



PATRIMONIAL PATTERN OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT. CASE STUDY: THE RURAL COMMUNITIES FROM ȚARA HAȚEG RETEZAT AREA¹

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Abstract

There is an non-voluntary experiment, carried out in the Romanian rural communities, which uses certain parsimonious intervention modalities, by which modernization and development, if not delayed, they have been delegated to other players.

*The case of rural communities from Țara Hațeg Retezat, in which the main resource is the patrimony **and the main development pattern is the patrimonial pattern** implicitly, in terms of sustainability, is illustrative for this type of experiment. The patrimony is a territorial resource for the construction and alternative development of rural areas, which develops into a social construction that structures and differentiates the rural subsystems in Țara Hațegului - Retezat.*

Keywords: rural patrimony, socio-ecological balance, traditional agriculture

Jel Classification: Q15, Q56, R11

Introduction

The rural area of Țara Hațegului-Retezat consists of 11 communities and a border area of the town of Hațeg and it has a noticeable social and economic potential, yet insufficiently valued, with resources in all its areas, unequally distributed.

The study conducted in the rural area of Țara Hațegului was related to the ecological connectivity requirements: change in patrimonial vision, in the sense of a functional approach to the natural systems. The place and the protected areas were redefined in an enlarged territorial context, in which the relations between the local players have new attributes.

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In the context of possible ecological networks in Țara Hațegului, the environment protection measures should be re-evaluated to encourage the sustainable exploitation of the entire patrimony: "...the concept of ecological network refers both to the conservation of nodal areas, with a particular importance attached to biotypes, which have similar characteristics with the nodal ones, and to the rational use of territory" (Kohler, Y., Scheure, T., Ullrich, A., 2009, p.3).

Literature review

The present rural development patterns are based upon the inter-conditioning of processes, resources and factors that are characteristic of a defined space. The correlated analysis of the social factors and environment represents redefining modalities of the nature-society relations, "...the territory became a reaction, intervention mode, making it possible for the patrimonial development forms to emerge. This results from the togetherness of players favorable to the emergence of the new organization modalities around the existing resources" (Landel P.A., Senil, N., *Patrimoine et teritoire, les nouvelles ressources du développement*, 2009). Among the Romanian studies concerning the deciphering of development on the basis of social processes, we can list the academic studies conducted by the Research Institute for Quality of Life, such as: Bogdan Voicu, "*Social Capital as Premise for Sustainable Development*" (2008) and Ana Maria Preoteasa, "*Employment Phenomenon and Sustainable Development*" (2008).

At international level, the main theories were developed by Pierre Bourdieu (*Types of Capital*, 1986); he differentiates between three forms of capital: economic, cultural and social; Robert Putnam (*Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, 2000), the main advocate of the social capital concept (yet not its creator) considers that this concept "refers to the collective value of all social networks"; Nan Lin (2001), who has a more individualistic approach to the social capital concept of "investments in social relations of returns". The social relations as driving engines of economic, ecological and social sustainability represented the main subject of development patterns (Callois Jean Marc, 2006). The sociological dimension of the economic and social development were investigated by Abdmouleh Ridha (2009), Beaurain Cristophe (2009), Zacai Edwin and Villalba Bruno (2006), Bourdeau Philippe (2009).

Methodology and data

The social and sociological structures, the rural systems in different maturity and operation stages may be investigated on the basis of case studies; the methodology used was mainly qualitative (which allowed for the use of questionnaires). The SPSS Program and the ATLAS Program were used for qualitative analysis. Statistical analyses and the EXCEL Program were used for the investigation of the demographic processes.

Patrimonial Pattern of Rural Development

In terms of patrimonial development pattern, "the demographic patrimony" enables the local economy to develop by multiple valorizations of territories, from the modernization of agricultural structures to the development of multiple forms of rural

tourism. Under this dimension, the focus is laid both on the emancipation of economic (agricultural, non-agricultural) structures and on the revival of “local identity” and of demographic identity.

a) The Demographic Patrimony

Țara Hațegului-Retezat consists of a complex system of rural settlements, characterized by their territorial distribution in a large ecological site and by demographic and social histories resulting from the location in a macro-region/region benefitting from industrial modernization policies, and from significant migration flows. From the *dimensional point of view*, the 11 communes – component entities of the rural system of Țara Hațegului-Retezat, comprise 84 villages, the average number of villages by each commune being 7.6 villages; 54.5% of communes have a smaller number of villages than the average, while 45.5% were above this average. This indicator reveals the concentration of the population in the communes (Annex 1).

The average distance of the 84 villages belonging to the commune residence village is 4.3 km, with significant variations from one commune to another; 47 villages have an average distance to the commune residence village below the average, while 37 villages were exceeding this value. The rural area of Țara Hațegului-Retezat also includes 3 villages belonging to the town Hațeg (Silvașu de Sus, Silvașu de Jos and Nălațvad).

The rural demographic potential of Țara Hațegului-Retezat has great statistical significance, which is one of the fundamental arguments of the specific rurality of this area. Currently, the rural population accounts for 71.0% of the total population of Țara Hațegului-Retezat (Table 1).

Table 1
Evolution of Rural Population in Țara Hațegului-Retezat

- Persons-

Commune	Number	Number of villages/average number of villages
Baru	4	0.524
Breteia Română	13	1.702
Densuș	7	0.917
General Berthelot	5	0.655
Pui	12	1.571
Răchitova	5	0.655
Râu de Mori	9	1.179
Sarmizegetusa	5	0.655
Sălașu de Sus	11	1.440
Sântămaria Orlea	9	1.179
Totești	4	0.524
Total	84	

Source: information obtained on the basis of Commune Fiche, 2009.

From the demographic point of view, Țara Hațegului-Retezat is characterized by the high proportion of rural population. The rural population diminution is a slow process,

its spatial development being determined by the intensity of endogenous economic and demo-economic factors.

The territorial distribution analysis of rural population reveals an *imbalanced spatial pattern* specific to this area. The population density changed slightly, from 18.5 inhabitants/ km² in 2002 to 17.9 inhabitants/km² in 2008.

There is a rural typology related to the density dynamics, defined by two categories of communes:

- communes with relatively densely populated spatial patterns: Totești, Sântămăria Orlea and General Berthelot, with relatively significant and constantly increasing values;
- communes with low population density spatial patterns: Baru, Bretea Română, Densuș, Pui, Răchitova, Râu de Mori, Sălașu de Sus, Sarmizegetusa.

The physical density diminution trend reveals a series of demographic and economic difficulties that the respective rural areas are facing.

A demographic characteristic, with implications for reorienting the economic and social development of the rural area, is represented by the polarization into two large categories: communes with low population density and communes with high and relatively significant densities.

The density analysis from the perspective of land resources reveals one of the specific aspects of this area: the *agricultural land per capita* indicator has maximum values up to 4.9 ha of agricultural land/capita in the case of the commune Râu de Mori, while the average value of this indicator in Țara Hațegului-Retezat is 2.7 ha of agricultural land/capita (Table 2).

This is a result of the diminution in rural population and in the number of agricultural hectares specific to a basin area.

Table 2

Spatial Distribution of Density

- hectares of agricultural land/capita -

Commune	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009	%*
Baru	3370	3198	3027	2954	2908	86,2
Bretea Română	3492	3399	3300	2961	2969	85,0
Densuș	2306	2017	1895	1710	1580	68,5
General Berthelot	1105	1018	959	995	987	89,3
Pui	5307	4901	4715	4554	4456	83,9
Răchitova	2002	1712	1501	1396	1347	67,2
Râu de Mori	4517	3644	3604	3409	3236	71,6
Sarmizegetusa	1582	1548	1462	1374	1297	81,9
Sălașu de Sus	3300	3049	2802	2639	2449	74,1
Sântămăria Orlea	3999	3677	3526	3327	3267	81,6
Totești	2390	1943	1896	1848	1913	80,0
Total	33.370	30106	28687	27167	26409	79,1

*percentage decrease

Source: NIS data

From the demographic point of view, the rural population structure by gender is maintained within limits that allow for the normal development of specific social and economic processes.

Long-term statistical analysis, i.e.1990–2009, reveals a noticeable increase in the female population share, which did not result into demo-economic imbalances; the female population share in total increased from 49.6% in 1990 to 50.7% in 2009.

The rural population is not characterized by structural disequilibrium by genders, the male population deficit being maintained within the limits of demographic normality (Annex 2).

The spatial distribution of the slow modifications, with relatively significant values, of the structure by gender was determined by the migration flows, by the economic capital of rural communities and by the specificity of the values and expectations of the male population. This distribution should be one of the significant factors in the materialization of community development strategies.

The characteristic process for the rural population of Țara Hațegului-Retezat is the population ageing. The ageing index increased from 99.0% in 2002 to 110.0% in 2007. In the communes, the maximum value was found with the population of the rural community Sălașu de Sus, i.e. 196.4%, while the minimum value with the population of the locality Sântămaria Orlea, 83.8% (Table 3). The characteristic of this process resides in the fact that the ageing process had a low rate in the rural communities where the population had a high demographic ageing index (Sălașu de Sus, Sarmizegetusa), but had a fast rate in the rural communities where the ageing process had not reached alarming levels from the demographic and social point of view.

Table 3
Spatial Distribution of the Ageing Index *

- %-

Commune / Year	2002	2006	2008
Baru	2.0	2.0	2.0
Bretea Română	2.2	2.3	2.3
Densuș	3.4	2.4	2.5
General Berthelot	2.3	2.0	2.0
Pui	2.6	2.6	2.7
Răchitova	2.8	2.5	2.6
Râu de Mori	4.7	4.8	4.9
Sălașu de Sus	3.8	4.1	4.2
Sântămaria Orlea	1.3	1.2	1.2
Sarmizegetusa	3.1	3.2	3.3
Totești	1.0	1.0	0.9
Total	2.7	2.6	2.7

* Computed as (persons aged +60 years / persons aged below 20 years)*100.

Source: NIS data

The ageing process was fast, mainly with the female population of the rural area, the same pattern being also followed in the case of the ageing evolution: the already aged population has a much faster growth rate as compared to the younger population,

while the female population, already showing strong ageing, continued to grow older at a much faster rate as compared to the male population.

Table 4
Evolution of the Demographic Dependency Ratio*

-% -

Commune / Year	2002	2006	2007
Baru	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02
Bretea Română	-0.02	-0.03	-0.01
Densuş	-0.03	-0.02	-0.01
General Berthelot	-0.05	-0.04	-0.05
Pui	0.00	0.00	0.00
Răchitova	-0.03	-0.04	-0.04
Râu de Mori	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Sălaşu de Sus	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02
Sântămaria Orlea	-0.01	-0.03	-0.02
Sarmizegetusa	0.01	-0.01	-0.02
Toteşti	-0.02	-0.01	0.00
Total	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02

* Computed as (persons aged below 20 years + persons aged 60 years and over/persons aged 21-59 years)*100.

Source: NIS data

The structural disequilibrium by gender implies the pressure of old population on the young population, the consequences shifting at social level. The values of the *demographic dependency ratio* are symptomatic from this perspective.

The values of the *demographic dependency ratio* generated by own demographic movements and changes are quite high; as a trend, they are subject to a continuous diminution.

The structural disequilibrium by age has major consequences for the choice and implementation of sustainable development strategies of rural communities.

The natural movement of the demographic capital has significant implications for the development and modernization of economic and social structures specific to rural communities. The birth rate decrease is a defining phenomenon: in 2002, the number of live births to 1000 inhabitants was 8.4‰, while in 2008 it reached 7.3‰. The general mortality index decreased from 18.6‰ to 16.5‰ over the same period; the natural population increase had an obvious decreasing trend, from 10.3‰ in 2002 to 9.2‰ in 2008. The spatial evolution of these indicators is different in relation to the nature and intensity of endogenous factors of economic and social nature.

The accentuation of marital relations formalization by the increase in the number of marriages and diminution in the number of divorces are statistically visible symptoms of the consolidation of rural communities in this area, of increase in the rural stability. The number of marriages in the Bretea Română and Sântămaria Orlea communes increased from 2.6 ‰ in 2002 to 8.6‰ in 2008 and from 6.2‰ in 2002 to 9.1‰ in 2008, respectively.

A specific life quality indicator is the *infant death rate*; its values were on the rise, from 13.0‰ in 2002 to 20.5‰ in 2008; the causes of this situation can be found in the significant worsening of the living standard and in the precarious rural health system.

The rural communities with critical social problems from this point of view are General Berthelot, Pui, Sălașu de Sus and Sarmizegetusa.

The rural communities are also affected by the migration flows in their economic and social development process. The *net migration rate* has positive values, and the rural stability, from the statistical analysis perspective, is confirmed by the positive evolution of migration flows; in 2002 the net migration rate was 115, reaching 192 in 2008 (Annex 3).

In conclusion, the demographic system of the rural communities of Țara Hațegului-Retezat is characterized by:

- *Demographic processes*, defined by the decrease in the demographic and migration volumes, indicating a complex situation due to contradictory aspects. The rural population decreased significantly, at a low rate: over the period 1990-2009 the population decreased by 348 persons/year, on average; the spatial distribution of this demographic phenomenon has a typology consisting of three categories (Table 5). From the perspective of implications of such demographic process, they are concentrated in the socio-economic sphere of the rural system.

Table 5

The demographic process of rural population diminution in Țara Hațegului-Retezat

Tendency of demographic decrease process	Communes
Non-significant evolution – minor decrease	General Berthelot, Sălașu de Sus
Significant evolution – average decrease	Baru, Bretea Română, Totești
Deeply significant evolution – significant decrease	Densuș, Pui, Răchitova, Râu de Mori, Sântămărie Orlea, Sarmizegetusa

Source: Author's own calculations

The population diminution is explained not only by the general death rate increase, but also by the diminution in the natural population growth determined by the negative evolution of the general fertility rate: from 38.5 in 2002 to 34.3 in 2008. On the other hand, the migration flows had moderate intensities, the sense being positive for the entire rural system of Țara Hațegului-Retezat. A typology of migration flows according to essential structural modifications was found (Table 6).

Table 6

The Migration of Rural Population of Țara Hațegului-Retezat

Tendency of the migration process	Communes
Structural modification by changing the migration sense from – to +	Densuș, Răchitova, Sălașu de Sus
Quantitative modification by positive flow increase	Bretea Română, Pui, Sântămăria-Orlea, Sarmizegetusa
Quantitative modification by positive flow decrease	Baru, General Berthelot, Râu de Mori, Totești

Source: Author's own calculations

- The *demographic phenomena* are specific to a population number in decline caused by the demographic and economic factors defining the Țara Hațegului-Retezat rural area. The natural population increase saw a slight decline, from – 10.3 to – 9.2 (2002-2008). The demographic typology based on the natural population increase evolution reveals the existence of four categories according to the demographic viability of communities that are part of the rural system of Țara Hațegului. The process of demographic viability recovery was quite slow, but continuous over the period 2002-2008 (Table 7).

Table 7

Demographic Viability in Relation to the Demographic Phenomena Specific to the Rural population of Țara Hațegului-Retezat

Tendency of demographic phenomena	Communes
Low demographic viability –the negative natural population increase is down	Sarmizegetusa,Răchitova,General Berthelot
Low demographic viability – the negative natural population increase is slightly up	Totești,Sântămaria Orlea
Low demographic viability – the negative natural population increase is slightly down	Baru,BreteiaRomână
Critical demographic viability by the increase of the negative natural population increase	Densuș,Pui

Source: own calculation

- The *demographic events* reveal, by their statistical evolution, positive aspects that can induce stability and consistency at rural family level. The marriage rate was up from 5.2% to 5.9% over the period 2002-2008, while the divorce rate was down from 2.0% to 1.1%.

b) The social patrimony

The “social patrimony”, included in the sustainable development matrix, can be investigated by means of the quantifiable consequences reflected in the rural economy sphere:

- social relations with positive effects (information dissemination, exchange of knowledge and information, internalization of the interests of the group to which the rural players belong) in the local economy sphere;

- “trust radius”- evaluator of the contribution of social relations to development sustainability, permitting the conciliation of the outward opening with the stability of relations.

The “social patrimony” in the development pattern was illustrated through traditional agriculture. Expression of historicity and territorial identity, the traditional products obtained in the rural area of Țara Hațegului show a wide and rich range, from tourism products, the supply including natural parks and reservations, cultural and ethnographic objectives, to agricultural products. The traditional tourism and agricultural products are the cultural and economic response to the biodiversity in the Hațeg area and to the agricultural diversity of the rural communities in particular: closely linked to their area of origin, these products feature particular soil-climate characteristics and the technical and organizational specificity of the territory. They

are based on certain local resources specific to the Hațeg rural area, both material and immaterial, and cannot be reproduced outside the local context. In general, this category of agricultural products is considered as a tool that can be used for the protection of local culture, of zonal traditions, for supporting the rural dynamics, mainly in the hilly and mountainous areas, less favored because of the scarcity of viable alternatives.

The strongest traditionalism is perceived at zonal level for animal husbandry, the ewe cheese production as occupation being related to the sheep raising tradition at zonal level; there is also an obvious tradition in bee honey production, which has a narrower scope, as it is generated by rural micro-systems, a community or neighboring communities. The whole rural area, as an economic and cultural complex, generated a strong traditionalism materialized in the production of certain ecological products, due to the natural factors. Another dimension of zonal traditionalism is materialized in its dissemination at the level of close/neighbor community entities. The strongest process that influences the tradition of a certain activity and, consequently, the production of ecological agricultural products is the "actional contagion"; the social efficiency is proved by the great number of answers referring to the existing influence within the local community, of social imitation of the neighbors' and relatives' activities. The traditional activity development implies the existence of a motivational complex structured by economic impulses – financial benefits – or by personal impulses – passion, behavioral patterns acquired in the family of origin. In the case of traditional livestock production, there is a motivational complex ranging from behavioral production habits to occupational passions that depend on the educational level, entrepreneurial skills and the farmers' occupational status. The traditional crop production activities have a motivational structure in which the financial reasons prevail; the second category of reasons is generated by the habits inherited within the family of origin, strengthened and permanently revived by the presence of older generations, participating in all the specific activities of obtaining an agricultural product. In the case of special traditional ecological products, which do not fall into the category of animal or crop products, there is a motivational complex consisting of financial, entrepreneurial elements, as well as of existing behavioral habits in the family of origin. The traditionalism matrix is applied to the household/farm where ecological products are obtained, from the production technologies to the distribution of roles, to the decisional pattern. Regardless of the product type, animal or vegetable product, there is a structuring of responsibilities and activities by technological or commercial segments in order to maximize the expected income. In the structure of technological activities, each member has certain tasks that are determined by the knowledge he/she has and by the physical power to fulfill them. The desire to obtain products appreciated on the market always prevails and all the family members are involved in obtaining them.

The traditional pattern is also materialized in the labor force use: it is only in the case of households producing vegetable products that different modalities to hire workers were used; in general, mutual help in work is a common practice, based upon neighbors and relatives, a variant completed by paid labor.

The production system of ecological agricultural products follows the matrix inherited from the family and it is permanently adapted to the natural and weather conditions.

Production in the traditional system is based on the non-transferable specificity of the material elements – crop varieties, animal breeds – and of immaterial elements – local culture and knowledge. The traditional ecological product has an “archetypal” pattern resulting from the spatialized collective tradition. The economic and social viability opportunities for producing a certain type of traditional ecological product depend on the modality in which a farmer can support and reproduce the “archetypal” model of the traditional product and can sell it.

The results of our analysis with regard to the household farm typology prove the following:

- *The subsistence farms with commercial functions for vegetable products* promote a unitary social network. Structurally, the network is characterized by the farmer’s actional, value relations, fundamental for the entire production and marketing process. The farmers build their network according to specific differentiations: 1. generated by the “technological traditionalism”, “specific treatments”; 2. generated by the “marketing traditionalism” and the nature of “perceiving the resources” from the producer’s own household; 3. generated by the perception focusing on certain resources – mainly agricultural and human resources (Annex 4).

- *The subsistence farms with commercial functions for the animal products.* In this case, the networks generated by the economic players get more complicated, depending on the demo-economic specificity of the households involved in the production of traditional ecological agricultural products. The representative producers for this category have much wider networks as compared to the producers of vegetable products, depending on: 1. the local and zonal traditionalism, motivation and social type of activity, describing two types from the morphological and structural point of view: a simplified type of network and a larger network, in which the motivational attributes are much more explicit and comprehensive; 2. the technical traditionalism of the product is strongly differentiated by personal characteristics of the social players: a relational scheme based on a lower educational level, on the existence of the farmer status that implies an unreliable and minimum income, leads to a simple network morphology. In the circumstances of an economic player characterized by a high educational level, double social status and a relatively high income, the relational scheme specific to the product technical traditionalism is amplified (Annex 5).

In the investigated rural areas, a particular socio-ecologic logic of the technological process was identified, generated by the specific type of functional relations between farmers and the natural space. As a direct consequence, the obtained products reflect a unique combination between the natural resources – climate, soils, local crop varieties and animal breeds – and cultural-traditional equipment, traditions, knowledge and skills handed down from one generation to another. The “archetypal” pattern³ is temporally structured from a double perspective: one is determined by the specific conditions of the rural sub-areas and the second is generated by the deviations from the traditional scheme due to the significant climate changes and the ever increasing anthropic factor influence.

³ *Archetypal patterns are based on the integration of the concepts of archetype and design patterns. The archetypes are a few of the many ancient patterns that exist in human consciousness.*

The technological recipes differ according to the rural communities' own culture or according to the rural micro universes – in each component village there are technological specificities that give the note of traditionalism.

The marketing modality of traditional products is, on the one hand, influenced by the “archetypal” pattern of the traditional product; yet, on the other hand, it has a series of attributes that are specific to the commercial modernity. In general, the outlet channels are based on traditional relations materialized in modern forms. Regardless of the product type, i.e. vegetable, animal, of its quality generated by the ecological sustainability, there are the same traditional routes and/or regular customers.

The producer's professional prestige traditionally matters in the commercial act; many times the product defines the producer, it is as an appellation of the entity that sells it.

The sale of traditional products coupled with rural tourism forms is a new modality to recompose the local economic spaces by valorizing the local opportunities, of territory occupation, of restructuring the relations between rural and modernity.

The “social patrimony” of traditional agriculture, by the social relations it induces, has a positive effect both on the local economy and on establishing certain beneficial relations for the rural and urban communities of the Țara Hațegului-Retezat system.

c) The anthropic processes

By the anthropic processes that occurred in Țara Hațegului-Retezat, intra- and intercommunity relations were established specific to the rural area opening to the global society. The ecological behaviors, the traditional habits and skills, based on essentially traditional values, determined relatively moderate dimensions of the anthropic factor and of its pressure on the environment throughout the rural Hațeg area.

The anthropic factor⁴ influence is perceived by the rural players as being strong as it contributes to the economic development of the whole area and to the increase in the number of jobs and, implicitly, in incomes; the impact on the environment and on the traditional activities is low (Table 8).

Table 8

Anthropic factor perception

- Average -

	Barrages	Boarding houses	Roads
Economic development	3.38	2.84	3.81
Increase of the number of jobs	3.09	2.52	2.73
Pollution	1.89	1.55	1.81
Disappearance of traditional activities	1.78	1.43	1.44
Increase of incomes	2.62	2.31	2.43
Change of mentality	2.04	2.04	2.10

Source: processing of data collected during the field survey conducted on a representative sample of households from the communes from Țara Hațegului - Retezat, in the period June-September 2009

⁴ Anthropic factors: environment disturbing, industrial activities, building activities and spare time activities.

According to the conducted study, there are two categories of communities:

- rural communities with average values of the anthropization factor: Bretea Română, Sântămăria Orlea, General Berthelot, Sălașu de Sus and Râu de Mori. From this group, only General Berthelot exceeds the zonal average of the density of natural and semi-natural patches;
- rural communities with low values of the anthropization factor: Răchitova, Densuș, Sarmizegetusa, Pui and Baru.

The perception of anthropic factors can be quantified in relation to:

- a) The category of rural communities in which average anthropization values are found

Anthropic Factor “Barrages”

Table 9

Perception of the Anthropic Factor “Barrages”

- Average -

	Economic development	Increase of the number of jobs	Pollution	Disappearance of traditional activities	Increase of incomes	Change of mentality
Bretea Română	3.67	3.60	1.90	1.80	2.80	1.70
Sântămăria Orlea	3.48	3.26	2.20	1.91	2.60	1.78
General Berthelot	4.33	3.83	2.50	1.83	3.83	3.20
Sălașu de Sus	2.80	2.36	1.86	2.07	2.40	1.79
Râu de Mori	3.98	3.68	1.92	1.71	3.32	2.68

Source: processing of data collected during the field survey conducted on a representative sample of households from the communes from Țara Hațegului - Retezat, in the period June-September 2009

The perception of this factor is positive, being generated by the economic benefits induced by these anthropic elements: increase in the number of jobs and economic development induced in the area.

Anthropic factor “Boarding houses”

Table 10

Perception of the Anthropic Factor “Boarding Houses”

- Average -

	Economic development	Increase of the number of jobs	Pollution	Disappearance of traditional activities	Increase of incomes	Change of mentality
Bretea Română	3.17	3.00	1.33	1.67	2.67	1.67
Sântămăria Orlea	2.83	2.56	1.81	1.52	2.51	2.09
General Berthelot	3.25	4.00	2.50	2.20	2.60	2.80
Sălașu de Sus	2.33	2.07	1.80	1.27	1.81	1.53
Râu de Mori	2.94	2.35	1.36	1.21	2.50	2.15

Source: processing of data collected during the field survey conducted on a representative sample of households from the communes from Țara Hațegului - Retezat, in the period June-September 2009

The perception of this factor is positive due to the increase in the labor demand and the economic development of the area.

Anthropic factor "Roads"

Table 11

Perception of the Anthropic Factor "Roads"

- Average -

	Economic development	Increase of the number of jobs	Pollution	Disappearance of traditional activities	Increase of incomes	Change of mentality
Breteia Română	4.29	2.71	1.57	1.14	2.86	2.14
Sântămăria Orlea	3.66	2.74	2.42	1.58	2.69	2.15
General Berthelot	3.60	3.00	2.40	2.33	2.00	2.00
Sălașu de Sus	3.54	2.58	1.83	1.62	2.25	1.73
Râu de Mori	3.56	2.64	1.44	1.33	2.25	2.03

Source: processing of data collected during the field survey conducted on a representative sample of households from the communes from Țara Hațegului - Retezat, in the period June-September 2009

The anthropic factor "roads" is perceived as having a strong impact on economic development and increase in the number of jobs; a significant influence is also materialized in the change of mentality.

b) The category of rural communities in which low values of the anthropization factor are found:

Anthropic factor "Barrages"

Table 12

Perception of the Anthropic Factor "Barrages"

- Average -

	Economic development	Increase of the number of jobs	Pollution	Disappearance of traditional activities	Increase of incomes	Change of mentality
Răchitova	2.60	2.00	1.50	1.50	1.25	2.00
Densuș	3.15	3.25	1.73	1.09	2.45	1.64
Sarmizegetusa	4.50	4.20	1.20	1.40	3.00	1.80
Pui	2.55	2.08	1.78	1.83	1.89	1.69
Baru	3.32	2.87	2.08	1.77	2.34	1.94

Source: processing of data collected during the field survey conducted on a representative sample of households from the communes from Țara Hațegului - Retezat, in the period June-September 2009

The positive perception of the economic impact is also maintained in this category; it is worth mentioning that there is an amplitude of appreciation, ranging from 2.60 to 4.50, as generated by the particularities of the rural sub-areas.

Anthropic factor “Boarding houses”

Table 13

Perception of the Anthropic Factor “Boarding Houses”

- Average -

	Economic development	Increase of the number of jobs	Pollution	Disappearance of traditional activities	Increase of incomes	Change of mentality
Răchitova,	3.00	2.00	1.50	1.50	1.75	1.50
Densuş	3.10	2.70	1.11	1.00	2.00	1.78
Sarmizegetusa	3.44	2.67	1.00	1.22	2.00	1.44
Pui	2.47	2.26	1.71	1.63	2.13	2.29
Baru	3.16	2.80	1.41	1.66	2.41	2.13

Source: processing of data collected during the field survey conducted on a representative sample of households from the communes from Țara Hațegului - Retezat, in the period June-September 2009

In this group of rural communities, the economic development induced by the existence of “boarding houses” is highly appreciated; the pollution and disappearance of traditional activities are perceived as relatively non-affected dimensions.

Anthropic factor “Roads”

Table 14

Perception of the Anthropic Factor “Roads”

- Average -

	Economic development	Increase of the number of jobs	Pollution	Disappearance of traditional activities	Increase of incomes	Change of mentality
Răchitova,	4.38	2.38	1.63	1.50	2.38	2.13
Densuş	3.79	2.42	1.25	1.25	2.42	1.58
Sarmizegetusa	4.33	3.33	1.50	1.67	1.75	1.00
Pui	3.57	2.64	1.62	1.57	2.54	2.40
Baru	3.76	2.83	2.13	1.28	2.39	2.03

Source: processing of data collected during the field survey conducted on a representative sample of households from the communes from Țara Hațegului - Retezat, in the period June-September 2009

The strongest anthropic factor that affects the economic development of the rural area is represented by “roads”; the impact on the environment is generally perceived as low; an exception is represented by the interviewed people from the commune Baru, who appreciated that the impact on environment quality is significant: 2.13. This is also the strongest anthropic factor that affects the social texture by the change in mentality, the values ranging from 1.58 for the commune Densuş to 2.40 for the commune Pui.

Conclusions

The main resource of the investigated area is the patrimonial resource. From this perspective, the rural area of Țara Hațegului-Retezat was investigated as dynamic territory, defined by two attributes: specific qualities, materialized in territorial resources and innovation, materialized in concrete social and economic structures in which the rural players are included as users of territorial resources.

The demo-economic patrimony: Țara Hațegului-Retezat includes a complex system of rural settlements characterized by their territorial distribution in a large ecological site as well as by demographic and social histories resulting from the location in a macro-region/region benefitting from industrial modernization policies and from significant migration flows. From the demographic point of view, Țara Hațegului-Retezat is characterized by a high share of rural population. The process of rural population diminution is a slow one, with a spatial development determined by the intensity of endogenous economic and demo-economic factors.

The social patrimony: Located in the zonal economy systems with deep structural transformations, the rural communities of Țara Hațegului-Retezat are acquiring a series of adaptive behaviors through *functional emergence structures*.

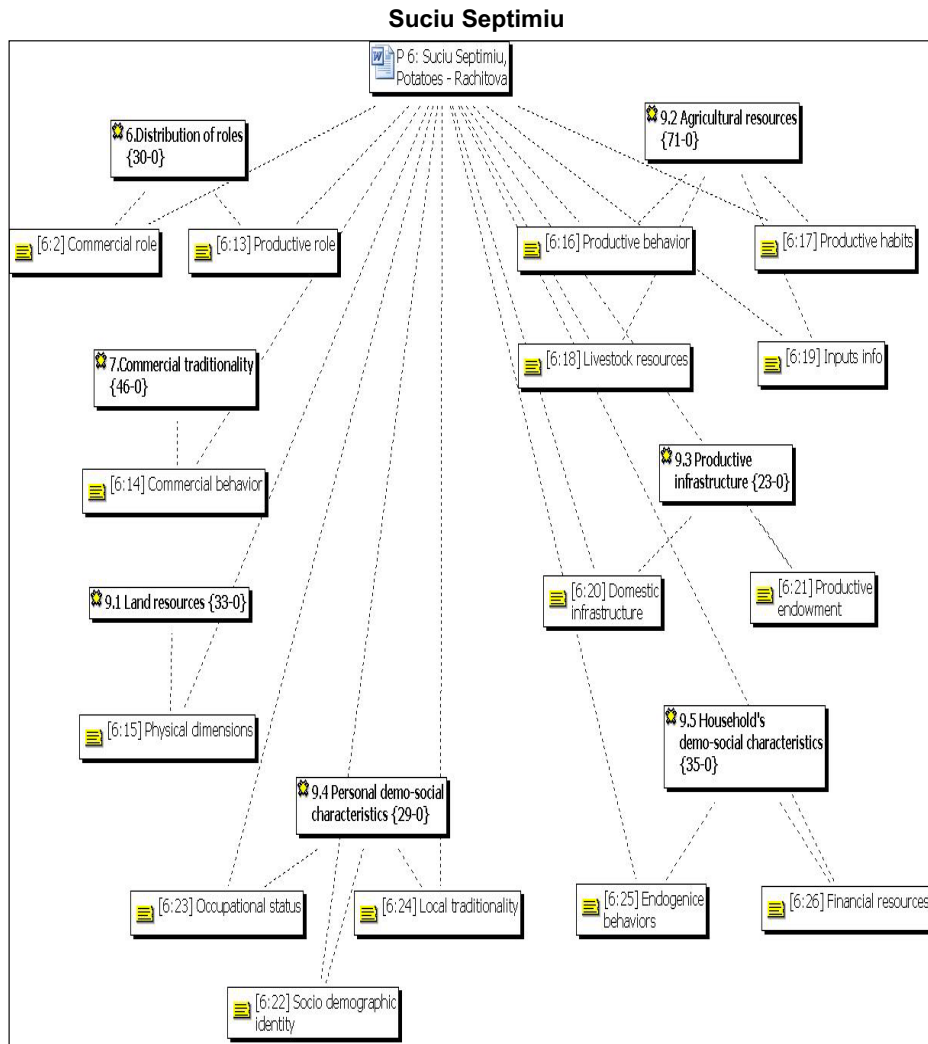
A first argument in support of the emergence process of rural communities is of economic-spatial nature. The empirical studies on this area indicated the existence, in an early stage, of certain *adaptive dynamic rural systems* that tried to respond to the modernization stimuli by the emergence and development of self-supporting economic and social systems. The adaptation strategies specific to the rural communities of Țara Hațegului-Retezat were empirically based on a natural and economic traditional potentiality promoting the endogenous opportunities with social visibility. Their content did not affect the spatial identity of communities and people because if it was not specific to a given territory, this being the materialization of a multidimensional matrix of axes and interdependencies, within which the communities and people are positioned in multiple contingent nodes, complex and contradictory. This rationale did not elude the role that each community has as a social player in a spatial development system with specific functions and viable structures, each rural community trying to participate as an active player to the development of the whole system, to its operation in the conditions imposed by the endogenous development type.

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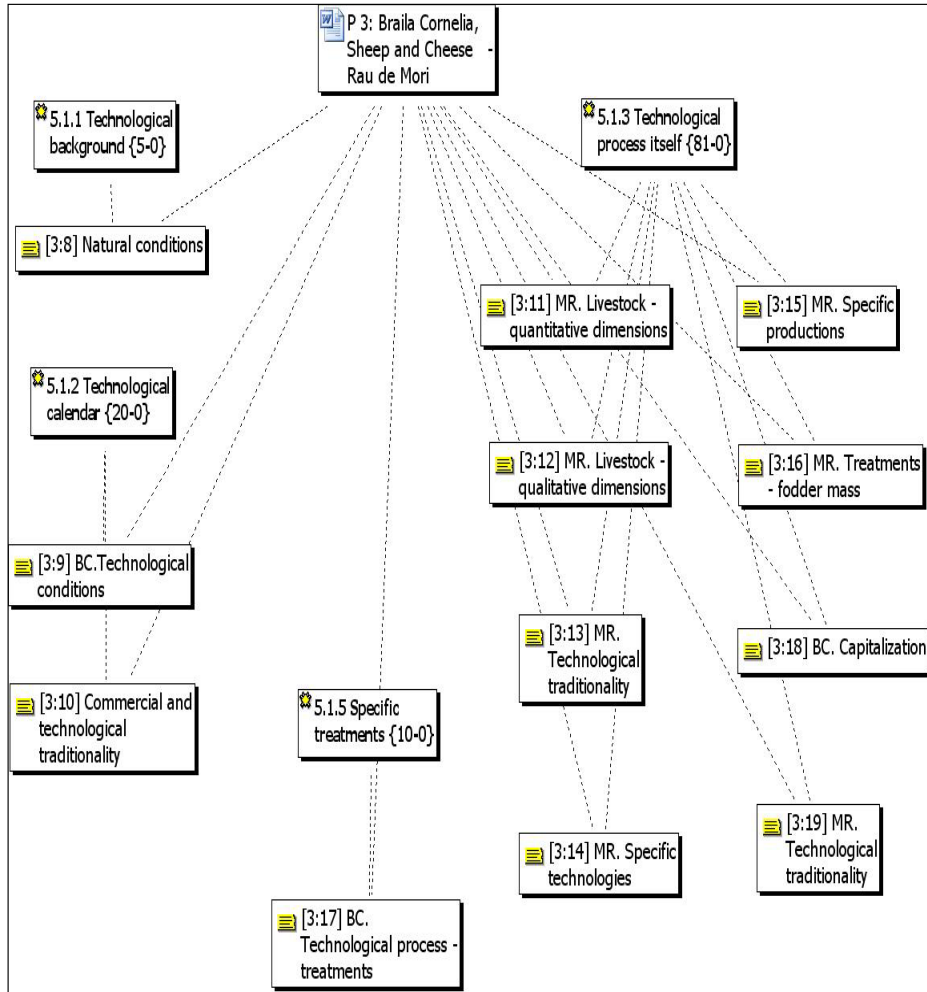
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Source: ATLAS Ti processing of in-depth interviews applied in September-October 2009, Hațeg – Retezat Country

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Source: ATLAS Ti processing of in-depth interviews applied in September-October 2009, Hațeg – Retezat Country