

## INDICATORS OF SOCIAL SECURITY IN BRAȘOV COUNTY THAT MAY CAUSE SOCIAL INSECURITY

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**Abstract:** *The article presents a case study referring to the area of Brasov county, where the citizens' security is closely analyzed in all its dimensions. The increase in citizen security in a community is evaluated through a framework concerning the planning and evaluation of the administrative system, the analysis of the situation before and after the attainment of results, by collecting data from the persons involved. The pillars of such a planning framework are to set objectives, measuring instruments, to determine responsibility and effects or impact. Objectives are established through analyses such as the one presented here.*

**Keywords:** *social security, local public authorities, sociological survey, Brasov County*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The administrative system, the "resistance structure" of a state, directly influences its development and the standard of living of its citizens. Local public authorities are the foundation of regional development and the interests of citizens and communities to create well-being and security. From this perspective, I will analyze the general framework of organization and functioning of the authorities, their role and attributions, in relation to the interests of the citizen and of the communities, especially in the light of the three indicators that have been criticized for perceiving insecurity: health, transport and safety [1].

Security and threats are increasingly emerging as a problem of perception. If, during the Cold War, the international relations theorists considered the threat to be exclusively military in nature, the security referring to the survival of the state, the concept of security subsequently became widely developed, expanding a lot, becoming a multidimensional concept with extreme complexity of pregnant. Especially after the research of the Copenhagen School specialists, we talk about economic, political, military, social, cultural, environmental, and even human, security, the concept of "human security" being launched in 1994 through the Annual Human Development Report.

Security is defined as the perception, organization, identification and interpretation of primary environmental information as being free of risks, dangers and threats [2]. The theory of human security is, however, an extremely complex one, but also challenged, under the sign of subjectivity, the lack of consensus on how the intensity and repercussions of a particular threat can be measured, as well as on ways to prevent or eliminate them. Thus, security appears to be a state in which subjective and objective factors play equally important roles.

## **2. THE PERCEPTION OF SECURITY / INSECURITY AND ITS REFLECTION IN THE COMMUNITY**

In order to study the subjective and objective dimensions of the security phenomenon a quantitative research through the method of oral questionnaire based on a standardized questionnaire was applied in the county of Brasov at the level of the non-institutionalized population, aged over 14 years. The questionnaire was applied in Brasov County in two intervals: the first one, between September 26 and November 7, 2014, and the second one between September 15 and November 3, 2017. The respondents' training was based on the following information protocol: "This questionnaire addresses the issue of risks and threats to you, as a citizen of Romania and a resident of Brasov County. To discuss these issues, you were randomly chosen as a lottery. If you agree to answer your questions, we hope you will not be kidnapped for more than 15 minutes. Responses are anonymous and will not be communicated to anyone in this form. " In the first period, out of a total of 50 questionnaires, 30 were applied in the urban area (Brasov municipality) and 20 in the rural area (10 questionnaires in Sânpetru, 5 in Feldioara and 5 in Dăișoara-Ungra). In the second interval, out of a total of 30 questionnaires, 20 were applied in the urban area (Brasov municipality) and 10 in the rural area. The technical data and results of this research will be further detailed below.

The research objectives aim to identify the most frequently mentioned risks at the level of the Brasov community, describing the profile of vulnerable to risks persons in the Brasov community, and correlative analysis of the interdependence of the perceived risks [3].

Using the questionnaire, as a data collection tool, we aimed to analyze the security issue on the classical dimensions promoted by the Copenhagen School: economic, political, social, military and environmental. Starting from the five-dimensional generalization scheme presented above, the following indicators (with the corresponding items in the questionnaire) were formulated for the subjective perception of security / insecurity:

- the economical dimension: interest in economic news, satisfaction with the economic situation of the family, concerns about living conditions in Brasov County, and the cost of living, food prices and unemployment in Brasov County, etc.;

- the political dimension: the assessment of the lack of citizens' participation in local decision-making, of corruption, respectively the political crisis, the degree of satisfaction with the way in which different areas of public life (housing, transport, etc.) are managed at the level of Brasov County, such as and the degree to which their faulty management affects their personal lives;

- the social dimension: interest in information in areas such as health, education, accidents at work, road accidents, satisfaction with particular aspects of life such as personal and family safety on the streets, physical safety at work and personal and family health, assessment of the severity of some community problems such as crimes, violence, access to the social assistance system, access to the health system, access to the educational system, discrimination, ethnic conflicts and social cohesion, the degree to which the respondent considers that these problems affect his life in the county;

- the military dimension: the degree to which the respondent considers the problem of military conflict with another state or group of states adversely affects the life of the county's inhabitant;

- the ecological dimension: interest in environmental disaster information's, satisfaction regarding the climate in the geographical area in which it lives, concerns about the community's environmental degradation, the extent to which the respondent considers certain issues such as floods, droughts, landslides earthquake, earthquake similar to 1977, nuclear accident adversely affects the life of the county.

### 3. METHODOLOGICAL REPORTS

The pool of research is represented by the non-institutionalized population of Brasov county, who is over 14 years old. According to the official data provided by the National Institute of Statistics, Brasov County in 2015, it had a resident population of 550981 inhabitants distributed as follows: 268598 men (48.7%) and 282383 women (51.3%); 393316 urban residents (71.3%) and 157665 residents of the rural environment (28.7%).

Unemployment benefits (unemployed with work experience) decreased in 2015 compared to 2014 by 35.5%, while unemployment benefits (unemployed without work experience) decreased by 36.6% in the same reference period. This reflects an increase both in the performance of the active labour force and in the employers' preference for it, namely, the increase in the labour market penetration of the unemployed without work experience.

The unit of analysis and registration is the individual, a resident of Brasov County, uninstitutionalized and aged 15 and over. Due to the difficulty of accessing a sampling frame, an unprobabilistic sample of 50 respondents was used. In order to compensate for the lack of representativeness of this type of sample, the procedure for choosing uncombined shares (residence environment, age, gender, education level) was used so that the structure of the sample approaches the structure of the framework population. Given the small volume of the sample and its unproblematic character, the probability of guaranteeing the results and the allowed limit error cannot be calculated in this case. In spite of these disadvantages, we considered that the reproduction of population characteristics at the sample level increases the quality of the data, although they cannot be generalized with great precision on the framework population, they still have the advantage of providing an overall radiography of the analyzed situation and generates hypotheses that can form the basis of more extensive probabilistic sample research.

The structure of the sample used approximates that of the frame population.

Thus, in the first research (2014), at the sample level, 60% of respondents are rural residents and 40% are urban; 64% are female and 36% male. With regard to the population age of the sample used in the first wave: 2% are under 18, 24% between 18 and 30 years, 20% between 31 and 39 years, 22% between 40 and 49 years, 16% between 50 and 59 years and 16% over 60 years. In terms of education level, the population in the sample used in the first wave is distributed as follows: 20% have post-graduate studies, 18% have university studies, 2% post-high school, 30% high school, 14% , 4% have 10 grades (grade I of high school), 10% gymnasium (7 or 8 grades) and 2% have elementary school (4 grades). As an occupational profile, respondents in the first wave are distributed as follows: 10% are pupils / students, 2% households, 4% unemployed, 66% work, work permit or contract, and 2% ).

In the second research (2017), at the sample level, 67% of the respondents are rural residents and 33% of the urban area; 63% are female and 37% male. With respect to the age of the sample population used in the second wave: 20% between 18 and 30 years, 37% between 31 and 39 years, 10% between 40 and 49 years, 13% between 50 and 59 years and 20% over 60 years. In terms of education level, the population in the sample used in the second wave is distributed as follows: 30% have post-graduate studies, 27% have university studies, 20% high school, 13% have graduated from vocational school 10% gymnasium (7 or 8 grades). As an occupational profile, respondents in the first wave are distributed as follows: 70% work with a work card, authorization or contract, 27% are retired, and 3% work on their own (including farmers).

#### 4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected from the respondents through the response sheets were entered into a database, using tabular computational programs, containing 98 variables and 50 cases (respondents) for the first wave, respectively 30 cases for the first wave - the second wave. On them were used statistical procedures for calculation of frequencies, averages, correlation coefficients and association tables.

In terms of the social dimension of security, in the light of media coverage, the interest of respondents in the first wave (at the level of 2014) is focusing on news from the field of "health" and less on news from the field of "work accidents" and "road accidents". It can be said that from the point of view of possible dangers exposed in the media in 2014 the respondents are, on average, more attentive to the social dimension of security than to the political one.

In 2017, on average, respondents are most interested in the news about "natural disasters" and the least interested in news on "work accidents". At the level of 2017, under the only aspect of the social dimension of security, the highest average level of respondents' lack of interest refers to "work accidents" and the lowest level of disinterestedness in "health" issues.

Compared to 2014, in 2017, on average, the highest interest in "health" and "education" news and less interest in news in "economy" and "society" grew most, and the lack of interest in "political" and news about "natural disasters". The average level of respondents' interest in news related to "crimes," "accidents at work" and "road accidents" remained constant during 2014-2017. Simply put, during the analyzed period, the interest in the mediatization of "natural disasters" and "politics" has increased, and interest in "health", "education", "economy" and "society" issues has been diminished.

From the point of view of the social dimension of security, in terms of assessing the gravity of public problems, on average, the most worrying issue on the agenda of the citizens of Brasov is "access to the health system" in 2014; in terms of the political dimension "political crisis" and "corruption", and in terms of the economic dimension "food prices". Also, on average, in 2014, respondents ignore the seriousness of potential public issues related to "ethnic conflicts," "discrimination," "social cohesion," or "living conditions." Discriminating on the residence environment, we find that at the average of 2014: there is no difference in the perception of the severity of the "housing conditions" problem between rural and urban residents; problems of "crime", "violence", "living cost", "food price", "unemployment", "access to the social assistance system", "access to the health system", "Discrimination", "ethnic conflicts", are perceived as more serious by those in rural areas compared to urban ones (the biggest differences being recorded as regards "access to the education system").

Three years later, the issue of "access to the health care system" is on the top of the agenda of the people of Brasov, and on the last position, the problems related to "living conditions" and "ethnic conflicts". Discriminating on the residence environment, we find that, at the level of 2017, on average: all the problems used in the scale (which the exception of the problem of "ethnic conflicts" is perceived as more serious by those in the rural compared to those in urban areas.

In terms of the political dimension of security, in 2014, on average, respondents' biggest dissatisfaction with local government concerns areas associated with "poverty reduction" and "job creation", with respondents less dissatisfied with the management the "urban development" domain. If we relate to the residential environment, we find that, on average, urban respondents, as opposed to rural ones, tend to be more satisfied with the local management of different areas, especially in terms of "urban development" and "transport".

Also, in terms of the political dimension of security, three years later, on average, respondents' greatest dissatisfaction with local public administration is about managing health, the least dissatisfaction being related to the management of "urban development". If we relate to the residential environment, we find that, on average in 2017, urban respondents, unlike rural ones, tend to be more dissatisfied with the local management of the transport sector and more dissatisfied with the management the area of "education".

Tabel 1. Assessing administrative efficiency in improving risk  
(„To what extent are you satisfied with the way the following domain are managed at the level of Brasov County?“)

Dimensions	Indicators	Average values* 2014	Average values * 2017	Differences (2017-2014)
Economic	-	-	-	-
Political	Housing	2.5	2.30	-0.2
	Urban development	2.2	2.14	-0.06
	Rural development	2.6	2.57	-0.03
	Transport	2.4	2.43	0.03
	Reducing crime	2.6	2.33	-0.27
	Reducing poverty	3.0	2.83	-0.17
	Creating jobs	3.0	2.63	-0.37
	Professional reconversion programs	2.8	2.79	-0.01
	Social assistance	2.9	2.76	-0.14
	Health	2.7	3.03	0.33
	Education	2.7	2.60	-0.1
	Social cohesion	2.7	2.66	-0.04
Environment	2.5	2.62	0.12	
Social	-	-	-	-
Military	-	-	-	-
Ecological	-	-	-	-

\* where 1 represents "very much" and 4 "not at all" (high values indicating the perception of insecurity)

## CONCLUSIONS

From the point of view of the possible dangers exposed in the media, in 2014, the respondents were most attentive to the social dimension of security, being very much interested in "health news", and in 2017 at the ecological dimension of security, being the most attentive to "news about natural disasters". The general satisfaction with life is high in the Brasov community, with most respondents being satisfied and very pleased with their own life in both waves of research (with the satisfaction that in 2017 the satisfaction decreased slightly).

In terms of life satisfaction broken down by fields, in both waves of research, the most common concerns are of a social nature and concern "personal and family safety on the street", as well as economic concerns about the "economic situation of the family".

As a rule, correlations that have been highlighted in both waves of research retain their direction of linkage, with two exceptions:

- the backward correlation between "general life satisfaction" and "assessing the severity of the issue of discrimination" highlighted in 2014, becomes a direct correlation at the level of 2017;

- the direct correlation between "interest in pursuing economic news" and "assessing the severity of the housing problem" highlighted in 2014, becomes a reverse correlation in the year 2017.

Most of the correlations highlighted in both research waves tend to have an increase in the intensity of the link between the variables. The greatest differences in intensity (in the sense of increasing the intensity of the relationship between variables in 2017) between the two waves of research are related to the correlations:

- between "interest in pursuing health news" and "assessing the seriousness of the political crisis";

- between "satisfaction with personal and family safety" and "assessing the extent to which the pollution problem adversely affects the life of the respondent as a citizen of the county".

The multitude of correlations between variables that measure sub-dimensions of risk / hazard vulnerability demonstrate that they are interdependent, with security and insecurity being dynamic and complex concepts.

It is clear from the analysis that any administrative system in any democratic country must represent the interests and needs of its citizens through effective organization and functioning at all levels of government

### REFERENCES

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