

## THE DEMOGRAPHIC BEHAVIOUR OF SMALL TOWNS IN ROMANIA IN THE POST-COMMUNIST PERIOD ANALYZED THROUGH THE DYNAMICS OF THE POPULATION. CASE STUDY: THE SMALL TOWNS IN THE BIHOR COUNTY, ROMANIA

**Marcu STASAC\***

University of Oradea, Department of Geography, Tourism and Territorial Planning, 1 Universitii Street, Oradea, Romania,  
e-mail: [marcu\\_stasac@yahoo.com](mailto:marcu_stasac@yahoo.com)

**Claudiu FILIMON**

University of Oradea, Department of Geography, Tourism and Territorial Planning, 1 Universitii Street, Oradea, Romania,  
e-mail: [filimonpunct@yahoo.fr](mailto:filimonpunct@yahoo.fr)

**Rodica PETREA**

University of Oradea, Department of Geography, Tourism and Territorial Planning, 1 Universitii Street, Oradea, Romania,  
e-mail: [rpetrea@uoradea.ro](mailto:rpetrea@uoradea.ro)

**Angela BULZAN**

University of Oradea, Department of Geography, Tourism and Territorial Planning, 1 Universitii Street, Oradea, Romania,  
e-mail: [angelabulzan@gmail.com](mailto:angelabulzan@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** The political, economic and social changes that Romania faced after December 1989 have strongly influenced the evolution of the demographic phenomena. The decrease of the birth rate, the increase of the death rate and a pronounced negative external migration, have led to important changes in the demographic structure of the towns. Despite the fact that these changes are characteristic to all towns, the demographic decline registers the most significant values in the case of small towns, particularly the mono-industrial ones set up during the communist time in Romania, with severe economic and social consequences. In this context, the necessity of working out a strategy in the field of population from the perspective of the long-lasting development of the small towns proves to be compulsory. Without such a strategy, the imbalances shall deepen, whereas the demographic aging shall trigger a stronger and stronger pressure upon the active population, having negative effects upon the social systems. The purpose of the study is to outlining the dimension of the demographic decline and of the demographic hazards with severe negative consequences, both economic and social, for the small towns.

**Key words:** small towns, post-comunist period, dynamics of the population, demographic decline,

\* \* \* \* \*

---

\* Corresponding Author

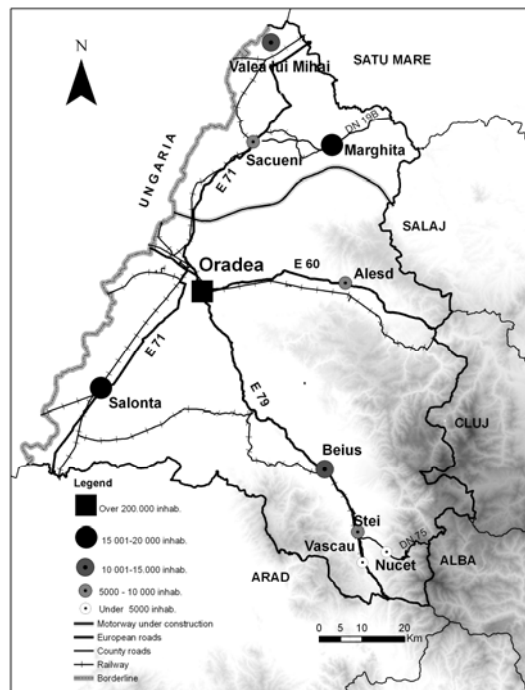
## INTRODUCTION

The great majority of small towns (in the geographic literature in Romania, by small towns there are understood those urban localities the number of inhabitants of which does not exceed 20.000) from Romania have evolved from the statute of rural settlements, when the forced industrialization and urbanization policy in the communist time (1945-1989) has facilitated the transforming of the localities that had important natural resources, to small urban centres.

Often characterized by a mono-functional (mono-industrial) profile, these small towns have been artificially sustained during the communist time, through massive investments, to the detriment of the traditional urban centres, turning the natural urban hierarchy upside down and generating at the same time heavy territorial imbalances (Ianoş & Tălângă, 1996; Zamfir & Braghină, 2000; Zamfir et al., 2009; Bănică & Istrate, 2012).

Such a forced industrialization and urbanization policy has triggered the appearance of six small towns in the Bihor county. Only two of them present an urban tradition, Beiuş and Salonta, being documentarily mentioned with the statute of town during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Six localities have been declared towns in the communist times: Ştei, Nucet and Vascău in 1956, Marghita and Aleşd in 1968 and Valea lui Mihai, in 1989. In 2004 the urban network of Bihor county was completed with the town of Săcuieni (figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Urban network in Bihor County  
(Source: Filimon et al., 2011)

The subsequent evolution of the towns appeared before 1989 has known an upward dynamics during the '70s-'80s, followed by a stagnation in the '80s-'90s.

After the fall of communism, there followed a pronounced economic and socio-demographic decline, as a result of the slow process of restructuring of the communist-type industry and reconversion of the territories affected by profound imbalances. The move to the rigors of the market economy has affected all the small towns, triggering the appearance of certain forms of

restructuring of the urban area and in the end of a process of urban decline, with the diminishing of the urban functions (Petrea et al., 2009; Petrea et al., 2014; Prașca et al., 2013).

The political, economic and social changes from the post-comunist time have put their imprint upon the evolution of the demographic phenomena. Thus, the decrease of the birth rate, the increase of death rate and a negative external migration, have led to important changes in the demographic structure of towns, particularly of small towns. The demographic decline from the small town has severe economic and social consequences, with implications on the long term. At present, the majority of these towns go through a new process of restructuring. Thus, the trend is towards the diversifying of the predominantly mono-functional-industrial economic profile with one from the sphere of the tertiary economic activities (Olău, 2010; Filimon et al., 2011).

The aim of the study is to outlining the dimensions of the demographic decline and of the demographic hazards with negative economic and social consequences more pronounced for the small towns than for the other towns in Romania. The results of the present study constitute the starting point for working out a strategy in the field of population from the perspective of the sustainable development of small towns. Without such a strategy, the imbalances shall deepen, whereas the demographic aging shall trigger a stronger and stronger pressure upon the active population, having negative effects upon the social systems.

## **THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The analysis of the demographic phenomenon in the small towns poses a particular interest both at the European Union level, and at the level of Romania, being present both in the Strategy of Europe 2014-2020, and in Romania's Strategy for Territorial Development. Polycentric Romania 2035 (Romania's Strategy for Territorial Development. Polycentric Romania 2035).<sup>1</sup>

The demographic analysis is necessary in order to correct the demographic evolutions, that are at the ground of the policies and programs in the field of work force occupancy. For the analysis of the demographic behaviour of the small towns from the post-communist times, reflected by the dynamics of the population, a series of indicators were used: the numerical evolution of population, the natural dynamics of the population, migratory dynamics and the general demographic balance, for the time interval 1990-2011. These indicators were analysed using statistical data existent for the whole series of years in the interval mentioned in the file of the communes as well as the population censuses of 1992, 2002, respectively 2011 (DJS, The County Statistics Department - Bihor). The specialists' interest towards the urban Romanian phenomenon is more obvious, especially after the '90s when Romania crossed a transition period towards the market economy. In this respect, a series of research papers were carried out which analyze the urban Romanian city and system within the market economy (Ianoș & Tălângă, 1994), the urban dynamics (Ianoș, 2004; Săgeată, 2003), urban and urbanization policies during the transition period (Benedek, 2006), the territorial planning urban settlement system (Pascariu, 2011), the Romanian urban system between becoming and turbulence (Groza, 1994).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Evolution of the number of inhabitants (1990-2011)**

As a demographic potential, the Bihor district ranks 10 among the districts of Romania, concentrating, according to the data of the 2011 population census, a total population of 575.398 inhabitants, of which 49,1% live in the urban area, and 50,9% in the rural area.<sup>2</sup>

The highest contribution to the increase of the urban population incurs on the town of Oradea, the capital of Bihor county, which sums up a population of 196.367 inhabitants amounting to 34,1 % of the population of Bihor district, respectively 69,3 % of the urban population. The rest of 31,7 % of the total urban population, i.e. 86 675 inhabitants, rests with the small towns. The small towns from Bihor district have known a specific demographic evolution in time, registering

<sup>1</sup> www.mdrt.ro

<sup>2</sup> www.bihor.insse.ro

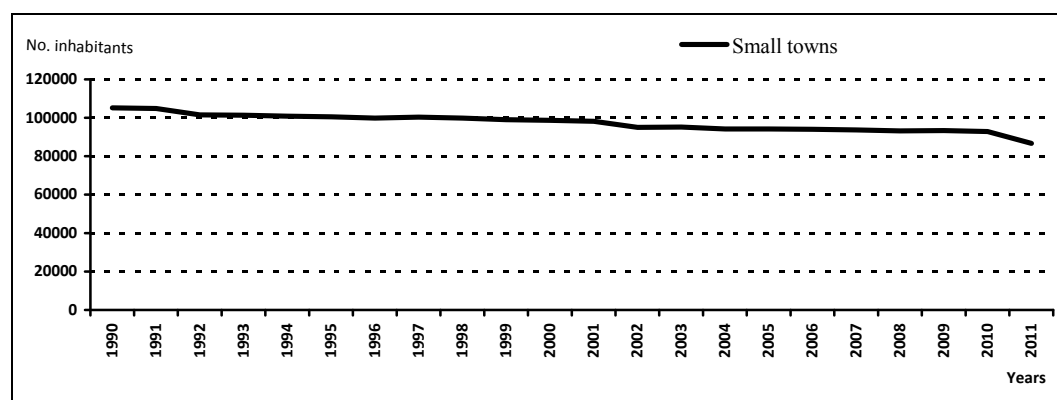
periods of demographic growth, but also of regression, according to certain factors of historical, political, social and economic nature, which have also left their imprint upon the demographic behaviour of their population, moreover that their great majority have reached the statute of town relatively late, after 1956, that is after the setting in of the communist regime in Romania.

For the time analysed interval, that is 1990-2011, one can notice that from the point of view of the evolution of the number of inhabitants, the small towns from Bihor have registered a constant (linear) decrease for the entire period of time, without there being important moments of „rupture” (figure 2).

In the 22 years analysed, the population of small towns has decreased from 105.093 inhabitants in 1990 to 86 675 in 2011. Anually the small towns from Bihor district have lost, on average, 837 persons, which means a percentage loss of 0.8% per year. At the level of the small towns, the values registered vary within the range of 0.01% in Nucet and – 1.8% in Ştei (table 1).

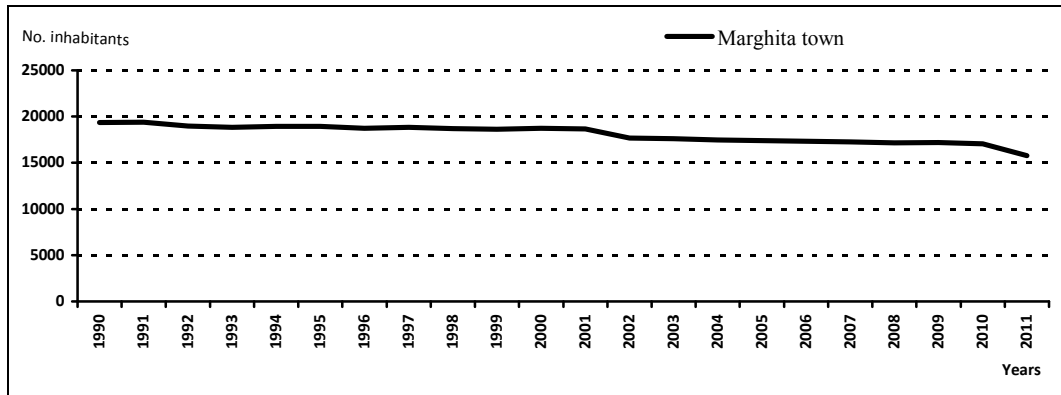
**Table 1.** The average annual rate of decrease of population in the small towns of Bihor County  
(Data source: *DJS, The County Statistics Department - Bihor*)

Crt. No.	Town	The average annual rate of decrease of population (%) (1990-2011)
1	Aleşd	-0,2
2	Beiuş	-0,7
3	Marghita	-0,8
4	Nucet	-0,01
5	Săcueni	-0,6
6	Salonta	-0,9
7	Ştei	-1,8
8	Vaşcău	-1,4
9	Valea lui Mihai	-0,5
10	<b>Total small towns</b>	<b>-0,8</b>



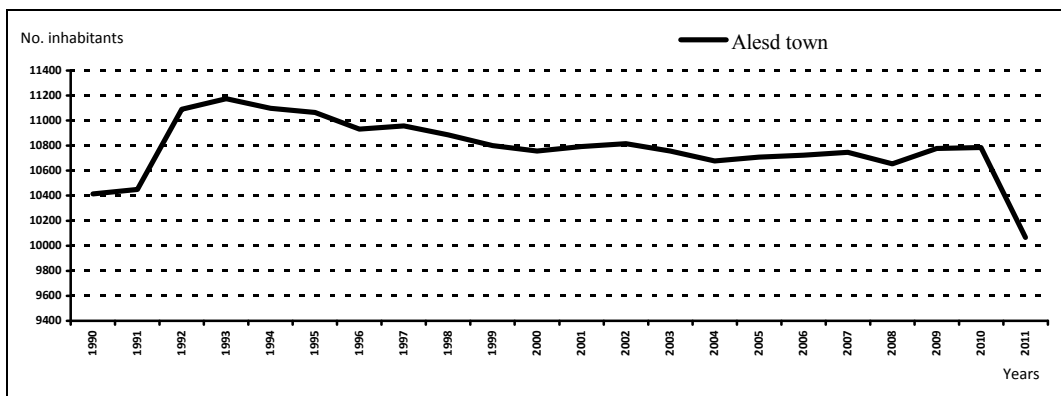
**Figure 2.** The evolution of the number of inhabitants in the small towns of Bihor County (1990-2011)  
(Source: *DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor*)

According to the general evolution, at the level of town a few can be individualized types of evolution. A first type is represented by the towns having a numerical evolution of the population, which falls within the general type registered at the level of small towns, linear decrease and values of the annual average rate equal or even higher than the general one. This type of evolution characterizes the towns of Marghita, Salonta, Săcueni, Ştei and Vaşcău (figure 3).



**Figure 3.** The numerical evolution of the population in Marghita town (1990-2011)  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

This model defines the towns which had important numbers of population, of an urban tradition, with a relatively well defined socio-economic profile (Marghita, Salonta), towns that succeeded in adapting themselves to the new economic conditions after 1990 (Ștei, Vașcău), or new towns entered in the urban network, wherein the effects are not highly visible (Săcueni), so that the diminishing of the population was linear, being generated mainly by the diminishing of the birth rate and a relatively low external migration. The second type corresponds to the towns Aleșd, Beiuș and Valea lui Mihai, with an uneven evolution, marked by decreases and increases of population generated first of all by the effects of economic restructurings occurred in these towns after the 1990s (figure 4).

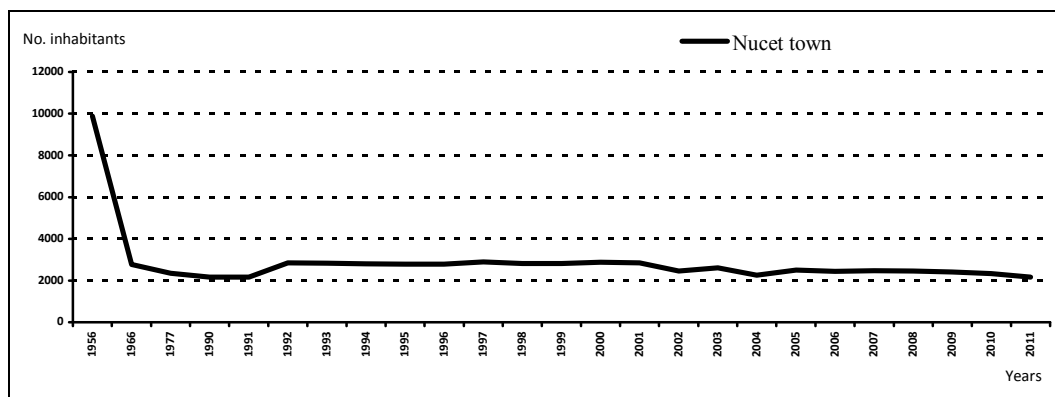


**Figure 4.** The numerical evolution of the population in Aleșd town (1990-2011)  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

Also, with the exception of the town of Beiuș, Aleșd and Valea lui Mihai are relatively young towns, being declared towns in the year 1968, respectively 1989 and which did not succeed in imposing themselves from a demographic point of view within the area they polarize. On the other hand, the town of Beiuș, despite the fact that it has an urban tradition and a well-structured area of influence, its numerical evolution is closely connected with the restructurings in its economic profile, which are felt all through the area they polarize, respectively through the fact that the town is no longer a population gauge from the adjoining rural area.

The third type of numerical evolution, an atypical one, marked for a while by a maximum of population, generated by economical-social factors, after which there occurs a stabilization of

the population, which is maintained until the present day. The town of Nucet corresponds to this type, appeared in the year 1956, year of the maximum number of population, followed by a population drop below 3,000 inhabitants in the next ten years, value maintained until present (figure 5). The demographic evolution of this mining town is closely connected to the uranium minings in the mountainous area of Bihor, The namely in the Bihor Mountains, which have generated for a short time an inflow of workforce.



**Figure 5.** The numerical evolution of the population in the Nucet town in the interval 1956-2011  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

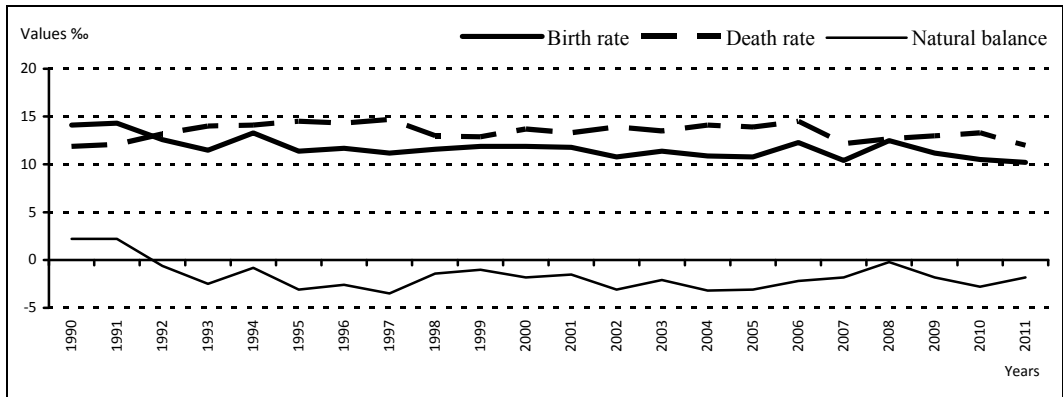
On the numerical evolution of the population in the interval 1990-2011, having antecedents since 1966, we deem that it is the natural evolution, one which reflects in real terms the demographic and social-economic potential of the town Nucet.

The numerical evolution of the population in the town Nucet is atypical, since, unlike the other small towns from Bihor, it has registered almost the same population for the interval time analysed, only 6 persons were lost all throughout the analysed interval. This demographic behaviour is mainly based upon the natural incoming [input] and outgoing [output] of population from the system, external factors (the mechanic movement, the social and economic policies) having an insignificant impact.

### Dynamics of the population

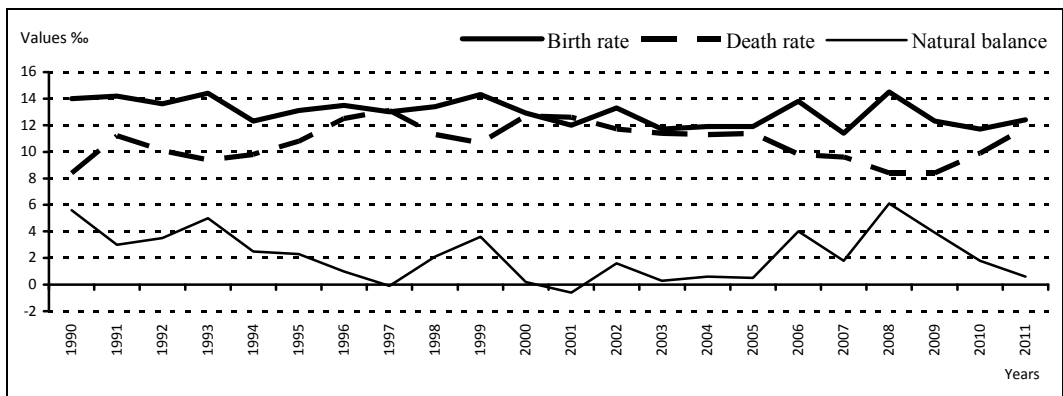
The general evolution of the number of inhabitants depends to a large extent as well on the components of the natural movement and of the migratory movement whose impulse changes, the demographic figures and states are recorded in certain moments by the various statistic materials. In order to grasp the evolution trend of the population dynamics in the post-communist time, we have analysed its main components in the last 22 years (1990-2011), respectively the natural and the mechanic (migratory) dynamics. The natural dynamics was analysed by means of the indicators that define it, respectively the birth rate, the death rate and the natural balance. If at the beginning of the post-communist time the birth rate index was maintained at higher values, (14 % in 1990), on the background of a lower death rate (11.9 %), the small towns of Bihor district have registered, a natural positive natural balance on the whole, which has generated that demographic growth, which triggered the highest number of inhabitants at the level of the years 1990 and 1991, certainly, on the background of a certain migratory stability.

After the year 1992, the values of the birth rate index started to decrease, while the death rate reached higher quotas, exceeding the balance threshold between the two indicators, the values of the natural balance becoming negative and thus we shall assist to the beginning of a demographic decline which is maintained at present as well (figure 6). The natural balance for the period of analysed time is a negative one, of -1.5‰.

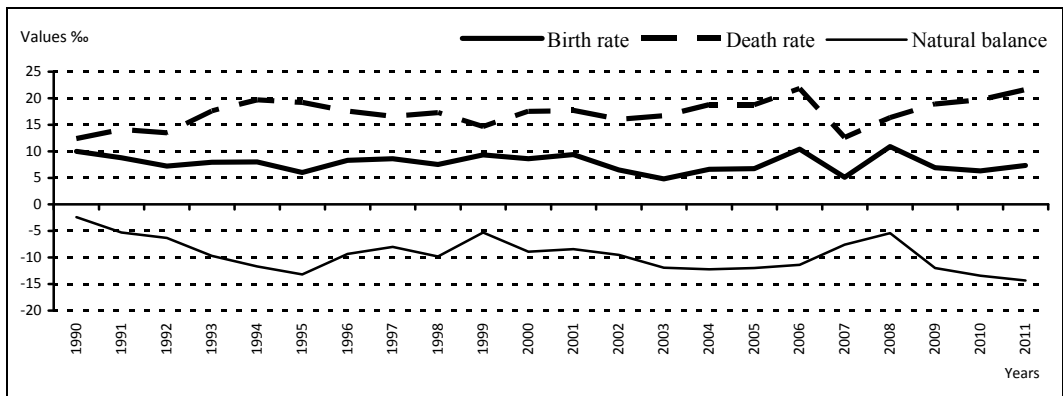


**Figure 6.** The natural movement of the population and the natural balance at the level of the small towns of Bihor County (1990-2011)  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

On the whole, the values of the birth rate, the death rate and implicitly the natural balance fall within the general trend in the majority of small towns, with the mentioning that there are two exceptions (figures 7 and 8).



**Figure 7.** The natural movement of the population and the natural balance in Alesd town (1990-2011)  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)



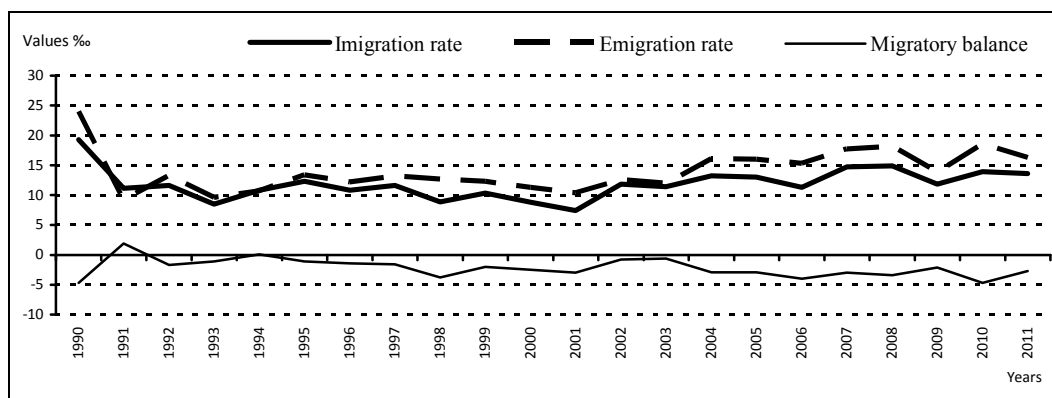
**Figure 8.** The natural movement of the population and the natural balance at the level of Vașcău town (1990-2011)  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

A first exception is represented by the town of Aleşd, where the birth rate values were generally higher than those of the death rate all along the entire period of analysed time, this the natural balance is a positive one. The low values of the death rate and maintaining a high birth rate are the outcome of young population group settling in the town, followed by its declaration as a town. Nevertheless, in this town, too, one can notice the tendency of growth of the death rate in the last years and a birth rate decrement.

At the opposite end is situated the town of Vaşcău, where for the entire period of analysed time there can be noticed a birth rate with very low values, below 10 % in general, doubled by a high death rate, of over 16%, with a pronounced growth tendency in the last years, when it exceeded 20 %. Given this situation, the values of the natural balance are negative. This situation is generated by the social-economic turmoil appeared after 1990, which have generated a process of demographic aging and of „*ruralization*” of the town.

### The migratory dynamics

The migratory movement of population is caused by the historical-political and economic changes. The historical-political causes are represented by the change of political regime in Romania, doubled by the opening of the borders shortly after 1990, and the free movement of persons along with the Romania's EU accession in 2007. Economically, all the small towns have suffered because of the restructurings occurred in the economic system, particularly the ones in industry. In the case of the towns Salonta, Săcueni the presence of the community of Hungarians have had an influence in what concerns the migration, their trend being that of settling themselves in Hungary both during 1990-1992, and after 2007 and alongwith obtaining the double citizenship in 2010. The analysis of the migratory movement of population in the small towns brings to light two aspects of the population migration of the small towns of Bihor district. A first aspect, the way one can notice (figure 9), consists in the fact that the values of immigration (29.5%) and emigration (35%) are higher in the interval 1990-1992, whereas in the following period of time, the values of immigration and emigration are balanced at an average of 11.8% in the case of immigration and 12.9% for emigration. The high values in the first years of the period of time taken into consideration are explained through the euphoria generated by the facilitating of possibilities of migration of the population both inside and outside the country.



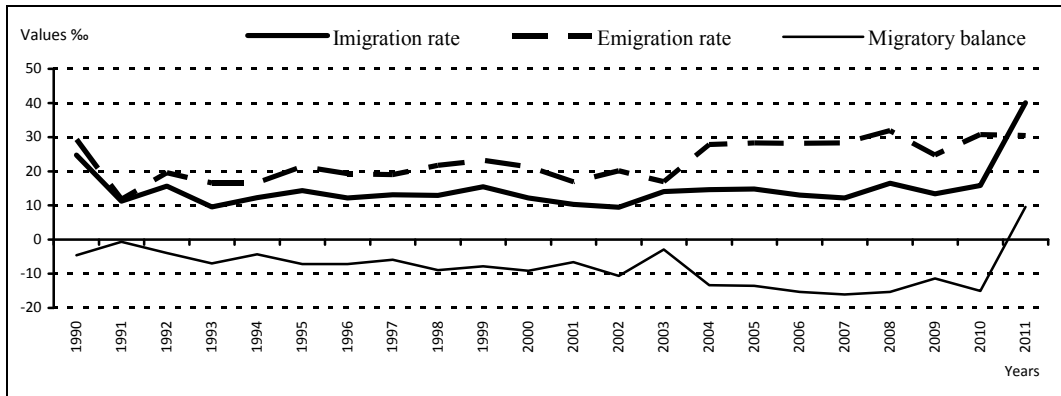
**Figure 9.** The migratory movement of population and the migratory balance at the level of small towns from Bihor County (1990-2011)  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

The higher values of emigration (15%) are registered in the towns with an industrial profile, Aleşd, Beiuş, Ştei, Marghita, where the restructuring process occurred in the industry lies at the ground of the motivation for the emigration phenomenon. To be mentioned that a part of



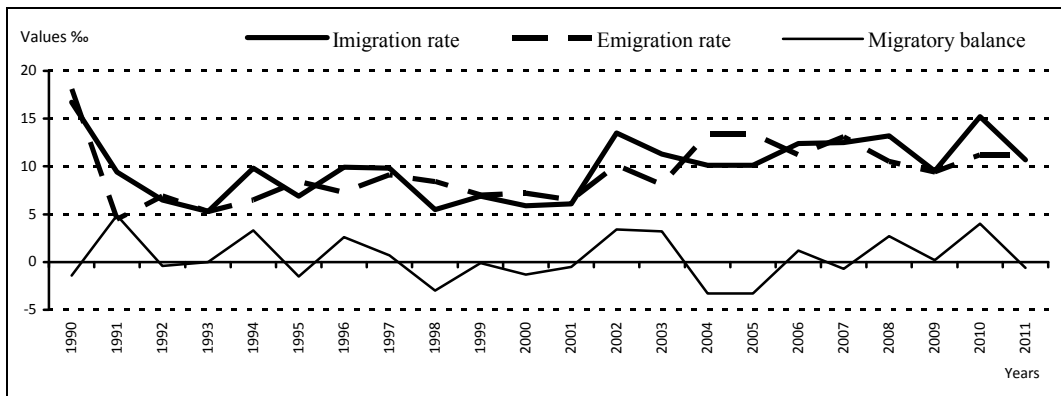
these towns, Beiuș, Ștei, Nucet, also fall within the towns where the values of immigration are higher (14‰-15‰) than the general average. These high values of immigration are explained by the influence they have within the rural area they polarize and also by certain economic sudden changes that took place in these towns.

The second aspect is defined by the evolution of the migratory movement between 1992-2007, when the oscillations of the values of both immigration and emigration are not very high, having a somewhat linear evolution, which along with the year 2007, in the towns of Beiuș, Salonta, Ștei, Marghita, Nucet register a clear growth tendency of both emigration and immigration can be registered, particularly from 2009. The most conclusive example is that of the town of Ștei having a more significant growth tendency in the case of immigration, so that in the last two years, the migratory balance in town was a positive one (figure 10).

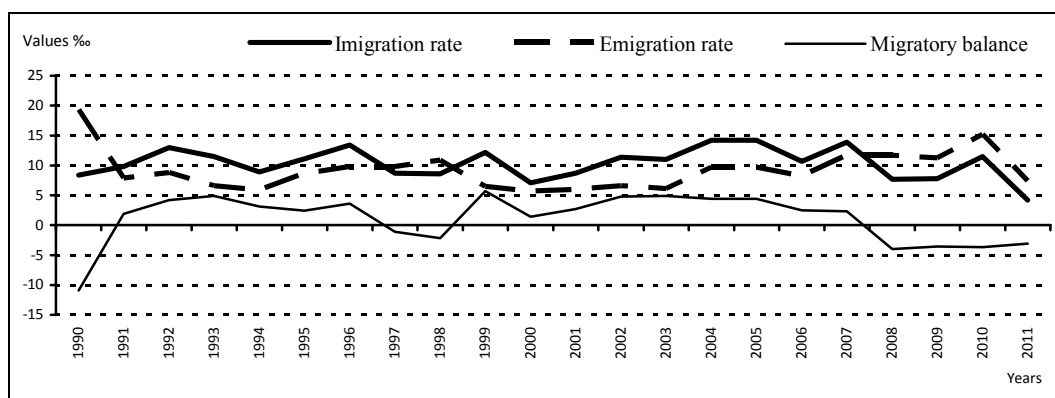


**Figure 10.** The migratory movement of population and the migratory balance in the town of Ștei (Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

The values of the migratory values are negative, -2.2‰, for the entire period of time, with obvious fluctuations along the analysed years. One can notice that in 1990 and 2010 the lowest values of the natural balance are registered (-4.7‰), a positive balance being registered only in 1991. At the level of towns, situations that are an exception to the rule are registered only in Salonta and Valea lui Mihai where for all oscillations registered, the general migratory balance is a positive one for the entire period analysed, with an obvious negative tendency in the last few years (figures 11 and 12).



**Figure 11.** The migratory movement and the migratory balance in the Salonta town (Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

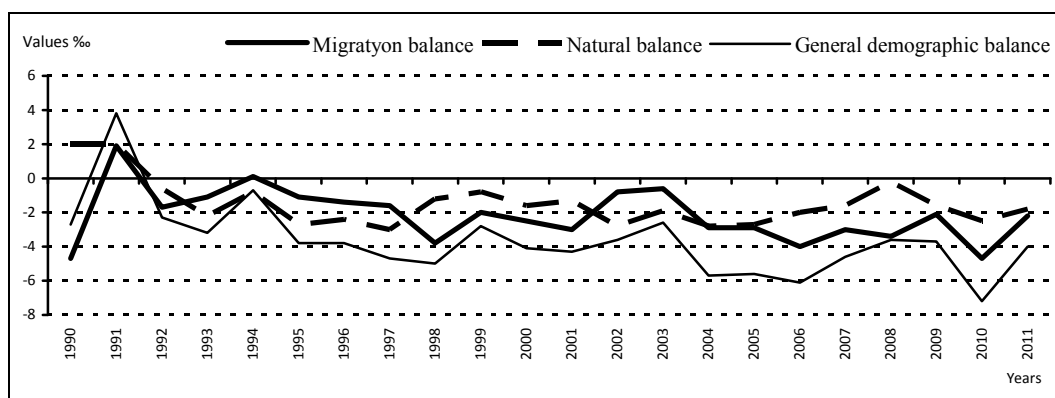


**Figure 12.** The migratory movement and the migratory balance in the Valea lui Mihai town  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

As one can notice, the evolutions of the migratory balance in the two towns are not similar, the most important oscillations occurring in the town of Salonta. An important role in the evolution of migration in the two towns incurs on economic similarities (both have an agro-industrial profile), demographic (the presence of a well represented Hungarian community), the geographic position (both towns are situated in cross-border areas, both in the extremities of the county Salonta in the South, Valea lui Mihai in the North).

### The general demographic balance

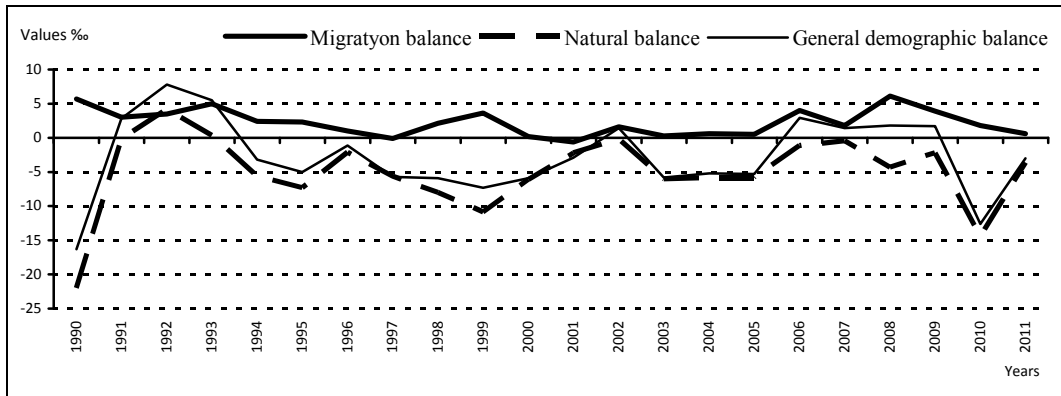
The general trend of the general demographic balance of the small towns in Bihor follows a descending line, the value for the interval analysed being of  $-3.6\%$ . For the entire analysed interval, the general demographic balance presents a single positive value, corresponding to the year 1991, when both its components had positive values (figure 13). Following this year, the values are negative for the entire period of time, an important role incurring first of all on the migratory balance. With regard to the level of town according to the value registered at the general level, the values of the general demographic balance vary between  $-12.2\%$  in the town of Vașcău and  $-0.4\%$  in the town of Săcueni.



**Figure 13.** The general demographic balance in the small towns from Bihor County  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

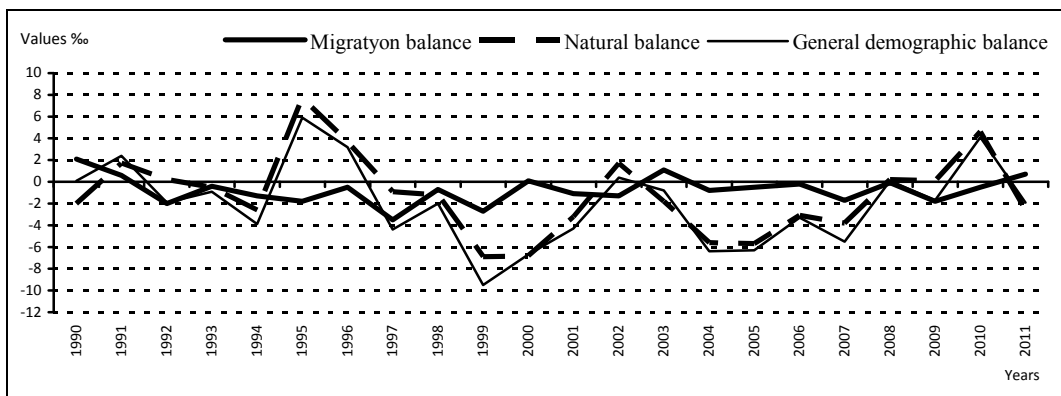
Starting from the general situation, within the small towns of Bihor district there can be outlined several models of geo-demographic behaviour. The geo-demographic behaviour of small

towns is closely related to their urban past, to the economic evolution and last but not least, to the rural area they polarize and out of which, by the attraction exercised, they recruit a great part of the population. A first model is represented by the towns Aleșd, Marghita, Ștei in which the values of the general demographic balance are generated first of all by the migratory balance, with rather high negative values compared with the ones of the natural balance. The natural balance has for the entire period of time, positive values, the negative ones occurring only randomly (figure 14).



**Figure 14.** The general demographic balance in the Aleșd town  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

The values of the migratory balance are negative in almost all the mentioned years and are generated first of all by the changes occurred within the economic system of these towns. This type of general demographic balance outlines the fact that these towns still have a significant demographic balance, the values of the birth rate are relatively high and it is only the economic situation they undergo that influences their demographic behaviour by means of migration. A second model is that of the small towns Beiuș, Salonta, Săcueni, Valea lui Mihai where one can notice the fact that the natural balance is a negative one for almost all the analysed years, the migratory balance having a rather oscillating evolution (figure 15).

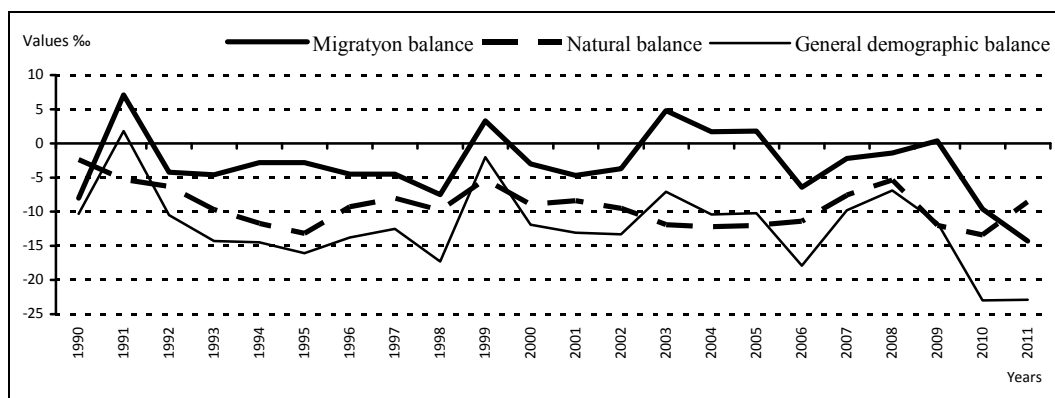


**Figure 15.** The general demographic balance in the Beiuș town  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

The positive values of the migratory balance in the last few years compensates for those of the natural balance and sets a positive trend to the general balance in the last few years. The

tendency of the migratory balance towards positive values, registered in the last years outlines the fact that these towns are likely to have become attractive again for the adjoining rural space.

The third model corresponds to the towns Nucet and Vascău and is characterized by the fact that for the whole period of time, the general demographic balance was a negative one. To be mentioned that the two towns, Nucet and Vascău have been towns since 1956, but they never corresponded the statute they have, a namely decisive role in the demographic behaviour which incurs on the rural localities belonging to these towns (figure 16).



**Figure 16.** The general demographic balance in the Vascău town  
(Source: DJS, The County Statistics Department-Bihor)

The geo-demographic behaviour of the population of these towns outlines the lack of an urban tradition, a shortage which is also reflected in the somewhat „chaotic” behaviour of the general geo-demographic balance. Within the general demographic balance, one can observe the contribution brought by the natural balance, effect of the aging of the population in the two towns, the values of the migratory balance being generated by the repulsive character of the two towns from a socio-economic perspective.

## CONCLUSIONS

The analysed demographic indicators in the present study demonstrate the fact that the small towns from Bihor district, undergoing a full process of economic restructuring are confronted with a series of demographic lack of balances which can determine a regression in their evolution. The descending trend of the birth rate together with the migrational phenomenon has generated a constant decrease of the population in the analysed interval, in all the small towns of the Bihor district.

An important role in the negative demographic behaviour of small towns which incurs on the component villages, for most of the small towns (Marghita, Alesd, Sacuieni, Vascau and Nucet), which from a demographic point of view fall into the category of small and middle-sized towns. Neither the towns with an urban tradition, Beiuș, Salonta and Ștei, in spite of the fact that in the last few years they have reached a certain economic stability, do succeed, from a demographic point of view, to register a change.

From the point of view of the natural dynamics, the small towns do not distinguish themselves from the rural space they polarize. The same thing stays true in the case of the migratory movement, wherein the migratory balance is positive only in certain years, there being no general trend of attracting the population to these towns.

In this context, the general demographic balance is a negative one, but which, nevertheless, according to each town, the main input incurs either on the natural balance, or on the migratory one. The exception to the rule is the town of Vascău, where, generally at the negative values of the

general demographic balance, the contribution incurs, to an equal extent, both on the natural movement, and on the migratory movement of the population.

The demographic behaviour of small towns, by the generalized trend of demographic decrease, of aging of population and implicitly of diminishing of the work force, strongly lays its imprint upon the social systems as well (the health system, the social insurance budget, the social protection system), having a significant negative impact upon the economic development of these towns. In the absence of coherent demographic strategies at both national and local level, able to stop the demographic decline, the phenomenon of aging of the population and the migratory imbalances, these collectivities are faced with the impossibility of redressing themselves individually and of ensuring themselves the demographic balance in the long run.

## REFERENCES

- Bănică A., Istrate M. (2012), *Urban identities in peripheral spaces: The Carpathian Small towns in Romania*, Analele Universității din Oradea, 22(2): 262-272.
- Benedek J. (2006), *Urban policy and urbanization in the transition Romania*, in Romanian Review of Regional Studies, Volume II, Number 1, Cluj Napoca, pp. 52-64.
- Filimon L., Petrea R., Petrea D., Filimon C. (2011), *Small Towns and Intercommunal Construction. Case Study: Bihor County, Romania*, in Transylvanian Review of Administrative Science 34, Cluj-Napoca, pp. 114-126.
- Groza O. (1994), *Sistemul urban din România: devenire și turbulență (1930-1992) [The urban system in Romania : budding and turbulence (1930-1992)]*, in Revista Științifică „Vasile Adamachi”, 2, (1), Iași.
- Ianoș I., Tălângă C. (1994), *Orașul și sistemul urban românesc în condițiile economiei de piață [The city and the urban system in the Romanian market economy]*, Institutul de Geografie al Academiei Române, București, Romania.
- Ianoș I., Tălângă C. (1996), *Structura și dinamica funcțională a orașelor mici din România [Structure and functional dynamics of small towns in Romania]*, Conferința Națională de Geografie, vol. II, Timișoara, Romania.
- Ianoș I. (2004), *Dinamica urbană [Urban dynamics]*, Editura Tehnică, București, Romania.
- Olău P. (2010), *Geo-demographic indicators related to territorial planning in Aleșd, Bihor County*, Analele Universității din Oradea, 20(2):233-237.
- Pascariu G. (2011), *Structura și dinamica sistemelor de așezări umane în procesul de planificare teritorială [Structure and dynamics of settlement systems in the territorial planning]*, Editura Universitară „Ion Mincu”, București, Romania.
- Petrea R., Olău P., Nemeș V. (2009), *Aleșd: issues of organization, town planning and geospatial integration*, Analele Universității din Oradea, 19(1): 133-140.
- Petrea R., Filimon C., Filimon L., Nemeș V. (2013), *Post Communist Functional changes in Romanian's Small Towns. Case study: Beiuș Land (Bihor County)*, in Studia UBB Geographia, Cluj-Napoca, pp. 119-133.
- Săgeată R. (2002), *Structurile urbane de tip socialist-o individualitate geografică? [Socialist-type urban structures-a geographical individuality?]*, in Analele Universității din Oradea, XII, Oradea, pp. 61-69.
- Prașca M., Petrea R., Filimon M. (2013), *The urban shrinkage of the small towns located in southern part of Bihor County, Romania*, Analele Universității din Oradea, 23 (1): 172-180.
- Zamfir D., Braghină C. (2000), *Locul localităților componente în evoluția demografică a orașelor mici din România [Place demographic localities in small towns in Romania]*, in Comunicări de Geografie, III, Editura Universității din București, București, Romania.
- Zamfir D., Tălângă C., Stoica Valentina I. (2009), *Romanian small towns searching own identities*, Journal of Urban and Regional Analysis, 1 (1): 41-53

Submitted:  
July 12, 2016

Revised:  
September 13, 2016

Accepted and published online  
November 02, 2016