



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ANALYSIS OF HUNEDOARA COUNTY IN THE PERIOD 2013-2023

TOMUȚA GEORGETA ANGELICA¹, ADAMOV TABITA CORNELIA¹, BĂNEȘ ADRIAN²,
MILIN IOANA ANDA¹, ORBOI MANUELA – DORA¹

*¹University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara, Faculty of Management and Rural
Tourism, 119 Calea Aradului, 300645, Timis, Timisoara, Romania*

²Romanian Academy - Timișoara Branch, 24 Mihai Viteazu Blv., 300223, Timiș, Timișoara

Abstract: *The paper "Economic and Social Analysis of Hunedoara County" aims to provide a detailed assessment of the economic and social processes in Hunedoara County. The analysis is based on quantitative data from official sources, such as the National Institute of Statistics and the National Employment Agency. The study focuses on two major directions: the county's economy and the social aspects that influence the quality of life of the population.*

• Introduction

Hunedoara County, located in the central-western part of Romania, in the West development region, has a history marked by industrial activities, especially in the mining and steel sectors. After 1989, Hunedoara County experienced a difficult transition from a centralized industrialized economy to a market one, characterized by restructuring, increasing unemployment and migration. In the last decade, in the period analyzed between 2013 and 2023, Hunedoara has gone through a complex process of economic and social adaptation, with varied effects on the population, infrastructure and business environment.

Based on the detailed economic and social analysis for the period 2013-2023, the main challenges and opportunities for the sustainable economic and social development of Hunedoara County can be identified. These are interconnected and require an integrated strategic approach.

• Material and method

The socio-economic context of Hunedoara County is complex, with a rich industrial history, but faced with major challenges related to economic restructuring and the need to attract new development opportunities. The analysis is based on quantitative data from official sources, such as the National Institute of Statistics and the National Employment Agency. From an economic perspective, the paper analyzes the structure of the main economic sectors in the county, placing particular emphasis on the transition from an industrial economy, dominated by mining and steel, to a diversified economy, which includes tourism, agriculture, IT and services. On the social level, the paper examines the demographic dimension, forced migration, education and health, with a special focus on the migration of young generations and its effects on local human capital.

• Results and discussions

The consequences of population aging and migration represent significant challenges for the labor market, pension system, and social services in Hunedoara County, similar to trends observed at national and European levels.

GDP per capita increased from approximately 23,500 lei in 2013 to 47,000 lei in 2023, but the growth rate was lower than the national average. This growth was influenced by the development of the service sector and one-off investments in tourism. The unemployment rate decreased from 8.2% in 2013 to 4.9% in 2023, with significant fluctuations during the pandemic period (2020-2021), when it temporarily exceeded 9%. The county's population decreased from 400,000 inhabitants in 2013 to 355,000 in 2023. The decrease is caused by the low birth rate, youth migration and the aging of the population. The aging rate (over 65 years old) increased from 18.2% to 23.7%. The school dropout rate has decreased from 3.4% to 2.1%, and access to health services has improved in urban areas, but remains deficient in rural areas.

• Conclusions

Capitalizing on economic, social, and sustainable development opportunities requires a strategic vision, coherent public policies, smart investments, and effective collaboration between all relevant actors in Hunedoara County. By focusing on the region's strengths and adapting to global trends, the county can build a sustainable economic and social future for all its residents.

The consistent and coordinated implementation of the recommendations for political and economic decision-makers in Hunedoara County can significantly contribute to transforming Hunedoara County into a vibrant, socially inclusive, and sustainable economic region with a high quality of life for all its citizens.