



THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM  
IN ROMANIA.  
(A CASE STUDY FOR GORJ COUNTY)

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*Abstract*

*The main objective of this research paper is to investigate long-term effects of unemployment on educational system in Romania based on a case study for Gorj County. Gorj county is characterized by a reduced number of employees compared to the number of pensioners and unemployed. Otherwise poverty and social exclusion are high throughout the region Oltenia which includes county Gorj. Many rural areas of the county Gorj are buried in poverty so they just rely on subsistence agriculture and social assistance benefits. The actual socio-economic situation of county Gorj not provide too optimistic perspective on the evolution and implementation of educational system reforms. In addition, labor migration and low living standards also lead to increased school dropout while on the other hand young employees quitting to pursue higher education. Unemployment is a social phenomenon with severe negative consequences which significantly influence human and professional development of young people, and thus the educational system in Romania. The current challenges experienced by the young generation unfortunately not lead to prioritizing the educational values based on obvious reasons.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In terms of territorial administration, Romania is divided into 41 counties, plus Bucharest which is the capital of the country. Gorj county is bordered by the following counties: Hunedoara (north), Valcea (in the east), Dolj (south), Mehedinti and Caras Severin (west). The most significant natural resources of the Gorj county are the following : lignite, natural gas, hard coal, graphite, petroleum, therapeutic mineral springs, construction materials such as granite, clay minerals and limestone.



Gorj County Council has implemented the Sustainable Development Strategy for the period 2011-2020 for Gorj County based on four research studies for each priority area, namely: - Study on natural, cultural and historical heritage

- Study on human resources management at local public administration authorities
- Study on accelerating the development of public utilities services
- Study on infrastructure development of roads and bridges in the county of Gorj.

The long-term effects of unemployment on educational system in Romania are dramatic negative effects of the most impressive are in poor counties. However, Gorj County has a diversified tourism potential, but very poorly exploited and promoted. The overall level of development of Gorj County is relatively low, despite the significant tourism and agricultural potential. Moreover, Gorj county is very rich in natural resources, but the ways of fructification of these opportunities are almost nonexistent.

In another train of thoughts, the cultural potential of Gorj county is enormous and also is based on its authentic values. The negative consequences of these favorable circumstances still untapped on unemployment in the county of Gorj undeniably affects the educational system. Naturally, priorities change in the context of a low living standard so that education is not an essential goal for the future. Practical arguments to contradict this approach are very thin without reference to idealism or elitist nostalgia. Changing reality encourages a behavior focused on getting concrete results by investing less effort as possible, especially in conditions of globalization and economic liberalization.

## 2. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

According to official statistics, Eurostat estimates that 21.084 million men and women in the EU-28, of whom 16.267 million were in the euro area (EA-19), were unemployed in May 2016, but compared with May 2015, unemployment fell by 2.166.000 people in the EU-28 and by 1.440.000 people in the euro area. However, Eurostat suggested that at the beginning of the year 2000, above 20 million persons were unemployed in the EU-28, corresponding to 9.2 % of the total labour force. This unemployment rate corresponding for the year 2000 was extremely high considering the fact that the unemployment rate in the United States was around 4 %.

Table no. 1 Administrative division of Gorj County

Year	Number of municipalities	Number of cities	Number of communes	Number of villages
2000	2	5	63	414
2001	2	5	63	414
2002	2	5	63	414
2003	2	5	63	414
2004	2	7	61	411
2005	2	7	61	411
2006	2	7	61	411



2007	2	7	61	411
2008	2	7	61	411
2009	2	7	61	411
2010	2	7	61	411
2011	2	7	61	411
2012	2	7	61	411

Source : Own computation based on data provided by National Institute of Statistics, Department of Statistics of Gorj County

**Table no. 2 The number of registered unemployed persons and the unemployment rate**

Year	Unemployed persons registered at employment agencies (Number of persons)			Unemployment rate (%)		
	Total number	Female	Male	Total number	Female	Male
2000	22.859	10.474	12.385	12,8	12,6	13,1
2001	17.967	8.707	9.260	10,3	10,5	10,2
2002	17.533	8.591	8.942	10,8	11,5	10,2
2003	14.550	6.415	8.135	9,1	8,7	9,5
2004	12.419	5.251	7.168	8	7,3	8,6
2005	14.252	6.139	8.113	9,3	8,6	10
2006	13.234	5.543	7.691	8,8	8	9,6
2007	8.205	4.078	4.127	5,6	6	5,2
2008	10.994	5.410	5.584	7,3	7,9	7
2009	16.464	7.324	9.140	10,7	10,5	11,1
2010	14.821	6.629	8.192	10,1	10,2	9,9
2011	11.306	5.176	6.130	7,8	7,8	7,8
2012	11.244	4.965	6.279	7,7	7,5	7,8
2013	12.024	5.183	6.841	8,2	7,8	8,5

Source : Own computation based on data provided by National Institute of Statistics, Department of Statistics of Gorj County

Eurostat revealed that youth unemployment rates are generally much higher, even double or more than double, than unemployment rates for all ages, so it reached a very high rate of 21.4 % at the end of 2014.



Table no. 3 The school population education (including private education) for Gorj County

Part A

Years	Total number	Pre-school	Primary and secondary education			
			Total number	Primary (Classes I-IV)	Gymnasium (classes V-VIII)	Special education (classes I-VIII)
2000/2001	84.837	12.973	46.971	21.271	25.391	309
2001/2002	86.710	13.230	45.682	20.450	24.952	280
2002/2003	85.651	13.570	43.840	19.992	23.620	228
2003/2004	85.030	13.630	42.618	20.325	22.112	181
2004/2005	83.821	13.558	40.346	19.370	20.830	146
2005/2006	82.872	13.233	38.540	18.507	19.911	122
2006/2007	81.282	13.118	37.411	17.849	19.459	103
2007/2008	81.101	13.081	36.100	16.462	19.545	93
2008/2009	78.816	12.786	34.627	15.921	18.630	76
2009/2010	76.960	12.786	33.382	15.409	17.893	80
2010/2011	74.595	12.544	32.661	14.909	17.655	97
2011/2012	71.358	12.221	30.835	14.398	16.331	106
2012/2013	68.792	9.927	31.701	16.076	15.499	126
2013/2014	66.728	9.424	31.153	15.988	15.038	127

Source : Own computation based on data provided by National Institute of Statistics, Department of Statistics of Gorj County

Part B

Years	High school education	Vocational education and apprenticeship	Post high school and foremen	Higher education
2000/2001	12.004	5.443	1.732	5.714
2001/2002	13.149	5.679	1.527	7.443
2002/2003	14.640	5.791	1.234	6.576
2003/2004	15.837	5.720	1.082	6.143
2004/2005	17.061	5.445	1.089	6.322
2005/2006	17.879	5.486	825	6.909
2006/2007	18.760	4.767	795	6.431
2007/2008	19.773	4.076	965	7.106
2008/2009	19.874	3.875	1.347	6.307
2009/2010	20.711	2.710	1.622	5.749
2010/2011	20.973	1.493	1.709	5.215



2011/2012	21.408	466	2.118	4.310
2012/2013	19.795	579	2.837	3.953
2013/2014	18.209	671	3.752	3.519

Source : Own computation based on data provided by National Institute of Statistics, Department of Statistics of Gorj County

Table no. 4 Analyzing Bacculaureate exam percentage promotion rate for Gorj County

Baccalaureate percentage promotion rate per year		
2014	2015	2016
60,80 %	54,50 %	57,42 %

Source : Own computation based on data provided by Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, Bacculaureate Report 2014, 2015, 2016

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

The main objective of this article is to investigate long-term effects of unemployment on educational system in Romania based on a case study for Gorj County. The results of candidates can not be considered satisfactory despite some slight increases recorded in some years. However, concern should be much deeper considering the factors that influence how students perceive the need for education. Poverty and social exclusion inevitably lead to school dropout, juvenile delinquency, unemployment. In reverse, parents' unemployment significantly affects student priorities, so that school is no longer an ideal or even an alternative solution.

### REFERENCES

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