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DEVELOPMENT AXES IDENTIFIED THROUGH SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS. CASE STUDY: MUREȘ COUNTY, ROMANIA

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Abstract

The increasing use of quality indicators across scientific disciplines has established them as essential tools for analysis, diagnosis, and forecasting. Socio-economic indicators such as population dynamics, employment, accessibility, public services, and economic activity are used in this analysis at the local administrative unit (LAU2) level in Mureș County. The results indicate the presence of a single dominant development axis at the county level, which functions as a backbone and dictates the pace of development. This spatial concentration creates territorial disparities and imbalances that diverge from current requirements for sustainable development. However, opportunities exist for the extension of development axes by capitalizing on existing infrastructure, urban centres, and the potential of areas currently marked by spatial discontinuities. Overall, the study highlights the role of spatial socio-economic analysis as a valuable instrument in regional planning. It also provides a methodological framework that can be applied and adapted to similar territorial contexts, thereby supporting more balanced and sustainable regional development strategies.

Key words: development axes, geographical axes, regional development, spatial analysis, spatial patterns

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