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ROMANIA'S RURAL AREA-CHARACTERISTICS

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Abstract: Rural areas have substantial growth potential. There are great differences between rural areas, which have intensified in the last decade between rural area from different places. In Romania, the rural area represents about 90% of the country's surface, and the share of inhabitants in rural areas-among the highest in Europe - amounts to 47.3% of the total population. The main purpose of this paper is to emphasize the characteristics of the Romanian rural space, in terms of population, economic activities, representative aspects as a whole, using for this purpose a summative analysis.

• Introduction

- The importance to be given to the issue of rural areas was widely presented at the seminar on problems of development and development of rural areas, organized by the UNECE in Bulgaria, 1974.

Characteristics of the countryside

No.	Analysis from the point of view:	Characteristics
1	Economic and occupational	The economic configuration is agro-forestry-pastoral
		Production space in which the primary sectors are important
		The main form of ownership is private family property
		Non-agricultural activities occur in more densely populated areas. Services are lower
		A large part of the population works in both sectors (productive and unproductive), agricultural and non-agricultural
2	Demographic	More airy, more humanized areas
		The population is relatively homogeneous in terms of social features, such as: ethnicity, language, religion, politics, philosophy, economic conception [5,6,11,13]
		Better interpersonal relationships
		Better community involvement
3	Landscape	Beauty due to the natural structure, more airy landscape, flora and fauna
4	Lifestyle	Qualities of rural habitat: tranquility, peace, climate, fresh air, soothing landscape, social calm
		Existence of some rules, traditions derived from local culture
		Social and cultural life is a heritage of humanity
5	The relationship between rural and urban	Relationships between acquaintances and friendships predominate
		Mutual dependencies: the externalities generated by the urban are mostly economic regarding the offer of services and creation of new activities and the externalities generated by the rural are directed towards the urban
		Increased trend of migration from urban to rural areas of economically active people and pensioners
		Recreation possibilities, due to the rural landscape with natural value, historical and architectural vestiges, tourist objectives
6	Development policy	The principle of continuity and complementarity of agri-food activities
		Promoting economic and social cohesion
		Diversification and improvement of infrastructure, access to technologies
		Increasing the quality of life
		Conservation and protection of the environment
		Promoting specific culture and traditions

The functions of the countryside

No.	Function	Manifestation
1	Economic - considered as a basic function, it manifests itself in the sense of fulfilling some commitments of the EU Member States for guaranteeing a production system that would ensure:	Food needs of the entire population.
		Ensuring an adequate level of income for rural inhabitants, a level comparable to that of the liberal professions.
		Protecting the environment and sustainable management of resources.
		Meeting the needs of agricultural, industrial, artisanal or commercial SMEs and in the field of services.
		Conservation specific resources for agriculture and support biotechnology.
2	Ecological - manifests itself in the sense of promoting actions in the following directions:	Conservation of the natural resources of life - soil, water, air.
		Protecting biotypes and green spaces.
		Conservation and protection of biodiversity.
3	Socio-cultural - the main goal of the development of the rural space is the realization and improvement of the life relations, by: [2]	Protection of wild animals.
		Stimulation opportunities for better communication and constructive collaboration between residents.
		Possibilities for creating and notifying social and spatial relations.
		Possibilities for community integration of all inhabitants.
		Support for the socially disadvantaged.
		Preparation for participation in decision-making processes on issues of common interest.
		Stimulating creative activities towards artistic forms of expression.
		Stimulating the sense of community, sociability and joy.

• Material and method

- The main purpose of this paper is to emphasize the characteristics of the Romanian rural space, in terms of population, economic activities, representative aspects as a whole, using for this purpose a summative analysis

• Results and discussions

- Romania enjoys an important but unused development potential. Investments and competitiveness in Romania are elements that need to be improved, in order to achieve an acceleration of economic growth and ensure a convergence of revenues with those in the EU.

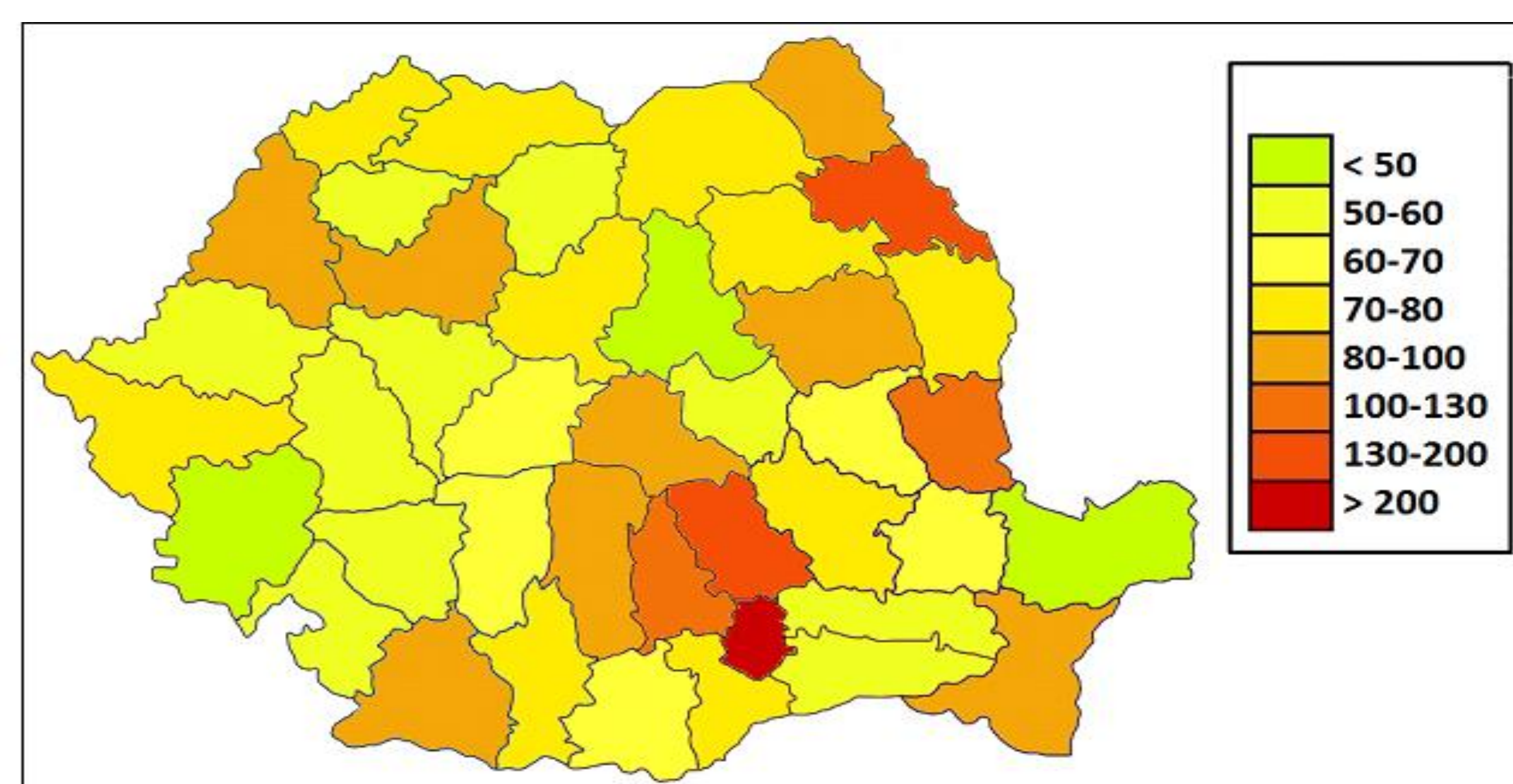
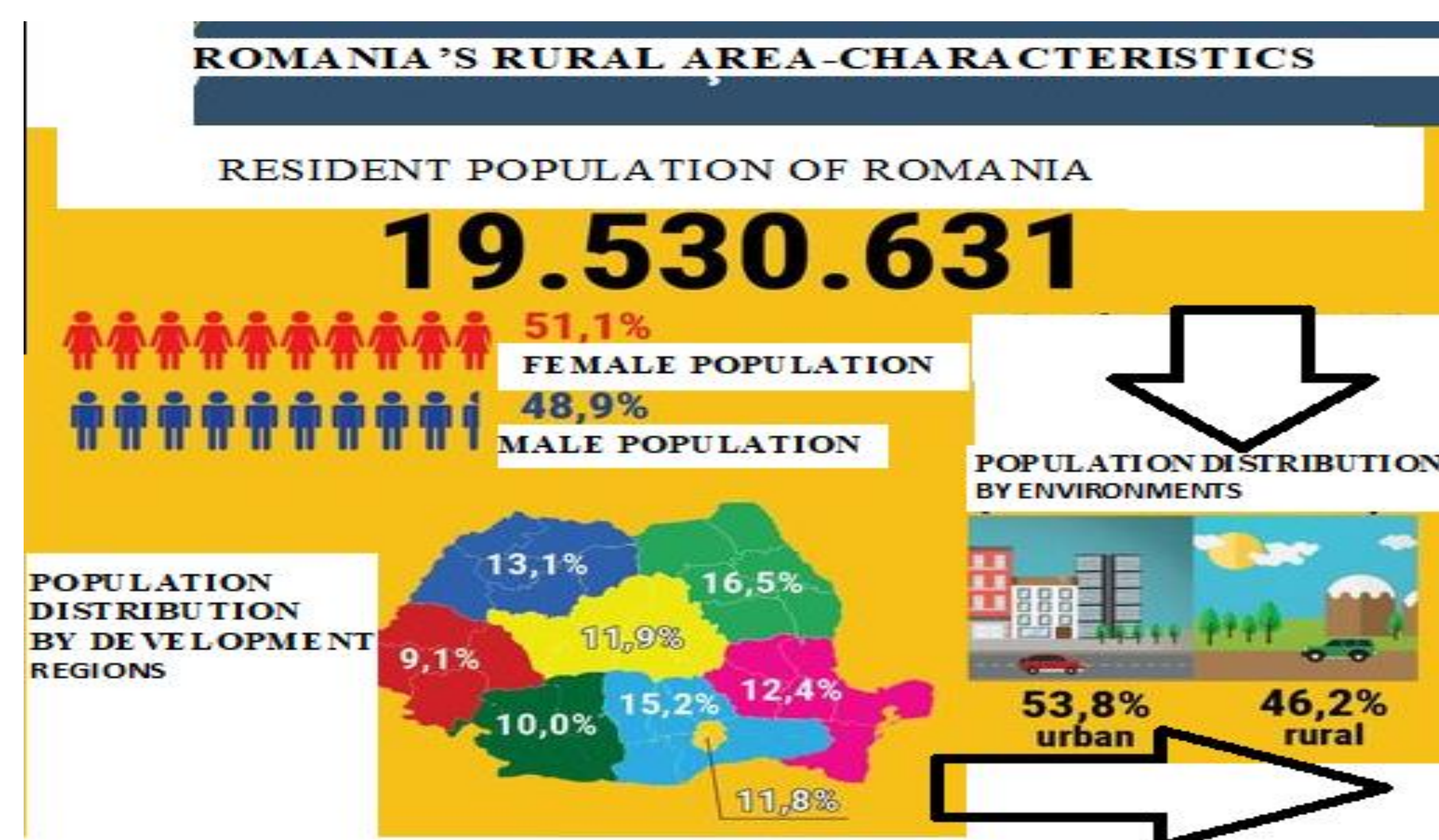


Figure 1. Population density in the country, by counties

The rural area plays an important role in the national context, both in terms of its size and in terms of its residential, economic and recreational function. The average population density in rural areas has remained relatively constant over the years (at about 45.1 inhabitants/km²).



• Conclusions

- In Romania there are great differences in wealth, opportunity, education, skills, health and, in many areas, they have intensified in the last decade. In rural areas, incomes are relatively low, compared to urban areas (503 euros/household in rural areas compared to 621 euros/household in urban areas). At the same time, the share of incomes from agriculture represents 42% of income total gross/household in rural areas, while wages are currently around 26%.