

## **Capacity and Competitiveness of Agriculture in the Partium Region, Romania**

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My research concerns the historic region of Partium (Crişana-Maramureş), situated in the northwestern part of Romania. Today, this area comprises five counties: Arad, Bihor, Maramureş, Satu Mare and Sălaj. The researched Partium Region is a zone of interferences in natural, social and historical aspects between the two big parts of the Carpathian Basin: Pannonia and Transylvania. Actually, four of these counties are part of the Romanian North-West NUTS 2 region, along with two other Transylvanian counties (Bistriţa-Năsăud and Cluj). The exception is Arad county, which forms the West region along with Caraş-Severin, Hunedoara and Timiş counties. The researched region covers 29884 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 12,5% of the territory of Romania.

According to natural and production traditions, from agricultural point of view the region is divided into nine districts. A specific agricultural profile has emerged in all districts. The proportion of agricultural production in overall economy and the profile of agricultural production vary. Agricultural performance in these districts is mapped in the first part of the paper, based on the data of the Romanian National Institute of Statistics.

In the second part of the paper I compare the performance of the agricultural sector and the budgetary situation of each rural local authority. By comparing the agricultural and budgetary rankings, I intend to determine the extent to which agriculture can have an impact on the financial strengthening of the local community.

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