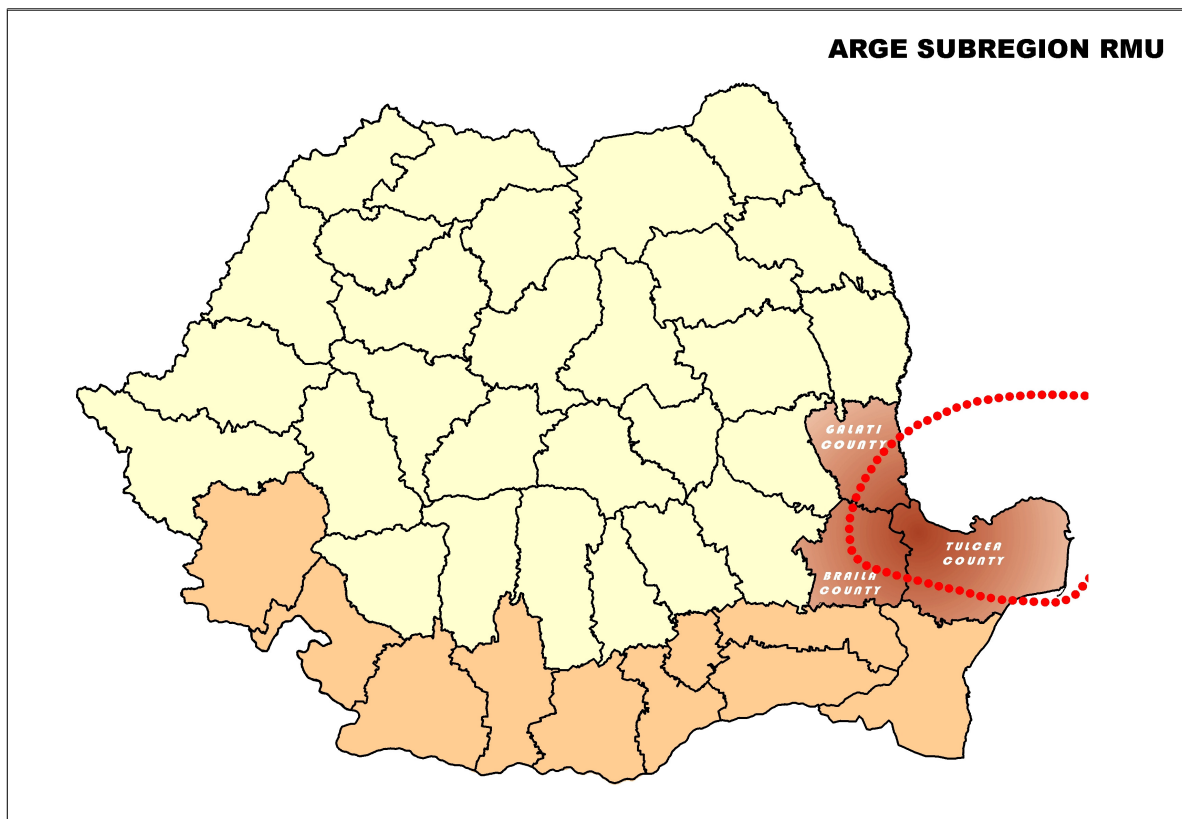




**The Spatial Development Concept of  
Interregional Co-operation in the Danube Space**  
SEE EoI/A/246/4.2/X

**WP7  
COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY**



Background report for Romania, part A - Analysis and comparison

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# A) ANALYSIS AND COMPARISONS

## 1. SWOT analysis

Romanian ARGE DONAU subregion RMU		
GS	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<b>NC</b>	<p>The Danube Delta with specific biodiversity and landscape, the Braila Pond (Balta Brailei)</p> <p>More than 120 protected areas, most of them (70) in Tulcea county: the National Park Macinului Mountains, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (also Ramsar site), NATURA 2000 sites</p> <p>Specific natural resources: oil and gas, mineral water, salt lakes, fertile soils in Braila county</p> <p>A rich hydrographic network with rich surface water resources</p> <p>Spas, agro-touristic pensions, fishing and hunting areas</p> <p>Programs regarding the ecological restoration, waste management, cross-border cooperation with Ukraine on nature protection</p> <p>A complex system of embankments (against the floods), especially in Braila county</p>	<p>Anthropic processes endanger the natural environment integrity in Danube Delta</p> <p>Illegal landfills for household waste</p> <p>Insufficient protection of localities against floods (inappropriate dams)</p> <p>Large arid areas in Braila county</p> <p>Low share of forest area in Braila and Galati counties</p> <p>Localities without water supply, sewerage and water treatment stations</p> <p>Lack of ring roads around the cities</p> <p>Insufficient points of selective waste disposal</p> <p>Flood risk areas</p> <p>Lack of initiative in collecting funds for the management of protected areas</p> <p>Lack of household and industrial landfills according to European standards</p>
<b>SSHR</b>	<p>The unemployment rate decreased in the period 1996-2008 in the region</p> <p>Galati-Braila urban system, unique in Romania, important regional pole, important industrial, administrative and cultural center</p> <p>The biggest urban agglomeration following Bucharest (approx. 580.000 inhabitants)</p>	<p>Major demographic decline</p> <p>Major urban-rural disparities regarding the access at medical educational services</p> <p>Insufficient medical endowment, insufficient medical personnel, especially in rural area</p>
<b>T</b>	<p>2 pan-European transport corridors: VII and IX</p> <p>Ports of international importance (Braila, Galați, Tulcea and Sulina, the national airport in Tulcea)</p> <p>The strategic location of the region (Danube Delta and Black Sea area, border with Ukraine and Moldova)</p>	<p>Low level of the transport network quality</p> <p>Low roads and railroads and density, less than the national average.</p> <p>Un-modernized rail infrastructure</p> <p>Difficult accessibility in the Eastern part of the territory and in the Danube Delta area</p> <p>Lack of direct road link with Dobrogea (only ferry)</p>
<b>TI</b>	<p>A relative uniform distribution of the railroad network (radial towards West)</p> <p>Most localities are connected to the state drinking water system.</p>	<p>Insufficient development of the public services infrastructure and utilities</p> <p>Low endowment with wastewater stations</p> <p>Low equipment with natural gas</p> <p>Low connection to the drinking water network in rural area</p>

		Very few drinking water stations, the existing ones being un-operating
<b>E</b>	<p>The tourism sector is well developed</p> <p>The SMEs sector is well developed</p> <p>Big productive units in Braila and Galati, representative at national and international level</p> <p>Diversified industry (metallurgic in Galați and Tulcea; engineering works in Braila and Tecuci; naval in Galati, Braila, Tulcea; textile in Braila, Galați, Tulcea; food in most cities).</p> <p>Flexible, qualified, available and cheap labor force.</p> <p>The tendency of a increasing labor force in tertiary branch</p> <p>Advantageous area for a diversified structure of the vegetal production</p>	<p>Low population income</p> <p>Lack of coherent policies and programs for the development of tourism</p> <p>Obsolete tourism infrastructure</p> <p>Productive activities are concentrated mainly in Braila and Galati municipalities</p> <p>Decrease of the number of employees in industry between 1998 and 2008</p> <p>Low level of research and development expenditures.</p>

<b>GS</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
<b>NC</b>	<p>A high interest at national level in order to conserve the biodiversity</p> <p>High potential in agricultural area</p> <p>The most important fishy potential at national level</p> <p>The possibility to develop the cross-border cooperation on environment protection within the euro-regions</p> <p>Development of eco-tourism, increasing the demand of ecological products</p> <p>Many financing possibilities in the environmental field</p> <p>The emplacement of Braila, Galati and Tulcea municipalities on the Danube river</p> <p>Link with the Black Sea</p>	<p>High natural risk, extreme climatic phenomena</p> <p>Increasing of the naval traffic and new international waterways (Bistroe channel) in the Danube Delta</p> <p>The uncontrolled development of economic environment with negative impact upon the natural environment</p> <p>The threats coming from outside the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve</p> <p>Poor development of essential infrastructure (drinking water supply, wastewater treatment, waste management)</p> <p>The increasing pressure upon natural resources and landscape</p>
<b>SSHR</b>	<p>Opportunity of cooperation in a territorial system that includes Tulcea municipality</p> <p>The University « Dunarea de Jos » (Low Danube) having branches in Braila and Galati</p>	<p>Lack of support of the urban system Braila- Galati by a urban network of localities having approx. 12000 inhabitants)</p> <p>The Braila-Galati urban system is surrounded by a vast rural territory</p> <p>The risk of departure of the medical personnel from the area</p> <p>The risk of abandoning the area looking for new working places</p>
<b>T</b>	<p>High potential for the river transport development (the Danube)</p> <p>The traffic of goods can be switch from road to railroad, fluvial and air transport</p> <p>Pan-European corridor no.7 (the Danube)</p>	<p>Lack of a rapid link on long distances (airport)</p> <p>Risk of isolation towards the major transport terrestrial arteries (lack of a Danube bridge, highways, express roads)</p>

	<p>Braila and Galati ports</p> <p>A project of a bridge crossing the Danube</p> <p>A project for a express road Braila-Galati</p>	
<b>TI</b>	<p>Increasing the utilization of renewable resources (biomass, hidroelectricity, wind, solar, geo-thermal), increasing the economic growth.</p>	<p>High pollution risk – wastewater is flowing directly into the Danube</p> <p>Possibility that some components of the water and wastewater network to deteriorate and to produce serious damages</p>
<b>E</b>	<p>High productive potential in agriculture and pisciculture, the most important fish potential at national level;</p> <p>Projects in course to achieve industrial parks in Braila and Galati</p>	<p>Increasing of the process of des-industrialization.</p> <p>Risk of moving of some industrial sectors towards external locations (Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), due to the low costs.</p>

## 2. Definition of indicators characterizing the social-economic situation of the D+ region area

Indicator	Year			
	1996	2001	2005	2008
Water pollution index				
Atmosph.pollution SO <sub>2</sub> – emissions in t/1000 inh.	13.204	16.502	14.522	11.442
Atmosph.pollution NO <sub>2</sub> – emissions in t/1000 inh.	15.840	14.437	11.045	14.482
Atmosph.pollution ash – emissions in t/1000 inh.				
Atmosph.pollution CO – emissions in t/1000 inh.	8.905	8.133	10.319	15.372
Landfills	1001.3	1004	353.446	4674
Number of dwellings per 1000 inhabitants	326.576	342.262	358.590	367.186
Number of university students per 1000 inh.	7.509	13.834	16.418	18.239
Regional vitality index	266,9	143,2	109,0	89,0
Road Transport – Density of Highways	0	0	0	0
Railway transport – Density of Railways	0.0293	0.0297	0.0338	0.0320
Water transport - freight transfered				
Water transport – accessibility of ports	84.86	84.86	84.86	84.86
Air Transport – airports accessibility				
Electric energy supply		97.18		100
Natural gas				
Broadband (internet connection, >256 kbit/s)				
Drinking water supply	62.6	63	64.6	76
Wastewater treatment	21.1	46.3	35.2	35.8
Renewable energy sources				
Regional GDP per capita in PPS as a share of EU 27(25) average (%)	23.5 (1998)	21.5	26.07	28 (2006)
Labor force participation rate (%)	61.8	56.4	51.6	52.2
Unemployment rate in the region (%)	14.2 (1998)	10.3	7.0	5.1
Number of employed in tertiary branch (%)	36.9	34.4	40.6	43.7
Share of college and secondary school educated inhabitants		62.6		
Tourism – average guest nights		2.84	2.64	2.8
Tourism – foreign visitors				

### 3. The analysis and the evaluation of the national regional policies and spatial plans of the country

#### 3.1. Settlement system

##### General overview

Spatial planning activities in Romania are currently regulated by Law no. 350/2001 on spatial and urban planning. The national spatial plan has a guiding character, being the synthesis of all sectoral medium and long terms strategic programs, for the entire Romanian space. The national spatial plan is made up of specialized sections.

Currently, Romania's National Spatial Plan has the following sections:

- Section I – Means of communication, approved under Law 363/2006
- Section II – Water (Law 171/1997)
- Section III – Protected areas (Law 5/2000)
- Section IV – Settlement network (Law 351/2001)<sup>1</sup>
- Section V – Natural risk areas (Law 575/2001)
- Section VI – Tourism (Law 190/2009)

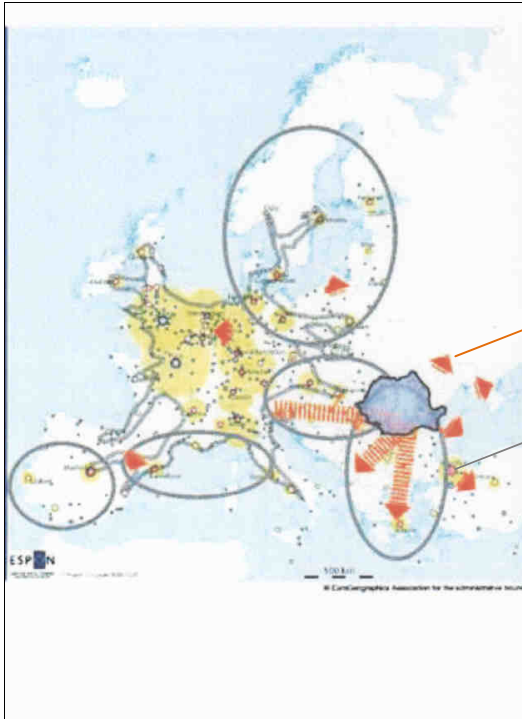
Section VII – Education and Section VIII – Rural areas are to be approved.

According to Hanover principles, Romania needs a national spatial development concept to support the role of regional relay between east-west and north-south and junction between Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Thus, in 2008 was presented the document named *The National Strategic Concept of Spatial Development 2007-2030*.

According to this document, the general objective of the strategic concept is Romania's integration into the European Union by the assertion of its regional continental identity, by increasing the spatial cohesion and the sustainable territorial development.

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<sup>1</sup> The Law 351/2001 on the approval of the National Spatial Plan – Section IV, City network stipulates that the national locality network is made of urban and rural localities, on levels of ranks (rank 0: Bucharest; rank I: municipalities of national importance, with European influence; rank II: municipalities of regional importance, having a role of balance in the settlement network; rank III: cities and rank IV: villages, county residence).

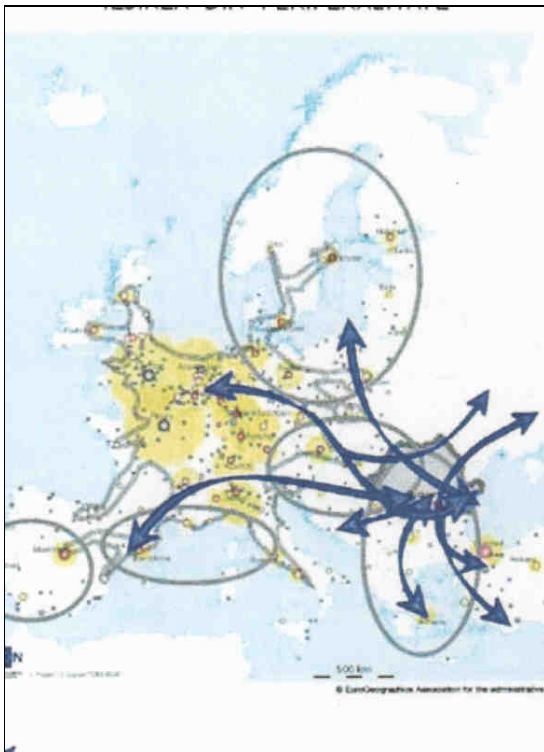


## THE POTENTIAL OF TERRITORIAL CONNECTION

Potential of territory connection

Peripheral areas of emergent integration

Source: *The potential of road accessibility, 2001, ESPON*



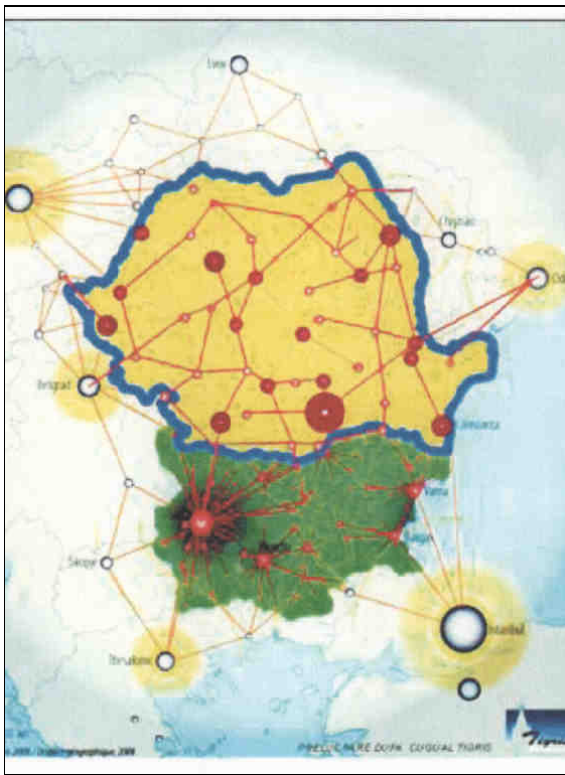
## PERIPHERALITY OUTGOING



Potentially development axes

The National Strategic Concept of Spatial Development is to apply the polycentric theory on the Romania's territory, offering a spatial perspective connected to the distribution of urban areas in a territory and to the networks of exchange and cooperation between urban areas at different levels. The national urban system can be analyzed and describe by a polycentric index<sup>2</sup>, on the basis of the following dimensions: the size (a uniform distribution of the cities and urban areas is more polycentric that one dominated by a big city), the location (a uniform territorial distribution of the cities is preferable to a system in which most cities are polarized in a particular area) and the connectivity (in a polycentric system, both big and small cities have a good accessibility). In this context, the main objectives of the National Strategic Concept of Spatial Development are:

- To join the European network of poles and corridors of spatial development



Source: ESPON

*Possibilities to join the  
European network of poles  
and corridors of development*

<sup>2</sup> According to "Enlargement of the European Union and the wider European Perspective as regards its Polycentric Spatial Structure. Final Report"



- To structure and develop the urban settlement network
- To assert the urban-rural solidarity by territory categories
- To strength and develop the interregional connection



#### CONSOLIDAREA SI DEZVOLTAREA LEGATURILOR INTERREGIONALE



#### LEGENDA

-  LIMITELE REGIUNILOR DE DEZVOLTARE
-  CORIDOARE DE DEZVOLTARE A INFRASTRUCTURILOR

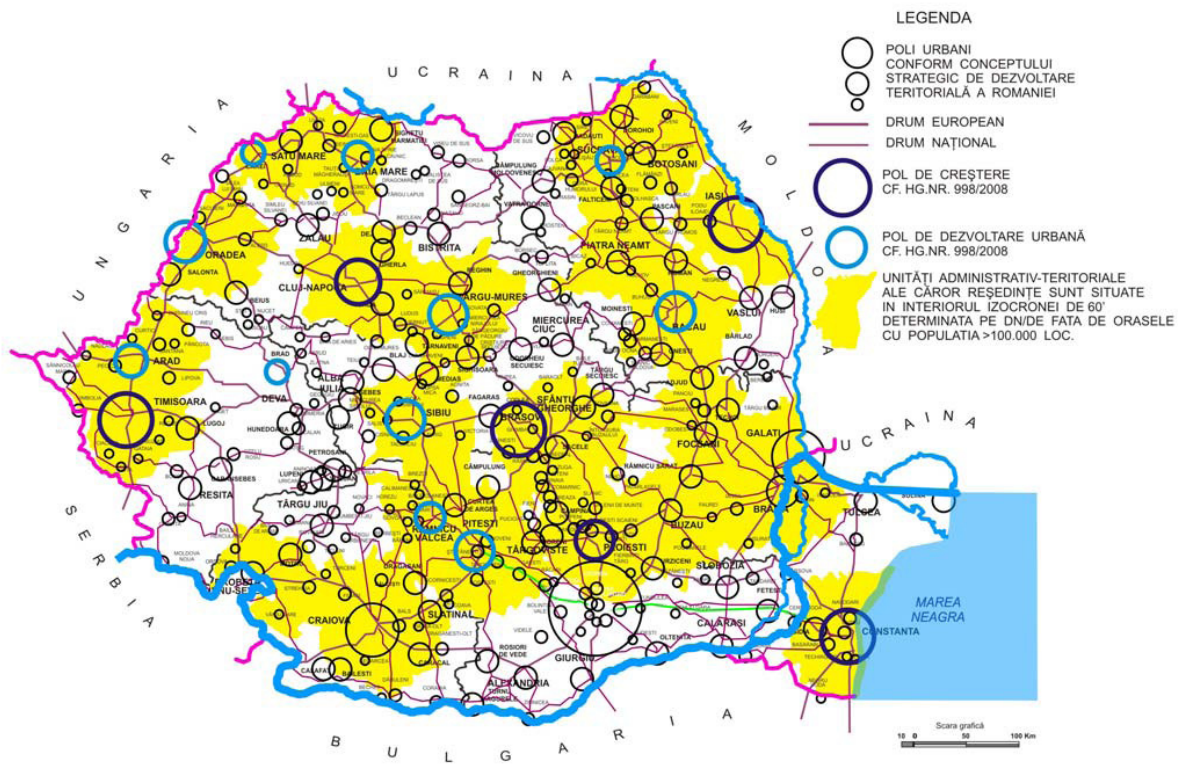
CONCEPTUL STRATEGIC DE DEZVOLTARE TERITORIALA ROMANIA 2030

51

Source: *Strategic Concept of spatial development Romania 2030*

- To valorize the natural and cultural heritage

In order to integrate these objectives into the territorial development policies, the National Strategic Concept of Spatial Development has as starting point the network of urban poles in Romania.



In the Danube area were selected, as **growing poles**, according to the Government decision no.998/2008, Constanta and Craiova municipalities.

In the same year were selected as **poles of urban development**, Braila and Galati municipalities. The justification of these choices is that these cities will have a role of bond between the growing poles and the other small and medium cities of the urban system to attenuate and prevent the tendencies of an unbalanced development within the region they belong to.

The elaboration of the Strategic Concept allowed the preliminary identification of some urban polycentric systems with development potentials. In the Danube area, these are:

- the Bucharest metropolitan system
- Constanta – Mangalia – Basarabi – Medgidia (Constanta county)
- Galati – Braila (Galati and Braila counties)
- Slobozia – Calarasi – Fetesti (Ialomita and Calarasi counties)
- Alexandria – Zimnicea – Turnu Magurele – Rosiori de Vede (Teleorman county)
- Resita – Caransebes (Caras – Severin county)

Concerning **the border regions**, in the area crossed by the Danube river the current situation is the following:

- a low level of development of the NUTS III border areas compared with the national average
- a rural typology of these areas, predominating the agriculture, a low level of economic activities, but strong local traditions

- varied landscape, well preserved natural areas, forests and natural resources with an important potential for tourism development
- ageing population and depopulation in the south and south-eastern border areas, multi ethnic population in the south-western part of the territory
- low accessibility and standard of life due to the underdeveloped infrastructure – roads, water and waste water infrastructure, social services
- business and innovation centers are located in the urban centers of NUTS III areas – Craiova, Galati
- partnerships and different communication types between institutions, counties and regions (including Euro-regions).

### **The Romanian-Bulgarian Danube border**

The Danube river borders the 2 counties on 470 km, the Black Sea on 22.2 km and the land on 139.1 km, totalizing 631.3 km.

The Danube river border raises the major problem of improving accessibility, since currently there is only the bridge in the area Giurgiu-Ruse. It is aimed the building of a new bridge in the area Calafat-Vidin. The spatial implications of the bridge's location will offer opportunities to develop the area: the area's urbanization, development of new economic activities, tourism, improvement of the quality of the natural environment, protection of the built heritage.

The counties involved on the Romanian-Bulgarian border are:

- On the Romanian side: Mehedinți, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Călărași, Constanța;
- On the Bulgarian side: Vidin, Vratza, Montana, Veliko Târnovo, Pleven, Ruse, Silistra, Dobrich.

### **The Romania – Serbia Danube border**

Almost half of the border between the two countries is the course of the river Danube (289.6 km), the other 256.8 km being a land border. Unlike the Romania-Bulgaria border, here is a **relatively highly level of economic development of the regions located in the vicinity of the border**, which is a relevant fact, and to **an important degree of urbanization of the regions in both countries**. The weak points are the technical infrastructure on the territory of Serbia, due to the war in the Republic of Yugoslavia.

### **The Romanian - Moldavian Danube border**

The Danube river borders the 2 counties on only 600m, the rest of more than 600 km following the Prut river. The Republic of Moldova is bordered by the Danube on its Southern extremity, at Giurgiulesti. Generally, the regions located in the vicinity of the border have a significantly low economic development, with a high rate of unemployment. Environmental protection requires special consideration and more measures be taken both for the protection of the eco-systems and the landscape, as well as for the prevention of the natural risks (floods, land-slides).

From a transport infrastructure point of view, the need is to improve its quality, especially that of the railway infrastructure which requires solving the problem of the differences in gauge of the track.

### **The Romanian – Ukrainian Danube border**

The Danube borders the 2 countries on a distance of 169 km out of almost 650 km, from the left side of the Danube near the confluence with the Prut river until close to the Black Sea, near Chilia branch. The two countries have a direct relationship with the Danube Delta natural reserve, and they have a beach on the shores of the Black Sea.

## **Settlement system in the RMU ARGE Donau Subregion**

### ***Basic description of the settlement structure of the subregion, development trends and main conclusions***

The Romanian ARGE RMU subregion consists in 3 counties belonging to the Romanian South-East region: Braila, Galati and Tulcea.

In July 2008, urban population in the Romanian ARGE RMU region was of 1 222 964 persons, less than 1991 with 102354 persons (8.4%). Share of urban population in total population (urbanization degree) had in 2008 a lower value than in 1991: 57.5% compared with 59.2%. The degree of urbanization is lower in the Romanian RMU subregion: 57.5% compared with 63.9% in 2008. From the 3 counties belonging to this subregion, Braila county is the most urbanized (65% in 2008) and Tulcea county is the less urbanized (49.1%). Anyway, in the Romanian DR+ area, Braila and Galati counties are considered to have high urbanization rates (more than 50%).

In 2008, the subregion had 13 cities and municipalities and 146 communes (159 local administrative units), representing 17.5% from the total number of cities and municipalities from the DR+ area in Romania.

Most localities (93.7%) had in 2008 population between 500 and 10000 de inhabitants. Thus, 17.6% (28 localities) had between 501 and 2000 inhabitants, 59.8% (95 localities) between 2001 and 5000 inhabitants and 16.4% (26 localities) between 5000 and 10000 inhabitants. 6 localities had between 10001 and 20000 inhabitants. Galati and Tulcea municipalities have between 20000 and 100000 inhabitants, Braila being the only city with a population higher than 100000.

Regarding the population of the region, 3.3% is concentrated in localities having between 500 and 2000 inhabitants, 38.9% in localities having between 2001 and 10000 inhabitants (more than in the DR+ region), 16.4% in localities having between 10001 and 100000 inhabitants (less than in the DR+ region).

<b>NUTS 3</b>	<b>Number of localities</b>			<b>Number of population</b>		
<b>Braila</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2008</b>
Less than 500	0	0	0	0	0	0
From 501 to 2000	5	5	7	8250	7824	11383
<b>From 2001 to 5000</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>110061</b>	<b>103372</b>	<b>102085</b>
From 5001 to 10000	4	5	4	25124	30370	24707
From 10001 to 20000	1	1	1	10788	12813	11196
From 20001 to 100000	0	0	0	0	0	0
From 100001 to 500000	1	1	1	249633	230687	212981
Over 500000	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Galati</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2008</b>
Less than 500	0	0	0	0	0	0
From 501 to 2000	2	4	5	3514	6755	8391
<b>From 2001 to 5000</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>107128</b>	<b>95212</b>	<b>112560</b>
From 5001 to 10000	19	19	18	125848	125149	120666
From 10001 to 20000	4	4	3	44023	44825	34530
From 20001 to 100000	1	1	1	46748	46255	42379
From 100001 to 500000	1	1	1	324223	325057	291608
Over 500000	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tulcea</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2008</b>
Less than 500	1	0	0	477	0	0
From 501 to 2000	13	13	16	18423	16150	21107

From 2001 to 5000	21	24	28	73050	80894	91848
From 5001 to 10000	10	8	4	59187	48061	23660
From 10001 to 20000	2	2	2	23165	22264	21121
From 20001 to 100000	1	1	1	95976	94755	91286
From 100001 to 500000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 500000	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: National Statistical Institute, Romania

Regarding the spatial distribution of localities according to the number of population, it is observed that in Galati county concentrates a big number of localities (18) having population between 2001 and 5000 inhabitants, compared with Braila and Tulcea, having only 4 localities each. The Eastern part of the RMU region (Tulcea County) concentrates most of localities having maximum 2000 inhabitants (16 localities). The East of Galați County concentrates 18 localities having between 5000 and 20000 inhabitants.

### 3.2. Factors influencing the cohesion development in the Romanian ARGE Subregion RMU area

#### 3.2.1. Tourism as a development factor

The Romanian ARGE Subregion RMU has important tourist attractions, both natural and cultural, represented by spa resources, historical monuments, hunting and fishing funds, protected areas and different natural monuments.

**Water tourism.** Cruises are represented by short visits inside the Danube Delta (according to Master Plan for the Development of National Tourism 2007-2026).

**Recreation and bath tourism.** Recreation tourism is related to the existence of a scenic natural environment, with esthetic characteristics, stimulating micro climate and numerous possibilities for practicing recreational activities. Recreation and bath tourism can be practiced in the Danube Delta, and the climatic resorts of Lacul Sarat and Movila Miresei and Caineni-Bai in Braila county.

**Health (medical, fitness, thermal) tourism.** The diversity of the tourist offer consisting of spa baths is considered to be one of the strongest points of tourism in Romania.

Spa and thermal baths are in Braila county. Here, tourists could enjoy recognized thermal baths specially mud baths and warm water from Lacul Sarat resort. There are also spa services provided by different accommodation providers or independently units in Murighiol locality (Danube Delta).

**Rural tourism.** It is practiced in those Danube villages that conserve traditional activities, mainly related to fishing, with accommodation in households with specific architecture and organization.

**Conference and business tourism.** Conference and business tourism can be extended through a specific infrastructure in Galati and Braila municipalities, having as target the cross border cooperation on issues related to the environment and sustainable development. It is practiced also in Tulcea County, being related to problems regarding the Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation.

**Fishing tourism.** The Danube offers infinite recreational possibilities, especially for hobby fishing in a fishing fund which includes running waters and still waters (natural or artificial lakes), being a sport which attracts an important number of participants, especially in the Danube Delta. The fish fund is very well represented in the hydrographic area of the Danube with species like: carp, gold fish, bass, bream, barbel, sturions and so on.

**Horse riding tourism.** There are some horseback riding services within the accommodation units. Horseback riding services provided by different private accommodation establishments are in the Danube Delta.

County	Horse-back riding
Braila	Ramnicelu
Galati	Tulucesti
Tulcea	Dunavatu de Jos
	Sfantu Gheorghe
	Uzlina

**Hunting tourism.** Hunting tourism benefits from the existence of a rich hunting found.

County	The number of the hunting funds	The total surface of the hunting funds (ha)
Galati	44	418,312
Braila	50	462,955
Constanta	56	658,344
Tulcea	54	598,701

**Cultural tourism.** The desire to keep cultural items symbolic for certain stages of the Romanian culture and civilization has determined the analyzed counties to create a museum system with remarkable values from the historical, scientific, artistic and cultural point of view. Thus, history, ethnography, art, nature science museums are created in general in the cities – county residences and represent important attraction points for tourists.

The archeological heritage is represented by the relics of of Babadag, Nalbant (mostly kept in the County Archeological Museum collections).

Dacian Citadels (in ruin) are found at Brailita, Niculitel, Enisala.

Roman castrums (in ruin) are located at Macin, Isaccea, Tulcea and Mahmudia.

Religious monuments are represented by monasteries Cocos and Celic-Dere.

Civic architectural monuments are located in Braila and Sulina. Traditional rural architecture (houses, wooded gates and pillars) can be observed in the surroundings of Lake Razim, Enisala, and Visterna, at Bestepe, Luncavita and 23 August.

Traditional techniques are specific as windmills at C.A. Rosetti and Celic-Dere.

### Program tourism

It is mostly focused on the Danube Delta. Most program tourism packages concentrate on Discovering the Danube Delta Tour – „A Bird Paradise”, Danube discovery cruises, fishing in the Danube Delta, birdwatching tours, exploring the Biosphere Reserve.

### Summary: attractiveness inventory on NUTS 3 level

County	Type of the monument	Category	No. of Monuments	Nr. of Cultural Festival and Events	Nr. of Folklore festivals
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BRAILA	Archaeology	A	-	7	1
	Architecture		5		
	Public monuments		-		
	Memorial-funeral monuments		-		
	Archaeology	B	41		
	Architecture		73		
	Public monuments		9		
	Memorial-funeral monuments		41		
GALATI	Archaeology	A	37	10	7
	Architecture		7		
	Public monuments		-		
	Memorial-funeral monuments		-		
	Archaeology	B	60		
	Architecture		137		
	Public monuments		21		
	Memorial-funeral monuments		4		
TULCEA	Archaeology	A	102	10	5
	Architecture		11		
	Public monuments		1		
	Memorial-funeral monuments		7		
	Archaeology	B	364		
	Architecture		76		
	Public monuments		-		
	Memorial-funeral monuments		1		

#### **Braila County**

Due to its geographical position on the Danube River and at the intersection of tourist flows from Moldavia towards the seaside and the delta, it has auspicious conditions for the tourism development.

### Galati County

The cultural potential is the main strength of the county, having 256 recognized monuments.

### Tulcea County

It is the most tourist attractive county in the study area, due to the particular natural conditions, related to the Danube Delta, Macin Mountains (the oldest existing mountains in Europe), famous ancient vineyards, and the Black Sea resorts. Through its geographical position, at the crossroad of main commercial routes, both on land, sea and river, Tulcea County has an important part in the history of the Romanian civilization.

### Grading tourist attractiveness – significant/ high/ average/ low

It can be established accordingly to the values determined in the National Territorial Planning, the “Tourist Zone” section. Therefore, the grading tourist attractiveness is the following:

- Significant are considered: Tulcea.
- High is specific to Galati county.
- Low is correspondent to Braila, Calarasi, Dolj, Ialomita, Teleorman and Olt.

County	value of natural tourist resources	value of cultural tourist resources	value of total tourist resources
Galati	5,3	5,6	10,9
Braila	3,7	0,1	4,3
Tulcea	10,9	4,7	15,6

Source: National Territorial Planning, “Tourist Zone” section

### Tourist infrastructure

107 units of accommodation units are localized in Tulcea County where the tourist attractions (e.g. spring waters, Danube Delta, mountain, historical monuments) support the development of the sector.

County	Hotels	Pensions	Camping	Rural tourist boarding houses	Private accommodation
Galati	9	0	0	0	0
Braila	13	1	0	0	0
Tulcea	17	22	1	14	2
Total RMU subregion	39	23	1	14	2
Total DR+ area	521	208	20	85	85

Other types of accommodation units include, as shown in the following chart:

County	Hotels for youth	Hostels	Motels	Inns	Villas	Chalets	Hunting / fishing Chalets	Tourist halting places	Holiday villages	Bungalows	Schools and pre-school camps	Houselets	Ships accommodation spaces
Galati	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Braila	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	0
Tulcea	0	0	0	1	52	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	4
Total in RMU Subregion	0	1	2	1	54	9	0	3	1	1	6	4	4
Total in DR+ area	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>

### 3.2.2. Transport system

The Romanian RMU Subregion is crossed by an important transport corridor – the Danube river, having as final point Sulina town in Tulcea county.

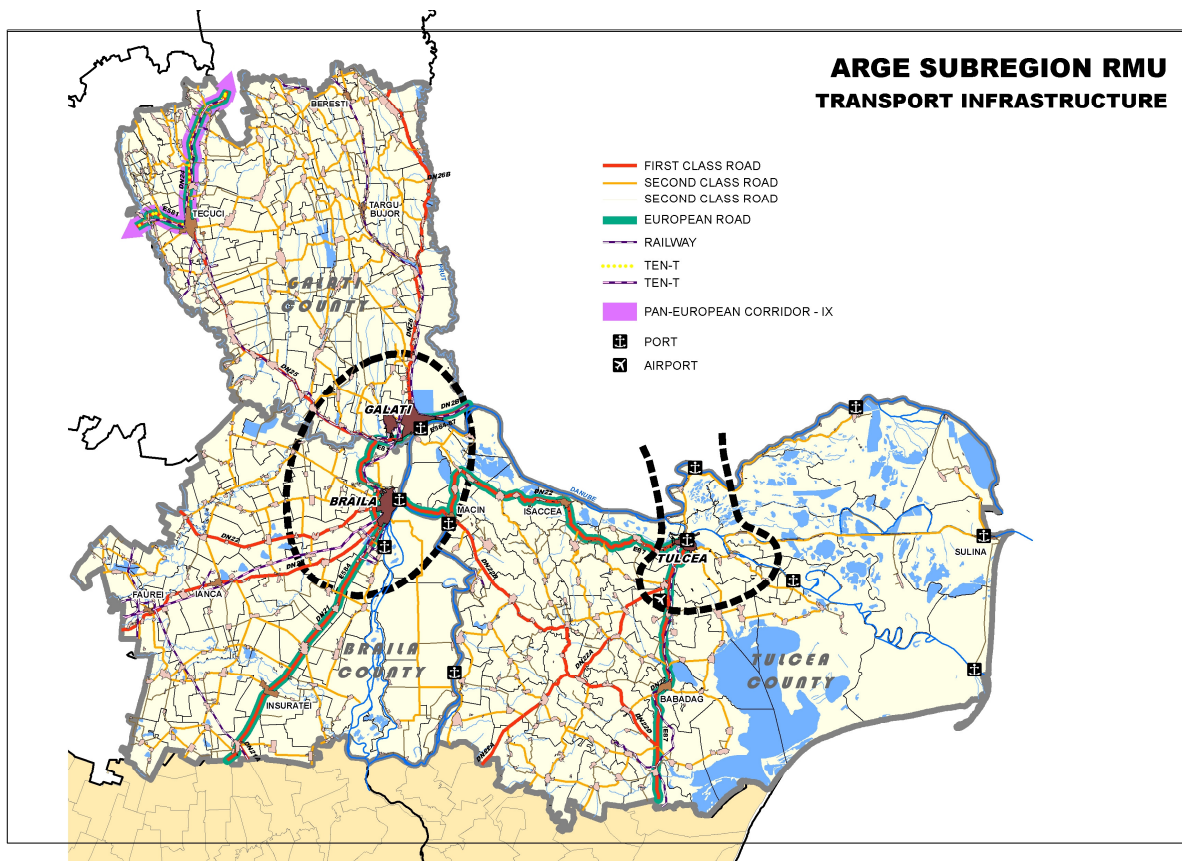
In the area there are important national and European transport arteries (E87 and E581), the Pan-European Corridor no.IX and TEN-R Network.

There are also important fluvial and maritime ports Braila, Galati, Tulcea, Sulina, linking the Danube river with the Black Sea.

The railways link the historical region Dobrogea to the rest of the country (the TEN-F network Buzau-Braila-Galati). Density of Railways – is lower than the national and regional value (ex. in 2008 in the RMU region the density of railways was 0.0320, at national level was of 0.0452 and in the Romanian DR+ region was 0.0461). This is happening because of the low length of railways in Tulcea county (due to the natural geographic conditions), in spite of the good equipment with railways from Galati county.

Tulcea Danube Delta Airport belongs to the Subregion too.

In the area there are railroad and road crossing border points towards and Moldova.



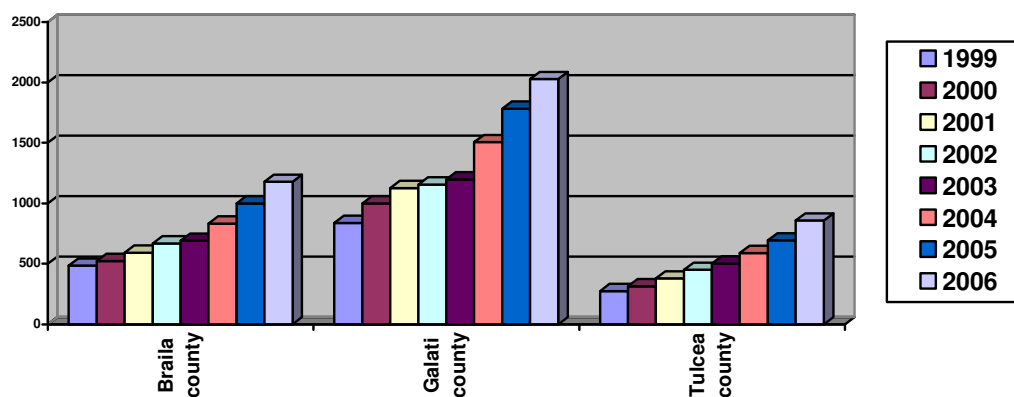
### 3.2.3. Economical factors and potentials

Regarding the GDP values, the South-East region from which it belongs the Romanian ARGE Donau Subregion RMU, it was the only region in the country having an increasing GDP 2004-2006 less than 50%, occupying the last place at national level in this respect. At NUTS 3 level, Galati county (2027.6 mill. Euro) follows Bucharest, Constanta, Craiova and Ilfov counties. Tulcea county (857.4 mill. Euro in 2006) have one of the lowest figures.

#### **GDP at current market prices at NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 level (in millions of Euro)**

Regarding the GDP values, the South-East region from which it belongs the Romanian ARGE Donau Subregion RMU, it was the only region in the country having an increasing GDP 2004-2006 less than 50%, occupying the last place at national level in this respect.

At NUTS 3 level, Galati county (2027.6 mill. Euro) follows Bucharest, Constanta, Craiova and Ilfov counties. Tulcea county (857.4 mill. Euro in 2006) have one of the lowest figures.



**Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current market prices at NUTS level 3 (millions of euro)**

Between 2000-2006 all three counties doubled their GDP values, Tulcea county the most of all (272.6%).

Between 2004-2006 GDP increased in all Romanian Danube counties. In the period 2004-2007 the GDP increased in Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU with about 168%, with 181.3% in Braila county and 159% in Tulcea county.

**GDP at current market prices at NUTS level 3 (millions of euro)**

NUS 3 level / County	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Incr. 2004-2007(%)
Braila	485	521.8	592	669.7	691.8	832.2	998.6	1177	1509	181.3
Galati	838.9	999.8	1125.2	1154.9	1196.9	1505.3	1782.6	2027.6	2479	164.7
Tulcea	273.9	314.5	376.1	450.8	503.6	589.1	694.5	857.4	936.6	159.0

Sources: National Statistical Institute of Romania – Romanian Statistical Yearbook 2008 (“Regional Gross Domestic Product”, in mill.lei); Romanian National Bank, Statistical Report (<http://www.bnr.ro/Raport-statistic-606.aspx>) for ROL/EUR exchange rate

**GDP per inhabitant (in Euro)**

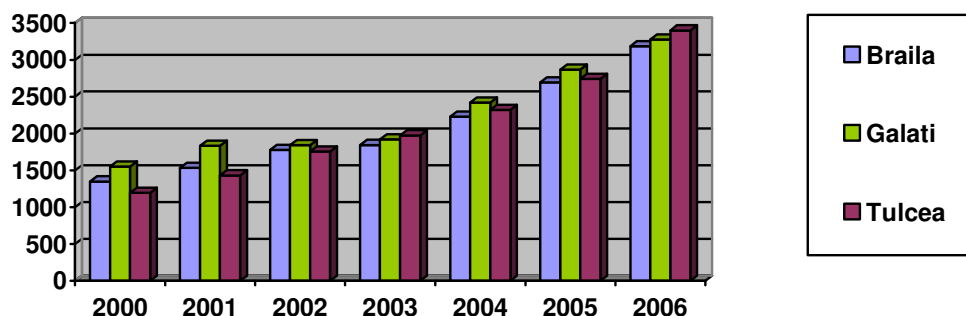
**Regional situation**

In 2006, for a population of 1237254 inhabitants in the Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU and a GDP of 4062 mill.Euro in this region, it was recorded a value of 3283 Euro/inhabitant, lower than the national value (4522.3 Euro/inhabitant) and than the Danube area (4522.3 Euro/inhabitant). Tulcea county had the highest value (3400.3 Euro/inhabitant) and Braila county the lowest level.

Between 2000-2006, GDP/inhabitant recorded a positive evolution in the Romanian ARGE subregion RMU: from 1343.2 Euro/inhab in 2000 (less than the national average) to 3283 Euro/inhab in 2006.

**Gross domestic product (GDP) at current market prices at NUTS 3 level**

**(Euro per inhabitant)**



**GDP per inhabitant at NUTS level 3 (Euro)**

NUTS 3 level/county	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Braila	1350,5	1535,6	1776,5	1843,8	2227,8	2692,1	3185,4
Galati	1553,6	1833,1	1841,2	1917,9	2420,3	2869,6	3275,1
Tulcea	1193,9	1432,2	1756,5	1974,2	2319,9	2743,4	3400,3
Romanian ARGE subregion RMU	1343.2						3283
Romania							4516,9

Sources: National Statistical Institute of Romania – Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2008 (“Regional Gross Domestic Product”, in mill.lei); Romanian National Bank, Statistical Report (<http://www.bnr.ro/Raport-statistic-606.aspx>) for ROL/EUR exchange rate; National Statistical Institute of Romania, 2008, <http://statistici.insse.ro> (population)

## **GDP for the region expressed in Purchasing Power Parities per inhabitant**

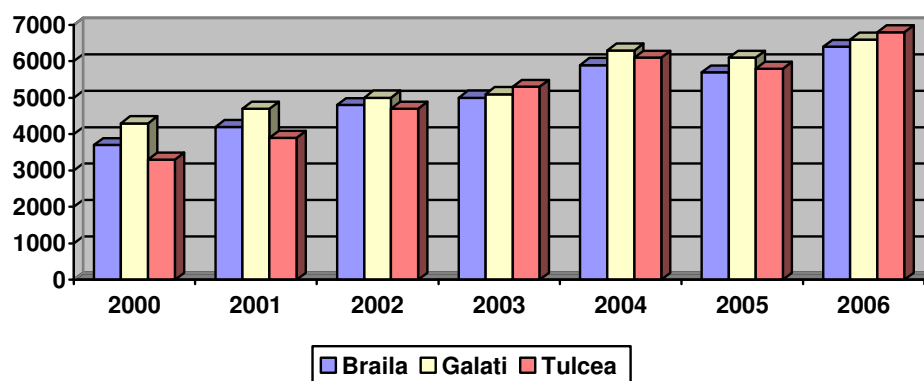
### **GDP in PPS**

In the Romanian ARGE subregion RMU the rate of rise of the GDP expressed in PPS had an increasing trend between 2000-2004 (excepting 2005 when Galati county had a decreasing trend). In 2006, compared with the EU27 average, the values were 27.1% in Braila county, 28% in Galati county and 28.8% in Tulcea county, with an average of 28% in the subregion, less than the national value (38.6% from EU27 average) and than the Romanian Danube area (35.2% from EU27 average).

### **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current market prices at NUTS level 3 (Purchasing Power Standard per inhabitant)**

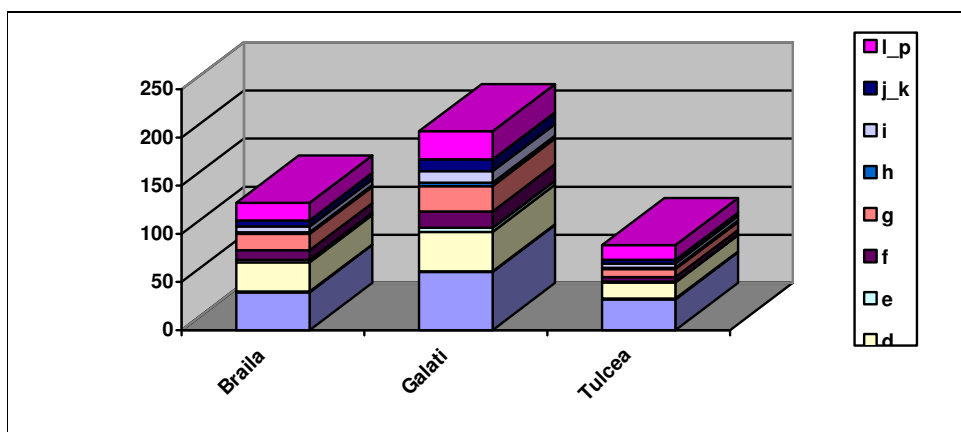
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Braila</b>	3700	3900	3700	4200	4800	5000	5900	5700	6400
<b>Galati</b>	4800	4000	4300	4700	5000	5100	6300	6100	6600
<b>Tulcea</b>	3500	3200	3300	3900	4700	5300	6100	5800	6800
<b>EU27</b>	17000	17800	19100	19800	20500	20700	21600	22500	23600
<b>ROMANIA</b>	4600	4600	4900	5400	6000	6500	7400	7900	9100

### **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current market prices at NUTS level 3 (Purchasing Power Standard per inhabitant)**



Source: EUROSTAT

	2001	2004	2006
Romanian ARGE DONAU subregion RMU, GDP per capita (PPS)	4266.67	6100	6600
Romanian ARGE DONAU subregion RMU, % EU27	21.5	28.2	27.97

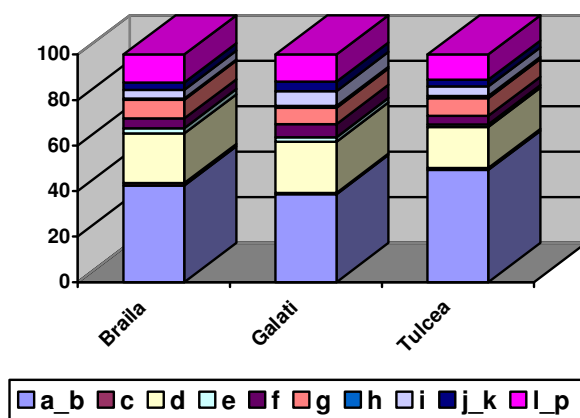
**Activity structure****a\_b** Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing**c** Mining and quarrying**d** Manufacturing**e** Electricity, gas and water supply**f** Construction**g** Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods**h** Hotels and restaurants**I** Transport, storage and communication**j\_k** Financial intermediation; real estate, renting and business activities**l\_p** Public administration and defence, compulsory social security; education; health and social work; other community, social and personal service activities; private households with employed persons**Civil employment, 2007 (thou persons)****Civil employment by county and by activity in 2001 and 2007 (end of the year, thousands persons)**

	Braila		Galati		Tulcea		Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU	
	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007
<b>a_b</b>	55	39,3	87,1	60,4	45,7	31,9	187.8	131.6
<b>c</b>	1,4	0,8	1,2	0,6	0,9	0,7	3.5	2.1
<b>d</b>	28,2	30,4	51,1	41	16,7	16,9	96	88.3
<b>e</b>	3	2,4	4,6	4,2	1,1	0,9	8.7	7.5
<b>f</b>	5,6	9,9	13,1	16,9	3,4	4,7	22.1	31.5
<b>g</b>	10,6	17,2	16,1	26,5	7,2	8	33.9	51.7
<b>h</b>	0,7	1,7	1,7	3,2	0,9	1,6	3.3	6.5

i	5,1	5,7	14,8	12,2	4	4,5	23.9	22.4
j_k	4,1	6,7	9,1	12,1	2,7	3,7	15.9	22.5
l_p	16	18,1	27	29,4	10,3	15,2	53.3	62.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129,7</b>	<b>132.2</b>	<b>225,8</b>	<b>206.5</b>	<b>92,9</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>448.4</b>	<b>426.8</b>

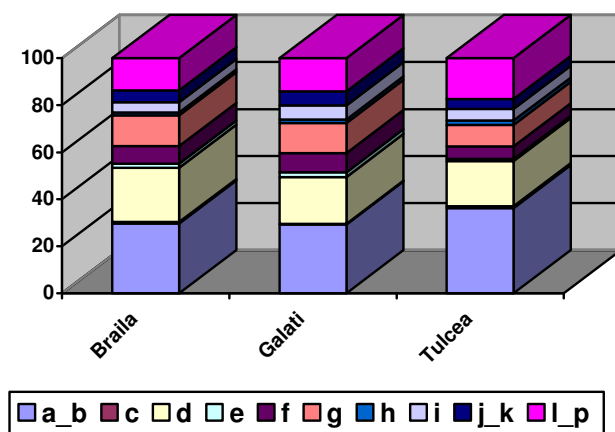
In the Romanian ARGE subregion RMU the highest number of employees is recorded in Galati county (206500 persons in 2007), followed by Braila (132200 persons) and Tulcea (88100 persons). In absolute values it is noticed that in the period 2001-2007 the number of persons employed in construction and in services increased in all counties belonging to the Romanian ARGE Donau RMU subregion.

Civil employment, 2001 (%)



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2002

Civil employment, 2007 (%)



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2008

**Civil employment by county and by activity in 2007 (end of the year, %)**

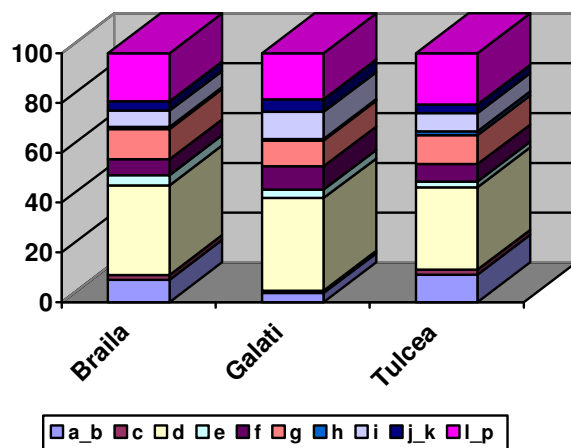
	Braila		Galati		Tulcea		Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU		Romania	
	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007
<b>a_b</b>	42,4	29.7	38,6	29.3	49,2	36.2	41.9	30.8	<b>40,9</b>	<b>28.2</b>
<b>c</b>	1,1	0.6	0,5	0.3	0,9	0.8	0.8	0.5	<b>1,6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>d</b>	21,8	23	22,6	19.9	18	19.2	21.4	20.7	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>e</b>	2,3	1.8	2	2	1,2	1	1.9	1.8	<b>1,9</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>f</b>	4,3	7.5	5,8	8.2	3,7	5.3	4.9	7.4	<b>4</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>g</b>	8,2	13	7,1	12.8	7,8	9.1	7.6	12.1	<b>9,4</b>	<b>13.7</b>
<b>h</b>	0,5	1.3	0,8	1.5	0,9	1.8	0.7	1.5	<b>0,9</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>i</b>	3,9	4.3	6,6	5.9	4,3	5.1	5.3	5.2	<b>4,7</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>j_k</b>	3,2	5.1	4	5.9	2,9	4.2	3.5	5.3	<b>4,1</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>l_p</b>	12,3	13.7	12	14.2	11,1	17.3	11.9	14.7	<b>12,5</b>	<b>14.7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	100	100	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Although the number of employees significantly decreased in agriculture between 2001 and 2007, in this subregion the employment in agriculture is still the highest within all other sectors: in 2007, 30.8% from the total civil employed population worked in the primary sector, more than at national level (28.2%). Tulcea county has the highest share of population employed in primary sector: 36.2% in 2007. The employment in industry, respective in manufacturing activities follows in the hierarchy: 20.7%, Braila county being the first from this point of view: 23%, more than the national value of 20%.

Civil employment in tertiary activities increased in the Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU from 29.1% in 2001 to 38.8% in 2007, Galati county having the highest value: 40.4% from the total employment.

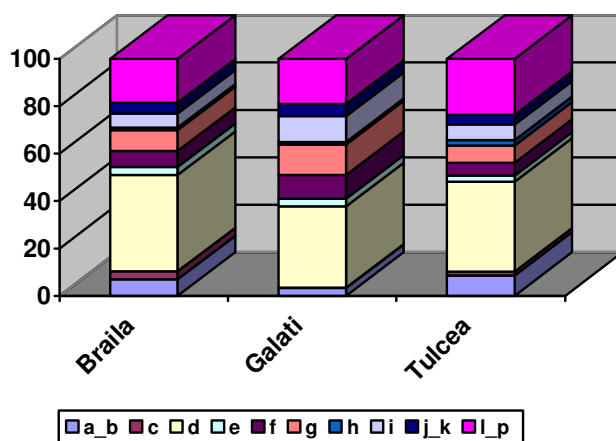
## Number of employees

Number of employees by economic activity (according to NACE), % in total employees, 2001



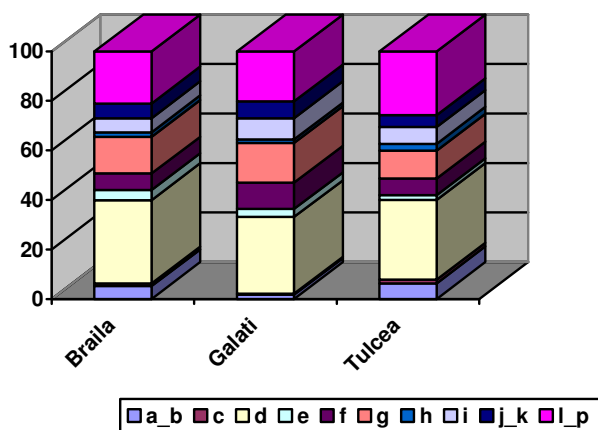
Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical database TEMPO online ([www.insse.ro](http://www.insse.ro))

Number of employees by economic activity (according to NACE), % in total employees, 2004



Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical database TEMPO online ([www.insse.ro](http://www.insse.ro))

## Number of employees by economic activity (according to NACE), % in total employees, 2007

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical database TEMPO online ([www.insse.ro](http://www.insse.ro))

## Number of employees by economic activity (according to NACE), % in total employees

County	Activity	Year		
		2001	2004	2007
Braila	a_b	9.1	6.9	5.1
	c	1.9	3.4	1.1
	d	35.9	40.7	33.7
	e	4.1	3.4	4.1
	f	6.4	6.7	6.6
	g	12.2	8.7	14.9
	h	0.8	1.2	1.8
	i	6.5	5.9	5.7
	j_k	3.7	4.6	5.9
	l_p	19.4	18.5	21.1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Galati	a_b	3.7	3.2	1.6
	c	0.9	0.1	0.5
	d	37.2	34.4	30.9
	e	3.4	3.2	3.3
	f	9.4	10	10.6
	g	10.3	12.9	16.1
	h	0.7	1.1	1.4
	i	10.8	10.9	8.6
	j_k	5.1	5.2	6.8
	l_p	18.5	19	20.2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Tulcea	a_b	11.1	8.6	6.3
	c	2	1.6	1.5
	d	33.1	38	32.2
	e	2.3	2.5	1.9
	f	6.9	5.5	6.7
	g	11.6	7.2	11.3
	h	1.6	2.2	2.8
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

	i	7.4	6.6	6.8
	j k	3.4	4.1	4.7
	l p	20.6	23.7	25.8
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**a\_b Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing:**

In the period 2001-2004-2007 this group of activities was facing a decline in the Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU. All 3 counties belonging to this subregion had a decreasing number of employees. The decreasing of the number of employees in these activities in the Romanian Danube area was higher than at national level. The strongest decreasing of employees working in this fields in the period 2004-2007 was in Galati county.

In 2007, the highest share can be observed in Tulcea county (6.3% followed by Braila (5.1%) and Galati with only 1.6%. The average in the subregion was in 2007 of 3.6%, more than the average value in Romanian Donauregionen area (2.8%) or the national average (2.6%).

**c Mining and quarrying:**

Share of this activity is rather low in the Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU: 0.9%, the same as the DR+ Romanian region, but lower than the national average of 1.7%. Tulcea county had the higher number of employees in mining and quarrying: 1.5% from the total number of employees.

**d Manufacturing:**

Between 2001-2007, only in Galati county the share of employees in manufacturing activity decreased, in Braila and Tulcea counties the number increased in 2004 compared with 2001 and decreased in 2007. The national tendency was a decline in all these years. The strongest decreasing in this period in the Romanian RMU subregion was in Galati county (25%). Here was observed the highest share in 2001 (37.2%). In 2007 the highest share was in Braila and Tulcea counties (33.7% and 32.2%).

The average value of the Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU was of 32%, higher than the national average (28.7%) and the Romanian DR+ average (22%).

**e Electricity, gas and water supply:**

Share of employed in this activity had a descending path at national level. In the Romanian ARGE Donau subregion the number of employees in this activity decreased with almost 10%.

The average share in the subregion in 2001 was of 3.4%, like in in 2004 and similar with 2007 (3.3%). The highest level was in Braila county (4.1%) and the lowest in Tulcea county (1.9%).

**f Construction:**

Share of employees working in this activity had an increasing tendency, too. Only in Tulcea county the share was inferior in 2007 compared with 2001. Average share in the Romanian RMU subregion was 8% in 2001, and 8.6% in 2007. These values are superior to those of national level (6.7% and 8.3%).

The highest share was observed in Galati county both in 2001 and in 2007 (9.4% and 10.6%).

**g Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods:**

This group of activities increased in the Romanian Danube area, following also the national tendency. The number of employees working in this sector increased in the subregion with 27% in 2007 compared with 2001.

Per total subregion the share of employees working in this sector from total employees increased from 11.1% in 2001 to 14.8% in 2007, less than in the Romanian Danube area (13.7% in 2001 and 17.5% in 2007). The highest share in 2001 was in Braila county (12.2%), but in 2007 it was in Galati county (16.1%), where the number of employees in this sector increased with 40% between 2001 and 2007.

#### **h Hotels and restaurants:**

In the Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU the number of employees working in this sector increased with 85% between 2001 and 2007. From total number of employees, the share increased from 0.9% in 2001 to 1.8% in 2007, less than in the Romanian Danube region (1.9% and 2.6%).

In all 3 counties belonging to the subregion the activity in hotels and restaurants had an increasing trend between 2001 and 2007. In 2007, Tulcea county had the highest share of employees working in hotels and restaurants sector: 2.8%, having important tourist attractions.

#### **i Transport, storage and communication:**

In the Romanian ARGE Donau subregion, the number of employees working in this field decreased with 20% in 2007 compared with 2001. The share of employed in this activity had a decreasing course, from 7% in 2001 to 6.3% in 2004 and 5.9% in 2007, values less than at the level of DR+ Romanian region (10.2%, 9.2% and 8.7%).

The highest share in 2007 was observed in Galati county (7.1%) and Tulcea county (5.1%) due to the transport and storage activities from the Galati and Tulcea ports.

#### **j\_k Financial intermediation; real estate, renting and business activities:**

The Number of employed in this activity increased in the period 2001-2007 with 13.2% in ARGE Donau subregion RMU.

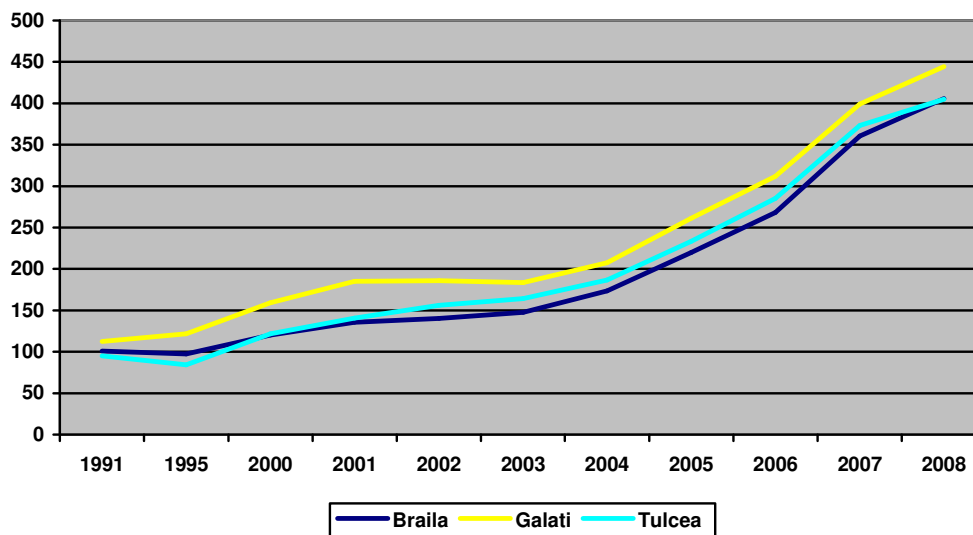
The average share of employed in these fields increased from 6.3% in 2001 to 7.5% in 2007 in the subregion, lower values than those at the Romanian Danube region (8.3% in 2001 to 12.7% in 2007) but higher than the national values (5.4% and 8.6%).

The highest share in 2007 was observed in the Galati county (8.3%)

#### **l\_p Public administration and defence, compulsory social security; education; health and social work; other community, social and personal service activities; private households with employed persons:**

The number of employees in this group of activities increased with 6.8% in the Romanian RMU subregion.

The share of the number of employees in total employees was of 21.6%, close to the regional DR+ value (20.7%) and the national one (22%).

**Average monthly salary (gross)**

Source: Statistical Office of Romania, Statistical Yearbooks

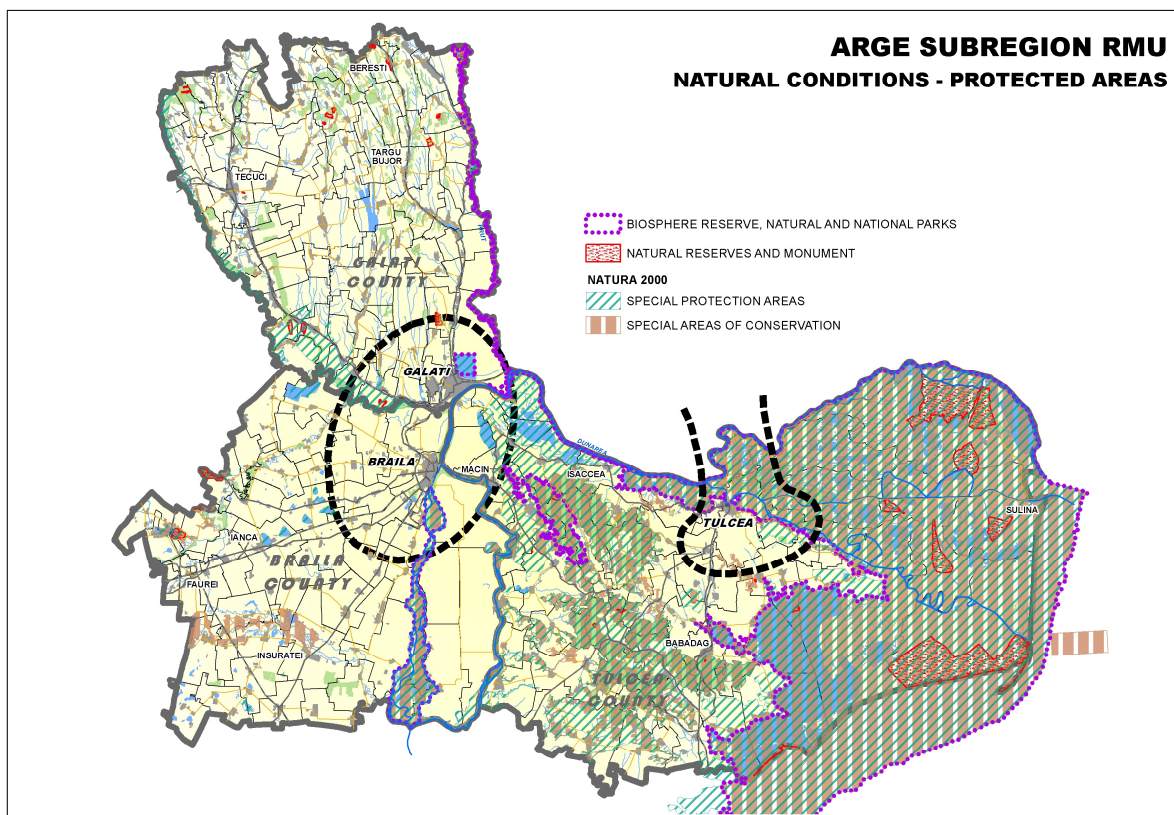
**Average monthly salary**

	1995, Euro	2001, Euro	2005, Euro	2008, Euro	
Braila	97.4	136	220	405.7	
Galati	122	185.2	261.4	444.2	
Tulcea	84.3	140.6	233.5	404.9	
		1995	2001	2005	2008
Romanian ARGE DONAU subregion RMU, EURO		101.2	153.9	238.3	418.3
Romanian DR+ region		95.8	160.1	254.2	450.2
Romania		105	162.1	267.2	478.2

In the Romanian ARGE Donau subregion RMU the average monthly gross salary increased 4.7 times in 2008 compared with 2005. In this subregion the highest average monthly salary is in Galati county, followed by Tulcea and Braila counties.

### 3.2.4. Environmental conditions

The ARGE RMU Subregion has a particular biodiversity potential, especial in Tulcea county (82% from its area is covered with protected areas): Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (also RAMSAR and UNESCO site), Natural Park Macinului Mountains, Natural Park Small Island of Braila, Natural Park the Low Meadow of Inferior Prut.



The Subregion has a rich hydrographic network, especially in Braila and Galati counties, but with water of II, III and IV quality. It also has many lakes, with rich flora and fauna both aquatic and terrestrial, wild beaches towards the Black Sea Coast.

The forests are occupying low surfaces. In the region are some extreme climatic phenomena as snowstorms and drought.

Regarding the environment quality it must be mentioned the lacking of wastewater treatment stations in Galati, Braila and Tulcea municipalities. Galati-Braila industrial area is a critical air pollution area. Critical areas regarding the pollution of underground water are due to the oil and natural gas extractions in Galati and Braila counties.

For the future is envisaged the implementation of the Regional Environmental Action Plan and of the Regional Plan for Waste Management, together with the ecological transformation of some contaminated areas.

#### 4. Donauregion and the European Development Policies

##### Review of ESPON-project in the area

The most important objective of ESDP is the promotion of a “balanced urban polycentric system”. The dichotomy urban-rural is not available in this case. The urban settlement network is the backbone of the territory and the polycentricity helps this network to be effective. New concepts describe the geographical extension of development: functional urban area (FUA), metropolitan growth area (MEGA) and others.

According to ESPON studies, at European level Romania has the following spatial characteristics: 2 metropolitan areas (Bucharest and Timisoara), 12 functional urban areas playing a trans-national or national role, 45 functional urban areas of local and regional importance. Because the development of its long term spatial development strategy was delayed, the Romania's spatial vision is different from ESPON studies, which diminish the role played by corridors 4 and 7 and do not take into consideration the importance of its eastern terminal, the Black Sea port of Constanta<sup>3</sup>.

Regarding the network of urban poles, the Romanian Danube area contains as:

- metropolitan urban poles (MEGA): the Bucharest municipality and Constanta city
- national poles with FUA and MEGA potential: Craiova and Galati municipalities
- supraregional poles with FUA potential: Braila
- regional poles with FUA potential: the municipalities having between 50000 and 249999 inhabitants, most of them county residences.

#### 5. Analysis of several transnational initiatives

The Euroregion “Lower Danube” dates from 1998. Its Presidency is held by Galati County Council until 2011.

##### The Partners:

- România: **Tulcea, Brăila and Galați counties**
- R. Moldova: Cahul and Cantemir
- Ukraine: Odessa

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<sup>3</sup> According to National Development Plan 2007-2013