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## THE PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT IN ROMANIA COMPARATIVE WITH THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

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**Abstract:** *This article presents the situation of food insecurity in Romania comparative with the neighbouring countries. One of the main signs of food insecurity is hunger, which is determined by the prevalence of undernutrition. The incidence of undernourishment and severe food insecurity therefore represent the burden of severe food deprivation in the population, regardless of the differences in assessment techniques and data sources.*

### • Introduction

In Romania, 4,6% of the population is food insecure, even though each romanian additionally wastes 173 kg of food annually, respectively almost 500 g per day, in both direct and indirect ways. People suffer of food insecurity when they do not have regular acces to sufficient safe and nutritious food in order to live a healthy life and to develop normally.

While the population of developed and developing countries is in the positive segment of food security and generates enormous quantity of food waste, at the same time, the population of underdeveloped countries, but also a part of developing countries, suffer from undernourishment, malnutrition and even die from lack of food.

### • Material and method

The study presents a research based on external data, related to the prevalence of undernourishment in Romania and its neighbouring states from 2001 to 2020, provided by Our World in Data. Those secondary and tertiary external data were analyzed and interpreted by the authors, using established methods of analysis and interpretation.

### • Results and discussions

Due to the fact that if the prevalence of undernourishment reaches odds below 2,5% the data is no reported. Romania and Hungary are in this situation, which from 2001 to 2020 remained at the percentage of less than 2,5%. Moldova has not reported the prevalence of undernourishment in any of these years.

In Romania, from 2001 to 2020 the prevalence of undernourishment measured constanly 2,5%, which means that the percentage was under 2,5%. There were some important historical events that took place these years and have to be mentioned. In March 2004, Romania has become a member country of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and from January 2007 it became a member of European Union. In 2008, there was a financial crisis that evaporated almost 30 billion euros from the Romania' economy.

### • Conclusions

The phenomen of undernourishment during these 20 years has not been constant in all the presented countries and as pointed out previously, the major changes regarding the prevalence of undernourishment occurred in Serbia and Bulgaria. Of all the 5 countries, Bulgaria had the highest value of the prevalence of undernourishment, meaningly 5,1%.