

DOLJ COUNTY EDUCATION SYSTEM - DIAGNOSIS AND RECEPTION BASINS OF GEOGRAPHICAL STUDENTS

SISTEMUL DE ÎNVĂȚĂMÂNT DIN JUDEȚUL DOLJ – DIAGNOZĂ ȘI BAZINE DE RECEPȚIE A STUDENȚILOR GEOGRAFI

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Abstract: The main purpose of the paper is, on the one hand, to outline a complete image of the education system in Dolj County and, on the other hand, to explain the general characteristics and causes that conditioned each element of Dolj county's educational system. The present research analyzes the territorial discrepancies and the dynamics in time of the situation registered in Dolj, from the perspective of the following aspects: educational infrastructure of Dolj county (schools, classrooms, school laboratories, gyms, sports fields, PCs), human resources in the education system, the county's school population and its evolution, students enrolled in higher education by specialization. A special attention was paid to students in Geography and Geography of Tourism.

Key-words: *educational infrastructure, human resources, school population, Geography, University of Craiova, Dolj county.*

Cuvinte cheie: *infrastructură de învățământ, resurse umane, populație școlară, Geografie, Universitatea din Craiova, județul Dolj.*

I. INTRODUCTION

As viewed from a national perspective, Dolj county has a southern-southwestern position, developing on the lower course of the Jiu River. The border with the neighboring counties (Mehedinți, Gorj, Vâlcea, Olt) is a terrestrial, conventional one, only on the southern side it is natural and stretches for about 150 km, consisting of the Danube that forms the border with Bulgaria (Fig. 1). Within these limits, the total area of the county is 7414 sq km and represents approximately 3.12% of the total area of the country. Due to its relatively large area, Dolj is ranked 8th among the administrative-territorial units of our country, being part of the category of counties whose area exceeds 7000 sq km. Its geographical position in an area with specific natural characteristics was a favorable factor for the popularity and development of productive activities. In

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addition, the generous area of the county, the favorable position at the foot of the Piedmont and the plain, at the intersection of major communication and commercial arteries, but also the importance of the county seat was a favorable premise for the demographical potential of Dolj County, it functions as a pole of human concentration and economic activities in Oltenia region.

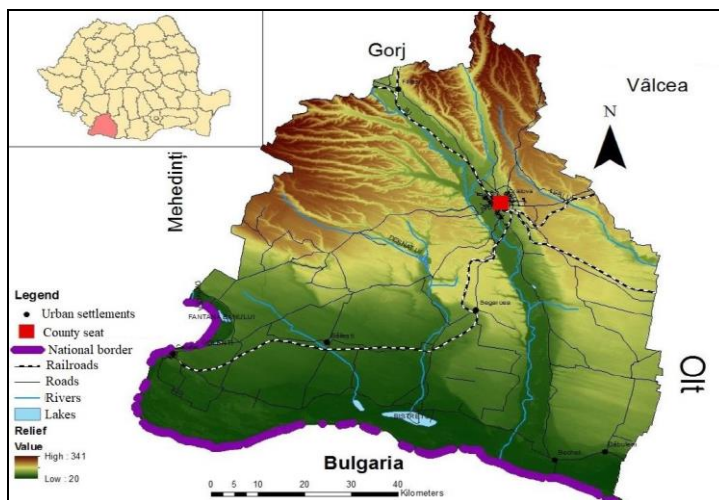


Fig. 1. Geographical setting of Dolj county

The present administrative-territorial organization attests the presence of 7 urban settlements at the level of Dolj county (out of which 3 with municipality status), a number of 104 communes and 378 villages. The county seat, Craiova, is located almost in the center of the county, being the most important economic and social center of the region. The rest of the urban settlements are located at a great distance from the county seat, grouped especially in the southern part of the county, along the Danube (Fig. 2.). As compared to the national level, it can be seen that Dolj county occupies an area of 3.1% and only 3.2% of the country's population. It is also observed that the density of the number of villages is close to the national average, having a value of 5.1 (Table no. 1).

In terms of population, the urban settlements in Dolj county can be classified into three demographic categories. Craiova is the only large urban settlement with a number of 269,506 inhabitants. The category of medium-sized cities includes four cities: Băilești, Calafat, Dăbuleni and Filiași, whose population exceeds 10,000 inhabitants. Out of the total number of cities, two are small towns, Bechet and Segarcea - with a population of 3,657 and 7,019 inhabitants, respectively. Craiova is the only urban settlements of first rank (hierarchically) in the county and the residence of Dolj county. At national level, Craiova is the largest urban center in South-Western Romania and the sixth largest in Romania, in competition with Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Iași and Constanța, according to the 2011 census.

Table no.1. The share of urban/rural settlements in Dolj county's population

Territorial units	Area (sq km)	No. of inhabitants	Urban %	Urban settlements	Municipalities	Communes	Villages	Density (no. villages /100 sq km)
Romania	238,391	19644,350	55%	312	104	2801	12996	5.64
Dolj county	3.1	3.2	50.2	7	3	104	378	5.1
South-West Oltenia Region	12.2	10	43.1	40	11	406	2064	7.2

(Source: Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2018)

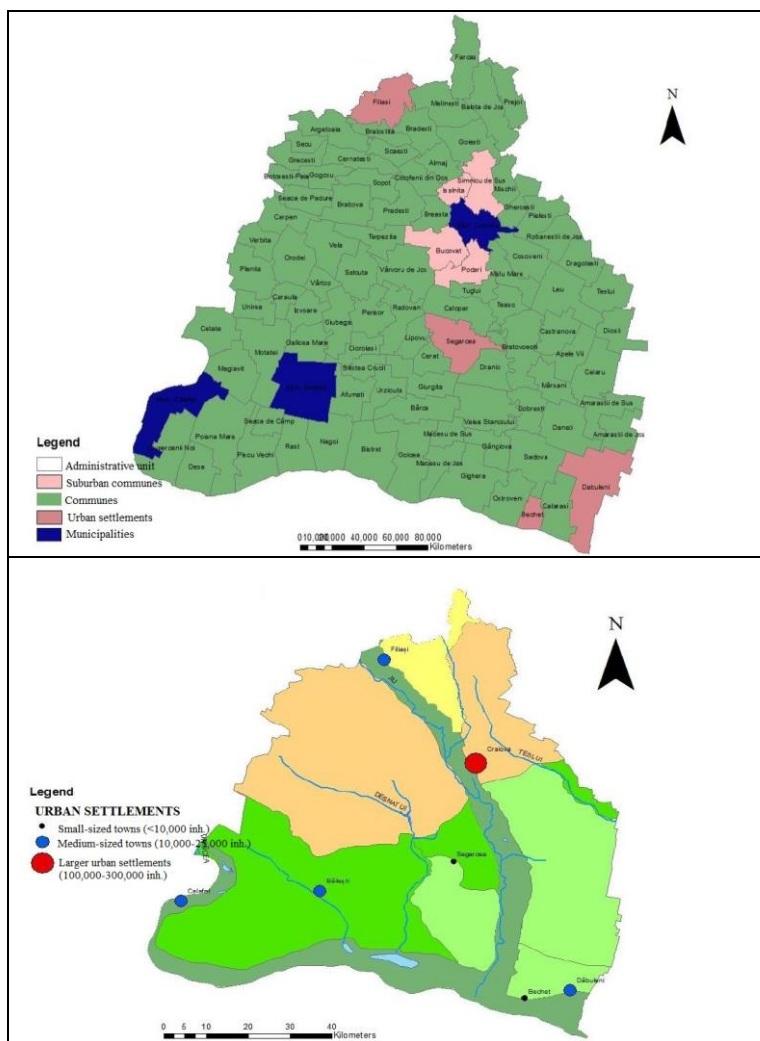


Fig. 2. Location and classification of main administrative units in Dolj county

II. DATA AND METHODS

An attempt was made to outline a more accurate picture of the educational system in Dolj county, using a series of documentary sources, but also the databases of the Institute of Statistics. Thus, relevant statistical data were collected for this study, processed and subsequently represented cartographically using the ArcGis 10.5 program to highlight the most important territorial differentiations within the analyzed county.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1. The educational infrastructure in Dolj county

As in the rest of the country, the first schools in Craiova appeared near churches and used only for the children of the boyars, with main teaching in Greek. In 1826, the "National School" was established in Craiova, then called the "Central School" on the place where the popular college "Nicolae Bălcescu" is located today. It had a small number of students, not exceeding 320 in 1837 and 470 in 1844 (Giubelan, 1964, p. 16).

In addition to the Central School, in Craiova there were also: a girls' school founded in 1836, a high school of arts and crafts in 1870, where Constantin Brâncuși would later study. Also, a normal school for boys was established in 1870, a normal school for girls in 1882, which would later be called "Frații Buzești", and in 1906, a music school, the current school of arts.

After the education reform in 1948, the education system in Craiova also experienced a remarkable flourishing. In the school year 1963-1964 there were 21 schools for 4 and 8 year olds with 14035 students in Craiova, and in high schools there were 9784 students. Also, a special attention was paid to the establishment and endowment of technical and vocational schools, in which at the same time 6441 students were studying in 17 schools. Important for Craiova was the establishment of the Agronomic Institute "Tudor Vladimirescu" which operated with two faculties and later of the Pedagogical Institute for 3 years, with four faculties.

In 1990, after the fall of communism, *the number of school units* in Dolj county was 797, which represented 2.8% of the total school units in the country and 21.1% of the total development region South-West Oltenia (Fig. 3). According to the National Institute of Statistics, in 2016 their number reaches 210 schools, representing 3% of the total country and 28.8% of the total in the South-West development region. As compared to 1990, the number of school units in Dolj County until 2016 shows important changes that occurred during this period. Thus, the year 2016 shows a difference of 587 educational units compared to 1990. Since 1990, when the number of schools was 797, their number increases from one year to another until 1998, where it reaches a maximum value of 876 school units due to the large number of students born during the communist period. Subsequently, the number of units decreases very obviously under the influence of demographic factors such as low birth rate, demographic aging and negative natural increase which led to uniting or even closure of some schools.

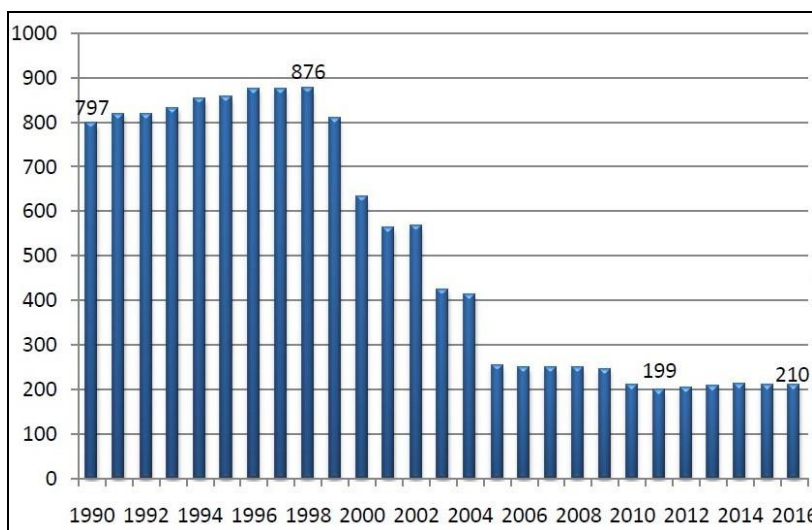


Fig. 3. The dynamics of educational units during the post-communist period in Dolj county

The distribution of classrooms (schools/amphitheatres) by levels of education, areas of residence and localities is very uneven. Thus, the largest number of classrooms belongs to primary and secondary education, including special education with a number of 1948 classrooms (43.6%), followed by high school education, which has 1292 classrooms (28.9%). The lowest number of classrooms belongs to vocational education, only 15 classrooms (only 0.3%) but also to post-secondary education and foremen schools, 85 classrooms (1.9%) (Table no. 2). The number of classrooms in Dolj education in 2016 registered a slight decrease compared to the previous year, with approximately 20 classrooms. Positive developments are registered in the case of high school and university education with 24 and 4 classrooms, respectively. In the case of preschool and post-secondary education and foremen there is a decrease in classrooms with a number of 3 classrooms, compared to the previous year.

The analysis of classrooms' distribution by area of residence indicates an increase in the urban environment. In the analysis, we must also take into account the fact that the school network is unevenly developed on residential environments in the case of high schools, post-high schools and special education schools (in the detriment of the rural environment) (Fig. 4).

All localities in the county benefit from preschool, primary and secondary education units, while high school education units only exist in 19 localities (7 urban and 12 rural), vocational education in 5 (3 urban - Craiova, Filiași, Segarcea - and 2 rural - Daneți and Valea Stanciului), post-secondary education in 4 (2 urban - Craiova and Calafat and 2 rural - Cârcea and Călărași), special and higher education only in Craiova. Therefore, the rural population has even less access to high school, vocational, post-high school and university education compared to

urban, although in rural areas several high schools have been established in recent years, most with a technological profile.

Table no. 2. Distribution of classrooms by levels of education

Levels of education	2015	2016
Preschool education	845	842
Primary and secondary education (including special education)	1990	1948
Highschool education	1268	1292
Vocational education	15	15
Post-secondary and foremen education	88	85
Univerity education	280	284
Total	4486	4466

(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

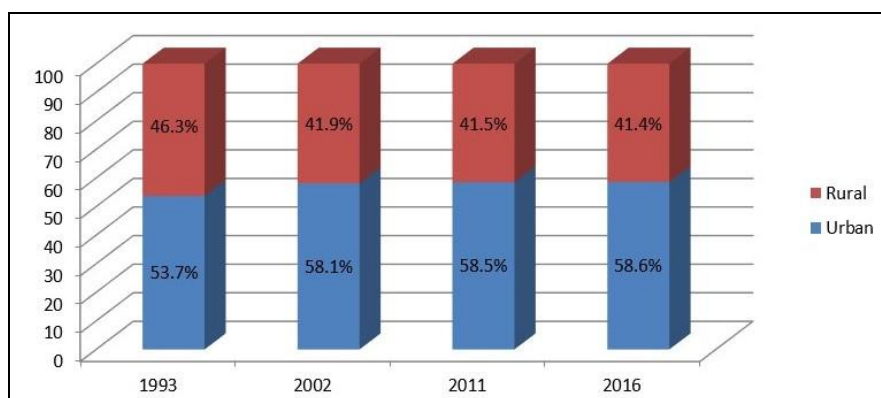


Fig. 4. Distribution of classrooms by area of residence

Regarding the spatial distribution, the number of classrooms is unevenly distributed. As can be seen, the educational infrastructure at the county level has shrunk in recent years, especially as a result of the closure and unification of some schools, due to declining school population and changes in legislation in the field.

At the locality level, it is observed that a small number of classrooms between 0-14 classrooms predominate. These are observed in localities such as: Secu, Gogoșu, Sopot, Țuglui, Apele Vii, Izvoare, Rast, etc. Also, the largest of classrooms belongs to the municipality of Craiova - 2082 classrooms (Fig. 5).

The localities where there have been increases in the number of classrooms, as a result of investments in the construction of new educational units, or in their extension and arrangement, are: Segarcea, Afumați, Amărăștii de Jos, Brabova, Braloștița, Călărași, Carpen, Castranova, Cernătești, Daneți, Desa, Galicea Mare, Ișalnița, Maglavit, Moțăței, Orodul, Ostroveni, Rojiște, Sălcuța, Scăești, Siliștea-Crucii, Tălpaș, Unirea, some of them registering a decreasing number of students (for example: Brabova, Siliștea-Crucii or Afumați), which does not justify the investment decision in all cases.

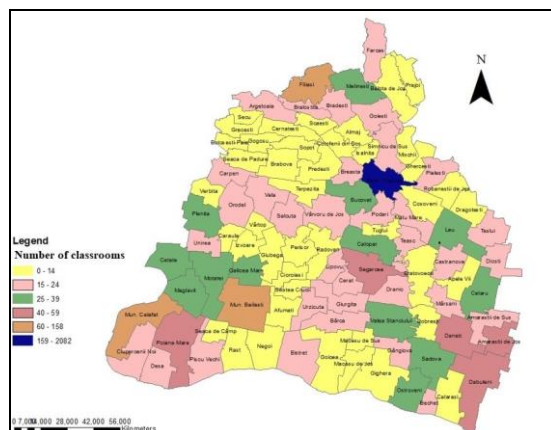


Fig. 5. Distribution of classrooms by localities, at the level of Dolj county, 2016
(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database – processing)

The distribution of school laboratories by levels of education, areas of residence and localities is also uneven. At school levels, school laboratories are unevenly distributed. Thus, the largest number of laboratories belongs to university education with a number of 469 laboratories (41.6%), which is followed by primary and secondary education, including special education, which has 317 laboratories (28.9%). The lowest number of school laboratories belongs to vocational education, 3 laboratories (representing only 0.26%) but also to post-secondary education and foremen, 32 laboratories (2.8%) (Table no. 3).

The number of school laboratories in Dolj education in 2016 registered a slight increase compared to the previous year, with approximately 32 laboratories. Positive developments are registered in the case of high school and university education with 6 and 17 school laboratories, respectively. In the case of vocational education their number remains the same, only 3 laboratories, while in the case of post-secondary education and foremen a single laboratory is added.

Table no. 3. Distribution of school laboratories in Dolj county by levels of education

Levels of education	2015	2016
Primary and secondary education (including special education)	309	317
Highschool education	299	305
Vocational education	3	3
Post-secondary and foremen education	31	32
University education	452	469
Total	1094	1126

(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

The distribution of school laboratories by residential areas shows a big difference between rural and urban areas due to the fact that the schools network is unevenly developed by residential areas. If in 2015 the urban environment had a

share of 76.6% of the total existing laboratories in the county (representing 838 laboratories), the rural environment corresponded to a much smaller share, of only 23.4% (which represents only the number of 256 of school laboratories). In 2016, there is an increase in the share of urban environment from 76.6% in 2015 to 78.1% in 2016 and implicitly a decrease in the share of existing laboratories in rural areas, from 23.4% in 2015 to 21, 9% in 2016 (Fig. 6).

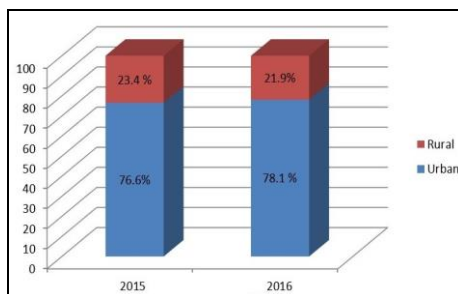


Fig. 6. The distribution of school laboratories by residential areas
(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

Regarding the *school laboratories* at the level of Dolj localities, besides the deficient endowment, their small number is observed, 1-5 school laboratories predominate, as well as their absence entirely in communes such as Sopot, Secu, Almăj, Prejoi. There are also three localities with a number between 21-26 laboratories, Filiași, Calafat and Călărași. By far the largest number of school laboratories belongs to the Municipality of Craiova, where it reaches 777 laboratories (Fig. 7.).

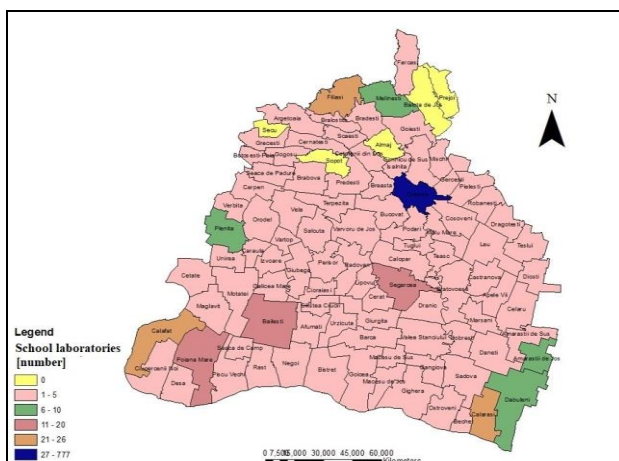


Fig. 7. Distribution of school laboratories in Dolj (2016)
(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

The distribution of gyms by levels of education, areas of residence and localities shows the same uneven distribution at the territorial level. Thus, the largest number of gyms belongs to primary and secondary education, including spiral education with a number of 145 gyms (70.1%), followed by high school education, which has 50 gyms (24.1%). The lowest number of school laboratories belongs to university education, which has 12 gyms (representing only 5.8%) but also to post-secondary education and foremen, 32 laboratories (2.8%).

The number of gymnasiums in Dolj education in 2016 registered a slight increase compared to the previous year, with approximately 9 gyms. Positive developments are registered in the case of primary and secondary education, including special education, but also in the case of high school with 8 rooms, respectively a gym. In the case of university education, their number remains the same, only 12 gyms (Table no. 4).

Table no. 4. Distribution gyms by levels of education

Levels of education	2015	2016
Primary and secondary education (including special education)	137	145
Highschool education	49	50
University education	12	12
Total	198	207

As can be seen (Fig. 8) the distribution of gyms on the two residences is unevenly distributed. If the urban environment had the highest shares in the rest of the educational infrastructure of Dolj County, in the case of the distribution of gyms it registers a decrease from 49% in 2015 to 47.3% in 2016, while the rural environment registers an increase of 1, 7% compared to the previous year, a situation attributed to the higher number of existing students in rural areas.

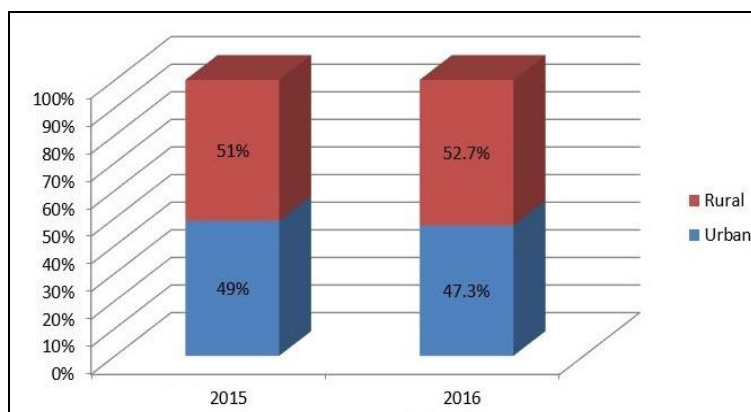


Fig. 8. Distribution of gyms by areas of residence
(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

At the level of Dolj county localities, it is observed that there are localities without gyms such as: Argetoaia, Secu, Sopot, Rast, Negoii, etc., as well as

localities where there is only one gym, this being observed in about half of the county. Also, a very small number of localities have 5-7 gyms, this can be observed in Poiana Mare, Băilești and Dragotești. By far, the largest number of gyms belongs to the Municipality of Craiova, which totals 78 gyms.

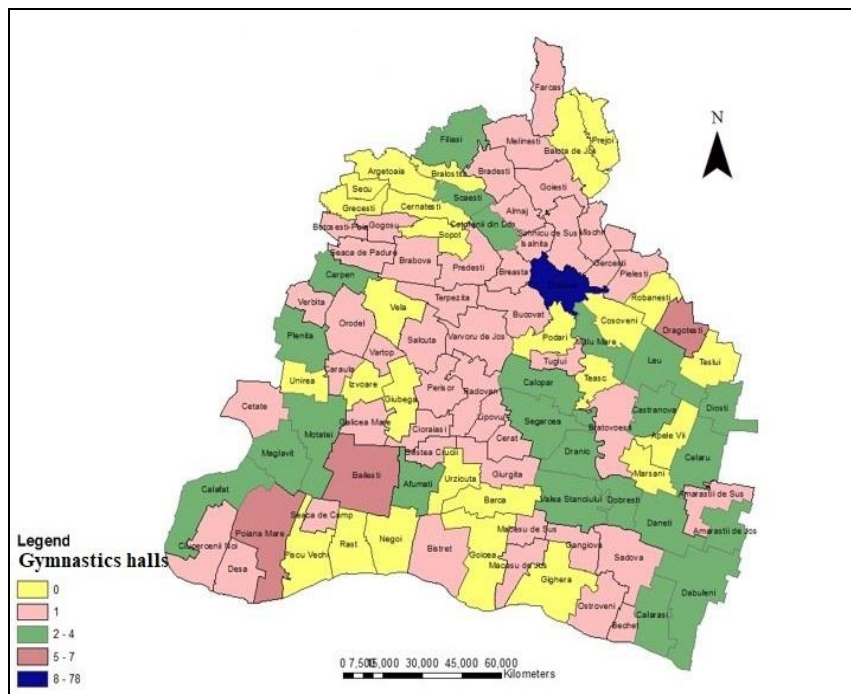


Fig. 9. Distribution of gyms in Dolj county in 2016
(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

The distribution of *school workshops* by levels of education, areas of residence and localities reveals the same territorial discrepancies. School workshops, although partially modernized in the second half of the 2000s with European funds, have been significantly reduced in number with the decline of vocational education, being less and less used for student practice, which may have repercussions. adverse effects on their integration into the labor market.

By education levels, it is noted that the largest number of school workshops belongs to high school education, which represents 70% of their total in the county, relatively close shares belong to primary and secondary education, including special education and university education of 13.6%, respectively 16% of the county total.

The number of school workshops in Dolj education in 2016 registered a minor increase compared to the previous year, this consisting in the fact that a workshop is added to the high school education. Regarding the other levels of training, their number remains constant (Table no. 5).

Table no. 5. Distribution of schools workshops by level of education

Levels of education	2015	2016
Primary and secondary education (including special education)	23	23
Highschool education	117	118
Vocational education	1	1
Post-secondary and foremen schools	:	:
University education	27	27
Total	168	169

(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

The distribution of *sports fields* by levels of education, areas of residence and localities attests to significant spatial inequalities. Thus, the largest number of them belongs to primary and secondary education, including special education, which owns 67% (134 sports fields) of the total existing sports fields in the county. Also, the smallest number of them belongs to university education, which has a share of only 3.5% (only 7 sports fields), the remaining 29.5% belonging to the existing lands in high school education.

Table no. 6. Distribution of sports fields by levels of education

Levels of education	2015	2016
Primary and secondary education (including special education)	133	134
Highschool education	53	59
University education	6	7
Total	192	200

(Source: NIS, Tempo online database – processing)

It is also observed in the case of sports fields as in the case of school workshops that they are missing from rural localities such as Apele Vii, Seaca de Câmp, Vela, Teslui or Podari while in other localities they are inadequately arranged and equipped to support the normal development of physical education classes (Fig. 10). Also, it can be observed that in approximately half of the county there are 1-2 plots of land according to INS data. There are also localities such as Băilești or Călărași where the number of sports fields is between 6-8 fields. A special case is represented by the Municipality of Craiova, which distances itself from the other localities, owning a number of 72 sports fields. This is due to the large number of existing schools in the city.

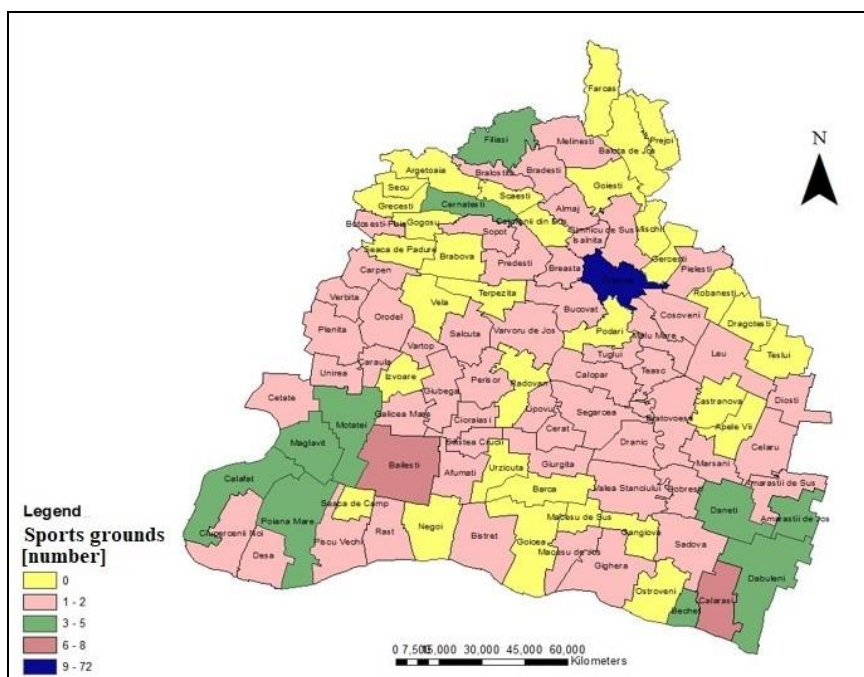


Fig. 10. Distribution of sports fields in Dolj county
(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

Analyzing the distribution of *PCs* by education levels, an unequal distribution is observed. Thus, the largest number of computers belongs to high school education, 3605 computers (representing 34.4% of their total existing in the county), also a large number of computers also benefit primary and secondary education, but also university with 3288, respectively 2940 computers. The smallest number of them belongs to pre-school education, which has a share of 0.06% (Table no. 7).

Table no. 7. Distribution of PCs by levels of education

Levels of education	2015	2016
Ante-preschool education	8	7
Preschool education	401	406
Primary and secondary education (including special education)	3256	3288
Highschool education	3530	3605
Vocational education	20	20
Post-secondary and foremen education	227	200
University education	2938	2940
Total	10380	10466

(Source: NIS, Tempo online database – processing)

The number of PCs in Dolj education in 2016 registered a slight increase compared to the previous year, with approximately 86 computers. Positive developments are registered in the case of primary and secondary education, including special education, but also in the case of high school with 32 and 75 computers, respectively. In the case of vocational education, their number remains constant, while in the case of post-secondary education and foremen's education, their number decreases by 27 computers.

Analyzing the distribution of computers by residence, it is observed from a distance a distance of the urban environment from the rural one due to the fact that the school network is unevenly developed by residence.

While in 2015 the urban environment had a share of 72.4% of the total existing PC in the county (representing 7513 computers), the rural environment corresponded to a much smaller share, of only 27.6% (which represents only the number of 2867 computers). In 2016, there is a slight increase in the share of urban areas by 0.4% and implicitly a decrease in the share of existing computers in rural areas (Fig. 11).

The distribution of PCs in Dolj County shows that about half of these locations benefit from a small number of them, between 11-18 computers. Also in localities such as: Botoșești-Paia, Gogoșu, Prejoi, Bârca, etc., their number is close to 0. The largest number of computers, approximately 6600, belongs to the Municipality of Craiova due to the large number of students and school units, such as and the degree of development of the educational infrastructure.

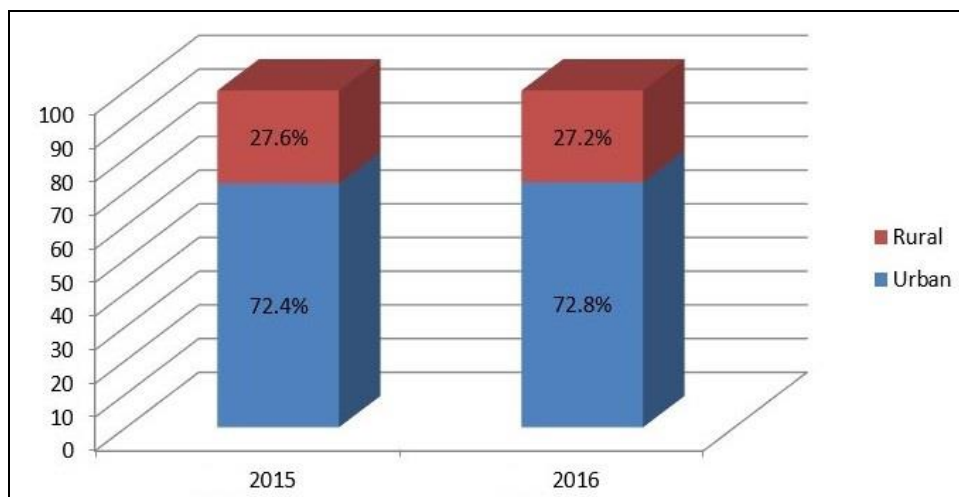


Fig. 11. Distribution of PCs by areas of residence
(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

Although it has significantly improved, the computer equipment of schools is still deficient in localities such as Dăbuleni, Filiași, Segarcea, Breasta, Bucovăț, Catane, Cerăț, Ciupercenii Noi, Coșoveni, Desa, Galicea Mare, Ghidici, Izvoare, Leu, Lipovu, Mârșani, Negoii, Ostroveni, Piscu Vechi, Podari, Rast, Sadova, Unirea

or Valea Stanciului, where there is, on average, a single computer for over 20 students, compared to a county average of 11.6 students/computer, the regional average of 12.4 and the national one of 10.2.

3.2. The human resources in Dolj county

Regarding the *teaching staff* by levels of education, areas of residence and localities, variations can be found both depending on the level of education and territorial, at county level. Of the total teaching staff in Dolj County, the largest share of 45% works in primary and secondary school, 25% in high school, almost 13% in preschool education, 16% in university education and low shares in vocational and post-secondary education and foremen.

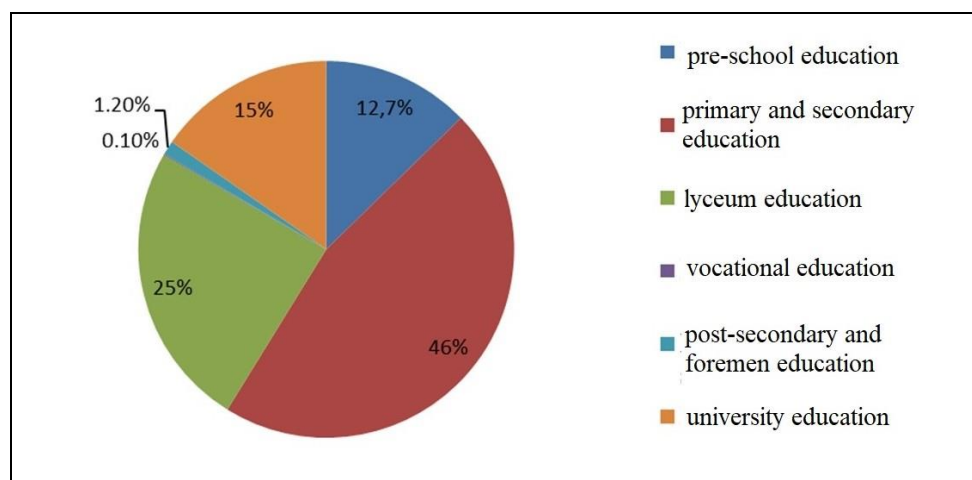


Fig. 12. The share of teachers in 2016 by levels of education

(Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

At the levels of education, the decrease or increase of the staff is naturally correlated with the tendencies of the students. The number of staff in vocational education but also in post-secondary education and foremen has increased, which has become an increasingly requested route for high school graduates without a baccalaureate. High school education continues to decline, but less significantly than in 2011. As for teachers, they were 8042 in 2016, down 5.1% compared to 2011. The decreases were registered at all levels of education - preschool (-1.9%), primary and secondary (-2.6%), high school (-9.4%) and university (-8.1%).

The analysis by residence areas of the number of teachers indicates an increase in urban areas, compared to rural areas. In the analysis, we must also take into account the fact that the school network is unevenly developed on residential environments in the case of high school, post-high school and special education (to the detriment of the rural environment). The biggest problems with providing specialized teachers are registered in rural areas, where working and mobility

conditions are not optimal. Among the teachers in the county, 87.9% are full-time, and 12.1% are substitutes, unskilled or retired.

In recent years, the teaching career has become less and less attractive for higher education graduates, due to the low level of salary, educational infrastructure and travel costs and the time dedicated to it, given that about 2,000 teachers in county commute daily to work.

On average, at county level, there is one teacher for every 14.5 students, above the regional average (14.2 students / teacher), but below the national level (14.7). The localities where the service with teachers is lower (over 17 students / teacher) are Piscu Vechi, Ghidici, Bistreţ, Podari, Desa, Coşoveni, Catane and Bârca. On the other hand, the localities that seem to have a surplus staff in relation to the decreasing number of students are: Afumaţi, Botoşeşti-Paia, Brabova, Bulzeşti, Călăraşi, Carpen, Gherceşti, Gogoşu, Întorsura, Măceşu de Jos, Seaca de Câmp, Seaca de Pădure, Siliştea-Crucii, Sopot, Terpeziţa and Vela.

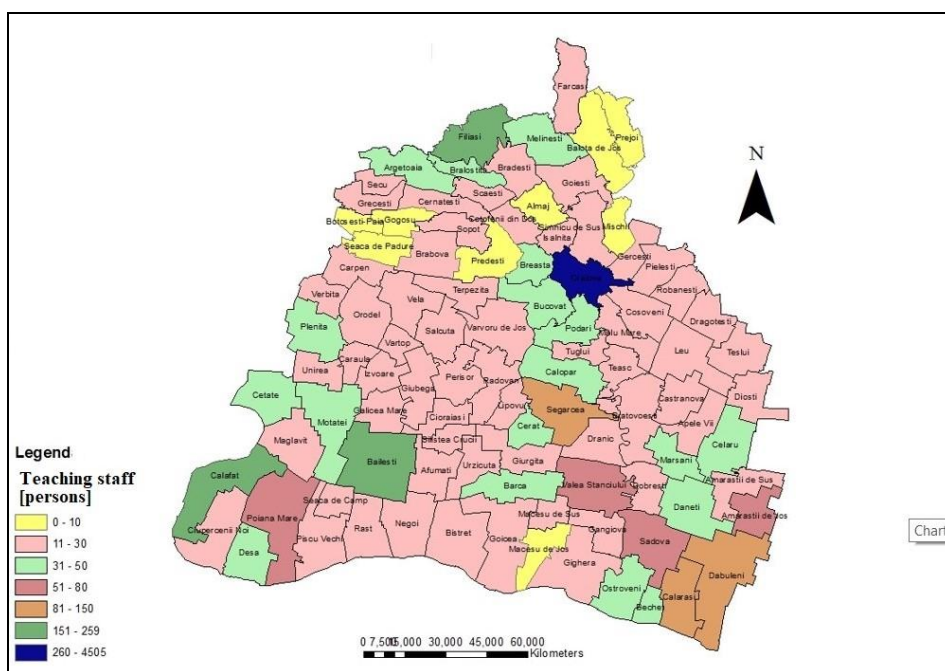


Fig. 13. Distribution of teaching staff in Dolj County, in 2016
(Data source: NIS, TEMPO Online database - processing)

3.3. The school population of Dolj County

In 1997, the number of students enrolled in pre-university education in Dolj County amounted to 135,119, which represents 3.2% of the total number of students in the country and 30% of the total number of students in the South West Oltenia development region. According to the National Institute of Statistics, in 2016 the number of students enrolled was 95,625 people, which represents 3.1% of the total country and 31.4% of the total development region. Compared to 1997,

the number of students enrolled in pre-university education decreased compared to 2016 by approximately 39494 people. The number of students enrolled in pre-university education is constantly declining under the influence of demographic factors such as: declining birth rates, negative natural growth, but also the high degree of demographic aging.

By levels of education, in 2016, pre-university students are unevenly distributed. Thus, the highest number of students belongs to primary and secondary education, including special education with a number of 49465 enrolled students (51.7%), followed by high school education, which has 21059 students (22%). The lowest number of students belongs to preschool education, only 404 students (only 0.4%) but also to vocational education with a number of 2541 students (2.7%). The number of students enrolled in Dolj pre-university education in 2016 decreased slightly compared to previous years, with approximately 7670 students in 2011 and 28607 students in 2002. Positive developments are recorded in the case of post-secondary education and foremen where the number of students increased by 1388 students compared to 2011, respectively 3300 students compared to 2002. In the case of other levels of learning, the trend is oscillating.

As seen in Figs. 14, the school population registers oscillations from one year to another under the influence of demographic factors such as low birth rate, demographic aging and negative natural increase which led to the merger or even closure of some schools.

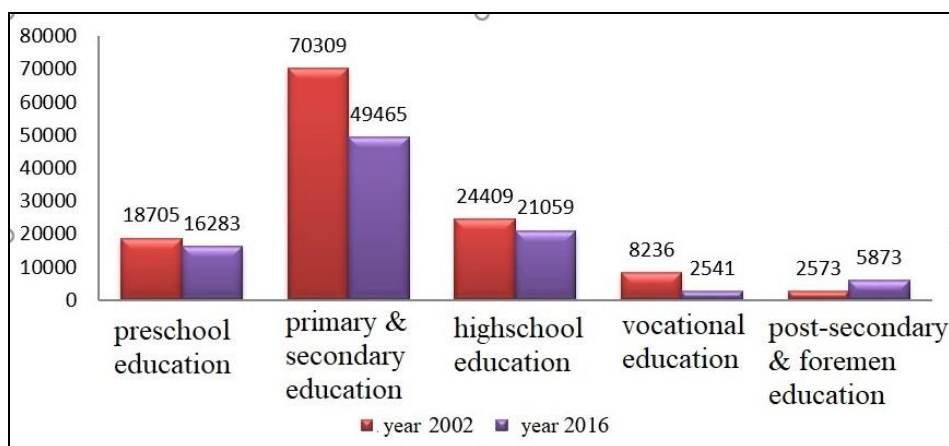


Fig. 14. Dynamics of the school population in Dolj by levels of education

(Data source: National Institute of Statistics, Tempo online database – processing)

Compared to 2002, at the level of Dolj county there is a decrease of the school population with 28,607 students. There were decreases at all levels of education - preschool (-2422), primary and secondary (-20844), high school (-3350), vocational (-5695), except for post-secondary education and foremen (+2800), as due to the large number of graduates who did not graduate from high school and went to post-secondary schools, public or private.

Regarding the structure of the Dolj school population by sex, a higher share of the male population is observed for the four years analyzed. It is also noted that although the male population compared to the female has a higher share, it is decreasing, from 51.5% in 1992 to 50.3% in 2016. Here too there is an increase of female school population by about 1.2%.

The causes of the decrease of the school population are mainly related to the dramatic decrease of the birth rate in Dolj County. Another cause is related to the phenomenon of school dropout, which registers higher values than the national average. For 65.3% of abandonment cases, the authorities do not know the causes, 14.5% are caused by social problems, 9.3% were economic, 10.5% were caused by parental migration, and the rest are medical problems and psycho-pedagogical. Children and young people most at risk of dropping out of school are those who come from vulnerable groups, such as the Roma.

Dolj County has faced in recent years an increase in the abandonment rate in primary and secondary education (Fig. 15). In the period 2010-2015, Dolj County ranked both above the regional and national average, except for the years 2010 and 2013 when Dolj County ranked below the national average of 1.8% and 1.5%, respectively.

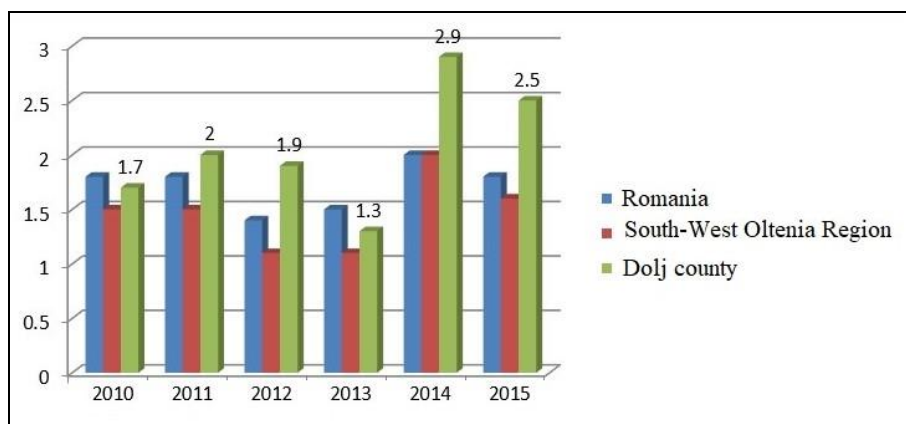


Fig. 15. School abandonment rate in primary and secondary education

(Data source: National Institute of Statistics, Tempo online database – processing)

The abandonment rate in post-secondary education and foremen fluctuates between 2010-2015 (Fig. 16). If in 2010 it is above the national average and reaches the value of 8.7% in the following year it drops to 5.5% to reach the value of this period in 2014 of 9.8%, below the national and regional average of 10.7 %.

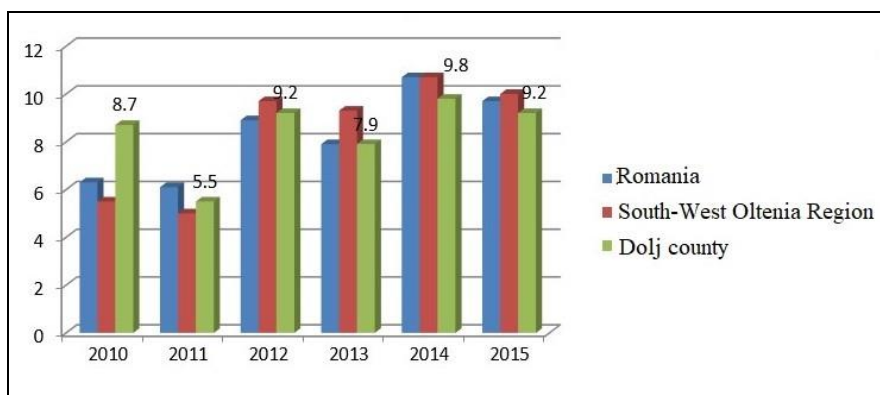


Fig. 16. School abandonment rate in post-secondary and foremen education
(Data source: National Institute of Statistics, Tempo online database – processing)

Regarding the dynamics of graduates by levels of education (Table no. 8), areas of residence and localities, it can be seen that in 1992 Dolj County registered 22,718 graduates, representing 3.4% of the total number of graduates in the country and 33.2% of the total development region. Southwest Oltenia. According to the National Institute of Statistics, in 2015 the number of graduates was 18542 people, which represents 3.7% of the total number of graduates in the country and 36.4% of the total South-West Oltenia Development Region.

Table no. 8. The dynamics of graduates by levels of education in Dolj county

Total	1992	2002	2011	2015
	22718	23648	19453	18542
Primary and secondary education (special education included)	9237	9147	5446	5058
Highschool education	6059	6236	6063	4884
Vocational education	4810	2078	100	497
Post-secondary schools	708	939	1101	2081
Foremen schools	375	71	162	137

(Data source: National Institute of Statistics, Tempo online database – processing)

By levels of education, the highest number of graduates belongs to primary and secondary education, including special education which has a number of 5058 graduates in 2015, down from previous years with 388 students in 2011, 4089 students in 2002 and 4179 students in 1992. It is followed by high school where in 2015 graduated 4884 students, down from 1179 students compared to 2011, with 1352 students compared to 2002 and with 1175 students compared to 1992. Also the most a small number of graduates belong to foremen's schools where in 2015 only 137 people graduated, decreasing

compared to 2011, but increasing compared to 2002. This is followed by vocational education where in 2015 only 497 people graduated, in increase compared to 2011, but decreasing compared to previous years.

By area of residence, the graduation rate is constantly higher in urban areas compared to rural areas. This is determined primarily by the more frequent dropouts in rural areas, but also by other issues, such as the migration of some students from rural to urban schools, towards the end of high school (as an option for a higher quality education, which can ensure the continuation of education in high school).

At the level of Dolj county, the number of graduates is uneven (Fig. 17), so there are areas with a large number of graduates such as Craiova whose number reaches 13,910 graduates, localities less populated a small number of graduates, such as Gogoșu, Botoșești-Paia, Cetate, Negoii, etc. where the number of graduates does not exceed 10 people and localities where the number of graduates exceeds 100 people, localities such as Băilești, Filiași, Poiana Mare, etc.

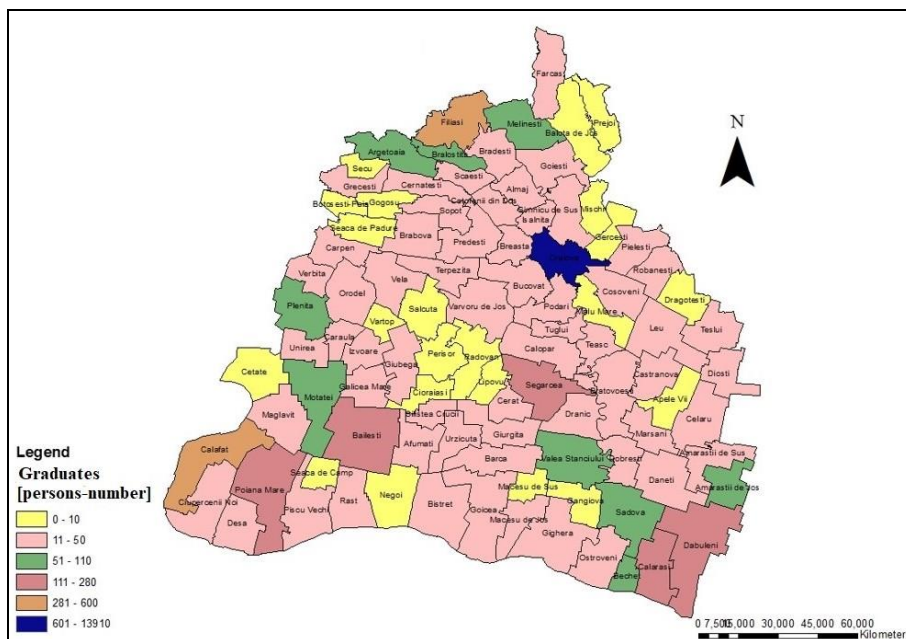


Fig. 17. Distribution of graduates in Dolj county's administrative units
 (Data source: National Institute of Statistics, Tempo online database – processing)

Regarding higher education, in Craiova there are 3 universities, of which 2 are public and one private, the city being the most important university center in the south of the country, after Bucharest, with a tradition of almost 70 years in the field. These are: University of Craiova - with 12 faculties: University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova - with 4 faculties and "Spiru Haret" University - with 2 faculties. These universities offer bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs, of

which the largest share belongs to undergraduate students, at the opposite pole being the doctoral students.

In 2016, in Dolj County, there were 16,924 enrolled students (75.1% of the total), decreasing compared to previous years with 7 students compared to 2015 and 284 students compared to 2014. Regarding the students enrolled in the master their number was of 4252 people enrolled in 2014. Their number decreases by 129 people in 2015 and registers an increase of 100 people compared to 2016 where of the total number of students enrolled is 19.3%.

The figure below (Fig. 18) shows that the number of students enrolled in doctoral programs is increasing from one year to another, from 620 people in 2014 to 633 people in 2015 to reach 653 people enrolled in 2016 in 2016.

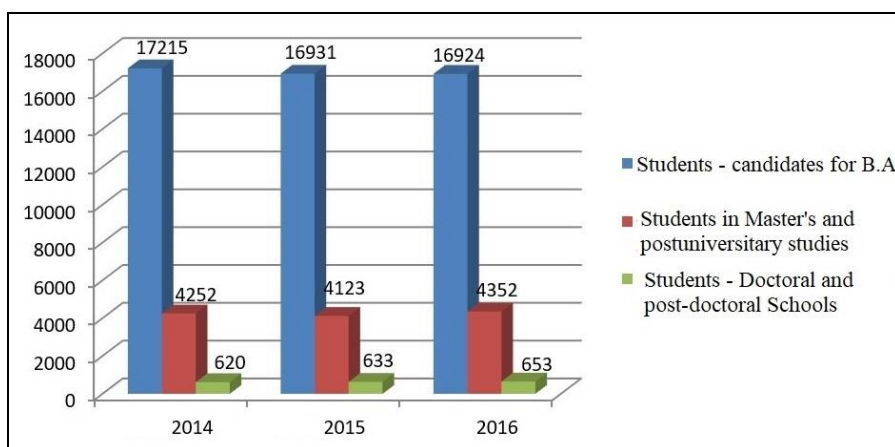


Fig. 18. Dynamics students enrolled by training levels in Dolj county
(Data source: National Institute of Statistics, Tempo online database – processing)

Out of the total number of students and trainees enrolled in higher education in 2016, 113320 people (96.4%) attended full-time courses, 2,471 evening courses (2.1%), 1,328 part-time (1.1%), and 435 at distance (0.4%). Compared to 2014, there is a decrease in higher education students and trainees by: 5353 people in day education, 41 people in part-time education and 99 people in distance education. The only difference is observed in the case of evening education where there is an increase of 58 people, compared to 2014.

By specialization groups, the largest number of graduates belongs to the university pedagogical group where they graduated a number of 996 graduates in 2013, down from the previous year by 318 students. Also, the smallest number of graduates belongs to the artistic group where in 2013 only 29 people graduated. Also, in 2015, the field of business, administration and law counted the most graduates due to the possibilities offered by it. The number of graduates is decreasing by 98 people compared to the previous year. On the other hand, education sciences have the fewest graduates, only 57, given that it is less attractive to students.

3.4. The case of Geography students: the dynamics of graduates in the field of geography, student reception areas

The university geographical education in Craiova was established starting with the academic year 1961-1962 when the foundations of the History-Geography Department are laid, which in the academic year 1966-1967 is organized in the Faculty of History - Geography.

Currently, the Department of Geography operates within the Faculty of Sciences and manages two undergraduate study programs - Geography and Geography of Tourism.

According to the data registered at the secretariat of the department and analyzing the period 2005-2018, it is observed that the number of students enrolled in the department registers oscillations during this period. Thus, the academic year 2005-2006 registers the highest number of enrolled students, 147 students, also their lowest number is registered in the academic year 2016-2017, where only 35 students were enrolled.

Established later, the study program of the geography of tourism does not register too big oscillations in the period 2012-2018. The highest number of students are registered in the academic year 2012-2013, a number of 59, while the fewest students enrolled in the academic year 2017-2018, only 47 students. It is also observed that in the last two years, from the two specializations, the most chosen is the Geography of tourism (Fig. 19).

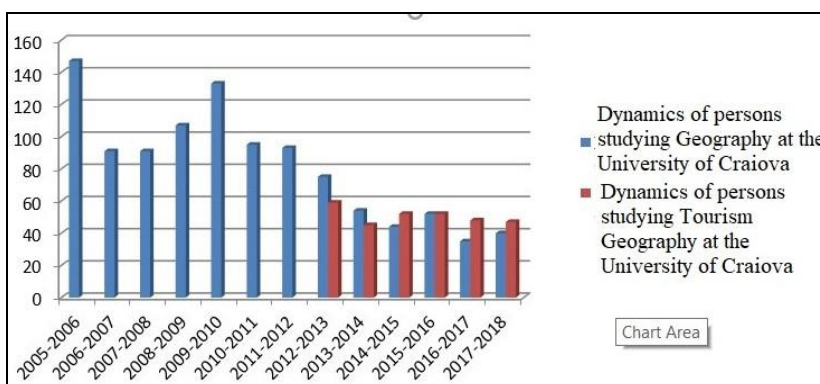


Fig. 19. Dynamics of students enrolled at the University of Craiova
(Data source: the Secretariat of the Geography Department)

Within the Geography department of the University of Craiova, the enrolled students come from different counties of the country.

Analyzing the figure below regarding the reception basins of the students enrolled in the Geography degree program, it is observed that within it the students come from ten counties, but also from Bucharest and the Republic of Moldova.

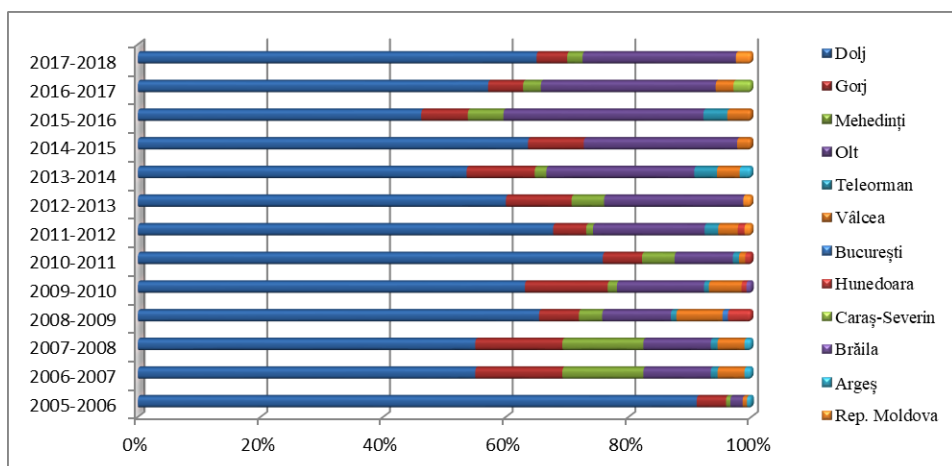


Fig. 20. Reception basins for Geography students at the University of Craiova
(Data source: the Secretariat of the Geography Department)

Also, it can be observed that in the analyzed period the largest shares are held by counties that make up the South West Oltenia development region. Of these, the largest share of enrolled students come from Dolj County.

Regarding the reception basins of students enrolled in the Geography of Tourism bachelor's program, it is observed that within it the students come from eight counties.

As in the case of students enrolled in Geography and here the largest shares are held by counties that make up the South West Oltenia development region, among them Dolj County has the largest share of those enrolled.

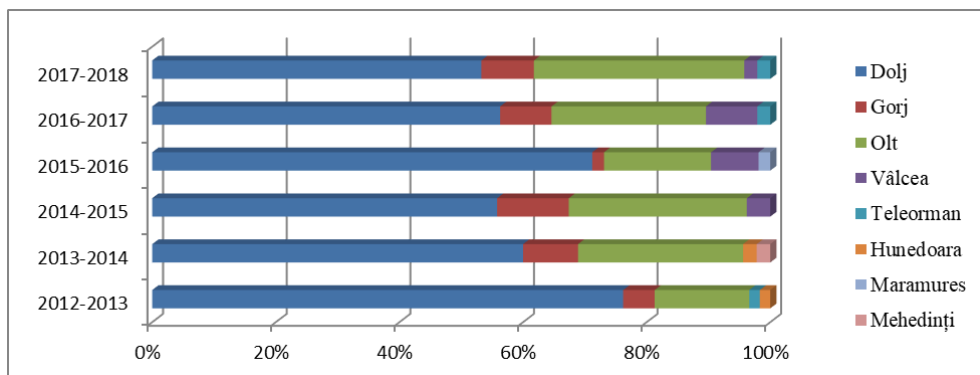


Fig. 21. Reception basins for Tourism Geography students at the University of Craiova
(Data source: the Secretariat of the Geography Department)

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Following the extensive analysis on the Dolj education system, a series of conclusions could be drawn:

- **The network of educational units at the county level is extensive and diversified, covering all levels of education, from preschool to postgraduate, but the sharp decline in school population has led to the restructuring of the public network of schools, especially in rural areas.**
- The rural population has limited access to high school and university education, although high schools have been established in several communes in the county.
- The county has a high dropout rate, especially in high school and among the Roma population.
- In rural areas there are many schools with a small number of students, which are in danger of extinction in the near future. Therefore, investments in this area should be properly managed and targeted.
- The educational infrastructure at county level has shrunk with the closure of some schools, the only increase being recorded in terms of computer labs, supported by government funds.

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