

PROBLEMS OF STRUCTURAL FUNDS ABSORPTION IN ROMANIA: LOCAL ADMINISTRATION PERSPECTIVE. STUDY CASE: VALCEA COUNTY

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ABSTRACT:

THIS PAPER PRESENTS AN EVALUATION OF THE CENTRAL PROBLEMS OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION WHICH INDUCE A LOW ABSORPTION RATE OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDING. THE EMPIRICAL RESULTS SUGGEST THAT A LOW ABSORPTION RATE OF STRUCTURAL FUNDS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IS HIGHLY INFLUENCED BY THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AT THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION LEVEL IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS (SFS). THEREFORE, IF PROBLEMS ARE ENCOUNTERED AT THE LEVEL OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF SFS, THEN THE ABSORPTION CAPACITY WILL BE NEGATIVELY INFLUENCED. IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THESE PROBLEMS WE HAVE ANALYZED THE DATA AND INTERVIEWS OBTAINED IN ONE COUNTY, WHICH LED TO THE FOLLOWING OUTCOME, THAT THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION'S CAPACITY IS CRITICALLY INFLUENCED BY: INSUFFICIENT HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, CO-FINANCING PROBLEMS, LOW LEVEL OF INFORMATION, POLITICAL SUPPORT AND AFFILIATION, PARTNERSHIP WITH CENTRAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH CONSULTING COMPANIES.

KEY WORDS: STRUCTURAL FUNDS, LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, ABSORPTION CAPACITY, ADMINISTRATIVE ABSORPTION CAPACITY.

INTRODUCTION

Law administrative absorption capacity of local public administration represents one of the recurrent issues and key challenges for Romania, and this aspect will be addressed also in the hypothesis of the present study. According to the earlier introductory discussion, the purpose of this paper is to identify the main factors influencing the administrative capacity of the Romanian local authorities, translated through poor absorption rate of the structural funds. To continue with, the question, which motivated the present research, is to what extent the administrative capacity of the local administration influences the absorption capacity of structural funds at the national level?

The existing literature on the subject, lead to the following *working-hypothesis*: the local administration with a consolidated administrative capacity absorbs more structural funds. Having as a starting point the existing literature and the general hypothesis, we can deduct another *three complementary hypotheses*: local authorities which are well informed

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absorb more structural funds; local authorities with insufficient and untrained personnel absorb fewer funds; local authorities with low co-financing capacity absorb fewer funds. The general axis around this hypothesis is based only on quantitative data, which do not allow a careful analysis of the problems encountered by the local authorities in this respect. The demonstration of this hypothesis have been realised only through simple suppositions and statistical data, without a deeper look into the essence of the problem.

The present research paper has been conducted in Oltenia South-West Development Region, namely Valcea County, based on quantitative and qualitative characteristic. According to Alan Bryman's view, the research is a *transversal one*². Usually, this characteristic is associated with quantitative research, but in this case can be identified also qualitative elements, the study succeeds in comprising with success the two research strategies.

In what concerns the quantitative component, in the period between november 2010 – april 2011 there has been conducted to the city halls from Valcea, a questionnaire addressed to mayors, vice-mayors, and secretary. There have been a total of 71 participants from all the city halls, including municipalities. The questionnaire has been composed of factual questions about city halls activities regarding management, more precisely structural funds absorption. The answers needed a good knowledge and documentation on the topic from those questioned. Because of the large area of research, and of the distance between the city halls, in some cases the questionnaire has been send through e-mail.

Moreover, beside the investigation methods mentioned earlier, we can add documentary analysis, legislative and hystorical analysis, components of the qualitative dimension. From a quantitative point of view, we used statistical data, regarding data about projects and structural funds at the level of Valcea County.

ADMINISTRATIVE ABSORPTION CAPACITY: ROLE OF ROMANIAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The empirical literature on administrative absorption capacity of structural funds, focused on analyzing national and regional administrations, and less on local public authorities, which in a national decentralized political system, as is the case of Romania, represents the core of an efficient and effective implementation of structural funds.

As it was mentioned earlier in this paper, the administrative capacity refers to the ability of the local authorities to prepare eligible plans, programs and projects, and meet the administrative obligations to finance and averse the implementation process and avoiding irregularities. This capacity is composed of a supply and demand side. The offer is composed of national, regional and local authorities with the final purpose to access as many structural funds as possible from the EU budget³. The demand side includes the beneficiaries, inclusively the local authorities, to successfully implement projects through a complicated administrative procedure⁴. As we can clearly observe, the local authorities can be found both on the supply and demand side, therefore, their influence on the administrative absorption capacity is significant.

² Alan Bryman, *Social Research Methods*, (Oxford:Oxford University Press, 2001), 42.

³ Mojmir MRAK *et al.*, "Key challenges of Slovenia in implementing EU cohesion policy in the new financial perspective", in Janez PRAŠNIKAR, *Competitiveness, social responsibility and economic growth*, (New York: Nova Science Publishers, 2006), 184-190.

⁴ MRAK, Key challenges of Slovenia in implementing EU cohesion policy in the new financial perspective

However, the problems which can be identified in the management of Structural Funds are⁵: (1) insufficient number of persons from the local public administration which deal with Structural Funds; (2) a great number of those who work in the field are not well-prepared and qualified and those who become real specialists in the domain prefer to start working in the private sector rather than in the public one; (3) there are no coherent and systematic efforts to use the experience of the pre-accession funds to the post-accession ones, and this may be also a cause of the personnel migration.

After a closer examination of the absorption rates in the Central and Eastern European countries, we can assert that they have encountered difficulties in the absorption of structural funds in the first years after accession, due to insufficient human and financial resources, lack of inter-institutional cooperation and few co-financing capabilities⁶. All these are a result of the legacy of the communist past and of the unfinished administrative reforms⁷. There is no surprising assessment from European Commission regarding the improvement of the administrative capacity of these states to properly implement structural funds, if we take into account the fact that EU has no administrative apparatus to implement his own policies, being based on the sub-national authorities⁸. Furthermore, the regions and localities from Central and Eastern Europe became the main beneficiaries of structural funds.

ABSORPTION ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY OF MUNICIPALITIES FROM VÂLCEA

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Human and financial resources available to local authorities, in this case the municipalities, is a key element in strengthening their capacity to develop and prepare eligible projects and to properly manage them in the implementation phase.

From the data obtained from the questionnaires it can be noticed the fact that there are still municipalities that do not have administrative personnel to handle strictly the management of European funds. The disadvantaged municipalities in this regard are those from rural areas, being a major discrepancy between urban and rural municipalities in what concerns the existence in the organizational structure of a specialized department in accessing European grants. What it is interesting to note in this case, is that in the 9 towns and two municipalities from Valcea county, all city halls have a specialized department managing structural funds accession, while in the other 60 city halls from rural area, just 40 have specialized personnel in this domain. However, the institutions from rural areas with trained personnel in the realization of projects have not been created within their administration special departments to handle the funding allocated through external and internal programs.

With regard to municipalities that already have sufficient and well trained personnel in accessing structural funds, two problems have been identified. A first problem regards the fact that in relation to work volume, which is high, and the complexity of the projects, the personnel is insufficient. Moreover, a widespread opinion is that "persons designated to realise and obtain structural funds, have also other duties on the line of their job, the time

⁵ Alina BÂRGOIANU, *Fondurile Europene: strategii de promovare si utilizare*, (Bucuresti:Tritonic, 2009), 192.

⁶ Gheorghe ZAMAN, George GEORGESCU, "Structural Fund Absorption: A new challenge for Romania?", *Romanian Journal of Economic Forecasting*, (No. 1, 2009), 136-154.

⁷ Judit Kalman, "Possible Structural Funds Absorption Problems – The Political Economy View with Application to the Hungarian Regional Development Institutions and Financial System", *Regionalization for Development and Accession to the European Union – A Comparative Perspective. Open Society Institute/ Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative*, (Budapest: Gerard Marcou., 2002), 29-64.

⁸ Sven Arnsward, "Eu Enlargement and the Baltic States: The incremental making of new members", *Institutul de Politici Europene*, (Helsinki: 2000), 55-60,

representing in this case a real problem”⁹. Insufficient financial resources also leads to the impossibility of hiring specialized people on this domain, or maintaining the actual personnel on the position held. The exception of the rule is the city halls from towns, and of the Ramnicu Valcea municipality, which has a special department dealing with European grants, External Programmes Department, with a number of 20 employees.

The second problem which has been identified is the migration of the already qualified personnel in the private sector, a problem which is leading inevitably to the first problem, the lack of personnel. This aspect is strong related to "lack of financial motivation of those who implement these projects, the liability is high and growth of grants of 75% of persons in charge of management of structural funds is still not resolved at the level of county councils and municipalities”¹⁰. the data of the questionnaire reveals the fact that employee participation to specialized training programmes on European funds management, 58,7% of the institutions benefited of such training programmes for their personnel. Which is surprising is that these training programmes do not have the desired result, few of the respondents declared to be satisfied of their aport of the perfection of personnel.

Another issue that I tried to capture is whether these municipalities have the ability to finance budget projects within European assistance and thus if they have funds to provide co-financing. In various studies, opines the general idea that the number of projects designed to grant reflects the weak capacity of local authorities to bear the costs for the preparation of all the documents. The vast majority of the representatives of municipalities reported that one of the problems facing is linked to reduced fiscal capacity of the locality concerned. However, the ability of municipalities to apply for structural funds is determined, most often, by the local budgets they have.

This inability of funding their financial contribution to the projects is under the umbrella of several factors. One such factor is the financial crisis and the current socio-economic situation, which led the Valcea County Council to cut down the funds allocated for the local municipalities with regard to financing European projects. A second factor is the municipalities’ own revenues, which can partially provide the ongoing operating expenses, because, according to the responses given, they have a small budget, well below the needs of localities. Nevertheless, the level of tax collection is not large due to the poor financial situation of the local population. Basically, these municipalities do not have the necessary amount to realise the necessary documentation for accessing funds. This type of amount is usually paid in the moment when the project is deposed and which must be paid by the one who is ordering the work, and if the project is selected for implementation, then other costs must be supported by the beneficiaries.

„There have been reduced the funds for financing European projects. From our own revenues, we only deal to provide the ongoing operating expenses. If projects are generating revenue, the municipality can provide the costs after the project is implemented. I consider that we should create and allocate a special budget for this purpose,”¹¹.

Thus, in the elaboration of projects, which involve at first step money for feasibility studies and the project in general, and second stage to co-finance the works, is an expensive one. The financial contribution that a municipality supports on a project may influence the implementation and realization of other projects, because a municipality can access other

⁹ Primar comuna Sutești, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, februarie 2011.

¹⁰ Reprezentant comuna Popești, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, aprilie 2011.

¹¹ Primar comuna Sutești, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, februarie 2011.

funds when the ongoing project is finished. However, according to the financial guidelines of the operational programs, in the vast majority of the areas of intervention, the financial contribution of a local authority is 20% from the total amount of the project, a sum which is not easy to sustain in the given circumstances.

Even if all municipalities have expressed a desire to realise as many projects, their limited budgets do not encourage these initiatives: “we could not realize all the projects we have proposed, because of the lack of funds. There are a lot of things to do in our locality, sewage, infrastructure, gas supply and many others, but they will have to wait”¹². This “fear” and the reluctance of municipalities to submit projects, increase due to “change of the rules during the game, as until the present moment the procedures and financing guideline have been changed several times. Unfortunately, this did not mean to simplify the eligibility criteria”¹³. The Guidelines for Applicants have been changed frequently, inducing confusion among applicants. These modifications took place as a consequence of the fact that “the Management Authorities were not prepared to run for the project sessions, being forced to make adjustments on the way, which unfortunately affected a number of projects during their process of submission or evaluation”¹⁴.

Thus, this section, of the analysis of the results of questionnaires and discussions on it with some mayors, highlighted two problematic concerns regarding administrative capacity of these municipalities. First, they lack the skilled personnel to handle the drafting, implementation and management of such projects, and second, the inability of municipalities to finance and co-finance these projects. Therefore, lack of financial skills and insufficient specialized personnel causes a serious crisis of human and financial resources in the field.

PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN MUNICIPALITIES AND CONSULTING COMPANIES

When municipalities benefited from pre-accession funds, the projects had been written by the employees of the local administration, because the eligibility criterion was easy to be performed and the value of the contracts was considerably smaller¹⁵. Since the municipalities have started to benefit from structural funds, problems began to emerge, especially with regard to human resource, which were and still are inadequate and insufficient. As a result, the municipalities were forced to turn to consulting firms for writing their projects.

What seemed paradoxical is that in Valcea County out of the 50 municipalities that have specialized staff, 45 have turned to consulting firms¹⁶. This can only emphasize that local authorities are not yet “mature” enough and prepared to act alone in the management of projects, programs and portfolios of projects. Therefore, the absence of the culture of projects, the inability of these municipalities to establish the link between development and projects, constitutes a major impediment to absorption of structural funds.

But this relationship between consulting firms and local authorities is determined by a series of factors. One factor which the interviewees have mentioned is a financial one. Usually the selection of the consulting firms is made through public auction, as a consequence of the large amount of money of the project, and these firms take a commission for the entire project. In most of the cases, the consulting companies require the money for

¹² Primar comuna Roiești, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, februarie 2011.

¹³ Primar comuna Pietrari, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, aprilie 2011.

¹⁴ Primar comuna Popești, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, noiembrie 2010.

¹⁵ Fiecare primărie a avut cel puțin un proiect finanțat din fonduri de pre-aderare, prin SAPARD sau PHARE.

¹⁶ Printre cele care nu au apelat la astfel de servicii se numără cele 11 orașe din județul Vâlcea: Băile Govora, Băile Olănești, Brezoi, Călimănești, Drăgășani, Horezu, Ocnele Mari, Bălcești, Băbeni, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Berbești.

the services rendered after the submission of the projects and until they are approved, and most of the times “the municipalities are in incapacity of paying if the project is not approved for financing”¹⁷. Most of the companies work without ensuring the finality of project applications, namely, declaring the project as being eligible for funding.

„Local authorities are required to pay huge sums of money for consultancy, which causes a decrease in the number of projects submitted under the open sessions for different development axes. The amounts they claim do not always reflect the actual costs of work performed, which is often overstated”¹⁸.

Moreover, advisory companies require a fee for the preparation of documentation, amounts that can reach up to 10,000 euro, plus further payments if the project is approved. Representatives of municipalities said that they usually have to pay a deposit of 30% of the total price, with the remainder to pay the entire sum upon the delivery of the feasibility study. However, the costs necessary to execute topographic surveys, geotechnical authorizations are not included in the initial price, which are paid directly by the municipalities.

"We had to implement two projects, one on the rehabilitation of the cultural center and the other on the modernization of the sport base, but, believe me, they cost us enormously. Of course, having no specialized personnel had to find a consulting firm. To achieve both documents I paid the amount of 10,000 euro, plus an advance of 30%. At first glance it may seem a small amount, but considering the local budget was a sacrifice."¹⁹.

"I turned to consulting firm for feasibility study for rehabilitation DC98 country road with a length of 8 km, for which we were asked the amount of 5,000 euros. But, this does not add the costs for the on obtaining permits, authorizations, travel by car for their production. Even for a project so small it was hard to financially support from the local budget, plus I had to provide co-financing part"²⁰.

A second factor behind this relationship is represented by the insufficient human resources of these municipalities in the domain of European funds project. The municipalities have no financial capacity to provide permanent salaries and staff training in order to obtain EU funds, therefore they are forced to resort to such companies, although long-term investment in staff training could reduce dependence of the municipalities from these companies, and implicitly of the costs. Costs for these kinds of services, have led to the creation of some tensions between municipalities and consulting firms. Some of the interviewees emphasized that they were on the verge of going to court, because of the financial incapacity to pay the entire price of the services provided by these companies

Considering the above issues, there is a risk to do eligible projects but unfunded. Indeed, we have seen a positive aspect, for instance the large number of projects submitted. Over 50% of municipalities have prepared and even submitted projects, which is an encouraging fact. However, a number of representatives of the municipalities surveyed indicated that at present "there is a risk in doing projects because consulting firms that made

¹⁷ Primar oraş Băile Govora, judeţul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, februarie 2011.

¹⁸ Primar comuna Suteşti, judeţul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, februarie 2011.

¹⁹ Reprezentant comuna Mădulari, judeţul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, aprilie 2011.

²⁰ Reprezentant comuna Mitrofani, judeţul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, februarie 2011.

these projects must be paid from local budgets there being no certainty in the implementation"²¹. It is often difficult for municipalities to realize which companies are serious or not. There have been cases where there have been difficulties in project implementation due to unseriousness of these firms.

„When I saw at the end, the project, I could not believe my eyes ... in this way the employees of city hall could have done it, but I thought to appeal to specialists, they know better how to do a project. Of course, we paid to them part of the money, and the project, as expected was not accepted. For the next session of project submission we appealed to a another firm recommended by another town hall as being serious”²².

„Without offending anyone the power of money and the desire to have power are the defining factors ... I do not think that the relationship between municipalities and consulting companies is a favorable one, as all this relation is money based without any desire for success and efficiency of project”²³.

Municipalities' partnerships with consulting firms, according to the result of the interviews, are based firstly on the lack of the trained personnel in project management within the municipalities, and secondly on the desire of the mayors to contribute to the local development of their villages. But, most of the times, these partnerships become strained as a result of the incapacity of the municipalities to pay, often being seen as bad payers. Moreover, consulting companies became more reluctant to advise local authorities, heading mainly to the private sector.

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL, CENTRAL AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

Inter-institutional relationship between municipalities and central and regional authorities in European-funded projects is a determinant factor on the ability of these municipalities to develop eligible projects in this field. As we could have noticed, human and financial resources of a locality are not sufficient to support the implementation and preparation of such projects. Thus, salvation can come from the regional authorities – such as county council, Management Authorities, Regional Development Agencies, and national ones – through resort ministries. Moreover, the responses, on municipalities' consultation with the County Council on European financing problems, were diverse. In the county of Valcea, 30% of municipalities responded that they are consulted to a large extent, 32.4% to a small extent, and 35.6% approximately.

Also, it can be noted that the number of projects submitted by municipalities for financing from structural funds is in direct relation to the degree of consultation between municipalities and county councils.

In 2007-2010, 54.6% of the municipalities in the county of Valcea conducted various programs in partnership or association with the County Council, which is often consulted on issues related to the implementation of EU-funded projects that assist the communities in question. County Council is one of the few county authorities who are actively involved in projects initiated by municipalities. At the entrance to some communes, there are banners, which in addition to details about the project and the type of financing, it is also stated the

²¹ Primar comuna Pietrari, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, aprilie 2011.

²² Primar comuna Pietrari, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, martie 2011.

²³ Reprezentant comuna Căineni, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, decembrie 2010.

County Council's contribution. The remaining percentages of 45.4% in Valcea refers to partnerships with other municipalities, NGOs and prefecture.

The projects which had been carried out in partnership with the County Council, and where the municipalities had been consulted with, are those related to infrastructure, water and gas supply, waste management, rehabilitation, modernization and construction of buildings in the locality. The contribution of the County Council, in most of the cases, is of financial nature, sustaining in this way the co-finance aspect, part which the great majority of the municipalities do not dispose of, "offers advises for drafting or in the implementation phases, mediation for obtaining bank loans"²⁴. There are municipalities in Valcea County, where "often employee of the County Council participates in their quality as part of the projects of these municipalities, giving weight to the project in the implementation phase. They are important parts in these projects because of their experience in the management of structural funds"²⁵.

Therefore, the County Council involvement in the realization of projects with European financing by the municipalities, mainly those from rural areas, can represent an advantage to increase administrative absorption capacity to absorb structural funds. This involvement may cover two aspects, a financial one, and one related to human resources. But, the help came from the County Council is not sufficient, and there must be a greater involvement of the authorities from regional and national level.

ACCESSION RATE OF STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The degree of access of EU grants, translated by the number of projects implemented, is an important element in the equation calculating the rate of absorption of these funds.

As the number of projects submitted by municipalities on financing lines of structural funds, we considered only those submitted between 2007 and December 2010. What is interesting to note that no respondent mentioned to have submitted a project financed by the Structural Funds in 2007. In Valcea most municipalities, 44, submitted between 1 and 2 projects financed from structural funds, 12 municipalities between 3 and 4 projects, 13 more than 4 projects, but there are two cases in which representatives of those municipalities said they have not made any such project. Municipalities who have filed more than 4 projects are mainly those in urban areas, and in this segment are included three communes, which besides infrastructure projects, they have also on the development of tourism potential.

Most projects are financed by the EAFRD program measure 322 - "Village renewal and development, improving basic services for the economy and rural population and upgrading of rural heritage", which is mainly addressed to municipalities. The large number of projects under this measure is explained by the fact that this program covers investment in infrastructure, but also because most communities are located in rural areas. Although at first glance these percentages do not reflect the situation at the national level, some of the projects submitted by municipalities, they should have been approved or not, or implemented for some time, but due to lack of co-financing these works have stalled²⁶.

Regarding the degree of accessing structural funds by municipalities, namely value drawn by the operational programs, there is a discrepancy between "rich" and "poor" municipalities. For example, in Valcea county, the financial capacity of municipalities and towns, such as Govora, Horezu, Drăgășani, Călimănești, is superior to much of the rural

²⁴ Reprezentant comuna Bărbătești, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, noiembrie 2010.

²⁵ Primar comuna Popești, județul Vâlcea, interviu cu Mihaela Ruxanda, aprilie 2011.

²⁶ Din motive obiective, reprezentanții primăriilor chestionate nu mi-au putut oferi un număr al proiectelor care nu au fost aprobate, sau al celor care nu au reușit să fie implementate.

municipalities. As a result, more than half of the projects contracted by local authorities in the county were obtained by these "rich" municipalities²⁷.

After analyzing the results of questionnaires and discussions with some of the mayors on them, it can be seen that there are still many serious weaknesses and administrative incapacity in absorption of structural funds by the local public authorities. This fact can represent a concern, if we are to consider that the analysis presented above was carried out in three years, nearly four of Romania's accession to the EU, therefore being assumed that local authorities would have to be resolved any gaps to realise a better absorption of EU grants.

CONCLUSION

The results of this research indicate that there are still problems in the administrative absorption capacity among local authorities in Romania. Although the investigation of the study area in question is small compared to the number of municipalities from the national level, these gaps in the administrative system for the management of structural funds tend to be generalized.

Study results show the validity of the general hypothesis, that local authorities with a consolidated administrative capacity access a greater number of structural funds. Of course, the other three working hypotheses were tested too. The indicator referring to municipalities information has validated the first working hypothesis. The other two hypothesis were validated by the financial and human resources indicator.

To continue with, I do admit to shortcomings in my research. One of these would have been the scarcity of available information on the analysis of absorption of structural funding at the local level, because of lack of access to the exact number of projects implemented in each municipality, on each Operational Programme and the sum allocated by the County Council for each region. Another one was the fact that the persons representing the local administration, which we interviewed, seemed to be reluctant when answering several questions related to the problems their institution faces in the management of the SFs, while more detailed answers would have reduced the possibility of errors in my analysis.

²⁷ De exemplu, municipiul Râmnicu Vâlcea a fost desemnat în cadrul Programului Operațional Regional, Pol de Dezvoltare Urbană, fiindu-i alocate pentru perioada 2007-2013 o sumă de 38,20 milioane euro.

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