

Editorial Comment:

The current version present improve some aspect. BUT need a final effort: a) some sentences about the focus of journal: the rural world (if the Jiu valley, is a rural? area please explain in the text), and b) need a map of situation.

Authors Feedback:

The Jiu Valley is Romania's principal coal mining region, composed of two main cities- Petrosani and Vulcan -and four small towns Lupeni, Uricani, Petrila, Aninoasa.

Two other areas in Romania have some surface mining, while the Jiu Valley contains deep shaft underground mines. While providing only 12% of the Romania's supply of coal, the Jiu Valley is the only region in Romania both completely urbanized and reliant on a single industry. Coal mining has been long been the heart and economic lifeline for the Jiu Valley. The development of coal mining started in the Jiu Valley about 150 years ago around the middle of the 19th century when Polish, Czech and German workers were brought from all parts of the Habsburg Empire to work in the coal mines. The mines were privately owned until 1948, when all private companies were nationalized by the Communist government. As part of Romania's reparations to the Soviet Union for its wartime alliance with Germany, the Romanian coal mines were also nationalized and converted into joint Soviet-Romanian companies (SovRoms). These Sovroms continued for about ten years.

Organized labor has played an important role in post-revolution Romania, affecting the actions of every government since 1989. Chronic work stoppages and economic disruptions by various labor organizations helped bring down successive governments and contributed to general economic and political instability. While trade unions have existed in Romania since the late nineteenth century, during the communist period from World War II until 1989 independent trade unions were not allowed to exist. Instead, there was a national pyramid of industry federations consisting of enterprise trade unions and headed by the General Union of Romanian Trade Unions. The few attempts during this period to found independent trade unions or organize worker protests were ruthlessly suppressed, with their leaders severely punished or executed. Following the chaos of December 1989, trade organizations sprang up virtually overnight. Unlike in Western Europe where trade-union pluralism typically reflects ideological groupings, in Romania labor movement fragmentation reflected distrust of higher authority, personal ambition and unwillingness of leaders to reduce or share power. As of 1997, labor analysts estimated that there were over 14,000 enterprise trade union organizations, 150 federations, and 18 confederations, representing approximately two-thirds of the workforce. Some consolidation occurred in the 1990s.

The economic situation for state-favored working classes, such as the miners, who had been relatively insulated against the harsh privation suffered by the general populace, changed after 1989. During Ceausescu's regime the mines and other ineffective state-owned industries were artificially propped up and protected against market realities. Miners were considered relatively well paid, although there was little of value to purchase with the money they earned. After the revolution in December 1989 the replacement government maintained Ceausescu's policy of subsidizing these money-losing industries with few changes to the industrial or management practices that had led to the problems in the first place. The government borrowed heavily without adhering to the conditions of economic reforms required by the World Bank, the IMF and other international lenders. With Ceausescu's forced privations lifted, and falling prices for Romanian exports, the country's international debt soared. This in turn led to fewer funds allocated to industry reinvestment and maintenance.

Decrease in the number of employees began in 1998, when it was the first time in the history of the labour market in Romania in which there have been many more retirees than active, due to the economic crisis, and this trend has continued until now.

If in the early years of the Revolution , the Jiu Valley mines worked over 45,000 people (in 1977 their number was almost 90,000) , currently there are only 8,000 miners. Nearly 20,000 miners had asked to be dismissed only between 1997 and 1999. They received redundancy payments and the amounts obtained were considered at that time as small fortunes .

Pensioners in the Jiu Valley , coming from mining system are currently beneficiaries of facilities provided by Government Decision no . 670/1990 , based addenda Collective Bargaining Agreement in force at the Jiu Valley Mine National Company closures , according to EC Decision 787/2010 on State aid to facilitate uncompetitive mines . The issue is managed by the Ministry of Economy.

This zone bailout problems confronting cities and population Jiu Valley : two thirds of miners no longer had found jobs in five years active population decreased by 40 percent, state road infrastructure was disastrous , blocks miners were unsanitary housing , environmental pollution due to mining was pronounced lack of qualifications, work refusal of many unemployed and lack significant private investment due to negative appeal zone Auditors also depressing picture of the depression . And if all this were not sufficiently to transform cities into places to avoid mining , miners have destroyed almost definitive image Jiu Valley .

The theme of the study may be associated with the interests of the journal, just through focuses on the social, economic, political and cultural needs of improve the pension system and creating a more coherent in the sphere of pensions.