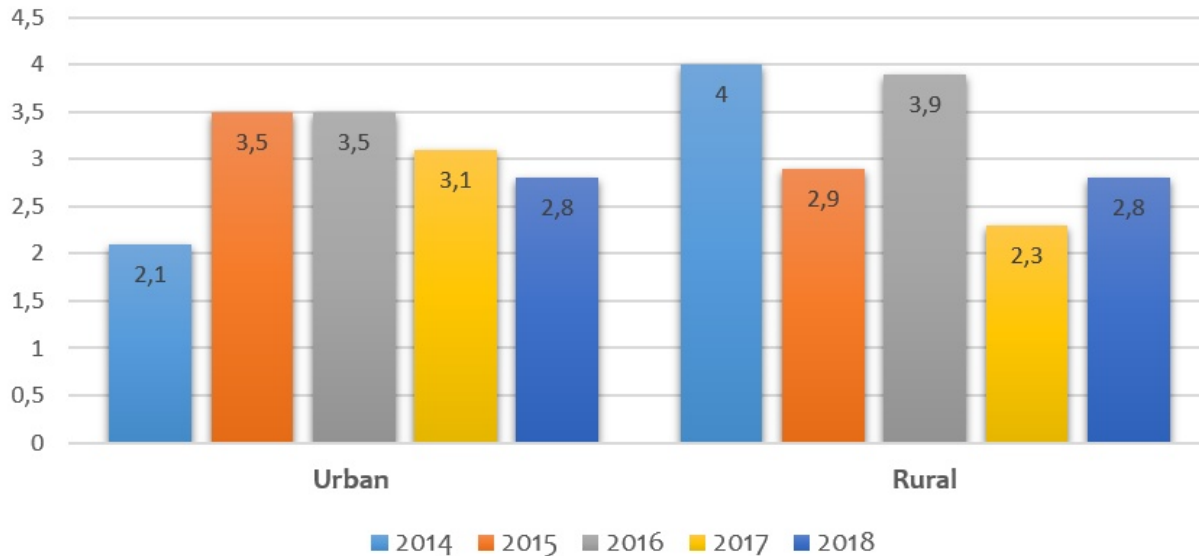
Analysis of the dropout situation by year:

- The Southeast region had a declining dropout rate, at 2.8% in 2018. This region is made up of six counties: Brăila, Buzău, Constanța, Galați, Tulcea and Vrancea.
- It has 35 cities (including 11 municipalities) and 355 communes (with a total of 1,447 villages). The South-East region includes three of the 10 most populated cities in Romania: Constanța, Galați and Brăila.



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## Rata abandonului școlar în învățământul liceal și profesional în Regiunea Sud-Est



According to data published by the Ministry of Education.

At the level of ISJ Galati a series of measures have been implemented through government programs and projects in partnership with CJRAE, CCD, school units with high risk of dropping out, public institutions:

Government programmes:

- on the basis of GD 1488/2004 and OMECTS 4389/2004, with subsequent amendments and additions, 1094 students benefited from the "High School Money" scholarship;
- under HG 1294/2004, Law 269/2004 and HG 228/2010, as amended, 94 pupils benefited from the governmental programme "Euro 200";
- on the basis of GD no. 1062/2012 on the method of subsidizing the costs for students attending vocational education, a number of 2413 students benefited from the "Vocational Scholarship".
- Corn and Milk Programme.

Projects:

- ORIZONT - Education for the community of the future. Project with European funding, with the general objective of reducing school drop-out and early school leaving in Galati County, by developing integrated measures to support the education of pre-school children and students from disadvantaged groups, school drop-outs, in order to develop an inclusive community, ready for the dynamics of the future.
- "Stay in school, school is your chance!" preventing truancy and dropout
- "The future is now!" information, counselling and school and vocational guidance for students in the 8th grades
- "Be fit for school!" school adaptation facilitation programme
- SEPTEMBER - Fit Month, "Be fit for school!"
- "School - a place where you can discover and develop yourself?", CJRAE/CJAP



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- " Educational offers fair ", project in partnership with high schools - ISJ Galați - CJRAE counselling activity: individual counselling for students, collective psycho-pedagogical assistance (management), group counselling for students, group counselling for parents, school orientation and reorientation, workshops for teachers.

II.3.3.2.School and social inclusion of vulnerable groups. Measures to desegregate and combat discrimination at school.

The Orizont project aimed to :

-Attending kindergarten and including 80 preschoolers and their parents in counselling activities.

-Participation in School After School activities for 360 pupils from 6 schools with pupils at risk of dropping out.

-Enrolment and educational participation of 200 young people in the ADS programme.

-8 Education Caravans that promoted learning at all ages in 8 of the 12 communities with children at risk of dropping out.

-4 Educational Resource Centres equipped with telepresence equipment

-980 materials and video lessons that will make up the OER library on the e-galati platform.

The projects and partnerships between the CJRAE and the educational establishments aimed to:

-Workshops for teachers/school counsellors on school bullying.

-MARCH - Family Month "Happy parents, happy children!", joint student-parent-teacher activities at educational establishments

-Group or individual counselling of students on anti-discrimination at school.

-CCD project in collaboration with schools in Galați county "Inclusive school - a school for the community", where the local community (local council, town hall, police, church) was also involved.

Setting up committees/groups in schools:

-Committee for the prevention and elimination of violence, corruption and discrimination in the school environment and promotion of interculturality.

-The Anti-Bullying Task Force.

#### II.3.4.SWOT analysis at the level of Galați County School Inspectorate

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p><b>Curriculum</b> diversifying the programme of educational activities at the level of each class and educational unit; The content of the counselling and guidance classes focuses on the experience and learning acquired by students at school, in the family and in society; the existence of out-of-school educational offers in all educational establishments; to develop options in line with children's interests and needs and their prospects</p>	<p><b>Curriculum</b> neglecting the positive impact that extra-curricular and extracurricular educational activity has on the development of the pupil's personality; the formality of carrying out some of the tasks of the head teacher; <b>Material resources</b> Insufficient funding for school and extracurricular educational activities; the disinterest of some schools in attracting extra-budgetary funds for educational projects/programmes.</p>



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<p>for adapting to changes in society, as well as involvement in its development; the use of the latest learner-centred teaching methods in in-school and out-of-school educational activities to achieve and raise educational standards; making non-formal education more effective in order to improve the quality of education, reduce drop-outs and absenteeism, increase school motivation and promote lifelong learning; the finality of educational projects and programmes and the achievement of outstanding results through participation in various county, intercounty, national and international competitions;</p> <p><b>Material resources</b> the existence of institutions in the local/county community that logistically and materially support the development of educational projects and programmes; the very intense concern of some teachers about the acquisition of materials on educational activity.</p> <p><b>Human resources</b> Qualified teaching staff with the necessary skills to educate, evaluate and enhance the educational value; optimal and functional network for coordinating informal, formal and non-formal activities; providing school counselling and guidance with experienced teachers; carrying out extra-curricular activities appropriate to children's interests in most cases; involving students in various extracurricular activities.</p> <p><b>Community relations</b> promotion of the educational act in the community and society through the media coverage of extracurricular and extracurricular activities (performances, recitals, festivals, contests, competitions, campaigns, thematic exhibitions,</p>	<p><b>Human resources</b> uncertain status and lack of an allowance for teachers - coordinators of educational activity; teachers who are headteachers and have no further training in this area; the overloaded work of the coordinator of school and extracurricular educational programmes and projects; the small number of national experts to evaluate educational projects; an unsatisfactory dropout rate in socio-economically disadvantaged areas of the county; relatively few actions/projects/programmes targeting disadvantaged groups; lack of a culture of lifelong learning; insufficient concern of managers to develop a real quality culture in line with quality assurance legislation.</p> <p><b>Community relations</b> poor representation of community specificity in activities educational; low parental involvement in school activities, the disinterest of many parents in their children's background and concerns; the existence of partnerships that are more formal than for the benefit of children-pupils and parents; the purely formal attitude and approach maintained in the organisation of school and out-of-school educational activities by some teachers; teachers' leapfrogging involvement in non-formal educational activity; poor involvement of school management in supporting and organising educational projects; lack of community sponsors to support non-formal educational activity.</p>
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<p>TV broadcasts); the proper functioning of the school-family-community educational partnership with the support of governmental and non-governmental organisations; promotion and understanding of volunteering by teachers</p>	
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Threats</b></p>
<p>Harnessing educational potential in the area of training on different types of non-formal education; Diversification of the educational offer especially in rural areas; Pupils' interest in participating in school decision-making; Students' interest in getting involved in as many extracurricular activities as possible; Enhancing volunteering and developing young people's social awareness; Promoting intercultural dialogue to enhance the quality of community life; Initiating young people in project management, entrepreneurial activities and decision-making in order to complete their educational endeavours.</p>	<p>Demographic fluctuation, falling birth rates, emigration; The trend of decreasing public interest in education; Lack of interest of some families in children's education, leading to attitudes of rejection of children's enrolment in an form of education, i.e. low frequency. Negative mentality towards school and out-of-school educational activity; Busy school curricula that do not allow the development of the educational component, implicitly the personal development of students; The negative influence of the street and other influential environments on students and the lack of parental supervision.</p>

## II.4. Internal environment diagnosis at the level of pilot schools

### II.4.1. Gymnasial School no. 16 Galati

#### II.4.1.1. Human resources

In the school year 2021-2022 in the Secondary School No.16 there are 325 pupils, distributed as follows:

- 25 preschoolers (2 groups)
- 145 primary education (5 classes)
- 115 secondary education (7 classes)
- 40 Second Chance Programme (years of study)

The school's pupils reflect the community they are part of, with good and average results in the National Assessment and other school examinations and competitions. They are 100% urban. The school has x pupils with a diagnosis of CES, x Roma pupils and countless pupils from single-parent families or with parents working abroad.

There are 26 teachers working in the Gymnasial School No. 16 Galati, including:

- 14 holders
- 3 seconded officials
- 9 substitutes, of which, unqualified - 0



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Auxiliary teaching and non-teaching staff: 3 caretakers, 1 mechanic, 1 security guard and auxiliary non-teaching staff - 1 secretary, 1 accountant, 1 computer technician, 1 laboratory assistant.

#### II.4.1.2. Material resources

The enclosure of the Gymnasium School Nr.16 Galati benefits from 3 buildings, one of which is intended for the kindergarten of the Gymnasium School Nr. 16 Galati. The buildings were all built at the beginning of the 19th century. All buildings have been renovated several times. The school yard is spacious and has a basketball and football pitch and other recreational facilities.

Equipment, teaching means - In the three buildings the teaching process takes place in 14 classrooms - 2 x AEL Laboratory, Physics/Chemistry Laboratory, Gymnasium, 10 classrooms, library, medical office, secretary's office, director's office, chancellery. Most of them are equipped with video projector, learning materials, furniture, lockers, etc. The school has audio-video monitoring system and surveillance system.

#### II.4.1.3. Curriculum resources

The school applies the national curriculum, as well as the school's own curriculum, which diversifies the educational offer of the school.

#### II.4.1.4. Community relations

Secondary School No.16 is located in a central area, somewhat at the confluence of the Old City Centre and the neighbourhood called Central Square. A study published in the press on how the citizens of the city view this area highlights that the majority of the population in these neighbourhoods is over the age of two, with over 45% of the owners having owned a home for more than 20-30 years, making the average age in the area rise. As a result, and following the census conducted by our school at the beginning of each school year, the number of newborns is decreasing, which is also reflected in the number of enrollments in the preparatory class. From an economic point of view, the area is not characterised as an area with financial potential, as there are no very large businesses or firms in the area. The area is well connected to the other areas of the city, with public transport connections (tram, bus). The specificity of the area means that the members of our community belong to different strata of society, some of whom face poverty or social exclusion. Although it is not the only school in the area, the Gymnasium School No. 16 opens its doors to the pupils of the school district, but also to other members who come from neighbouring areas of the city where there are no schools, such as the area called Bădălan or Valea Oraşului. The others, sons and daughters of market traders, merchants, workers in various industries, complete our classes, which we strive to organise as homogeneous and heterogeneous. Among them there are many families registered with the Public Welfare Service, who are beneficiaries of the guaranteed minimum income and/or family support allowance. Although there is not a Roma community in the school's area, there are about 23% Roma pupils in our school and they are integrated into mainstream education in heterogeneous classes. The disadvantaged population is concentrated around certain streets, or regions of the neighbourhoods neighbouring our school, which often leads to a precarious aspect of the areas, open to a low level of education, open to dropping out of school or leading to reduced access to the labour market. Although the community itself is one marked by cultural and educational landmarks (in the vicinity there is the „Fani Tardini” Dramatic Theatre, the „Dunărea de Jos” Cultural Centre, the „Casa Cuza” History Museum), although access



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to education is free and members of our community are informed and morally supported, there are students who skip certain stages of education (such as early education) or who drop out immediately after the end of 8th grade, some even earlier.

II.4.1.5. Analysis of school and social inclusion issues (combating school drop-out and discrimination. Measures to reduce early school leaving, inclusion, desegregation).

Promoting a strategy of family involvement in school life, focused on the quality of students' education, on combating dropout and discrimination, contributes to changing mentalities in the approach to the relationship with the family, overcoming formalism and transforming it into an empathetic relationship, a real long-term partnership, for the benefit of all educational actors. School integration is a complex and long-term process, which refers to the inclusion of all children, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, in mainstream schools, or in arrangements as close as possible to them.

II.4.1.6. SWOT analysis at pilot school level

<p><b>TEACHING ACTIVITY STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>The school has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum material (framework plans for grades 1 to 8, school curricula, alternative textbooks), curricular aids (workbooks, application guides, tutorials); equipped library;</li> <li>Advising students and parents on the selection of optional subjects;</li> <li>Counselling programme for 8th grade students</li> <li>Additional remedial/performance training program with students wishing to participate in school Olympiads and competitions;</li> <li>Managerial leadership with openness to dialogue, reform, quality, performance;</li> </ul>	<p><b>TEACHING ACTIVITY WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focusing teaching projects sometimes on content and not on competences;</li> <li>Low parental involvement in extracurricular and extracurricular activities.</li> <li>Low student interest in participating in extra activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TEACHERS AND STUDENTS: OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-National Education Law Nr.1/2011</li> <li>Teachers have the possibility to choose textbooks and aids according to the specifics of the class</li> <li>Increased parental demand for the services the school provides.</li> <li>-qualified teaching staff, involved, open to innovation, trained for an information society;</li> </ul> <p><b>MATERIAL RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-good condition of buildings</li> </ul>	<p><b>TEACHERS AND STUDENTS: THREATS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not all pupils are able to buy school aids</li> <li>Busy programme, high volume of knowledge that needs to be accumulated in a short time</li> <li>-the inability to always provide continuity in the classroom due to staff turnover</li> <li>-demographic regression</li> <li>-the possibility for pupils to enrol at other schools in other school districts</li> </ul>



<p>-existence of the approvals required by law -Generous, well-equipped outdoor space adapted to the pupils (the kindergarten is painted on the outside, the football pitch is new, with a specific platform, etc.). <b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS</b> -open dialogue with representatives of the City Hall, Police, etc. -Prompt support from local institutions; -to adopt a friendly attitude based on respect towards parents. -Existence of school-community partnerships and educational programs; -Joint actions with the Centre for Prevention, Evaluation and Antidrug Counselling in order to prevent juvenile delinquency.</p>	<p>-the existence of pupils from Roma families, single-parent families or with parents who have gone abroad -large families with many siblings, low income -labelling of schools -the absence of a reading room, a counselling office. -difficulty in creating activities with students during holidays. -Extracurricular activities do not always provide for the training of pupils for social life.</p>
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## II.4.2.Secondary School no. 1, village Ungureni, com. Munteni

### II.4.2.1.Human resources

The school has the following human resources:

- 20 teachers, of which:
  - 18 full professors
  - 2 retired teachers
- 227 pupils, of which
  - 58 pre-school children
  - 104 pupils in primary education
  - 65 pupils in secondary school (1 institutionalized pupil)
- 84 Roma pupils
- 2 pupils with ESC

### II.4.2.2.Material resources

The school is over 100 years old, at the beginning there were only 2 classrooms, a chancellery and the hall. Over the years the building has been extended (1983-1985) and renovated (2010-2011).

The school has legal personality since 2011 and operates with a number of 9 classes (CP.- Cls.a-VIII) and 3 kindergarten groups, being structures of the school:

- Frunzeasca regular kindergarten
- Normal kindergarten Ungureni
- Normal program kindergarten Țigănești

Ungureni Secondary School No.1 has 8 educational spaces, including a computer laboratory (which contains outdated equipment), 7 classrooms, as well as a sports field, a library with more than 1650 volumes of which more than 800 were purchased after 1989, space for the secretariat, chancellery, school minibus.

### II.4.2.3.Curriculum resources

As regards the implementation of the national curriculum and the school's decision, the aim is:



- knowledge and application of the educational policy documents and the aims of primary and secondary education.
- preparation of the internal evaluation report.
- providing the core curriculum by establishing common content and achieving the expected outcomes.
- knowing the curriculum for the preparatory class and setting the contents taking it into account
- updating and adapting all programmes to the individual emotional, physical, social, intellectual and creative development needs of children
- increasing the quality of the evaluation process.
- analysis of evaluation results.

More than 90% of the optional subjects on offer meet the needs of pupils and parents by making them attractive

#### II.4.2.4. Community relations

Ungureni Secondary School No.1 has developed a relationship with the local community (Munteni Town Hall) in recent years, which has resulted in successful projects for the school.

These achievements provide our school pupils with an ideal climate of education and safety at high material standards, highlighted in the following list:

- Students work in a new, renovated building.
- The school infrastructure has been completely rebuilt, with new heating and plumbing installations;
- High material endowment, library, laboratory for computer classes;
- Security of the school and students is achieved with a high-performance video surveillance system.

All these realities have been possible thanks to the very close relationship between the school - the school management and the Munteni Town Hall management, which has understood since the foundation of the commune that the school belongs to the community, of which we are all proudly a part, and that only through joint projects, close collaboration, professionalism, principle and fairness can important things be done to develop the community.

II.2.2.5. Analysis of school and social inclusion issues (combating early school leaving and discrimination. Measures to reduce early school leaving, inclusion, desegregation).

#### 1. Difficulties encountered by the school in preventing and reducing early school leaving

- Low level of income per family
- Involving children in seasonal work and caring for younger siblings
- Migration of parents abroad (leads to temporary withdrawal from school)
- Level of education of parents
- Parents with dysfunctional parenting roles
- How people perceive the benefits of home schooling
- Children with disabilities and special educational needs
- Health condition, early marriage especially in Roma children, other personal reasons
- poverty, low employment opportunities and low parental participation in education in many rural/suburban communities; high PTR among Roma children is also associated with poverty and cultural factors



## 2. Measures taken to combat early school leaving

- Provision of free school bus transport
- Organising and expanding the School-to-School programme to include remedial learning
  - Friendly school for all children and adults in the community;
- School counsellor providing support to pupils and families in coping with major difficulties and implementing targeted programmes to prevent and combat absenteeism and prevent dropout
  - A collaborative approach to reducing early school leaving at local level with public institutions.

- Providing a wide range of accessible extra-curricular and out-of-school activities - sports activities, competitions

### II.4.2.6.SWOT analysis at pilot school level

#### Curriculum

Strengths	Weaknesses
The school has: -Curricular materials (framework plans for grades I-VIII, curricula, alternative textbooks), curricular aids (workbooks, application guides, guides); -Consulting students in selecting optional subjects; -Additional preparation program for recovery/performance with students; Increased interest of teachers in reading alternative textbooks; -Attractive DCDS; -Managerial leadership with openness to reform, quality, performance.	-The focus of teaching projects, sometimes on contents and not on competences; -too little use of student-centred teaching-learning-assessment methods; -Few extracurricular activities in some classes.
Opportunities	Threats
-National Education Law Nr.1/2011 -Large supply of teaching aids allowing a rigorous selection for purchase. -Increasing parents' demand for the services offered by the school, their willingness to collaborate	-Not all students have the possibility to buy school aids -School subject overload

#### Human resources

Strengths	Weaknesses
-Teaching staff, qualified teacher -Counselling of pupils by specialised support staff (school counsellor)	-Demographic regression resulting in a decrease in the number of students; -Home-based school population; -Competing schools in the area;



-Well-trained auxiliary teaching staff in all departments and conscientious and disciplined non-teaching staff	-The lack of special provisions in school legislation allowing teachers who are disinterested in their own professional development to be warned/sanctioned.
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
-applications from other localities (Slobozia Blăneasa) -Variety of training and further training courses organised by CCD. -The prospect of decentralisation in the employment of teaching staff; -Training teachers for a digital society	-Conservatism and resistance to change by some teachers; -Little concern on the part of some teachers for their own professional development; -Lack of an accurate database on the school population in the district; -Students from disorganized families or with parents working abroad; -Overloading of job descriptions of management staff, teachers, etc; -Submission of urgent works and unrealistic deadlines for some requested works

Material and financial resources

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
-Excellent physical condition of the building; -School rooms fitted out in accordance with European standards (parquet, panelling, new furniture, blinds); -Library equipped -very good material and informational support; -Didactic, documentary and informational material; -Internet connection -Participation of the school in projects and programmes with different funding -Existence of a school computer network	Lack of space for the creation of a documentation office with a reading room; a psycho-pedagogical counselling office. -Inadequate use of modern equipment in the educational process; -The absence of a gym (physical education classes are held in a gym)
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
-Development of extra-curricular activities; possibility to access national and international funded projects -Interest from the school community in the educational offer of the school; -Material and financial support from the local community, local council -Financial decentralisation;	-The accelerated pace of technological change leads to moral wear and tear on existing equipment; -The high price of teaching materials and limited funds do not allow for adequate provision for all classes; -The cumbersome system of purchasing teaching aids;



<p>-Possibility of obtaining extra-budgetary funds.</p>	<p>-The moral awareness of students regarding the preservation and maintenance of spaces school.</p>
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#### 4. Community relations

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Very good relations with the City Council, Town Hall, Police Station, Church, Gendarmerie, Fire Brigade;</li> <li>-The prompt support given by Police and Community Police representatives to solve problems that arise;</li> <li>-building a parent-friendly environment and attitude</li> <li>Informing parents about events in the school;</li> <li>-Opening the school to an active and real partnership with the family</li> <li>-Existence of school-community partnerships and educational programs;</li> <li>-Joint actions with the Centre for Prevention, -Anti-drug Assessment and Counselling in order to prevent juvenile delinquency;</li> <li>-The development of numerous programs, projects and partnerships with the community.</li> <li>-Increased need for communication with the local community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lack of a programme of activities for pupils' free time (especially during holidays)</li> <li>-Education in school does not always emphasize the formation of attitudes necessary for participation in community life</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Good communication with school partners;</li> <li>-Maintaining a state of discipline and security for students</li> <li>-Facilitating collaboration with specialists from different fields for quality learning;</li> <li>-Efficient and prompt cooperation with public administration institutions local;</li> <li>-Developing and promoting the positive image of the school;</li> <li>-Developing partnerships with the local community and getting involved in European projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Level of education limited in some parents;</li> <li>-The interest of some families in children's education;</li> <li>-Aggressions from the community towards students (moral, verbal, physical);</li> <li>-Damage to tangible property</li> </ul>





## Chapter III. Conclusions. Educational needs identified.

### III.1. Common needs at partnership level

From the analysis of the state of the communities and the two county education systems partnering in the project, from the diagnosis of the internal and external environment, the following needs and areas of intervention were identified:

- increasing the quality of the educational process through the knowledge of quality standards by all actors in education, applying these specific standards by educational levels, diversifying the methods, procedures and techniques of assessment to individualization, focusing the teaching approach on the real needs of the student (pedocentric school);
- strengthening institutional capacity through effective educational services for pre-school children, pupils and teachers: training of teachers for virtual teaching, optimising guidance and counselling activities, ensuring a healthy, desegregated and inclusive school environment, additional training programme, health care services, etc.
- supporting schools in improving their infrastructure and equipment, especially IT equipment, advising schools in the development of projects eligible for European non-reimbursable funds, in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic;
- advising project teams implementing / running projects at local, county/national/European/international level and creating organisational structures for new educational programmes aimed at supporting children / pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, intervention programmes targeting pupils whose parents are working abroad, programmes to combat absenteeism and the risk of dropping out of school, segregation and discrimination of any kind, etc..;
- development of educational partnerships, partnerships with economic agents in order to improve the quality and efficiency of vocational training and for a better social integration of graduates;
- training professional managers, changing educational vision and practices from management to leadership as a vision focused on student performance;
- funding the schooling plan for the 2021-2022 school year together with the social partners, based on the analysis of the educational needs of pupils and their parents' interests, the systematic evaluation of the evolution of the labour market (in accordance with PLAI and PRAI);
- providing in-service training for teaching staff to cover the whole need, both at institutional and individual level, especially in the field of teaching-learning and online assessment; extending collaboration with training providers at European level;
- promotion of the European dimension in education, of the values of multiculturalism, inclusion and non-discrimination, support for programmes/projects focused on knowledge, respect and valorisation of cultural and linguistic diversity at local, county, national and European level.

## Chapter IV. Partnership mission and vision for school and social inclusion and desegregation of vulnerable groups

### IV.1. Mission

The **MISSION** of the two partner school inspectorates in the project is to train and educate young generations, within an educational system developed on the basis of European





standards and values, on competences and assumed responsibility, on inclusion, non-discrimination and desegregation.

In order to achieve this goal, the partner school inspectorates, together with the pilot schools, have the mission to apply the policies and strategies of the Ministry of Education at the level of the two development regions (North East and South East) and the two counties (Vaslui and Galati), to promote an educational management of quality that facilitates: compliance with national and European standards, performance indicators in teaching-learning-assessment activities and management of educational units and institutions, promotion and development of a friendly, inclusive, desegregated, non-discriminatory educational environment for all children; this strategy is intended to lead to the compatibility of projective approaches with those of action and evaluation, adaptation to the challenges of online schooling, monitoring and evaluation of the instructional-educational process and educational services, supporting the institutional development of educational units, introducing the dimension of intercultural communication and strategic institutional and inter-institutional communication, so that the educational systems of the two partner counties in the project are competitive at national and European level.

#### IV.2. Vision

**The VISION** of the two partner school inspectorates in the project is driven by the imperative of raising the school to European quality standards, conducive to promoting modern education in a friendly, inclusive, non-discriminatory school environment and ensuring highly competitive human resources.

In this respect, the partner institutions in the project aim to work together professionally, confidently, objectively and competitively in order to achieve the objectives proposed by the project, to create an inclusive, desegregated, stimulating and motivating environment for all categories of beneficiaries.

The implementation of national and county educational policies is based on the enhancement and valorization of human resources, evaluation with a sense of development for the promotion and recognition of authentic values in the national and European community context.

The basic principles of European policy designed for the 2021-2027 programming period will be promoted: inclusion and diversity, non-discrimination and desegregation, environmental responsibility and sustainability, digital education, active participation in the creation of the European Education Area. The partner institutions in the project will also base all their activities on fundamental values such as: school and social inclusion, respect for human dignity, tolerance, equal opportunities, non-discrimination and desegregation, respect for multiculturalism and ethnic and linguistic diversity.

In achieving the proposed objectives, the partner institutions will identify the educational needs of the local and county communities and the vision of the different groups of direct and indirect beneficiaries, in order to find the best solutions for the development of a friendly, inclusive and non-discriminatory school environment, to attract the material, financial and human resources necessary for the harmonious development of all children.



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### **Cap. V.Strategic objectives**

**OS1.Increase the quality of educational services provided by the school in order to combat school drop-out, discrimination and segregation.**

**OS2.Train teachers in school and social inclusion of all pupils, especially those from vulnerable groups.**

**OS3.Develop a programme of complementary measures to prevent and combat discrimination and segregation in schools.**

**SO4.Improve the quality of educational services provided by the school in order to develop a positive image and self-esteem in pupils from vulnerable groups.**

The strategic objectives will be achieved through action planning, with deadlines and responsibilities, with performance indicators to be established for regular monitoring and evaluation. The strategic objectives will be operationalised in the general management plans of the Vaslui County School Inspectorate and the Galati County School Inspectorate, as well as in those of the pilot schools involved in the project during the implementation of the project and during the sustainability period of three years after the end of the extended funding.



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