

Socio-Economic Differences between Rural and Non-Rural Areas

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Citation: Todorov, I. (2021). Socio-Economic Differences between Rural and Non-Rural Areas. *Ikonomika i upravlenie na selskoto stopanstvo*, 66(1), 11-20 (Bg).

Abstract

Rural areas are an element and concept of territorial and regional theories, the study of which has become increasingly important and widespread in recent decades. Rural areas are one of the two main pillars of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. Scientific interest in them has been growing in recent decades, which goes hand in hand with the declining importance and place of agriculture for the development of these areas. In Bulgaria, this concept and its definition continues to be only at the level of implementation of support policies, whereas the data provision, implementation with administrative and governance essence is not adequately ensured. This impedes the research work, but does not diminish the importance and significance of the topic. Rural areas evolve over time as a symbol of profound socio-economic problems on one hand, and as a source of historical and cultural heritage, natural endowments and a favorable living environment on the other. The purpose of this paper is to identify the main socio-economic disparities between rural and non-rural areas and to look for their causes and consequences. Achieving this goal is done by applying a Factor-Shift model, which is based on Regional-Shift model. The Regional-Shift model offers an opportunity to see in what direction and to what extent a certain sector and economic characteristic have changed taking into account the influence of national-linked and industrial mix factors.

Key words: rural areas; non-rural areas; Common Agricultural Policy; socio-economic development

Социално-икономически разлики между селски и неселски райони

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Статия, докладвана на **Седмата международна конференция „Земеделие и снабдяване с храни: пазари и аграрни политики 2020”**, организирана от Института по аграрна икономика към Селскостопанска академия 27–28 октомври 2020 г. – София

Резюме

Селските райони са елемент и понятие на териториалните и регионални теории, чието изследване в последните десетилетия става все по-важно и разпространено. Селските райони са едно от двете основни направления на Общата селскостопанска политика на ЕС. Научният интерес към тях в последните десетилетия расте, което върви редом с намаляване значението и мястото на селското стопанство за развитието на тези райони. В България това понятие и дефинирането му са само на ниво прилагане на политиките за подпомагане. Все още неговото обезпечаване с данни, изпълване с административно и управленско съдържание не е достатъчно осигурено. Това затруднява изследо-

вателската работа, но не намалява важноста и значимостта на темата. Селските райони с времето се утвърждават като символ, от една страна, на задълбочени социално-икономически проблеми, а от друга, като корен на историческо и културно наследство, природни дадености и благоприятна заобикаляща среда за живот.

Целта на настоящия доклад е да се идентифицират основните различия в развитието, в социално-икономически план, между селските и неселски райони, да се потърсят причините и последиците от тях. Постигането на тази цел става с прилагане на факторен-преместващ модел, който е базиран на регионален-преместващ модел. Регионално-преместващият модел предлага възможност да се види в каква посока и до каква степен определен сектор и икономическа характеристика са се променили при отчитане влиянието на национални и сборни секторни и икономически свързани характеристики.

Ключови думи: селски райони; неселски райони; Обща селскостопанска политика; социално-икономическо развитие

Introduction

Rural areas are an element and concept of territorial and regional theories, the study of which has become increasingly important and widespread in recent decades. Rural areas are one of the two main pillars of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. Scientific interest in them has been growing in recent decades, which goes hand in hand with the declining importance and place of agriculture for the development of these areas. In Bulgaria, this concept and its definition continues to be only at the level of implementation of support policies, whereas the data provision, implementation with administrative and governance essence is not adequately ensured. This impedes the research work, but does not diminish the importance and significance of the topic. Rural areas evolve over time as a symbol of profound socio-economic problems on one hand, and as a source of historical and cultural heritage, natural endowments and a favorable living environment on the other.

One of the key issues related to rural areas is the definition of those areas. This definition defines the characteristics and demarcation of these areas, which allows not only the study and research of problems, challenges and features, but also paves up and designates the focus of public support to aid dealing with socio-economic backwardness and adversity. The current definition of rural areas in Bulgaria outlines: "Rural areas are municipalities (LAU 1) in which there is no settlement with a population of over 30.000

people". According to the definition, 232 municipalities are covered as rural municipalities, which represent 81.3% of the territory and 39.1% of the population of Bulgaria. By the end of 2018 the population in the covered municipalities decreases by 37.7% and the average population density decreases from 31.6 people/sq.km to 29.6 people/sq.km, which exceeds the population decline reported and seen for the whole country.

A report drafted by University of National and World Economy (UNWE, 2020) states that "the continuing decline in the population at the national level, its concentration in larger urban centers and the depopulation of rural areas, creates an objective need to renew the scope of rural areas". In addition, according to the EU methodology for typology of regions, the population in the country in 2018 is distributed as follows: rural areas – 13% or 905297 people, intermediate areas 68% or 4766622 people, and in urban areas are 19% or 1328120 people. Ivanov (2020) notes that "The most adverse in terms of economic conditions and social environment is the situation in the villages of rural municipalities explicated by unfavorable position of these areas to compete with non-rural, whereof demography is the final outcome of lagging socio-economic development".

Almost unanimously, various studies dedicated to issues and situation in rural areas point out that socio-economic problems in those areas lead to a deterioration in regional indicators, which unravels a demographic decline. It should also

be noted that “demography is a consequence of many exogenous and endogenous factors (Ivanov, 2020) and should be seen as a consequence, not a cause and primary factor for socio-economic difficulties in rural areas.

The accelerated rate of aging of the population in rural municipalities affects the adversity of the structure of labor resources. For 2018 for the whole country, the share of the population under working age is 15%, in working age is 60% (2018), in the overworking age is 25%. Approximately 42% of the population overworking age are resided and settled in rural areas as well as the aging population continues to rise up and occupies a bigger percent of the population pattern. Due to negative trends of natural and mechanical population growth, the patterning of the population is changing. The relative share of the urban population is increasing at the expense of population decline in rural settlements (UNWE, 2020). Migration has a strong negative effect on the reproduction and birth rate of the population, as the movement and leaving of women of fertility age from rural to non-rural areas reduces the level of potential future natural growth.

Unemployment data show that the economy in rural municipalities develops at a different pace than in Non-rural municipalities, with unemployment in rural areas significantly exceeding that in non-rural areas. Income in rural areas per capita slows down compared to earning and level of incomes in urban areas, which is due in part to lower wages in agriculture, a higher percentage of the unemployed and people of retirement age, and the lack of activities that generate higher added value and where wages are higher. At the present time, rural areas create jobs, and the attractive stimulus for that are lower level of wages in those areas and higher rates of unemployment. The investments that are usually made are in industries and enterprises that are labor-intensive and labor costs are critical to competitiveness and for market advantages. The large differences between municipalities and regions in long-term unemployment can hardly be explained by a factor - economic development.

Incomes in rural areas are a direct function and yield of the structure of economy and its lev-

el of development. Counterpart of the dynamics of the country's economy, it is noticed that rural areas in recent years characterized by a predominant share of the service sector, followed by those of industrial production. It should be also noted that the share of agriculture here remains relatively high. In recent years, agriculture accounts for 13% of the economy of these regions, while at the national average, it is less than 5%. Due to the changes in the production structure of Bulgarian agriculture in recent years, many of the problems in these areas (high unemployment, low incomes, depopulation) remain rigorous to solve. The development of large-scale production with the demand of a minimum labor force does not work towards solving these problems. Wages in agriculture are 23% lower than in the rest of the economy for the period 2007–2015, due to the low value added per area. Entrepreneurs set up and put wages of hired workers in the agricultural industry as well as for other industries closely in line with the average remuneration for the region, country and type of labor.

Ivanov and Sokolova (2017) note that “It is impossible to discuss any rural development policy without including a policy aimed at agriculture development”. At the same time, Stanimirova (2012) points out that “stimulating competitiveness and improving living conditions in rural areas can be achieved through the diversification of economic activities”. A study conducted by the same author found that “the majority of farmers are not interested in diversifying the economic activities” (Stanimirova, 2012). This can be explained by various factors, but the main one is that agriculture is a highly supported sector, where a large part of the income is guaranteed by subsidies and diversification of production is not necessary, while relatively stable aid to agricultural production are a fact. In this regard, Doitchinova and Stoyanova (2020) also note that “agriculture is more a source of income than a job creator”.

With regard to basic services and existing infrastructure, it is stated that there are significant differences between rural and non-rural areas. The growing number and percent of older people and retired ones (over 65) in rural areas pos-

es serious challenges to rural social service systems. It was found that in the villages the services are provided by health services, which are in poor physical condition and need improvement, which is deemed by local people as a key priority and importance for their well-being. The number of medical specialists in health care and general physicians in rural municipalities decrease (UNWE, 2020).

In the villages and settlements outside the main municipal centers there is a shortage of doctors although by the number of physicians per certain amount of people, the situation is not worsened. It is aggravated in terms of quality and capacity of provided health care as well as concerning the opportunities for professional and personal realization and education are considered as the main priorities in choosing people where to live. Bachev (2020) notes that “Bulgaria lags significantly behind in digitalization (in general) and in rural areas (in particular), compared to the European average and other EU countries”. This confirms the hypothesis that rural areas lag significantly behind in terms of important socio-economic indicators compared to non-rural areas, which is the basis of their deteriorating development and complicated demographic situation.

Generally, in that context of the situation in rural areas, the interesting topics is to study which are and from what extent are differences between rural and Non-rural areas and the purpose of this paper is to identify the main socio-economic disparities between rural and non-rural areas and to look for their causes and consequences.

Methodology

The shift-share technique is used to analyze in a quantitative way to what extent related factors contribute to the observed change in certain variables at the regional level. The technique is based on the assumption that local economic variable is explained by the combined effect of three components: national share, industry mix, and regional shift. The method used to perform the study is based on research carried out by Ivanov (2020) dedicated to Regional Factor Shift Analysis (RFSA). The RFSA is designed to eval-

uate demographic shifts between rural and non-rural areas and between particular municipalities among those groups itself. The RFSA is an analytical tool built on Shift Share Analysis (SSA) designed to determine the contribution of certain components for observed changes in studied regional economies.

In that study SS Analysis is used as a model and similar Regional-Shift Analysis is adopted. The Regional Factor-Shift model offers an opportunity to see in what direction and to what extent a certain sector and economic characteristic have changed taking into account the influence of national-linked and factor-loop variables. The Share-shift analysis (SSA) is a convertible tool, which can be used to evaluate the regional shifts between different regions. The “classical” shift-share equation is designed to decompose the growth of a regional variable such as employment, income or output into three “effects” that measure differential growth among regions. Given information by industrial sectors for one of these regional variables at two points in time, the technique divides the change (SS) over the time period into the following effects: national growth (NS), industry-mix (IM), and competitive position of the region (RS) (Herzog and Olsen, 1977).

The classical calculation of Share-shift analysis is shown in formulas (1, 2, 3 and 4). Based on this model of particle displacement calculation proposed by Herzog and Olsen (1977), a modification by Ivanov (2020) is proposed, which allows by inserting a common factor that replaces IM (industry-mix) with Factor-loop (FL), which allows both regional units to be compared and variables that are not part of a higher national category to be considered.

$$SS = NS + IM + RS \quad (1)$$

$$NS^i local^{t-1} \cdot NS^t / NS^{t-1} \quad (2)$$

$$IM^i local^{t-1} \cdot IM^t / IM^{t-1} - NS \quad (3)$$

$$RS^i local^{t-1} \cdot (i local^t / i local^{t-1} - IM^t / IM^{t-1}) \quad (4)$$

This method shows regional development shifts, where evolution of certain indicator is explicated by influence of national change and factor-loop variables. The Regional Factor-Shift analysis is done through 2 stages:

$$RS = \text{LocalVar}_{t-1} - \text{LocalVar}_{t-1} * \text{NS}_{t-1} / \text{NS}_{t-1} * \{(FLt - FL_{t-1}) * (FLt + FL_{t-1})\} \quad (5)$$

$$RSDEV = (\text{RSDEVIM} - \text{RSDEVAVER}) / (\text{RSDEVAVER}) \quad (6)$$

Formulas (5 and 6) initially facilitates calculation of the Regional shifts, which in primary form classify municipalities separately based on 8 socio-economic features covered. These features are: (agriculture, unemployment, demography, economy, human resources, social infrastructure, health infrastructure, educational infrastructure). These categories characterizing the regional development are represented and exposed by proxy indicator, which most significantly describes and reflects the state of the region. What should also be noted is that the critical and new Factor-loop (FL) that is chosen to replace the Industry-mix variable and to determines the regional shift of both types of areas is the Gross Value Added in the Economy at the NUTS 3 regional level. The whole analysis was done at the municipal level (LAU 1), where the definition and division of rural and non-rural areas in the country. The calculations of formula (6) yield RS values that go below 0 and exceed 1 and theoretically have no defined limits, which depend on the divergence and the observed differences between the individual municipalities, on the selected indicators and the measured averages. Therefore, following Ivanov (2020) normalization is made. The normalization is done as:

$$RS \text{ Coef} = 1 - (\text{RSDEV} - \text{RSDEVMIN}) / (\text{RSDEVMAX} - \text{RSDEVMIN}) \quad (7)$$

where if RS Coef is negative than 0 and if exceeds 1 is normalized to 0 and 1. RS Coef is a coefficient for regional shift showing the regional strength and capacity to drive changes in demography, isolating the influence by national trend and factor-loop variable. In equations (5 and 6), the participating variables are:

- LocalVar – the demographic situation in terms of population in two periods;
- NS – the national indicators for demography;
- FL – factor loop stood for GVA at municipal level;
- RSDEVIM – the regional shift deviation of

RS from the average;

- RSDEVAVER – average regional deviation of the whole set of municipalities.

The municipalities are divided into rural and non-rural. In showing the results, the municipalities are united at the level of NUTS 3 – 28 regions, which respectively are composed of rural and non-rural municipalities. Using ANOVA, the results of the RS analysis were scrutinized for statistically significant similarities. The RS analysis reflects the dynamics of change in the observed indicators in the period 2008–2009 to 2016–2017. The data source is NSI. The ANOVA grouping is done at Non-rural criteria, where all rural areas in an administrative region (Non-Rural) are pooled together to rural ones.

Results

The factor analysis is constructed covering the main elements and aspects of the external environment of the territory. To highlight the level of development of rural areas and their condition, a comparative analysis between rural and non-rural areas on one hand was done, as well as showing the change in dynamics is accomplished too. The analysis of the dynamics of changes and trends in relation to the various factors was made by comparing the values of the factor indicators in two periods: 2008–2009 upon 2016–2017. This is the period of the country's membership in the EU and the implementation of the CAP, which led to new conditions and gave powerful incentives for the development of agriculture and other socio-economic categories. It is the comparison of historical development and the identified trends in the evolution of the covered socio-economic factors that is indicative of both: the impact of the external environment and the adaptation of these factors to the dynamic changes in the environment and the resilience of the local potential to adapt to external conditions.

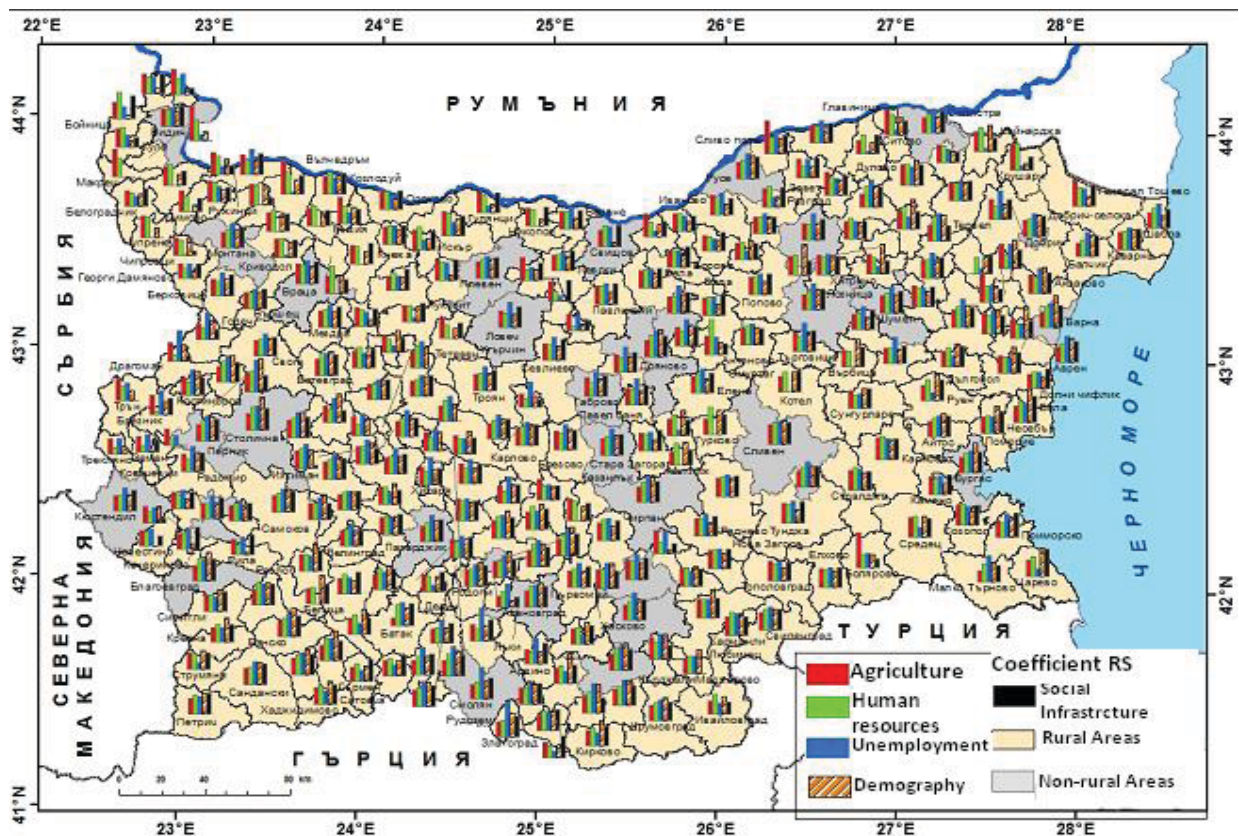
The concrete results show that in 5 of the studied socio-economic categories, there are significant differences between rural and non-rural areas. These are agriculture, human resources, unemployment, demography, social infrastructure. This was ascertained and revealed both by the

calculated RS Coef, which differ according to the selected indicators, comparing rural and non-rural municipalities, aggregated at the regional level, and by ANOVA, where the null hypothesis H_0 for differences between the two groups of national level is rejected, which means the divergences between rural and Non-rural areas have to be confirmed. Interesting is the higher result of the RS coefficient in the economic aspect of rural areas to Non-rural areas. It can be explicated by the existence of a number of rural municipalities, which host business activities, which creates corporate gross output, but this has little effect on employment, wages, human resources.

The conducted ANOVA shows that in 5 main categories and characteristics of the territories and local communities, the rural areas differ significantly in the negative plan from the Non-rural ones. These are – agriculture, unemployment, demography, human resources, social infrastruc-

ture. Proxy indicators that serve to measure the performance and condition in these areas, denoted as (LocalVar) are: GVA from agriculture, unemployment rate, population by municipalities, natural population growth, dwelling building area per 1 person. It should be noted that the largest difference between rural and Non-rural areas is reported in the unemployment rates, where the RS Coef for Non-rural areas is 0.68, which is significantly above 0.5, indicating a significant excess over the average level related to rural areas, as well as in the time aspect, collating the period from 2008–2009 to 2016–2017. In rural areas, the RS Coef is 0.49, which shows that the improvements in unemployment rates in rural areas are weaker than the national level and significantly lagging behind the situation in Non-rural areas.

Statistical significance of the differences between rural and non-rural areas was also found in agriculture. $F_{ANOVA} > F_{Critical}$, RS Coef for ru-



Фиг. 1. Коефициент на регионално факторно разместване в дивергентни категории

Fig. 1. Coefficient of Regional Factor-Shift Analysis at divergent categories

Source: Author on National Statistical Institute data and mapping Rositza Mihova, IAE.

ral areas is set at 0,51, which is above RS Coef for non-rural areas, measured at 0,47, which shows that agriculture in rural areas is developing better than the national average per capita and the added value of agriculture is growing relatively faster in rural areas than in non-rural areas. Ivanov and Sokolova (2017) formulate that “the higher unemployment rate in the rural regions is not specifically related to the restructuring of the Bulgarian agriculture” There have been outlined there is an “unemployment paradox” – the economic activities suffer from lack of labor as long as there is surplus of people actively seeking work, resulting in high unemployment rates (Ivanov and Sokolova, 2017).

On 3 other aspects – economy, health infrastructure and educational infrastructure, H0, for insignificant differences between the two types of regions is accepted. The indicators denoted as proxies are: Gross Value Added, Number of physicians per capita and teachers per capita. The obtained results are also confirmed by the descriptive statistics, where in the group with accepted H0 hypothesis, the obtained averages of RS coefficient and σ are very close. This shows that the development in the period 2008–2009 to 2016–2017 in both types of regions is changing relatively similarly. In the categories where H1 is accepted, the diversity in the averages of the RS coefficients and σ are quite obvious, as the RS coef-

ficients for rural areas are between 8–15% below the same coefficients for Non-rural ones.

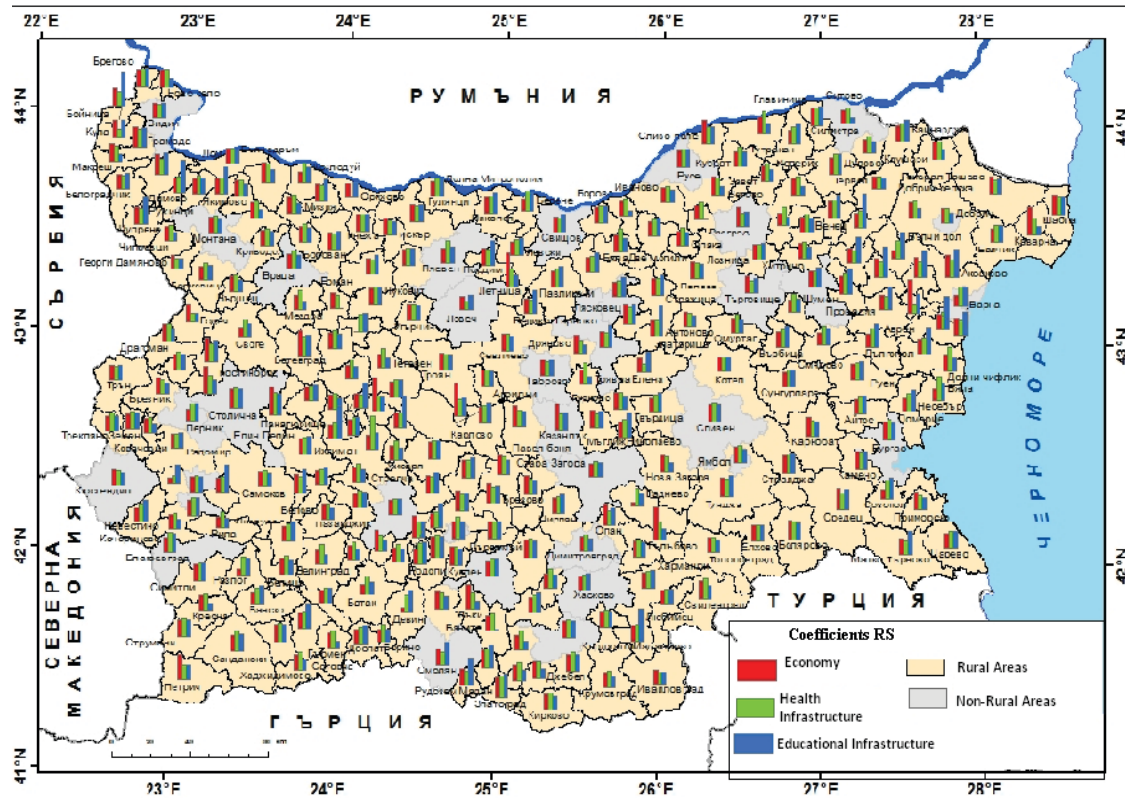
In the mentioned 3 socio-economic categories no statistical arguments can be found for identifying and underlining the differences between rural and Non-rural areas. It turns out that in quantitative terms, rural areas have similar indicators' values for the number of physicians and teachers. RS Coef are very close, but what makes an feature is that these coefficients are below 0.5. RS Coef on the indicators related to the number of doctors in rural areas is 0.50 for rural areas and 0.49 for Non-rural areas and 0.49 for both areas in terms of the number of teachers available at education systems. This shows that in nominal terms the provision of the societies in rural areas with doctors and teachers is not affected, but probably the structure and quality of the received medical care is downgraded to that of Non-rural areas. The same can be said for education. Probably measured per capita, rural areas that are trampling on demographics and deteriorating demographics and human resource indices are able to maintain the number of teachers, but they are rapidly declining secondary education opportunities and have almost no base higher education.

It is also interesting to study the results in the economic field, where rural areas again have higher values of RS Coef compared to non-rural areas. That fact is a bit surprising because it

Таблица 1. ANOVA тест за значимост на социално-икономическите категории
Table 1. ANOVA test for significance of socio-economic categories

ANOVA тест за статистическата значимост на RS Coef при селски и неселски райони / ANOVA test for rural and Non-rural significance of RS coefficients	F coefficients	P-value
Земеделие / Gross Agricultural Output	11,95	0,00
Безработица / Unemployment rate	43,96	0,00
Демография / Population Number	10,02	0,00
Икономика / Gross Added Value	0,45	0,50
Човешки ресурси / Natural growth rate	5,96	0,01
Социална инфраструктура / Dwelling area per capita	44,11	0,00
Здравна инфраструктура / Physicians number	0,14	0,70
Образователна инфраструктура / Teachers number	0,00	0,92

Source: Author on National Statistical Institute data.



Фиг. 2. Коефициент на регионално факторно разместване в конвергентни области

Fig. 2. Coefficient of Regional Factor-Shift Analysis at convergent categories

Source: Author on National Statistical Institute data and mapping Rositza Mihova, IAE

is widely thought that rural municipalities are toughly behind the urban municipalities. It can be explained that some high results are do found for some rural municipalities. These are rural municipalities that have natural resource advantages on their territory or are areas with established large industrial enterprises due to the use of natural or other advantages or these are tourism resorts that generate very high production and economic output. The high economic output created by those economic entities does not mean that economic wealth remains at the local level because corporate profits are transferred outside the boundaries of rural areas. At the same time, Ivanov et al (2019) also note that “the number of overnight stays in the South-Eastern and North-Eastern regions in 2015 represents 55.4% and 15.5% of the total number of overnight stays in rural areas of the country, respectively”. This kind of tourism creates added value and economic output that is prescribed to rural municipalities, which is relat-

ed to the so-called sea-mass tourism but in fact it does not fully contribute to increasing the economic well-being of local communities. Thus, the GVA created in rural areas is growing per capita and many places have a higher values than in Non-rural areas, but this is in most cases a corporate output that is not distributed as income to local communities and does not contribute proportionally rural societies. The choice and attractiveness by external investors to build such economic capacity in those areas is driven often to lower wages in rural areas.

The mean and standard deviations of the RS Coef show that Non-rural areas have significantly higher values than rural areas. On the one hand, this demonstrates that in the areas where this is a fact (agriculture, unemployment, demography, human resources, social infrastructure) in the period 2008/2009 – 2016/2017 lag behind Non-rural areas, and their performance in in most cases below the average of 0.5. This average repre-

Таблица 2. Коефициенти и стандартни отклонения на регионално факторно раз местване в селските и неселските райони**Table 2.** RS Coef Means and σ in rural and None-rural socio-economic categories

Средни стойности и стандартно отклонение на RS Coef. в дивергентните области / RS Coef Means and σ in categories with statistically significant divergence between Rural and Non-Rural areas	Средни на коефициента за Регионално-факторно раз местване / AVERAGE RS Coefficients		Стандартно отклонение на RS Coef / STDEVA of RS Coefficient	
	Non-Rural	Rural Areas	Non-Rural	Rural Areas
Земеделие / Gross Agricultural Output	0,467	0,505	0,033	0,054
Безработица / Unemployment rate	0,681	0,494	0,096	0,131
Демография / Population Number	0,589	0,466	0,171	0,142
Човешки ресурси / Natural growth rate	0,533	0,492	0,067	0,071
Социална инфраструктура / Dwelling area per capita	0,602	0,496	0,033	0,086
Социо-икономически области със статистическа незначимост на RS Coef / Categories with statistically insignificant diversity between Rural and Non-Rural areas				
	Non-Rural	Rural Areas	Non-Rural	Rural Areas
Икономика / Gross Value Added	0,470	0,481	0,078	0,053
Здравна инфраструктура / Physicians number	0,490	0,496	0,082	0,038
Образователна инфраструктура / Teachers number	0,485	0,487	0,101	0,109

Source: Author on National Statistical Institute data.

sents and displays the median in the result set between the minimum and maximum RSDEV. It should also be noted that the standard deviation (σ) for the two types of areas is approximately the same, but the importance of (σ) for rural areas is much more crucial than for Non-rural areas. This is due to the lower results of the RS Coef where a deviation from this coefficient of 0.14, which is a case for example for population indicator shows that the lower boundaries can fall to 0.33 on average, which is significantly below the median of 0.5 and already testifies to not only lagging behind, but also to impaired development during the period under review.

Conclusions

The study shows the rural areas continues to lag in their socio-economic development compared to Non-rural areas in the period of EU membership. There are 5 crucial categories of socio-economic development, where are found serious differences between the situation and de-

velopment between rural and non-rural areas. Those are agriculture, demography, unemployment, economics and social infrastructure. The analysis of the data shows that the unfavorable trends in all included indicators at rural areas are deepening and exacerbating. The reasons for this are different, but they are related to the overall lag and adversity of rural areas compared to Non-rural areas, where comparative disadvantages not only predetermines the difficult overcoming of lost positions, but also unravels energy for even greater backwardness in the future. The reason for this conclusion is in the primary competitive principles in which the regions are set up, as the weakening of a region in a particular area leads to a loss of comparative advantage, and hence in forfeits in future resource allocation, which brings about this region to be less likely to attract sufficient resources, to fill the gap, which is a vicious cycle.

Achieving some good positions in the indicators for economy, health and educational infrastructure is due largely to quantitative fac-

tors rather than qualitative ones. Rural areas may have good availability and presence per capita with doctors and teachers, but this does not mean that the quality of education and health care, especially which requires high specialization and technological provision can be an advantage over Non-rural areas. What can also be clearly noted is that rural areas are a very heterogeneous group, where the contrasts are very high and the fact that they occupy the majority of the territory and are the majority of the administrative units in the country does not help solve the problems. A more detailed definition of rural areas is required in order to be able to classify them according to their socio-economic problems and level of development and needs.

The initial driver for improving the situation in rural areas is attributed to the future outlook and prospects. With changing perspectives and expectations of people and communities about situation and future of rural areas, in a more bright and sustainable prospects, the situation in rural areas will change and will become more stable. In order to happen, most studies notes the important role of endogenous factors in rural areas related to strengths and the necessary support from public funds and support, which in synergy may contribute to more desirable outcomes.

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