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UNEMPLOYMENT DYNAMICS IN HUNEDOARA COUNTY IN THE CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

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Abstract: *The paper "Unemployment Dynamics in Hunedoara County in the Context of Economic Transformations" examines the evolution and fluctuations of the unemployment rate in Hunedoara County during the period 2013–2023. The study is based on official statistical data provided by the National Employment Agency, the National Institute of Statistics, as well as relevant regional economic reports. During the decade analyzed, Hunedoara County has gone through significant stages of economic transformation, moving from an economy strongly dependent on the extractive industry (coal, mining) to a more diversified economic structure, in which sectors such as information technology, tourism and agriculture stand out. The paper offers a comprehensive perspective on the relationship between economic transformations and unemployment dynamics in Hunedoara County, a territory with a historical industrial profile, in a continuous process of economic reconversion. In conclusion, the study emphasizes the need to implement a coherent mix of public policies focused on diversifying the local economy, professional reconversion of the workforce and creating a framework favorable to the development of new industries, in order to support the integration of young people into the labor market and to stimulate the sustainable development of the county.*

• Introduction

Hunedoara County is an administrative unit located in the central-western part of Romania, in the historical region of Transylvania. The county seat is the municipality of Deva. Hunedoara County is part of the West Development Region, and its seat is the municipality of Deva. The county covers an area of 7,063 km², representing approximately 2.9% of the territory of Romania.

The economic profile of Hunedoara County in the period 2013-2023 was marked by a transition from an economy dominated by heavy industry to a more diversified structure, with an increasing importance of services and certain branches of the manufacturing industry. The decline of the extractive sector and the restructuring of the energy and metallurgical sectors represented major challenges for the local labor market, influencing the evolution of unemployment.

• Material and method

Analyzing the evolution of unemployment in Hunedoara is a practical necessity to understand the socio-economic realities of the county, to assess the impact of past transformations, to identify present vulnerabilities and to substantiate future decisions and policies in order to improve the employment situation and promote sustainable and inclusive economic development.

• Results and discussions

The analysis of the possible causes of the evolution of unemployment in Hunedoara County during the period 2013-2023 requires a detailed examination of the economic, political and demographic factors that shaped the local labor market.

Evolution of registered unemployed people by educational level in Hunedoara county

Specification	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Recipients of the unemployment benefit (unemployed persons with work experience)											
Total	5,635	3,810	3,020	3,020	3,014	2,579	2,165	3,468	2,885	1,865	2,127
Primary, lower secondary, vocational education	2,948	2,041	1,529	1,529	1,461	1,309	1,175	1,720	1,358	881	948
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	1,896	1,275	1,052	1,052	1,124	967	675	1,268	1,106	746	877
Tertiary education	791	494	439	439	429	303	315	480	421	238	302
Recipients of the unemployment benefit (unemployed persons without work experience)											
Total	1,292	801	591	591	234	203	203	224	133	141	123
Primary, lower secondary, vocational education	12	36	27	27	14	-	0	-	16	30	27
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	1,058	655	467	467	182	174	201	206	97	92	79
Tertiary education	222	110	97	97	38	29	2	18	20	19	17
Unemployed persons who do not receive an unemployment benefit											
Total	7,849	7,856	7,728	7,728	4,650	3,048	2,789	2,044	3,213	4,164	4,812
Primary, lower secondary, vocational education	5,913	5,778	5,278	5,278	3,602	2,219	1,902	1,436	2,393	3,028	3,455
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	1,359	1,712	1,991	1,991	844	653	678	517	685	966	1,137
Tertiary education	277	366	459	459	204	176	209	91	135	170	220

The detailed analysis of the evolution of unemployment in Hunedoara County in the context of economic changes (2013-2023) has significant practical implications for the development of effective employment and economic development policies at the local and regional levels.

• Conclusions

Economic diversification strategies for Hunedoara should aim to reduce dependence on traditional sectors (extractive, metallurgical, energy industries) and develop areas with sustainable growth potential. By adopting a strategic, integrated approach adapted to the specifics of Hunedoara County, conditions can be created for a sustainable increase in employment and for improving the quality of life of residents.