

Public Disclosure Authorized



SUD MUNTENIA
Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională



Public Disclosure Authorized

Public Disclosure Authorized

Public Disclosure Authorized

The Integrated Urban Development Strategy for

PLOIEȘTI

Growth Pole 2014-2020



WORLD BANK GROUP



Romania
Regional Development Program 2

Public Disclosure Authorized



SUD MUNTENIA
Agenția pentru Dezvoltare Regională



The Integrated Urban Development Strategy for **PLOIEȘTI** , GROWTH POLE 2014-2020

This integrated development strategy was prepared by a core team comprised of Sorina Racoviceanu, Marius Cristea, Andreea China, Dumitru Sandu, Adina Croitoru, Ciprian Moldovan, Titus Man, Raularian Rusu, Catalina Iamandi, Silviu Ciobanu, Ioana Ciucanu, Marcel Ionescu-Heroiu, Sebastian Burduja, Adina Vințan, Florin Cosma, Ioana Herbel, and Ionut Rus.

The team would like to thank David Sislen, Elisabetta Capannelli, Elisabeth Huybens, Jean-Francois Marteau, Bernice Van Bronkhorst and the Romania Portfolio Team for the advice, support, and guidance provided throughout the elaboration of this report. The team would also like to thank Growth Pole Coordinator Cozia Georgescu and the Regional Development Agency South Muntenia for the timely feedback, the support offered in the elaboration of this study, and the excellent collaboration throughout.

The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the Executive Directors of the World Bank, the European Union, or the Government of Romania.



WORLD BANK GROUP



Romania
Regional Development Program 2

Table of Contents

Introduction	12
ANNEX 1 IDP 2007-2015 implementation stage	24
PART I: The Growth Pole's Profile	38
1. Analysis of Development Needs and Areas of Intervention	41
1.1. People and Territory	43
ANNEX 1.1 ZUP list in Ploiești (2007-2014)	90
1.2. Economy	99
1.3. Environment	143
1.4. Connectivity	163
1.5. Infrastructure and Public Utilities	193
ANNEX 1.5.1 Water-Sewerage system in Prahova County	226
1.6. Public Services and Housing	233
ANNEX 1.6.2. Current state of primary and secondary school infrastructure in the Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole	288
ANNEX 1.6.3. Current state of Ploiești preschool infrastructure	294
1.7. Culture and Leisure	299
ANNEX 1.7.1. List of Historical Monuments (2010) in Ploiești Growth Pole	310
ANNEX 1.7.2. List of cultural events organized in Ploiești Growth Pole (2014)	320
2. Territorial Diagnosis and Strategy Recommendations	325
2.1. Conclusions on Development Needs	327
2.2. SWOT Analysis	359
2.3. Conclusions on the Integrated Diagnosis and Intervention Areas	367
PART II: The Integrated Strategy for the Growth Pole	370
3. Development Vision and Objectives	373
4. Project Portfolio	387
5. Recommendations for Improving the Institutional Framework at the level of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole in the 2014-2020 Programming Period	419

List of Acronyms

ACOP	Administrative Capacity Operational Programme
ACDOP	Administrative Capacity Development Operational Programme
ANAT	National Authority for Tourism Agencies in Romania
ANCOM	National Authority for Administration and Regulation in Communications
ANCSI	National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation
ANL	National Authority for Housing
ANT	National Authority for Tourism
APDT PH	Association for Tourism Promotion and Development in Prahova
CATV	TV – Cable
CC	County Council
CESTRIN	Center for Informatics and Road Technical Studies
CF	Cohesion Fund
CLLD	Community-Led Local Development
COP	Competitiveness Operational Programme
CNADNR	National Highways and National Roads Company
CR	County Road
DCH	Didactic Corp House
DG SCP	Directorate General for Social and Child Protection
DPOP	Disadvantaged People Operational Programme
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
GCPH	General Census for Population and Housing
GD	Government Decision
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GP	Growth Pole
GPS	Global Positioning System
GOR	Government of Romania
GTMP	General Transport Master Plan
GUP	General Urbanistic Plan
HCOP	Human Capital Operational Programme
HRD SOP	Human Resources Development Sectoral Operational Programme
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDA	Intercommunity Development Association
IDA PIPhGP	Intercommunity Development Association Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole

IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IEC SOP	Increase of Economic Competitiveness Sectoral Operational Programme
IEE	Intelligent Energy Europe
KAI	Key Area of Intervention
LHDI	Local Human Development Index
LIOP	Large Infrastructure Operational Programme
LPA	Local Public Administration
MEF	Ministry of European Funds
MRDPA	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration
NIC	National Investment Company
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPARD	National Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development
NR	National Road
OP	Operational Programme
PA	Priority Axis
PNDI	National Program for Infrastructure Development
PNDL	National Local Development Program
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSD	Partnership for Sustainable Development
PUB	Polytechnic University of Bucharest
RDA	Regional Development Agency
RDP	Regional Development Plan
ROP	Regional Operational Programme
RSA	Romanian Salubrity Association
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOP	Sectoral Operational Programme
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
TAU	Territorial-Administrative Unit
TAURIS	Territorial-Administrative Unit Register Information System
TEN-R	Trans-European Network-Railway
TEN-T	Trans-European Network-Transport
UDIS	Urban Development Integrated Strategy
UDSS	Urban Development Support Structure
UPG	Oil and Gas University
WIMS	Waste Information Management System
ZUP	Zonal Urbanistic Plan

INTRODUCTION



Introduction

0.1. The need and objectives of the Integrated Urban Development Plan

In 2012, the World Bank signed five agreements with MRDPA for advisory services, out of which one relates to the growth poles policy and to its improvement for the programming period 2014-2020. This agreement has three components: 1) an analysis of the growth poles policy, 2) energy efficiency studies for each growth pole; and 3) a review of the Integrated Development Plans prepared by the growth poles for the period 2007-2013.

In this context, South Muntenia Regional Development Agency, through the coordinator of Ploiești Growth Pole, requested the World Bank, under a project funded by ERDF through the Technical Assistance Operational Programme 2007-2013, to support the Growth Pole in implementing the recommendations stemming from the previous analysis with: 1) updating the Integrated Development Plan for 2014-2020; and 2) proposing an improved institutional framework for coordinating the planning, implementation and monitoring of projects under this plan.

The current document of the Integrated Development Plan belonging to Ploiești Growth Pole was developed during the period 2008-2009 and approved / submitted to South Muntenia RDA in April 2010. It contains a total number of 93 projects with a total value of RON 5,136,143,583.91, out of which 762,515,322.81 are EU funds, and the remainder comes from the national budget and the beneficiaries' own contribution¹. In the process of updating the plan, the implementation status of these projects will be studied further, and attention will be also given to unimplemented projects in order to see whether they will be included in the documentation, depending on their response to the new development conditions of the growth pole.

Distribution of projects' by intervention areas / sectoral targets and funding, as well as the current status of project implementation (as of March 2015) are detailed in Annex 1, as follows:

Table 0.1.1. IDP 2007-2013 implementation status

ONGOING PROJECTS		FINALIZED PROJECTS		PROJECTS NOT SUBMITTED/ BACKUP, UNDER ASSESSMENT, OR REJECTED	
Number and value		Number and value		Number and value	
Co-financing source	Beneficiary	Co-financing source	Beneficiary	Co-financing source	Beneficiary

Sectoral objective A1 - Support investments in clean technologies, high level manufacturing, energy efficiency and alternative energies technology solutions, and in adjacent infrastructure

2 (43,210,490.82 lei)		6 (57,160,379.42 lei)		2 (11,934,079 lei)	
ROP/PA1 SOP IEC/PA4	Prahova county Dumbrăvești commune	- Environment Fund Environment Fund Environment Fund Environment Fund Environment Fund	Dalkia Prahova county Prahova county Valea Călugărească Boldești-Scăeni Băicoi	SOP IEC/PA4 Environment Fund	Valea Călugărească Prahova county

¹Monthly report on the state of implementation of priority projects related to the IDP for PLOIEȘTI Growth Pole (CMC Decision no. 28 / 12.07.2012)

ONGOING PROJECTS		FINALIZED PROJECTS		PROJECTS NOT SUBMITTED/ BACKUP, UNDER ASSESSMENT, OR REJECTED	
Number and value		Number and value		Number and value	
Co-financing source	Beneficiary	Co-financing source	Beneficiary	Co-financing source	Beneficiary

Sectoral objective A2 - Active involvement of R&D sector in the development of new products and technologies

1 (56,296,069 lei)		2 (30,838,900 lei)		-	
SOP IEC/PA1	OGU, PUB, Prahova county, Ploiești municipality, IDA, Pl.GP.Ph. private companies	SOP IEC/PA2 SOP IEC/PA2	OGU Ploiești OGU Ploiești		

Sectoral objective A3 - Supporting the development of economic activities in the Growth Pole area

2 (3,200,400,000 lei)		-		-	
-	Alianso Group WPD - Development Ro				

Sectoral objective B1 - Connecting with the European road network and building a modern infrastructure for the access to economic areas, parks / industrial sites and other functional areas, while developing an efficient and clean urban transport in the growth pole area

6 (944,414,250.04 lei)		3 (108,954,273.41 lei)		9 (246,542,797.51 lei)	
ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1	Prahova county	-	Ploiești municipality
ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA2	Prahova county	ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality
ROP/PA1	Prahova county	-	Prahova county	ROP/PA1	IDA GP
ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality			ROP/PA1	Băicoi
ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality			ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality
ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality			PNDR	Ploiești municipality
				Environment Fund	Târgșoru V.
				PNDR	Dumbrăvești Dumbrăvești

Sectoral objective B2 - Protecting the environment and human health by providing quality public services

3 (824,844,067.6 lei)		-		2 (21,226,038 lei)	
SOP Environ./PA2	Prahova county			Heating Program	Ploiești municipality
SOP Environ./PA1	Hidro Prahova			Environment Fund	Valea Călugărească
BIRD+GEF	Prahova county				

Sectoral Objective B3 - Harness the natural, traditional, cultural and historical heritage, develop tourism and recreation areas, support environmental protection actions and the development of green spaces; develop the historical and cultural heritage of the area

5 (211,644,631.09 lei)		9 (15,660,849.51 lei)		8 (24,845,693.31 lei)	
ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA5	Prahova county	ROP/PA1	M. Ploiești
ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA5	Valea Călugărească	ROP/PA1	Jud. Prahova
ROP/PA1	Prahova county	ROP/PA5	Dumbrăvești	ROP/PA5	Brazi, Ariceștii Rahtivani, s.a.
ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality	SOP Environ./PA4	County Museum Plopeni	ROP/PA5	F. C. Stere - Bucov
ROP/PA5	Monastery (Târgșoru V.)	-	Ploiești municipality	Environment Fund	Boldești-Scăeni
		Environment Fund	Băicoi	PNDI	Jud. Prahova
		Environment Fund	Valea Călugărească	ROP/PA5/ Env. Fund	Parohie - Berceni
		Environment Fund	Plopeni		C. Dumbrăvești
		NP-NIC	Plopeni		

ONGOING PROJECTS		FINALIZED PROJECTS		PROJECTS NOT SUBMITTED/ BACKUP, UNDER ASSESSMENT, OR REJECTED	
Number and value		Number and value		Number and value	
Co-financing source	Beneficiary	Co-financing source	Beneficiary	Co-financing source	Beneficiary

Sectoral objective C1 - Increase the quality of social infrastructure through investments dedicated to disadvantaged groups and support their reintegration into society

3 (14,156,537.77 lei)		2 (16,542,911.19 lei)		1 (3,645,048.27)	
ROP/PA1	Băicoi	ROP/PA1	Prahova county	ROP/PA3	Concordia (Ariceștii Rahtivani)
ROP/PA1	Prahova county	ROP/PA1	Ploiești municipality		
ROP/PA3	Ploiești municipality				

Sectoral objective C2 - Human resources development through improved educational and training infrastructure

1 (6,000,000 lei)		11 (93,784,088.11 lei)		4 (28,440,987.48 lei)	
SOP HRD/PA1	OGU Ploiești	SOP HRD/PA5.1	PDD Association	ROP/PA3	Plopeni
		SOP HRD/PA1	OGU Ploiești	ROP/PA3	Plopeni
		SOP HRD/PA1	OGU Ploiești	ROP/PA3	Băicoi
		SOP HRD/PA3	OGU Ploiești	SOP IEC/PA3	Dumbrăvești
		SOP HRD/PA2	OGU Ploiești		
		SOP HRD	OGU Ploiești		
		SOP HRD/PA1	OGU Ploiești		
		SOP HRD/PA1	OGU Ploiești		
		SOP HRD/PA1	OGU Ploiești		
		SOP HRD/PA1	OGU Ploiești		
		SOP HRD/PA3	UNIPET		
		SOP HRD	Băicoi		

Sectoral objective C3 - Developing health infrastructure by providing professional medical care in a modern and equipped space

1 (7,564,000 lei)		1 (2,119,346 lei)		-	
SOP IEC/PA3	Ploiești Hospital - Băicoi	SOP IEC/PA3	Ploiești Hospital		

Sectoral objective C4 - Increasing the operational capacity of the administration through knowledge management and the use of innovative technology

-		5 (8,624,803.74 lei)		4 (13,274,038.74 lei)	
		OP ACD/PA1	IDA GP	OP ACD/PA1	Jud. Prahova
		SOP IEC/PA3	Prahova county	SOP IEC/PA3	DSACP Prahova
		IEE Programme	Ploiești municipality	SOP IEC/PA3	Prahova county
		INTERREG IVC/FP7 Programme	Prahova county	SOP IEC/PA3	Băicoi
			Ploiești municipality		
Total: 24		Total: 39		Total:30	

Based on the analysis of co-financed project categories from various operational programs, a number of important aspects are worth being considered for the next programming period. On each area of intervention / sectoral objective, the current situation can be described as follows:

Sectoral objective A1: Clean technologies, energy efficiency, and alternative energy

Five projects regarding the use of solar energy to produce hot water at various hospitals / social units in Ploiești, Băicoi, Boldești-Scăeni and Valea Călugărească were completed. The projects were **co-financed from the Environment Fund – “Casa Verde” (Green House) program**. Other two similar projects are on the backup list. In addition, there are two ongoing projects: “Lumina Verde” (Green Light) multifunctional Business Center (**ROP/PA1**) and a project for harnessing renewable energy resources in Dumbrăvești commune, co-financed through **SOP IEC/PA4**.

Sectoral objective A2: Research for new products and technologies

Currently, a project in partnership on innovative use of virtual reality in view of providing services for critical infrastructures is being implemented via **SOP IEC/PA1**, while other two projects of OGU Ploiești and co-financed by **SOP IEC/PA2** were completed.

Sectoral objective A3: Supporting the development of economic activities

Two industrial parks – Ploiești West Park and WDP Development RO – were established, being financed by **private investment**.

Sectoral objective B1: Transport infrastructure

Most of the projects co-financed by **ROP/PA1** are currently being implemented. These are primarily related to transport infrastructure in Ploiești municipality and include:

- Rehabilitation of the tram route 102 - Phase I (North loop – Republicii intersection) and phase II (Republicii intersection – West loop).
- Rehabilitation of the tram route 101 - Phase I and II.
- Construction of a road passage in the prolongation of DJ 102, over DN 1B.
- Streamlining traffic towards Ploiești industrial area and Brazi industrial site.

The completed infrastructure works refer to the following projects of the County Council:

- Construction of the road link between DN 1 and DN 1B through the DJ 236 ring road in the north of the municipality (**ROP/PA1**).
- Rehabilitation of 101G DJ Tătărani (DJ 101D) – Brazi – Brazii de Jos etc. (**ROP/PA2**).
- Upgrading and rehabilitation of DJ 101D, including the passage over Ploiești railroad Triaj - Ghighiu at km 4+300 in order to improve accessibility from/to DN 1 (**budget of the County Council**).

The projects on the backup list for **ROP/PA1** were not implemented, including:

- Construction of a road passage over the South Station railroad.
- Construction of a multimodal terminal in the County Hospital area (ROP/PA1).
- Expanding public transport in Ploiești on the following sections: Ploiești municipality – Blejoi commune – Păulești commune (recreation area, Păulești forest), Ploiești municipality – Bucov commune (“Constantin Stere” recreational park), Ploiești municipality – Bărcănești commune.
- Improving the access to Băicoi city by constructing a suspended passage over DN 1 at the intersection with DJ 215.
- Increasing accessibility in the eastern part of Ploiești towards the Pan-European TEN-IX by building a road passage over the railroad in the south-eastern part of Ploiești municipality.
- Extension of road and public transport links between South Station and West Station (Libertății Street), including the rehabilitation of the stations' marketplaces belonging to the public domain.

The projects regarding the modernization of agricultural exploitation roads in Târgșoru Vechi commune, the improvement of the road network and the promotion of touristic areas in Dumbrăvești commune are being under evaluation or in preparation for the next programming stage.

Sectoral objective B2: Public utilities

Through **SOP Environment**, a project regarding the implementation of an integrated waste management system and a project for the rehabilitation and modernization of water and sewage systems in Prahova county, developed by SC Hidro Prahova, are under implementation. Another project regarding the integrated control of nutrient pollution in Târgșoru Vechi and funded by IBRD, GEF, and the Prahova County Council is also being implemented.

Sectoral objective B3: Cultural Heritage and Recreation

Four ROP/PA1-funded projects are in process of implementation:

- Construction of Ploiești Vest municipal park.
- Establishment of the Center of Excellence in Business for young entrepreneurs.
- Restoring and strengthening the Clock Museum in Ploiești.
- Modernization and functional expansion of Ploiești Hippodrome.

Two projects are on the backup list:

- Rehabilitation of Dumbrăvești cultural-historical area.
- Rehabilitation of polluted land in Ploiești – the eastern belt.

The following ROP/PA5-funded projects were completed:

- Harnessing the existing patrimony elements on the “Drumul Fructelor” (Fruit Way) itinerant route.
- Trip into history on the “Drumul Vinului” (Wine Way) in Prahova county (Valea Călugărească).
- “Drumul Sării” (Salt Way) in Dumbrăvești commune.

The project for restoring and harnessing the monastic ensemble of Turnu Monastery (Târgșoru Vechi) is under implementation, while other 3 projects weren't submitted, i.e.:

- Harnessing the existing patrimony elements on the “Drumul Voievozilor” (Princes Way) itinerant route.
- Harnessing the existing patrimony elements in the “Constantin Stere” park (Bucov).
- Consolidating and restoring St. Nicholas and St. Eustathius Plachida Church, as well as its bell-tower in Corlățești village, Berceni commune.

Other projects co-financed from **other funds** were completed, i.e.:

- Management Plan for Plopeni forest, a “Natura 2000” site (**SOP Environment/PA4**).
- Development of Căineni park in Ploiești (**local budget**).
- Development of Băicoi park (**Environment Fund**).
- Landscape development of Valea Călugărească park (**Environment Fund**).
- Upgrading parks in the town of Plopeni (**Environment Fund**).
- Rehabilitation of the cultural center in Plopeni (**NIC national program**).

Sectoral objective C1: Social infrastructure

ROP/PA1 has co-financed projects for the rehabilitation of assistance / community services centers in Ploiești, Băicoi, Ariceștii Rahtivani. Two projects have been completed and another two are in process of implementation. A fifth project is also under implementation in Ploiești and is co-financed through ROP/PA3, while another one – for Ariceștii Rahtivani – was rejected.

Sectoral objective C2: Education

Most projects in this field have been co-financed by SOP HRD and implemented by OGU as single beneficiary or in partnership with other organizations (nine completed projects and one under implementation). Two other training projects have been completed, their beneficiaries being “Partnership for Sustainable Development” Association and Băicoi city. The projects for school infrastructure rehabilitation, initiated by Plopeni, Băicoi, and Dumbrăvești communes, are on the backup list.

Sectoral objective C3: Health

Two **SOP IEC/AP3**-funded projects were completed area in medical information systems (e-health) at Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital, County Emergency Hospital, and Hospital of Pediatrics in Ploiești, and at Băicoi Hospital.

Sectoral objective C4: Local Public Administration (LPA) capacity

IDA of the Growth Pole completed an **OP ACD/PA1**-funded project for strengthening its operational capacity, while the Prahova County Council completed a **SOP IEC/PA3**-funded project on the implementation of an integrated urban system for managing the relationship with citizens. Another **OP ACD**-funded project of the County Council is on the backup list, while three **SOP IEC/PA3**-funded were rejected. Three other similar projects, which were funded from other sources – **IEE Programme INTERREG IVC** and **FP7**, were also completed.

0.1.2. Objectives, principles, and methodology

The Integrated Development Plan aims at coordinating program and project packages with the existing territorial issues and with the Growth Poles' development trends in the regional and national context. Specifically, the objective includes: (1) Coordination of finalized sectoral strategies; (2) Creating a methodological and technical instrument, by which sustainable development priorities of the growth pole should be established in partnership with the local councils, Prahova County Council, South Muntenia Development Agency, and the private sector, with the following goals:

- (i) Consistently develop the competitive advantages gained so far through the implementation of EU-funded projects;
- (ii) Maintain on the concerned territory the most of the added value achieved through capital investment and services financed from various public and private funds over the period 2014-2020;
- (iii) Reduce regional disparities in terms of equipping the territory and access to public services of general interest.

By its content, the plan aims at providing a sense for the growth pole's development direction based on the existing territorial attributes and those to be achieved through development investments. The specific objective is to identify measures that will contribute to strengthening territorial cohesion and to developing the urban character of the area. The main directions for the implementation of this objective aim at a balanced and integrated development by:

- Increasing transport capacity and mobility by reference to the European transport network TEN-T and therefore the network of localities;
- Reducing regional disparities so as to pave the way towards equal access to infrastructure services, facilities and knowledge;
- Managing the natural resources in a responsible way and protecting natural resources and protecting the natural and built environment of the area;
- Identifying and developing new types of urban-rural relations to increase the functionality of the area.

The IDP was prepared according to the following principles:

- 1. Lawfulness and Coordination.** Abide by the powers conferred by law and by European and national regulations with respect to the programming period 2014-2020, without restricting the rights regarding the exercise of responsibilities that determine the increase of territorial competitiveness in the area.
- 2. Autonomy and Subsidiarity.** Ensure local autonomy, representativeness, identity, interests, and diversity of local communities in the area, using tools and techniques for involving citizens in decision-making during the formulation and implementation of the plan.
- 3. Continuity and Cooperation.** Horizontal and vertical cooperation between levels of government in order to: (1) promote a competitive, green, and sustainable economy, with high degree of employment that is based on the rational use of natural resources; (2) reduce existing territorial disparities between territorial-administrative units in the area.

The IDP was prepared according to the methodology for strategic planning, which included the following key activities: information, consultation, debate and admission / approval. The main stages of the process correspond to the methodology for drafting the Integrated Development Plans for 2007-2013 and included:

1. Analysis of development sectors at the current moment and as a result of projects' implementation during the period 2007-2013;
2. Analysis of integrated results, obtained by diagnosing the existing situation and trends of development (SWOT analysis);

3. Formulation of the framework with respect to future development (vision, strategic goals and specific / sector objectives);
4. Ensuring the implementation modalities of the Strategy 2014-2020 through programs and projects;
5. Preparing the institutional framework for the implementation and monitoring of the strategy.

The analysis of the documents (data, strategies, action plans, programs, reports, and expert studies) provided by Prahova County Council and the Local Councils of territorial-administrative units within the growth pole has played a significant part. As well, information was collected through field surveys based on interviews with local stakeholders regarding development and investment priorities for the short and medium term. The results from various phases were debated in view of including opinions of local communities as well, thus increasing the acceptability of proposals.

0.1.3. Coordination with European, national, and regional strategies

The elaboration of the IDP for Ploiești Growth Pole is based on coordination with a number of programmatic documents developed at the European, national, and regional level, as follows:

EUROPEAN level

- Europe 2020 Strategy, with its three development priorities: (1) smart growth, which would develop an economy based on knowledge and innovation; (2) sustainable growth, which would promote a greener, more competitive economy, and which would manage resources more efficiently; (3) inclusive growth, which would foster an economy with high employment potential, thus ensuring territorial and social cohesion.
- Territorial Agenda of the European Union in 2020, with the following territorial development priorities: (1) Promote polycentric and balanced territorial development; (2) Encourage integrated development in cities, rural regions and specific areas; (3) Territorial integration in cross-border and transnational functional regions; (4) Ensure the overall competitiveness of the regions based on strong local economies; (5) Improve regional connections for individuals, communities, and businesses; (6) Manage and connect environmental, landscape, and cultural values of regions.

NATIONAL level

- Romania's Territorial Development Strategy for the 2035 time horizon (2014) – reports regarding: Network of localities by rank and importance; Formation and development of localities; Characteristics of urban and rural localities.
- Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020.
- Competitiveness Operational Programme 2014-2020.
- Large Infrastructure Operational Programme 2014-2020.
- Human Capital Operational Programme 2014-2020.
- Administrative Capacity Operational Programme 2014-2020.
- Support for Disadvantaged People Operational Programme 2014-2020.
- National Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2020.
- National Programme for Local Development (“Urban regeneration of towns and cities” subprogramme).

REGIONAL level

- Regional Development Plan – South Muntenia Region 2014-2020, RDA South Muntenia RDA (2014); regional-level sectoral studies, conducted by South Muntenia RDA during 2012-2013.

COUNTY level

- Updated Spatial Plan of Prahova County: Volume I: Current situation, problems and priorities; Volume II: Proposals, Program of measures. The National Research and Development Institute for Urbanism and Spatial Planning, URBANPROIECT Bucharest (2002).
- Sustainable Development Plan for Prahova County in 2014-2020, Prahova County Council (2015).

In addition, a series of documents prepared by the EU / Romanian Government / MDRAP / Structural Instruments 2007-2013, together with the World Bank, provides recommendations for the review and update of the growth poles' integrated development plans:

- Strengthening the spatial planning capacity – precondition for sustainable urban development
- Competitive Cities
- Strategic assessment of IDPs
- Growth Poles: The Next Phase
- Identification of project selection models for the Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020
- etc.



0.1.4. Document structure

The volume presents the Growth Pole's profile, organized on the following chapters analysing the current situation and development trends:

1.1. People and territory

- Defining the area, the network of localities, and the associative structure
- Spatial and functional profile
- Location, natural features, and brief history
- Demography and migration

1.2. Economy

- Economic sectors and SME sector
- Tourism industry – products and infrastructure
- Labor market and human resources
- R&D

1.3. Environment

- Quality of environment and pollution control (air, water, soil)
- Protected natural areas

1.4. Connectivity

- Accessibility and mobility
- Transport network and existing intermodal nodes / TEN-T in the Growth Pole
- Energy
- IT&C

1.5. Public utilities

- Water supply and sewerage
- Waste management
- Public spaces and public lighting

1.6. Public services and housing

- Housing stock
- Education
- Health
- Social Infrastructure

1.7. Culture and recreation

- Protected areas and historical monuments
- Events and cultural activities
- Sports and recreation

0.2 National and regional context

0.2.1. National inertia and adjusting expectations

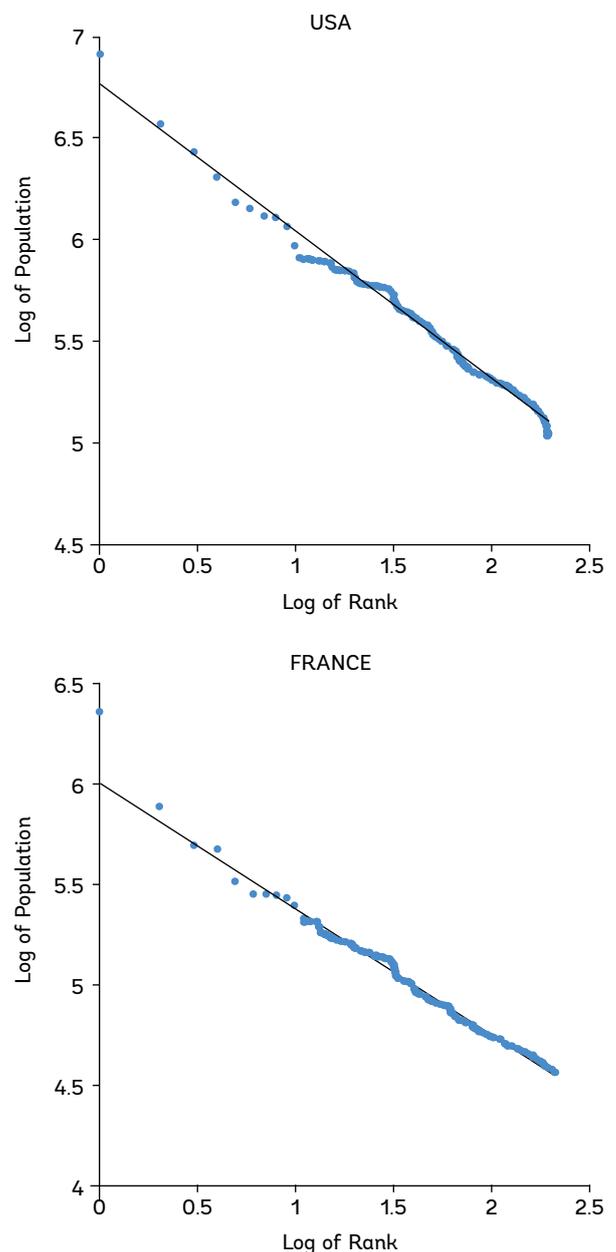
As it is known from the literature, the fate of a city depends not only public authorities and the private sector. There is a certain history-related and geography-related inertia that may substantially influence the development of a city. For example, Bucharest has a privileged position in Romania since by 1989 it had a population of over 5 times higher than the second-placed city. As such, it enjoyed great attention from investors and people from the start, attracting in recent years a large part of the country's private sector and skilled personnel.

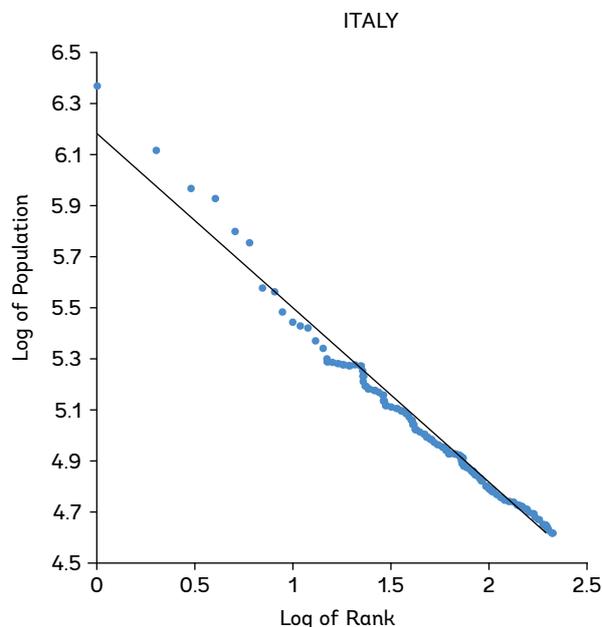
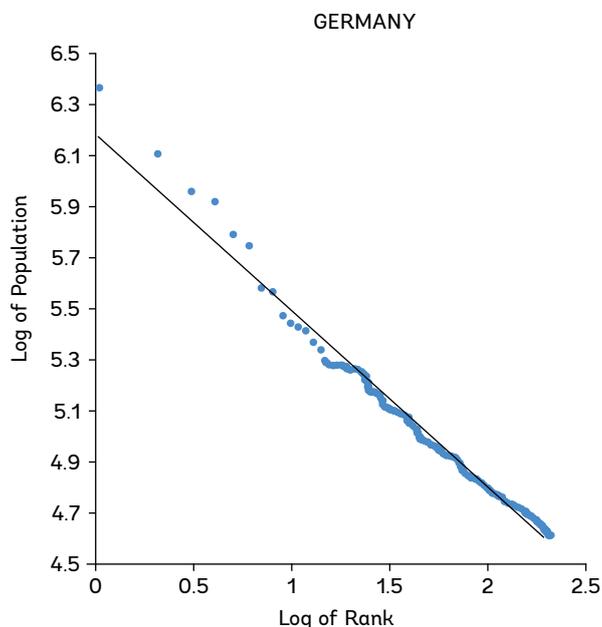
Currently, even if it has only 10% of the population, Bucharest generates 25% of the GDP. Similarly, cities like Timișoara and Cluj-Napoca are favored by their proximity to Western rich markets and have witnessed more striking economic dynamics than cities with a similar population, but located at greater distance from the western border (e.g. Iași and Craiova).

In fact, in countries that have developed organically, the urban systems are distributed in a balanced way. Specifically, there is a close relationship between the rank of a city and its position in the national hierarchy. Usually, there is a single city that is included in the first rank (like Bucharest) and its position in the national hierarchy does not change no matter how effective are the local authorities. This first-rank city is followed by 1-2 second-rank cities, with populations that amount to approximately half of the first-rank city's number of inhabitants. These cities are in turn followed by 2-3 third-ranking cities with populations that amount to approximately one third of the first-ranking city population, etc. Figure 1 shows this balanced distribution in the urban system in four countries that have developed organically – Germany, US, Italy, and France.

Because of the central planning during the communist regime, Romania's urban system is not balanced.

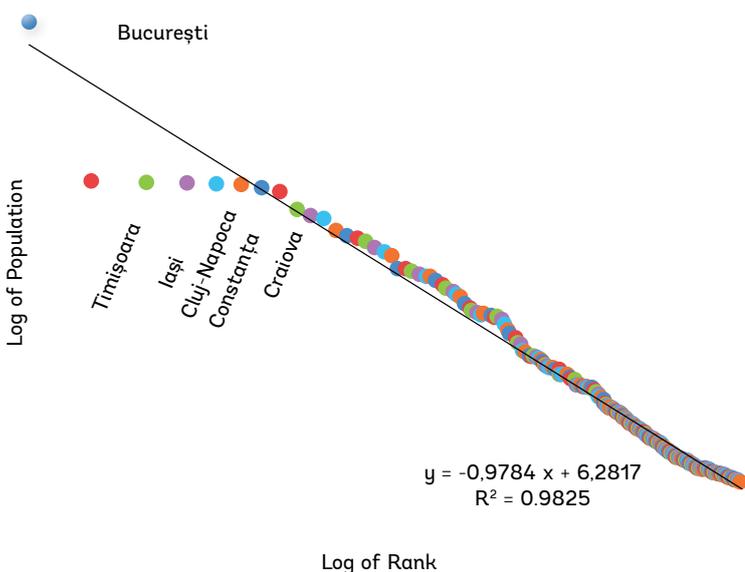
Figure 1. Zipf distribution in selected countries (2010)





Source: World Bank. 2013. *Competitive Cities – Reshaping the Economic Geography of Romania* [report prepared for the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration]

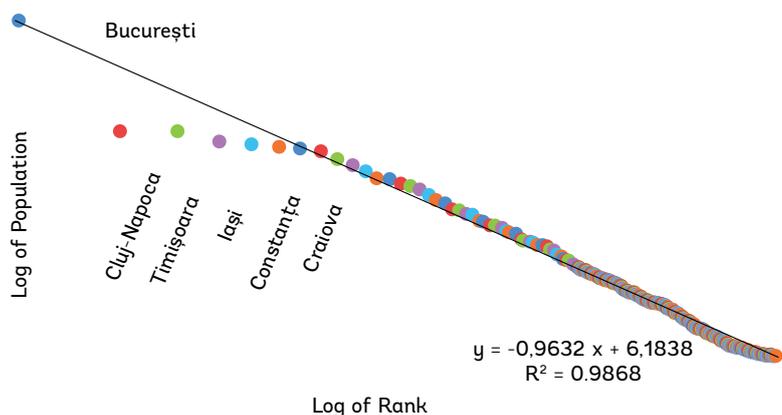
Figure 2. Zipf distribution in Romania (2010)



As shown in the graphs from the left, in Romania second-rank cities are practically missing, Bucharest being followed from a significant distance by a group of seven cities with a population five times lower than that of the capital city.

The graphs were built with the data available in TEMPO Online database of the National Statistics Institute. The data are based on estimates and projections starting from the last census in 2002. The analysis of the most recent data from the last census in 2011 and which became available in 2013, indicate an adjustment of the urban system in Romania. Basically, as it is shown in the graphs, Cluj-Napoca and Timișoara, benefiting from their proximity to the western border of Romania, are currently tending to become second-rank cities at the national level. Iași, Constanța and Craiova compete for the third rank.

Figure 3. Zipf distribution in Romania (based on 2011 census data)



In Zipf distribution, Ploiești has the profile of a fourth-rank city. This does not mean that it will keep this position and will not overrun cities like Craiova and Iași. What is relevant to this discussion, however, is the understanding that in any country that grows organically (based on market economy mechanisms) there is a certain inertia that cannot be overcome even with the best public policy measures. Specifically, there is little chance for Ploiești to become the main economic hub in Romania. As we will discuss below, however, Ploiești can take advantage of its proximity to Bucharest in order to ensure sustainable economic growth in the coming years.

Source: World Bank. 2013. *Competitive Cities – Reshaping the Economic Geography of Romania* [report prepared for the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration]

Of course, cities are not only subject to fate, i.e. unable to shape their own destiny.

Both at national and international levels, there are many examples of cities that have managed to perform better than prescribed by Zipf distribution. Mostly, this analysis takes into account what local / regional authorities in Ploiești can do in order to ensure a sustainable development of Ploiești Growth Pole.

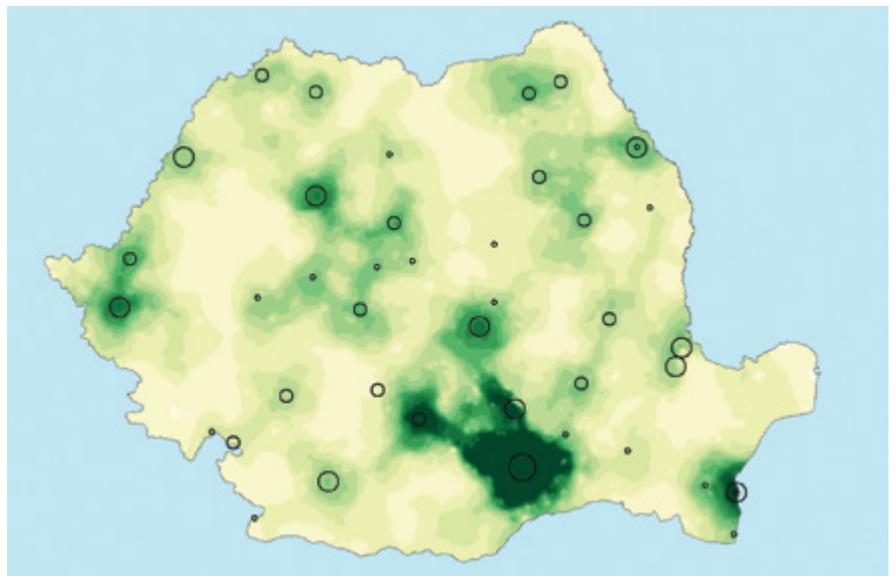
The geographical position, historical evolution, existing population, and economic base of Ploiești will play an important part on the future development of the city and must be recognized and understood as such. In what follows we discuss the importance of the proximity of Ploiești to Bucharest and Brașov.

0.2.2. Regional integration

Bucharest is the most important economic pole of Romania. This is well known. What is less known is that Bucharest's economic development has encouraged the rapid development of communities located close to the capital city. Ploiești itself took advantage of this proximity and it is important to do so in the future as well.

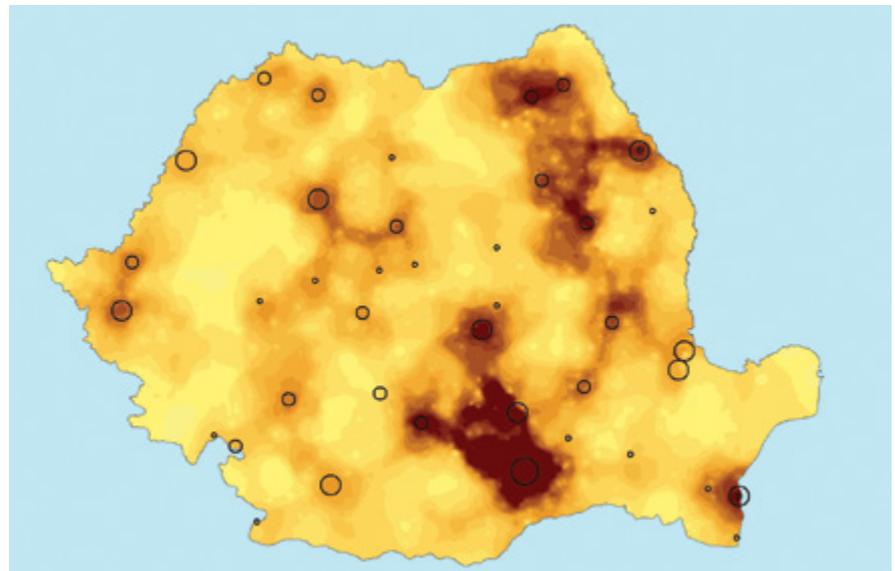
In order to map these regional synergies, the World Bank included in the *Competitive Cities* report an economic mass gravitational model (see figure below). Gravitational models are based on the physics principle according to which the attraction between two bodies becomes greater as the distance between them gets smaller and their mass becomes larger. In order to develop the economic mass gravitational model, we calculated the road distances between cities in Romania and we used the firms' revenues at the city level as economic mass.

Map 1. Economic mass gravitational model for Romania



The first map in the right represents the economic mass gravitational model. As shown in this map, the area of influence of Bucharest, which extends up to Ploiești and Pitești is the leading development area in Romania. Moreover, the firms operating in the area surrounding Bucharest, i.e. up to one hour of driving from the city, generates more than 50% of the national income². This is of paramount importance for the way in which public and investment policies in Ploiești Growth Pole will be designed. Basically, any economic development strategy cannot ignore the strategic position of Ploiești within the most dynamic economic area of Romania.

Map 2. Demographic gravitational model for Romania



The better this area will be interconnected, the greater the economic benefits will be. On the one hand, better connectivity will require investments in the large infrastructure along the corridor Bucharest – Ploiești – Brașov, namely completing the A3 highway section from Bucharest to Brașov, and operating a fast train on this section. On the other hand, a better connection between Ploiești, Târgoviște, and Pitești could help this economic area coagulate.

Source: World Bank. 2013. *Competitive Cities – Reshaping the Economic Geography of Romania* [report prepared for the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration]

² World Bank. 2013. Growth Poles; The Next Phase

Interestingly, the Bucharest-Ploiești-Târgoviște-Pitești is not only the most developed area in the country, but also the densest area in terms of demography. As shown in the above demographic gravitational model (where population is taken as demographic mass), this area of Romania has the highest population density. Basically, in the one-hour access area around Bucharest live about 4 million people – i.e. 20% of the population, or more than twice the population of Bucharest. This is also one of the areas with the highest potential for urbanization, which will be discussed in more detail in the next section.

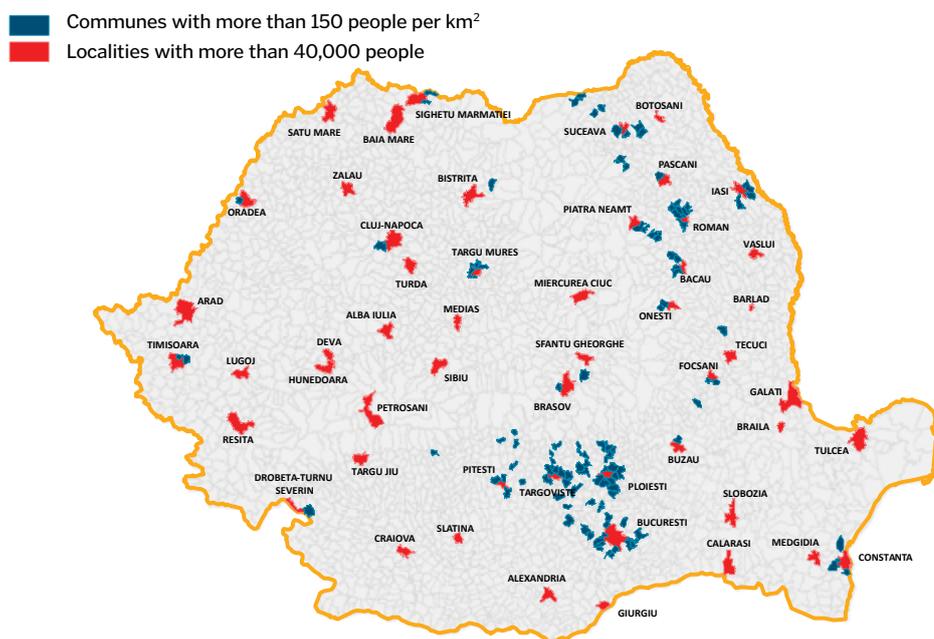
0.2.3. Ploiești: Urbanization pole

As discussed in the *Competitive Cities* report, economic development goes hand in hand with urbanization, and there is no developed country in the world that is not highly urbanized. Currently, Romania is one of the least urbanized countries in the EU and one of the most underdeveloped.

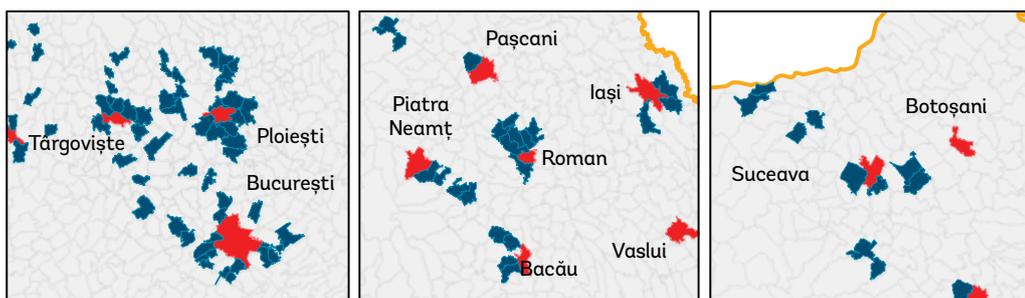
The greatest part of the economic development is played by a few dynamic cities and in order to operate as economic engines, they must increase both their economic mass and demographic mass – that is to continue their urbanization. Ploiești is one of the most important economic engines of Romania and its further development implies continuing the urbanization of the region to which it belongs. Basically, the most people possible in Ploiești Growth Pole area should have easy access to the opportunities that the pole offers; on the other hand, firms from the pole should have the easiest possible access to skilled workforce in the region.

The analysis presented in *Competitive Cities* report of the World Bank shows that Ploiești is part of an area with great potential for urbanization (see picture below). Specifically, Ploiești municipality is surrounded by a number of communes with high population density and rapid development dynamics. This means that the development policy of Ploiești should be thought at the metropolitan level and not only at the level of the territorial-administrative unit.

Map 3. New urbanization centers in Romania



Among other things, a metropolitan-level approach involves thinking about the following aspects in an integrated way: the public transport system, water and sewage systems, economic development policies, and urban planning policies.



Source: World Bank. 2013. *Competitive Cities – Reshaping the Economic Geography of Romania* [report prepared for the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration]

ANNEX 1

IDP 2007-2015 implementation stage

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
-----	--	---	-------------	--	---------------------------	---

Sectoral objective A1 – Support investments in clean technologies, high level manufacturing, energy efficiency and alternative energies technology solutions, and in adjacent infrastructure

1	Multifunctional Business Center "Lumina Verde" (Green Light)		Prahova county	ROP/PA1/KAI1.1/ Growth Poles 11,987,653.68 lei	40,450,278.35	Under implementation 31.07.2015 (cf. AA no.2)
2	Achieving electricity (and heat) production capacity for own consumption by using renewable energy resources in the localities of Dumbrăvești, Boldești-Scăeni, Plopeni, Valea Călugărească	Achieving electricity (and heat) production capacity for own consumption by using renewable energy resources in Dumbrăvești commune	Dumbrăvești commune	SOP IEC/PA4/ KAI2/Op.4.2 1,867,760.88 lei	2,760,212.47	Under implementation August 2015
3		Creating new capacity for producing electricity through solar renewable energy resources in Valea Călugărească commune	Valea Călugărească commune	SOP IEC/PA4/KAI2/ Op.4.4	9,047,459.00	On the backup list (declared as eligible, under the score for receiving funding)
4	Gas Turbine (GAT)		Dalkia Termo Prahova and Dalkia Romania	Own sources	53,000,000.00	Completed in Sept. 2010
5	Using solar energy to produce hot water at the care centers for children and adults with disabilities in the Directorate General for Social Assistance and Child Protection Prahova		Prahova county	Environment Fund/ „Casa Verde” (Green House) program	1,973,271.00	Completed at 10.04.2011
6	Using solar energy to produce hot water at county hospitals belonging to the public domain of Prahova county		Prahova county	Environment Fund/ „Casa Verde” (Green House) program	218,138.80	Completed at 15.08.2011

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
7	Supplementing the classical gas heating system with a system based on solar energy in Valea Călugărească commune, Prahova county		Valea Călugărească commune	Environment Fund/ „Casa Verde” (Green House) program	599,702.30	Completed in December 2010
8	Using solar energy to produce hot water at the medical and social assistance unit in Boldești-Scăeni		Boldești-Scăeni city	Environment Fund/ „Casa Verde” (Green House) program	247,672.32	Completed in September 2011
9	Using solar energy to produce hot water at local medical units – Băicoi City Hospital, Headquarters; City Hospital, the Annex headquarters, 8, Unirii street		Băicoi city	Environment Fund/ „Casa Verde” (Green House) program	1,121,595.00	Completed
10	Using geothermal energy and solar energy to produce hot water at Ploiești County Emergency Hospital (north section)		Prahova county	Environment Fund/ „Casa Verde” (Green House) program	2,886,620.00	Under evaluation at Environment Fund Administration, as of January 19, 2011
Total Sectoral Objective A1:					103,257,490.24	

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
-----	--	---	-------------	--	---------------------------	---

Sectoral objective A2 - Active involvement of R&D sector in the development of new products and technologies

11	Competitiveness pole to increase economic productivity through the innovative use of virtual reality, in order to provide services for critical infrastructure – CREVIS		Association - OGU, PUB, Prahova county, Ploiești municipality, IDA PIPhGP, private companies Depositor: SC INSOFT Development & Consulting SRL	SOP IEC/PA1/ KAI 1.3/Op.1.3.1 Competitiveness poles 41,289,066.52 lei	56,296,069.28	Under implementation 12.10.2015
		Research and development center for virtual reality applied to critical infrastructure, Investment project no. 12P019001, SMIS 50433			34,363,785.87	
		Building an innovative technology platform based on virtual reality applications for the safety and protection of personnel in critical infrastructure investment projects R&D&I 1 no. 12P019002, SMIS 50433			5,202,391.92	
		Building an innovative monitoring platform for isolated targets in critical infrastructure in Romania, Project R&D&I 2 no. 12P019003, SMIS 50421			4,459,724.39	
		Platform for bio-monitoring of vital parameters in the operation of critical infrastructures, Project R&D&I 3 no. 12P019004, SMIS 50239			5,287,987.89	
		Augmented reality innovative technological platform for field inspection, maintenance, and service in critical infrastructure, Project R&D&I 4 no. 12P019005, SMIS 50242			5,280,341.56	

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
11	Competitiveness pole to increase economic productivity through the innovative use of virtual reality, in order to provide services for critical infrastructure – CREVIS (continued)	CREVIS pole integrated management / Project SOFT1 no. 12P019006 / 08.05.2013, SMIS 50244	Association – OGU, PUB, Prahova county, Ploiești municipality, IDA PIPhGP, private companies Depositor: SC INSOFT Development & Consulting SRL		852,000.00	Under implementation 12.10.2015
		CREVIS Pole integrated project for information, publicity, and dissemination / Project SOFT2 no. 12P019007, SMIS 50246			849,837.65	
12	Information technology for image promotion and management of information from graduates and businesses in order to adapt the management policy to the socio-economic requirements		OGU Ploiești	SOP IEC/PA2 KAI 2.4	366,300.00	Completed
13	Regional center for performance testing and monitoring the technical condition of tubular material used in the oil industry		OGU Ploiești	SOP IEC/PA2 KAI 2.3 - 22,107,500 lei	30,472,600.00	Completed
Total Sectoral Objective A2:					87,134,969.28	

Sectoral objective A3 - Supporting the development of economic activities in the Growth Pole area

14	"Ploiești West Park" industrial park		The Belgian Group Alianso in joint venture with PIRITEX Group	Private investment	3,150,000,000.00	Under implementation
15	W.D.P. Development Ro. SRL industrial park (subsidiary of Warehouse De Paw)		SC „WPD Development Ro” SRL	Private investment	50,400,000.00	Under implementation
Total Sectoral Objective A3:					3,200,400,000.00	

Sectoral objective B1 – Connecting with the European road network and building a modern infrastructure for the access to economic areas, parks / industrial sites and other functional areas, while developing an efficient and clean urban transport in the growth pole area

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
16	Increasing traffic capacity by building a road link between DN 1 and DN 1B (County Ring Road DJ 236) in the northern area of Ploiești municipality		Prahova county	ROP/PA1/ KAI 1.1/Growth poles 22,365,856 lei	43,912,185.38	Completed in June 2013
17	Increasing public transport mobility by the rehabilitation of tram route 102 through works targeting: the rolling track, stations adapted to people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling and automation elements	Increasing public transport mobility by the rehabilitation of tram route 102 through works targeting: the rolling track, stations adapted to people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling and automation elements – Stage I: North Loop – Republicii intersection	Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 29,139,721.40 lei	47,730,153.43	Under implementation 15.06.2015
18		Increasing public transport mobility by the rehabilitation of tram route 102 through works targeting: the rolling track, stations adapted to people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling and automation elements – Stage II: Republicii intersection – West Loop		ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 40,954,863.48 lei		70,652,606.99
19	Ensuring accessibility in Ploiești South industrial zone, in university campus by building a road passage over the railway at South Station		Ploiești municipality		36,522,990.00	In preparation for 2014-2020
20	Increasing traffic mobility by building a multimodal terminal, including parking spaces for cars and bicycles (County Hospital area)		Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 23,410,582.41 lei	30,324,596.51	On the backup list

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
21	Extending the public transport in Ploiești municipality on the following sections: Ploiești – Blejoi commune – Păulești commune (recreation area, Păulești forest), Ploiești – Bucov commune (“Constantin Stere” recreational park), Ploiești municipality – Bărcănești commune		IDA „Ploiești – Prahova Growth pole”	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles	45,101,000.00	On the backup list
22	Increasing accessibility to the north of the Growth Pole, especially towards Prahova County Hospital by building a road passage in the prolongation of DJ 102, over DN 1B		Prahova county	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 50,206,880.71 lei	63,954,630.69	Under implementation 11.11.2015 (cf. AA no. 2)
23	Accessibility and traffic streamlining towards Ploiești West industrial area and Brazi industrial platform		Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 72,222,409.51 lei	90,833,498.09	Under implementation 11.07.2015
24	Increasing public transport mobility by the rehabilitation of tram route 101 through works targeting: the rolling track, stations adapted to people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling and automation elements	Increasing public transport mobility by the rehabilitation of tram route 102 through works targeting: the rolling track, stations adapted to people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling and automation elements – Stage I	Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 17,597,276.58 lei	30,506,241.76	Under implementation 15.08.2015 (cf. AA no. 1)
25		Increasing public transport mobility by the rehabilitation of tram route 102 through works targeting: the rolling track, stations adapted to people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling and automation elements – Stage II		ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 39,630,960.09 lei	65,145,449.08	Under implementation 29.07.2015
26	Increasing accessibility to the city of Băicoi by constructing a suspended passage over DN 1, at the intersection with DJ 215		Băicoi city in partnership with Prahova county	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles	17,612,000.00	On the backup list

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
27	Increasing accessibility in the eastern part of Ploiești towards the Pan-European TEN-IX by building a road passage over the railroad in the south-eastern part of Ploiești municipality		Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles	81,710,517.00	On the backup list
28	Ensuring mobility through the extension of road and public transport links between South Station and West Station (Libertății Street), including the rehabilitation of the stations' marketplaces belonging to the public domain		Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles	19,620,224.00	On the backup list
29	Rehabilitation of DJ 101G Tătărani (DJ 101D) – Brași – Brași De Jos – Tinosu – Șirna – Hăbud – Crivățu (DN 1A) Km 0+000 – Km 24+020, Prahova county, Km 24+020 – Km 30+120, Dâmbovița county		Partnership between Prahova county and Dâmbovița county	ROP PA2 KAI 2.1 - 33,229,951.06 lei	45,802,088.03	Completed 02.06.2011
30	Increasing traffic capacity through the modernization and rehabilitation of DJ 101D, between km 4+300 (limit of Ploiești municipality and passage ramp head) and km 6+300 (traffic roundabout – intersection DN 1A), including suspended passage over Ploiești Triaj railway – Ghighiu at km 4+300, in view of improving the accessibility to and from DN 1		Prahova county	Budget of Prahova County Council	19,240,000.00	Completed
31	Modernization of agricultural exploitation roads		Târgșoru Vechi commune	PNDR Measure 1.2.5	4,500,000.00	In preparation for 2014-2020
32	Setting up a public wastewater network and improving the public road network of local interest in Dumbrăvești and Găvănel villages, including endowment of cultural center in Dumbrăvești commune		Dumbrăvești commune	Environment Fund	10,746,470.00	Under evaluation

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
33	Promoting the touristic areas of Teleajenui Valley – Slănicului Valley.		Dumbrăvești commune	PNDR Measure 313	405,000.00	Under evaluation

Total Sectoral Objective B1: 529,951,313.45

Sectoral objective B2 – Protecting the environment and human health by providing quality public services

34	Integrated waste management system in Prahova county		Prahova county	SOP Environment/PA2 120,762,325 lei	168,448,433.00	Under implementation 31.12.2015
35	Rehabilitation and upgrading of water and sanitation systems in Prahova county		S.C. HIDRO Prahova S.A.	SOP Environment/PA1 468,324,120 lei	655,003,301.00	Under implementation
36	Rehabilitation / modernization of transmission and distribution network in Mihai Bravu district (Ploiești)		Ploiești municipality	„District Heating 2006-2015. Heat and comfort”	12,500,000.00	In preparation
37	Integrated control of nutrient pollution in Târgșoru Vechi		Prahova county	BIRD + GEF + Prahova County Council + Târgșoru Vechi	1,392,333.60	Under implementation
38	Modernization of the water network in Valea Călugărească commune		Valea Călugărească commune	Environment Fund	8,726,038.00	Rejected

Total Sectoral Objective B2: 837,344,067.60

Sectoral Objective B3 - Harness the natural, traditional, cultural, and historical heritage, develop tourism and recreation areas, support environmental protection actions and the development of green spaces; develop the historical and cultural heritage of the area

39	Construction of Ploiești West municipal park, including access roads and specific utility network, including setting up a Center of Excellence in Business for young entrepreneurs	Construction of Ploiești West municipal park, including access roads and specific utility network	Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 45,885,100.54 + 3,341,955.19 lei	76,531,262.54	Under implementation 29.12.2015 (cf. AA no. 3)
40	Center of Excellence in Business for young entrepreneurs	Center of Excellence in Business for young entrepreneurs			12,057,946.20	Under implementation 28.09.2015 (cf. AA no. 1)
41	Restoring and consolidating “Nicolae Simache” Clock Museum, Ploiești		Prahova county	ROP/PA1/ KAI 1.1/Growth poles 3,369,892.03 lei	5,535,944.44	Under implementation 27.07.2015
42	Modernization and functional expansion of the Hippodrome in Ploiești		Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1/ KAI 1.1/Growth poles 2,751,249.72 lei	88,959,388.71	Under implementation 30.10.2015
43	Rehabilitation of Dumbrăvești historical and cultural area		Prahova county	ROP/PA1/ Growth poles	10,115,000.00	On the backup list

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
44	Decontamination of land polluted with oil products in Ploiești – Centura de EST T14 A228		Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles	5,100,000.00	On the backup list
45	Harnessing the existing patrimony elements on the “Drumul Fructelor” (Fruit Way) itinerant route		Prahova county	ROP/PA 5/KAI 5.3 - 601,035 lei	992,334	Completed in May 2013
46	Trip into history on the “Drumul Vinului” (Wine Way) in Prahova county		Valea Călugărească commune	ROP/PA5/KAI 5.3 - 663,263.83 lei	999,817.84	Completed in May 2012
47	Harnessing the existing patrimony elements on the “Drumul Voievozilor” (Princes Way) itinerant route		Partnership between the Local Councils of Brazi, Ariceștii Rahtivani, etc.	ROP/PA5/KAI 5.3 - 654,217.84 lei	1,035,274.93	Not submitted
48	“Drumul Sării” (Salt Way) – geological metamorphosis into history		Dumbrăvești commune	ROP/PA5/KAI 5.3	997,115.03	Completed
49	“Bucov, oasis of spirit and creation” – Harnessing the existing elements of heritage in “Constantin Stere” park		“Constantin Stere” Foundation	ROP/PA5/KAI 5.3	923,301.00	Not submitted
50	Plopeni Forest, a “Natura 2000” site: management plan, courses of action and awareness		County Museum of Natural Sciences – Prahova	SOP Environment/ PA4/KAI 5.3 320,781.00 lei	489,888.00	Completed in August 2012
51	Setting playgrounds and parks in Ploiești municipality (Câineni park)		Ploiești municipality	Local budget	6,600,001.00	Completed
52	Building a park in Băicoi city, “Lac” area		Băicoi city	Environment Fund / National program for improvement of the environment by creating green spaces in localities	1,084,729.70	Completed
53	Landscaping of Valea Călugărească park		Valea Călugărească commune	Environment Fund / National program for improvement of the environment by creating green spaces in localities 865,000 lei	1,000,000.00	Completed in August 2009

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
54	Improving the environment by creating green spaces (Scăeni district, Târgului street, Seciu locality)		Boldești-Scăeni city	Environment Fund	551,210.38	Rejected
55	Improving the environment through the modernization of parks in the town of Ploeni		Ploeni city	Environment Fund / National program for improvement of the environment by creating green spaces in localities	496,963.94	Completed
56	Construction of a wastewater treatment plant at the County Hospital		Prahova county	National Infrastructure Development Programme	847,810.00	Funding canceled
57	Rehabilitation, modernization, and endowment of the cultural center "Culture House"		Ploeni city	National Program implemented through the National Investment Company (NIC)	3,000,000.00	Completed
58	Consolidating and restoring St. Nicholas and St. Eustathius Plachida Church, as well as its bell-tower, Corlătești village, Bercești commune, Prahova county		Corlătești parish	ROP/PA.5/KA1.5.1	4,212,457.00	On the backup list
59	Restoring and harnessing the monastic assembly of Turnu Monastery: cells, hegoumen's house, enclosure walls, the ruins of the White Church, Mircea Turcitu church ruins, ruins of Roman thermal baths, walkways, roadways, outdoor arrangements – plantations, Târgșoru Vechi village, Târgșoru Vechi commune, Prahova		Turnu monastery	ROP/PA.5/KA1.5.1	28,560,089.20	Under implementation December 2015
60	Improve the environment by building a communal park in Găvănel village on a surface of 17 ha		Dumbrăvești commune	Environment Fund / National program for improvement of the environment by creating green spaces in localities	2,060,640.00	Not submitted

Total Sectoral Objective B3: 229,264,056.53

Sectoral objective C1 - Increase the quality of social infrastructure through investments dedicated to disadvantaged groups and support their reintegration into society

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
61	Rehabilitation / modernization / expansion and special equipping of the care and support center for adults with disabilities, Băicoi (Liliești)		Băicoi city	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 4,265,349.28 lei	6,718,410.21	Under implementation 31.12.2015 (cf. AA no.3)
62	"A chance for a new ray of sunshine" – rehabilitation / modernization / expansion and special equipping of the community services complex "Ray of sunshine"		Prahova county	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 2,243,889.1 lei	3,813,672.52	Under implementation 28.07.2015 (cf. AA no.2)
63	Rehabilitation / modernization / expansion and special equipping of the neuropsychiatric recovery and rehabilitation center for adults with disabilities, Ariceștii Rahtivani (Nedelea village)		Prahova county	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 5,043,399.8 lei	7,858,523.22	Completed in December 2014
64	Rehabilitation/ modernization/ expansion and special equipping of "Cireșarii" emergency reception center, Ploiești		Ploiești municipality	ROP/PA1/KAI 1.1/ Growth poles 5,549,441.36 lei	8,684,387.97	Completed in September 2013
65	Establishing a care center for the elderly by changing the destination of the caserne located in 11A, Cosminelor Street, Ploiești		Ploiești municipality in partnership with "Sfântul Sava" Foundation for Children	ROP/PA3/KAI 3.2 - 2,189,353.50 lei	3,624,455.04	Under implementation June 2015 (cf. AA)
66	Modernization and re-arrangement of "Farm for Kids" social housing, Ariceștii Rahtivani, Prahova county		Concordia Humanitarian Organization	ROP/PA3/KAI.3.2.	3,645,048.27	Rejected
Total Sectoral Objective C1:					30,699,448.96	

Sectoral objective C2 - Human resources development through improved educational and training infrastructure

67	Strategic tools for employment in tourism industry		Partnership for Sustainable Development Association	SOP HRD/PA5.1 16,869,571.63 lei	20,560,888.47	Completed in July 2013
----	--	--	---	---------------------------------	---------------	------------------------

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
68	Rehabilitation, consolidation, extension and modernization for the School with I-VIII classes Carol I, Ploeni		Ploeni city	ROP/PA3/KAI 3.4	8,833,681.00	On the backup list
69	Consolidation, modernization, expansion, thermal rehabilitation, and construction of a new building wing at Ploeni School Group		Ploeni city	ROP/PA3/KAI 3.4	8,744,176.66	On the backup list
70	Rehabilitation, consolidation, expansion, and modernization of the School with I-VIII classes no. 2, Băicoi		Băicoi city	ROP/PA3/KAI 3.4	6,045,276.78	On the backup list
71	Postdoctoral program for advanced research in the field of nano-materials		OGU Ploiești in partnership with Polytechnic University of Bucharest	SOP HRD/PA1/KAI 1.5 8,561,851 lei	10,278,333.00	Completed
72	Researchers for sustainable development of the Romanian society		OGU Ploiești	SOP HRD/PA1/KAI 1.5 4,272,284 lei	6,051,284.00	Completed
73	Strengthening the institutional capacity of regional consortia for education and training		OGU Ploiești in partnership with Regional Ministry of Education, Generalitat de Catalunya, Craiova University	SOP HRD/PA3/KAI 3.3 2,077,795.1 lei	2,951,717.95	Completed 30.11.2012
74	Partnership for continuous training in view of professional qualification / requalification		OGU Ploiești Partners: INCDSIM Timișoara and ARS	SOP HRD/PA2/KAI 2.3 2,497,260 lei	2,614,500.00	Completed December 2012
75	Training of teachers in secondary education for new career development opportunities		Ministry of Education and Research OGU Ploiești 5 partners	SOP HRD 14,325,926 lei	18,472,743.00	Completed
76	Theoretical and practical training program for competences development of pre-university teaching staff in physics and technical subjects		OGU Ploiești, Teachers House Prahova, Gh. Asachi University, Iași	SOP HRD/PA1/KAI 1.3 2,115,214 lei	2,198,180.00	Completed

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
77	Preparing teachers in science and technology through a master program adequate to knowledge society		OGU Ploiești	SOP HRD/PA1/KAI 1.3 1,467,554 lei	1,849,912.00	Completed 2011
78	Training of academic staff and students for the use of modern tools in the field of university management		OGU Ploiești – in partnership with 6 universities + SC THE RED POINT SA	SOP HRD/PA1/KAI 1.2 20,019,242.33 lei	20,852,691.30	Completed 2013
79	Professional training and promoting the use of new technologies for oil and gas employees in order to increase the quality of services, professional competitiveness and to improve specific activities and processes		Employers' Organization UNIPET	SOP HRD/PA3/KAI 3.2 4,872,568.05 lei	5,852,461.00	Completed 2013
80	Our E-school		Dumbrăvești commune	SOP IEC/PA3/ KAI 2, Op. 2.3	4,817,853.04	On the backup list
81	Professional training for the labor market		Băcoi city in partnership with SC Faxmedia Consulting SRL and AJOFM Prahova	SOP HRD/KAI 5.1 1,803,685.2 lei	2,101,377.39	Completed August 2011
82	Young researchers for European competitiveness		OGU Ploiești	SOP HRD/PA1/ KAI 1.5	6,000,000.00	Under implementation

Total Sectoral Objective C2: 99,784,088.11

Sectoral objective C3 - Developing health infrastructure by providing professional medical care in a modern and equipped space

83	Increasing the efficiency of healthcare at the Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital through the implementation of eHealth solutions		Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital Ploiești	SOP IEC/PA3/KAI 3.2, Op.3.2.4 1,367,118.4 lei	2,119,346.00	Completed 29.11.2011
84	Development of the medical information system through e-health services for the benefit of the residents of Prahova county		Partnership between County Emergency Hospital Ploiești, Pediatric Hospital Ploiești, and Băicoi Hospital	SOP IEC/PA3/ KAI2/Op.4 (local) 4,879,243.6 lei	7,564,000.00	Under implementation

Total Sectoral Objective C3: 9,683,346.00

No.	Title of individual project / integrated project	Title of individual project within integrated project	Beneficiary	Funding source (Operational Programme / Operation name / Key area of intervention)	Total project value (lei)	Stage / real / estimated date for completing the project implementation
-----	--	---	-------------	--	---------------------------	---

Sectoral objective C4 - Increasing the operational capacity of the administration through knowledge management and the use of innovative technology

85	Strengthening the operational capacity of the Intercommunity Development Association "Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole"		IDA "Ploiești -Prahova Growth Pole"	OP ACD/PA1/KAI 1.3 787,262.38 lei	926,191.04	Completed in May 2012
86	Performance and efficiency in Prahova's public administration		Prahova county	OP ACD/PA1/KAI 1.3 867,765.53 lei	1,215,927.01	On the backup list
87	Integrated urban planning system for managing the relationship with citizens		Prahova county	SOP IEC/PA3/KAI 2/ Op.1 3,518,454.56 lei	5,234,512.50	Completed 04.06.2011
88	Electronic services for citizens and informatization of workflows at the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Prahova		General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Prahova	SOP IEC/PA3/KAI 2/ Op.1	4,314,228.38	Rejected
89	Lifelong Formation in Prahova county through e-Education		Prahova county	SOP IEC/PA3/KAI2, Op.3	5,423,383.35	Rejected
90	Developing and increasing the efficiency of electronic public services in the city of Băicoi. Supporting the implementation of e-education applications and ensuring broadband connection		Băicoi city	SOP IEC/PA3/KAI 2/ Op.3	2,320,500.00	Rejected
91	AE3 R (Agency for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)		Ploiești municipality	IEE Programme - 1,050,000 lei	1,917,304.20	Completed in September 2012
92	MORE4NRG - "Sharing best practices to support sustainable energy policies"		Partners: Romania (Prahova county); Netherlands, Sweden; Italy, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria, France.	INTERREG IVC / Energy and sustainable public transport	281,400.00	Completed in 2011
93	CATS - City Alternative Transport Systems		Ploiești municipality in partnership with Switzerland, Israel, Italy and Lohr Industrie (France)	FP7 Programme 200,552 lei	265,396.00	Completed in January 2014

Total Sectoral Objective C4: 8,624,803.74

General Total IDP 5,136,143,583.91

PART



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Detroit, Michigan, is shown with a semi-transparent blue overlay. The image captures a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings, streets, and green spaces. In the background, industrial structures and a large body of water are visible under a clear sky. The overall tone is professional and modern.

The Growth Pole's Profile

PART I: The Growth Pole's Profile



1

Ploiești

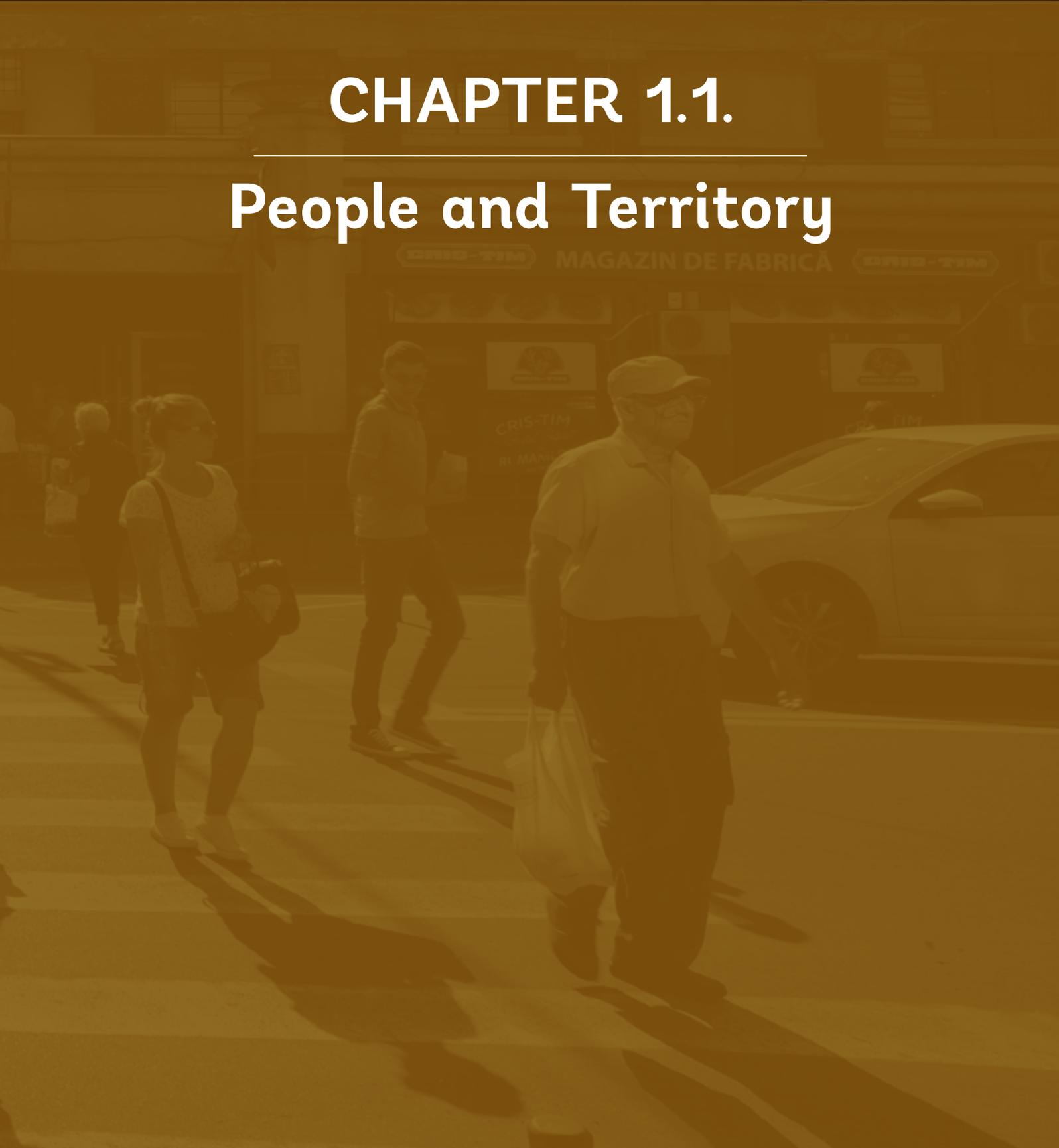
Analysis of Development Needs and Areas of Intervention

1

Analysis of Development Needs and Areas of Intervention

CHAPTER 1.1.

People and Territory



1.1. People and Territory

1.1.1. Defining the area, the network of localities, and the associative structure

Ploiești Growth Pole, located in Prahova County, was established by GD no. 998/2008 regarding the designation of growth poles and urban development poles, where priority is given to investment in EU and national funding programs. According to ROP 2007-2013, a pole is defined as “an area consisting of a large urban center (a municipality with the rank 0 or 1, according to Law no. 351/2001) and its area of influence (driving area)”. Considering the profile of the localities’ network (PATN 2001), Ploiești growth pole has the following composition:

Urban localities:

- municipalities of inter-county importance – Ploiești municipality, which is capital city for Prahova County and the main social and economic center, with complex industrial and tertiary functions (administrative, political, research and development, higher education). It is also an important communications hub, having as well a significant concentration of public facilities (health, education, culture, sports, trade, finance, and banking);
- cities with mainly industrial-agrarian profile, endowed with units serving the territorial level - Băicoi, Boldești-Scăeni;
- cities with mainly industrial activities and services of local importance - Plopeni.

Rural localities:

- communes with mainly industrial activities - Boldești (Boldești-Grădiștea commune), Brazii de Sus, Brazii de Jos, Negoiești, Popeți (Brazi commune), Bucov, Chițorani, Pleașa (Bucov commune);
- communes with agricultural, industrial, tertiary activities - Ariceștii Rahtivani, Berceni, Blejoi, Dumbrăvești, Valea Călugărească.

The administrative surface of the 14 component territorial-administrative units is 609.04 km², of which 161.32 km² in town, and the total population amounts to 327,309 inhabitants. In terms of population, this is the largest urban agglomeration in the South Region and the 8th largest in Romania, being as well one of the most dynamic economic poles of the country, part of the territorial development axis Giurgiu-Bucharest-Ploiești-Brașov.

Map 4: Component territorial-administrative units and population of Ploiești Growth Pole

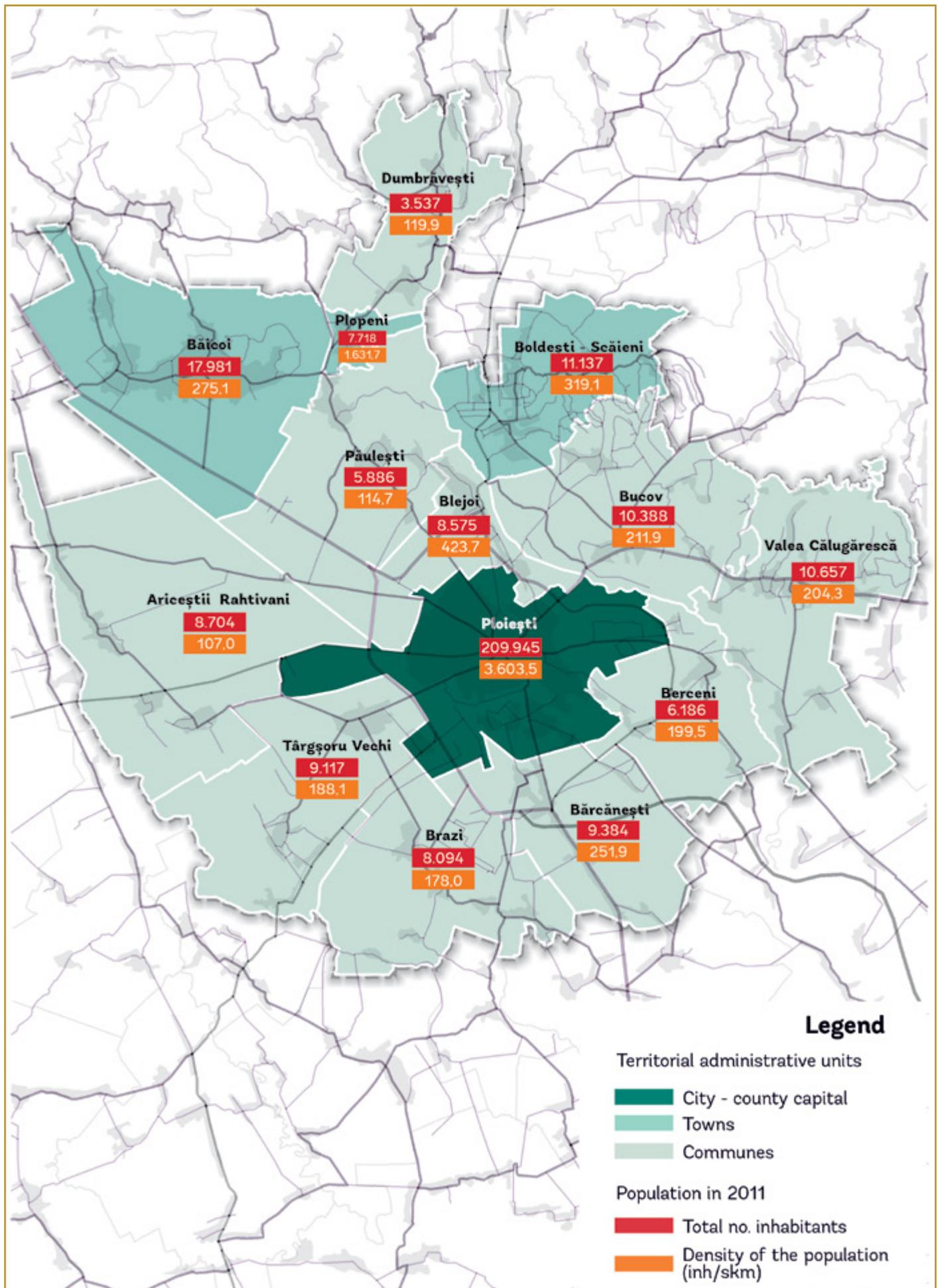


Table 1. Component territorial-administrative units of Ploiești Growth Pole

Territorial-administrative unit	Component localities	Surface (km ²)	Stable population (2011)	Population density
Ploiești municipality	Ploiești	58.26	209,945	3,603,5
Băicoi city	Băicoi Dâmbu Liliești Schela Tufeni Țintea	65.36	17,981	275,1
Boldești-Scăeni city	Boldești-Scăeni Seciu	34.90	11,137	319,1
Plopeni city	Plopeni	4.73	7,718	1,631,7
Ariceștii Rahtivani commune	Ariceștii Rahtivani Buda Nedelea Stoenești Târgșoru Nou	81.33	8,704	107,0
Bărcănești commune	Bărcănești Ghighiu Pușcași Românești Tătărani	37.25	9,384	251,9
Berceni commune	Berceni Cartierul Dâmbu Cătunu Corlătești Moara Nouă	31.01	6,186	199,5
Blejoii commune	Blejoii Ploieștiori Țânțăreni	20.24	8,575	423,7
Brazi commune	Bătești Brații de Jos Brații de Sus Negoiești Popești Stejaru	45.47	8,094	178,0
Bucov commune	Bighilin Bucov Chițorani Pleașa Valea Orlei	49.03	10,388	211,9
Dumbrăvești commune	Dumbrăvești Găvănel Mălăeștii de Jos Mălăeștii de Sus Plopeni Sfârleanca	29.51	3,537	119,9
Păulești commune	Cocoșești Găgeni Păulești Păuleștii Noi	51.32	5,886	114,7
Târgșoru Vechi commune	Stănțești Strejnicu Târgșoru Vechi Zahanaua	48.46	9,117	188,1

Territorial-administrative unit	Component localities	Surface (km ²)	Stable population (2011)	Population density
Valea Călugărească commune	Arva Coslegi Dârvari Pantași Rachieri Radila Schiau Valea Călugărească Valea Largă Valea Mantei Valea Nicovani Valea Poienii Valea Popii Valea Ursoii Vârfurile	52.17	10,657	204,3

Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database. Own calculations

Ploiești municipality has an area of over 58 km² and a stable population of 209,945 inhabitants, being the 9th largest city in Romania. It is located at the intersection of the main transport corridors in Romania and at just 60 km from Bucharest, having the potential to form an urban system with Bucharest, but also with Târgoviște.

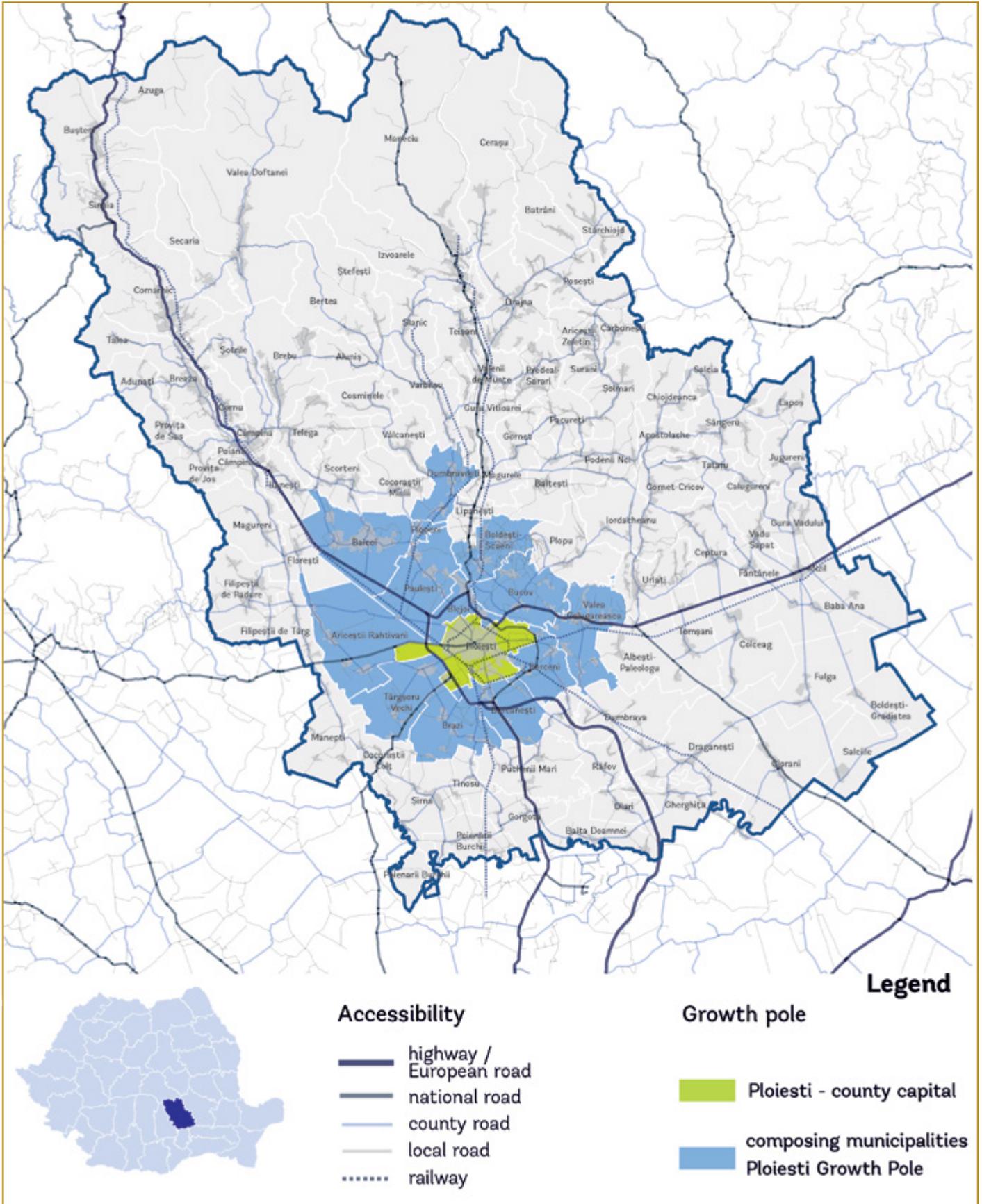


The Intercommunity Development Association (IDA) “Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole” was established on 9 June 2009, pursuant to: Government Ordinance no. 26/2000 on associations and foundations (approved by Law no. 246/2005), Law no. 215/2001 on the local public administration, (as amended and supplemented), and Law no. 151/1998 on regional development in Romania, (as amended and supplemented). The IDA operates in accordance with the Constitutive Act, the Statute, and the applicable Romanian legislation in force. The founding members of the Association are the following: Ploiești municipality, the cities of Băicoi, Boldești-Scăeni, Bușteni, Plopeni, and the communes of Ariceștii Rahtivani, Bărcănești, Berceni, Blejoi, Brazi, Bucov, Dumbrăvești, Păulești, Târgșoru Vechi and Valea Călugărească. In 2011, Bușteni city joined the Association, but given its isolated position in the northwestern limit of the county, the city is a member of the Association, but not part of the growth pole area.

The purpose of the Association is to facilitate cooperation between the member territorial-administrative units in view of exercising jointly their competencies, complying with the following principles of sustainable development:

- social progress consistent with community needs;
- effective protection of the environment;
- rational use of natural resources;
- maintaining a strong and stable level of economic growth and employment.

Map 5. The administrative territory of Ploiești Growth Pole at the county level



Source: City Hall of Ploiești municipality

1.1.2. Spacial and functional profile

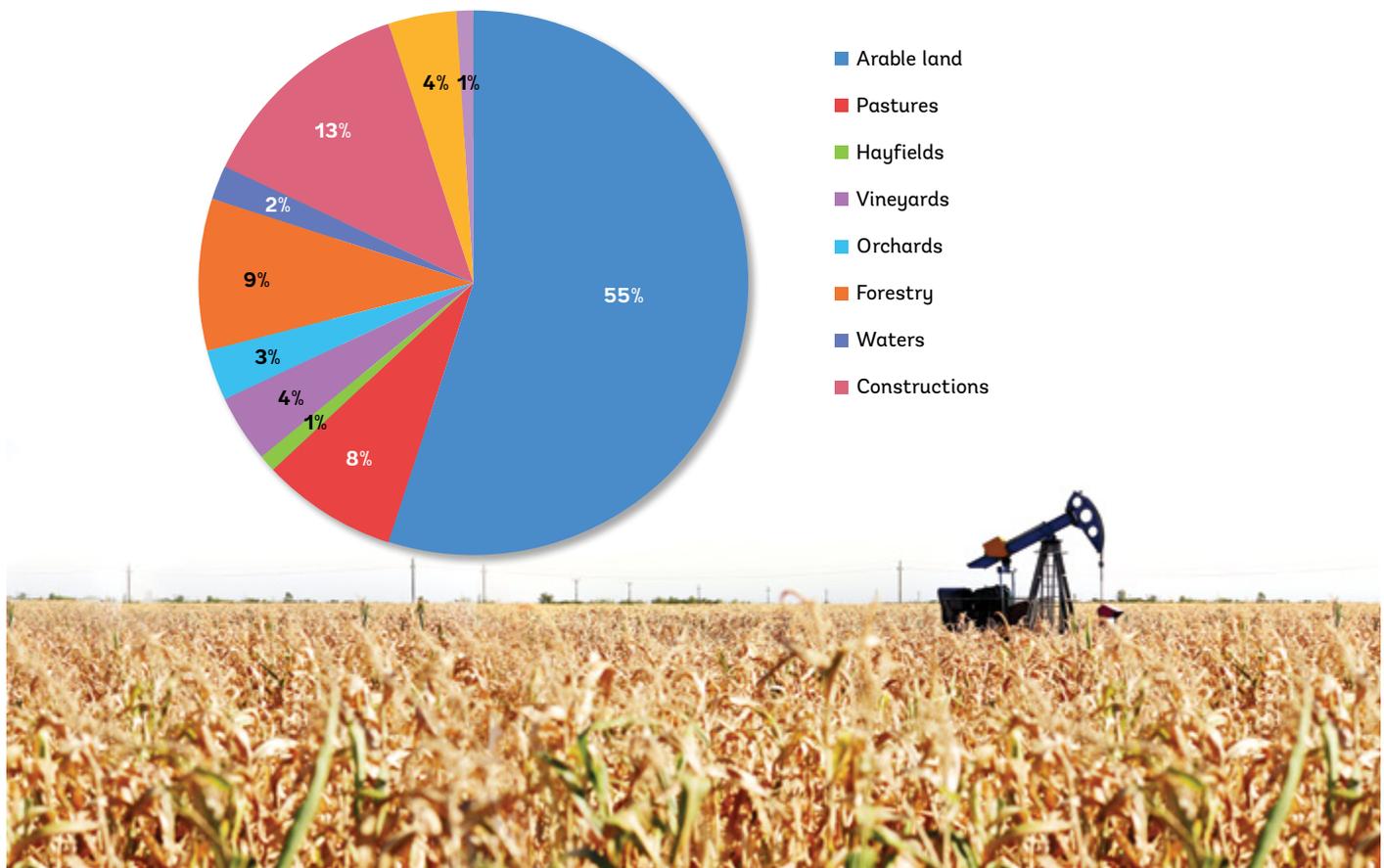
Ploiești is one of the nodes of Brașov – Ploiești – Bucharest – Giurgiu territorial development axis, which shapes the development of the southern part of Romania. This axis links the listed urban poles with the surrounding region and the main development and transport axes across the territory of Romania – Danube Valley, Prahova Valley etc. It also forms an urban system in the direction of Bucharest – Ploiești – Târgoviște, with a population of about 3 million people.

Ploiești is situated at a distance of only 60 km from Bucharest, Ploiești Growth Pole and Bucharest's (designed) metropolitan territory being adjoined in the south of the Prahova county and functionally integrated through intense commuting, economic and transport flows between the two urban poles. However, the competition between Ploiești and Bucharest is asymmetrical, as the size difference is about 1:9; this narrows the polarization area of Ploiești at a few localities in its immediate proximity.

Ploiești Growth Pole has a total area of 609.04 km², of which 163.25 km² belong to urban areas, and 445.79 km² to rural areas. Of this, 79.9% is privately owned land, and the rest of 20.1% is in public ownership. As regards the use of land, 70.4% of it has an agricultural destination, most of it being arable land (54.4%), pastures and hayfields (9.7%), vineyards (3.6%), orchards (2.6%), forestry (9.1%), waters (2.2%), constructions (13.1%), communication ways (4.2%), and degraded and unproductive lands (0,9%).

Compared to 2007, there is a decrease by 3.9% of agricultural land (1,700 ha) in favor of construction areas, both residential and economic (industrial parks, logistics, shopping centers, etc.).

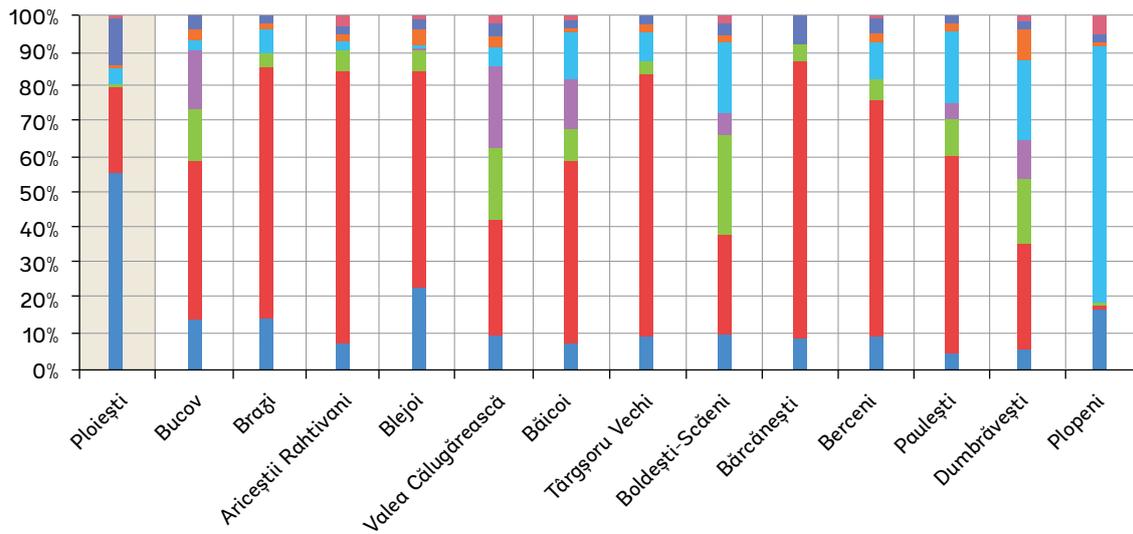
Figure 4. Administrative surface of Ploiești Growth Pole by land use, in 2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

As regards the use of land by localities, it can be seen that arable land occupies over 50% of the total area in the following localities: Băicoi, Ariceștii Rahtivani, Bărcănești, Berceni, Blejoi, Brazi, Păulești, and Târgșoru Vechi; they have the best prospects in terms of cereal cultivation. Pastures and hayfields are more widespread in Boldești-Scăeni, Bucov, Dumbrăvești, and Valea Călugărească localities, where there are good prospects for the development of animal husbandry. Vineyards and orchards are well represented, having a long tradition in the area, and occupy the most important areas in Băicoi city and in the villages of Bucov, Dumbrăvești, and Valea Călugărească, the latter hosting one of the most important research & development institutes for viticulture and winemaking in Romania. Forests occupy a small area in most component localities, the area facing a shortage of woodlands, except for Plopeni city, where over 50% of the surface is occupied by forestry. Instead, 55% of the administrative territory of Ploiești municipality is occupied by constructions, and other 13.5% represent communication routes, the city facing a shortage of green and planted spaces.

Figure 5. Land use according to destination and by localities in 2013

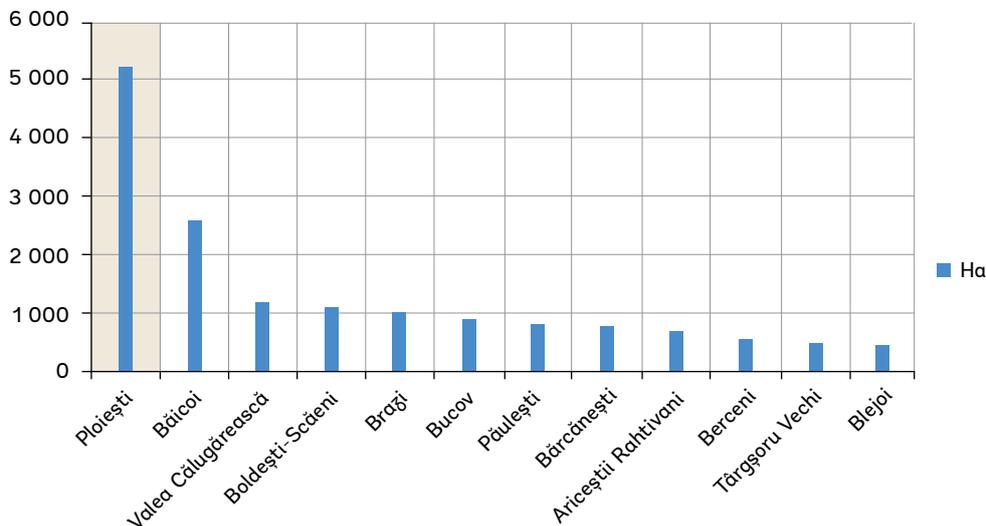


Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

Industrial zones occupy a large surface in the growth pole, being made up of 1,458 ha of brownfield areas, mainly built during the communist period, to which are added other 634 ha of industrial parks.

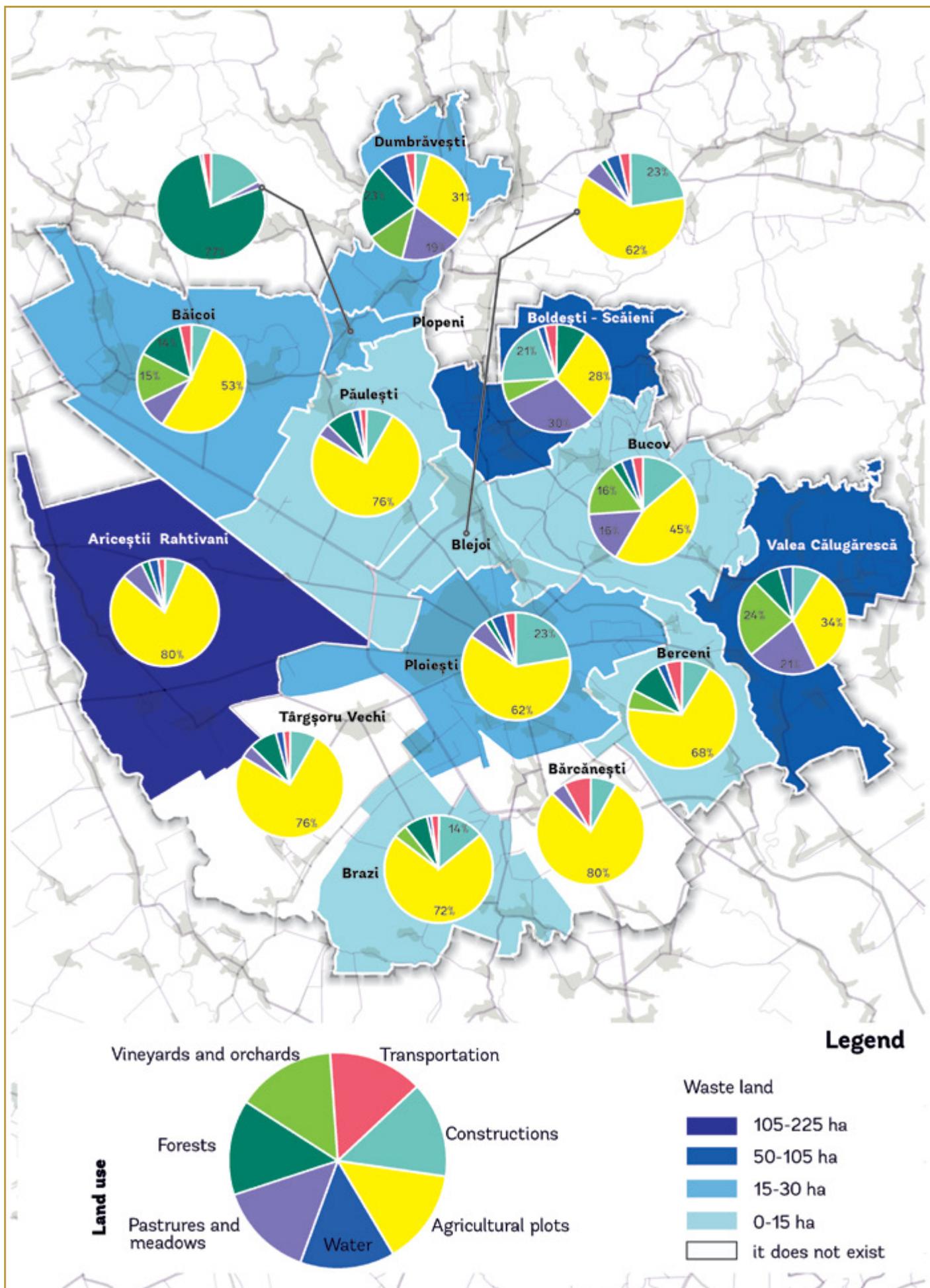
Of the total administrative surface of the growth pole, 161.32 km² of land are situated within the incorporated area (26.5% of total) and 447.72 km² are situated outside the incorporated area (73.5%). Compared to 2007, urban areas have been extended by 1,306 ha, mostly in the cities of Băicoi (+983 ha) and Boldești-Scăeni (+323 ha). The urban area in Ploiești municipality remained constant at 5,190 ha.

Figure 6. Incorporated area by localities in 2013



Source: Prahova County Council

Map 6. Land use in Ploiești Growth Pole by locality



Although Ploiești experienced a negative demographic trend, the growth pole's built-up area continued to grow. Real estate dynamics in Ploiești Growth Pole were not as striking as in other growth poles. Ploiești has experienced, for instance, the lowest real estate dynamics between 1992 and 2012. But the peri-urban area of Ploiești expanded by about 20%.

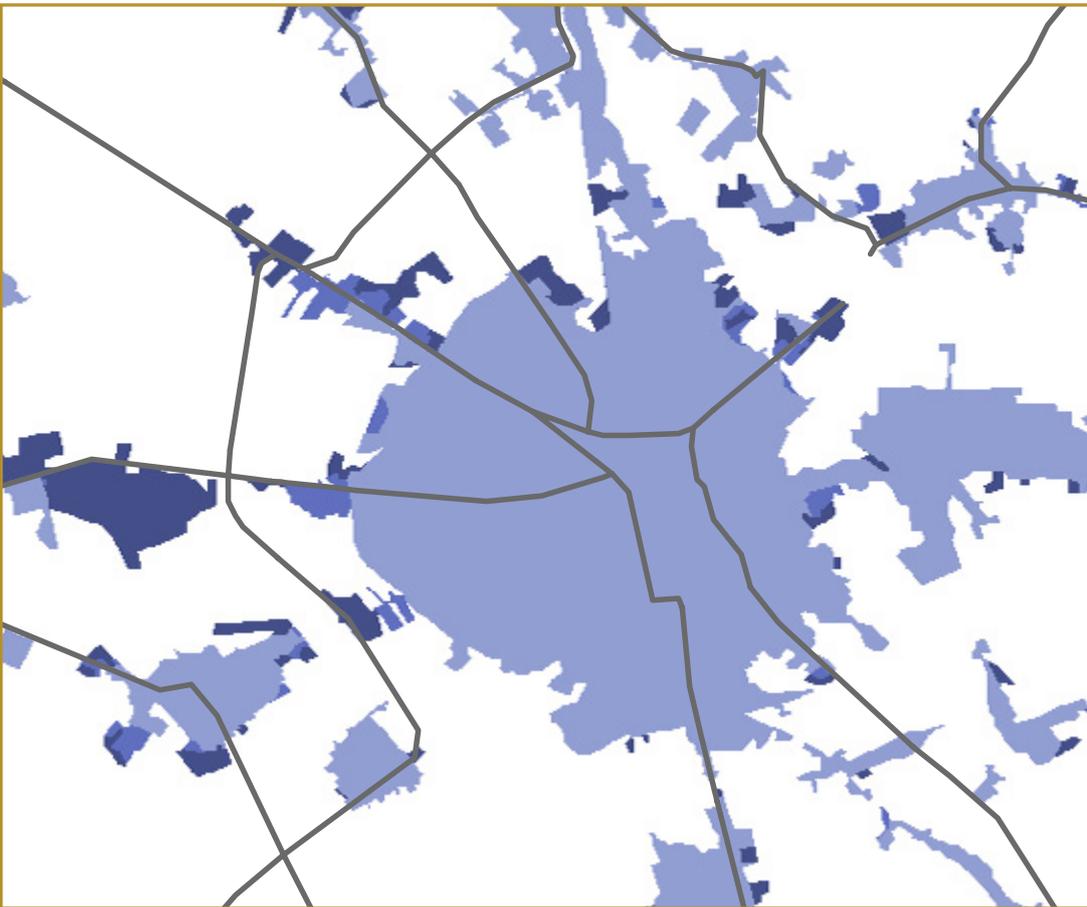
Table 2. Built-up area expansion in the Growth Poles between 1992 and 2012

No.	Growth Pole	Expansion of built-up area from:	
		Main city	Peri-urban area
1	Brașov	24,2%	20,5%
2	Cluj-Napoca	24,5%	15,2%
3	Constanța	7,2%	13,3%
4	Craiova	27,4%	12,8%
5	Iași	17,5%	19,6%
6	Ploiești	6,5%	19,2%
7	Timișoara	13,2%	24,2%

Source: World Bank. 2013. *Growth Poles: The Next Phase*

The main expanding zone is located in the western part of the pole (see picture below), and the territorial-administrative units (TAU) with the most substantial expansion of the built-up area are Târgșoru Vechi and Ariceștii Rahtivani, i.e. by approximately 74% and 40% respectively between 1992 and 2012. Mostly, this extension of built-up areas is due to the construction of new industrial platforms and new shopping centers in the pole, but also to the phenomenon of suburbanization, a growing number of people moving from Ploiești city to neighboring localities.

Map 7. Urban expansion in Ploiești Growth Pole



Source: World Bank. 2013. *Strengthening the capacity of spatial planning - a precondition for sustainable urban development*

Note: The three shades of blue represent the built-up area in Ploiești Growth Pole in 1992, 2002, and 2012

Table 3. Evolution of built-up areas in Ploiești Growth Pole

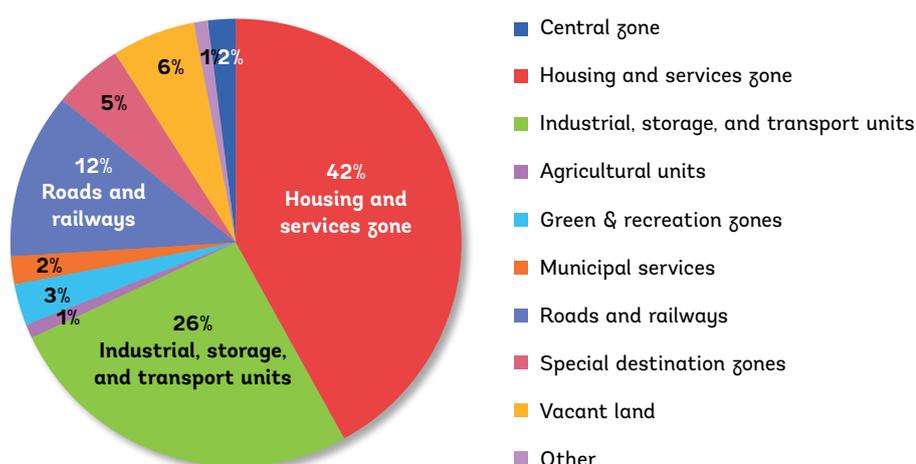
Territorial-administrative units	1992	2002	2012	% of change between 1992 & 2012
Ariceștii Rahtivani	414	434	583	40.82%
Băicoi	957	966	1,030	7.63%
Bărcănești	472	474	504	6.78%
Berceni	346	348	387	11.85%
Bleji	383	437	524	36.81%
Boldești-Scăeni	673	677	714	6.09%
Brazi	830	835	859	3.49%
Bucov	459	484	533	16.12%
Dumbrăvești	317	334	343	8.20%
Paulești	375	409	465	24.00%
Ploiești	3,039	3,120	3,238	6.55%
Plopeni	141	141	152	7.80%
Târgșoru Vechi	397	437	690	73.80%
Valea Calugărească	569	583	606	6.50%
Total	9,372	9,679	10,628	13.40%

Source: World Bank. 2013. *Growth Poles: The Next Phase*

The phenomenon of suburbanization, coupled with the population decline and with internal and external migration (especially to Bucharest) led to a dramatic decrease in population density in Ploiești municipality. While in 1992 Ploiești had a density of about 83 people per hectare, in 2002, the value dropped to 76 people/ha, and in 2012 to 61 people/ha – this means a density reduction of about 27% between 1992 and 2012. This trend has and will have an important impact on public services such as public transport, drinking water and sanitation, waste collection, street lighting, or centralized heating.

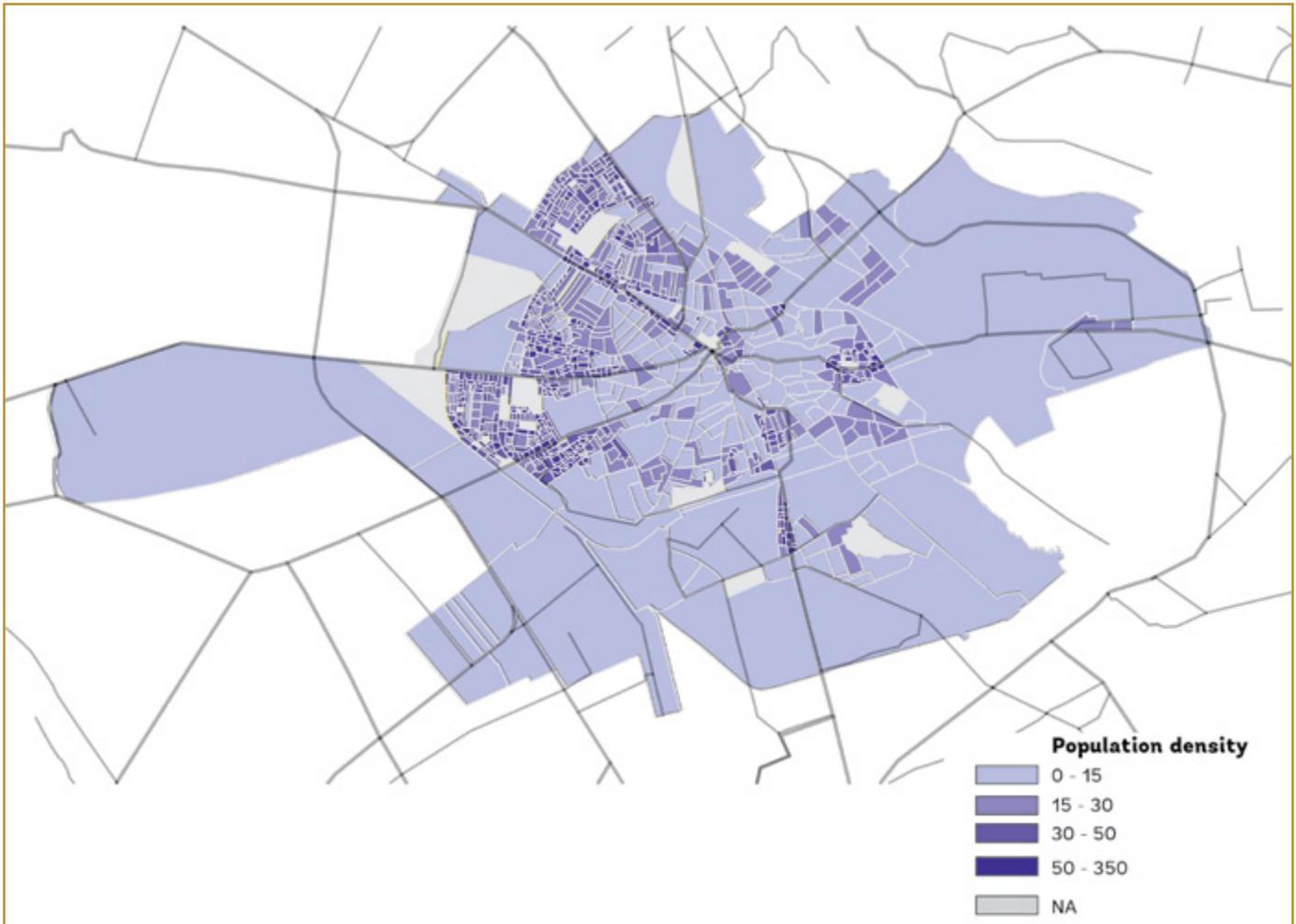
The functional zoning of the built-up area of Ploiești municipality was established in the General Urban Plan, approved in 1999 and currently being updated. The zoning is represented in the figure below.

Figure 7. Zoning of the incorporated area of Ploiești municipality



Source: City Hall of Ploiești municipality

The central municipal zone has a surface of over 110 ha, most of the public institutions and public services units in the municipality being located there: the City Hall, the County Council, museums, theaters, shopping centers, accommodation and catering units, schools, business offices, banks, etc. Moreover, the majority of the city's built heritage elements – with a potential for touristic harnessing – is also located here.

Map 8. Population density at census sector level in Ploiești municipality in 2011

Source: Own drawing based on NIS data. RGPL 2011

The housing and services zone grew organically, radially around the central nucleus, especially along the arteries of penetration that connect the city with its industrial platforms. In this way, individual housing districts (houses) started to be built in the nineteenth century and in the first half of the twentieth century (Cantacuzino, Ana Ipătescu, Gheorghe Doja, Transilvaniei, etc.). During the communist times, large housing complexes were constructed mainly in the north and west part of the central zone, corresponding to the following districts: Găgeni, Nord, Andrei Mureșanu, Republicii Vest I, Malu Roșu, Ienăchiță Văcărescu, Peneș Curcanul, Vest I, Vest II, 9 Mai. After 1989, housing areas have developed especially towards the north ("Eden" district, "Carino" district, etc.). Overall, the municipality encompasses, according to the General Urban Plan, 19 housing districts and 5 housing units (Calea București, CFR Depou, Rafinorilor, Mihai Bravu-Teleajen, Vega).

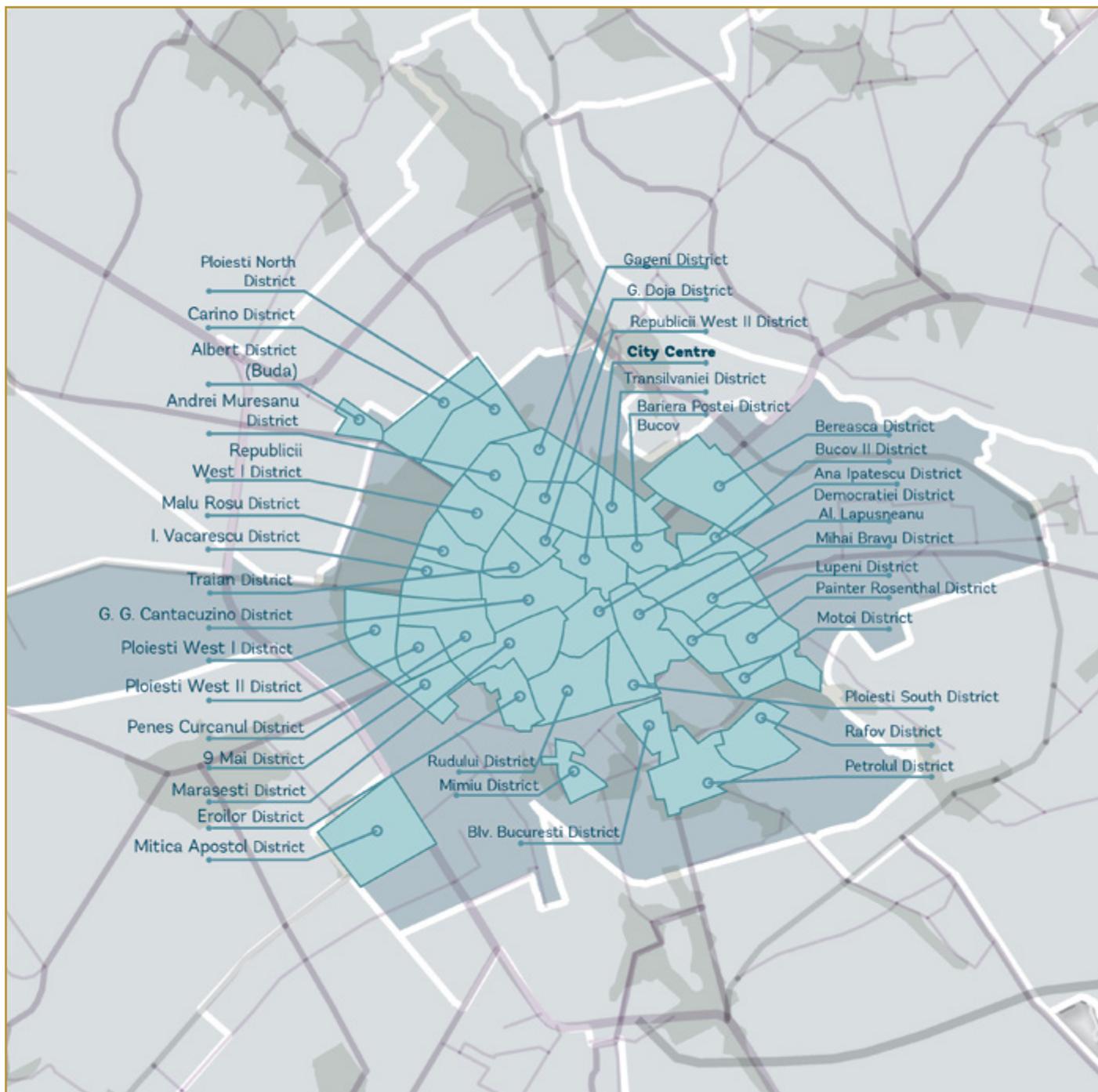
The city has a number of outer districts, which are housing areas relatively isolated from the rest of the city and with poor endowments in terms of technical and urban facilities and equipment: Bereasca, Bărcănești, Moțoi, Râfov, Mimiș, Pictor Rosenthal, Buda.

The quality of the housing fund varies from one district to another, depending on: the period in which it was built, its development – spontaneous or planned, the materials that were used, the size and quality of public spaces, etc. The most vulnerable buildings are located in the central zone, as the preceding constructions that were affected by bombings or the 1977 earthquake were replaced with modern and earthquake-resistant ones. In the districts surrounding the central nucleus one can find either 50-year-old buildings, made up of unsustainable materials (adobe, for instance) in the residential areas with individual housing, or apartments in relatively new buildings, with a low degree of comfort in the case of collective housing. Both types of housing web have specific problems: individual housing zones are characterized by larger living areas and green spaces (yards), but the buildings are old, vulnerable to hazards, and poorly endowed with public equipment, especially in outlying areas. Collective housing zones encompass newer and safer buildings and

generally have a satisfactory level of endowment with technical and urban facilities; however, they are short of public spaces and green areas, witness high population densities, limited energy efficiency and comfort, small living areas, insufficient parking places, and degradation of building façades.

Even new residential areas (“infilling” type) have their problems: the buildings are modern, have all the required equipment and annexes specific to quality housing, but are heterogeneous in terms of architectural style and materials used, and also interfere with other incompatible functions (e.g. industrial). Moreover, they are short of access infrastructure and technical and urban utilities, their development being generally insufficiently regulated and planned.

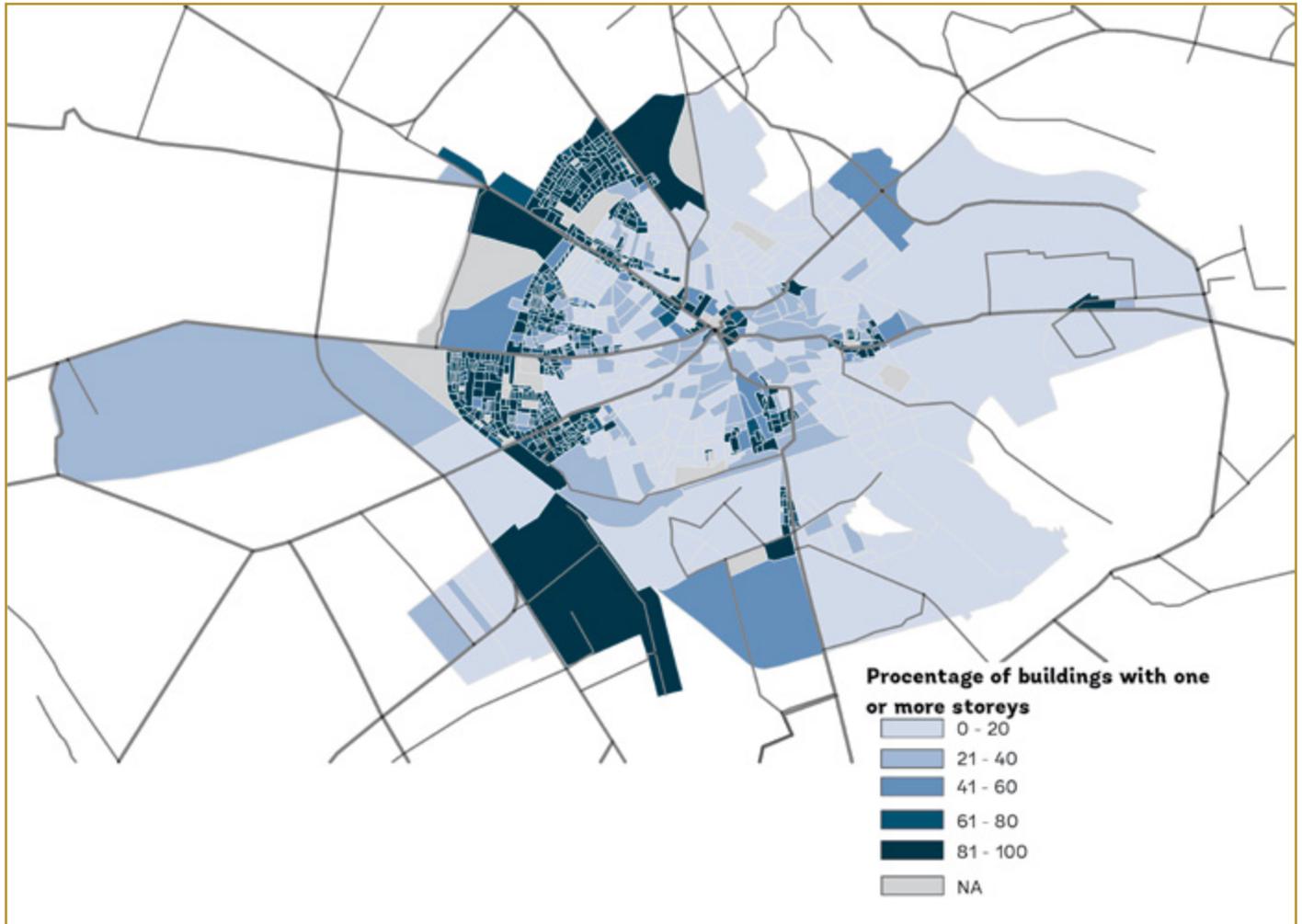
Map 9. The districts of Ploiești municipality



Source: City Hall of Ploiești municipality

With regard to height, areas with low height regime – represented by the districts with houses – are predominant. The central area is heterogeneous, comprising both individual housing with 1-2 levels and newer buildings, even with more than 10 levels; the assemblies built in the communist period have between 5 and 11 floors.

Map 10. The percentage of residences located in buildings with more than one floor, by census sector in Ploiești municipality



Source: Own drawing based on NIS data. RGPL 2011



Recently, new shopping centers have developed in all the areas of the municipality, especially in the west (Auchan, Selgros, Kaufland, Billa, West Mall, Balif City), in the north (Kaufland, Baumax, Metro, Praktiker, Carrefour, Ploiești Shopping Center), but also in the eastern part (Dedeman, Afi Palace).

The industrial, storage, and transport zone is very large, being disposed radially around built-up areas in the suburbs of the city. The 4 major industrial sites in the town are:

- Ploiești East-Teleajen platform – where the Teleajen refinery, currently owned by Lukoil, is located; other industrial companies (Feroemail, Ugtel), but also trade, services, and transport companies are also placed there.
- Ploiești South industrial zone – hosting oil sector facilities, machine building facilities, etc.
- Ploiești West-Crâng industrial zone – with a more diversified profile (food industry, chemical industry, building materials, the metalworking, storage, trade, services, etc.).
- North industrial zone – where Vega refinery and Rompetrol company are located.

In addition to these well-defined platforms, in the city there are also isolated units, scattered in the territory – the North Station area is an example. Most of these industrial sites, which cover 1,000 ha, are currently partly used, Ploiești being among the growth poles with the largest brownfield sites areas in Romania, given its pronounced industrial profile. These areas, which are generally privately owned, have the potential to be rehabilitated and functionally reconverted so as to prevent the expansion of the municipality and promote the model of the compact city. Such an approach is imperative, especially given that the extension of built-up areas is limited by natural and anthropic barriers (rail network, Dâmbu creek, ring roads, industrial zones). The targeted areas with reconversion potential include: Romanian Astra refinery (northern and southern buildings), Upetrom May 1 platform (partially), Grivco platform, Teleajen platform (partially), Dorobanțul platform. Depending on the specific characteristics of each of these areas, the change of their destination could include: the development of planted areas, the construction of housing, public services, shopping areas, etc.

After 1990, the industrial zones were extended mainly to the west with the construction of a new industrial park of over 160 ha, plus several other private parks on the territory of Ariceștii Rahtivani commune, of over 300 ha in size. They turned into the main business pole of the city, attracting important foreign and local investors (Yazaki, Cameron, Kaufland, Johnson Controls, Calsonic Kansel, etc.) and creating thousands of jobs.

Green and recreation areas occupy a quite limited space (only 2% of the urban area) that – besides the fact that the city is located in a plain area, which lacks extensive natural or woodland surfaces and has instead large industrial zones and heavy traffic – represent one of the main problems of the community. The average area of green space per capita is about 7 m² per inhabitant, in contrast to the other Romanian growth poles, with an average of about 20 m², and to international standards of 25-30 m² per inhabitant. Of these, 15.4 ha are public gardens, 55.7 ha are recreational parks, 10.4 ha consist of other kinds of green spaces, and 16.2 ha are sports areas. The largest park in the municipality is Tineretului Park. Besides this, the municipality has several other smaller parks located near the West Railway Station, the South Railway Station, along Independenței Boulevard, Republicii Boulevard, within Ploiești North district, “Mihai Viteazul” Park, “I.G. Duca” Park, “Nichita Stănescu” Park, the park in front of the House of Unions, the Central Markets, the Administrative Palace, etc. Currently, the West Municipal Park is undergoing landscaping works, financed with European funds worth over EUR 20 million; at the end, it will have an area of 58 ha and will increase the average area of green spaces at more than 9 square meters per inhabitant. As well, the municipality has many stadiums, sports grounds and a hippodrome, the only one in Romania that enables horse trot.

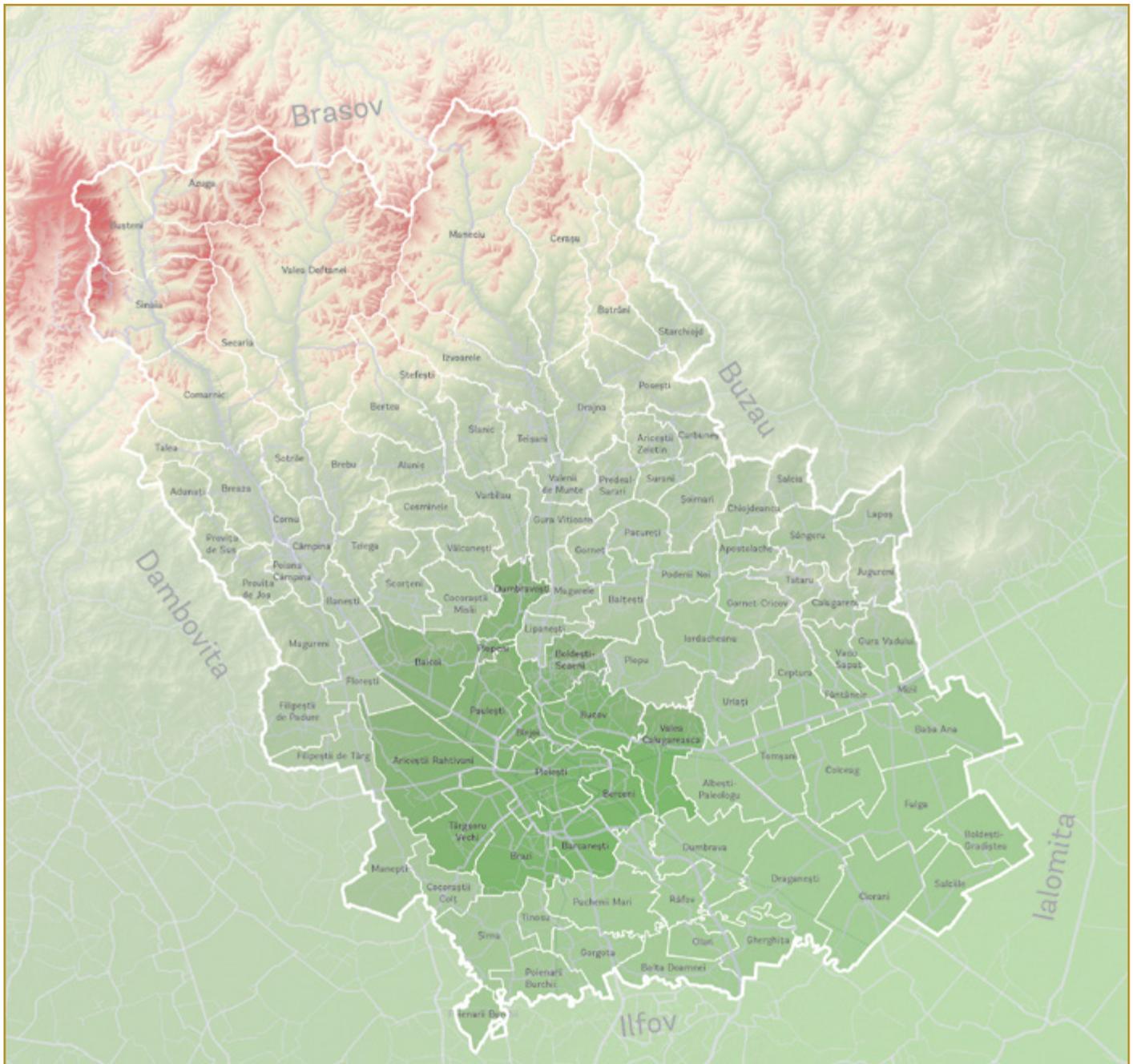
The municipality's spatial development trends are also illustrated at the level of the Zonal Urban Plans (ZUP), prepared during 2007-2014. The list in Annex 1.1 gives an insight into the relatively low investment dynamics in this period:

- 20 of the 180 ZUPs were initiated by the public sector (most of them by Ploiești municipality) and refer to changes at the level of land use / land occupancy indicators for municipal investments, parceling for housing, accessibility, etc. With the exception of the ZUPs for housing construction via the National Housing Agency (ANL), most investment refers to infrastructure projects contained in the IDP 2007-2013 - covering the investment capacity of the local public administration to a significant extent.
- The documentation initiated by the private sector – individuals and companies – generally refer to housing, offices / company headquarters, or extension thereof. Many ZUPs envisage changes of urban indicators for these functions, which prove not necessarily an increase in investment, but the need for the current regulations to be reconsidered in the new GUP that is currently under development.

1.1.3. Location, natural features, and brief history

Ploiești Growth Pole (GP) is located in the 3rd Development Region – South Muntenia. Ploiești municipality, which is the residence of Prahova county, belongs to the most urbanized county in the country, with two municipalities and 12 towns. It is located at 60 km from Bucharest, at 30 km from the “Henri Coandă” international airport, and in the vicinity of major transport corridors: Bucharest-Brașov railroad thoroughfare, TEN-IV and TEN-IX corridors.

Map 12: Locating Ploiești Growth Pole



In terms of morphological units, the GP is located in a plain area, Ploiești Plain, which is situated in the Prahova river basin, with its main tributary, Teleajen river. One of its tributaries is Dâmbu, with an area of 190 km² and a length of 39 km. In terms of valuable mineral resources, Ploiești–Prahova GP has mainly oil and clays, but is positioned in the vicinity of large reserves of mineral water, salt, limestone, sandstone, and sand.

The climate is temperate continental, with an average annual temperature of 10.0°C, the coldest month being January (-2°C) and the warmest July (22°C). The global solar radiation is 125 Kcal/m²/year, and the average sunshine duration is 2,150 hours/year. The average annual rainfall is of about 600 mm/year, the cloud cover is of about 100 days/year

and the average wind speed is 2.3 m/s, with prevailing winds from the northeast and east. On average, there are around 15 days of snow/year, the snow lasting 50 days, and its average thickness being of 15 cm.

The specific natural vegetation in Ploiești area is the steppe, although it has been replaced almost entirely by agricultural crops and constructions. Discontinuous territories are occupied by beech and oak forests, alternating with crops, vineyards, and orchards. In the area, one can find rare specimens of oak, such as the gray and the pedunculat oaks, as well as other xerophyte herbaceous plants: *Artemisia austriaca*, *Poa bulbosa*, *Agropyron cristatum*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Verbascum*.

The soils in the area are mostly cambic, argillaceous-alluvial chernozems, red-brown podzolic, and argillaceous-alluvial. All these are favorable for grain and corn crops. In the floodplains that cross the plain there are large areas covered with silt, alluvial soils, marshy grounds, phreatic-wet chernozems, which are favorable for grains and vegetables.

The first historical artifacts discovered in the area date back to around 300 BC – they are the traces of Dacian settlements during the ruling of Burebista and of Dridu culture. Ploiești municipality was first attested in the sixteenth century and became a major urban center during the reign of Michael the Brave, who conferred on it the status of princely borough in 1597, making it also a basis for military operations. Its development continued in the eighteenth century too, but by the mid of the nineteenth century, it did not exceed a population of 10,000 inhabitants. Then, with the development of mining activity and oil processing, the city witnessed an explosive growth of the population, reaching 80,000 inhabitants in the interwar period, during which time it was the residence of Prahova County.

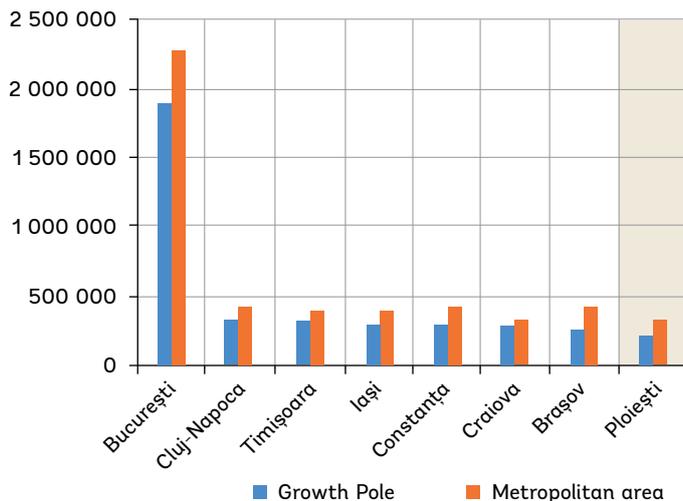
Since it had been the national oil industry center, the city was bombed and severely damaged during the Second World War, but has continued to grow during the Communist period due to the process of forced industrialization and urbanization. Therefore, in the late 80s, the municipality's population reached 250,000 inhabitants.

The other localities of the growth pole area are also mentioned in documents from the sixteenth century or even later, being generally franklin villages, which developed especially after the beginning of the nineteenth century. The latest of these is the Plopeni town, which was established as a colony around the armament factory in 1938. Some have become towns only after the Second World War (Băicoi – 1948; Boldești-Scăeni, and Plopeni – 1968).

1.1.4. Demography and migration

At the General Population and Housing Census in 2011, the administrative-territorial units belonging to Ploiești Growth Pole had a total stable population of 327,309 inhabitants, of which 209,945 resided in Ploiești municipality. This represents 44% of the total population of Prahova county, 10% of the South Muntenia region, and 1.7% of Romania's population. In terms of geo-demographical size, Ploiești municipality is the ninth largest city in Romania, and Ploiești Growth Pole is the eighth largest agglomeration. The average population density on its territory is of 539 inhabitants/km², about three times higher than that of Prahova county and about 6 times higher than the national average, which indicates a large population concentration in this area from the nineteenth century onwards.

Figure 8. Romanian Growth Poles' stable population in 2011

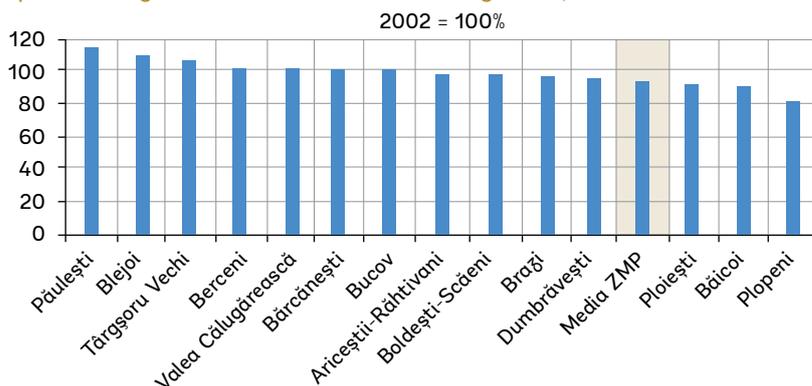


Source: NIS, Final RGPL results, 2011. Own processing

From the perspective of population dynamics between the last two censuses, between 2002 and 2011, the population of Ploiești municipality fell by 9.7% and that of the Growth Pole by 7.5%. As can be seen, the population fell faster in the urban nucleus than in the Growth Pole, which suggests a phenomenon of suburbanization and of migration from Ploiești to neighboring localities, where the cost of living is lower, as it is the price of land or housing, and where the surfaces are large enough for the expansion of residential areas.

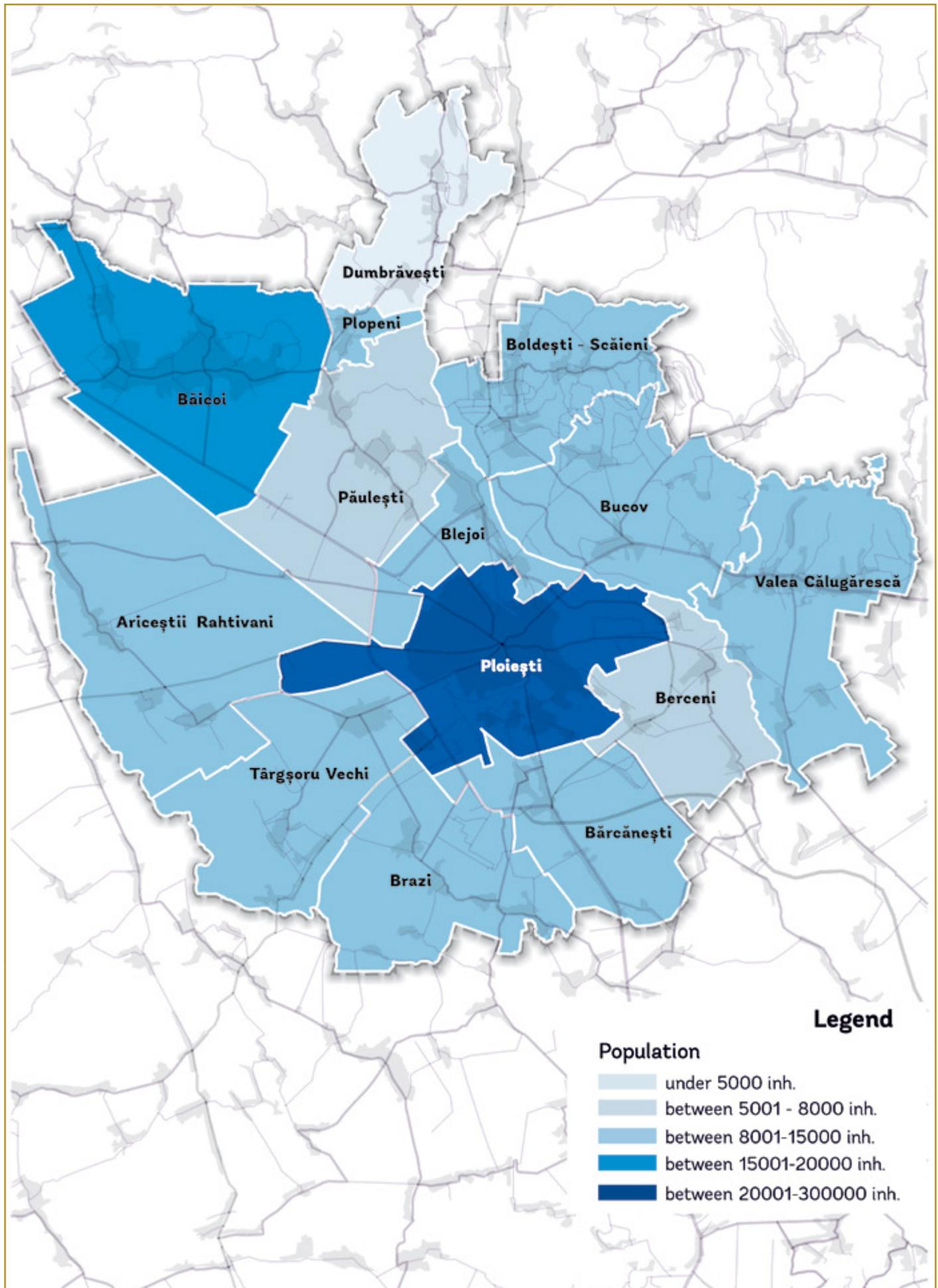
Even at the level of the Growth Pole, the population dynamics were different in the past decade. The small urban centers around Ploiești (-10.2% in Băicoi, -19.7% in Plopeni, -3.1% in Boldești-Scăeni) have witnessed significant decreases of the population, which was affected by the restructuring process and the economic reorientation, especially in the secondary sector, given that these towns didn't have a diverse economic structure, but rather a mono-industrial profile. On the other hand, a number of communes adjoined to Ploiești municipality registered a positive growth of the population, especially those in the north and west (Păulești: +13.8%, Blejoi: +8.2%, Târgșoru Vechi: +6%). Other localities in the Growth Pole recorded either a stagnation of the population (Bărcănești, Berceni, Bucov, Valea Călugărească) or a decline of it (Brați, Dumbrăvești, Ariceștii Rahtivani), being less involved in the process of suburbanisation, primarily on account of a longer distance to the urban core and lower accessibility.

Figure 9. Population dynamics of the TAUs forming Ploiești Growth Pole during 2002-2011



Source: NIS, RGPL final results, 2011. Own processing

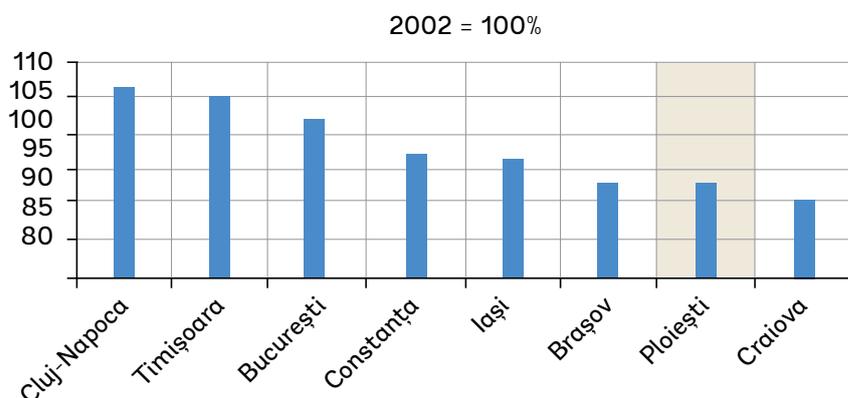
Map 13. Distribuția populației în Polul de Creștere



The causes of this demographic decline is primarily related to internal migration (80% towards Bucharest and Ilfov county) and external migration (mostly to Italy, Spain, UK, France, Germany), but also to the negative natural growth. As well, in the last 15 years there is a phenomenon of return migration, especially in the case of pensioners and the unemployed, who prefer to come back to their home areas, usually rural, and to avoid the high costs of living in the urban areas. Once returned to those areas, they get to practice even subsistence agriculture for self-consumption.

Compared to other growth poles in Romania, Ploiești Growth Pole registered a more pronounced demographic decline, being exceeded only by that of Craiova. Moreover, despite the unfavorable demographic context nationally, there is clear evidence of three urban poles (Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, and Timișoara), which continue to attract residents due to strong economic development – especially within the services sector – and increasing employment opportunities. In contrast, Craiova, Ploiești, and Brașov recorded a phenomenon of de-concentration on account of the reduced distance from the capital, which significantly limits the polarization area, but also because of a still industry-dominated economic profile.

Figure 10. Population dynamics in peri-urban areas within Romania's Growth Poles during 2002-2011



Source: NIS, RGPL final results, 2011. Own processing

In terms of gender structure, there is a tendency towards feminisation of the population, females representing in 2011 52.3% of the total population in the Growth Pole and 53% of the total population in Ploiești municipality. This phenomenon is caused by the higher male death rate across most age groups (women's life expectancy is about seven years higher than that of men) and greater male workforce migration following the employment decline in heavy industry sectors, where most jobs are intended for men.

In terms of ethnic composition, 97.4% of the people in the Growth Pole and 97.1% of those living in Ploiești municipality have declared themselves Romanian at the census in 2011, this percentage being higher than the national average, situated below 90%, other ethnic groups being underrepresented. Of these, the Roma group still stands, representing 2.3% of the population. However, the actual number of Roma inhabitants is higher, many of them declaring themselves Romanian at the Census. A higher proportion of Roma population is recorded in the communes of Dumbrăvești (8.8% of total population) and Bucov (5.3%), as well as in Boldești-Scăeni (5.3%) city.

The religious structure of the population is also homogenous. Thus, 96.8% of the people in the Growth Pole and 97.2% of those living in Ploiești municipality declared themselves in the 2011 census as being Orthodox; they were followed from afar by small groups of Christian Evangelists (0.8%), Pentecostals (0.6%), Seventh-day Adventists (0.5%), Roman Catholics (0.3%), Evangelicals (0.3%), Baptists (0.1%), and so on. The only localities where the share of the Orthodox is less than 95% are Târgșoru Vechi and Brazi, both having large communities of Christian Evangelists (representing 7.3% and 4.9% respectively of the total population) and Pentecostals.

The structure by age of the population both in Ploiești municipality and in Ploiești Growth Pole points to a phenomenon of demographic aging that is increasingly pronounced and more advanced than in other growth poles (Iași, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, and Bucharest). The dependence of the population based on age, expressed as a ratio between the elderly (over 60 years) and the young people aged up to 15 years, is above 100% (i.e. 156%), which shows that younger generations are unable to fully replace the older generations that retire. Compared to the previous census, that of 2002, the share of young population has decreased by over 1%, while the elderly population increased by 4.6%, a trend that will continue in the future on account of the increase of life expectancy, fall of birth rates to historic lows, and migration of young workforce to Bucharest municipality or other countries. Thus, by 2020, it is expected that the share of people over 60 years to reach 30% of the total population, which will create increased pressure on the market of medical services and social services, the pension system, but also the labor market.

Map 14. The population structure of Ploiești municipality by age and census sector in 2011

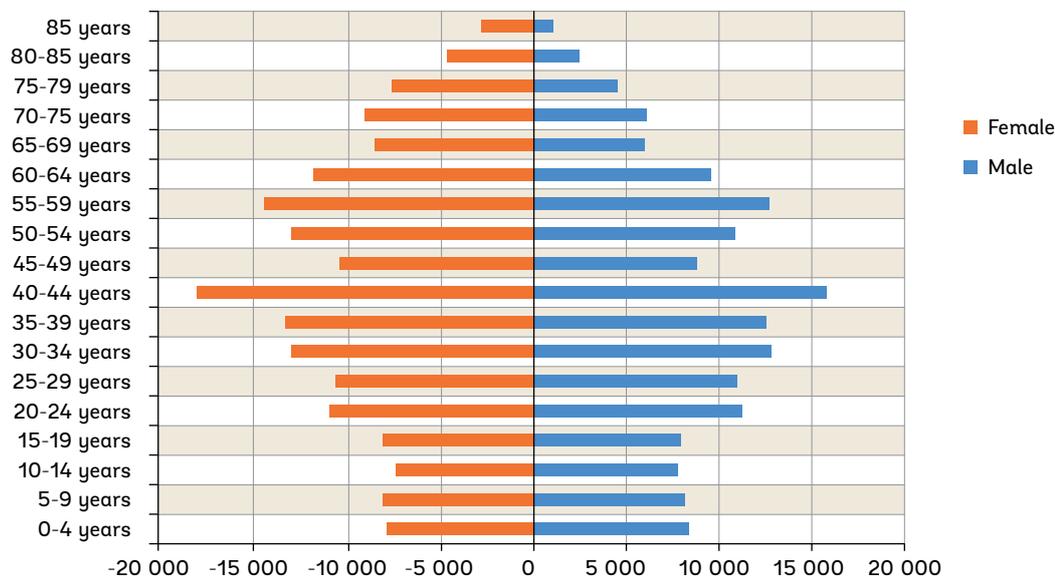


Source: Own drawing based on NIS data. RGPL 2011

The highest values regarding the dependence of the population by age, indicating the presence of an unfavorable pyramid of ages that tends to reverse, are to be found in localities like Băicoi (182%), Ploiești (169%), Păulești (169%), and Dumbrăvești (156%), which will continue to have a negative natural growth in the medium and long term. In contrast, a number of localities have a younger population and more favorable prospects for demographic revitalization: Târgșoru Vechi (92%), Berceni (102%), Bucov (109%), and Valea Călugărească (115%).

Despite the increased rate of demographic aging, the working age population (14-59 years) continues to represent almost 2/3 of the total population, which is an important stock of labor force. Almost 50% of the active population is aged between 40 and 59, these people being among those most at risk of social exclusion because they were educated and qualified for jobs before 1989, and these jobs are no longer largely required on the local labor market.

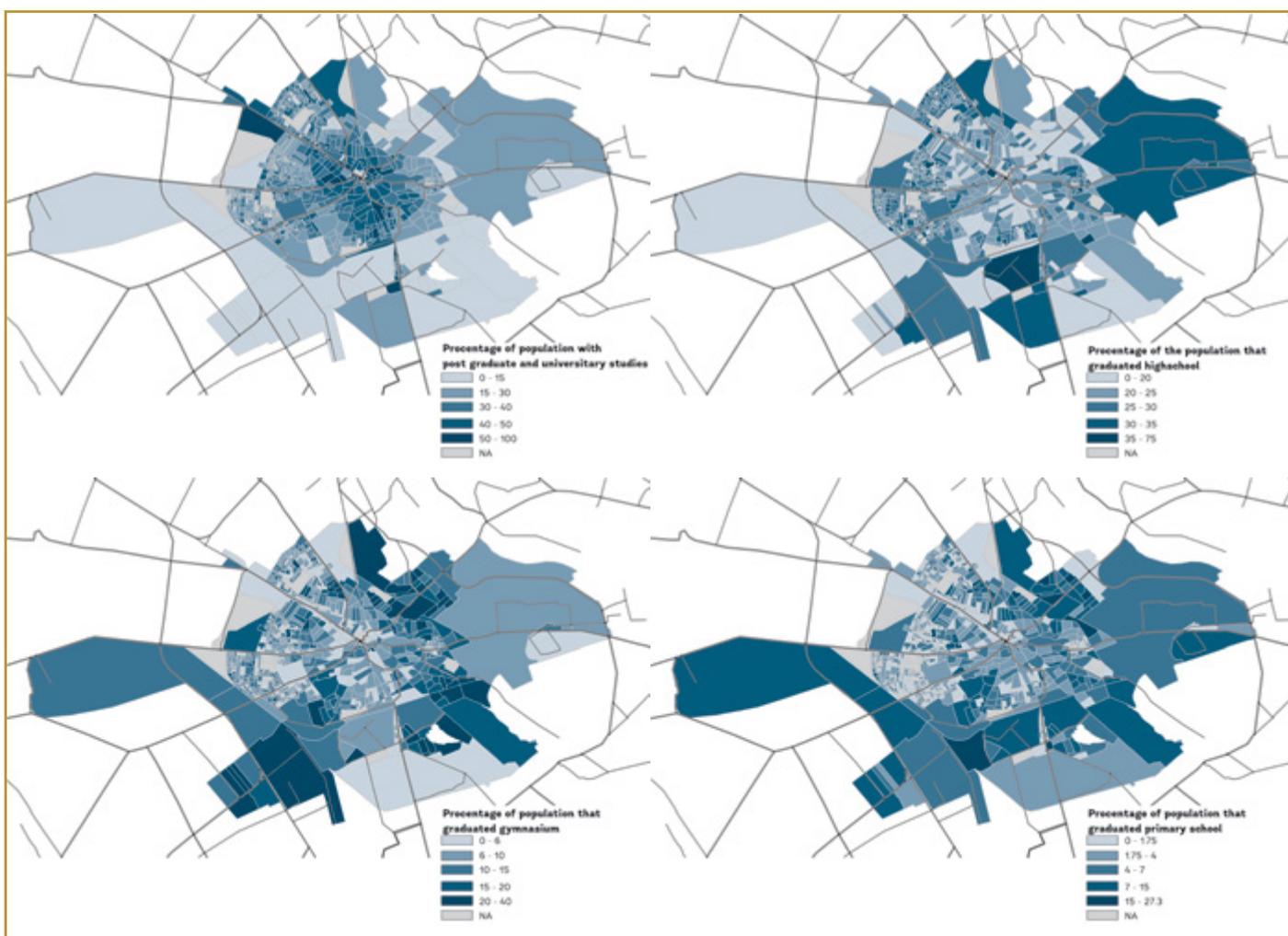
Figure 11. Population age pyramid for Ploiești Growth Pole



Source: NIS, Final RGPL results, 2011. Own processing

As regards the structure of the population by educational level, 20.8% of the inhabitants of the Growth Pole graduated from higher education systems, 5.8% have completed post-secondary and foremen studies, 29.2% have graduated from high school, 14.6% from technical and vocational schools, 18.8% secondary schools, 9.8% primary schools, and 1.8% have not completed their studies. Even though the percentage of graduates has increased by nearly 10 percentage points compared to 2002, it is lower compared to the other growth poles in Romania. This is explained by the migration of highly skilled workforce to Bucharest or to other countries, where employment opportunities for university graduates are better.

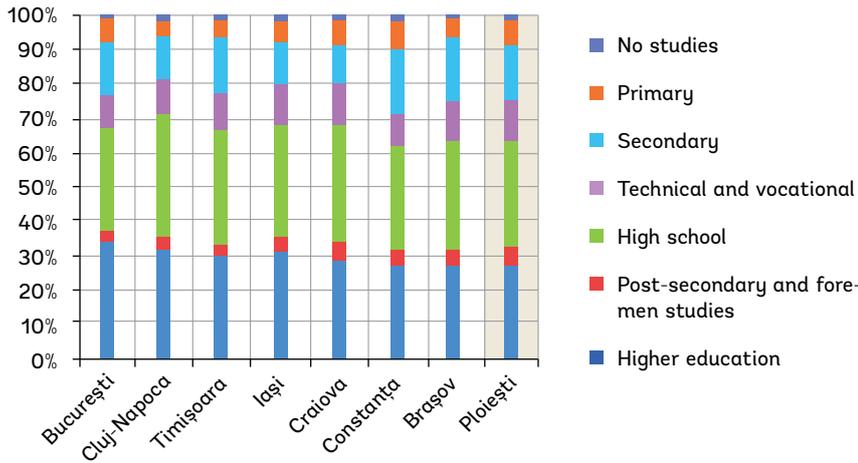
Map 15. The population structure in Ploiești municipality by education level and census sector in 2011



Source: Own drawing based on NIS data. RGPL 2011

On the other hand, in Ploiești municipality there is a significant number of people with medium-level education, trained especially in industries that dominated the local economy during the communist period.

Figure 12. Romania's Growth Poles' population structure by the level of graduated studies

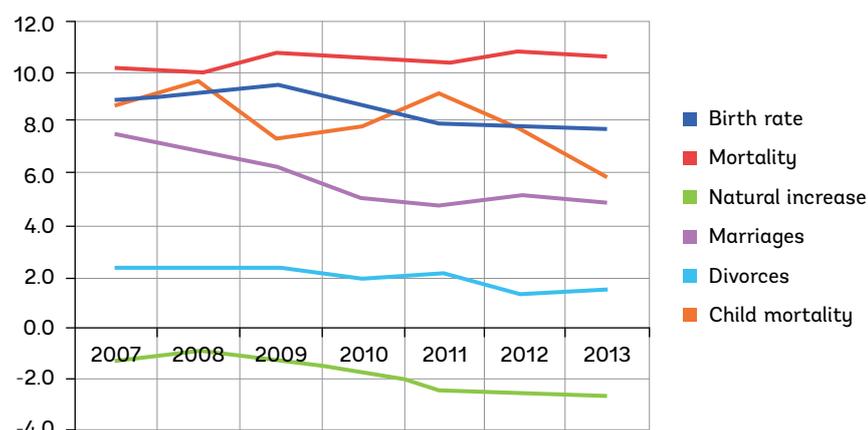


Source: NIS, Final RGPL results, 2011. Own processing

As regards the natural movement of population, the natural increase is negative since the '90s, amid the dramatic drop of birth rates, along with a slight increase in mortality. The causes are related to unfavorable socioeconomic conditions for starting a family, emigration of young people and population aging. Thus, the birth rate in the Growth Pole dropped in 2013 to a minimum (7.8/1,000 inhabitants), i.e. below the national (9.3), regional (8.4) and county (8) averages, witnessing 1‰ decrease compared to 2007. Moreover, about 6.3‰ of mothers who gave birth to a child don't reside in the country. In parallel, the mortality rate increased from 10.2‰ to 10.6‰ in the same period, despite the increase in life expectancy, but remains below the national (11.7), regional (13) and county (12.1) averages due to easier access to medical services. In this context, natural deficit widened after 2007. The numbers of marriages also decreased by 36‰, especially amid the global economic crisis, which was unfavorable to starting families. The number of divorces fell by 39‰, and infant mortality rates reached 6‰ (compared to 8-9‰ in 2000), one of the lowest values in Romania, which shows improved access to medical services.

In the component localities, a higher birth rate is recorded only in the municipalities Dumbrăvești, Târgșoru Vechi and Valea Călugărească (over 10‰ in 2007-2013), while the minimum is recorded in Păulești commune and the cities of Plopeni and Băicoi (below 7‰), which have an aged population and faced a sharp economic decline in the past two decades (especially in Plopeni town). As for the mortality rate, its recorded values were below average in localities with a younger population (Târgșoru Vechi, Plopeni, Boldești-Scăeni) and in Ploiești municipality, which has a more complex offer of medical services. The highest incidence of mortality was recorded in localities with a high proportion of elderly population and access to primary healthcare, as in Băicoi, Brazi, Dumbrăvești, Ariceștii Rahtivani, Valea Călugărească. Therefore, the average natural growth for 2007-2013 was positive only in Plopeni city and in Târgșoru Vechi commune, the minimum values being recorded in Băicoi (-4.7‰), Brazi (-4.7‰), Ariceștii Rahtivani (-4.1‰) and Păulești (-4‰). Ploiești municipality has also recorded an average natural increase of -1.5‰.

Figure 13. Dynamic regarding the birth rate, mortality, natural increase, marriage, divorce, and child mortality in Ploiești Growth Pole during 2007-2013



Source: NIS, Final RGPL results, 2011. Own processing

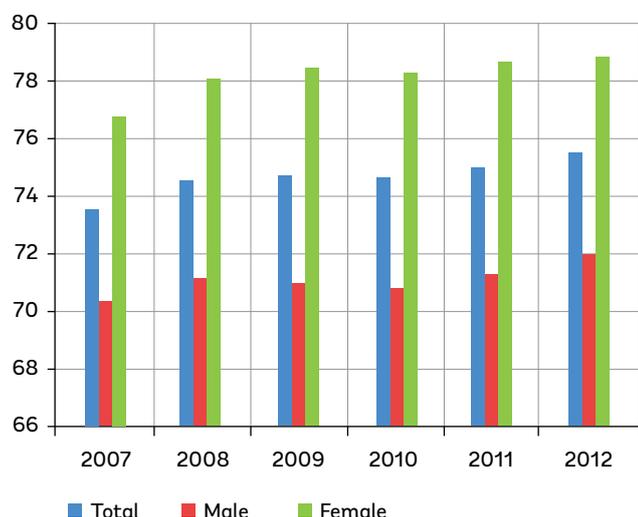


The total migratory balance of Ploiești Growth Pole is negative, and the balance of domicile changes during 2007-2013 reached -3.177 people; this contributed by about 40% to the reduction of the number of inhabitants. However, migration is under-represented in official statistics of the NIS, because a simple comparison between the stable population (with the actual residency in the area) of the territory concerned and the legal population (with the domicile in the area) shows a deficit of about 35,000 people, of which 30,000 are found only in the municipality, which represents around 10% of the total population. These are people who actually live in another town in Romania or in another country, but who still have the domicile in one of the territorial-administrative units that belong to Ploiești Growth Pole. During the 2011 census, data could be collected only from about 18,000 of these people, which indicates that around 80% have been living abroad for a long time. As well, a significant number was residing in Bucharest and Ilfov county, the capital attracting a significant number of young people for studies or for better paid jobs in different areas of interest.

External migration phenomenon is the most intense in Plopeni (about 9‰ of the domiciled population), a town that has a large workforce and that witnessed a massive wave of dismissals in the last two decades, on account of its single-industry character acquired before 1990. As well, emigration rates above 5% of the population domiciling in the city are registered in Băicoi city, Dumbrăvești and Bucov communes, which witness reduced local employment opportunities as well.

Inside the Growth Pole, one can observe a phenomenon of suburbanization. Thus, while in the cities of Ploiești and Plopeni, negative values of internal migration are recorded, in the rural areas around the municipality (Păulești, Blejoi, Târgșoru Vechi, Bucov, Bărcănești) there are positive values of migratory movements due to the people who move mainly in Ploiești. However, these internal migration flows are offset by the growing intensity of external migration, determining a slow growth of the stable population in these communes (by less than 1% per year).

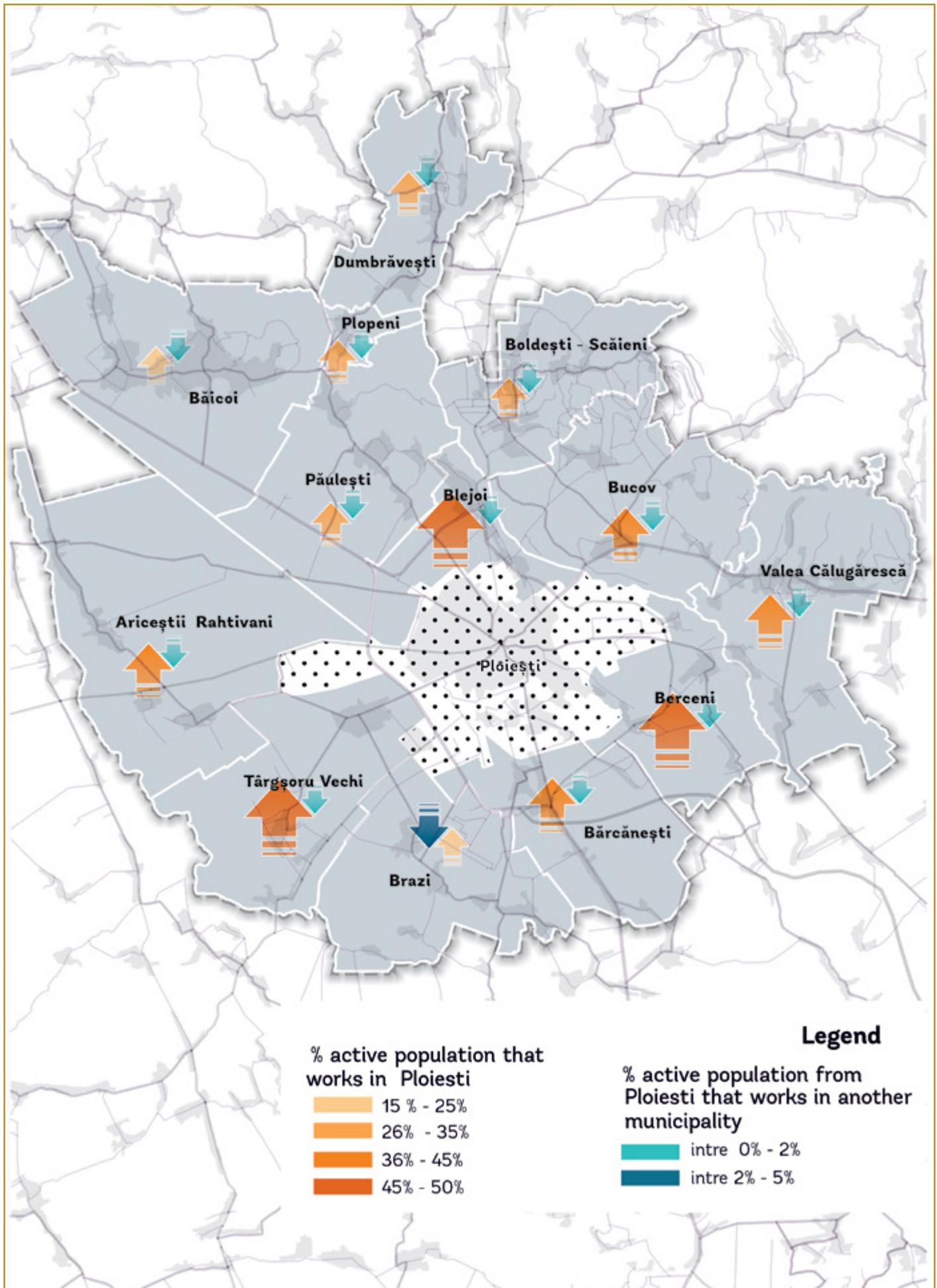
Figura 14. Population life expectancy (in years) by gender during 2007-2012



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

Life expectancy of the population in Ploiești Growth Pole has steadily increased in recent years, reaching almost 76 years now – 72 years for men and 79 years for women –, but remains below the EU average, which is 80 years for both genders. This increasing trend of average life duration is expected to continue in the future up to a convergence with the European average, amid the improvement of access to modern medical services, life progress, the adoption of a healthier lifestyle, etc. Increased life expectancy will lead to greater demographic aging, especially since it is correlated with a decrease in birth rates to historic lows and the emigration of young people.

Map 16. Active population that works in localities other than the ones they reside in

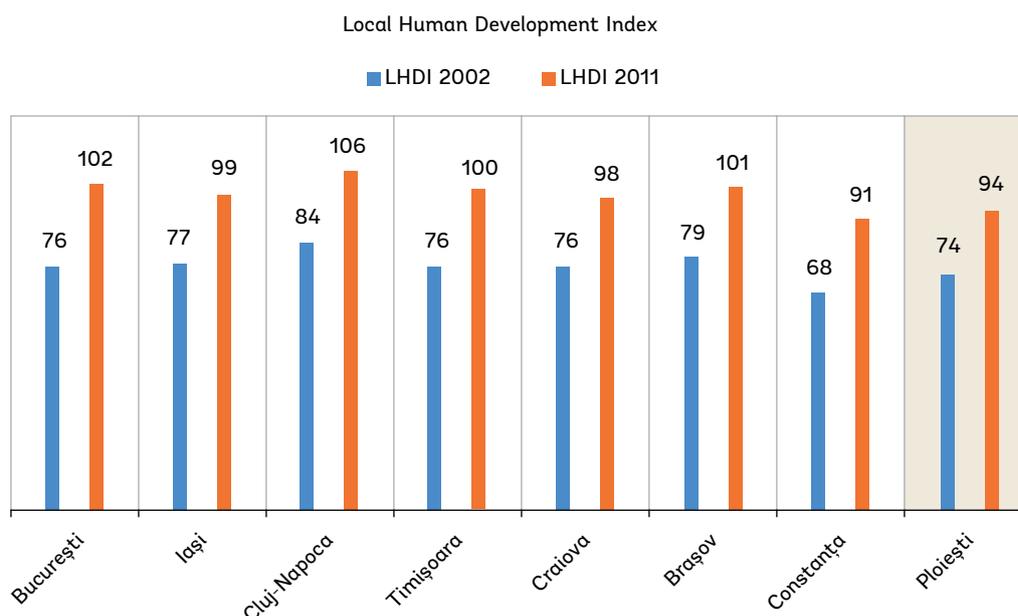


1.1.5. Local development and regional synergies

Local human development

According to the values of the Local Human Development Index (LHDI), computed by Prof. Univ. Dr. Dumitru Sandu at University of Bucharest for the World Bank Report “Competitive Cities. Reshaping the Economic Geography of Romania”, Ploiești municipality is among Romania’s developed urban centers thanks to its complex functions and its infrastructure, which serves both the county and the region. Still, the performances of Ploiești are placed under those of other Romanian growth poles, such as Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest, Timișoara, or Iași, which benefit from more complex infrastructure and social services, Constanța Growth Pole being the only one that is overtopped by Ploiești from this point of view. These development gaps have widened over the period 2002-2011.

Figure 15. Local Human Development Index (LHDI) at the growth pole level in Romania, 2002 and 2011



Source: World Bank, 2014

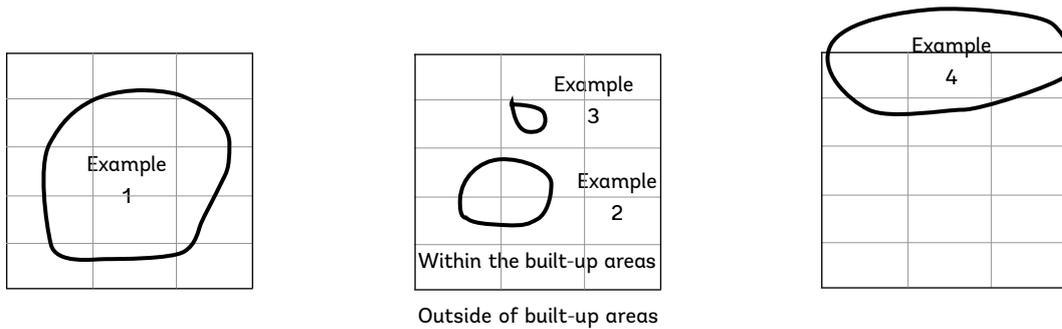
Marginalized urban communities in Ploiești Growth Pole

Urban marginalization becomes visible through spatial concentration of deprived population in communities located in certain areas within urban settlements. Therefore, in order to analyze this phenomenon, the study should be done at a level that is as confined as possible and not at the territorial-administrative level. The data collected during the 2011 census provides a unique opportunity to conduct such an analysis at the level of smaller territorial units, i.e. census sectors.

The smallest geographical area for running a census is the census sector, which usually comprises around 200 people. Thus, the micro-data from the census of 2011 and aggregated at the census sector level were used for analysis. The main limitation of this analysis is that the overlap between marginalized communities and census sectors is only partial. Marginalised communities are not always entirely concentrated in one census sector, therefore community characteristics cannot be always analyzed at this level.

Figure 20 shows some typical examples for this. Example 1 illustrates a situation in which a large community covers several census sectors. Example 2 describes a situation in which a community covers parts of two or more census sectors. Example 3 corresponds to a situation in which a small community is located in a census sector along with other population groups. And finally, Example 4 shows a community that is located on the outskirts (e.g. improvised shelters located near landfills), partly inside, partly outside the town. Census data are not best suited for identifying similar situations for the last example. In such areas, some locals did not take part to the census, and those who did were assigned to the census sectors located nearby. So, by using aggregate data at the census sector level, communities of this kind can be identified or reconstituted only partially.

Figure 16. Examples of field interaction between census sectors and specific communities



NOTE: The cells indicate the area inside the town that is divided into census sectors, while the figures indicate specific communities.

The most relevant, practical, measurable, and useful dimensions for defining different types of disadvantaged areas are: (1) human capital (i.e. education, health, and demographic behavior); (2) employment; and (3) housing quality. For each of these dimensions one can assign a set of indicators for which data from the 2011 census are available.

The initial typology, which resulted from the literature review, was based on a set of 13 indicators for the identification of these areas through quantitative research methods. Afterwards, the set of indicators was reduced to seven key indicators. Three indicators correspond to human capital, three other refer to housing, and an indicator is related to employment. By using data from the 2011 census, the values corresponding to each of the seven key indicators were computed for each urban census sector. Likewise, for each of the seven key indicators, the threshold above which it was considered that the census did not provide an appropriate standard was set at 80¹ percentile at the national urban level.

By counting the indicators exceeding the corresponding urban threshold, a summative index was calculated for each dimension. In this way it can be seen whether a specific census sector is characterized by low levels of human capital, by limited employment in the formal sector, or by precarious housing.

A census sector is considered as having a low level of human capital if any two of the three indicators have values that exceed the correspondent urban threshold, established at the national urban level. In other words, a census sector is considered disadvantaged in terms of human capital if it is characterized by a concentration of the following categories of vulnerability: (i) active population with low levels of education; (ii) children; (iii) persons with disabilities or with other health problems. «Concentration» means a share of that category in the respective total population, which figures among the highest 20% values of all urban census sectors.

A census sector is defined as having a low level of employment in the formal sector if it has a concentration of unemployed and/or people not enrolled in the formal labor market; in this context, «concentration» means a share of that category in the total active population in the area, which figures among the highest 20% values of all urban census sectors.

A census sector is considered as having poor housing if any two of the three indicators have values that exceed the correspondent urban threshold, established at the national urban level. In other words, a census sector is considered disadvantaged in terms of housing if it has a concentration of at least two of the following vulnerability categories: (i) people living in dwellings without electricity; (ii) people living in overcrowded spaces; (iii) households facing housing insecurity. «Concentration» means a share of that category in the area, which figures among the highest 20% values of all urban census sectors.

¹Using the 80 percentile leads to a proportion of marginalized urban population (of the total urban population) that provides a suitable measure for the resources that can be made available under a CLLD program. The analysis took into account other thresholds such as 70 and 90 percentiles. These, however, would have resulted in marginalized urban population proportions (of the total urban population) too high or too low in relation to the resources expected to be made available.

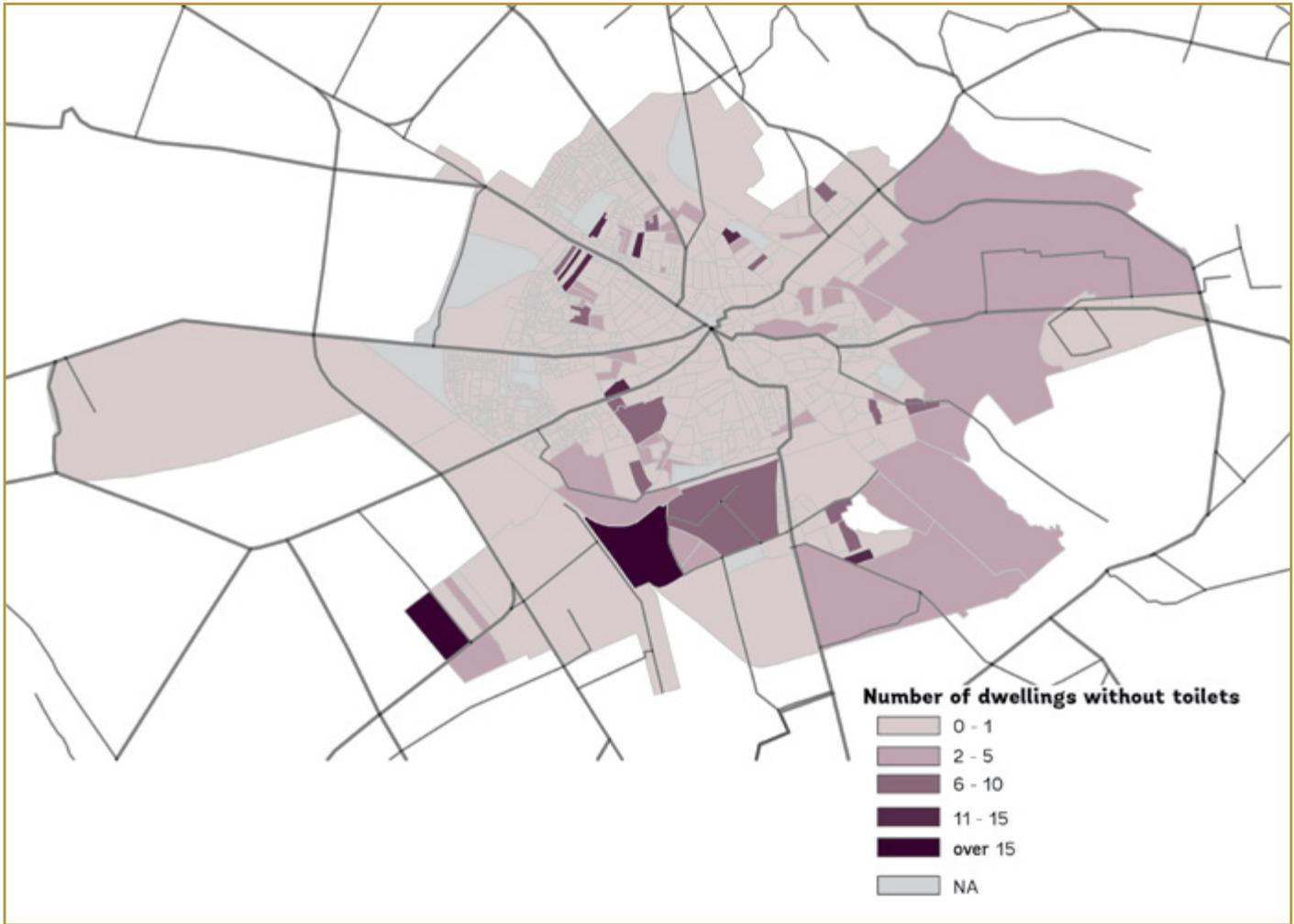
In this context, the situation in the particular case of Ploiești municipality is as follows:

- For the 2011 census, 930 census sectors were delineated in Ploiești, with an average of 226 people each. The size of census sectors varies significantly, from a minimum of 2 people and a maximum of 1915 people.
- Of all census sectors, 1.8% are very small (less than 50 people), while 3.1% are large (at least 500 inhabitants).
- Depending on the methodology for identifying marginalized areas, the 930 census sectors in Ploiești are distributed as follows:

Zone type	Number
Non-disadvantaged	762
Disadvantaged in terms of housing	51
Disadvantaged in terms of employment	31
Disadvantaged in terms of human capital	47
Marginalized	16
Other case*	23

* Other case relates to census sectors with less than 50 inhabitants and those with various institutions (e.g., pensions, retirement homes, prisons, convents, etc.) without or with a very small number of households.

The disadvantaged zones in terms of housing (according to the *Atlas of marginalized urban areas*) are districts in which a significant part of the population lives in inadequate dwellings, and may be characterized by a low education level or not, but in which most part of the population has a job in the formal labor market. This category includes the urban areas with poor infrastructure and old quarters of houses located on the outskirts of cities, also with poor or no infrastructure. It also includes areas of blocks or houses built mainly in the 60s-70s, which are in a poor condition and with residents not having the required resources for improvements and renovations. These areas are heterogeneous with respect to population. The houses might be owned by elderly people with chronic health problems. In this category are included the urban areas with many young tenants, who have a good education level, but who cannot afford to buy their own dwellings (for instance in Bucharest and in major university centers). In conclusion, a disadvantaged urban zone in terms of housing is a census sector in which the conditions of living are precarious, but the level of employment in the formal sector is not low, and there may be low education levels or not.

Map 17. The number of dwellings without toilets in Ploiești municipality by census sector in 2011

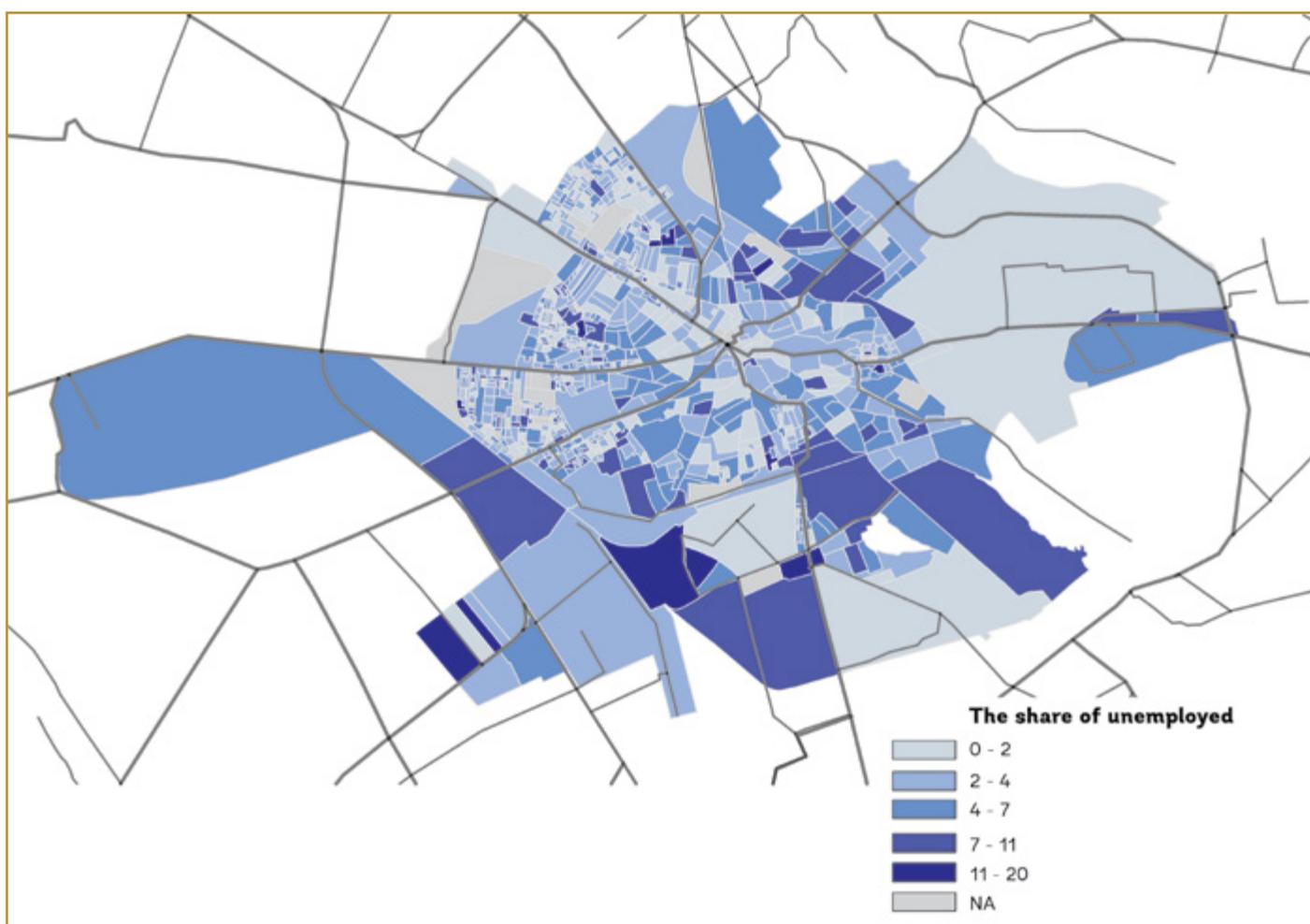
Source: Own drawing, based on NIS data. RGPL 2011

In Ploiești municipality, the state of facts is as follows:

- There are 51 census sectors identified as disadvantaged in terms of housing, with an average number of 225 inhabitants each (min. = 78 persons/zone; max. = 910 persons/zone).
- 11,504 people, of which 2020 (18%) are children, live in disadvantaged zones in terms of housing.
- 195 people self-identify as Roma (1.7%).

The disadvantaged zones in terms of employment (according to the *Atlas of marginalized urban areas*) are, by definition, census sectors in which residents do not have an educational deficit, but fail to find a job in the formal sector, regardless of their living conditions (housing conditions vary and are not defining for the zone). This category generally refers to areas that had a high concentration of enterprises during the communist regime. Most residents of these areas have an average education level and hold various professional qualifications in the industry sector generally. But after 1990 they faced the closure of the former socialist enterprises. Despite the presence of qualified professional workforce, in these areas few private investments were made in the last twenty years and, as a consequence, the employment opportunities in the formal sector are limited.

Map 18. Share of the unemployed in the total population at the level of census sectors in Ploiești municipality in 2011

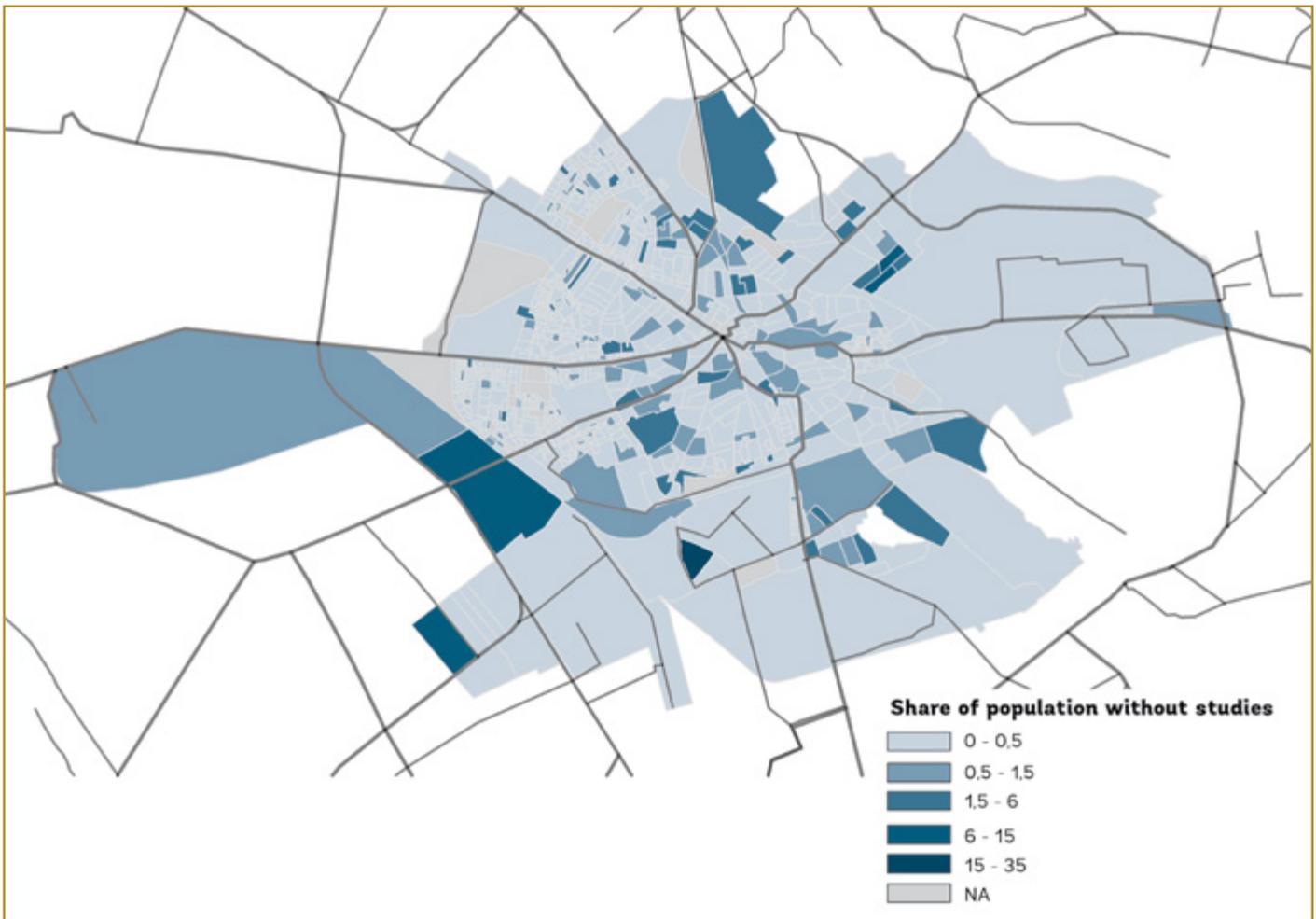


Source: Own drawing, based on NIS data. RGPL 2011

In Ploiești, the state of facts is as follows:

- There are 31 census sectors with an average number of 222 people each (min. = 79 persons/zone; max. = 366 persons/zone).
- 6,907 people, of which 1,198 (17%) are children, live in disadvantaged zones in terms of employment.
- 336 people self-identify as Roma (5%).

The disadvantaged zones in terms of human capital (according to the *Atlas of marginalized urban areas*) include people with low levels of formal education, who may have a job or not, but whose living conditions are considered standard for urban areas in Romania. These urban areas are inhabited by unqualified persons working in agriculture, constructions and other sectors, in many cases informally. The level of employment in the formal sector is typically low, but this is caused by low levels of human capital. Therefore, interventions in such zones must be focused on workforce qualification.

Map 19. Share of people without education across census sectors in Ploiești municipality in 2011

Source: Own drawing, based on NIS data. RGPL 2011.

In Ploiești municipality, the state of facts is as follows:

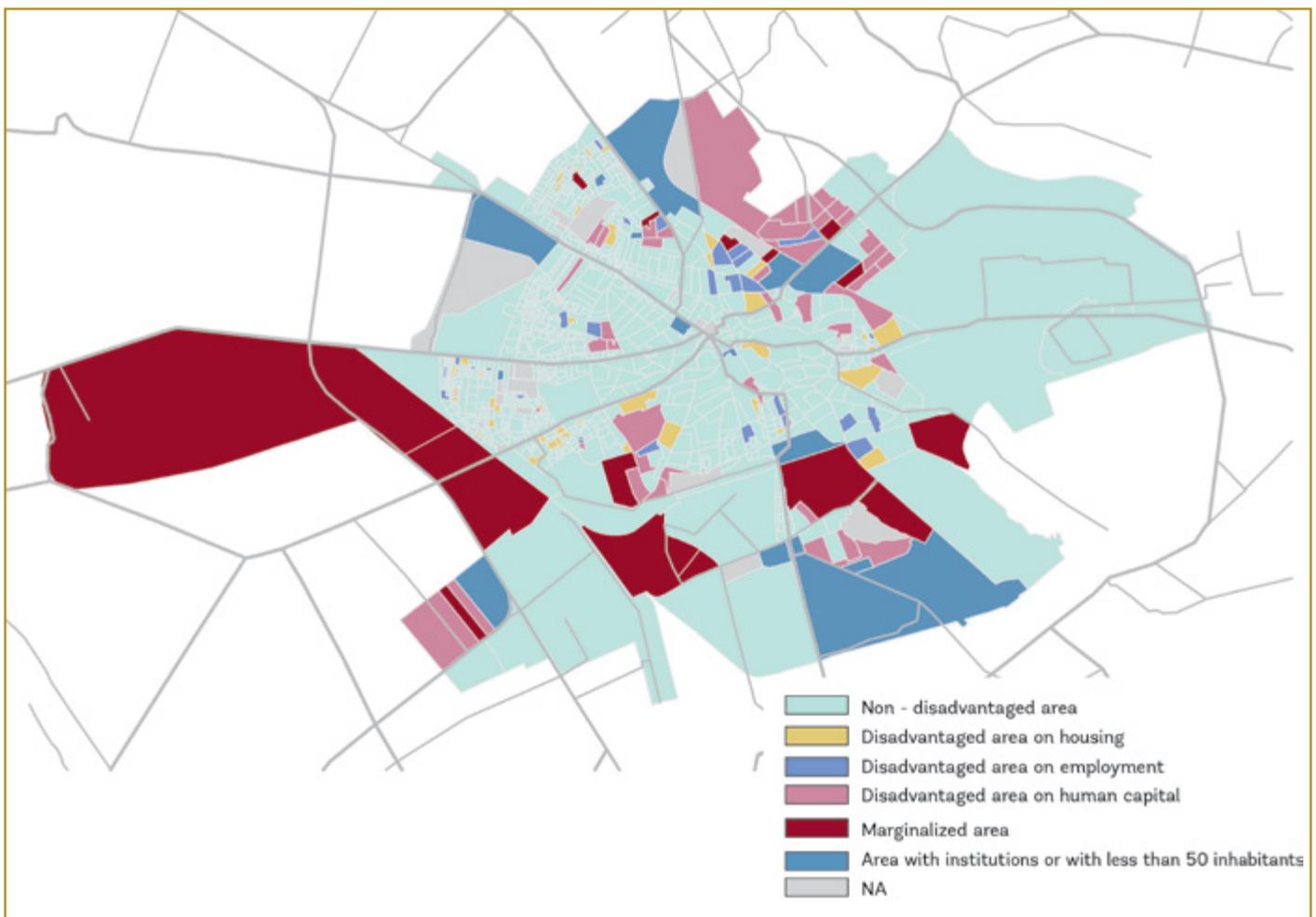
- There are 31 census sectors with an average number of 295 people each (min. = 101 persons/zone; max. = 578 persons/zone);
- 13,905 people, of which 3,720 (27%) are children, live in disadvantaged zones in terms of employment.
- 1,590 people self-identify as Roma (11%).

Marginalized urban zones (according to the *Atlas of marginalized urban areas*) are city areas that accumulate disadvantages in terms of human capital, employment, and housing. In most cases these are poor, socially isolated, located within cities and not reflected in the statistics on poverty rates calculated at the locality or county level.

Marginalized zones are true conglomerates of social exclusion that include people with low levels of human capital (low education, poor health, large number of children), low employment level in the formal sector and poor housing conditions. In many cases, the inhabitants of these areas have separate schools, in which only children from poor families are enrolled; they live in low quality apartment buildings or in slums, characterized by insecurity and petty crimes.

The strong stigma associated with these places, apart from the lack or poor quality of services (education, health, infrastructure) drastically reduces the chances of the population to escape poverty. These areas are the most suitable candidates for Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) interventions, performed in the cities of Romania.

Map 20. Disadvantaged and marginalized zones in Ploiești municipality



Source: Own drawing

In Ploiești municipality, the state of facts is as follows:

- In the 16 census sectors identified as marginalized are living 5,130 people (2.4% of the population of Ploiești).
- The average number of people living in a marginalized census sector is 321 (with a min. of 92 persons/zone and a max. of 532 persons/zone);
- Of the 5,130 people living in marginalized areas, 23% (1,199) identify themselves as Roma, compared to only 0.92% of people in the total population of the non-marginalized census sectors who declare themselves as Roma;
- Of the total population living in marginalized areas, 30% are children; the percentage is double compared with the proportion of children in the population from non-marginalized census sectors.

The most socially vulnerable zones identified in Ploiești municipality are located at the periphery, especially in the south and east of the city: Mimi, Râfov, Pictor Rosenthal, Moțoi, Bereasca, the first of them standing out by the complexity of housing, employment, and human capital problems, which require the implementation of such measures as those pertaining to Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) approach.

Regional synergies

The localities for which Ploiești is the closest large city of over 200,000 inhabitants are located inclusively outside Prahova county, i.e. in the Bužău and Dâmbovița counties and in the south of Argeș county, in northern Wallachia. The impact of Ploiești on the regional labor market and in the sphere of housing is highly intense, especially in the localities of Prahova county. The two phenomena of commuting for work and establishment of domicile (immigration²) in Ploiești municipality represent the human aspect of urban connectivity. The groups of localities that revolve around the same urban center of convergence with similar intensity tend to have similar problems and similar resources in the development process.

Levels and types of development/poverty at the local level

About 60% of the population of Prahova county lives in developed localities in terms of human capital³, while the national average is 56%. A better situation in this regard is recorded in some Transylvanian counties (Brașov, Cluj, Sibiu, Hunedoara, Timiș) and in Ilfov and Constanța, in the south. In Prahova localities with an average level of human development live approximately 30% of the county population. The rest of about 10% of the population lives in poor localities. Such a small share of people living in poor communities is recorded only in Ilfov and Brașov counties.

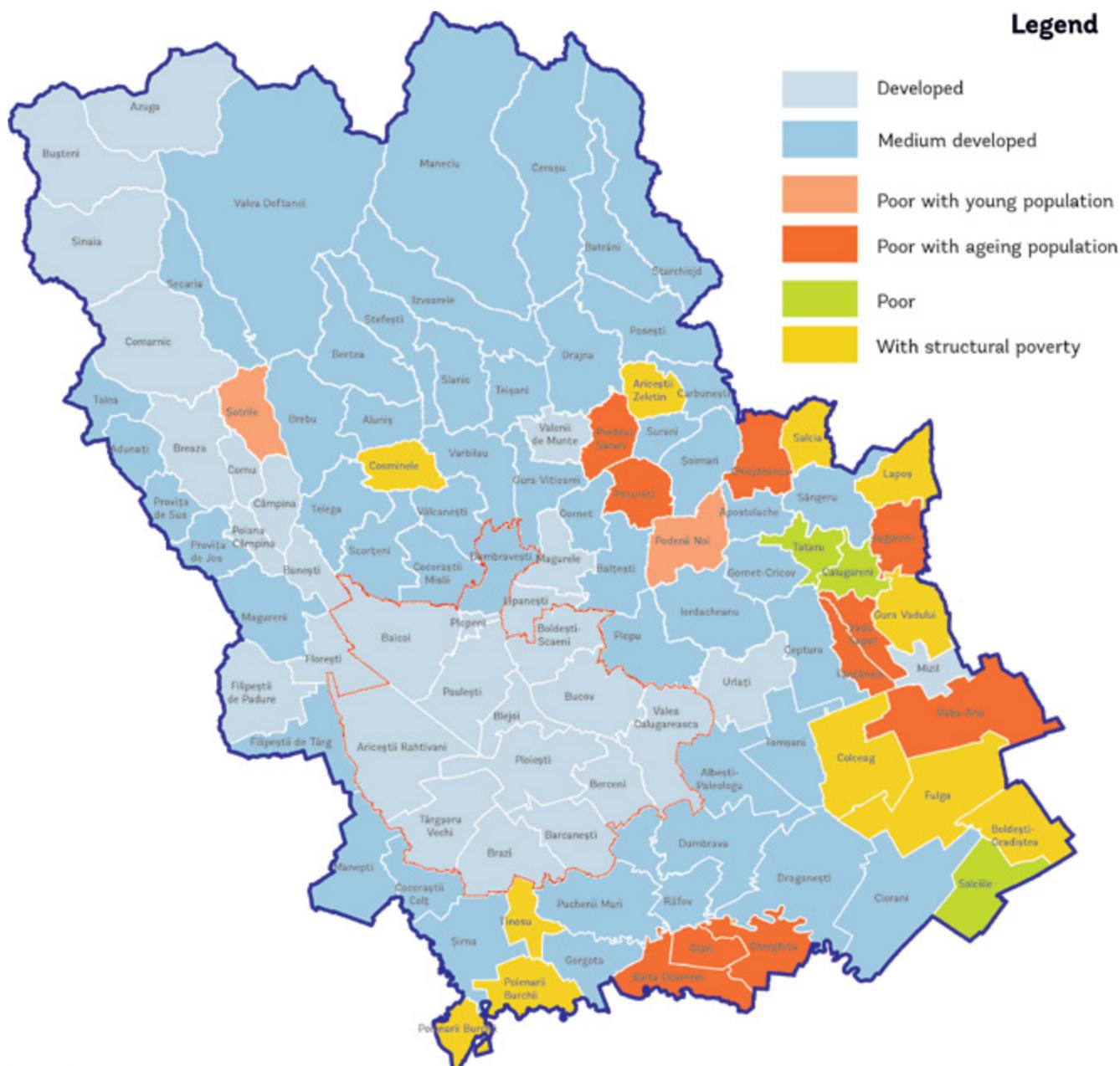
Prahova's upper developed localities are located mainly on the circular lane around Ploiești city and on the traffic lane of E60 road linking Ploiești to Câmpina, the tourist towns on Prahova Valley and Predeal from Brașov county. Tourist resorts – Sinaia, Bușteni, and Azuga – have the highest level of human development in the town series. The most developed communes, with maximum values for Local Human Development Index (LHDI) are Blejoi, Bucov, and Măgurele, in the vicinity of Ploiești; Cornu and Bănești, in the vicinity of Câmpina, on E60 road.



² "Immigration" is used in the sense of establishing the domicile or residence in a particular locality within the national space. The second sense of the term, i.e. establishing the residence in another country, is not used in the context of this micro-regional analysis.

³ The development level of localities is measured by the Local Human Development Index (LHDI 2011), constructed by Professor Dumitru Sandu, and by its component indicators - education, life expectancy at birth, housing infrastructure (habitable surface per housing, gas consumption in households, and cars per 1,000 inhabitants), and average age of the population over 18 years - considered independently or in combination within a certain typology of local human development. The typology of local human development starts, just as LHDI, from the four mentioned indicators, but it does not admit compensation effects between their values and, based on a cluster analysis model with predetermined centers, it distinguishes between the following types of localities: developed; middle developed; poor, with structural poverty (poor education, aging, and reduced housing infrastructure capital); poor, with aging population; poor, but with young population. Calculations for LHDI include 103 out of the 104 territorial-administrative units (communes and towns) of Prahova county. Jugureni commune, with only 613 inhabitants at the 2011 census, was not included in the analysis, given the instability of the figures for very small localities. With the exception of data regarding the distances between localities, the rest of the data used in this section are from the National Institute of Statistics' (NIS) the 2011 population and household census. Calculations for life expectancy at birth at the locality level were also made by NIS.

Map 21. Local Human Development Typology in Prahova County (2011)



Source: Own drawing

All the three groups of upper developed localities in the county are located along major traffic corridors: Ploiești – Brașov (E60), Ploiești – Vălenii de Munte – Brașov (A1) and Ploiești – Bușău, via Urlați and Mișil (E577). Poor communes (see table below) are located mostly in the eastern part of the county, towards the border with Bușău. The maximum level of poverty is reached in the Tătaru and Călugăreni communes (in the vicinity of Năeni, another commune just as poor, located in Bușău) and in the south, at Sălciile. All are small communes: Tătaru with less than 1,000 inhabitants, Călugăreni with less than 1,300 inhabitants, and Sălciile with less than 2,000 inhabitants. The state of fact at Sălciile proves the best⁴ what cumulative poverty means in Prahova.

Their poverty is generalized to all types of resources or capital considered – educational, material, health state, and working age. In terms of severity, structural poverty is closest to generalized poverty and resides in pronounced deficiencies in terms of education, housing infrastructure, and working age population (but scoring fairly well with respect to health). Of the 11 communes from this category, the most part are located in the east of the county, in the proximity of Bușău. The communes that are typical for structural poverty are Lapoș, located in the central-eastern part of the county, Boldești-Grădiștea in southeast, and Poenarii Burchii in the south of the county. A thorough research on this type of poverty in the county could begin from these aspects.

⁴ The analysis technique used for identifying poverty types, “K-means Cluster Analysis”, allows not only the identification of types, but also the detection of typical cases, i.e. those for which the distance from the cluster center (average) is minimal.

Figure 17. Local Human Development Index (LHDI) in developed and poor localities in Prahova county

LHDI – developed localities				Poverty type			
Communes	Târgșoru Vechi	40		Cumulative poverty on all criteria	Sălcele	26	
	Filipeștii de Pădure	42			Călugăreni	28	
	Poiana Cămpina	42			Tâtaru	29	
	Valea Călugărească	42		Poverty in localities with relatively aging population	Vadu Săpat	31	
	Brazi	43			Chiojdeanca	32	
	Bărcănești	44			Păcureți	32	
	Ariceștii Rahtivani	44			Gherghița	33	
	Florești	44			Olari	33	
	Lipănești	44			Balta Doamnei	34	
	Măgurele	45			Predeal-Sărari	34	
	Bucov	46			Baba Ana	35	
	Bănești	47		Poverty in loc. with young pop.	Șotriile	35	
	Cornu	49			Podenii Noi	37	
	Blejoii	50		Structural poverty	Boldești-Grădiștea	29	
Urlați	43		Salcia		29		
Comarnic	44		Ariceștii Zeletin		30		
Mișil	44		Lapoș		30		
Câmpina	47		Colceag		31		
Boldești-Scăeni	47		Fulga		31		
Breața	47		Gura Vadului		32		
Băicoi	48		Poienarii Burchii		34		
Vălenii de Munte	48		Cosminele		35		
Ploiești	49		Provița de Sus		35		
Plopeni	50		Tinosu	37			
Ațuga	51						
Bușteni	52						
Sinaia	52						

Source: Own drawing

*NOTE: The localities marked in bold are typical within the development – poverty category. These are the places in which the characteristics that define the type of locality in question are best represented. Sălcele commune, for example, is typical for cumulative poverty on all the four criteria used for classification.

The eight poor communes, with an aging population, are located in the proximity of the town of Mișil (Baba Ana and Vadu Săpat) and the town of Vălenii de Munte (Păcureți, Predeal-Sărari, Chiojdeanca), as well as in the south of the county. The two poor communes with young adult population are Șotriile and Podenii Noi. In the former, the share of Roma in the total population was 16% at the last census in 2011.

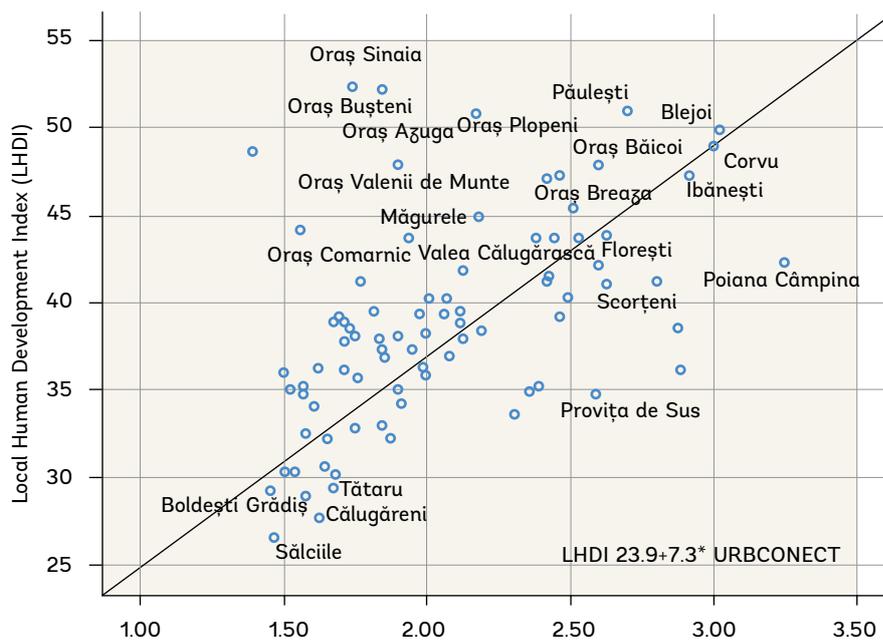
The Local Human Development Index (LHDI) was also calculated at the locality level – a relevant analysis for the villages in the county and in the growth pole. The 98 poor villages in Prahova are rather dispersed, being located in communes with very different levels of development/poverty. Only six of the 98 villages are characterized by cumulative poverty in terms of education, employment, housing, working age, and mobility (Valea Unghiului, Trestienii de Jos, Trestienii de Sus, Lutu Roșu, Malu Roșu, Nucet). The rest are poor in terms of housing, population age, or shortage of human capital. Poverty reduction policies can be better targeted if we take into account the fact that community poverty is not simply poverty, but poverty linked to a generalized scarcity of resources or to the scarcity of certain resources.

Where do the differences in local development come from?

Nationally, urban connectivity – both as human connectivity and regional accessibility to surrounding towns – represents a major precondition for local development. The Local Human Development Index (LHDI) tends to be greater as the reference locality records a higher index of urban connectivity (URBCONNECT), has more people that commute for working outside the locality, reported to 1,000 inhabitants (COMMUTERS), and a greater number of people that moved in the locality after 1990 (IMMIGRANTS)⁵.

At the level of Prahova county⁶, urban connectivity is by far the most important predictor of development – to an extent far greater than at the national level. The communes of Blejoi, Bănești, Bucov, and Cornu, for instance, have maximum connectivity through urban accessibility, and, consequently, very high human development (see figure below). In contrast, communes with very low urban connectivity – Sălciile, Tâtaru, Călugăreni and Boldești-Grădiștea – have also a maximum level of poverty in the context of the county.

Figure 18. Link between local development and urban connectivity



Source: Own drawing

NOTE: Human development and urban connectivity indices for the localities of Prahova.

In order to avoid overloading the diagram, we did not include all the locality names of Prahova county.

The increase by one unit on the urban connectivity scale tends to lead, on average, to an increase in local development by 7 units on the LHDI scale. If other development factors, such as those included in the development regression equation for Prahova county localities, are kept under control, the previously mentioned coefficient is lower, of about 6 units.

As throughout Romania, Prahova cities tend to systematically have a higher level of development than communes. Cities like Sinaia and Breaza have a consistently higher level of development than it would be expected to have based on their urban connectivity. Their touristic profile largely explains this fact.

Prahova's developed localities also tend to have higher rates of immigrant population coming from other localities after 1990. In this case it is about a two-way relationship. On the one hand, local development attracts a greater number of immigrants and, on the other hand, the immigrants' educational structure, age structure, and professional structure are by themselves local development factors.

The practical implications of these findings related to the context that determines development lead to the idea that stimulating development in the county and implicitly reducing poverty in some relatively isolated county areas can be effectively done by enhancing urban connectivity and the localities' capacity to attract migrants and commuters. This link between local development and urban connectivity is of particular importance in managing and developing projects

⁵ The multiple linear regression model that supports the allegations from the paragraph is:

$LHDI_{2011} = 13.85 + 1.29 * URBCONNECT + 3.44 * COMMUTERS + 0.84 * IMMIGRANTS + 8.93 * URBAN$, $R^2 = 0.43$. All regression coefficients are significantly greater than zero. A locality has an increasingly higher index of urban connectivity as it is closer to a small town of 30-50 thousand inhabitants, a medium town (50-100 thousand inhabitants), large city (100-200 thousand inhabitants) and a very large city (over 200 thousand inhabitants).

⁶ $LHDI_{2011} = 6.47 + 6.01 * URBCONNECT + 1.58 * COMMUTERS + 2.26 * IMMIGRANTS + 10.18 * URBAN$, $R^2 = 0.64$. The coefficient for urban connectivity is statistically significant for $p = 0.01$. The coefficient for COMMUTERS is not statistically significant, and that for IMMIGRANTS is significant for $p = 0.06$.

at the level of Ploiești Growth Pole. Basically, the better a locality is connected to Ploiești Pole, the better will develop. This has important implications in terms of prioritizing investments regionally, especially with respect to the connective infrastructure that enables the increase of the polarizing role of Ploiești Growth Pole.

Commuting to Ploiești

In the series of cities of over 200,000 inhabitants, Ploiești has the greatest capacity to attract for employment people commuting on its territory for working reasons (215 commuters to 1,000 urban inhabitants). The specific model in this case is mainly based on attracting people for employment reasons from within Prahova county (86% of the total number of commuters working in Ploiești at the level of 2011 census). For Ploiești municipality, this kind of model of human connectivity for work results most likely from the two categories of conditionality. First, it is the high density of roads and, generally, of the communication network that facilitates the low-cost movement to Ploiești. Secondly, it is the low percentage of those who come to work here from outside Prahova; this is due to the fact that Ploiești is located between Bucharest and Brașov, two urban centers with a high capacity to attract workforce. People from the south of Muntenia and from a part of Oltenia go for work towards Bucharest, while those from southern Transylvania and a part of northern Wallachia go towards Brașov. In this way, the recruitment pool for Ploiești commuter workforce is largely limited to the area inside the county.

Table 4. Capacity to attract commuters for work in cities of over 200,000 inhabitants

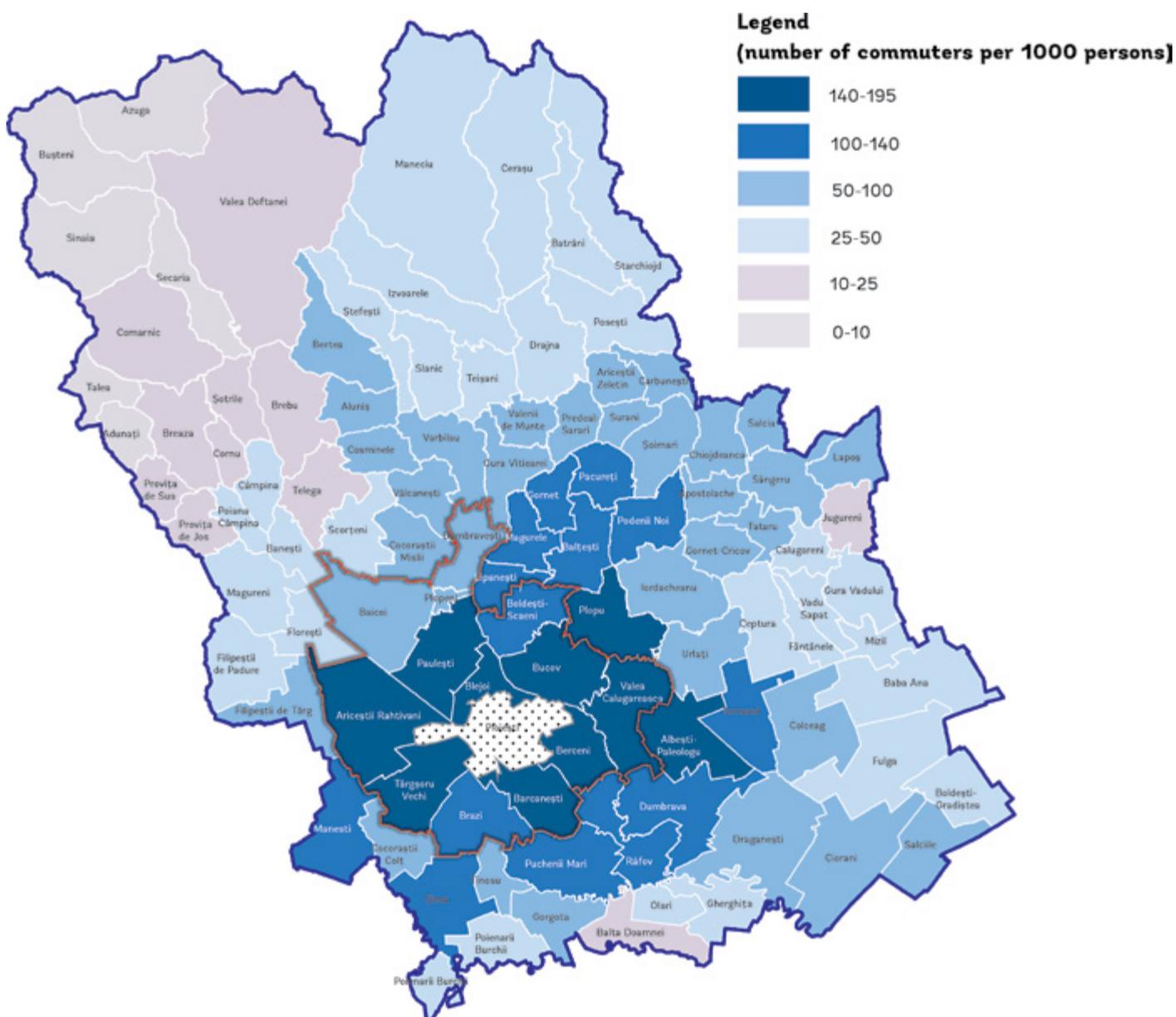
	PLOIEȘTI	CONSTANȚA	TIMIȘOARA	BRAȘOV	CLUJ	IAȘI	CRAIOVA	GALAȚI	BUCUREȘTI
Commuters working in the locality per 1,000 inhabitants	215	133	133	131	125	110	76	62	82
% commuters from other counties than that of domicile	14	20	27	29	27	18	28	29	100

Source: NIS. Own calculations

The circular lane around Ploiești, which is most intensely used for commuting, overlaps to a large extent with the lane of the most developed communes located in the vicinity of this urban center. The following communes have the highest commuting rates to Ploiești, superior to 140: Blejoi, Berceni, Târgșoru Vechi, Plopu, Păulești, Bucov, Valea Călugărească, Bărcănești, Ariceștii Rahtivani, Albești-Paleologu. Basically, almost the entire Prahova county „breathes economically” through the labor activity at Ploiești. The only exception is the group of localities in the north-west of the county, which revolve more around the tourist resorts on Prahova Valley.



Map 22. Commuting rates from Prahova localities to Ploiești (number of commuters per 1,000 inhabitants)



Data source: NIS

Immigration (i.e. arrival in the locality by changing the residence)

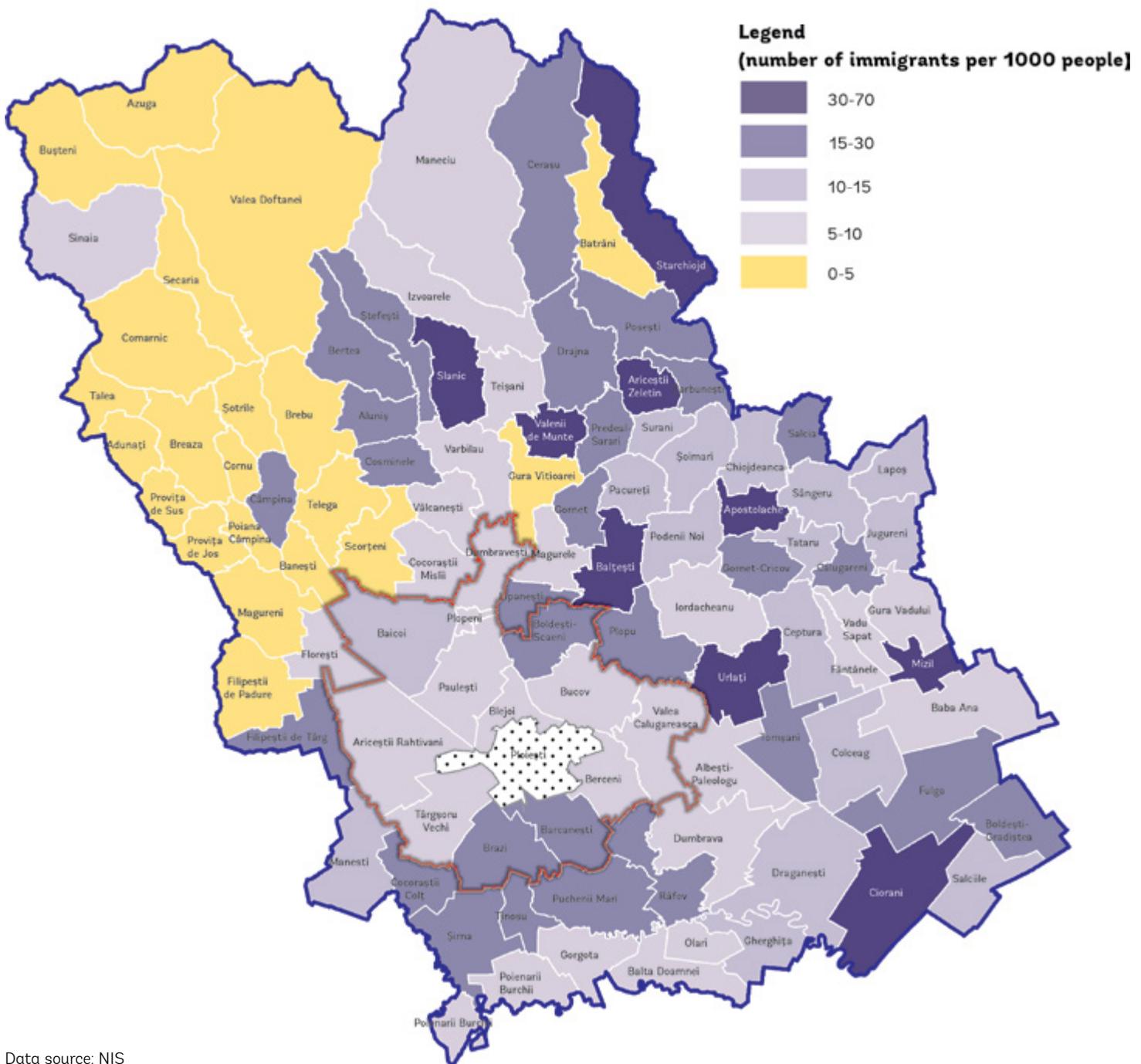
The migratory attraction of Ploiești is very high (97 arrived per 1,000 inhabitants) compared to the levels registered in other cities of over 200,000 inhabitants in Romania. This growth pole (see table below), which scores very well in terms of immigration, is in a similar situation with respect to commuting for arriving in the city (i.e. those who commute in order to work in Ploiești).

Table 5. People that established domicile in large cities during 2010-2011

	PLOIEȘTI	CONSTANȚA	TIMIȘOARA	BRAȘOV	CLUJ	IAȘI	CRAIOVA	GALAȚI	BUCUREȘTI
Arrived and domiciled in the city per 1,000 inhabitants	97	82	67	91	67	89	62	70	19
% arrived in the city from outside the county in which the city is located	59.6	54.8	37.1	62.9	34.4	48.0	63.2	74.6	0

Source: NIS. Own calculations

Map 23. Immigration rate from Prahova localities to Ploiești after 2000 (number of immigrants at 1,000 inhabitants)



Data source: NIS

Individuals who have established their residence in Ploiești city (immigrants) during 2000-2011 represent 97% (i.e. 97 per 1,000 inhabitants, belonging to the resident population of the city) at the time of the 2011 census. Of the 20,428 immigrants in Ploiești, 59.6% come from localities outside Prahova county.

Immigration to Ploiești from inside the county of Prahova usually happens from lagging communes that are relatively far from Ploiești and that send many commuters to work in this city. The distance from the capital city of the county matters less than the level of development and the stock of local commuters who leave to work in Ploiești⁷.

Through immigration Ploiești municipality connects in particular with localities from the southern and central-eastern part of Prahova county (see figure above). The localities with high rates of departure for residing in Ploiești are Urlați and Bălțești, in the proximity of the city, and also Apostolache, Ciorani, Aricești Zeletin, Chiojdeanca, and Tâtaru, located farther from the city.

⁷ IMMIGRANTS to Ploiești = 2.6 + 0.06 * DISTANCE up to PLOIEȘTI + 0.56 * COMMUTERS from locality to Ploiești + -0.08 * LHDl for the locality of departure (origin locality) to Ploiești, R² = 0.55. The first and last coefficient from the equation are significantly different from 0 for p = 0.01. Specifying the level of significance is relatively conventional because in the analysis are included 84 of the 90 communes of the county.

Development effects of territorial mobility networks

The communes located in Prahova county tend to be more developed as the commuting flows for work go to more developed localities. The relationship also applies at the national level for all communes. In other words, for the development of the village of origin, not only the activity of commuting for work by itself matters, but also the development level of the locality in which people go to work.

Although at a lower level, the same goes for commuting in cities, both in Prahova and the rest of Romanian cities. The practical implication of these series of findings sends to the idea that facilitating commuting to work is beneficial to localities of origin, especially in the cases in which commuting is oriented towards destinations with a high level of development. In other words, facilitating commuting for Prahova inhabitants to Ploiești and the metropolitan area of this city, to Bucharest and the tourist towns from Prahova Valley can contribute to the development of Prahova localities.

Table 6. Number of commuters in Prahova county by main destination localities

	LHDI 2011	Commuters arrived from Prahova county		LHDI 2011	Commuters arrived from Prahova county
Ploiești municipality	49	38835	Câmpina municipality	47	8845
Păulești	51	2248	Sinaia town	52	2681
Plopeni town	50	1991	Bușteni town	52	1008
Băicoi town	48	1754	Breața town	47	931
Boldești-Scăeni town	47	1754			
Florești	44	1494	București municipality	50	19141
Blejoi	50	1286	Otopeni town	59	1133
Brazi	43	3669			
			Brașov municipality	52	960
Vălenii de munte town	48	2798			
Mișil town	44	1633			
Urlați town	43	1508			

Source: Own calculations

NOTE: Of about 114,000 Prahova inhabitants leaving for work in other localities in the country, specified in the 2011 census data, approximately 82% go towards the 18 localities mentioned in this table.

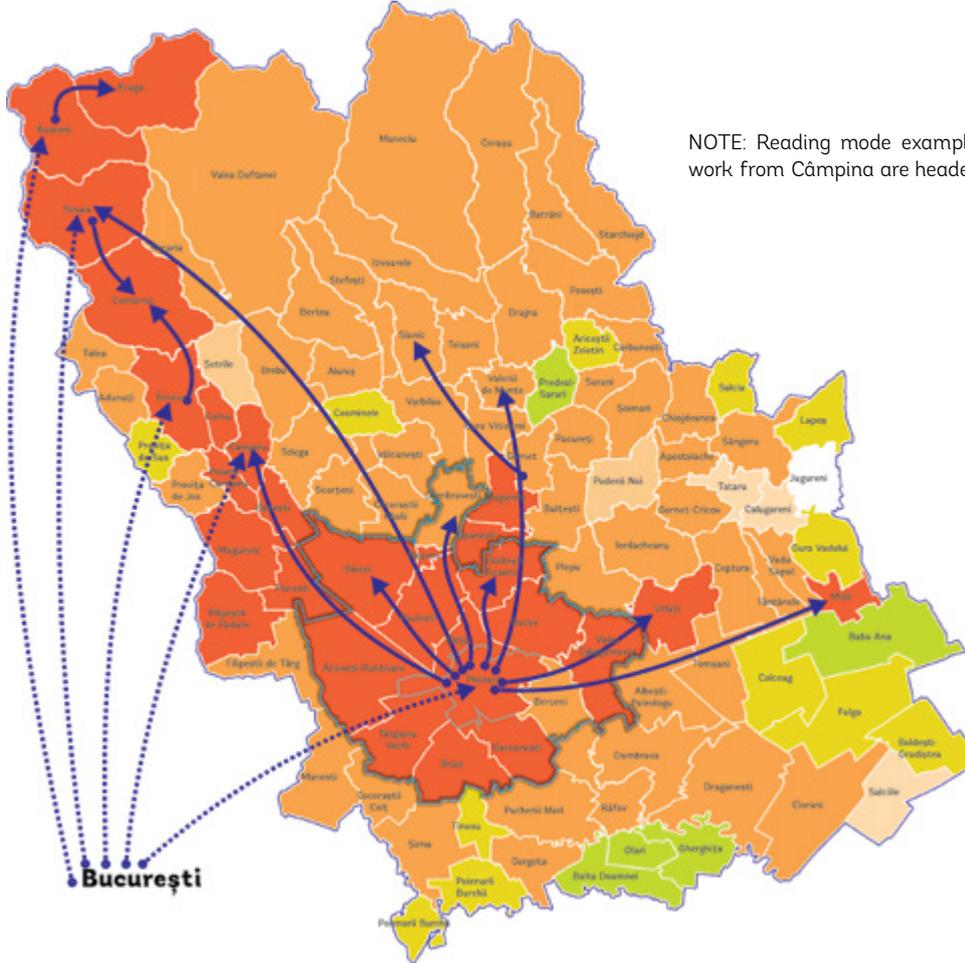
The importance of the development triangle Ploiești – Bucharest – Prahova Valley tourist cities for the development of Prahova is evident by simply mapping commuting and migration flows in the localities of Prahova since 1999 (see figures on the next page).

Labor commuting flows between Ploiești and Bucharest generates residential counter-flows from Bucharest to Ploiești. The processes are similar on the other two axes of human connectivity triangle mentioned above: the migration counter-flow from Bucharest to Prahova Valley corresponds to the commuter flows from the Prahova Valley tourist cities to Bucharest, and migration from Ploiești to Sinaia-Bușteni is counter-flow to commuting from tourist cities to Ploiești. In fact, the relationship between commuting and residential migratory movement is complex, with multiple interactions over which we should not insist in this context. What matters is emphasizing the idea that local development effects don't belong to one or another of the cities mentioned in the analysis, but to a cross-county urban network.

Of course, urban networks that lead to development cannot be created overnight. They are the effects of long-term cumulative processes. In line with local and regional development policies, actions for rural non-agricultural activities development can be envisaged; these may function as a substitute for the established urban networks. Similarly, connectivity between communes, given the proximity to each other, can be enhanced by developing efficient transport networks.

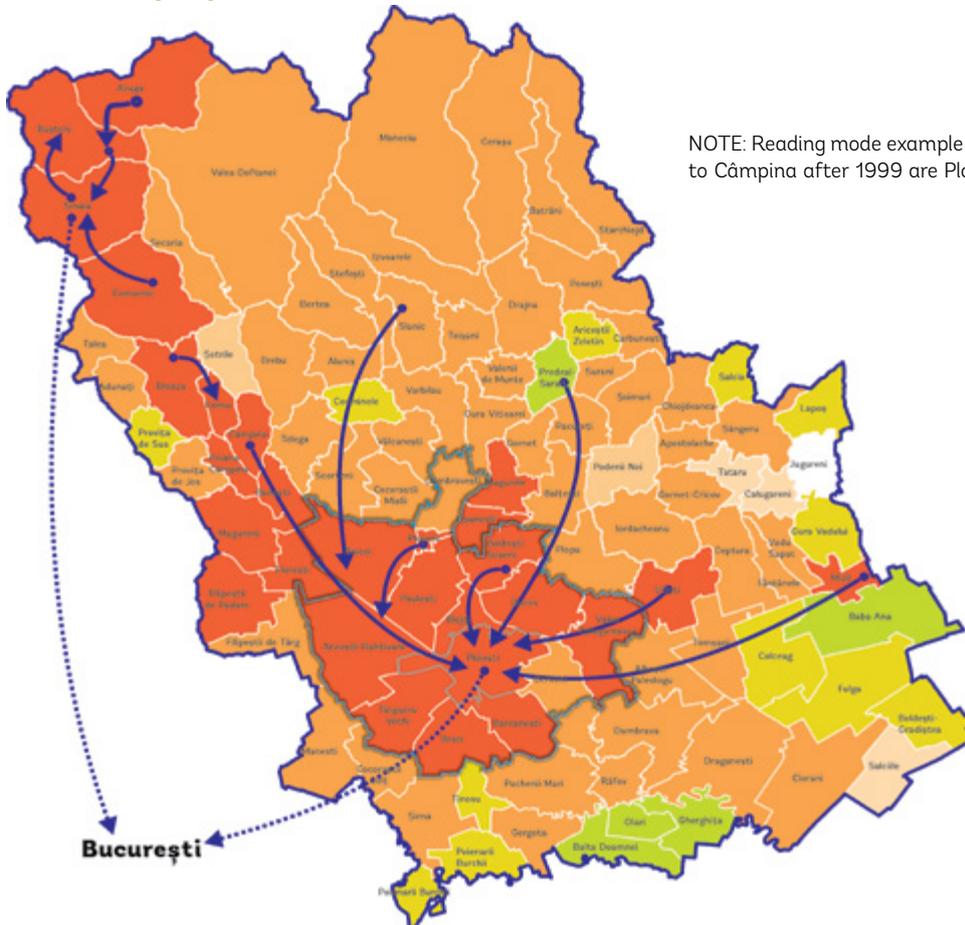
⁸ For rural areas in Prahova we have: $IDUL_{orig} = 53.53 + 0.024 * IDUL_{dest} - 5.138 * \ln(\text{Distance to city with more than 200k inhabitants})$. $R^2 = 0.34$. The shaded coefficients are significantly different from zero for $p = 0.05$. $N = 4009$ commuter flows between the communes in the county and target sites, wherever these targets may be situated. For the towns in Prahova the regression coefficients are similar to those for communes, but are not significantly different from zero. Given that the analysis is done for all 1500 commuter flows leaving from localities in Prahova, the significance level is conventional. The direction of these relations should be taken into consideration. For all communes in Romania we have: $IDUL_{orig} = 45.18 + 0.033 * IDUL_{dest} - 2.55 * \ln(\text{Distance to city with more than 200k inhabitants})$. $R^2 = 0.09$. $N = 72758$ origin-destination commuter flows.

Map 24. Main inter-urban commuting flows in Prahova cities



NOTE: Reading mode example – the main commuting flows for work from Câmpina are headed to Ploiești and Bucharest.

Map 25. Main lifelong migration flows in Prahova cities after 1999

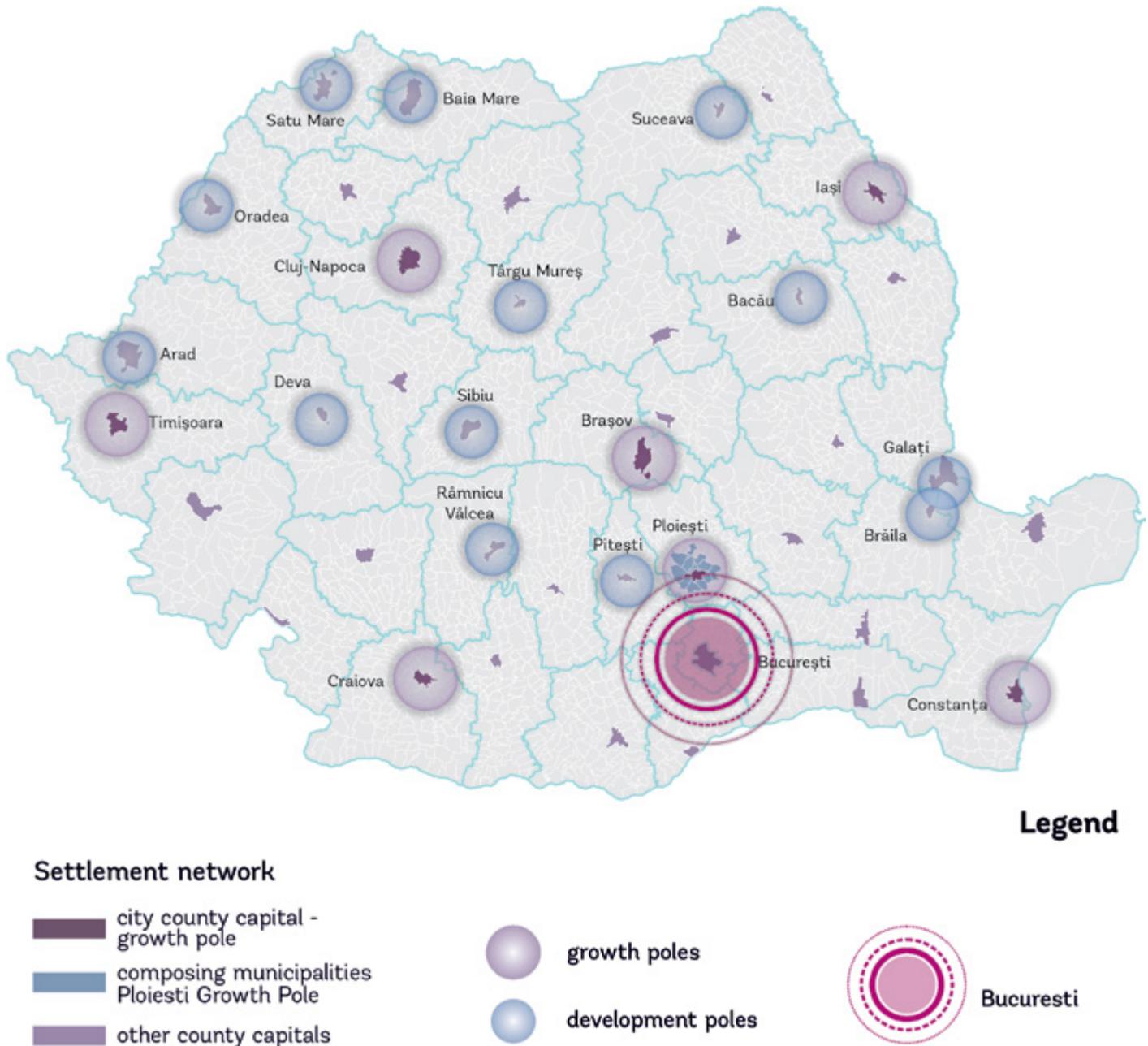


NOTE: Reading mode example – the main cities sending immigrants to Câmpina after 1999 are Ploiești and Bucharest.

Source: Own drawings

1.1.6. Conclusions – existing disparities, trends, needs, and intervention areas

Map 26. Positioning in the national territory

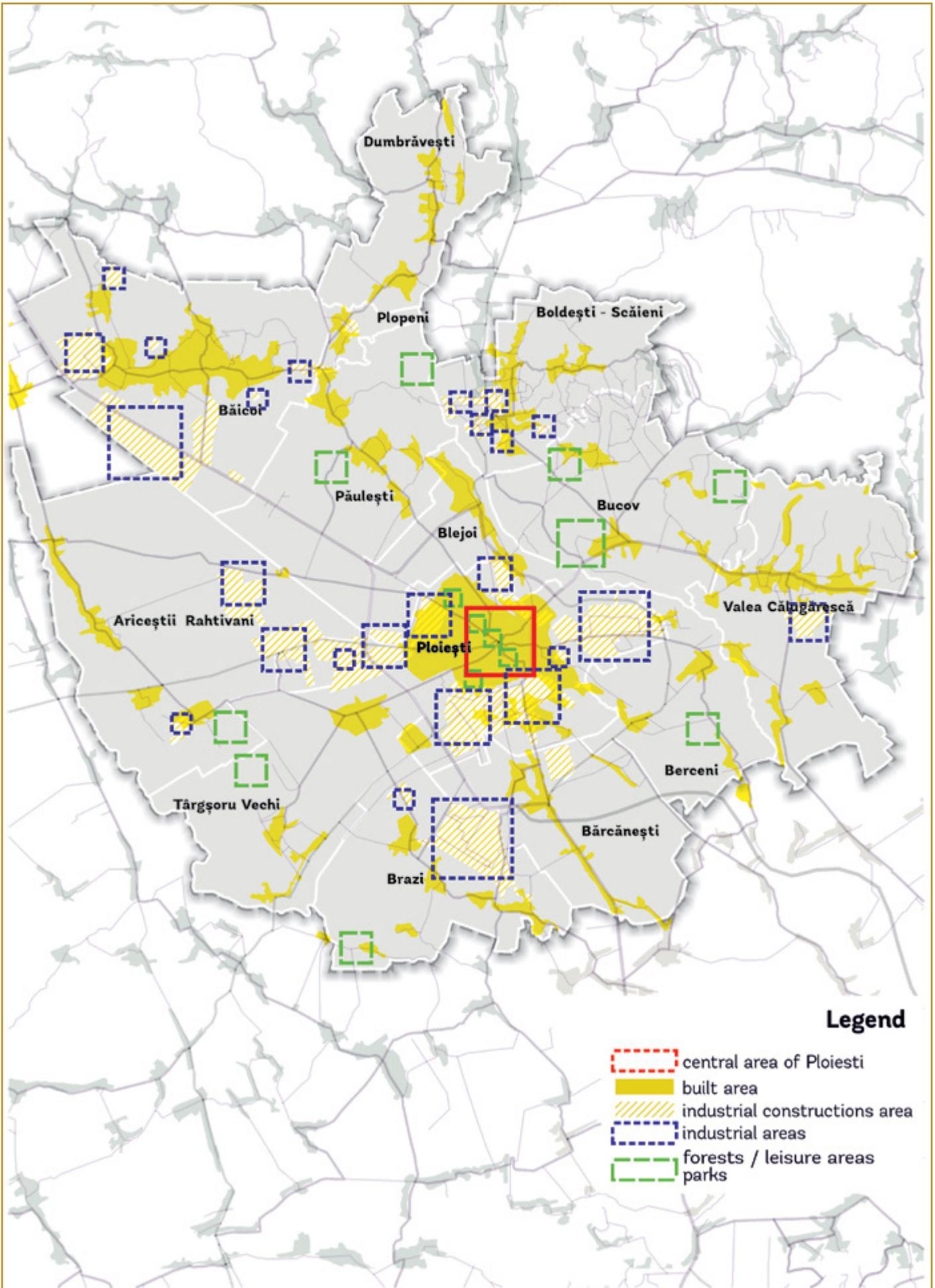


Ploiești municipality remains one of the most important urban agglomerations in Romania and the largest in the South Muntenia region, playing a key role in the overall development of the country. For this reason Ploiești obtained in 2008 the status of urban growth pole.

The municipality is part of an urban system with a population of over 4 million people and which generates about 50% of the income of companies, together with Bucharest and Târgoviște, and belongs to Brașov – Bucharest – Ploiești – Giurgiu development axis, which is the most important transport and development corridor in Romania. These agglomeration phenomena generate the prerequisites for the Growth Pole's further development.

For Ploiești, the proximity to Bucharest has antagonistic effects: on the one hand, the unequal competition between the two cities has limited the development resources and the polarizing area of Ploiești; on the other hand, it has become, especially in recent years, an economic and logistical hub for relocating of activities.

Map 27. Zoning



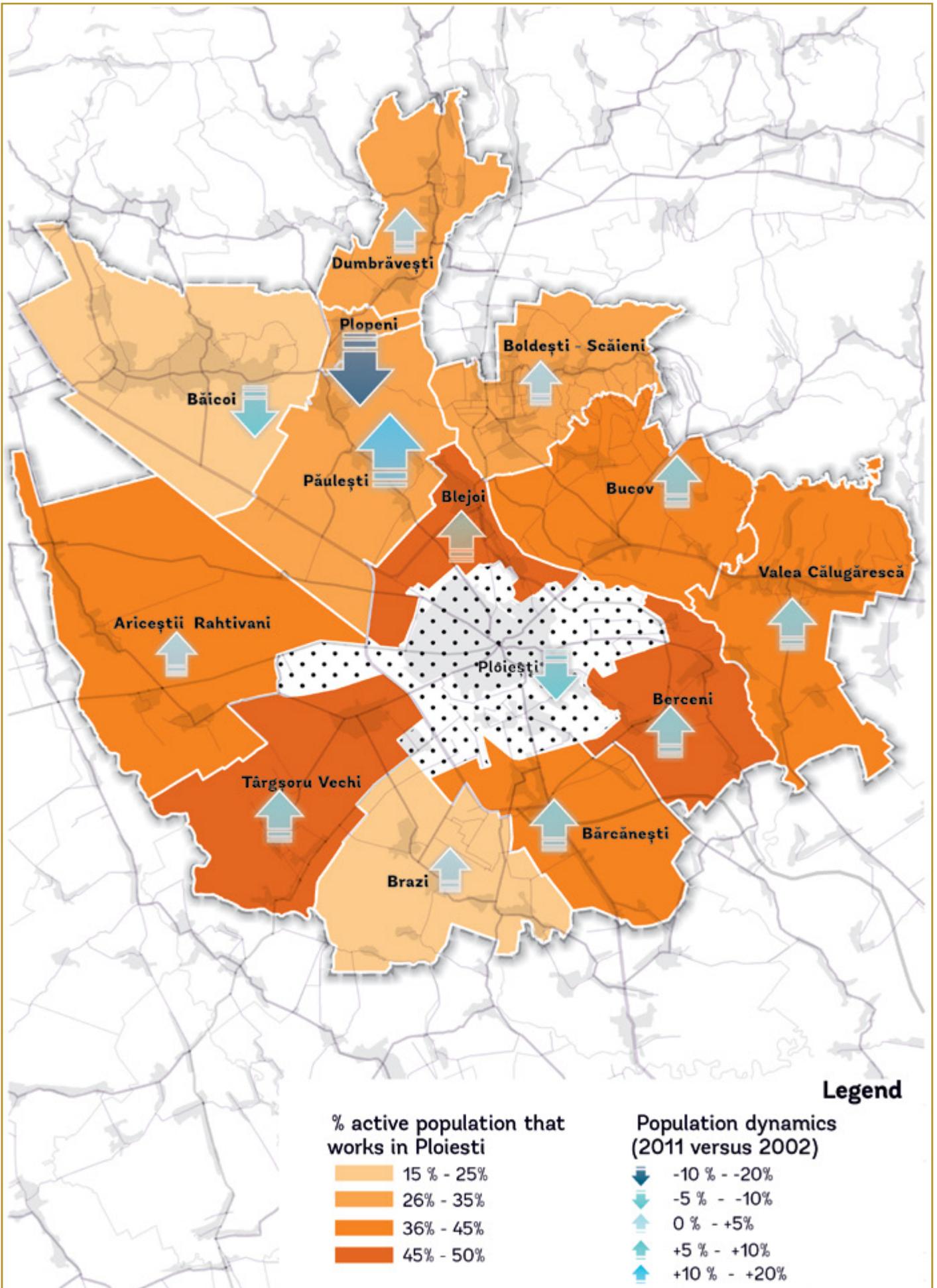
Ploiești Growth Pole includes localities with different functional profiles (complex, industrial, agricultural, etc.), which are also complementary. The pole is located in a plain area, with pedo-climatic conditions favorable to agriculture, particularly viticulture and fruit growing, and traditional activities. Therefore, in terms of how the land is used, agricultural land occupies 65% of the growth pole. However, recent years have seen a growing trend in occupancy of land with constructions (residential, industrial, communication infrastructure, etc.) at the expense of agricultural areas, especially in the suburban area, although the housing and population dynamics in Ploiești were much lower than in other growth poles in Romania. The area also faces a shortage of woodland, especially in the south.

Regarding the zoning of the built-up area, the central part of Ploiești municipality is the place where we find most of the public services of general interest and attraction points, being surrounded by residential districts developed radially, consisting either of individual housing or assemblies of collective housing (blocks), constructed especially during the communist period. Both types of residential areas face specific issues that affect the quality of housing and public spaces. In addition, many public and residential buildings face seismic risk and require major consolidation works, Ploiești being among the most exposed areas in the event of an earthquake of high magnitude.

The industrial areas of the municipality occupy large surfaces, consisting of platforms built in the interwar period and during the communist regime, some located in semi-central areas, totally or partially abandoned today (brownfield sites). There are also new industrial parks, located in peripheral areas and having developed substantially in recent years, here being located most of the major investments attracted by the municipality. Besides these, there are the major shopping centers, developed in peripheral areas, sometimes even by the conversion of former industrial sites.

Green, recreational, and sports zones occupy a small surface at the growth pole level, compared to residential and industrial areas, this being one of the major community problems, especially because there are major anthropic pressures on the environment and high traffic values, besides the fact that the municipality is located in a plain area, thus lacking extensive natural fields.

MAP 28. Population dynamics and workforce migration



The last two decades have seen a sharp decline in the population trend, which is more pronounced than in the case of other growth poles. The causes lie in the high intensity of internal migration (especially towards the capital city), external migration (especially of the young and highly qualified population), and negative natural growth. In spite of the demographic decline, localities in the peri-urban area of the municipality have benefited from a phenomenon of suburbanization, which has led to the emergence of new residential areas with a better quality of living and the relocation of some economic activities as a result of real estate, environmental, and urbanization pressures in the urban core. This has had a positive effect on the localities concerned, which now record a higher urban development index than the localities that are more remote from the city.

Considering the human development index, Ploiești ranks high in the the national hierarchy of urban settlements, but lags behind many growth poles, the development gap between them having widened in the last decade. Locally, there are major development disparities between Ploiești and the other localities, but also between city districts, where live disadvantaged communities in terms of access to employment, housing and services of general interest, and which require integrated investment under the coordination of the local community.

Working-age population continues to represent approximately 2/3 of the Growth Pole population, but the aging trend of the local workforce is becoming more and more pronounced, the internal and external migration playing a significant part in this respect. The same implications are to be found in terms of population structure by educational level, the phenomenon of „brain-drain” (migration of highly skilled personnel) leading to a lower share of university graduates compared to other growth poles. This vicious circle is a disadvantage for Ploiești Growth Pole in the competition for attracting the necessary workforce with secondary education for industry and services.

Of all the growth poles in Romania, Ploiești has the greatest capacity to attract workforce from surrounding areas, mainly due to the proper connectivity of the city and it's positioning in an area with a high density and a yet significant share of rural population with limited employment opportunities in the localities of residence. Harnessing this competitive advantage by stimulating commuter flows (e.g. through investment in infrastructure and transport services) will have a positive impact on the development of the Growth Pole.

ANNEX 1.1.

ZUP list in Ploiești (2007-2014)

Nr. crt.	Initiator	Location	ZUP description
2007			
1.	Individual	Alexandru Depărățeanu No.12	Housing construction S+P+1
2.	Company	Anton Pann No.4	Apartment building construction 2S+P+M+6E
3.	Company	Modification Of ZUP For Ploiești Industrial Park	Repositioning Bucharest – Brașov highway route and reducing the protection zone from 100 m to 50 m of the shaft, the area between DN 72 and the operating road to the firing range Ploiești
4.	Individual	Căliman No.88	Changing destination from green zone (park) to residential area with low-rise buildings
5.	Company	Carpenului No.4	Modifying authorized project and increasing height regime from S+P+8 to S+P+10
6.	Individual	Centura de Est, No.283	Housing construction P+M
7.	Individual	Crișan No.9	Area between Crișan street and Milescu street
8.	Individual	Drum Exploatare T21, A301/125	Construction of metallic hall for clothing, PVC joinery
9.	Individual	Eroilor No.19	Housing construction P+1
10.	Health Ministry	Găgeni No.102	Emergency Hospital construction
11.	Company	Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino No.340A	Construction of company headquarters, garages, sheds, carport, and utility connections
12.	Company	Gheorghe Doja No.166	Multifunctional assembly in mixed area
13.	Company	Șos. Vestului - Str. Mărășești Intersection	Construction of multifunctional building D+P+M+3
14.	Individual	Ion Măiorescu No.1	Modification of urban indicators (coefficient of land use) for building construction 4S+P+11
15.	Company	Lucernei No.1	Construction of "Flowers Valley" residential complex
16.	Company	Mihai Bravu No.250F	Lifting restrictions on building offices
17.	Individual	Moș Ion Roată No.19A and 19B	Lifting restrictions and linking regulations in the area for building apartment block S+P+3
18.	Company	Națiunii No.4	Construction of office building S+P+6
19.	Individual	Nicolae Titulescu No.66	Housing construction P+M
20.	Community Social Services Administration	Petrolului No.8A	Emergency social center development
21.	Individual	Plăieșilor No.32	Modification of height of the enclosure, authorized by AC 98/2002
22.	Individual	Republicii No.152	Hotel construction S+P+4
23.	Individual	Republicii No.224	Change destination of land from utility networks area in medium-rise housing area
24.	Company	Romană No.41	Apartment block construction S+D+P+4+M in protected area with architectural value
25.	Individual	Roșelor No.2	Change destination of area from zone with institutions and services into housing zone with complementary functions (basement garage)
26.	Individual	Spătar Milescu, 8B, 8C	Change of function - housing with mixed height regime, institutions and complementary services, collective apartment building
27.	Individual	Spicului No.16	Housing construction S+P+M
28.	Company	Ștefan cel Mare No.8	Lifting the temporary construction ban
29.	Company	Ștrandului No.61A, T10, P102	The area between DN 1B, PECO swimming pool and OMV Petrom gas station

Nr. crt.	Initiator	Location	ZUP description
30.	Company	Titan, Plot 21A 301/10.301/11	Construction of a retail deposit for non-food goods
31.	Company	Tudor Vladimirescu No.79	Modification of urbanistic indicators in view of constructing collective housing
32.	Individual	Vasile Lupu No.73	Change of function for extending and adding floors to dwelling
33.	Individual	Vioarei No.44	Adding attic floor to existent dwelling
34.	Individual	Vlad Țepeș No.21A	Construction of office building P+2
35.	Company	Vornicei Fn	Construction of collective housing S+P+4 -S+P+12
2008			
36.	Individual	Anul 1907 No.2	Integration in protected urban site and modification of urbanistic coefficient for constructing office building 3S+P+3E+M
37.	Individual	Vlad Țepeș No.21	Construction of office building P+3E
38.	Individual	Aprodul Purice No.44	Modification of urbanistic indicators for housing construction P+4E
39.	Individual	Bobâlna No.139	Modification of urbanistic indicators for collective housing construction D+P+4E+M partial
40.	Company	Bucharest No.39B	Modification of urbanistic indicators for construction of collective housing – residential complex 2S+P+11E+12, 13 r
41.	Company	Bucharest T38, P566, 559, 558/1	Modification of urbanistic indicators for construction of residential complex (S+P+4E), offices (S+P+14E), arranging enclosure, branching to utilities, enclosing field
42.	Company	Carol Davila No.24	Modification of urbanistic indicators for construction of apartment building S+P+5E with an area of S+P+2E
43.	Individual	Clementei No.44	Modification of urbanistic indicators for construction of apartment building S+P+4-5E
44.	LMC (Local Municipality Council) Ploiești	Cosminele No.11A	Change destination of land – arranging residential area (NHA) and zone with institutions and services of general interest
45.	Individual	Prof. I. Th. Grigore No.9	Modification of urbanistic indicators in view of constructing C1-type housing, company headquarters, with the following regime: S(parking)+P+2E
46.	Company	Drumul Sării No.58	Lifting restrictions of construction until the preparation of the planning documents and modification of urbanistic indicators in order to build a car service, auto parts deposit, office seat and bathroom, locker, porter lodge, fencing, walkways, roadways, parking
47.	Individual	Elena Doamna No.44	Modification of urbanistic indicators in view of collective and medium-rise housing construction D+P+3E
48.	Individual	Enăchiță Văcărescu No.76	Modification of urbanistic indicators in view of collective and medium-rise housing construction
49.	Company	Frăției No.1	Modification of urbanistic indicators in view of extending construction with elevator
50.	Company	Găgeni No.109	Modification of urbanistic indicators in view of constructing apartment building S+P+6-10E+Technical floor
51.	Company	Găgeni No.88A	Modification of urbanistic indicators and change of function from polluting industry to nonpolluting industry, commerce, residential sector
52.	Company	Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino No.131	Modification of authorized project via AC No.704/11.08.2005 – hall for car service, storehouse S+P+1E
53.	Company	I. L. Caragiale No.16	Office building construction S+P+2-5
54.	Company	Văleni No.72	Modification of urbanistic indicators in view of office building construction S+D+P+6E
55.	Christian Baptist Church	Libertății No.10A	Modification of urbanistic indicators for the construction of ELIM Christian Baptist Center – administrative office
56.	Individual	Veronica Micle No.23	Modification of urbanistic indicators for the construction of collective housing D+P+4E+partialM
57.	Company	Mărășești No.35	Construction of car wash and annex building (ground floor), fencing, branching, roadways, and walkways
58.	Individual	Mărășești No.61	Lifting restrictions for construction until the preparation of DUP/ZUP and modification of urbanistic indicators in order to destroy C1-type building, extend and add floors to C2-type building, construct car wash

Nr. crt.	Initiator	Location	ZUP description
59.	Company	Mihai Bravu T20, PA 293/31	Change of function for land from agricultural culture sector and utility networks sector to industrial and storage sector for the construction of 10 industrial halls
60.	Company	Moș Ion Roată No.22-24	Modification of urbanistic indicators for the construction of collective housing and offices
61.	Company	Negru Vodă No.42 and 42A	Modification of urbanistic indicators for the construction of office building P+2E+3R
62.	Company	Nordului No.1	Extension of North Commercial Complex – stage II – accommodation places S+P+M+9E
63.	Company	Podul Înalt No.9-11	Lifting restriction for construction, car wash construction, food store and auto parts store, coffee shop, fast food shop, modernization of fuel distribution station
64.	Individual	Radu Stanian No.4	Modification of urbanistic indicators in view of construction of head-office S+P+2E+M
65.	Individual	Rodica No.3	Modification of urbanistic indicators (coefficient of land use and height regime) for housing construction S+P+3E+M
66.	Company	Rudului No.262	Change of function from industrial units to housing units, institutions and public services, storage units, green spaces
67.	Company	Ștrandului No.150	Modification of urbanistic indicators (land occupancy rate, coefficient of land use) approved by Ploiești Local Council Decision No. 191/2007 for adding floors to showroom
68.	Company	Ștrandului No.160	Change of function for construction of hall, administrative space, annex, utilities branching, enclosure, parking, walkways
69.	Individual	Ștrandului No.190	Lifting temporary restriction for construction in view of head-office and deposit for building materials
70.	Company	Ștrandului No.61	Extending construction P and P+4E, extending 3rd and 4th floor, enclosing terrace fencing
71.	Company	Ștrandului No.70	Partial change of function from exclusively recreational into nonpolluting industry area in order to build a production hall and an administrative office
72.	Company	Ștrandului T13, Pa186/118, 119, 119/1.120	Lifting restriction for construction, change of function and urbanistic indicators in view of construction of care showroom and service
73.	Company	Târgoviște Km 8 Ploiești Industrial Park	Change destination of land from industrial area to area for institutions and services in order to build hotel, food factory, exhibition pavilion with indoor and outdoor premises, tennis and football fields, entrances, parking, utilities branches
74.	Company	Târgoviștei No.11	Change of urban indicators (coefficient of land use) and change of function from industrial area and public institutions and services area into residential and services zone for the construction of AZUR residential complex (place, head-offices, business center)
75.	Individual	Victoriei No.15	Modification of urbanistic indicators in view of collective housing construction – apartment building with offices on the ground floor D+P+3E
76.	LMC Ploiești	Mărășești Street	
2009			
77.	Individual	Alexandru Vlahuță No.6	Modification of urbanistic indicators – M Bravu 1 area (establishing height regime and minimum obligatory withdrawal relative to the alignment of the street)
78.	Company	Avram Iancu No.4	Modification of urbanistic indicators (land occupancy rate, coefficient of land use) for extending, adding floors, recomposing, modification of authorized project AC527/2007 at the Nephrology and Dialysis Center
79.	Company	Buna Vestire No.18-20	Modification of urbanistic indicators for the construction of multifunctional center, pharmacy, medical cabinet and offices
80.	Company	Centura de EST No.48	Modification of urbanistic indicators in the East Lane No. 48 area
81.	Company	Centura de VEST No.23	Modification of urbanistic indicators for developing production base
82.	Company	Corlățești No.15A	Change of function for land in view of modernizing and extending slaughterhouse
83.	LMC Ploiești	Cosminelor No.11A	Modification of ZUP for changing function of land – developing residential area (NHA) and area for institutions and services of general interest (according to Ministry of National Defense)

Nr. crt.	Initiator	Location	ZUP description
84.	Company	Dimitrie Cantemir No.1A	Modification of urbanistic indicators and height regime for construction apartment building
85.	Company	Ecaterina Teodoroiu No.14	Modification of urbanistic indicators for construction of apartment building S+P+5-6
86.	Company	Găgeni No.109	Modification of urbanistic indicators for construction of apartment building S+P+6-10+Technical floor with office spaces at the ground floor (10th floor duplex version)
87.	Company	Grădinari No.42 (Former M. Bravu 202)	Update DUP of "PLUS" supermarket (assent CTATU No. 325 / 22.09.2005) for modification of main front withdrawal at Mihai Bravu str.
88.	Company	Independenței No.23 Bis, 25	Modification of Independenței Blvd. ZUP, approved by Local Council Decision No. 45/2005, by the modification of urbanistic indicators (land occupancy rate, coefficient of land use, height regime)
89.	Company	Industriei No.36	Modification of urbanistic indicators and change of urban function from industrial area to housing and services area for construction of residential complex
90.	Individual	Intrarea Gaterului No.54	Change of function from area with specific to residential area and modification of urbanistic indicators for construction of medium-rise collective housing and complimentary endowment, enclosure, walkways, parking, branching, household platform
91.	Individual	Mărășești No.118	Lifting restriction for construction, modification of urbanistic indicators for apartment building construction D+P+2-3-4
92.	Individual	Mărășești No.171	Modification of urbanistic indicators established by Local Council Decision No. 217/2007 for C3-type housing construction, and renovating and adding attic to C2-type construction
93.	Company	Mărășești No.185	Study to improve traffic in the intersection Mărășești-Eroilor-Torca and modification of urbanistic indicators in the analyzed area
94.	Individual	Mihai Eminescu No.9	Modification of urbanistic indicators (coefficient of land use and height regime) for construction of apartment building 2S+P+3+M(duplex)
95.	Individual	Nicopole No.66	Modification of urbanistic indicators (land occupancy rate, coefficient of land use, alignment) for housing construction
96.	Company	Paris No.6	Lifting restriction for construction and modification of urbanistic indicators (land occupancy rate, coefficient of land use)
97.	Company	Poligonului No.1	Change of function from industrial area to area for general interest services in order to build beerhouse (P+1), toilet room, reconstruct deposit interior, change function from deposit to restaurant
98.	Company	Republicii No.146-150	Change of function from nonpolluting industrial area to multi-purpose residential area
99.	Company	Republicii No.170	Change of function from area of partial sanitary protection and nonpolluting industry to residential area (2nd version)
100.	Individual	Republicii No.194	Change of function from urbanistic and technical networks protection area to low-rise residential area and lifting construction restriction
101.	Individual	Republicii No.214	Modification of urbanistic indicators and withdrawal from the Republicii Blvd. axis for construction of collective housing building S+P+3+4withdrawn, swimming pool, garages
102.	Individual	Roșiori No.46	Modification of urbanistic indicators in view of apartment building construction
103.	Company	Ștefan Cel Mare No.8	Lifting construction restriction and modification of urbanistic indicators (established by Local Council Decision 14/31.01.2008) for consolidating, restoring, redeveloping, adding attic (offices) to existing construction S+P+3+2M
104.	Individual	T 2, P 4/1, L 1,2,3,4	Change of function from urbanistic and technical networks protection area to area for housing, institutions and services
105.	Company	T 62,P A 775/1-15Dn72	Extending built-up area for industrial units and deposits
106.	LMC Ploiești	Plot 44, " Mitiță Apostol" District	Dismantling field No. 44 and land parceling
107.	Individual	Tribunei No.6	Lifting construction restriction, modification of urbanistic indicators in the studied area
108.	LMC Ploiești	West Station Area	Connection road South – West

Nr. crt.	Initiator	Location	ZUP description
2010			
109.	Individual	Andrei Mureșanu No.37	Lifting construction restriction until ZUP/DUP elaboration, modifying the coefficient of land use, and modifying minimum obligatory withdrawal from A. Mureșanu street axis
110.	Company	Dn 72, Ploiești-Târgoviște Km 8, B Premises, Ploiești Industrial Park	Change of function from area for institutions and services to mixed area for institutions and services / nonpolluting industry
111.	Company	Drumul Sării No.88	Change of function from residential area to institutions and services area
112.	Company	Găgeni No.3	Construction of collective housing building and commercial spaces S+P+4E+5r
113.	Individual	Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino No.100	Lifting construction restriction and change of function from city parking to mixed area: institutions, services, housing
114.	Company	Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino No.124	Lifting construction partial restriction and change of function
115.	Individual	Industriei No.1D	Change of function from land with urbanistic and technical function to area for institutions and services in view of constructing car showroom, enclosure, utilities
116.	LMC Ploiești	Ploiești Municipality Built-Up Area	Mitică Apostol district
117.	Company	Mihai Bravu No.343	Change of function from land with agricultural crops and urbanistic & technical networks to area for industry, storage and services -ID-S
118.	Individual	Moara Nouă No.6, Pa 412/1	Change of function from land with urbanistic & technical networks to residential area in view of constructing a housing P+1, annexes, enclosure, utilities
119.	ADP Ploiești	Str. Mareșal Averescu Olimpia Sports Hall Park	Consolidating, adding attic and extending Olimpia sports hall and developing amateur running track in Tineretului park, Ploiești
120.	Individual	Pictor Rosenthal No.63	Partial change of function from area with constructions for urbanistic & technical works and agricultural crops to residential area
121.	Company	Republicii No.138	Lifting construction restriction and change of function from low-rise/medium-rise mixed zone to institutional and services area in view of constructing commercial complex, hypermarket, and commercial gallery
122.	Individual	Republicii No.152K	Adding floors to hotel, including withdrawn attic for getting conference room function, needed for a 4 star hotel
123.	Company	Str. Târgoviștei No.2	Change of function from industrial area to commerce and services
124.	Individual	Țăglău No.39	Modification of urbanistic regulations
2011			
125.	Individual	Str. Dr. Bagdazar No.4	Partial change of function from area with communication channels to area for housing, institutions, services; majoring the land occupancy rate, modifying side and rear limits
126.	Individual	Str. Mărășești No.274	Lifting construction restriction and change of function from area for institutions and services, complimentary constructions and park to low-rise residential area, institutions and services
127.	Company	Str. 1 Decembrie 1918 No.1	Change of function from industrial area to institutions and services of general interest area and modification of street direction, proposed in the UPETROM premises through the General Urban Plan and unachieved
128.	Company	Str. Ștrandului No.53-55	Lifting construction restriction, changing function of land from collective housing and services area to area for services, recreation and sports, including modifying alignment regime
129.	LMC Ploiești	Str. Ghighiului No.2	Modification of urbanistic indicators at HIPODROM premises
130.	Individual	Str. Popa Farcas No.57	Lifting construction restriction considering an objective proposed on a non-buildable plot
131.	Individual	Str. Pompierilor No.1A	Change of function from area for road communication channels to low-rise housing area; lift construction restriction in in the intersection; modify alignment regime
132.	Individual	Str. Poligonului No.2	Change of function from nonpolluting industry area to area for institutions and services/commerce; establish urbanistic indicators, alignment regime

Nr. crt.	Initiator	Location	ZUP description
133.	Individual	Str. M. Bravu No.336	Change of function of land from area for agricultural crops and technical and urbanistic networks to area for industry and storage units
134.	Company	Str. Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino No.111A	Lifting construction restriction, alignment regime and change of function from services area to area for housing, already existing there
135.	Company	Str. Gh. Doja, Apelor	Change of function from industrial to institutions and services area, modify urbanistic indicators, lift construction restrictions in the intersection between Gh.Doja-Calomfirescu streets and Gh.Doja-Postei-Apelor streets
136.	Individual	B-dul Republicii No.164	Lifting construction restriction
137.	Individual	Str. Radu de la Afumați No.16	Modifying regime of alignment relative to the axis of the street
138.	Company	Str. Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino No.332	Change of function from area for transport units and partially for protective belt to mixed area for institutions and services / recreation
139.	Prahova County Council	Plot 13, Pa210, Dn 1 Highway - Centura de EST Of Ploiești	Change of function of land from area for agricultural crops, technical and urbanistic networks, and protective plantation to area for industry and storage units
140.	Company	Str. Laboratorului No.29A	Lift construction restriction in the intersection, change of function from nonpolluting industry area to mixed area for institutions and services / nonpolluting industry, establish urbanistic indicators and alignment regime
141.	Individual	Str. Rafov No.51	Change of function from area for technical and urbanistic networks to low-rise residential area
142.	Individual	Bd. Republicii T2, Pa 4/1	Modification of approved ZUP, height and alignment regime
143.	Individual	Str. Sondelor No.74	Change of function from area with service housing / colonies, sanitary protection and nonpolluting industry to area for institutions and services; lifting construction restriction and modifying alignment regime
2012			
144.	Company	Str. Mărășești No.318	Lifting construction restriction
145.	Company	Str. Traian No.115-117	Modification of urbanistic indicator: land occupancy rate
146.	Individual	Str. Bănești No.11	Modification of regime of alignment relative to the axis of Zidari street
147.	Company	Str. Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino No.44	Modification of urbanistic indicators
148.	Individual	Str. Taglău	Modification of urbanistic regulations, completing Local Council Decision 61/2010
149.	Company	Centura de EST No.277 B	Change of function from area for agricultural crops, technical and urbanistic networks to housing area
150.	Company	Str. Sondelor No.62A	Modification of urbanistic indicator and functional reconversion
151.	Company	Str. Mircea cel Bătrân No.119	Modification of urbanistic indicators and functional reconversion
152.	Individual/ Company	Str. Laboratorului No.7C, E	Change of function from area for agricultural crops, technical and urbanistic networks to mixed area for housing, complementary facilities, institutions and services; modification of urbanistic indicators
2013			
153.	Ploiești Municipality Company	Str. Găgeni No.98, 98A, 102, 102B	Re-zoning and functional reconversion for municipal interest investments in Ploiești
154.	Individual / Company	Str. Laboratorului No.7C, E	Change of function from area for agricultural crops, technical and urbanistic networks to mixed area for housing, complementary facilities, institutions and services; establishment of urbanistic indicators; housing construction as secondary purpose
155.	LMC Ploiești		Extending the validity term for the ZUP of Hipodrom Ploiești area
156.	Company	Str. Oborului No.1	Change of function from industry area to area for institutions and services; modification of urbanistic indicators
157.	Ploiești Municipality	Str. Mărășești	Accessibility and traffic fluidization towards Ploiești-West industrial area and Brazi industrial platform
158.	Company/ Individual	DN 1b, T13,P186/109-113, Str. Ștrandului No.182	Lifting construction restriction, establishing urbanistic indicators, changing land function to professional services and nonpolluting industry / storage

Nr. crt.	Initiator	Location	ZUP description
159.	Company	Str. Mihai Bravu No.342A, 342B, 344A	Changing land function to nonpolluting industry with services ID-S and establishing urbanistic indicators
160.	Company	Str. Sondelor No.62A	Rectification of ZUP, modification of urbanistic indicators and functional reconversion
161.	Company	Str. Calomfirescu No.2	„Modification of approved ZUP – change of function from industrial area to area for institutions and services; modification of urbanistic indicators, lifting construction restrictions at the intersections between Gheorghe Doja-Calomfirescu streets and Gheorghe Doja-Poștei-Apelor streets
162.	Company	Str. A. Mureșanu No.76	Mini-football Sports Base
163.	Company	DN 72 (Km 74+500 – 76+300)	Extending the validity term of ZUP for Ploiești Industrial Park
164.	Ploiești Municipality	P-ța Eroilor No.1A, Str. Cuza Vodă Fn	Construction of pediatric hospital and multi-floor parking
165.	Ploiești Municipality	Str. Cosminele No.11A	Land parceling for individual housing construction through the NHA
166.	Company	Str. A. Mureșanu No.76	Fixing material error from Local Council Decision 327/27.08.2013 – ZUP for Mini-football Sports Base
2014			
167.	Company	Blvd. București, T39, PA 569/61 Si 62	Change of function to mixed sub-area – services, commerce, housing, small production – M1; establishing urbanistic indicators
168.	Ploiești Municipality	Str. Găgeni No.98, 98A, 102, 102B	Re-zoning and functional reconversion for municipal interest investments, for correlation with rehabilitation projects of tram route and developing multimodal terminal
169.	Individual	Str. Spătar Milescu No.20	Change of function of land from “city parking” to “mixed area for housing, institutions and services”
170.	Ploiești Municipality	Str. Lucernei No.1	Change function of land from industry units area to housing area
171.	Company	Șos. Vestului No.12	Lifting construction restriction and changing function of land from residential and parking to public institutions and services area – 2nd version
172.	Company	Str. B, Cartier Vest 3, T61, P158	Lifting construction restriction and establishing urbanistic indicators
173.	Company	Str. Gheorghe Doja No.101C, Ploiești	Lifting construction restriction, modifying maximal urbanistic indicators and alignment regime
174.	Company	Str. Romana No.65 and 81	Lifting construction restriction, modifying maximal urbanistic indicators and alignment regime
175.	Individual	B-dul. Republicii, No.198B	Change of function and lifting construction partial restriction in order to build housing, enclosure and branching as secondary purpose
176.	Company	Str. Ștrandului, No.61A	195/2007, in view of making some extensions and a new building for showroom
177.	Individual	Str. Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino 198-202	Lifting construction restriction, modifying urbanistic indicators (land occupancy rate, coefficient of land use) and alignment regime for restructuring existing buildings and constructing commercial space
178.	LMC Ploiești		Extending term of validity for dismantling field no. 44 and land parceling in Mitică Apostol district
179.	Company	Str. Mărășești, No.319	Change of function from mixed area to nonpolluting industry and services area; modification of urbanistic indicators
180.	Prahova County Council	Șos. Vestului, No.14-16	Change function of land from special destination area to institutions and services area; modification of urbanistic indicators

1

Analysis of Development Needs and Areas of Intervention

CHAPTER 1.2.

Economy



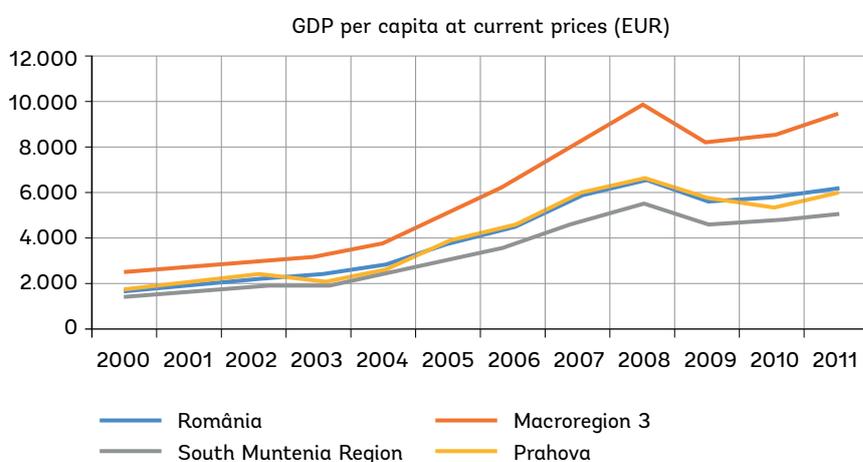
1.2. Economy

1.2.1. Economic context – Economic sectors and development promotion

The analysis of the key macroeconomic indicators shows that the economy of Prahova county, in general, and of Ploiești Growth Pole, in particular, has had a strong upward evolution in the past decade, interrupted in 2008 by the onset of the global financial and economic crisis.

Thus, between 2000 and 2011, the GDP/capita in Prahova county grew by 333% at current prices, at a slower pace of growth than the one at regional (340%) and national level (344%); the causes are related to the stronger adjustment of the county economy during the crisis (2008-2010). However, Prahova county remains one of the top 10 economic poles of Romania and the largest in the South Muntenia region, contributing by 3.5% to the national GDP and by 30.1% to the regional one.

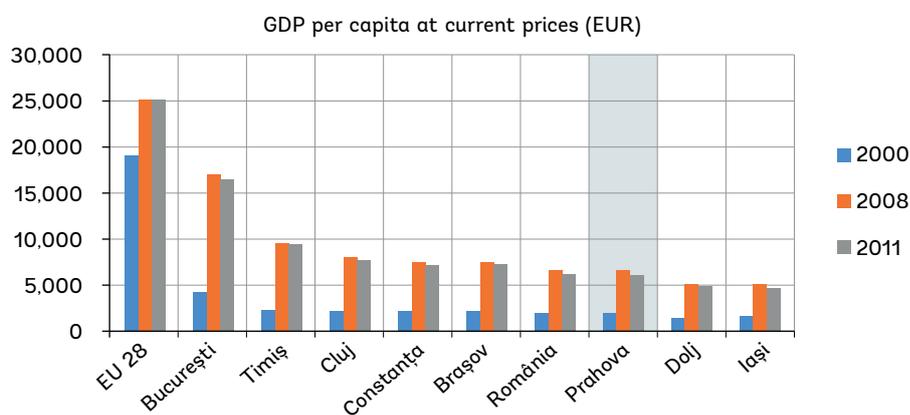
Figure 19. GDP per capita at current prices, between 2000 and 2011



Source: EUROSTAT

Despite the tendency of converging to the EU average in the past 10 years, similar to that recorded at the level of the whole country (in the year 2000, Prahova county reached only 9.5% of the EU average GDP per capita, and now this indicator has increased to 23.9%)¹, the economic development gap of the county compared to Bucharest, and other counties where growth poles are located (e.g. Cluj, Timiș, Constanța) has widened.

Figure 20. Dynamics of the GDP/capita at current prices in the major Romanian counties between 2000 and 2011

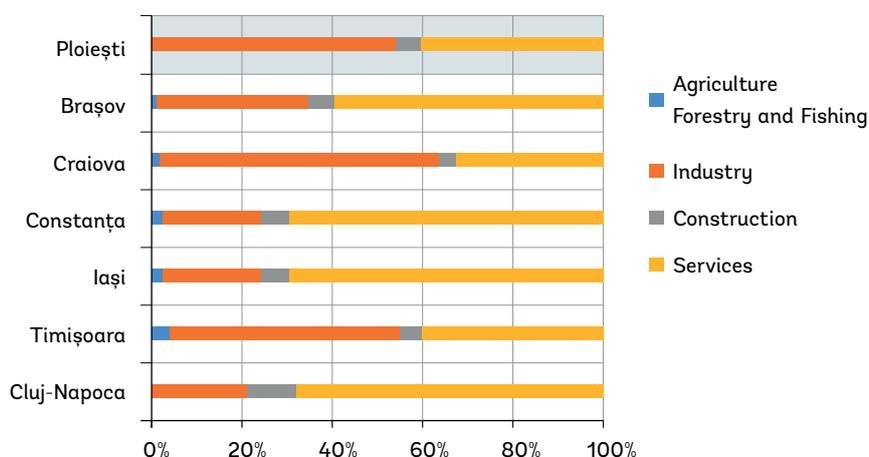


Source: EUROSTAT

¹ However, when taking into account the GDP vs. the purchasing power, Prahova county was at 26% of the European average in 2000 and at 47% in 2011.

Also, the structure of local economies varies significantly from one growth pole to another. Thus, in cities that were the most economically dynamic in the last 10 years (Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca) the economy is dominated by the tertiary sector (the service sector)², which has – traditionally – the highest added value, the highest salary level and offers the best prospects for development. By contrast, there are a number of less dynamic cities, with low economic performance, such as Craiova and Ploiești, where the industrial sector continues to generate over half of the output of the local economy. The exceptions to this rule are Timișoara, with a high share of the industry, but with a shift towards more technologically advanced branches (automotive, electrical and electronic equipment, etc.) and a very high level of foreign investment, which have continued to perform well over the last few years, and Constanța, with a well-established service sector, especially in transport, but with lower economic performance. Therefore, in addition to gearing its industrial sector towards more high-tech branches striving to become more competitive globally, the Ploiești municipality must diversify its local profile by supporting the service sector.

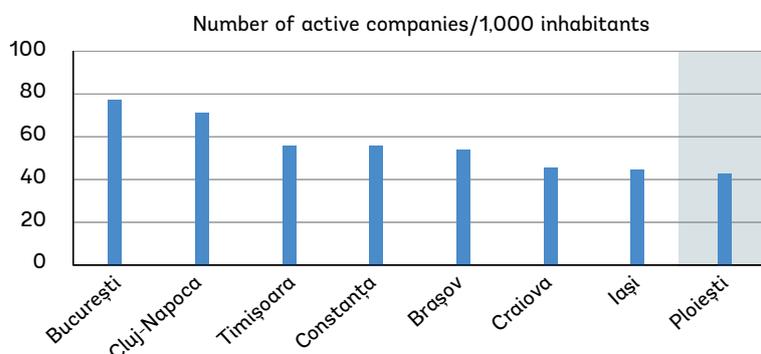
Figure 21. Structure of the total turnover achieved in 2013 in the Romanian growth poles by major economic sectors



Source: BORG Design Database

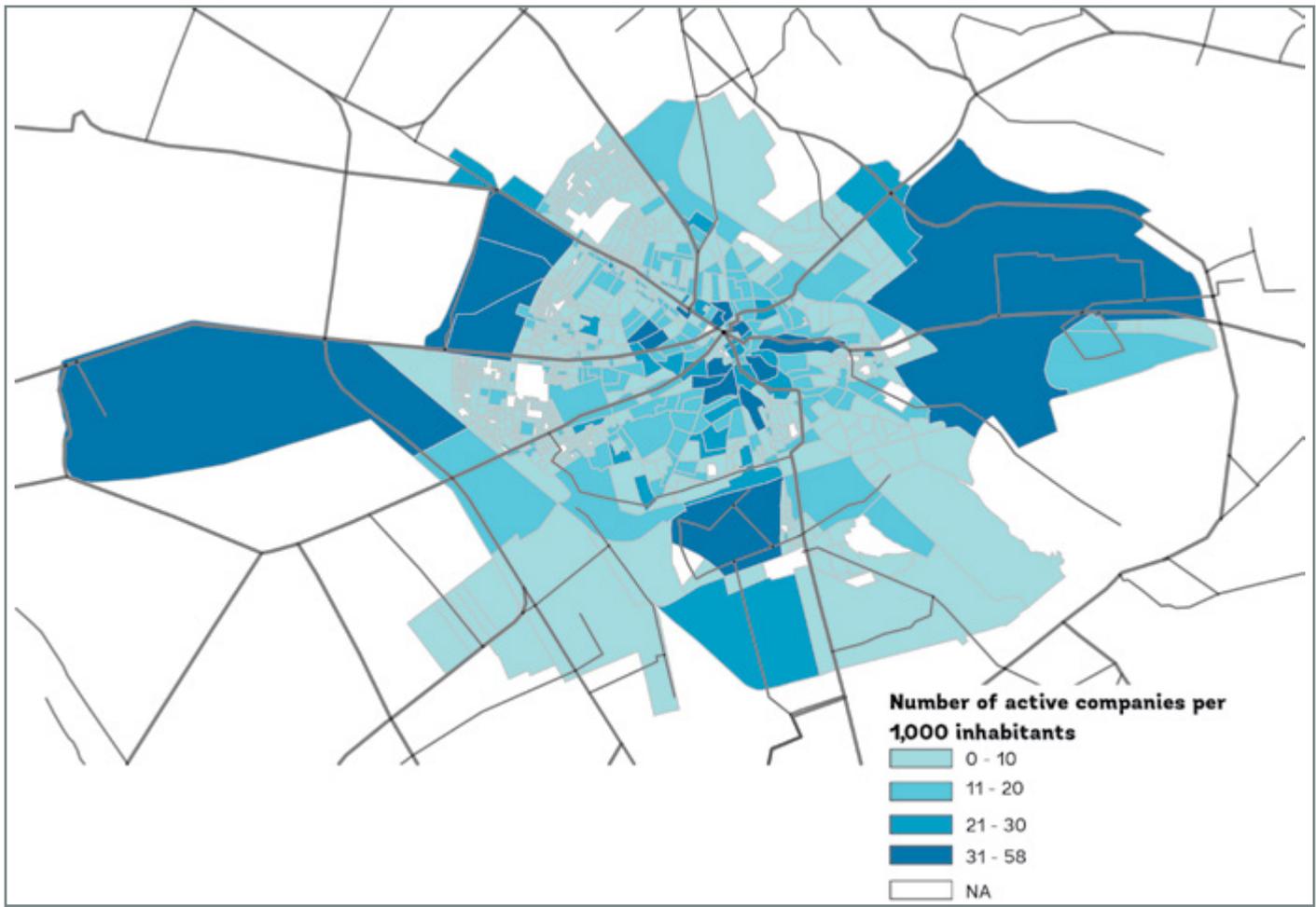
In terms of entrepreneurial dynamics, expressed by the number of active businesses per 1,000 residents, the Ploiești municipality has the weakest performance of all 8 Romanian growth poles; the local economy is dominated by large companies with foreign capital, to the detriment of a solid local class of entrepreneurs. In this context, measures are needed to support the residents' business initiatives, which may prove more beneficial for the local economy in the medium and long term.

Figure 22. Number of active companies per 1,000 stable residents in the Romanian growth poles in 2013



Source: BORG Design Database

² For a more detailed analysis on this topic, please see: World Bank. 2013. *Growth poles: The Next Phase*.

Map 29. Distribution of companies in Ploiești municipality by census sector in 2013

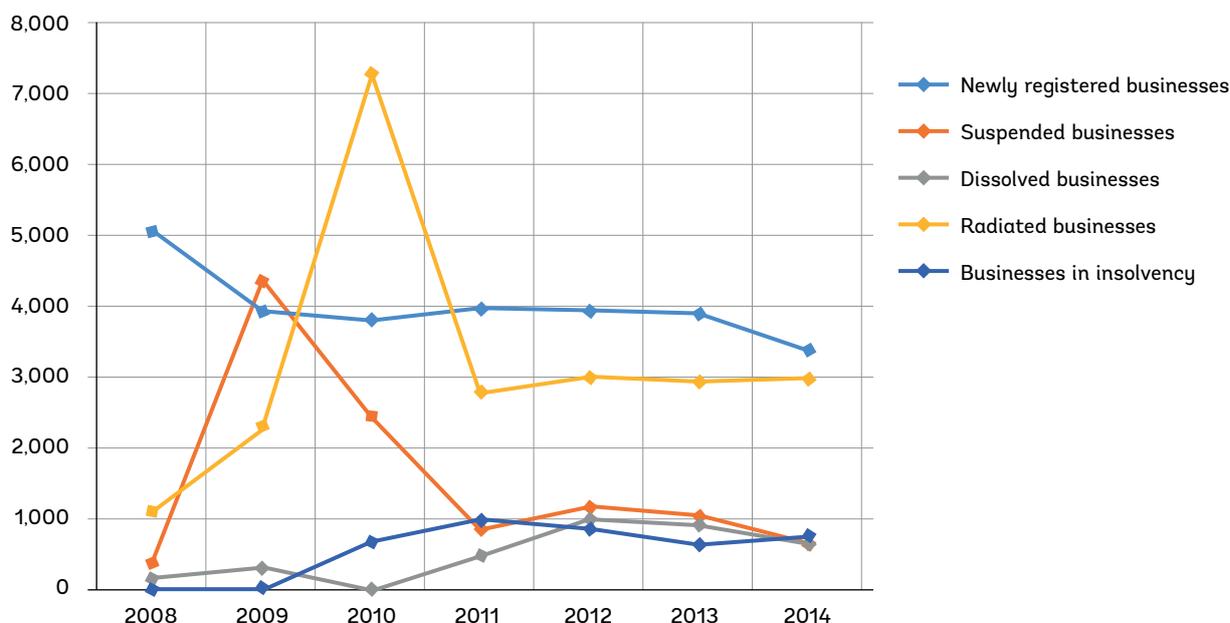
Source: Own slide based on data from BORG DESIGN (LIST OF FIRMS)

Between 2007 and 2013, the number of active companies in Ploiești Growth Pole decreased by 13.9%, more than the regional (-11.1%) and the national (-12.6%) average, due to the economic crisis, which led to a decrease in the domestic and external demand, and thus to a limitation of the activity of businesses in the area, or even to bankruptcy for some. The most affected sectors were the construction industry, the trade and the manufacturing industry – areas with a significant share in the local economy; in these sectors, the number of companies has decreased by 18-26%, in the last 7 years alone. In contrast, there are sectors where the number of companies has increased, such as agriculture, energy, information and communications, and certain services for the population, these being less vulnerable to economic cycles.

The number of newly established companies fell steadily after 2008, reaching the minimum of the range in 2014. By contrast, the number of suspensions and removals from the trade registry rocketed in 2009 and 2010, settling after 2011 at values similar to those registered in the mid-2000s and following broadly the local and national economy cycle. On the other hand, the number of insolvencies is still high; this procedure has been more commonly used in recent years by companies facing a liquidity shortage and high debt, which proves that the recovery from the crisis has been a slow one. Moreover, the macroeconomic indicators show that 2014 was the first year in which the national economy returned to the performance it had in 2008; this is also true at the local level. As well, the number of companies set up by students remains low – 296 were in operation in 2014, out of 468 established to date. In Prahova county, 383 limited liability companies were established by the end of 2014, of which 365 are operational, representing only 2.3% of those existing at the national level.

In addition to the companies located within the growth pole, there are more than 8,000 freelancers, this figure being lower by 7.3% compared to 2007. They perform various activities, especially in the service sector, but their activities have a relatively marginal impact on the local economy.

Figure 23. Dynamics of company-related operations during 2008-2014

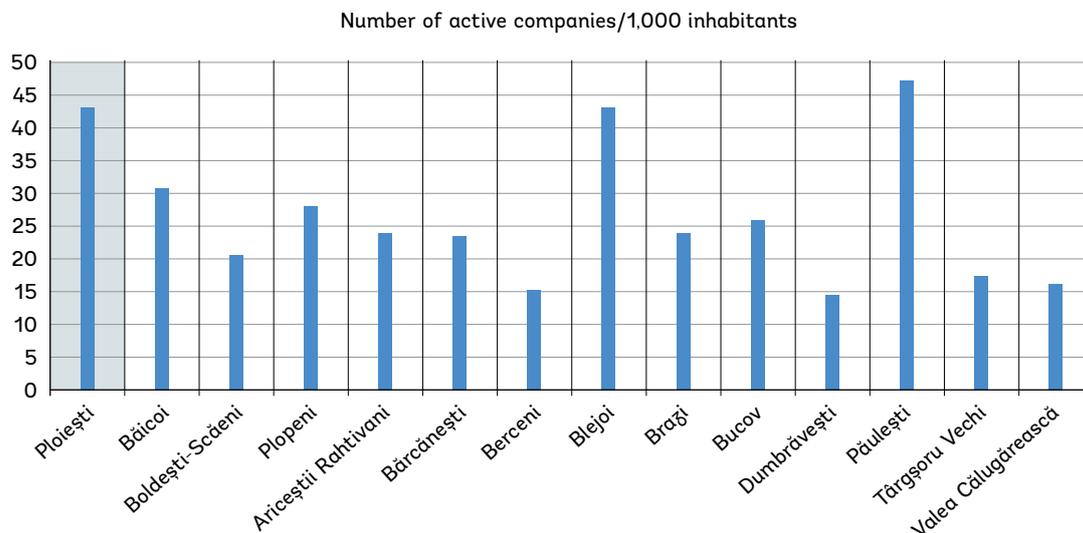


Source: The National Trade Register Office

Despite this negative dynamics, Ploiești Growth Pole continues to pool 64.6% of the active companies in Prahova county, 19.3% of those in the South Muntenia region, and 2.1% of those in Romania.

The suburbanization phenomenon occurring over the last few years around Ploiești has affected not only the residential sector and the population, but also the businesses. Thus, the adjoining localities of Ploiești have attracted many investors over the past few years – either newly established or relocated from the urban core –, pressured by urban planning and environmental regulations and especially those related to the real estate market (the availability and price of land, the level of taxes, the cost of utilities), so much so that some record a larger number of companies per 1,000 inhabitants than the municipality itself (e.g. the Păulești and Blejoi communes).

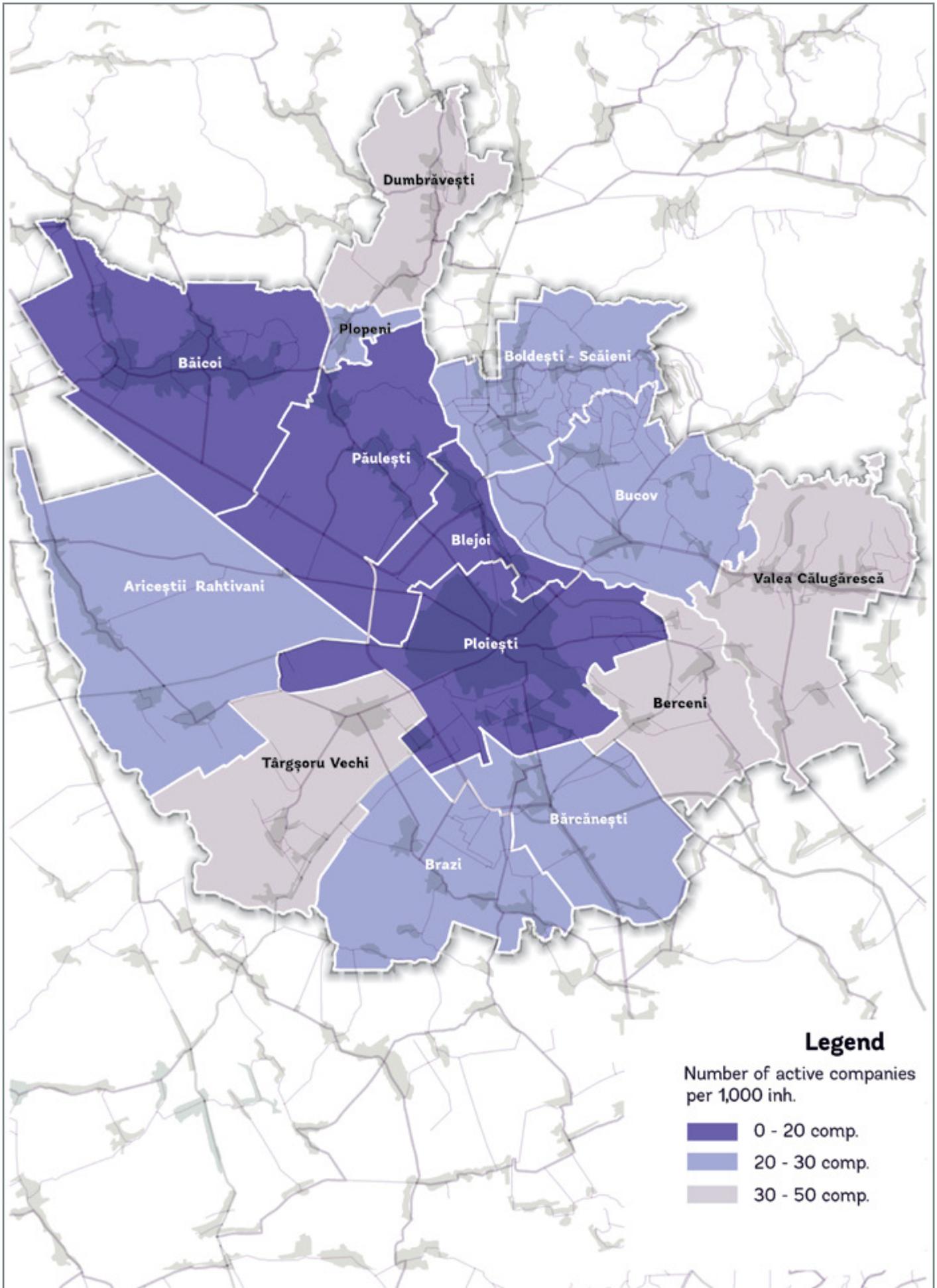
Figure 24. Number of active companies per 1,000 inhabitants by localities in 2013



Source: BORG Design Database

Of the more than 10,500 active companies in Ploiești Growth Pole that submitted their financial statements for the financial year 2013, 99.6% are SMEs, which are the engine of the local economy. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that 36.2% of these businesses have no employees and about 15% had no revenues in 2013. With this in mind, we can say that the economy of the area is based on approximately 6,000 enterprises with a turnover that exceeds 25,000 EUR/year. Compared to 2007, the number of microenterprises has decreased by 14.6%, the number of small enterprises – by 1.8%, the number of medium enterprises – by 8.1%, and the number of large enterprises – by 26.7%, some of the latter having undergone significant personnel lay-offs since 2008. Therefore, we can say that small and medium enterprises have adapted best to the unfavorable context of the economic crisis, as they are the most flexible.

Map 30. Active companies/1,000 inhabitants



Legend

Number of active companies per 1,000 inh.

- 0 - 20 comp.
- 20 - 30 comp.
- 30 - 50 comp.

Table 7. The structure of active enterprises by size categories in 2013

Enterprise size category by number of employees in 2013	Ploiești Growth Pole	Prahova County	South Muntenia Region	România
	% of the total number of active companies			
0-9 (micro)	88.9	85.2	86.3	87.1
10-49 (small)	8.9	11.9	11.2	10.6
50-249 (medium)	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.9
over 250 (large)	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4

Source: BORG Design Database and the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), TEMPO Online

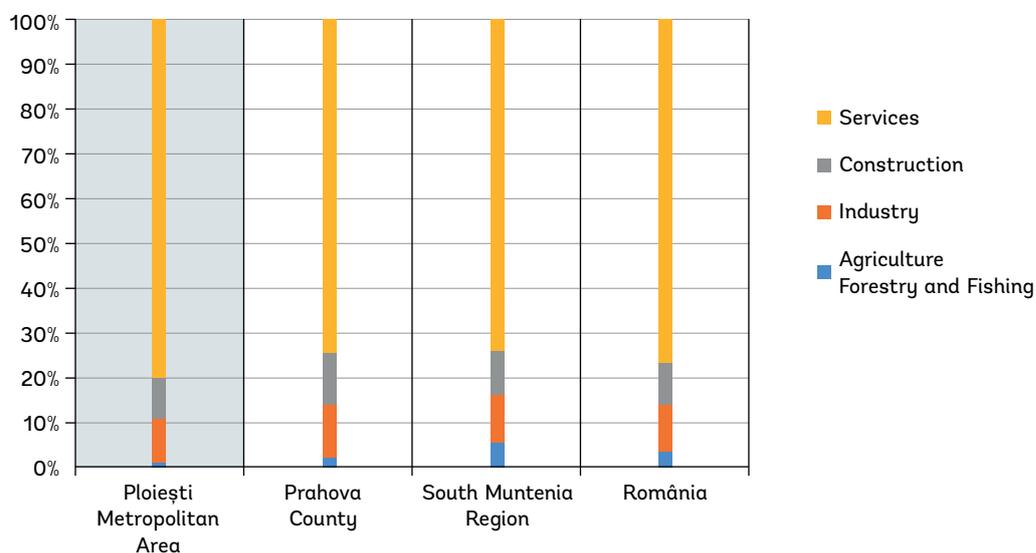
In terms of the stakeholder age, we notice that 9.86% of the young people aged up to 29 own companies in Prahova county, compared to an average of 10.79% nationally; the situation is similar in the case of people aged 30-39 (25.85% compared to 28.15%). By contrast, the percentage of shareholders aged 40 and over is higher at the county level.

After 1989, Ploiești municipality and Ploiești Growth Pole underwent several cycles of restructuring and shifting / adaptation regarding the local economy. Thus, some of the large enterprises built during the communist period reduced their activity or disappeared, as they could not adapt to the conditions of the market economy, such as Plopeni Mechanical Plant, “Romfosforchim” Chemical Fertilizer Undertaking in Valea Călugărească, “Astra Română” Refinery, “1 May” Oil Equipment Plant, “Intex” Textile Enterprise, “Cablul Românesc” Enterprise, “UZTEL” Plant, etc.

On the other hand, over the last 20 years, and especially over the last decade, a number of investors have come to this area, developing new areas of activity and generating jobs, partially offsetting the disappearance of the large industrial units built in the communist period: Coca-Cola, Unilever, Bergenbier, Alexandrion (food and beverage industry), Unilever (chemical industry), OMV, Rompetrol and Lukoil (energy and petrochemicals industries), Calsonic Kansei, Yağazi, Johnson Controls, Honeywell (automotive parts), British American Tobacco (tobacco), Lufkin, Cameron (equipment for the oil industry), Timken (bearings), Dekomte de Temple, Ottorose, Beaulieu, Oğtasar (textiles and clothing), Toro (machinery for irrigation systems), Xella, Adeplast, Bauelemente (construction materials), Terqua (steel constructions), etc.

In addition to the shifting of the industrial sector, over the last two decades, the service sector has also developed; it has come to generate over 40% of the turnover and over 50% of the number of jobs in the growth pole, especially in the field of modern trade – as several large international networks (Kaufland, Carrefour, Billa, etc.) entered the local market in transport, information and communications technology, scientific, technological and professional activities, etc. However, the service sector in Ploiești is less developed than in other growth poles, due to the polarization of the area by Bucharest, which is just 60 km away.

Figure 25. Structure of active companies by major sectors of activity in 2013



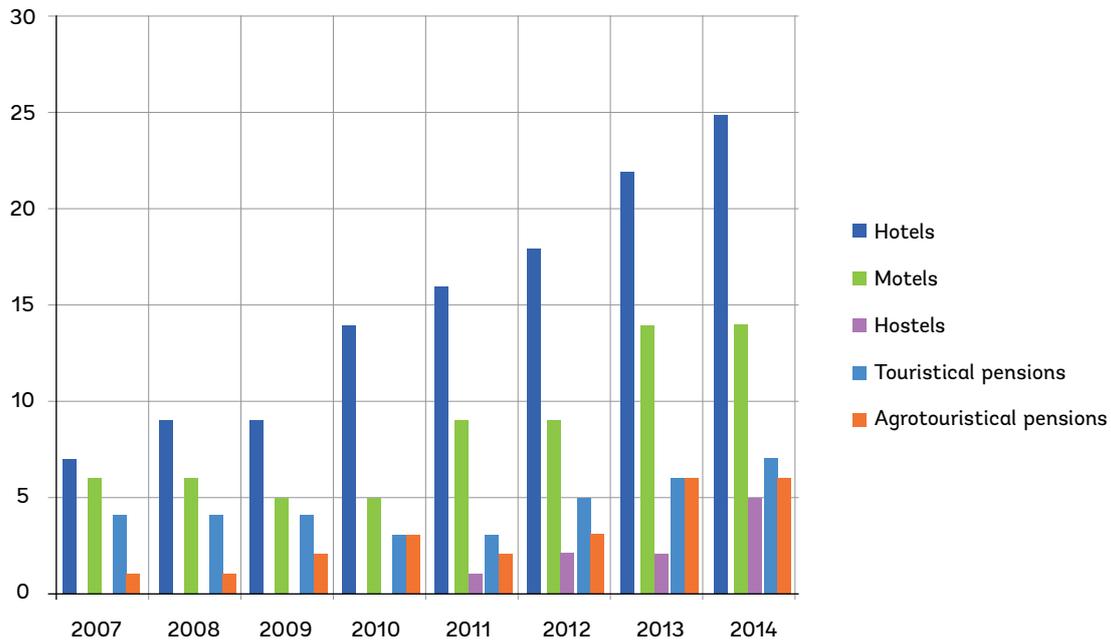
Source: BORG Design Database

1.2.2. The tourism industry: Products and Infrastructure

As previously mentioned, tourism plays a marginal role in the economy of Ploiești Growth Pole, which ranks last from this point of view among the Romanian growth poles. Although it is located on the development axis linking the two main tourist poles in Romania – Bucharest municipality, dominated by business and weekend tourism, and the chain of resorts in the Prahova Valley and Brașov area, the most important destination for winter tourism in Romania, Ploiești city has a very limited tourism market, which amounts to business and transit tourism.

The number of tourist accommodation establishments in Ploiești Growth Pole increased by 288% during 2007-2014, due to the opening of new tourist facilities both in Ploiești and in surrounding localities. So far, 52 tourist accommodation establishments operate in Ploiești Growth Pole.

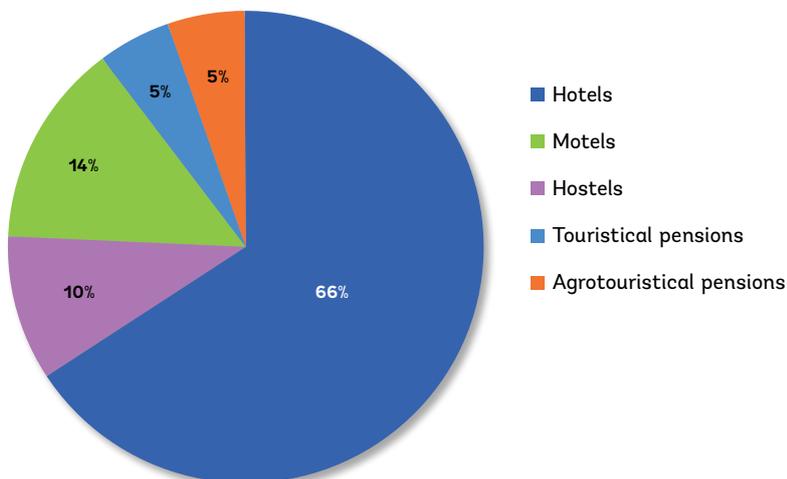
Figure 26. Number of tourist accommodation establishments in Ploiești Growth Pole during 2007-2014



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

As can be seen in the figure above, in addition to the increase in the number of tourism accommodation establishments in the growth pole, there is also a diversification of such establishments, although in Ploiești the prevailing accommodation establishments are those of larger size (hotels, motels).

Figure 27. Bed places in Ploiești Growth Pole by type of tourist accommodation establishment

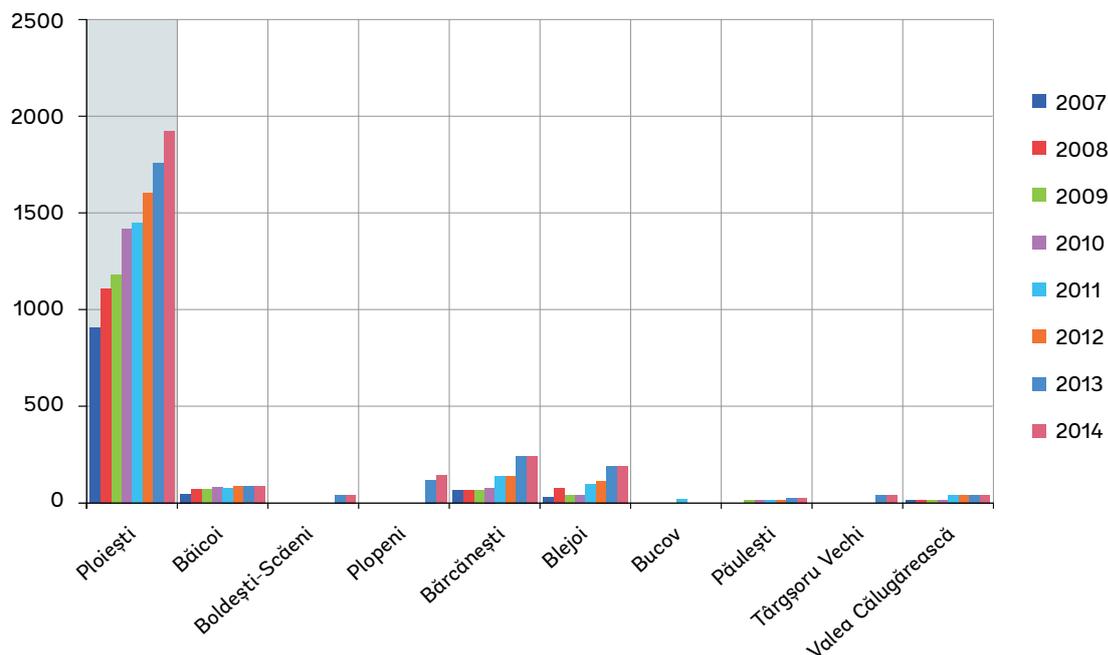


According to NIS records, in 2014, there were a total of 2,749 bed places in Ploiești Growth Pole, meaning an increase by 162% compared to 2007. The bulk of bed places can be found in hotels (66%), motels (14%), and hostels (10%).

Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

Most bed places can be found in Ploiești (70.1%), Bărcănești (8.9%), Blejoi (6.9%), and Plopeni (5.3%). By contrast, the Ariceștii Rahtivani, Berceni, Dumbrăvești, and Brazi communes have no tourist accommodation establishments.

Figure 28. Distribution of bed places in Ploiești Growth Pole by localities during 2007-2014

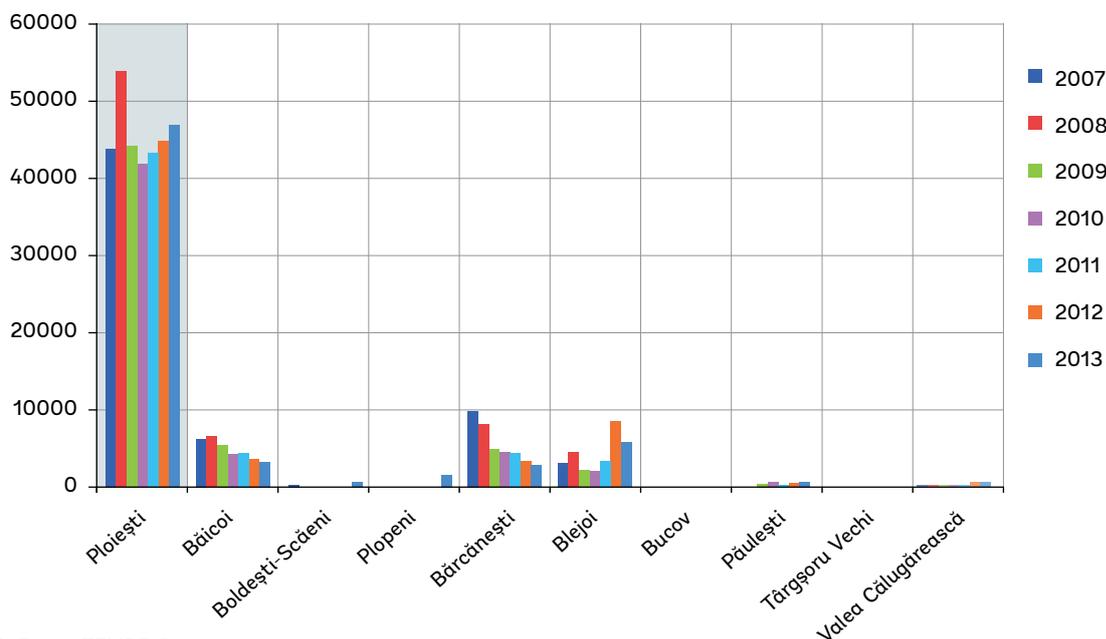


Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Databas

According to the Romanian National Tourism Office (ANT), of the total number of tourist accommodations in the Growth Pole, 4.9% are one star places, 32.2% – are two-star places, 61.1% – are three-star places and 1.8% – are four-star accomodation places. In Ploiești municipality there are only 13 beds classified as four-star (in one guest house), while 64% are three-star beds.

In 2014, in terms of tourist flows in the Growth Pole, 62,768 tourist arrivals were reported, which is 1.7% less than in 2007. This negative dynamics can be attributed to the global crisis, which has also affected the tourism market since 2009. During this period, the number of tourists accommodated increased in Ploiești municipality (+ 7.1%), in Boldești Scăeni and Plopeni towns, and in Blejoi, Păulești, Târgșoru Vechi, and Valea Călugărească communes; numerous new accommodation establishments were opened there.

Figure 29. Number of tourists accommodated in the existing establishments in Ploiești Growth Pole in the 2007-2013 period



Source: NIS, Online TEMPO Database

Compared to the other growth poles in Romania, Ploiești has the lowest number of accommodated tourists, up to 10 times less than in cities with a well-defined tourist function, such as Brașov and Constanța.

Map 31. Number of tourists accommodated in the Ploiești Growth Pole in 2014

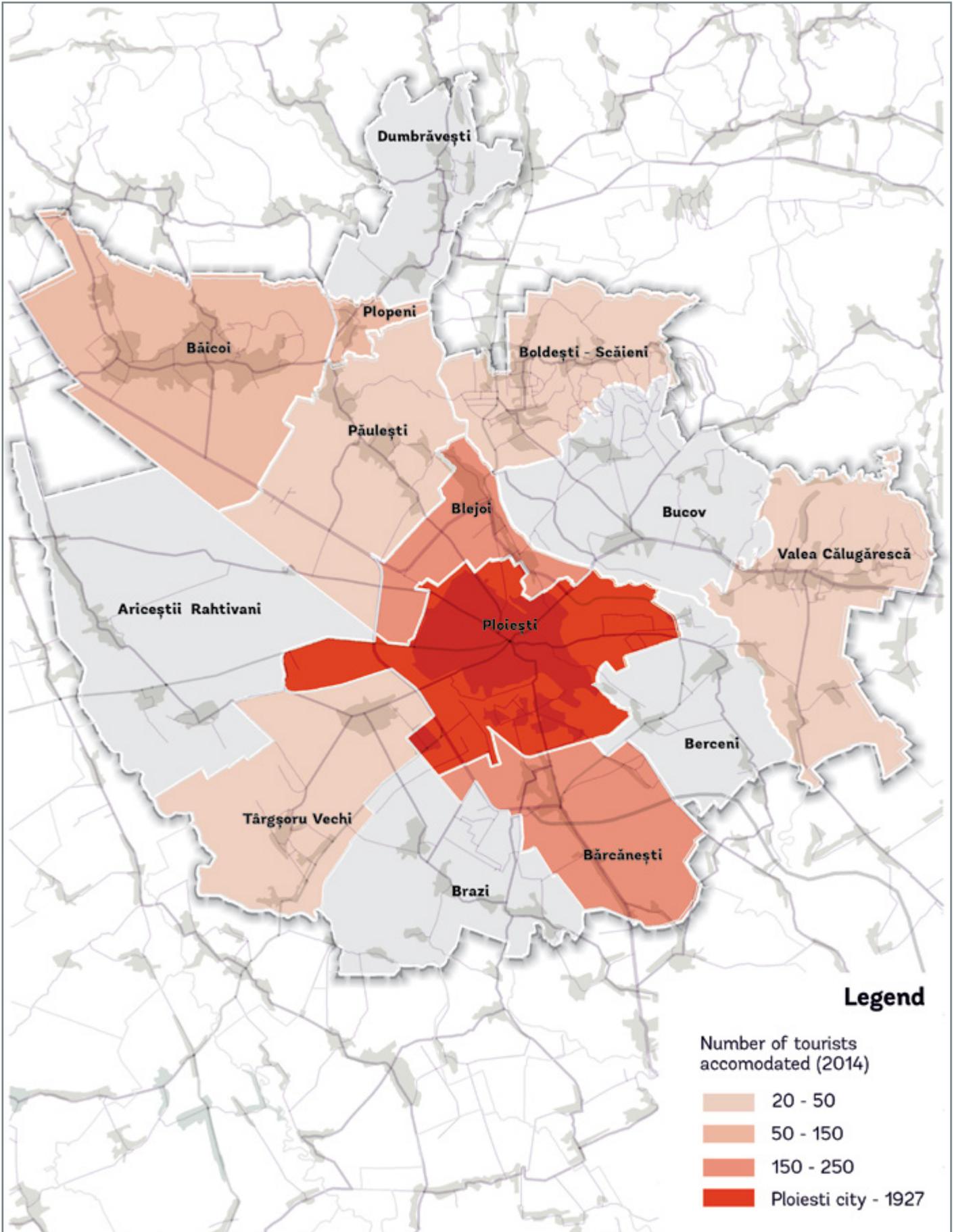
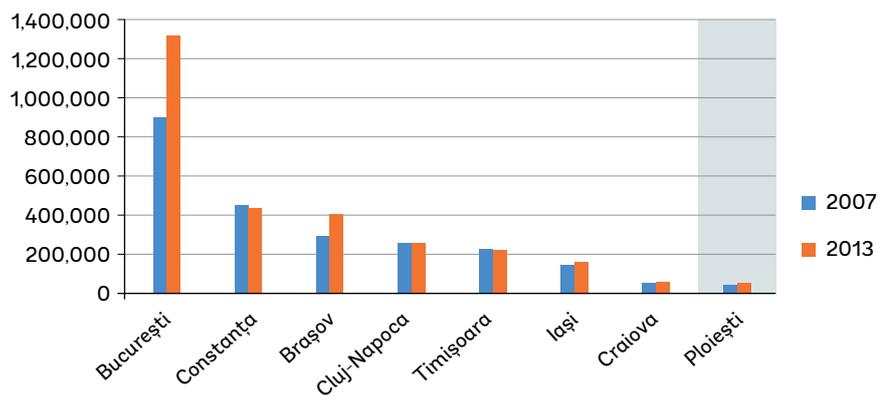


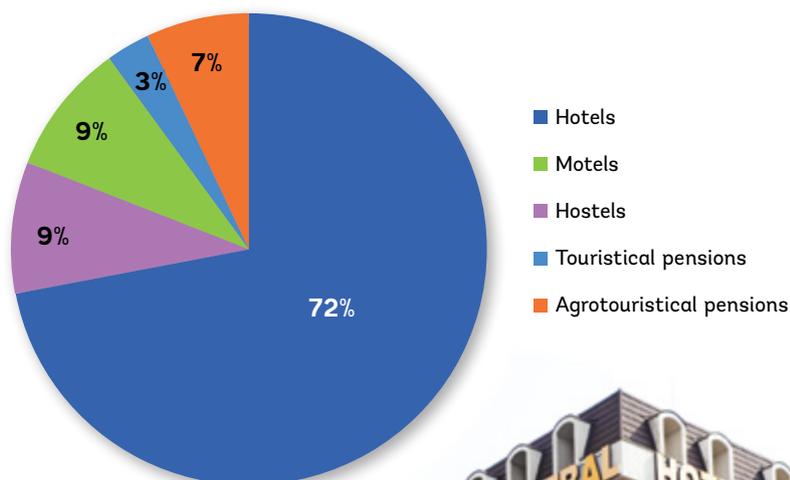
Figure 30. Number of tourists accommodated in the Romanian Growth Poles in the 2007-2013 period



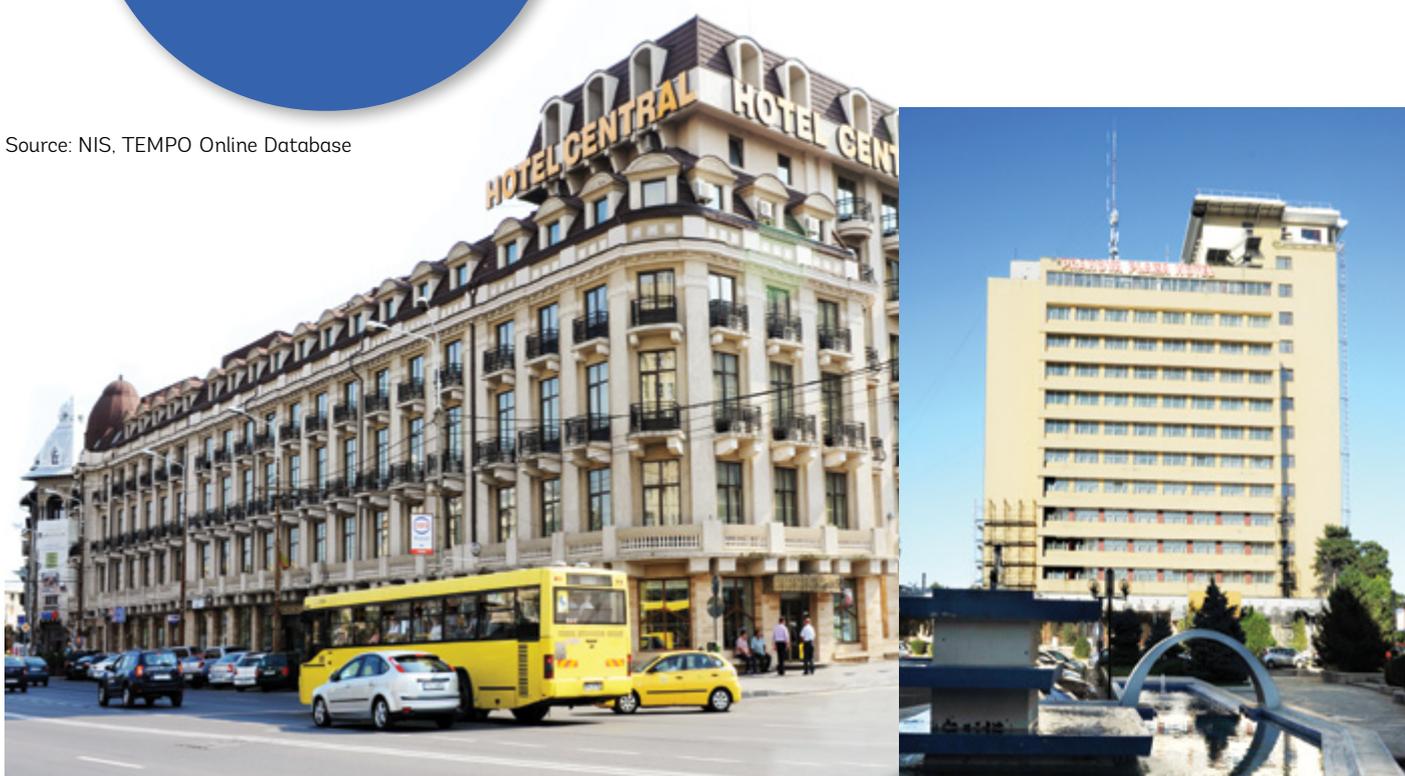
Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

Between 2007 and 2013, the number of nights spent in accommodation establishments decreased by 7% down to 149,134, both due to the decreasing number of tourists and to the average length of accommodation, which fell from 2.51 to 2.37 nights/tourist (even less in Ploiești – 2.36 nights). Of the total number of overnight stays, 71.8% were registered in hotels, a percentage that rises to 90% in the specific case of Ploiești, where business tourism prevails in the local market.

Figure 31. Structure of overnight stays in Ploiești Growth Pole by type of accommodation establishment



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database



The net usage index of the accommodation capacity in operation in Ploiești Growth Pole decreased continuously during 2007-2014, from 41.5% to 16.1%, both due to the opening of new accommodation establishments and to the decrease in the number of tourists accommodated and overnight stays. In Ploiești municipality there was a similar decline, from 41.8% to 17.2%. This development indicates the existence of a local accommodation overcapacity, which raises questions about the profitability of the tourist accommodation establishments in the area. Most of them achieve higher revenues and profits from event organization and catering activities than from accommodating tourists.

Currently, there are tourist information centers only in the towns of Sinaia and Bușteni; both are resorts located in Prahova Valley, while in Ploiești such services are not provided. Such establishments will also be built in the future, in the towns of Breaza and Câmpina, close to Ploiești.

Local organizations involved in promoting local tourism include the Prahova Tourism Promotion and Development Association (APDT PH), which is a public-private partnership established in 2008 at the initiative of the National Associations of Travel Agencies (ANAT) and of the Prahova Chamber of Commerce and Industry, along with other important partners in Prahova county (the Oil and Gas University, accommodation establishments, local public administrations). Since October 2009, APDT PH has been one of the founding members of the Federation of Tourism Promotion Associations in Romania (FAPT); for the past six years, it has organized the "ExpoVacanța" Prahova Travel Fair and for 2 years the international event "Criteriul primei zăpezi" ("First snow criterion"), dedicated to winter sports in Prahova-Brașov area.

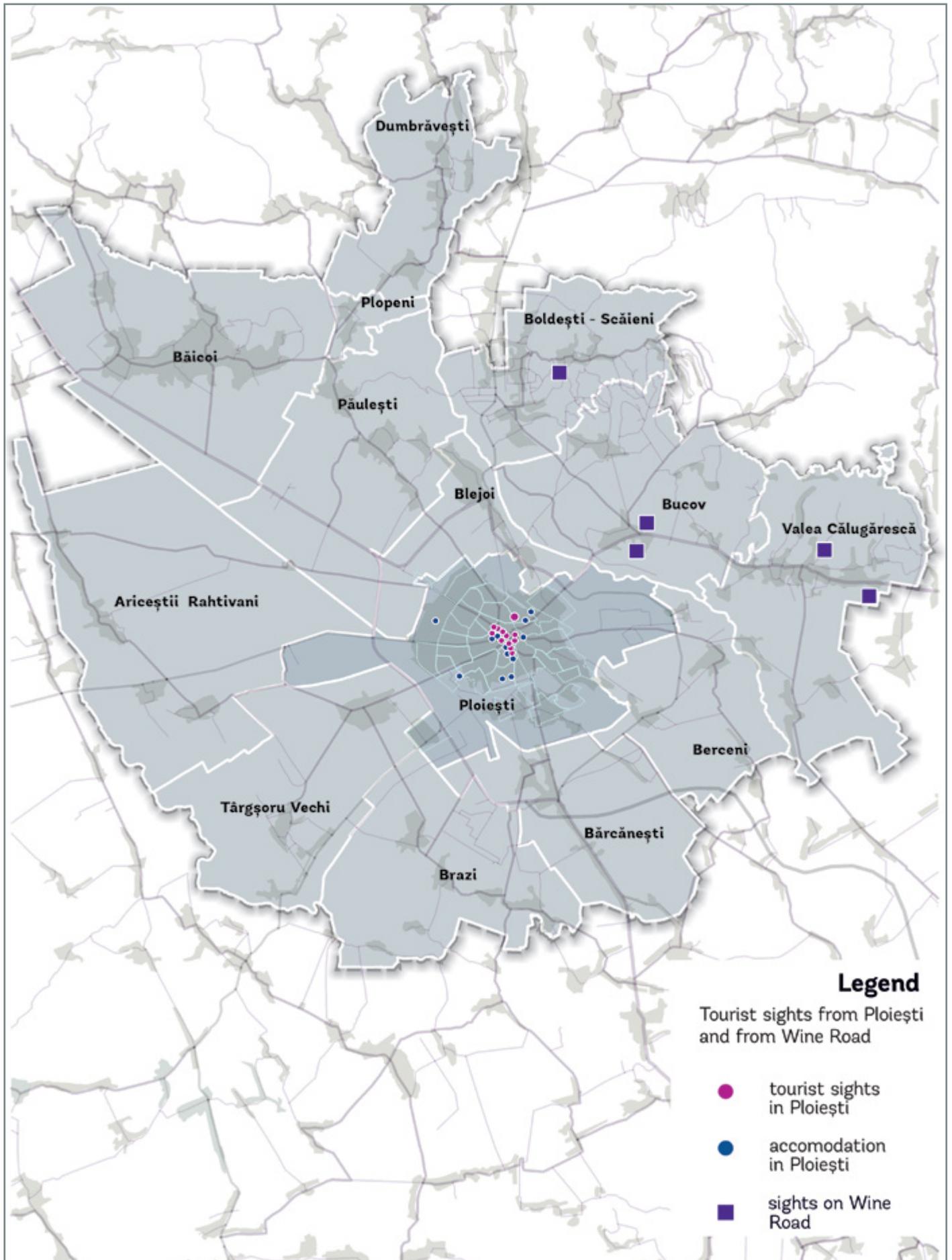
According to the data collected by the Prahova Tourism Promotion and Development Association, the main tourist attractions in Ploiești are of cultural nature, as there are no natural attractions of great interest: the Merchant's House Museum, "Nicolae Simache" Clock Museum, the I.L. Caragiale Museum, the "Ion Ionescu-Quintus" County Museum of Art, the County Museum of History and Archeology, the "Nichita Stănescu" Memorial Museum, the "Paul Constantinescu" Memorial Museum, the National Museum of Oil, the "Toma Caragiu" Theatre, the Palace of Culture. They are located mainly in the central area of the city, where a number of places of worship are located as well, which might also attract the attention of visitors. They are suitable for inclusion in cultural and religious tourism routes.



Other attractions in the area include: the "Gh. Bănculescu" Aeroclub in Strejnic, the swimming pools and SPA centers in the area, and the Hippodrome (the only trotting track in Romania), for health and sports tourism. Thematic routes could cover the cycling routes through the Dealu Mare vineyards, and also the Wine Road (Drumul Vinului) – the old road used by the Romans to cross Europe, specifically the segment linking Ploiești to Bužău, where there are internationally renowned vineyards, especially for red wine varieties similar to Bordeaux region in France (Valea Călugărească, Urlați, Ceptura, Tohani, Gura Vadului, Seciu-Boldești-Scăeni), which could generate wine and culinary tourism. Also, religious tourism could target the monasteries of Chișorani, Turnu, Zamfira, Vărbila, Jercălăi, Sinaia, etc.

In the county, three thematic routes are currently promoted, also including the Ploiești area: the Wine Road (wine and culinary tourism), the Fruit Road (active cultural and culinary tourism) and the Princes' Road (cultural and religious tourism). They have also received European grants for promotion activities, accessed under the auspices of Prahova County Council. Two other promoted thematic routes are the Coal Road and the Salt Road, targeting the industrial heritage and health tourism (the Slănic-Prahova salt mine).

Map 32. Ploiești municipality attractions map



Source: Prahova Tourism Promotion and Development Association

1.2.3. Workforce

The final results of the General Population and Housing Census of 2011 show that 46.1% of Ploiești Growth Pole's population (over 150,700 people) was active, of which 41.9% were employed and 4.2% unemployed. This indicates the existence of considerable local labor resources, which can be a significant advantage for attracting future investments. Among the employed persons, around 95% were employees, and the remaining 5% were entrepreneurs, unpaid family workers or self-employed. However, the proportion of inactive people has increased steadily over the past decade, especially due to the aging population.

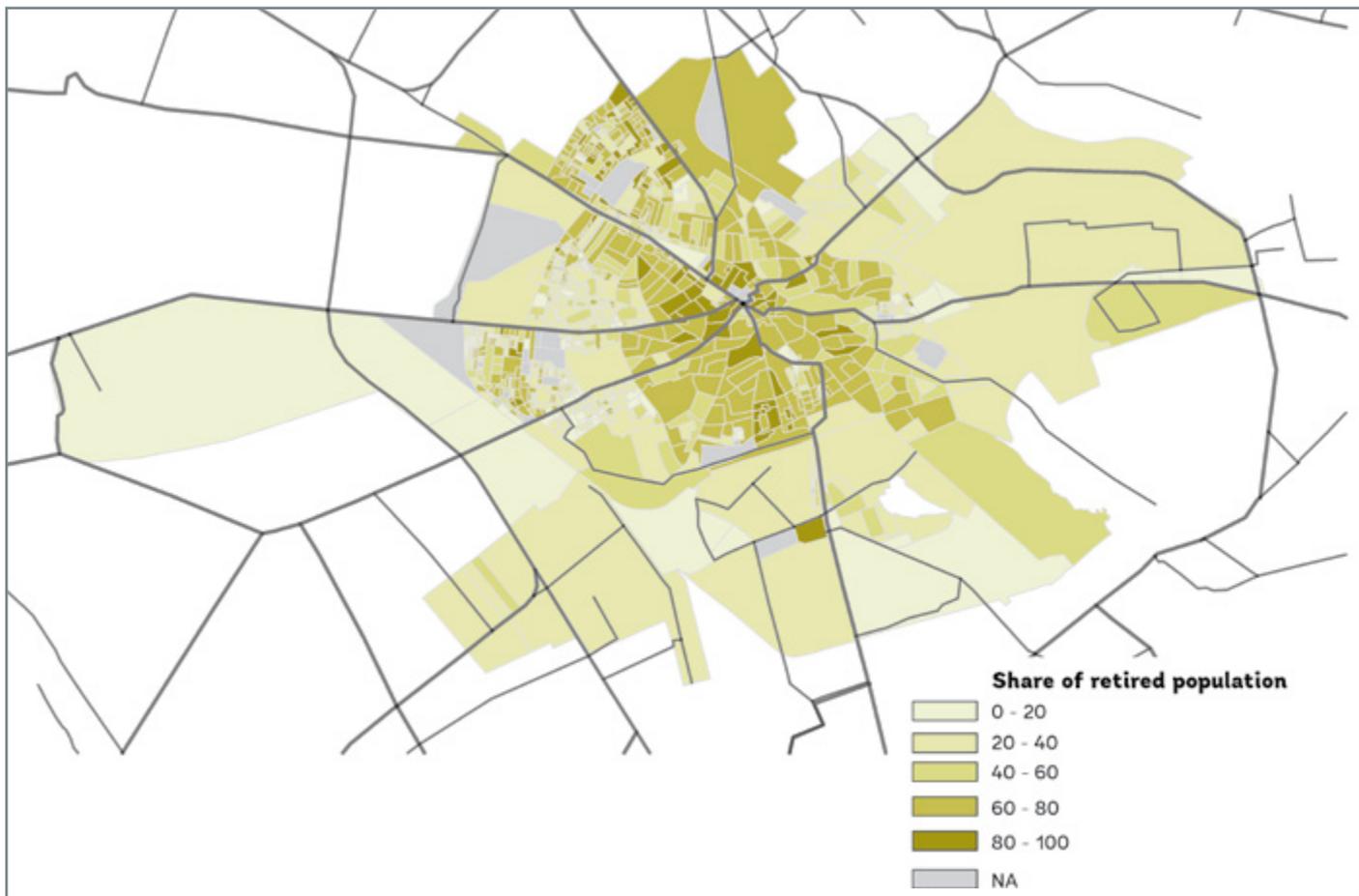
Map 33. The share of employed people by census sector in Ploiești city in 2011



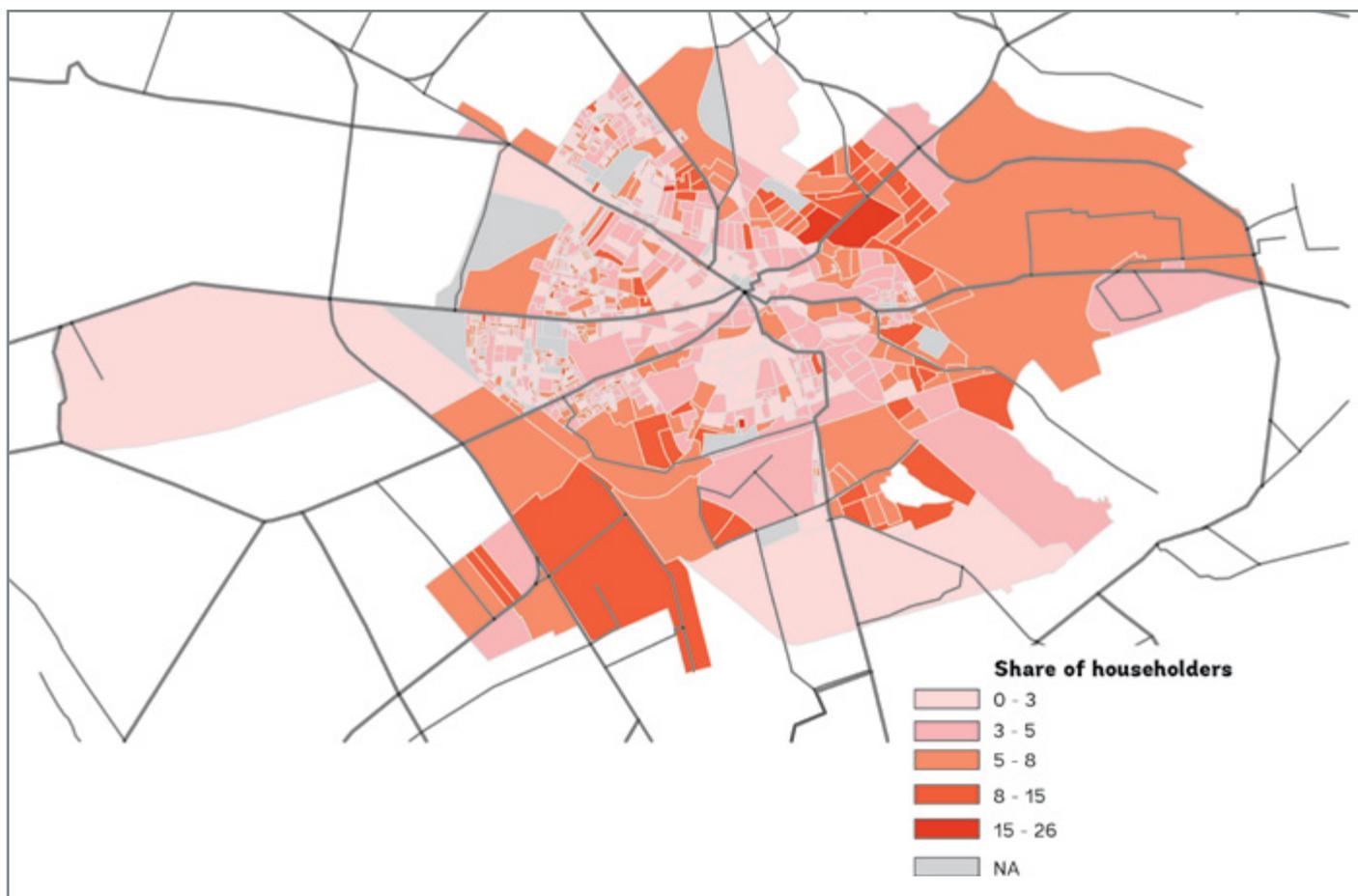
Source: Own drawing based on NIS data. 2011 General Population and Housing Census

Currently, a quarter of the Growth Pole's population is retired, although the population over 60 is less than 22% of the total population, the ratio being of only 1.72 employed persons/retired person. Therefore, we can talk about a phenomenon of retiring at active ages (the segment of 50-60 years of age), which is typical especially for the 1990s. Also, one may notice a high rate (5.1%) of persons who stay at home, but who are able to work. Therefore, the total labor resources of the municipality, including the pensioners and the working age homemakers, reach 53-55% of the total population. Involving them in the labor market, as well as involving the unemployed would increase the number of employed persons by 35,000-40,000 people, which would cover the local needs for workforce, even if the migration phenomenon will continue to be at a high level in the next decade.

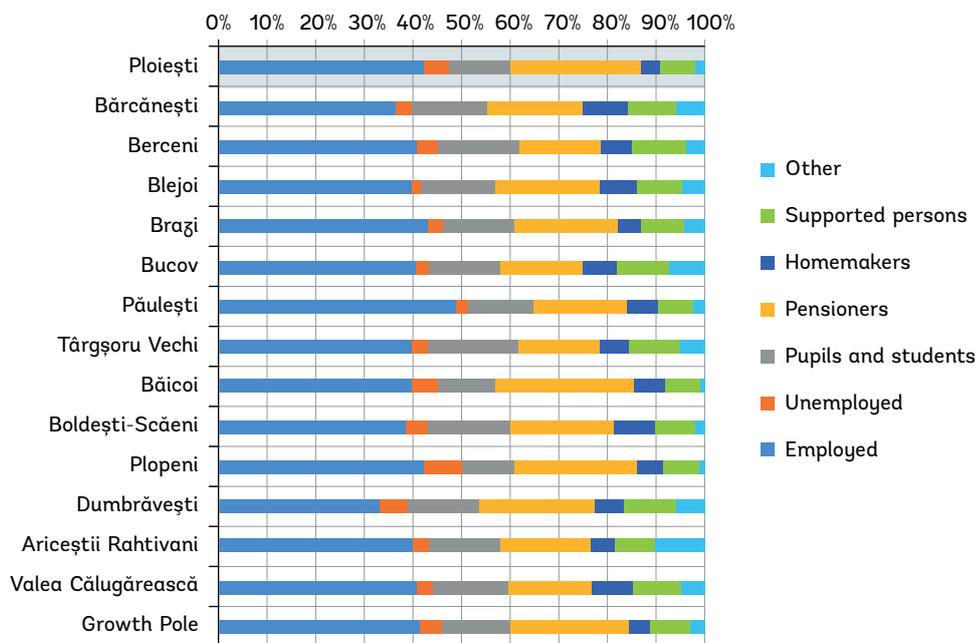
Map 34. Share of pensioners by census sector in Ploiești municipality in 2011



Map 35. Share of homemakers in Ploiești by census sector in 2011

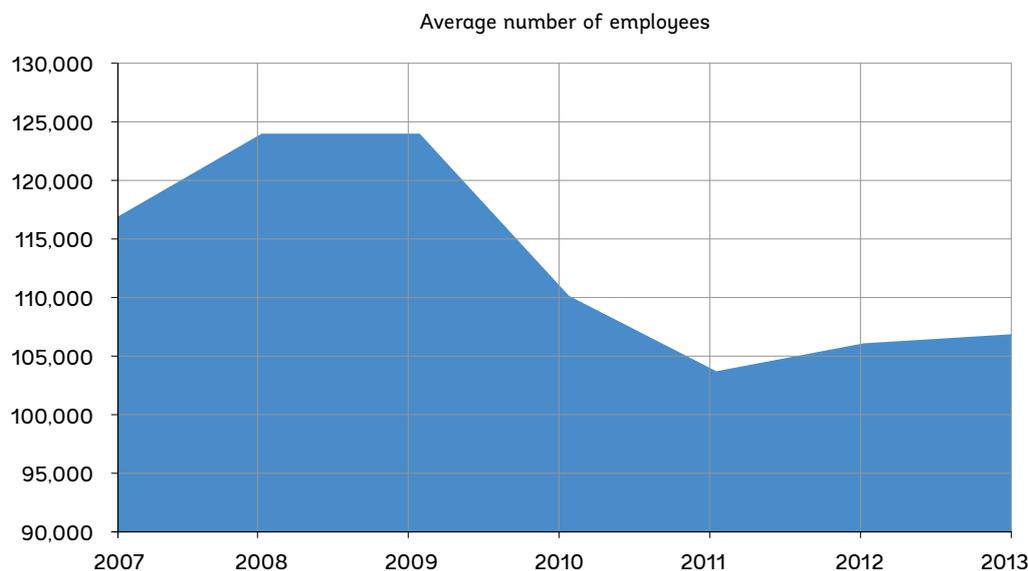


Source: Own drawing based on NIS data. 2011 General Population and Housing Census

Figure 32. Occupational structure of the population in Ploiești Growth Pole by localities

Source: NIS, The final results of the 2011 General Population and Housing Census

According to NIS estimates, in 2014 there were 104,903 employees in Ploiești Growth Pole, i.e. up by 2.8% compared to the census of 2011, but down by 8.7% compared to the numbers recorded in 2007. The economic difficulties faced by local enterprises lead to personnel layoffs, especially in the 2009-2010 period. As can be seen, the number of employees communicated by NIS in 2011 was about 37,000 less than the number of occupied persons, the difference being accounted for by those who worked in other areas (e.g., commuters) and those who had another status, such as employer or self-employed or working in their own household.

Figure 33. Average number of salaried employees in Ploiești Growth Pole in the 2007-2013 period

Source: NIS, Online TEMPO Database

It is noteworthy that the number of employees varied significantly from one location to another during the 2007-2013 period. Thus, the number of jobs in Ploiești decreased by 13%, in Plopeni by 31.7%, and in Dumbrăvești commune by 30.6%, while other localities witnessed the following increases: by 218% in Ariceștii Rahtivani, by 45% in Brazi, by 24% in Păulești, and by 20% in Târgșoru Vechi and Bărcănești. These localities have attracted a number of important investors in recent years, including following business relocations from Ploiești, which shows a clear trend of redistributing the economic activities in the territory, from the urban core to the periphery (the so-called phenomenon of suburbanization or peripheralization). Thus, the jobs in the Growth Pole were distributed in 2014 as shown in the figure below. It is relevant that the share of Ploiești municipality in the total number of jobs fell from 78% in 2007 to 74% in 2014.

Map 36. Distribution of jobs in Ploiești Growth Pole

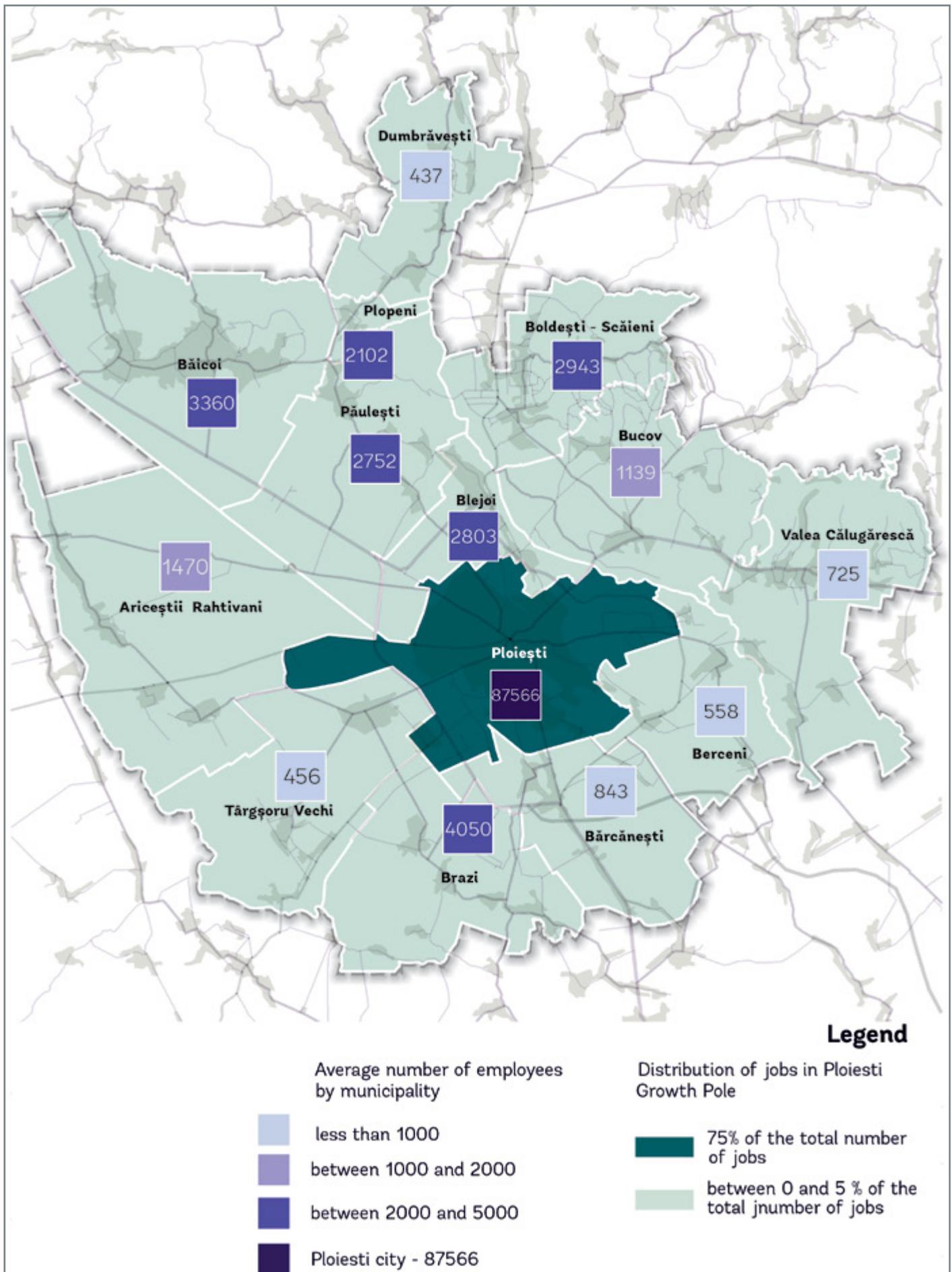
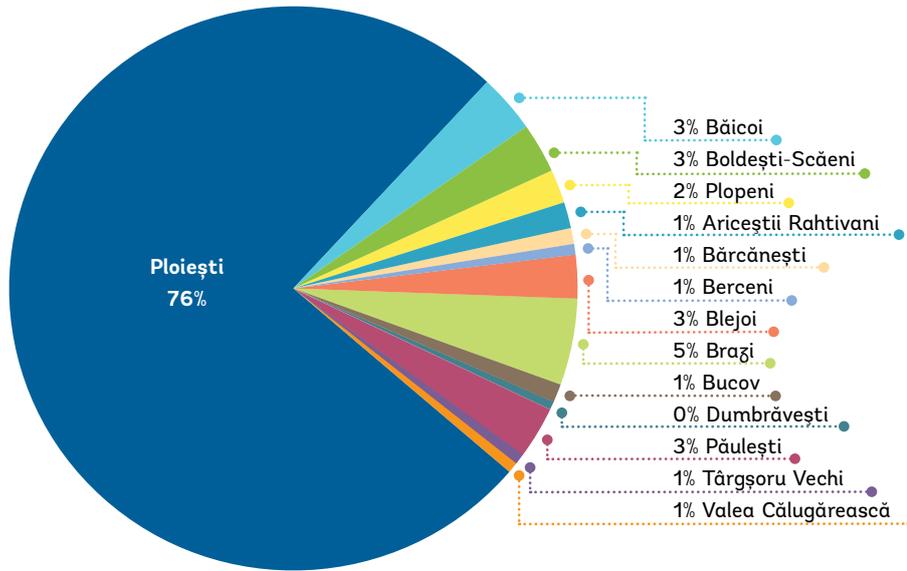


Figure 34. Structure of jobs in Ploiești Growth Pole by their location



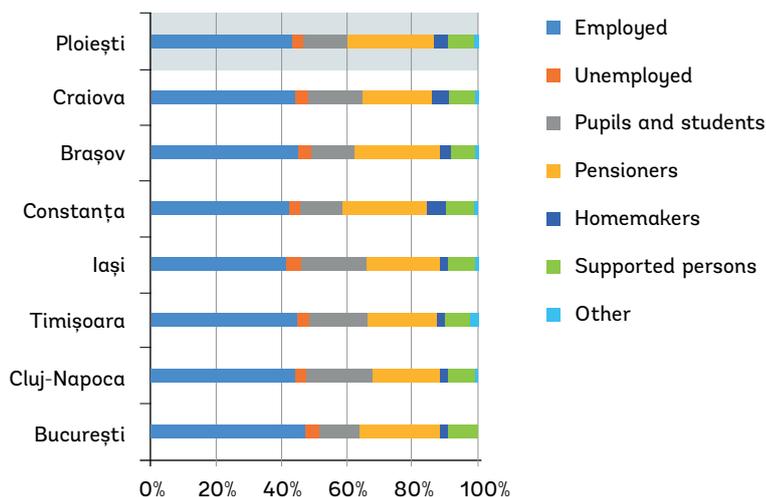
Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

Another issue specific to Ploiești Growth Pole is the workforce's ageing tendency. The average age of employees is over 40, mostly as a result of the increasing phenomenon of young people migrating to Bucharest and to other countries. On the other hand, people in this category were qualified – especially in the communist era – in industrial occupations, which are no longer required in the local labor market today.

The analysis of the occupational structure of the population between localities does not reflect major differences, the highest employment rates being recorded in Ploiești municipality (42.9% of the total population), in Plopeni town, and in Brazi and Păulești communes (where there is a relatively high number of employers) and the lowest in Dumbrăvești (33.1% of the total) and Bărcănești communes (36.6%), both with a high proportion of dependents. The highest percentage of pensioners is recorded in Băicoi (27.6%) and Ploiești (26.3%), where the aging population had a job in the past, and the lowest in Berceni and Târgșoru Vechi communes, with a younger population, but also with many elderly people who do not receive a pension, having previously worked in agriculture. The share of homemakers varies between 4.3% in Ploiești municipality and over 8% in Ariceștii Rahtivani and Bărcănești communes, and Boldești-Scăeni town.

Compared to other growth poles in Romania, Ploiești municipality is characterized by a smaller percentage of persons employed, only surpassing, for instance, Constanța and Craiova from the unemployment perspective. As well, the number of pensioners and homemakers is higher compared to the most dynamic economic growth poles, such as Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, and Timișoara. All this indicates fewer employment opportunities locally and an accentuated population aging trend, worsened by the "brain-drain" phenomenon (labor migration of the young and highly qualified). Another disadvantage of the municipality consists in the small percentage of pupils and students (about 13% compared to over 20% in Cluj-Napoca and Iași – university centers with a long tradition), which makes it difficult to recruit highly qualified personnel in emerging areas such as IT&C.

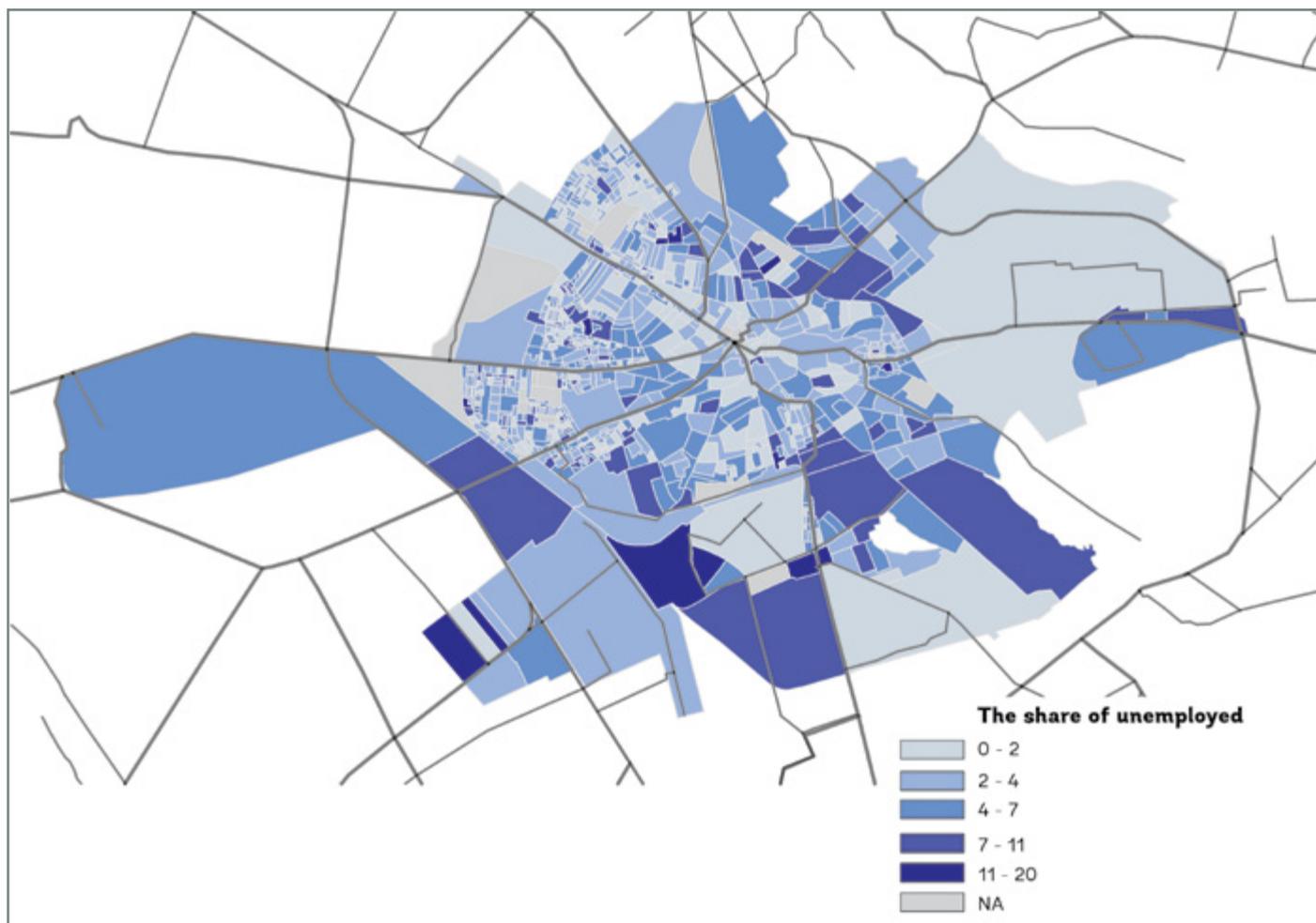
Figure 35. Occupational structure of the population in Romanian growth poles



Source: NIS, final results of the General Census of Population and Housing, 2011

The unemployment rate decreased significantly over the past decade, going from 14% in 2002 to 8.8% of the active population in the 2011 census, nearly double the rate of about 5% communicated by the National Employment Agency, which only reports jobseekers registered in its records. The increased local labor mobility had an important contribution to the reduction of unemployment in the area, even despite the onset of the global crisis, due both to people commuting to Bucharest and the temporary or definitive external migration, which reduced the pressure on the local labor market.

Map 37. Share of the unemployed by census sector in Ploiești city in 2011

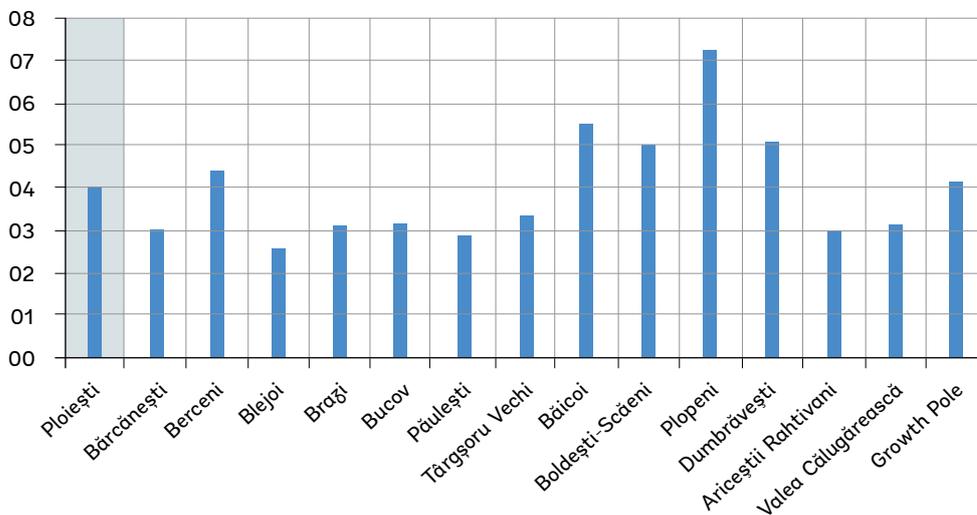


Source: Own drawing, based on NIS data. 2011 General Population and Housing Census

In 2011, the highest unemployment rate was recorded in Plopeni town and in Dumbrăvești commune, both affected by the massive restructuring of Plopeni Mechanical Plant, as most of the local active population was dependent on the plant's activity. Plopeni city also recorded the highest external migration rate, a phenomenon favored by its relatively young population, which expanded significantly during the communist period. On the other hand, the lowest unemployment rate (under 7%) is recorded in those communes around Ploiești which have attracted major investments in recent years (Păulești, Blejoi, Ariceștii Rahtivani).

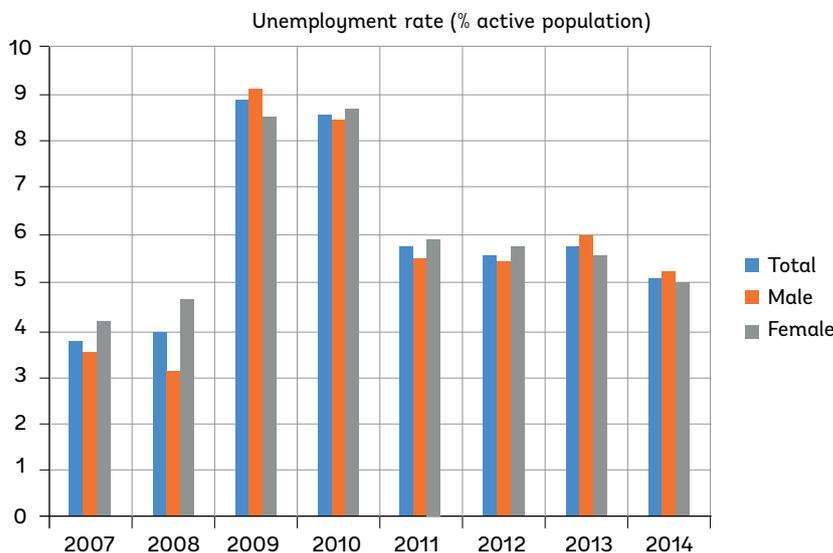
However, it should be noted that, according to NIS data, the official unemployment rate fell by almost one percentage point from the time of the census, when the effects of the crisis were the most acutely felt, so we can estimate that the real unemployment rate was around 7% in 2014. The unemployment rates by gender are approximately equal, but the data from the County Employment Agency indicate that 65.4% of the unemployed have elementary, middle school, and professional education, 27% have secondary and post-secondary education, and only 7.6% are university graduates. Moreover, 48% of the unemployed do not receive unemployment benefits; they are generally long-term unemployed. Finally, it should be noted that 23.6% of the unemployed are under 25, and 24.7% are over 50; these two categories of the active population suffer the greatest labor market inclusion difficulties.

Figure 36. Unemployment rate relative to the active population by locality



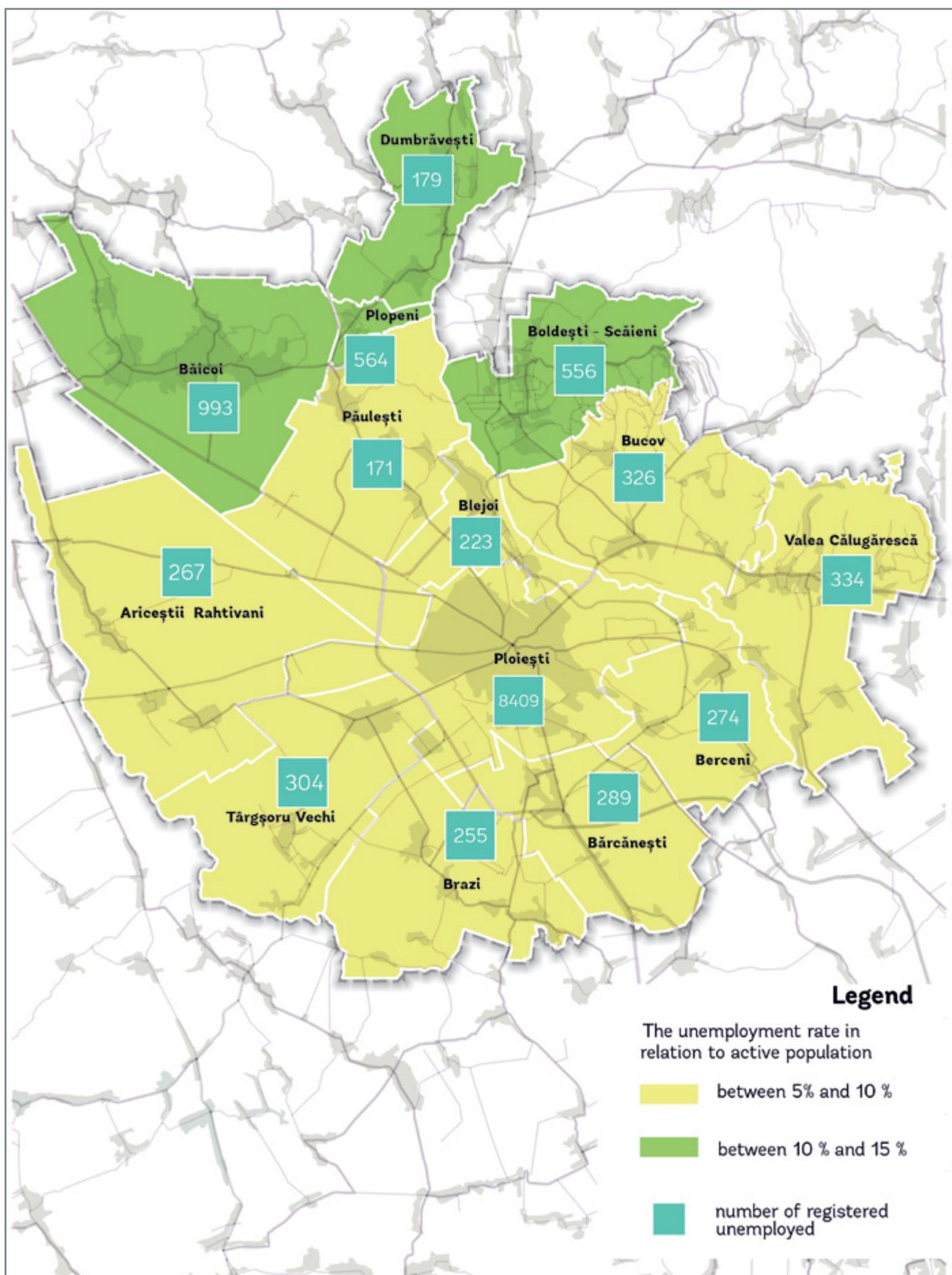
Source: NIS, The final results of the 2011 General Population and Housing Census

Figure 37. Unemployment in the civil active population in Prahova County during the 2007-2014 period



Source: Prahova County Employment Agency

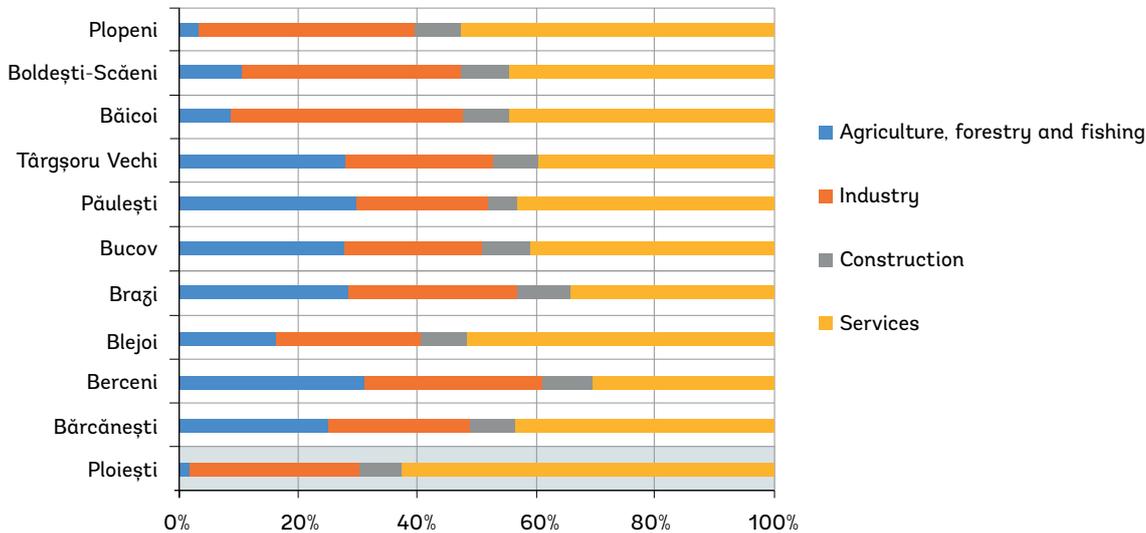
Map 38. Unemployment rate in Ploiești Growth Pole



Sursa: xx

Regarding the occupational structure, the service sector has come to provide 57% of the jobs in the Ploiești Growth Pole, followed by the industry (28%), agriculture and forestry (8%), and the constructions sector (7%). Compared to the communist period, the number of people employed in the service sector is two times higher than those working in the industry sector; there is a tendency, specific to large urban agglomerations, to shift the workforce to the service sector.

Figure 38. Structure of employment of the population by main economic sectors and by localities



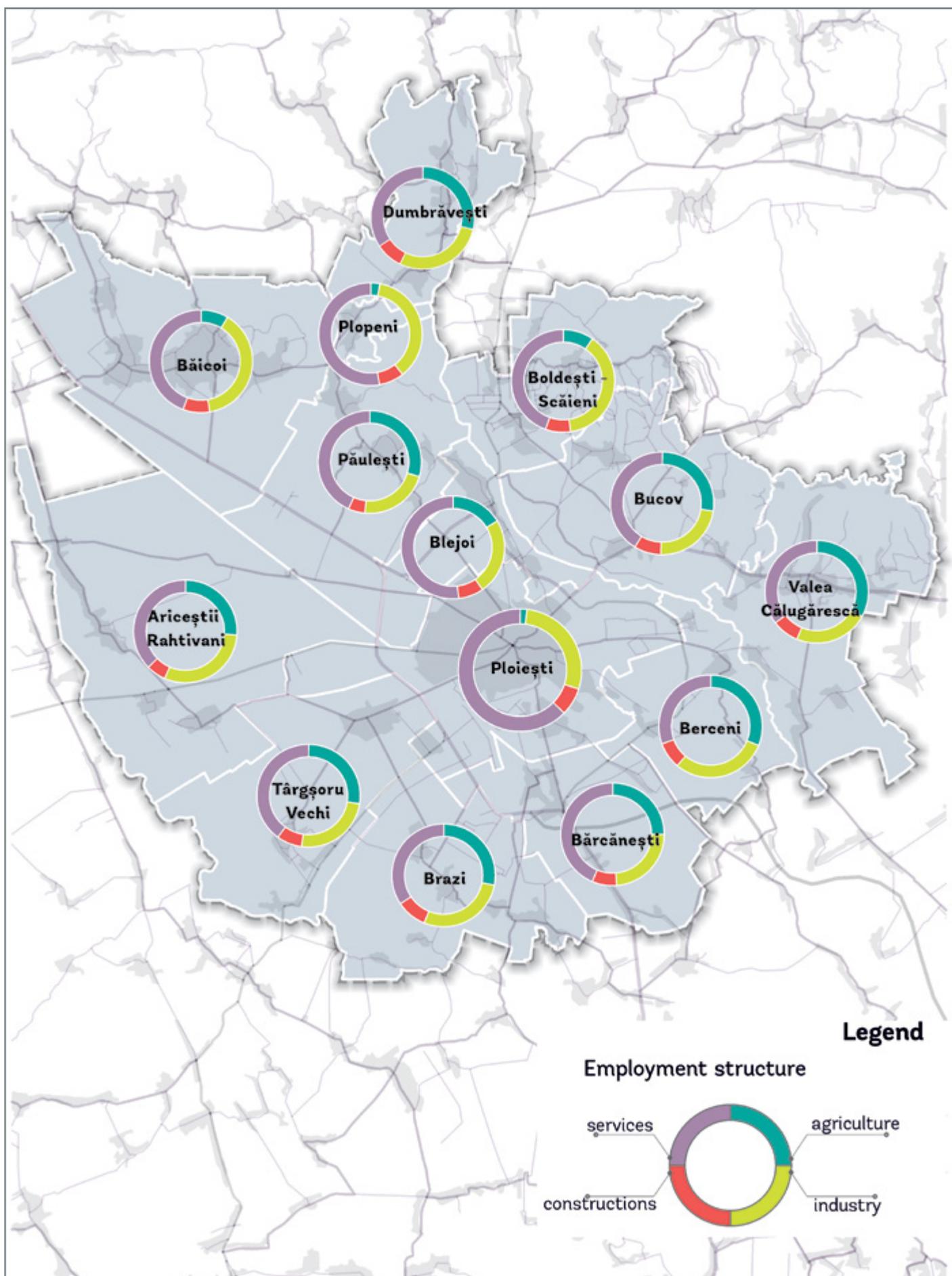
Source: NIS, The final results of the 2011 General Population and Housing Census

Agriculture continues to play an important (traditional) role in the economy of the rural localities in the Growth Pole, pooling up to 20-30% of the total workforce in localities like Bărcănești, Berceni, Brazi, Bucov, Păulești, and Târgșoru Vechi, which have large agricultural areas. Most people working in agriculture are over 50 years old and practice horticulture or animal husbandry on small (up to 5 ha) individual farms, often for their own consumption or for additional income. The share of this industry has significantly decreased over the last two decades, but it continues to employ over 20% of the active population in all localities, the highest shares being recorded in small towns – Plopeni, Băicoi, Boldești-Scăeni. The service sector is best represented in the case of Ploiești municipality (over 60% of the employed population), which also serves the surrounding area.

By analyzing the employment structure in more detail, by main activities of the national economy, we see that the manufacturing sector remains the main employer in the Growth Pole, with a share of 24% of the total employed population, followed by trade (17%), agriculture (8%), construction and transport (7% each), all mainly private sectors, and by a number of activities related to the public sphere (public administration and defense – 6%, health and social assistance – 4%, education – 4%). Such activities generally have low added value, and thus low staff remuneration. On a different note, the activities with a higher salary level (IT&C, financial intermediation, scientific, technical and professional activities, mining and quarrying, energy) do not employ more than 12% of the population, which explains why the wages in the area remain at a lower level compared to other growth poles in Romania, where the economic structure is more favorable.

Most of the employed population (79%) works in the private sector – the main economic engine of the Growth Pole, while the public sector only employs 13% of the population, and households employ 7%. More than 19,000 people who work in the public sector have been strongly affected by the 25% salary reduction, which occurred in 2010.

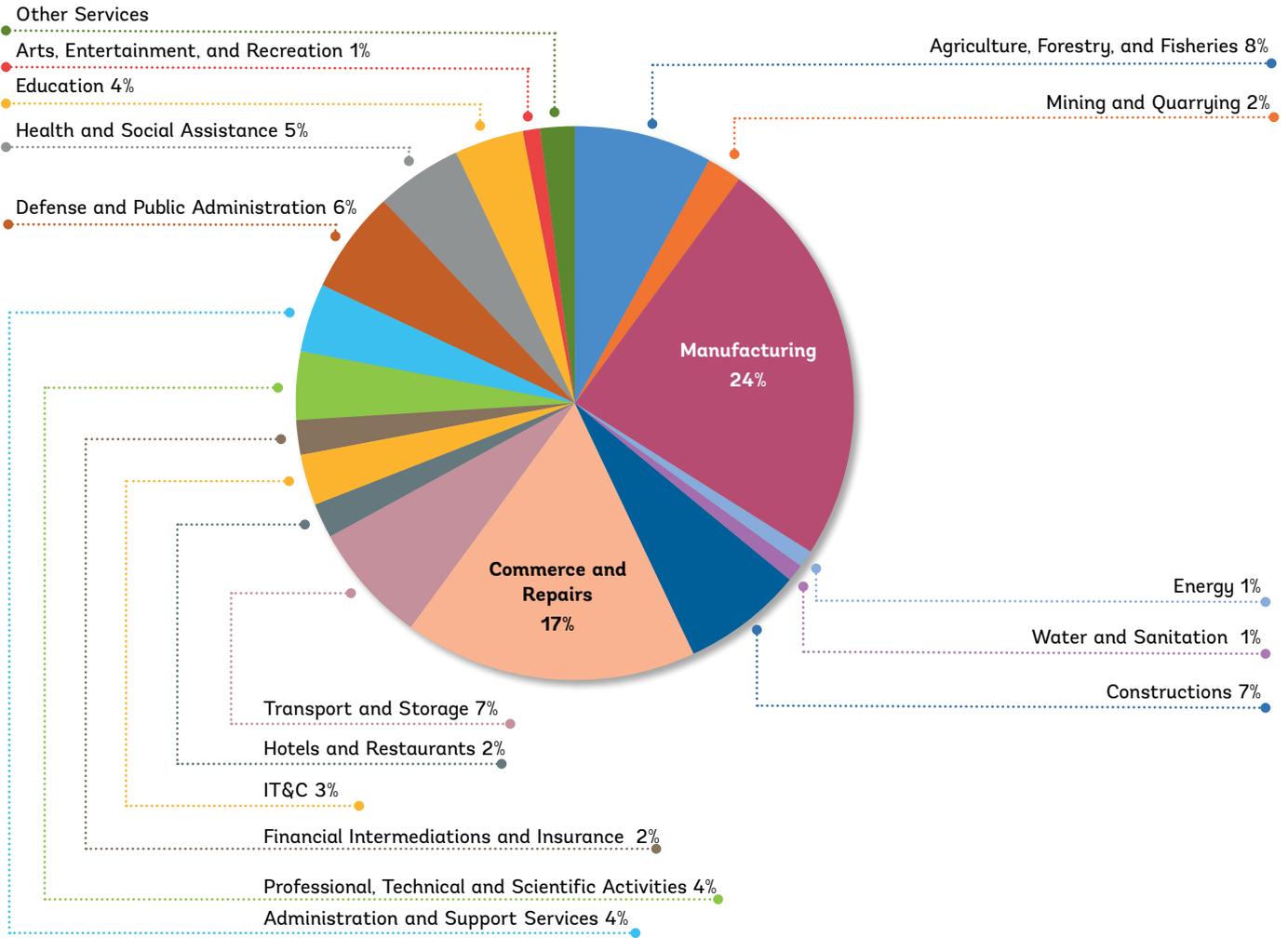
Map 39. Employment structure in Ploiești Growth Pole



Sursa: xx

Figure 39. Occupational structure of the population in Ploiești Growth Pole by main activities of the national economy

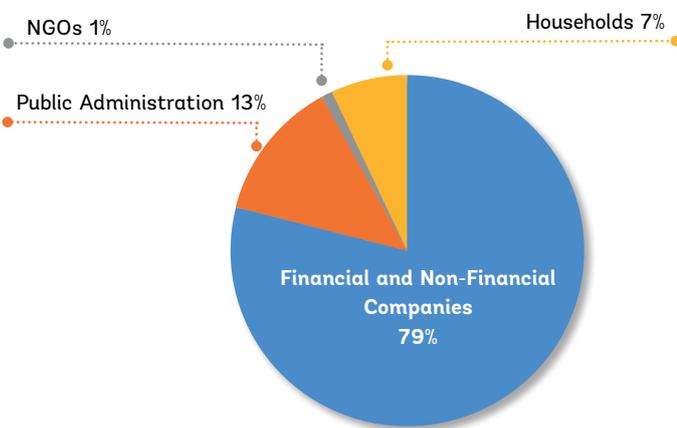
% of the total employed



Source: NIS, The final results of the 2011 General Population and Housing Census

Figure 40. Structure of the employed population, by activity sector

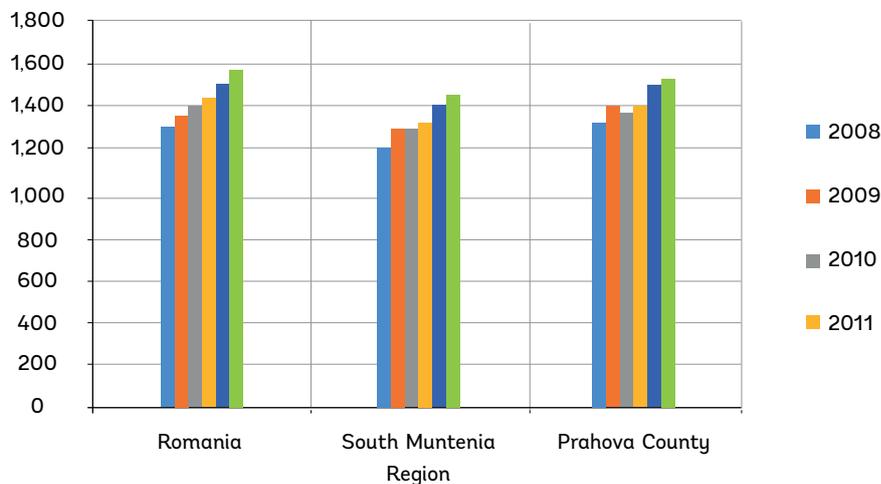
% of the total employed



Source: NIS, The final results of the 2011 General Population and Housing Census

Regarding the net average wage in Prahova county (the most detailed territorial level for which the NIS collects statistics on wage levels), in 2013 it was 5.4% higher than the regional average, but 3.3% below the national average. In the 2008–2013 period, the net average wage increased by 16.6% in nominal terms, which in real terms meant an increase of about 5%. This rate was lower than the growth rate at the national (+20.6%) and regional level (+19.9%) for the same period.

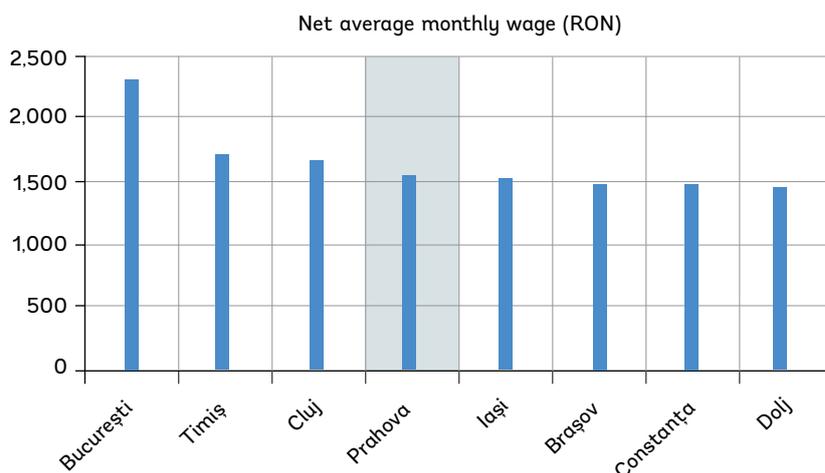
Figure 41. Dynamics of the net average monthly wage at the national, regional, and county levels in the 2008-2013 period



Source: NIS, Online TEMPO Database

Compared to other Romanian counties where growth poles exist, the net average monthly wage in Prahova is higher than in Iași, Brașov, Constanța, and Dolj, but about 10% lower than that of Timiș and Cluj, and 33% lower than the average wage in the capital city, which explains the intense and temporary migration of the local workforce to Bucharest.

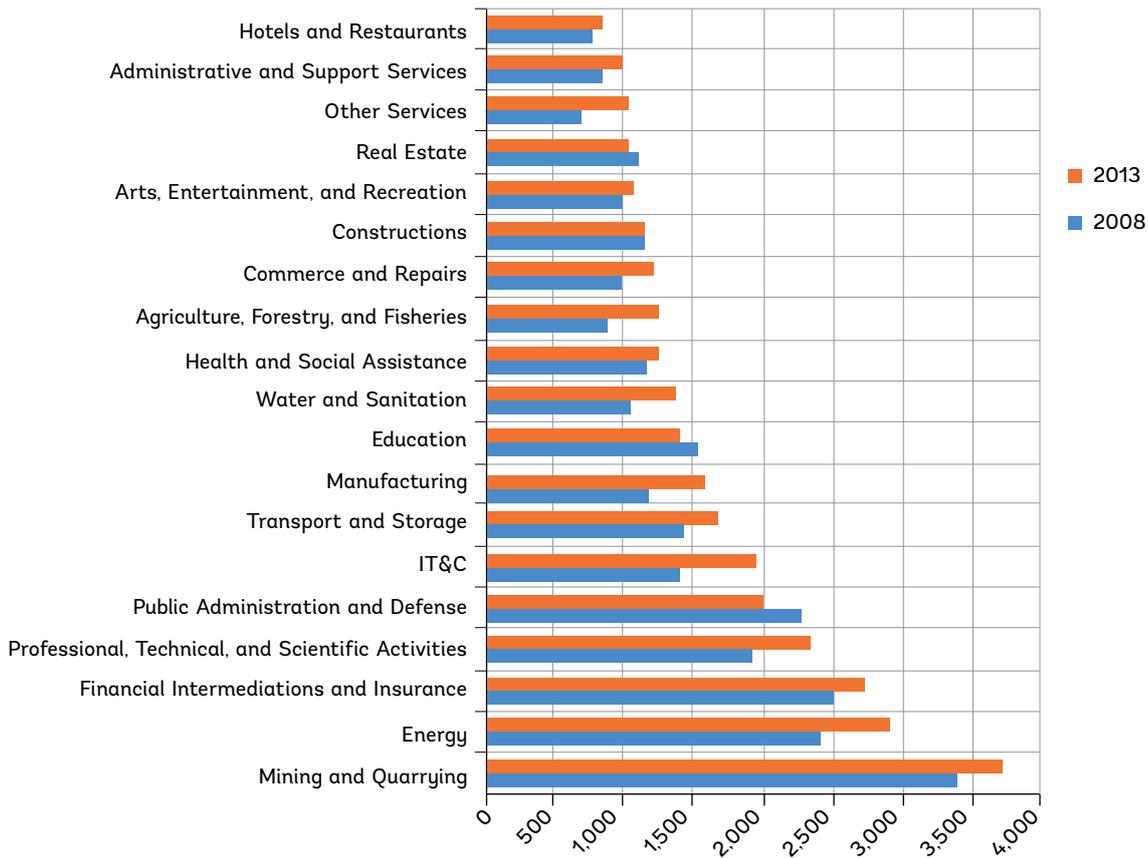
Figure 42. Net average monthly wage in Romanian counties with growth poles in 2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

Compared to the national average, the net average monthly wages in Prahova county are only higher in agriculture and forestry, mining and quarrying, manufacturing and transport. The widest gaps compared to the national average can be seen in high value-added sectors – information and communications (-35.9%), financial intermediations (-24.4%) and the public sector (public administration, education, health).

Figure 43. Amount and dynamics of the net average wage by main activities of the national economy in Prahova County during the 2008-2013 period



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

The highest net average wages can be found in the following sectors: mining and quarrying industry, energy industry, financial intermediations, professional, scientific, and technical activities, and public administration and defense, which employ together approximately 15% of the total active population. The lowest salaries, close to the minimum wage, are in hotels and restaurants, real estate transactions, administrative and support services, constructions, arts, entertainment and recreation, trade and repair, agriculture and forestry, which account for over 40% of the jobs. Therefore, the local wage levels can be increased primarily by changing the economic structure and by supporting high value-added activities, especially in the area of services, and an appropriate level of personnel remuneration.

The analysis of the key economic indicators for the economic activities in the Growth Pole shows that manufacturing, trade, constructions and transport have the highest contribution to employment, economic output, and entrepreneurship.



Table 8. Major economic indicators at the level of national economy activities in Ploiești Groth Pole in 2013

Economic activity	Number of active companies (2013)	Total turnover (mil. RON, 2013)	Total number of employees (2013)	Total employed population (2011)
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	132	431	1,744	12,520
Mining and quarrying	50	1,230	2,589	2,836
Manufacturing	920	10,051	25,267	36,171
Energy	83	1,164	2,717	1,996
Water and sanitation	127	334	2,449	2,191
Constructions	1,147	1,560	8,287	11,092
Commerce and repairs	3,603	5,246	14,849	25,806
Transport and storage	824	1,554	8,072	10,106
Hotels and restaurants	376	132	2,006	2,767
IT&C	354	989	1,808	3,890
Financial intermediations and insurance	202	44	519	2,440
Professional, technical, and scientific activities	1,231	754	4,748	5,286
Administrative and support services	395	315	4,581	6,025
Public administration and defense	8	19	276	9,778
Education	114	23	347	6,613
Health and social assistance	212	82	1,134	6,962
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	110	78	448	1,626
Other services	240	72	1,313	2,528

Source: BORG Design Database and NIS. The final results of the 2011 General Population and Housing Census

1.2.4. Economic engines and prospects

The fact that an economic sector has a large number of employees does not necessarily mean that it is also an economic engine. For example, in most cities, a large number of employees work in trade. Trade, however, is not an economic growth sector and it does not provide a comparative advantage to a locality. Basically, a trading company will locate anywhere it will find a market.

The sectors providing a competitive advantage to a metropolitan area are those with a location quotient greater than 1. A location quotient compares the local concentration of an economic sector (i.e. the number of employees in that sector relative to the total number of employees in the metropolitan area) to the national concentration of that sector. Sectors with a location quotient higher than 1 have the potential to become an economic engine. Such sectors are attractive for both companies in the field (who want to have access to skilled workforce) and for experts (who want to work in a field that offers many opportunities in their area of expertise).

In Ploiești Growth Pole, the following economic agglomerations that have a location quotient greater than 1 pool together a large number of companies and employees and generate a significant business volume and exports:

1) Machinery and equipment industry – finished goods such as heavy bearings, machinery and equipment for extracting oil and gas, chemical, petrochemical, metallurgy, and energy industries; machinery for agriculture and irrigation; weighing systems; engines; pumps; hydraulic equipment; pressure equipment, electromechanical systems; ammunition and military missiles, etc. This industry branch has a tradition of over 100 years, having developed around the oil exploitations and refineries in the region and having been strongly supported during the communist era, when “1 Mai” Plant alone generated over 18,000 jobs and Ploiești area ranked among the first production areas for armament, hydraulic equipment, and heavy bearings. Ploiești continues to be the main center for the design, production, and maintenance of machinery and equipment for the oil drilling and processing industry. However, this branch was heavily restructured after 1990, losing many foreign outlets; its decline was interrupted only by the arrival – in recent years – of foreign investors. The main companies in this field include: UPETROM 1 MAI, TIMKEN, CAMERON, PLOPENI MECHANICAL PLANT, CAMEXIP, UZUC, LUFKIN, HIDRAULICA PLOPENI, REMERO FIL, 24 IANUARIE, ELECTROMECHANICA, DINAFIT, TORO, ROQUET, FLINTAB, etc. They generate about 6,500 jobs, accounting for 18% of the total jobs in the industry.

2) Food and beverage industry – milling and bakery products, pasta products, meat and meat products, eggs, dairy products, beer, soft drinks, corn puffs, wine, vegetable oil, margarine, spices, food seasoning, mustard, etc. Although not a traditional center of the food industry, since 1990 the Ploiești municipality has attracted a large number of international investors in the sector: COCA-COLA HBC, BERGENBIER, UNILEVER, BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO, HALEWOOD, ALEXANDRION GROUP, etc. In addition, there are a number of smaller companies, many of them with local capital: PHOENIXY, PRODMAR, GOPA, FARINA PAN, ECOLACT PROD, LIDA GARBEA, POIANA PRODCOM, PRAM, PANEXION. They generate more than 5,000 jobs (14% of the total population employed in industry); the products are intended mainly for the Bucharest market, but also for the national market. In recent years, there have also been exports to the regional market.

3) Textile and clothing industry – clothing items, protective equipment, curtains, carpets. This industry has some tradition in the area; a felt cloth factory operated here since around 1900. After 1990, large investors in the field came to this area and several companies appeared in the clothing and textile sector: OTTOROSE, OZTASAR, REXTON, UNIQUE CLOTHING, TASAR DESIGN, HACO DESIGN, SMART, AFFINITY IMPEX, PEARL R&D, FULYA TEKSTIL, PLATINA TAILORING, TESSUTICA ROMANIA, etc. They currently generate almost 5,000 jobs (13% of the population employed in the industry), mainly for women, but many companies continue to make low value-added products, offering low salaries under the Lohn system.

4) Manufacture of metal structures – welded steel constructions, SKIDs, tanks, electrical panels and installations, prefabricated metal products for the petrochemical and chemical industry, metal roofing, aluminum carpentry, steel halls, metal bellows and joints, fittings, armatures, etc. As can be seen, many of these metal products are intended for oil companies. In this sector, there are companies with foreign capital and domestic capital, such as AMPLO, TERQUA, INDUSTRIAL MONTAJ, MONTICOR INDUSTRIES, DEKOMTE DE TEMPLE, MONTUBING, DEPACO, TEHNOREX, SUDARC, BUPAR UNION, FEMETALRO, etc. The companies in the field employ a total of about 3,500 people (10% of the population employed in the industry).

5) The automotive industry – wiring systems, brake pads, car covers, heat exchangers, radiators, air conditioning systems, etc. This industry branch does not have a long tradition locally, having developed mainly over the last decade, with the arrival of specific investors in the industrial parks around the city: YAZAKI, HONEYWELL FRICTION MATERIALS, FLEXITECH, JOHNSON CONTROLS, CALSONIC KANSEI, DELFINGEN, etc. They currently generate more than 3,500 jobs, representing 10% of the population employed in the manufacturing industry and 3% of the total number of jobs.

6) The petrochemical industry – fuels, oils, solvents, bitumen. Currently, three refineries are operational (Petrobrazi – owned by OMV PETROM, Teleajen – LUKOIL and Vega – ROMPETROL) and one is not (Astra Română) – with a total processing capacity of over 8 million tons of crude oil per year, far exceeding domestic production (4 million tons/year). They are operated by multinational groups and have benefited from massive investments for retrofitting; in Petrobrazi alone, investments worth over 600 million EUR were completed in 2014, and the refinery became one of the most modern in Europe. The refining industry currently employs about 3,500 people, i.e. 10% of the total workforce employed in the industry.

For nearly two centuries, the development of Ploiești city was closely linked to the progress of the hydrocarbons extraction and processing industry, Ploiești being the center of Romania's oil sector, located in the middle of very productive oil fields. As early as 1857, when the first refinery in the world became operational (Marin Mehedinteanu's gas factory), four oil refineries were built in Ploiești area, with a processing capacity of over 10 million tons/year, processing both domestic and imported raw material. A genuine conglomerate of horizontal and vertical activities developed around the oil industry (production of machinery and equipment for extraction, engineering and design, construction and maintenance, pipeline transport, education and training, domestic and foreign trade, etc.), which pooled together more than half of the local workforce, including during the communist period.

After 1989, with the decrease of hydrocarbon reserves, the negative dynamics of the national economy and the restructuring and retrofitting process, the importance of the oil sector in the economy of the Growth Pole decreased significantly; the Growth Pole became more diversified by attracting investments in industries such as food, textile, automotive, services, etc. Currently, about 6,000 people are still working directly in hydrocarbons extraction and processing, accounting for less than 5% of the total working population, given that, for example, one of the refineries (Astra Română) is no longer operational and the other three operate below their maximum capacity. However, if we include the related industries mentioned above, the number of employees directly or indirectly dependent on the oil sector reaches 20% of the local workforce.

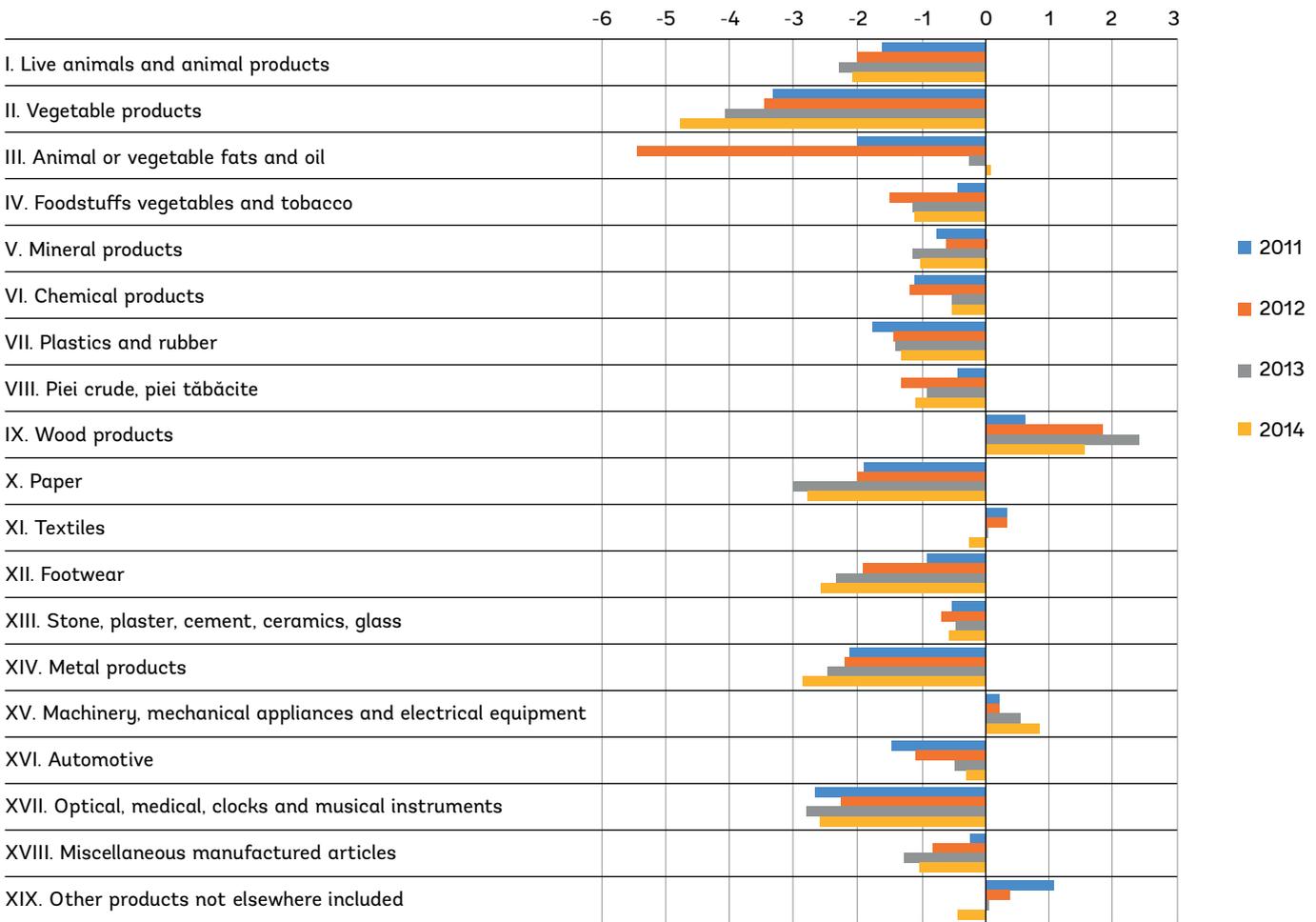
Thus, despite the declining importance of the oil sector, it remains the main field of local economic specialization. The oil sector-related industries are volatile and heavily influenced by the evolution of the international oil prices, which could have a domino effect on many local businesses; this is one of the key vulnerabilities of the Growth Pole's economy. However, the prospects are favorable, given that currently there are endeavors to exploit new hydrocarbons resources in the Black Sea and in the Caspian Sea, for which Ploiești is the most appropriate resource center. They could also contribute to an increase in the use of production capacity of the three refineries in operation (controlled by OMV PETROM, LUKOIL, and ROMPETROL groups), which can process twice the domestic production annually.

The food industry also has good prospects for development in Ploiești area due to the strength of the local companies operating in this sector, the proximity to the outlet market of Bucharest and its environs, but also from but also thanks to the important agricultural resources in the area (e.g. vineyards, orchards, livestock, etc.).

The automotive parts industry will also continue to develop, as the industrial parks in Ploiești area attract a growing number of investors in the field, attracted by the presence of DACIA RENAULT in the region.

In order to determine the industrial branches for which Ploiești area holds a significant competitive advantage for export activities, we determined the Balassa Index of Revealed Competitive Advantage. It indicates that the industry of machinery, electrical appliances, and equipment is the most competitive sector on foreign markets, being strongly influenced by the fact that automotive components (e.g., wiring) manufacturers and oil producers (YAZAKI, CAMERON, LUFKIN, etc.) are established in this area. Also, the textile and the automotive parts industries are relatively competitive on foreign markets, although the former is competing with Asian products. Despite its good local development, the petrochemical industry is still deficient in terms of competitive advantage, given the significant imports of petroleum products that are processed in Ploiești refineries. Moreover, food imports are still higher than the exports; the domestic agriculture and processing industry fail to fully cover domestic consumption, despite very high-quality agricultural resources.

Figure 44. Balassa Index of the Revealed Comparative Advantage in Prahova County during the 2011–2014 period



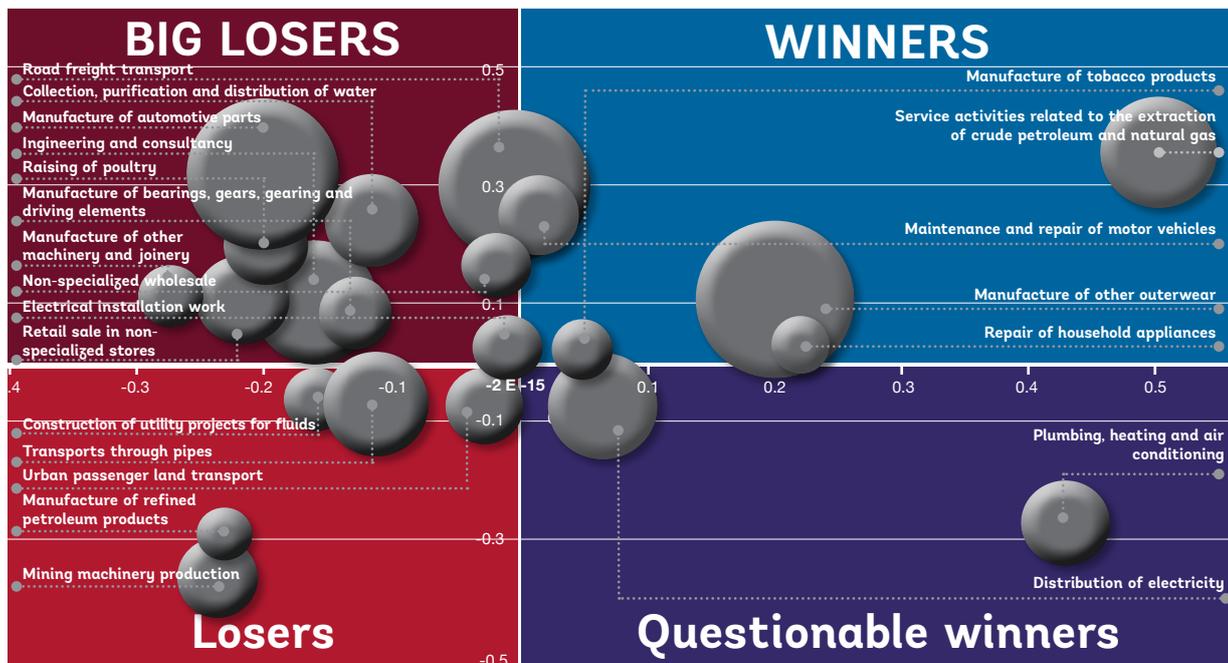
Source: NIS, Online TEMPO Database. Own calculations

A shift-share³ analysis of the post-crisis 2009–2013 period reveals the dynamics of Ploiești Growth Pole's economy. The economic sectors with the highest number of employees and with a location quotient higher than 1 were selected for this analysis.

Overall, the “winning” sectors are those that grew faster in the growth pole than they did nationally during the 2009–2013 period. The main winning sectors were: the manufacture of other wearing apparel (4,170 employees); Service activities related to the extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas (2,125 employees); Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles (1,075 employees); Landscape maintenance activities (756 employees); Manufacture of tobacco products (550 employees); Repair of household appliances (524 employees); Other specialized construction activities (514 employees); Television broadcasting activities (470 employees). Broadly speaking, the winning sectors are relatively low value-added service sectors and industrial sectors. This means that, although these sectors experienced greater impetus locally than nationally, they did not necessarily have a substantial contribution to the economic growth of the area concerned.

The “losing” sectors are those that experienced a decrease in the number of employees at local level, due to a decrease in these sectors nationwide. The losing sectors include: pipeline transport (1,774 employees); urban passenger transport (1,078 employees); manufacture of machinery for mining, quarrying and construction (1,077 employees); construction of utility projects for fluids (733 employees); manufacture of refined petroleum products (545 employees); wholesale of sugar and chocolate and sugar confectionery (518 employees); renting and operating of own or leased real estate (503 employees). Overall, it seems that Ploiești had a negative performance in a number of sectors in the field of processing and transportation of crude oil, due to a negative performance of these sectors nationwide.

Figure 45. Shift-Share Analysis of the Ploiești Growth Pole during the 2009-2013 period



NOTE: The size of the circles is proportional to the absolute number of employees in the respective sector

Source: BORG Design Database

The “questionable winners” are those economic sectors recording an increase in the number of local employees against a backdrop of nationwide declines in these sectors. The biggest questionable winners include: distribution of electricity (2,073 employees); manufacture of metal structures (1,642 employees); plumbing, heating, and air conditioning (1,267 employees); repair and maintenance of other transport equipment (646 employees). Basically, these sectors are service sectors without a clear competitive advantage nationwide.

The “big losers” are the economic sectors which suffered a decrease in workforce against a backdrop of positive performance of the same sectors at national level. The biggest losers include: manufacture of automotive parts (3,804 employees); road freight transport (3,701 employees); engineering and consultancy activities (2,524 employees); collection, purification and distribution of water (1,440 employees); retail sale in non-specialized stores (1,419 employees); manufacture of bearings, gears, gearing and driving elements (854 employees); electrical installation work (773 employees); manufacture of other special-purpose machinery and equipment (684 employees); transport by taxi (507 employees). Some of these sectors are low value-added and have no competitive advantage at national level (for example, trade). But others – namely the manufacturing of automotive assemblies – are sectors with a strong national competitive advantage.

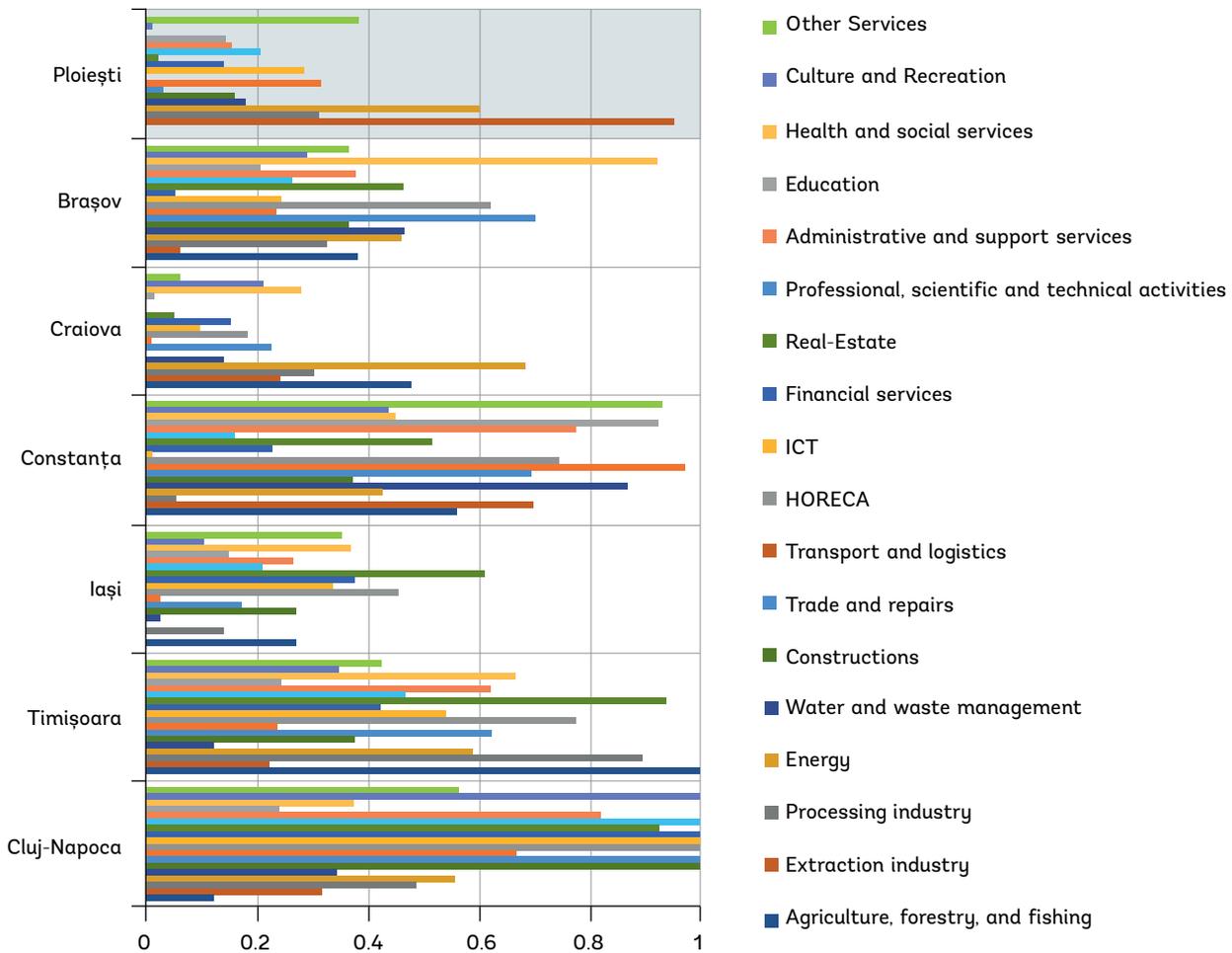
The potential for smart specialization of the local economy can also be assessed by comparison to the other Romanian growth poles, which are the engines for the development and growth of Romania’s economic competitiveness, as shown in the study on Growth Poles developed by the World Bank. Ploiești Growth Pole has important competitive advantages in the extraction and energy industries, being the most attractive of the Romanian growth poles (except for Bucharest municipality) in terms of geographic positioning of such activities. This is due to the fact that Ploiești has always been a traditional center for resources and skills in oil extraction and processing, but also to the investments made in recent years in the energy sector, such as building the largest and most modern power plant in Romania – OMV PETROM’s plant in Brazi, following an investment of over 500 million EUR, completed in 2011. It has the potential to generate 10% of Romania’s electricity needs.

As well, Ploiești has average competitive advantages in the following industries: manufacturing industry (namely in these branches: petrochemistry, machinery and equipment, food and beverages), transport and logistics, as it is becoming more and more a logistics center serving both the South region and the Bucharest market (the platforms: AQUILA, KAUFAND, LIDL, BILLA, PROFI, AHEAD) and in IT&C – some major companies are located here, such as TEAMNET INTERNATIONAL, ELETTRA COMMUNICATIONS, ROMCAP CONDENSATORI, 2K TELECOM, ASESOF, SUNSMART INTEGRARE, INFRATEL NET etc.

³ For a detailed description of the methodology, see: World Bank. 2013. *Competitive Cities*

In contrast, we find a number of economic activities for which Ploiești Growth Pole is much less competitive compared to other cities in Romania: construction, trade, tourism, financial services, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical activities, administrative services and support, education, health, culture, leisure, etc., mainly due to the polarization of the service sector by Bucharest, which is located just 60 km away.

Figure 46. Competitive advantages of Romania's growth poles by activities of the national economy, based on the total utility method in 2013



Source: BORG Design Database. Own calculations

Therefore, the economic activities with the best prospects for development in Ploiești Growth Pole – having a potential for smart specialization, redefinition on more solid competitive bases and new jobs generation – are the oil extraction and processing industry, including all related services along the entire supply chain, the automotive, machinery and equipment industry, the food and beverage industry, the energy industry, the ICT sector, and the transport and logistics sector. However, the evolution of these sectors over time should be also taken into account in order to understand whether the poor performance during 2009-2013 is a fleeting trend or long-term dynamics.

1.2.5. Research and development, and support infrastructure for companies

The research, development, and innovation activity (RDI) in Ploiești Growth Pole is underdeveloped compared to the national level and is dominated by the public sector. The areas of specialization of the local RDI units are closely linked to the area's economic profile and are specialized in oil extraction and processing, oil equipment and viticulture.

Thus, the **Research and Design Institute for Oil Drilling Equipment (IPCUP)** is the only research nucleus in Romania for oil equipment, drilling rigs, tools and devices in the field, ensuring – throughout its 60 years of activity – scientific results that have propelled Romania among the top players in the world in this sector, ranking third after Russia and US. In recent years, the institute, which is subordinated to the Ministry of National Education, has faced a dramatic decline in demand for services, due to the privatization of the companies in the sector, which have their own RDI departments, and has accumulated significant debt to the state budget, which has prevented them from paying the wages on time to its specialized staff. Therefore, it currently has only about 50 employees, half of whom are university graduates and who were transferred to the National Institute for Research and Development in Electrical Engineering (ICPE-CA) in 2013, when the activity revived. In addition to the actual research and design, and technical inspection activity, the Institute also performs technology transfer activities within its small production workshop. The customers of the institute are mostly local companies in the oil equipment production and hydrocarbons extraction sector, but also some foreign companies.

ICERP S.A. Ploiești is a company with double specialization – research and production, and has over 45 years of experience in lubricants and additives. The company products (additives, greases, protection fluids, metal processing fluids, industrial and engine oils, detergents, biocides, corrosion inhibitors) are marketed under the brands ADIROL, LUBRICERP, and PROTICERP. All these products are the result of the research carried out in ICERP's own laboratories; over the last few years alone, more than 40 new products have been registered at the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM). This privately owned company is also facing a slump in demand; it is currently undergoing reorganization and it has only 30 employees, one third of whom are university graduates.

IPIP S.A. (the Engineering and Design Institute for Oil Refineries and Petrochemical Plants), established in 1950, is the leading provider of design services for refineries and the petrochemical industry in Romania. The company, currently privately-owned, has nearly 300 employees and its annual turnover amounts to 10-20 million EUR. Other local companies providing design, engineering, core taking, and research services in the oil sector are PETROSTAR, WEATHERFORD ATLAS GIP, JCR CHRISTOF CONSULTING, COMPROIECT 92, TECON ENGINEERING, etc., with a total turnover of over 65 million EUR and 1,100 employees in 2013.

IC-DVV (Institute for Research and Development of Viticulture and Winemaking) Valea Călugărească, subordinated to the "Gh. Ionescu-Șișești" Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, is one of the most important research centers in the field of viticulture and winemaking in Romania. A variety of activities are carried out here, such as the creation of plant propagating material from new varieties with high biological value, chemical analyses and quality wines from the following varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot noir, Fetească neagră, Sauvignon, Fetească regală, Riesling, Distilate. The institute has modern research laboratories endowed with cutting-edge equipment, experimental polygons (16.8 ha), pilot microvinification station, ampelographic collection of vinifera varieties and rootstocks with more than 1,100 varieties and clones of the national and global range (5.2 ha), plantations of rootstocks (2.71 ha), nursery vines (5.0 ha), pilot farms (around 150 ha), and a grapes winemaking undertaking, where the technologies in viticulture and winemaking developed by the research sector are tested under production conditions. In terms of information technology, the institute has modern means of communication (telephony network and optic fiber internet, high-speed Internet, advanced computers and state of the art specialized software: ArcGIS, Arc Editor 9.1., etc.) and the possibility to implement an INTRANET network. Like other public research units, the activity of the institute was affected by the reduction of the allocations for research from the state budget and it has reduced its staff to about 100 people.

Thirteen research centers operate within the **Petroleum – Gas University of Ploiești**, generally grouped around several departments belonging to the five faculties of the university:

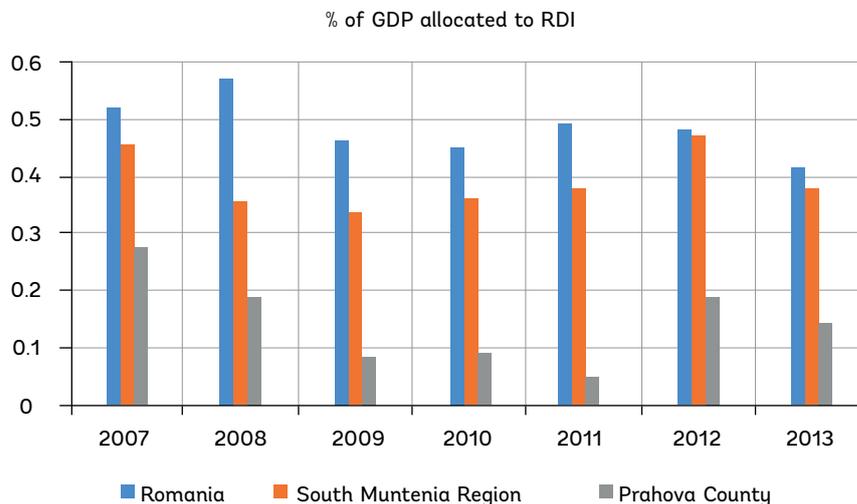
- Hydrocarbon deposits engineering;
- Modern and environmentally-friendly drilling and extraction technologies;

- Materials and technologies for the manufacturing of oil equipment;
- Strength, stability, dynamics and durability of oil and petrochemical equipment structures;
- Advanced automation of chemical processes;
- Oil processing and petrochemistry;
- Interdisciplinary Research Center for the Implementation of EU Policies in Countries of the Black Sea Region;
- Research Center for Literary Studies, Linguistics, Critical Theory and Culture;
- CerTIMF Research Centre;
- Interdisciplinary Research Center for Economic and Financial Strategies;
- Interdisciplinary Research Center for Strategies for the Implementation of EU Policies in Countries of the Black Sea Region;
- Center for Economic Studies and Research;
- Center for Legal and Socio-Administrative Studies and Research.

The **ITAF Ploiești Business and Technology Incubator** also operates within the University and ever since 2008 it has provided activities in the field of industrial products and technologies (student start-up incubation, consultancy, technology transfer, research, training, etc.) – accredited by the National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS). It also offers continuing training, information technology, and a Center for Technology Transfer, Innovation and Business, which provides services such as fundamental and applied research, design, drafting of feasibility studies, and various other services in these sectors: oil, environment, information technology, etc.

The University runs major research and development contracts with major companies in the oil sector, such as ROMGAZ, LUKOIL, PETROSTAR, OMV PETROM; to this purpose, the good qualification of the teaching and research staff is of utmost importance, as are the specific facilities (e.g., simulators, testing equipment for oil piping), purchased through projects funded by grants.

Figure 47. Percentage of the GDP allocated to RDI expenses during 2007-2013

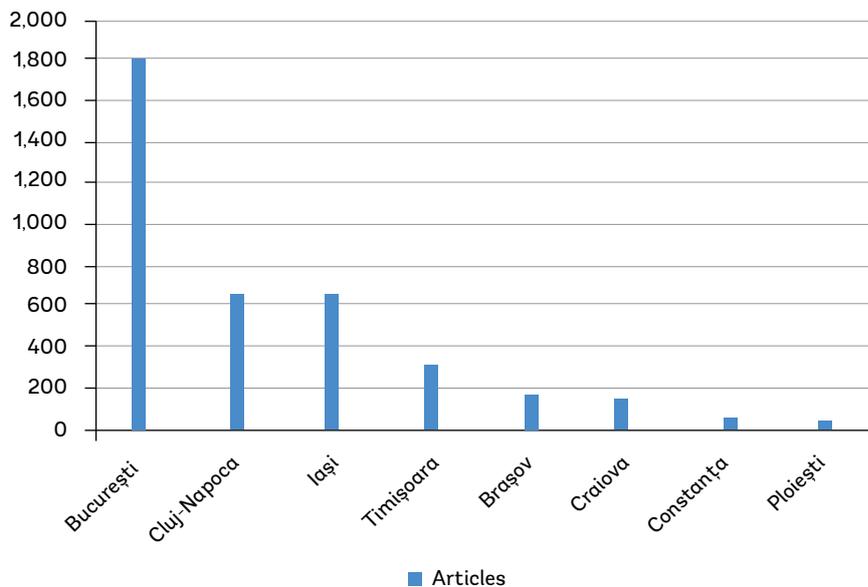


Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

In terms of expenses related to the RDI activity, Prahova county is far below the national and regional average, with less than 0.2%, i.e. over 10 times less than the target assumed by Romania in the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement. This can be explained by the underdeveloped specific infrastructure and by the chronic underfinancing of the research sector from the state budget. As well, because of the weak development of technology transfer, few research projects are funded by private companies and few results reach production processes. Therefore, most of the academic research remains at a basic level.

According to AD ASTRA statistics, Ploiești municipality ranks last among the growth poles when it comes to scientific output materialized in published scientific articles.

Figure 48. Number of scientific articles published in 2011



Source: AD ASTRA, Romanian Research White Paper

Regarding the protection of intellectual property rights, the statistics of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM) indicate the following positioning of Prahova county in the national context, in the 2001-2013 period:

- 9th place by number of patent applications per 100,000 inhabitants (28), surpassing only Constanța among the growth poles;
- 9th place by number of applications for the registration of designs per 100,000 inhabitants (15), surpassing Dolj, Timiș, and Iași counties;
- 10th place by number of applications for registration of trademarks per 100,000 inhabitants (240), surpassing only Dolj.

When it comes to business and innovation support infrastructure, Ploiești Growth Pole ranks first among the Romanian growth poles when it comes to the area occupied by industrial parks. Thus, there are eight authorized industrial parks, four of which are public and four are private.

The industrial parks owned and managed by the local public authorities are the following:

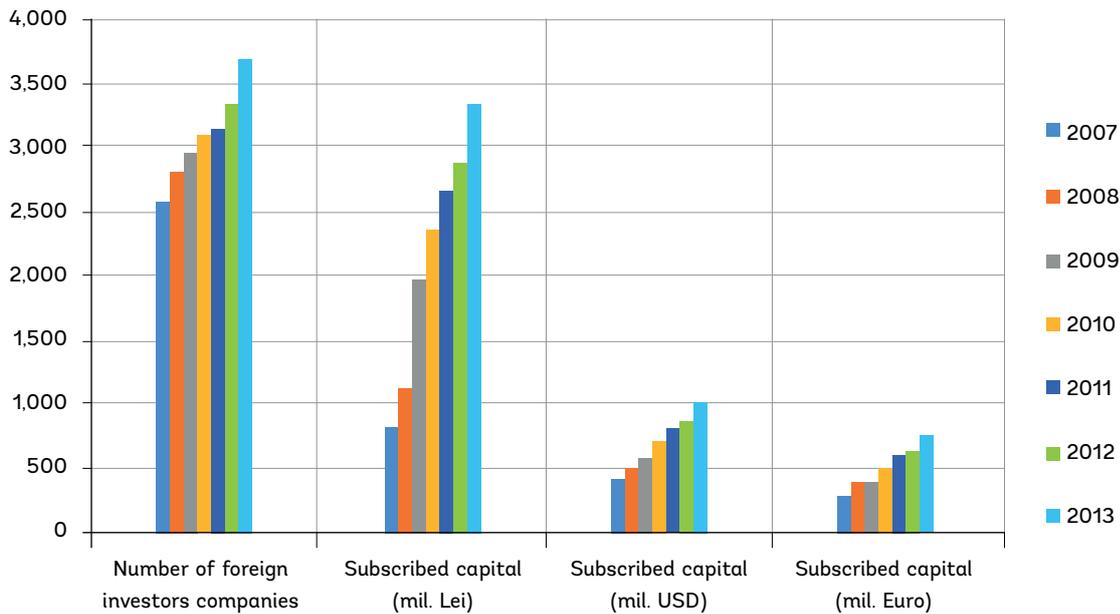
- **Ploiești Industrial Park** – covering an area of 163 ha and with an occupancy rate of 100%, it is a greenfield park located in the western part of the city and has access to DN (National Road) 72, the railway and the whole range of utilities (electricity, water, sanitation, gas, telecommunications) and internal access roads. Currently, the park accommodates about 40 companies, which have invested about 300 million EUR and have generated more than 7,000 jobs, some of them resulting from significant foreign investment attracted in recent years (YAZAKI, CAMERON, ALKA, CALSONIC KANSEI, KAUF LAND, JOHNSON CONTROLS, BERICAP, etc.). The park is managed by a company subordinated to Prahova County Council, like the other three publicly owned industrial parks in the Growth Pole.
- **Plopeni Industrial Park** – with an area of 76 ha and an occupancy rate of 100%, it is a brownfield park developed on the abandoned production areas of the former Plopeni Mechanical Plant, having access to the full range of utilities. At present, more than 25 companies operate here, with about 600 employees. They carry out various activities: plastics, manufacture of wood and furniture, metallurgy and machining, machinery and equipment, trade, construction.
- **Brași Industrial Park** – with an area of 46 ha, it hosts about 20 companies with 245 employees; its occupancy level is of 75% for land and 12% for buildings. This park also needs additional investment for the demolition or conversion of several abandoned buildings on its territory.
- **Bărcănești Industrial Park** – covering an area of 91 ha (with the possibility of expanding by another 80 ha), it is the most recent industrial park in the area (2013), located on the land of the former Tătărani greenhouses, thus having an occupancy rate of only 2%. The park infrastructure is poor, much of the land requiring disposal of the existing constructions and installations. In this respect, a master plan was developed for investments worth about 8.4 million EUR, and a Zonal Urban Plan. The proposed specialization of this park is agri-food.

The private industrial parks in the area are the following:

- **Ploiești West Industrial Park** – it covers an area of 290 ha, being the largest private industrial park in Romania, and is developed by the Belgian company ALINSO GROUP in the western part of the town, near the industrial park owned by Prahova County Council. It has areas for SMEs logistics, cold stores, and an intermodal freight terminal. The total investment in this park, estimated at 750 million EUR, was only partially implemented. By 2016, it is estimated that up to 20,000 jobs will be created. Among the renowned clients of the park there are international companies such as TORO, LUFKIN, UNILEVER, HONEYWELL, SCHLUMBERG, BAT, and HALLIBURTON. So far, the park's occupancy rate has reached 30%, with investments of about 200 million EUR.
- **PRIMUS I and II Industrial Parks** – with an area of about 110 ha, they are located in the Ariceștii Rahtivani commune.
- **WDP Development Industrial Park** – with an area of about 25 ha, it is located in the western part of the city and will host the first production unit of the Belgian company ROQUET.
- **DIBO Industrial Park** – it covers an area of about 22 ha and is located in the Brazi commune. It offers investors 16 already constructed industrial buildings, to be extended in the future.

Therefore, we can say that Ploiești Growth Pole has about 800 ha of public and private industrial parks, with a nearly 50% occupancy rate and in a continuous expansion, having determined investments of over 500 million EUR and created 10,000 new jobs. They played a key role in attracting new investors to the area; most of these investors settled in these business support structures. The effects of the industrial parks' development on foreign investment were positive: the number of companies with foreign capital increased by 42.8%, and the subscribed capital by 165% between 2007 and 2013. Therefore, Prahova county has come to rank 11th nationally in terms of the number of companies established by foreign investors, and 8th when it comes to the value of the subscribed capital.

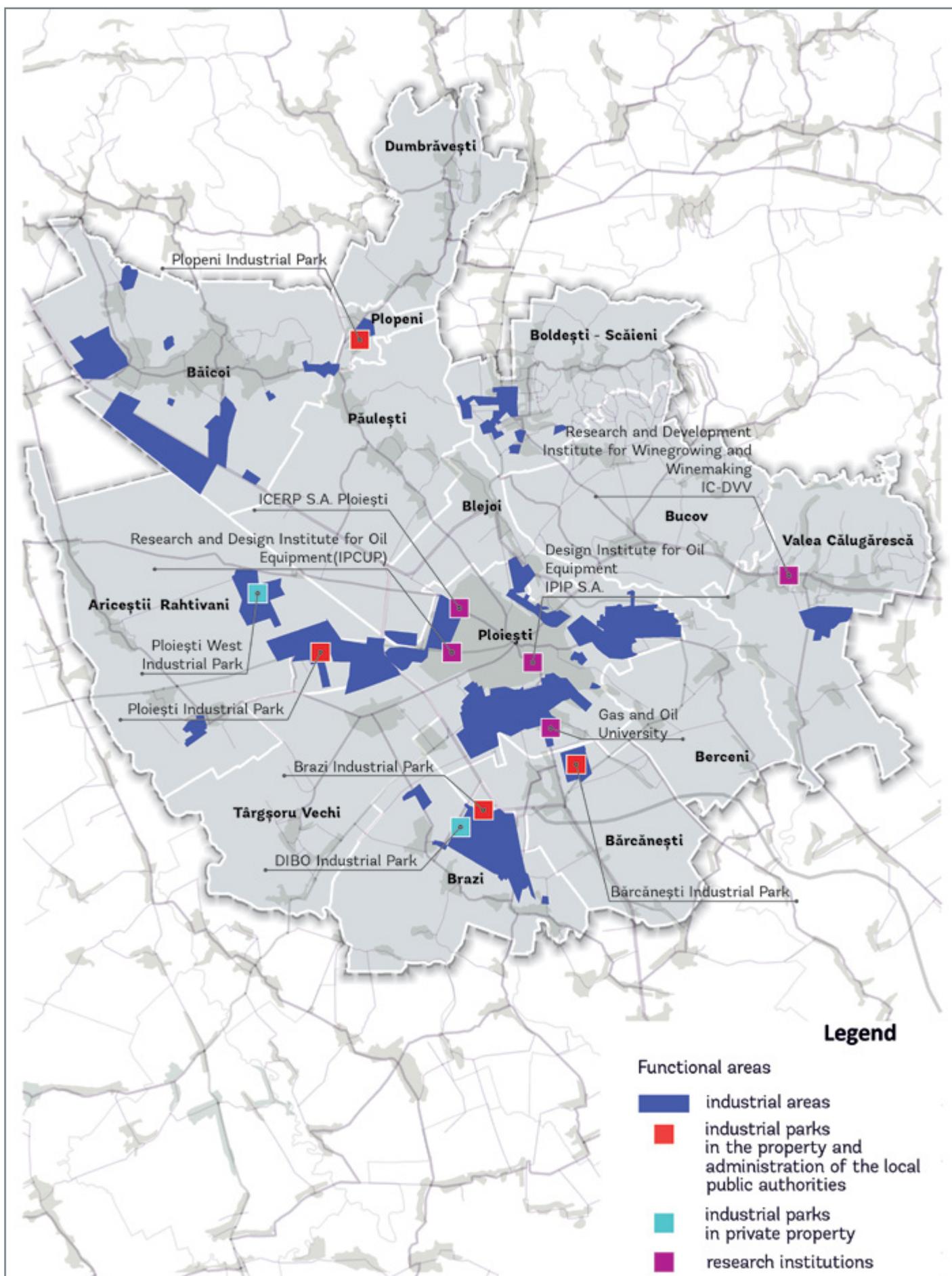
Figure 49. Volume of foreign investments attracted by Prahova County for the 2007-2013 period



Source: National Trade Register Office



Map 40. Functional areas in Ploiești Growth Pole



Sursa: xx

However, it should be pointed out that the services provided by administrative companies to the investors hosted are not very diversified, being limited to the sale and lease of land and the provision of utilities. In this context, there is a lack of business support structures geared towards local entrepreneurs, to offer them a wider range of information services (information, consultancy, training, technology transfer, internationalization and marketing, event organization, incubation, etc.).

Although several studies previously carried out at the regional or national levels have identified the existence of several industrial agglomerations that have the potential to turn into clusters, no such structure has been established locally yet. Such industrial agglomerations belong to the following sectors: automotive, (developed around DACIA RENAULT), electrical equipment, tourism, agri-food, construction, petrochemistry. For comparison, such structures have already been formalized, are functional, and have even drawn grants in other growth poles (Cluj-Napoca: furniture, ICT), Iași (medicine, ICT), Timișoara (ICT, automotive, renewable energy), Constanța (transport), etc.

1.2.6. Projects completed / ongoing

The first step in developing business services for local entrepreneurs is to develop the “Green Light” Multifunctional Business Center, located in Ploiești Industrial Park, an investment of about 9 million EUR, co-financed by the ROP 2007-2013. It will contain an office building with a conference room and exhibition center – there were no such functions locally; these will benefit particularly the SMEs and microenterprises in the Growth Pole. Also, a Business Excellence Center for Young Entrepreneurs is currently under construction, being supported by funds from the POR 2007-2013. It will include offices and multi-purpose rooms for young people who want to start businesses in the field of consultancy, ecology, ecotourism, environmental assessment, and design.

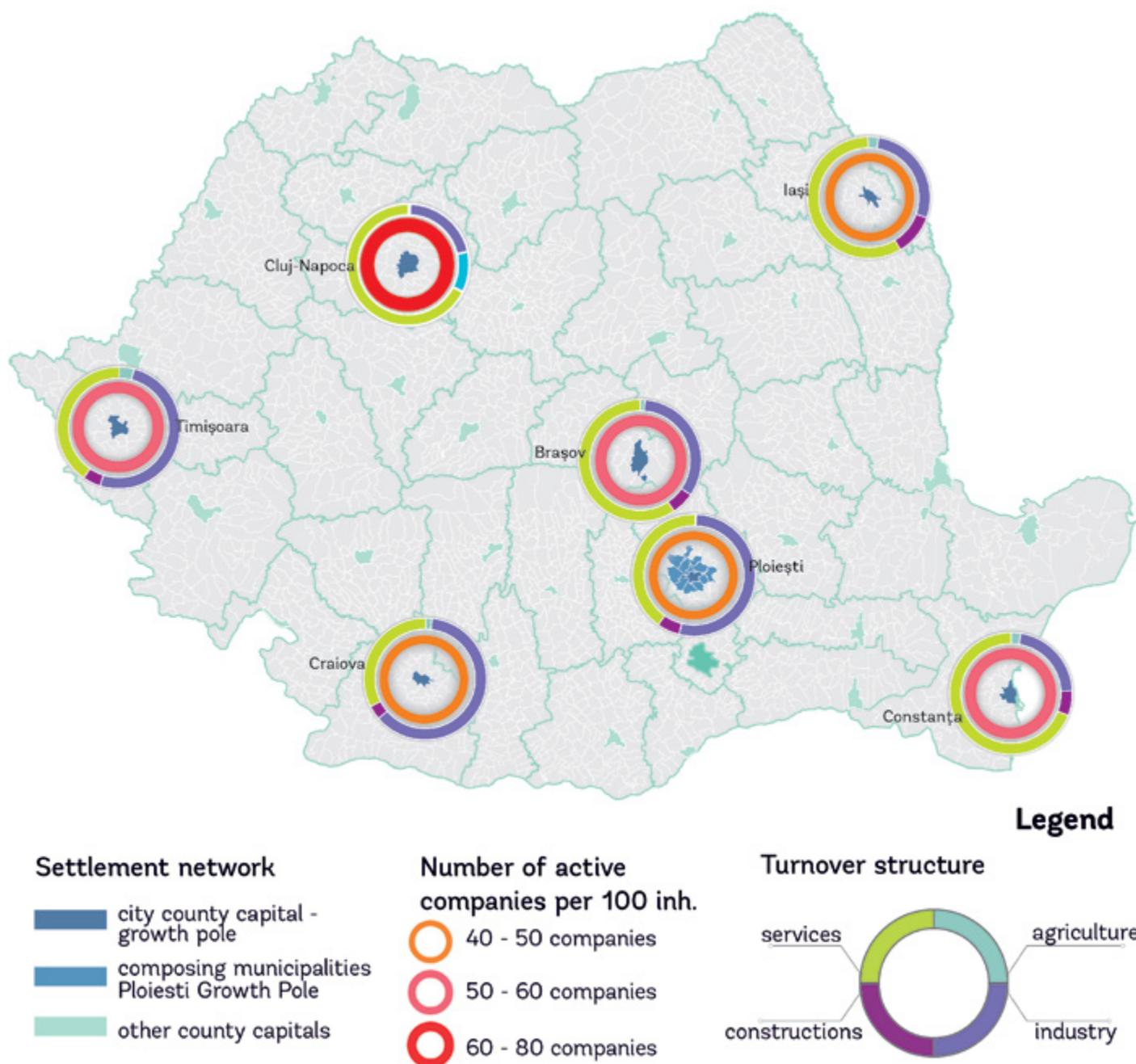
Moreover, the Prahova County Council has allocated significant funds for developing the infrastructure of the county's industrial parks that are managed by its subordinated companies (Ploiești, Plopeni, Brazi, Bărcănești), and also for those in the proximity of the Growth Pole (Mișil, Urlați, Ciorani). The same institution has actively contributed to the development of tourism in Prahova county by using funds from the ROP 2007-2013 to design and promote integrated and thematic tourist routes.

We should also mention the substantial investments made by private companies, either in the field of production (such as OMV PETROM, which has invested over 1 billion EUR in the modernization of the Petrobrazi Refinery and in the construction of Brazi Power Plant), or in the field of business infrastructure development (ALINSO GROUP, WDP DEVELOPMENT). Foreign capital companies invested 470 million EUR in the 2007-2013 period in the form of capital injections, in addition to other amounts reinvested from their profits and to investments made by domestically-owned companies.



1.2.7. Conclusions – existing disparities, trends, needs, and areas of intervention

Map 41. Structure of Economic Activities (Romania)



Ploiești Growth Pole has a tendency of converging – in the long term – with the economic performance of other cities and regions in the European Union. However, this tendency was temporarily interrupted by the global crisis, so that the GDP/capita at current prices remains below 40% of the EU-28 average and below the level reached by more dynamic growth poles (Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara) during the last decade.

The current economic structure of the Growth Pole is unfavorable for smart economic specialization and better living standards; the high value-added service sector (ICT, financial services, professional, scientific, and technical activities, etc.) is underdeveloped compared to other growth poles in Romania. Thus, Cluj-Napoca and Constanța have an economy dominated by the tertiary sector, in contrast to Craiova and Ploiești, which display lower economic performance and where the industrial sector continues to generate over half of the output of the local economy. Timișoara is an exception to this rule, as it has a high share of the industry, but also shifts towards more technologically advanced branches.

The rate of entrepreneurship at local level, expressed by the number of active enterprises per 1,000 inhabitants, is low compared to other growth poles; the local business environment is dominated by foreign capital companies and lacks a solid class of local businessmen. The unemployment rate is among the highest (being surpassed only by Craiova), as is the share of pensioners and homemakers in the total population. The level of local salaries is below the national average, due to the unfavorable economic structure of the local economy (a high rate of employment in low value-added sectors).

Ploiești Growth Pole has important competitive advantages when it comes to the extractive and energy industries, since it is the most attractive of the Romanian growth poles for the location of such activities. It also has competitive advantages in the manufacturing industry (namely in these branches: petrochemistry, machinery and equipment, food and beverages), in transport and logistics, as it is becoming more and more a logistics center that serves both the South Region and the Bucharest market.

In contrast, the economic activities where Ploiești Growth Pole is less competitive include construction, trade, tourism, financial services, real estate, professional, scientific, and technical activities, administrative and support services, education, health, culture, recreational activities, etc. This is due mainly to the service sector polarization induced by Bucharest, which is located just 60 km away.

Between 2007 and 2013, the number of active companies in Ploiești Growth Pole dropped by 13.9% due to the economic crisis, which led to a decrease in the domestic and external demand, and thus to a limitation of the companies' activity in the area, or even to event to the bankruptcy of some of them. The most affected sectors were the construction industry, and the trade and manufacturing industries, which hold a significant share in the local economy; in these sectors, the number of companies has decreased by 18-26% in the last 7 years alone. In contrast, there are sectors where the number of companies has increased, such as agriculture, energy, information and communications, some services for the population.

Despite this negative dynamics, Ploiești Growth Pole continues to pool 64.6% of the active companies in Prahova county, 19.3% of those in South Muntenia region and 2.1% of those in Romania. There are several industrial agglomerations at local level, which pool together a large number of firms and employees and generate a significant volume of businesses and exports: machinery and equipment, food and beverages, textiles and clothing, metal constructions, automotive parts, oil extraction and processing, energy. Despite these conglomerations, the business networks, the supply chains, and the innovative clusters have not been formalized and functionalized yet locally, although there are horizontal and vertical connections between certain companies.

Ploiești municipality is a resource and skill center of international importance for the oil industry, having the ability to process a significant amount of hydrocarbons from the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea. The dependence of a large part of the local economy on the oil market, which is among the most volatile, constitutes a vulnerability.

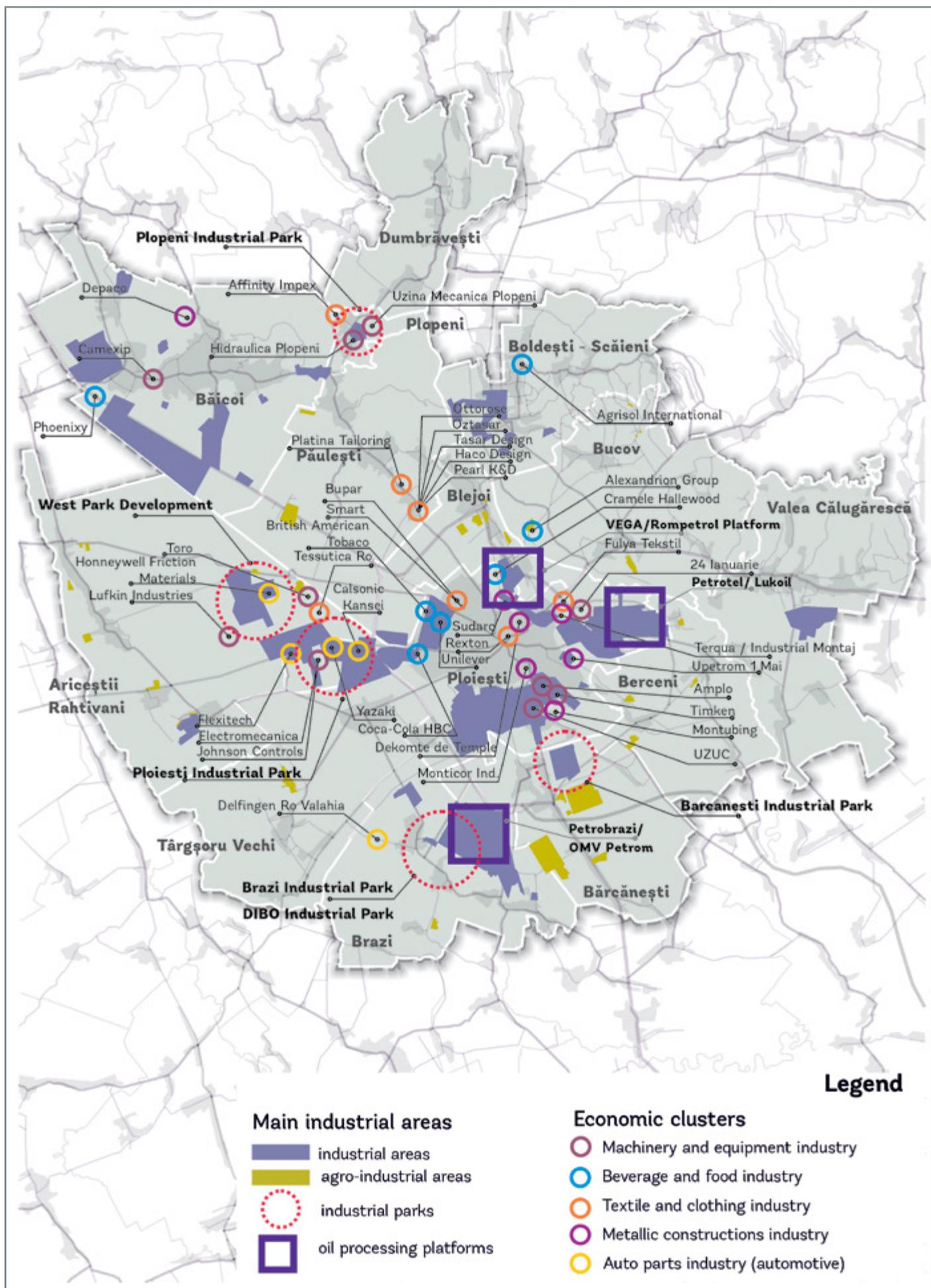
The local sectors that have a potential for smart economic specialization are the following: the oil and gas extraction and processing industry (including the full range of related works and services for the entire supply chain), the automotive parts industry, the machinery and equipment industry (mainly equipment for the petrochemical and extractive industries, hydraulic equipment), the food and energy industries, the ICT sector, and, last but not least, transport and logistics, given the favorable geographical location near an outlet market of about 3 million consumers – the Capital city – and at the intersection of several transport corridors.

The localities around the city have attracted many investors over the past few years – either new ones or relocated from the urban core, under pressure from urban and environmental regulations and especially from those related to the real estate market. Nevertheless, in the communes of the Growth Pole, a large portion of the population is employed in subsistence agriculture, due to extensive agricultural resources (viticulture, horticulture, animal husbandry), which are only partly exploited in the local processing industry due to the lack of functional supply chains.

The local RDI sector is declining as a result of the chronic underfunding of this area and the lack of functional structures for technology transfer. The Ploiești area traditionally has skills and expertise in basic and applied research, design and engineering for petrochemistry, machinery for the oil industry and viticulture, which could underlie the revival of the research activity in the context of concerns for smart specialization.

The local business support infrastructure is very well developed (ranking first nationwide when it comes to the

Map 42. Structure of economic activities (Ploiești Growth Pole)



surface of industrial parks and the jobs created at their level) and plays a key role in attracting investments. The public authorities have played a key role in this area by developing four industrial parks in the metropolitan area alone. However, the existing parks offer only basic services (housing and utilities) and are directed towards foreign investors, while local entrepreneurs have limited access to business services.

Tourism has a marginal contribution to the local economy, despite private investments in the accommodation, catering and leisure infrastructure and despite designing and promoting regional thematic routes with great potential for attracting visitors in the fields of wine tourism, culinary tourism, cultural and religious tourism, etc. Therefore, Ploiești remains only a center for transit and business tourism, being located between two tourism poles of international importance (Prahova Valley and Bucharest).

The dynamics regarding the number of employees varied significantly from one locality to another in the 2007-2013 period. While it dropped in Ploiești, Plopeni, or Dumbrăvești, other places (Ariceștii Rahtivani, Brazi, Păulești, Târgșoru Vechi, Bărcănești) attracted a number of important investors in recent years, including following businesses' relocation from Ploiești city, which emphasizes a clear trend of redistribution of the economic activities in the territory, from the urban core to the periphery. The unemployment rate remains at a low level, despite massive restructuring of the local economy after the year 1990 against a backdrop of new investors entering in, the practice of commuting to Bucharest-Ifov, and the external migration of the workforce.

The workforce aging tendency (the average age of the employed – over 40) is manifested mainly as a result of the intensification of the migration of young people to Bucharest and other countries, and is accompanied by outdated qualifications, which were obtained in the past and are less required on today's job market.

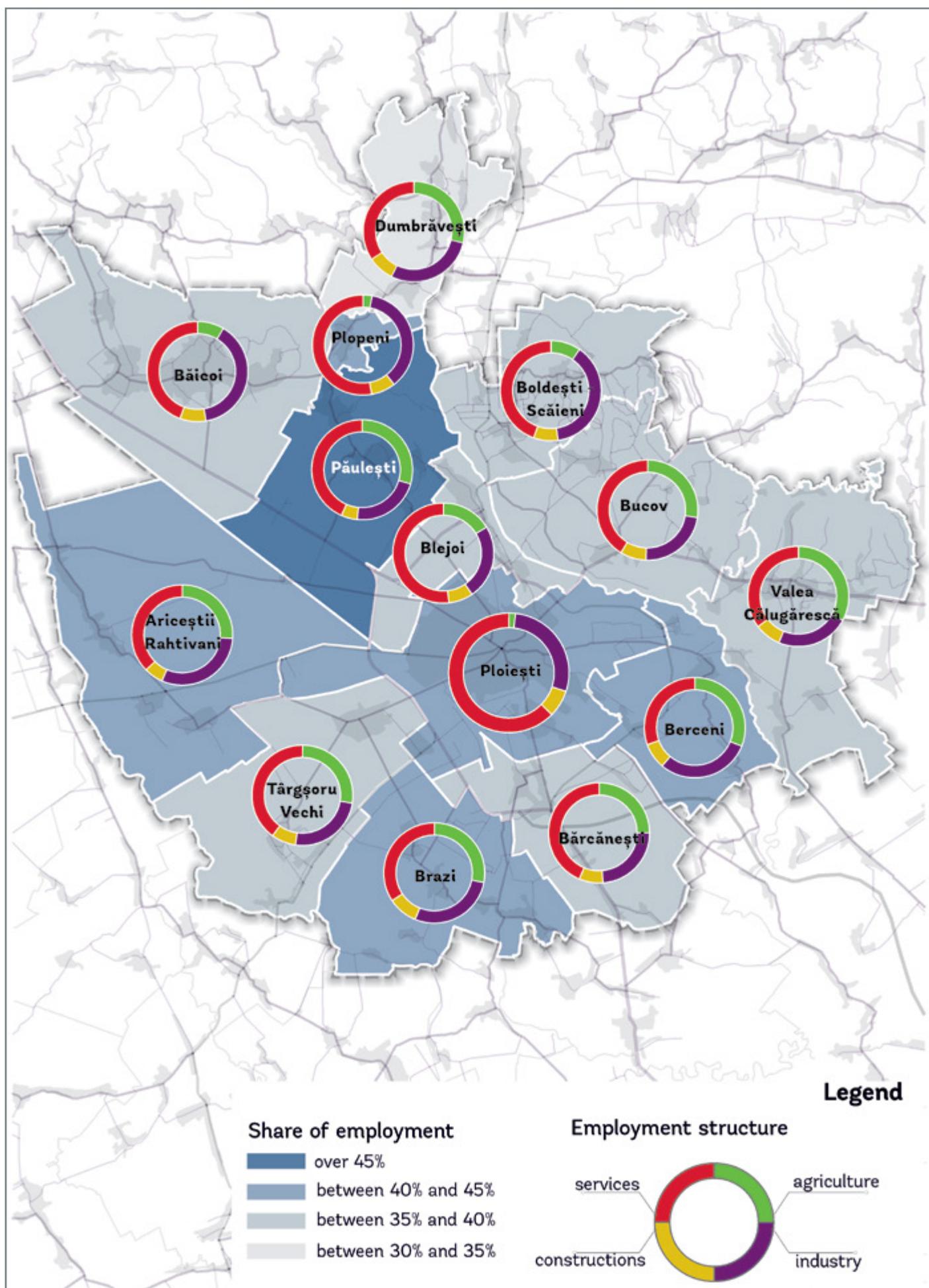
Regarding the structure of employment, the service sector has come to provide 57% of the jobs in Ploiești Growth Pole, followed by the industry (28%), agriculture and forestry (8%), and the constructions sector (7%). Compared to the communist period, the number of people employed in the service sector is two times higher than the number of industry workers. The workforce generally tends to shift to the service sector in large urban agglomerations.

In the communes around Ploiești municipality, a great portion of the population is employed in subsistence agriculture, due to extensive agricultural resources (viticulture, horticulture, animal husbandry), which are only partly exploited in the local processing industry, due to the lack of functional supply chains.

The important volume of foreign investments that were attracted in recent years highlights the shortage of workforce with secondary education. This situation requires the reintroduction of technical and vocational education, and the fostering of labor mobility from outside the metropolitan area, including attracting unemployed or informally employed people to the labor market.



Map 43. Workforce

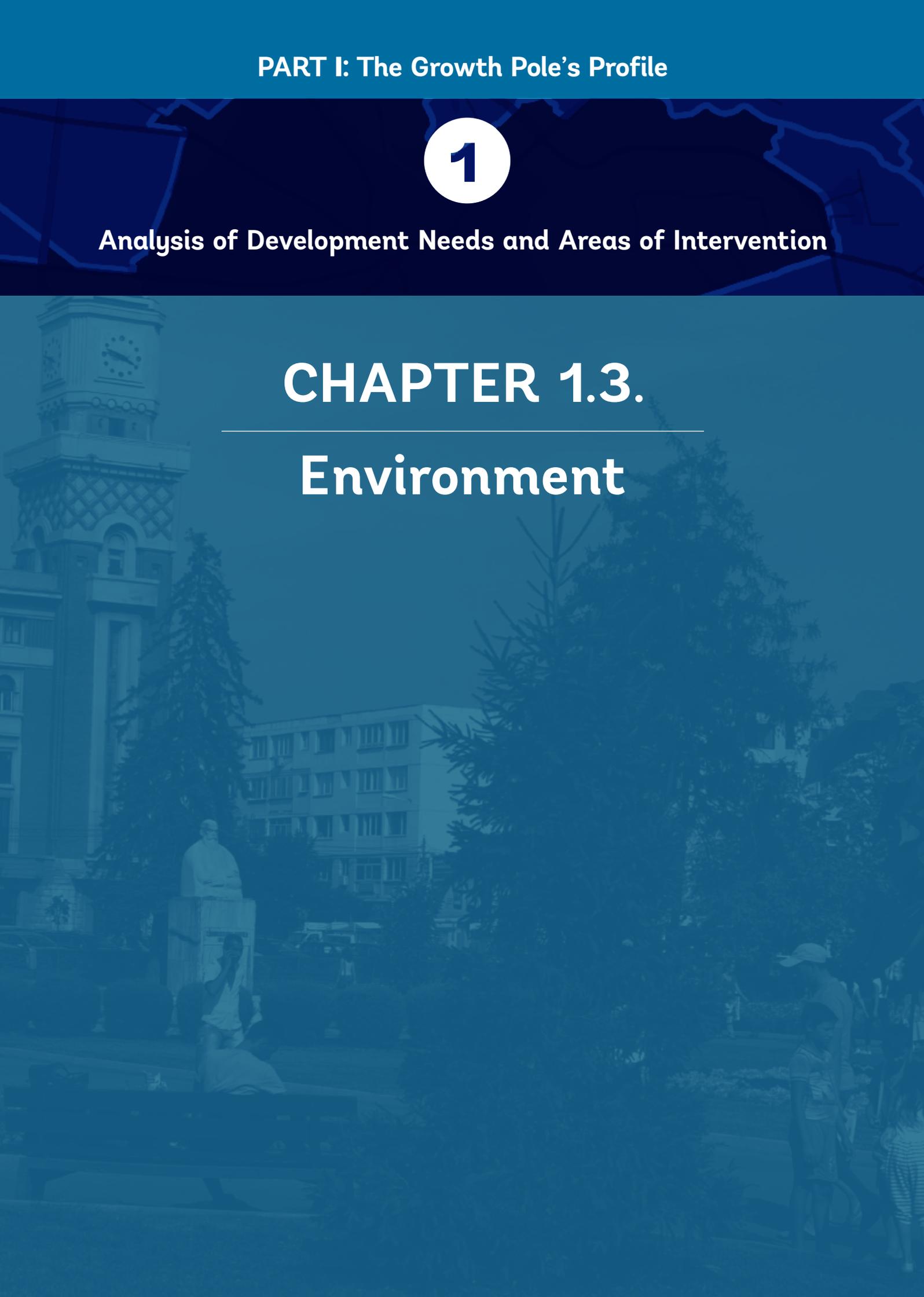


1

Analysis of Development Needs and Areas of Intervention

CHAPTER 1.3.

Environment

The background of the page is a blue-tinted photograph of a university campus. On the left, there is a prominent clock tower with a lattice-patterned facade. In the center, a large, multi-story building is visible. In the foreground, several people are walking on a path, and a statue is partially visible on the left. The overall scene is a typical university environment.

1.3. Environment

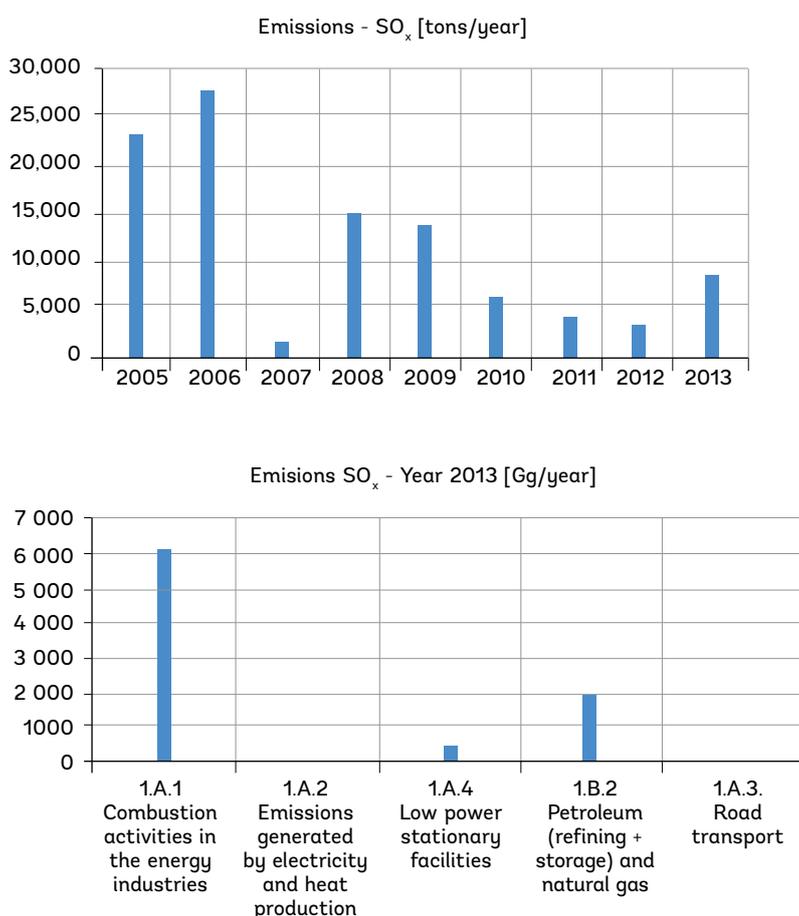
1.3.1. Environmental quality and pollution control (air, water, and soil)

Air

According to the Environmental Report (EPA Prahova, 2013), air quality in Ploiești was monitored by daily or hourly measurements in 12 stations (6 automatic stations and 6 manual stations). The level of the pollutants such as SO₂, NO₂/NO_x, CO, benzene, particulate matter, lead, and ozone are monitored and evaluated in accordance with Law no. 104/2011, which transposes the requirements of the European regulations. As well, the levels of ammonia, formaldehyde, and hydrogen sulfide are monitored in examined by reference to the standards included in STAS no. 12574/87 - Air in protected areas.

The measured values of pollutants are emission values that are influenced by the economic activity in the area where the measuring equipment is located. Temperature, humidity, pressure, air movement, and rainfall determine substantial changes in the level of atmospheric pollution. Besides the economic activity, road traffic is also a key determinant of the pollution level.

Figure 50. Changes in sulfur oxide emissions by years (2005-2013) and by groups of activities (for 2013)

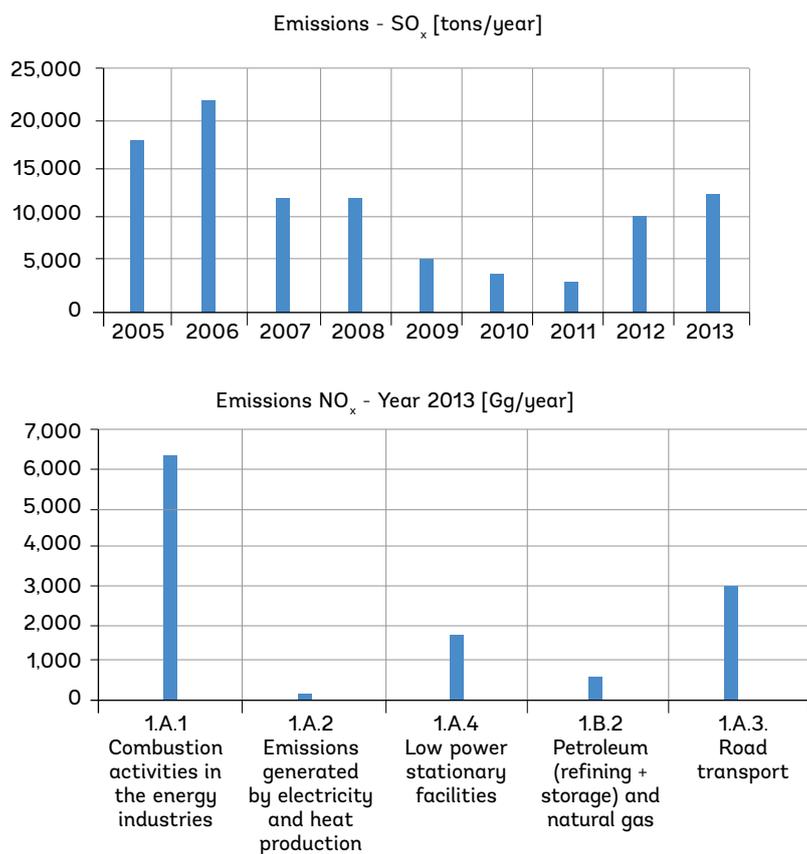


Source: EPA Prahova. State of the environment in Prahova County in 2013

Generally, in the automatic monitoring stations the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide have not exceeded the quality thresholds for human health protection provided by Law no. 104/2011, except in 4 cases, in which hourly emission limits for sulfur dioxide were exceeded at Mihai Bravu Station. As well, the values of annual average concentrations of particulate matter under 10 microns (PM₁₀) and of heavy metals do not exceed the limit value (40 µg/cubic meter). However, in manual stations, the maximum concentrations provided by STAS 12574/87 for the total suspended particles (TSP) were exceeded at the EPA headquarters, at ICERP and at the Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital. Also, the PM₁₀ particulate matter concentrations exceeded the daily averages at the EPA headquarters, in the Blejoi commune, on the București Boulevard and on the Mihai Bravu Street. When using short-term averaging methods, the maximum concentrations of hydrogen sulfide (Mihai Bravu district) and particulate matter (București Blvd., Republicii - Vestului Avenue crossroad) were exceeded. Nitrogen dioxide concentrations are also approaching the maximum permissible values at the EPA headquarters and on București Blvd. All this suggests that pollution is generated primarily by the more and more intense vehicle traffic, but also by certain industrial activities. All this potentially contributed to the growth of morbidity and mortality caused by respiratory diseases, malignant tumors and cardiovascular diseases, as compared to 2012.

Carbon monoxide, benzene, and ozone did not exceed the values above which they become harmful for human health. However, the maximum permissible daily concentration of ammonia was exceeded.

Figure 51. Changes in nitrogen oxide emissions by years (2005-2013) and by groups of activities (for 2013)



Source: EPA Prahova. State of the environment in Prahova County in 2013

As for the pressure exerted on air quality in the Prahova county, the activities which accounted for air pollution in 2013 were the following:

- Combustion activities in the energy industries - i.e. production of electricity and heat; refining of crude oil and petroleum (refining / storage) - are the main source of SO_x and NO_x emissions;
- Livestock and waste management is the main source of NH₃ emissions;
- Petroleum (refining + storage) and natural gas, as well as combustion in low power stationary facilities (institutional / commercial and residential) represent the main source of volatile organic compound emissions.

Emissions generated by electricity and heat production have decreased significantly due to improving of the pollutant retention equipment, switching to cleaner fuels and improving energy efficiency. However, energy production and distribution remain a major source of air pollution, accounting for NO_x and SO_x emissions. The road transport sector is a major source of air pollution. Heavy vehicles are the most important source of NO_x, PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} and heavy metals, while cars are important sources of CO, NH₃ and NMVOC.



Water

In 2013, in the Prahova county, groundwater bodies were monitored in 8 springs, 32 boreholes and 6 wells. The nitrate indicator was exceeded in just 3 of them, i.e. 6.52%. The quality of surface water intended to be rendered potable was monitored in 17 sections in Prahova sub-basin. The water purification sections are located immediately upstream of the water intake (for intakes of surface running waters) and, respectively, in the intake section (dam, shore) for water reservoirs. According to the Water Law no. 107/1996, as amended and supplemented, the bodies of water which were designated for catching water for human consumption and which provided, on average, more than 100 cubic meters of water/day, were established as monitoring points. The purification sections were classified into quality categories based on the annual average value of physical, chemical, and microbiological indicators, and they met the requirements of NTPA 013/2002 according to GD 100/2002, as amended and supplemented.

In 2013, out of the 25 monitored water bodies, 71% were in good ecological condition, and 29% showed a moderate ecological condition. Also, the Paltinu and Măneciu water reservoirs, which provide much of the drinking water needed by Ploiești urban area, have a good ecological potential.

It should be noted that only 31.4% of the wastewater requiring treatment was treated properly in 2013. The percentage is 12.2% for wastewater, 40.5% for water generated by food industry, 42% for education and health sectors, and 52.7% for the trade and services industries. This is due to the insufficient endowment of the tertiary wastewater treatment plants in the city and the biological treatment plants for industrial wastewater. In 2013, organic matter, nutrients (coming from urban areas, livestock farms, food and beverage industry, chemical industry), heavy metals, dangerous organic micro-pollutants (chemical industry), etc. were discharged in Ploiești urban area.

In 2013, there was also an accidental pollution in Prahova sub-basin, on Dâmbu brook, caused by OMV PETROM SA ASSET VII Muntenia East, 23rd Sector, Ploiești West. Oil iridescence could be noted on the water and crude oil stuck on the vegetation covering the bank of the river. The development of the pollution phenomenon was monitored and the affected area was cleaned up.

Soil

After monitoring soil quality in terms of heavy metal content in the 7 measuring points within the city of Ploiești, it was noted that in some monitoring points the average annual values measured for the nickel and copper indicators slightly exceeded the normal levels for soil. For indicators such as cadmium, lead, and zinc, the average annual values remained within the standards allowed with respect to soil (according to the Order of the Ministry of Environment no. 756/1997).

At county level, the critical areas in terms of soil degradation cover a total of 132.13 ha, of which 100 ha are sites contaminated through activities related to the oil extraction industry and storage of oil residues. There are other wider areas belonging to industrial sites that are totally or partially abandoned, due to the closure or decline of certain industrial enterprises, dating back to the communist era or even the interwar period (Astra Română Refinery, Dorobanțul felt cloth factory, "1 Mai" oil machinery plant, etc.). Such areas also pose environmental risks too, and although they are not critical, they should be carefully monitored. They can be found in the GP area, Brazi, Boldești-Scăeni, and Ploiești. In Boldești-Scăeni there is also a 350 m² area affected by landslides.



Source: <http://decontaminarecampina.ro>

Map 44. Deteriorated soil (polluted areas, brownfields)

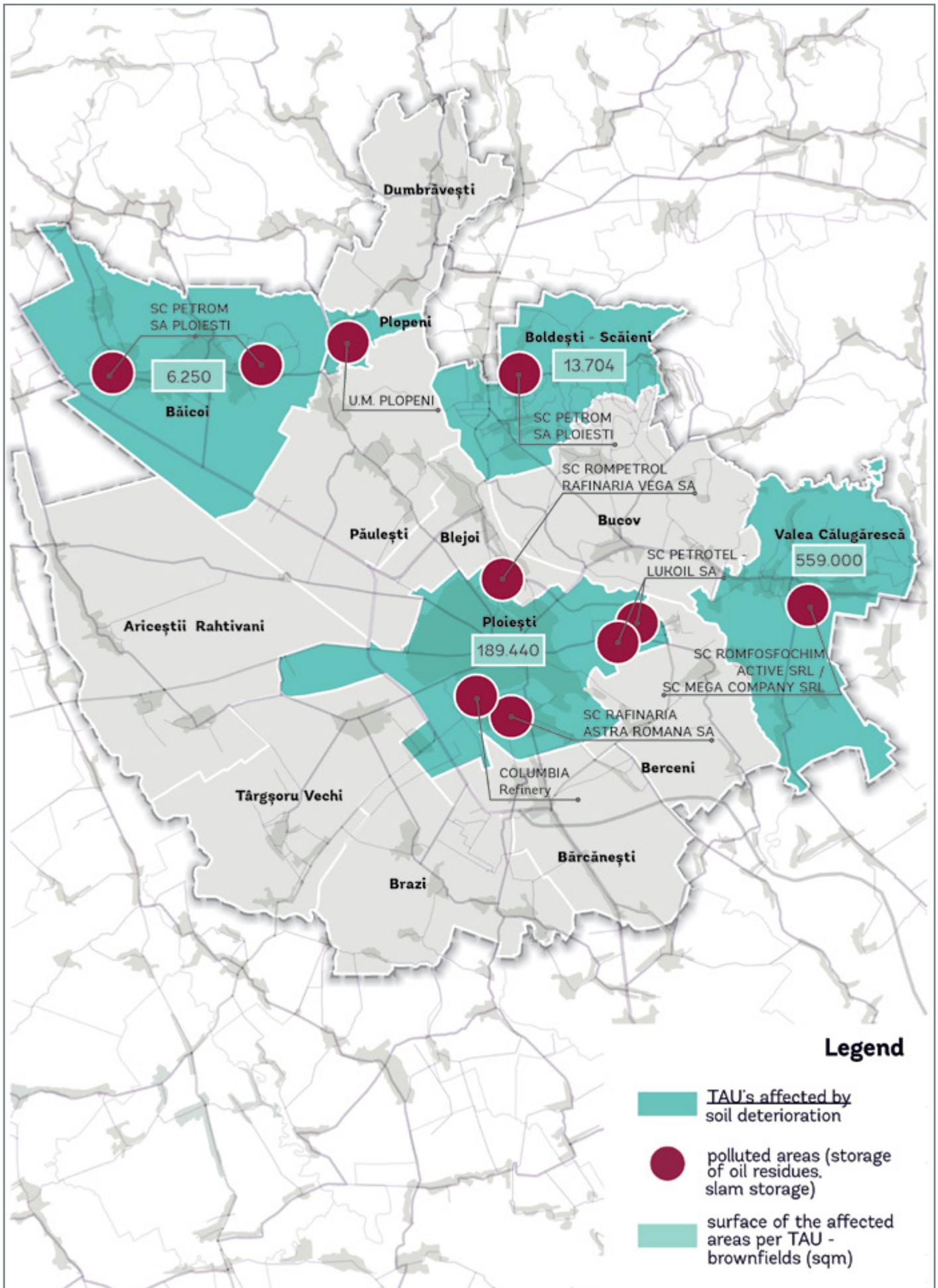


Table 9. Critical areas in terms of soil degradation

Contaminated site name	Company name	Site area (m ²)	Polluting activity
Vega tar pit	SC ROMPETROL RAFINARIA VEGA SA Ploiești	100,000	oil waste storage
Phosphogypsum pit	SC ROMFOSFOCHIM ACTIVE SRL VALEA Călugărească	559,000	oil waste storage
Roasted pyrite warehouse	SC MEGA COMPANY SRL București	65,000	oil waste storage
Oil residue pit	SC RAFINARIA ASTRA ROMANA SA Ploiești	26,000	oil waste storage
Pit 196	SC PETROTEL - LUKOIL SA Ploiești	44,440	oil waste storage
Collection Center 701	SC PETROM SA Ploiești	35	oil extraction industry
Collection Center 702		30	
Collection Center 27		35	
Collection Center 1043		129	
Collection Center 97		700	
Collection Center 302 Holes		820	
4 VD Tintea park		2,000	
Collection Center 16		250	
Băicoi slurry pit		6,000	
Urlați slurry storage pit		250	
Cărbunești 1 slurry storage pit		60	
Cărbunești 2 slurry storage pit		150	
Park 710 slurry storage pit		700	
Boldești-Central I slurry storage pit		750	
Boldești slurry (ecological) pit		2,500	
Boldești-Central II slurry storage pit		390	
Slurry storage pit 3 Boldești Tritter	800		
Sonda 6002 slurry pit Sinaia de Mișil	9,034		
Surani park 1	980		
Oil residue pit – Vega zone Ploiești		19,000	oil waste storage

Source: EPA Prahova. State of the environment in Prahova County in 2013

Table 10. Critical areas affected by landslides

Locality	Type of erosion	Area
Boldești-Scăeni	Landslide	350

Source: EPA Prahova. State of the environment in Prahova County in 2013

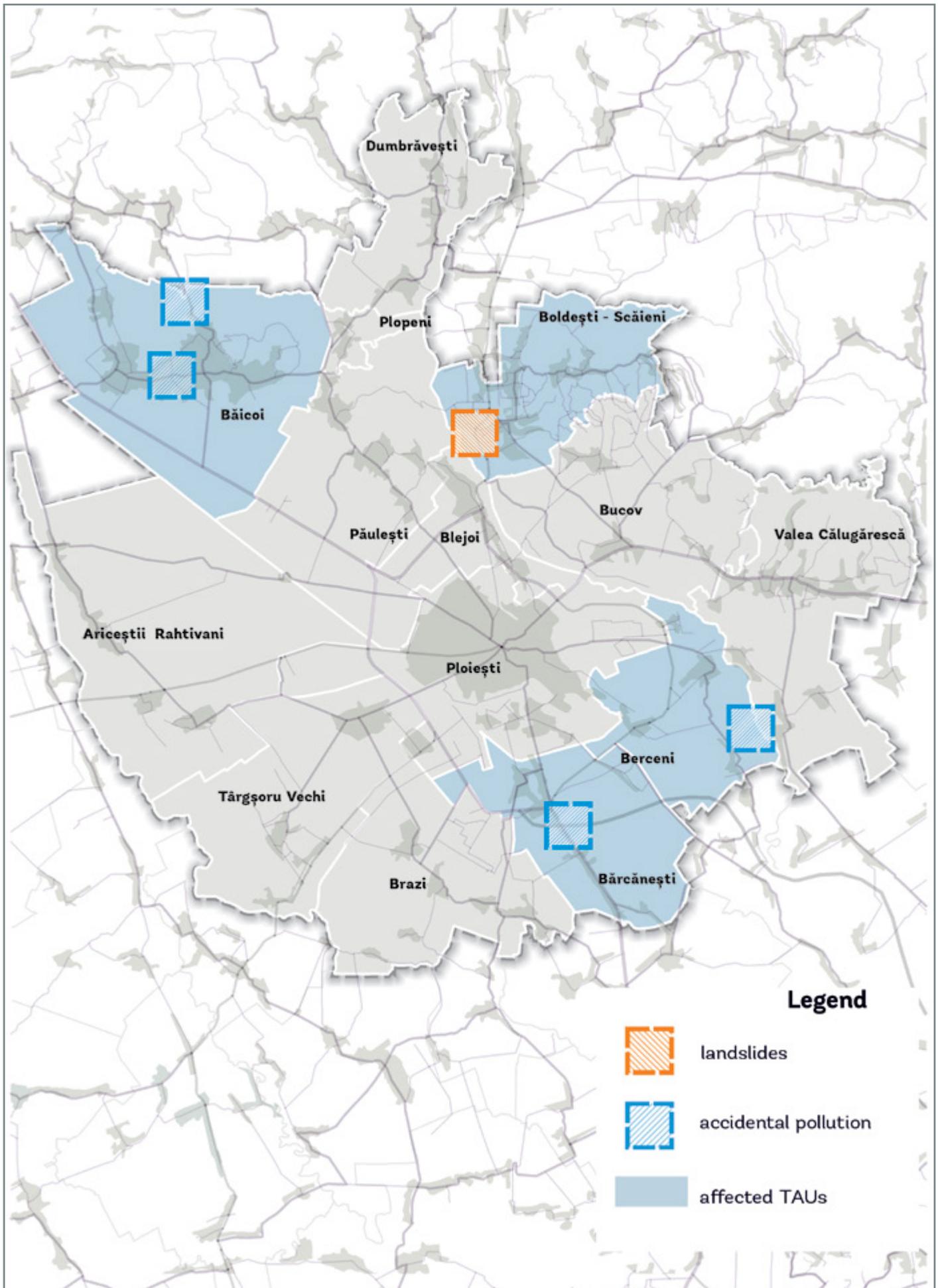
Table 11. Pollution accidents affecting the soil in 2013

Date	Locality	Pollutant	Substance
04.01.2013	Băicoi (100 m from the left bank of Doftana river)	SC Conpet SA Ploiești	crude oil
02.04.2013	Berceni commune - Matisol area (Urlați-Ploiești pipeline)	SC Conpet SA Ploiești	crude oil
16.09.2013	Bărcănești	tanker	gasoline
19.09.2013	Băicoi – str. Horia	OMV Petrom	oil and salt water mix

Source: EPA Prahova. State of the environment in Prahova County in 2013

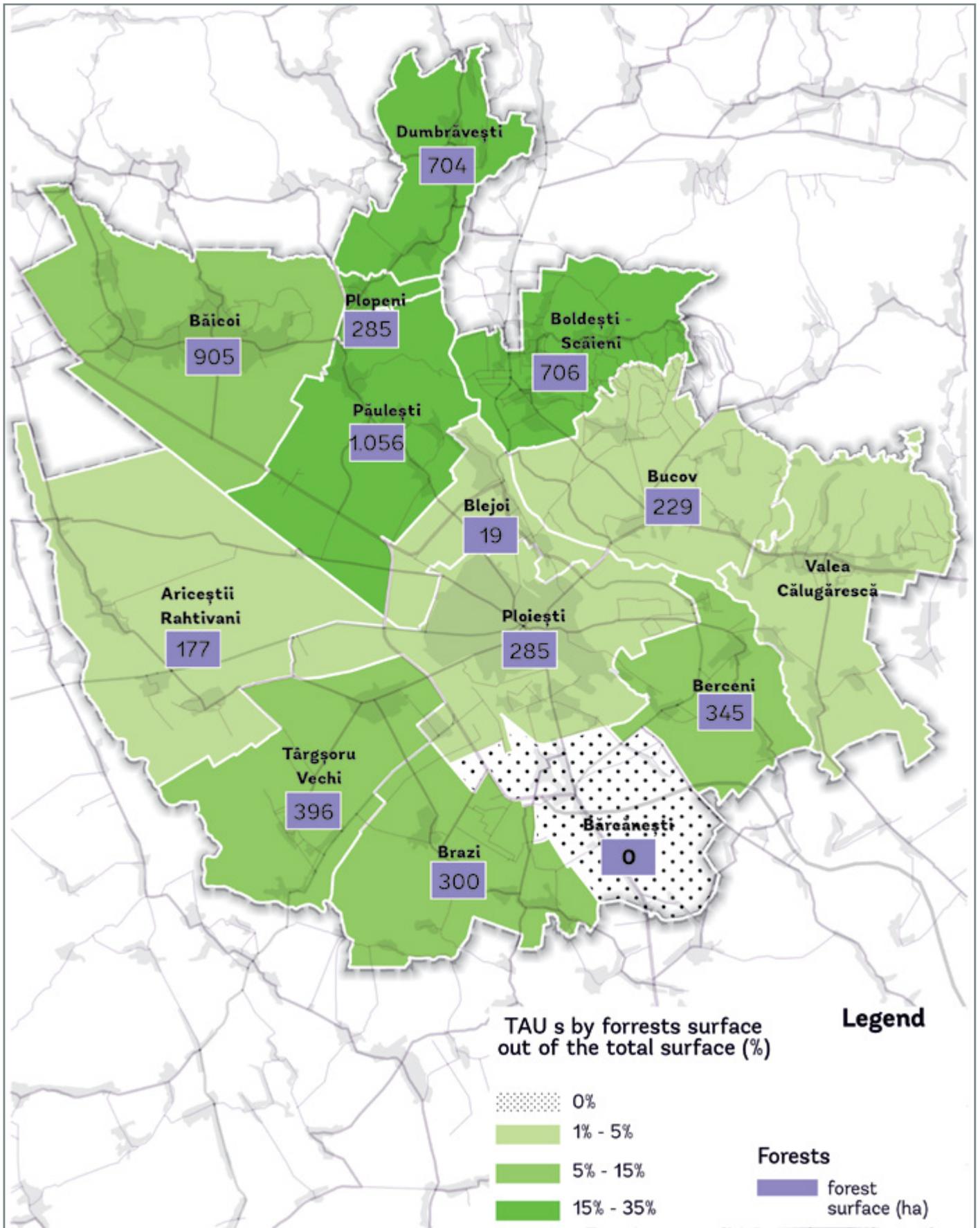
About 18% of the land in Prahova county is affected by intense processes of degradation, especially by surface and subsurface erosion, landslides, oil and salt pollution, excessive humidity, etc. Natural factors were amplified by the inappropriate use of land, such as deforestation, irrational grazing, excessive use of chemical fertilizers, etc.

Map 45. Deteriorated soil (land slides, accidental pollution)



Another major shortcoming at local level is the deficit of woodlands, especially in the south of the territory (plain area). In addition, there are major anthropogenic pressures on the existing forests, mainly illegal logging, the most problematic areas being Dâmbu and Plopeni-Sat.

Map 46. Forested areas



Noise pollution

During 2011, 68.71% of the measurements showed values that were higher than the limits established by STAS 10009/88. Noise measurements targeted areas that may pose health risks to the exposed population. The noise level is mostly the result of road traffic affecting the population of Ploiești, rail traffic on the lower sections along railways and industrial activities.

Map 47. Daytime noise pollution in Ploiești urban area



Source: RASP Ploiești

The figure above shows that in Ploiești, the values recorded exceeded 75 or even 80 decibels, on the north-south axis, near the railway stations, in industrial areas and on streets crossed by trams routes or open to heavy-duty traffic.

According to an audit conducted by a private company in the field of acoustic measurements (ENVIRO CONSULT), the most polluted growth pole in terms of noise is Bucharest (85% of the population is affected), followed by Constanța (76%), Cluj-Napoca (64%), Brașov, and Ploiești (61%).

1.3.2. Protected natural areas

Due to the outstanding diversity of biotopes and habitats, Prahova county enjoys a rich inventory of flora and fauna species, including endemic species, rare species, glacial relics, and species of Community importance. In the GP area, there is a habitat of national importance - the Plopeni forest (91 ha of protected site of Community importance - SCI), hosting a vegetal association that is endemic to Romania, namely *Peucedanorocheliani-Molinietumcoeruleae*, which has been observed also in Banat and Hațeg as well. The habitat is characterized by swampy groves with clayey substratum and high groundwater level. Plopeni forest site is in the custody of Prahova County Museum of Natural Sciences, which accessed funds from SOP ENVIRONMENT 2007-2013 to develop a management plan.

Out of the 134 local areas of interest (4,607 ha) that enjoy the protection status, as established in the General Urban Plans of the communes and in the decisions of the local councils (and which are also included in the spatial plan of Prahova county), the GP area includes: Broasca (39.2 ha) in Bucov commune; a nature reserve (40 ha) in Păulești commune; and Plopeni forest (10 ha) in Plopeni town.

As regards the natural protected sites of Community importance (SCI), in addition to Plopeni forest, there is also the Ialomiței Corridor, which extends partially on the territory of Brazi, Valea Călugărească and Berceni communes.

There is a major anthropogenic pressure on local biodiversity, for example because the land that is covered by constructions has expanded, due to the extension of settlements and transport infrastructure (e.g. establishment of industrial parks, new residential areas, and construction of highways). This can be seen especially in the peri-urban area of Ploiești city, and has negative effects on climate change and the habitats in those areas, which have shrunk dramatically. As well, the irrational exploitation of minor river beds for sand, gravel and ballast mining activities will adversely affect the ecosystems concerned if measures for environmental reconstruction are not taken.

1.3.3. Climate change

In its programmatic documents, the EU has declared its responsibility for addressing climate change and has set the target of allocating 20% of the EU funds for the period 2014-2020 to climate actions, reducing GHG emissions, and climate adaptation. Such climate actions should be included and integrated in Ploiești GP IDP projects. Addressing activities such as the reduction of carbon emissions and climate resilience would benefit the local communities within the growth pole.

In March 2007, the European Council expressed its firm commitment to reduce by 2020 total emissions of greenhouse gases in the Community by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels and by 30% if other developed countries also commit to achieving comparable emission reductions, and if the developing countries that are more advanced economically contribute adequately, according to their responsibilities and capabilities. By 2050, global greenhouse gas emissions should fall by at least 50% below their 1990 levels.

In order to contribute to achieving these long-term objectives, it is appropriate to set out a predictable path through which the emissions of facilities covered by the Community scheme should be reduced. To achieve in a cost-effective way the Community's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% below the 1990 levels, the emission allowances allocated for such facilities by 2020 should fall by 21% below the 2005 emission levels. The Community-wide quantity of allowances, calculated from the mid-point of the 2008-2012 period, should decrease in a linear manner, ensuring that the emissions reduction system delivers gradual and predictable decreases of emissions over time.

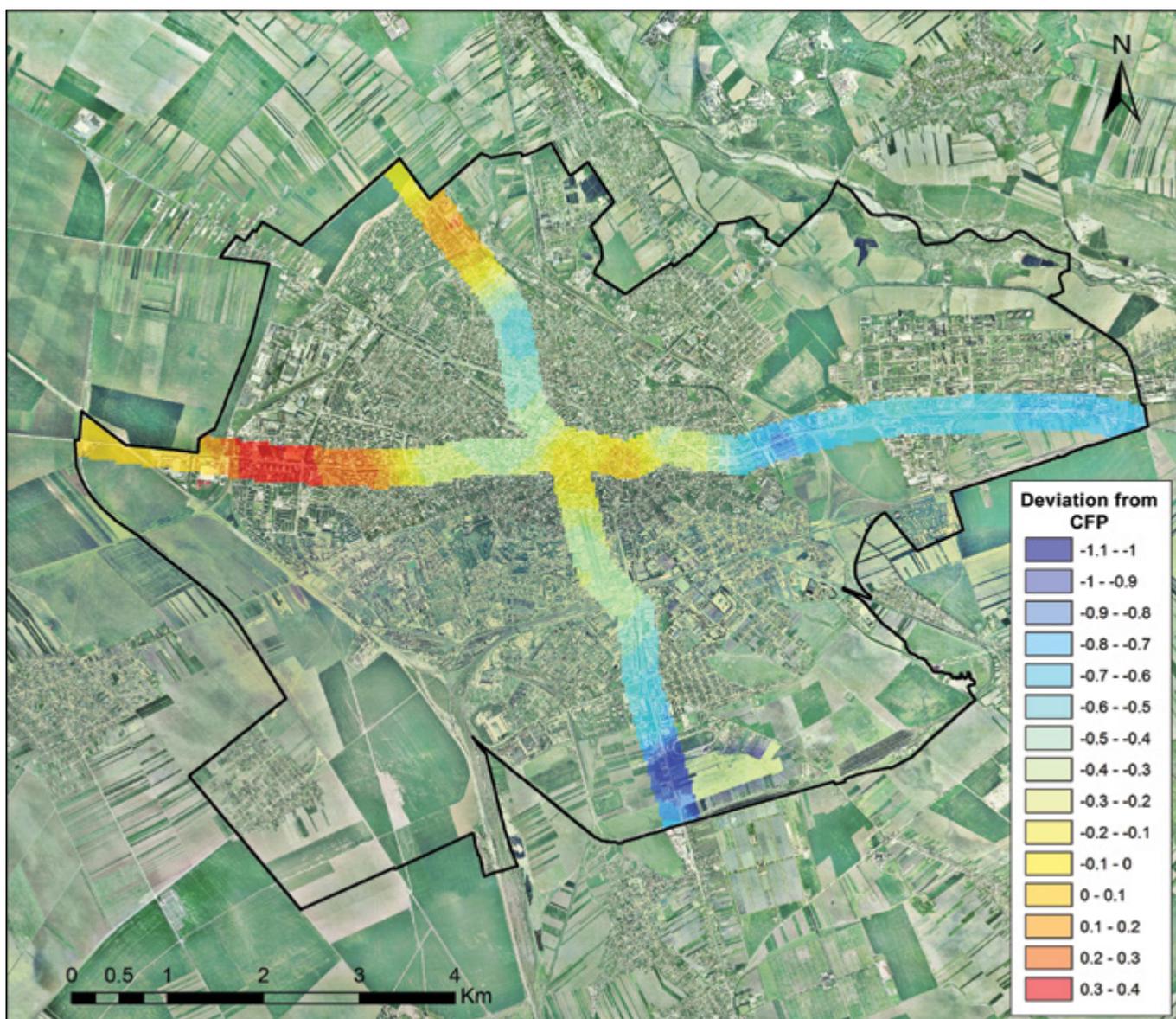
The annual decrease of allowances should be equal to 1,74% of the allowances issued by Member States pursuant to Commission's Decisions on Member States' national allocation plans for the period 2008-2012, so that the Community scheme contributes cost-effectively to achieving the commitment to an overall reduction in emissions of

at least 20% by 2020.

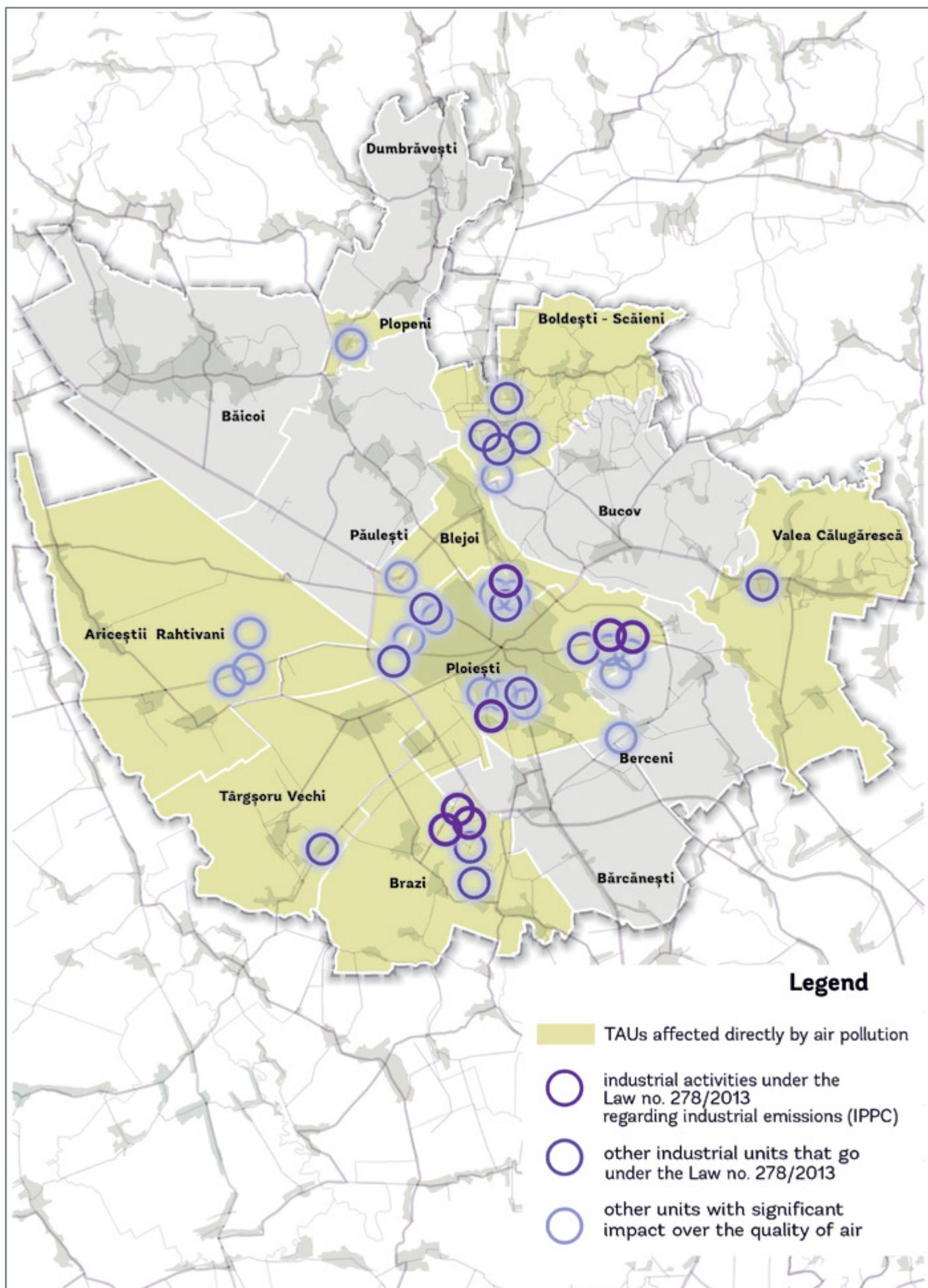
Climate change is a multi-sector issue, therefore most adjustment and improvement measures will be specific to each sector. For example, the industrial, transport, and energy fields should take measures to reduce GHG emissions, e.g. by making efforts to promote energy efficiency as specified in local recommendations on energy efficiency (LREE), by using renewable energy in private and public sectors, by investing in the development of a low carbon transport system, and by improving the efficiency of industrial entities and public utilities. As for reforestation, it is covered by the biodiversity sector. Climate change adjustment measures are also sector-specific and must be integrated into sector-specific activities, such as flood protection in rural areas and climate-resilient farming practices.

In Prahova county there are 14 operators that hold greenhouse gas emission permits for activities in facilities covered by Law no. 278/2013 on industrial emissions. The procedure for issuing greenhouse gas emission permits for the period 2013-2020 is laid out in Order no. 1897/2007, as amended and supplemented by Order no. 2069/2010 and by Order no. 3420/2012.

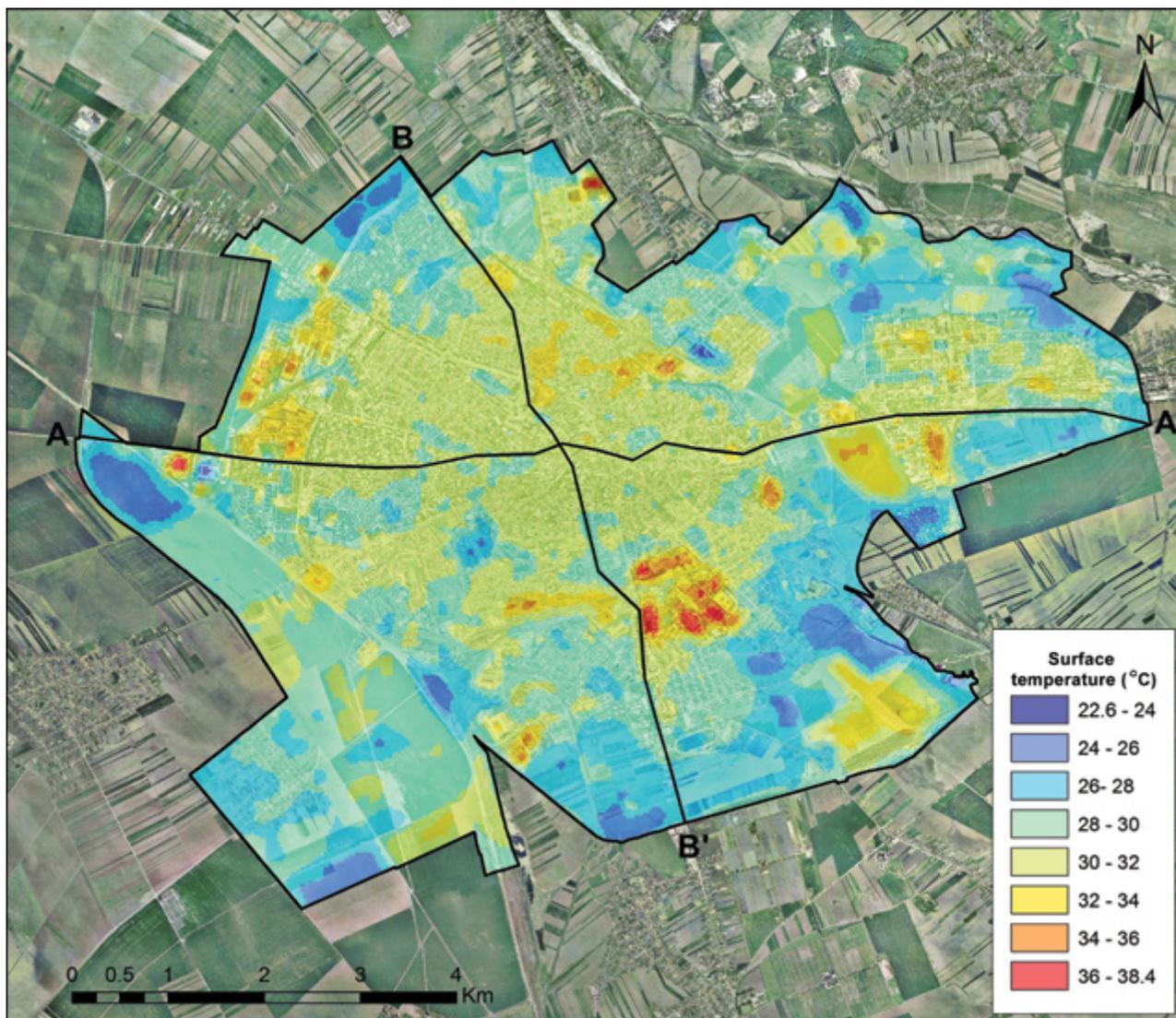
Map 48. Deviation of air temperature profiles in measured points on AA' and BB' profiles, compared to the city center (PFC)



Map 49. Air pollution



Map 50. Map of surface temperatures in Ploiești, processed from the satellite image taken by Landsat 8 on August 06, 2014, between 10:00 and 12:00 OVR



Urban Heat Islands (UHI) in the city of Ploiești

The continuous urbanization of major cities worldwide and the climate effects induced by this process are, at present, a major issue addressed in urban development studies. The main consequence of the enlargement of urban areas is the intensification of urban heat islands (UHI) above medium-sized and large cities.

The study for detecting the urban heat island of Ploiești is based on two different approaches: detection of UHI by direct measurements made at 1.5 m above the ground, for determining air temperature variations in the breathable layer (atmospheric urban heat island - AUHI); and detection of the surface urban heat island (SUHI), identified based on remote-sensing satellite imaging systems. The results of the two approaches are structured in two parts and detailed below.

As shown, there are green areas, which lead to a temperature decrease in both cases, while the increase in the density and height of both residential and industrial buildings determines a temperature increase, especially if the roof color and material allow heat retention at their level. As well, on both profiles, the urban heat island dome is well evidenced compared to the peripheral rural area. In some cases, the high values of surface temperatures are counterbalanced in the central part of the city by the existence of green areas with temperatures that are as much as 5°C lower than those registered on surfaces (asphalt, concrete, etc.).

In the west-east profile, given average cloudiness and light wind (1-2 m/s) conditions, the center of Ploiești is considerably warmer than the eastern extremity of the city, while the western extremity, a 10-storey buildings area, is warmer. This is due mainly to the heat loss from buildings, most of them probably not being insulated. As well, the western industrial area records temperatures similar to those in the central part of the city.

The surface temperature analysis highlights the fact that the north-central and north-western parts of the city are warmer (30.0 to 32.0 °C), while surfaces in the extremities of the city, which are generally characterized by construction-free spaces, remain considerably cooler (22.0 to 24.0 °C).

The highest surface temperatures of over 36.0°C are specific to industrial areas, located in the western or in the southern part of the city, between the București Blvd. and Lupeni Street. High temperatures (34.0-36.0°C) were also recorded between Petrolului Blvd., Mimiului Str. and Mărfurilor Str., as well as in the eastern industrial zone, located south of the Mihai Bravu Boulevard.

On both profiles the urban heat island dome is well evidenced, compared to the peripheral rural area. In some cases, the high values of surface temperatures are counterbalanced in the central part of the city by the existence of green areas, where temperatures are as much as 5°C lower than those registered on artificial surfaces (asphalt, concrete, etc.).



Figure 51. Surface temperature variation along the AA' profile: 1 - city center area; 2 - green areas on Mihai Bravu Str., east of the intersection with Al. Vlahuță Str. and Udriște Năsturel Str.; 3 - farm field, east of Mihai Bravu cemetery; 4 - eastern industrial area

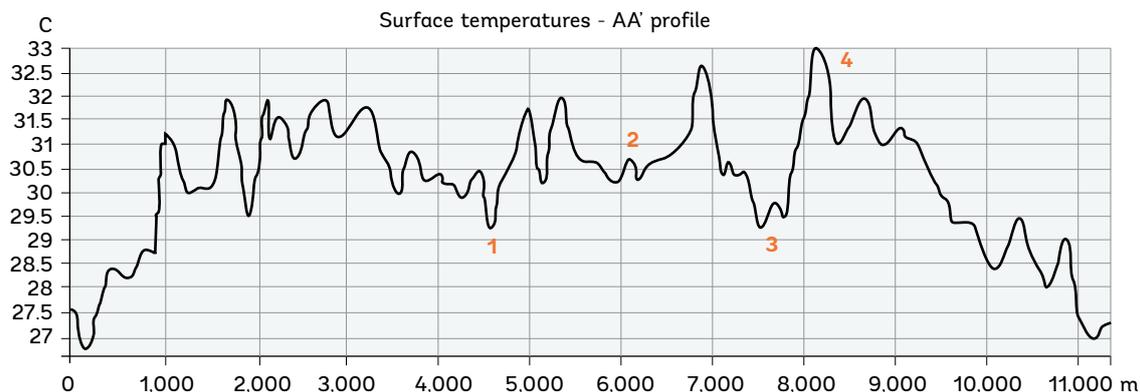
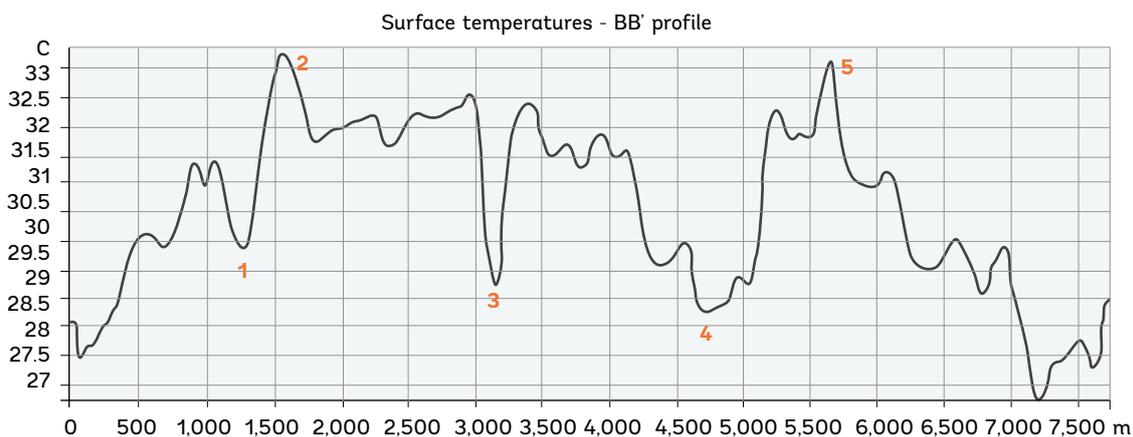


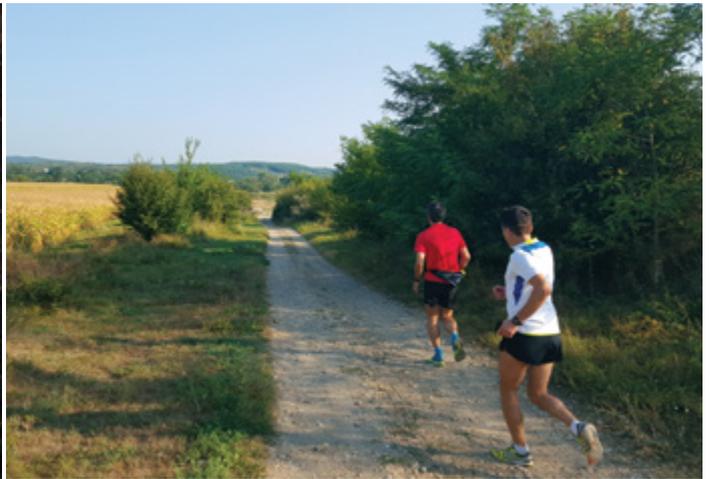
Figure 52. Surface temperature variation along the BB' profile: 1 - green area, south of the bus garage on Găgeni Str.; 2 - built-up area and major intersection; 3 - Toma Socolescu Square and Civic Center Esplanade; 4 - green area on Independenței Blvd.; 5 - southern industrial area



As for apartment buildings, the heat loss from inside to outside in the cold season leads to an increase of air temperature. It is likely that the AUHI intensity will increase in the warm season, leading to an increase in the breathable air temperature and generating a thermal discomfort for the human body.

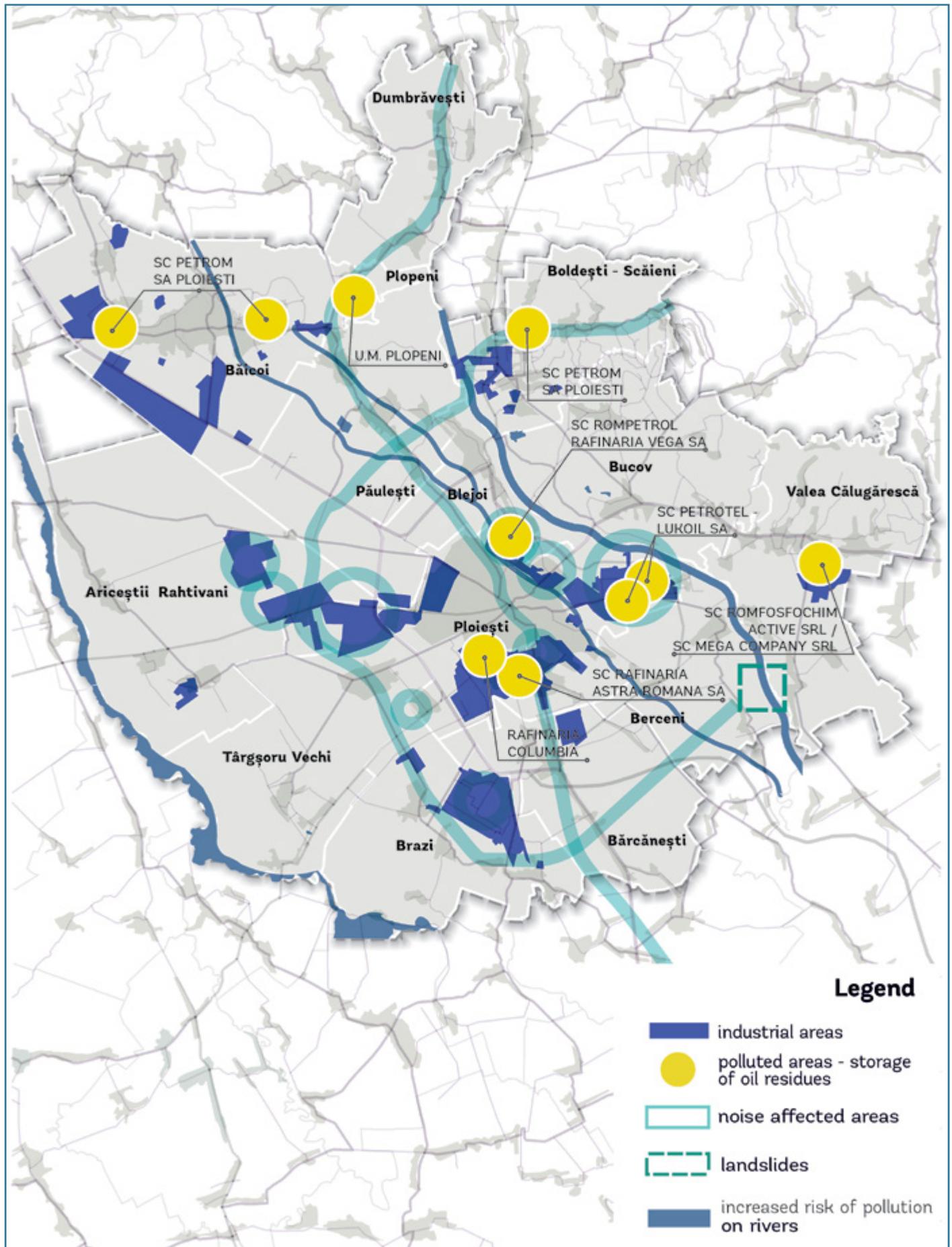
1.3.4. Completed / ongoing projects

Among the implemented or ongoing initiatives at the level of Ploiești Growth Pole that have an impact on the environment we can mention the projects for developing management and protection plans for habitats in Bucegi Natural Park and in the Plopeni Forest site, co-financed by SOP ENVIRONMENT 2007-2013. There are also projects for the rehabilitation, expansion, and modernization of water and sanitation networks in Prahova county, co-financed by the same program, which targeted the Băicoi and Plopeni urban areas, and projects carried out by APA NOVA with its own funds in Ploiești. Moreover, there are works co-financed by ROP 2007-2013, for rehabilitating the tram infrastructure and for landscaping Ploiești West Municipal Park, which will have the impact of reducing noise pollution and, increasing the environmental factor quality respectively. Other projects also have direct or indirect impact on the environment, such as: upgrading the road network, thermal rehabilitation of apartment and public buildings, installation of renewable energy units and large co-generation plants, etc.



1.3.5. Conclusions - existing disparities, trends, needs, and areas of intervention

Map 53. Environmental quality and pollution control



Air quality has improved significantly in the GP area in the last decades due to the cumulative effects of the closure or restructuring of some polluting industrial activities, but also due to environmental investments made by companies activating in those sectors. However, a number of economic operators, especially in the chemical and oil industry (e.g. detergents) generate emissions of volatile organic compounds that have a negative impact on air quality.

Emissions coming from electricity and heat production have decreased significantly due to the improvement of the pollutant retention equipment, switching to cleaner fuels, and the improvement of energy efficiency. However, the power production and distribution sector remains an important source of air pollution, accounting for NO_x and SO_x emissions. The road transport sector is a major source of air and noise pollution, especially along the north-south axis, near railway stations, in industrial areas and on streets crossed by tram routes or open to heavy-duty traffic.

The level of pollution of surface waters and groundwater has decreased in recent years to values below the maximum allowed. However, the lack of a sewerage network in some neighborhoods in urban centers and in rural areas remains a major environmental risk factor. Moreover, the Prahova and Teleajen rivers, which drain almost entirely the watercourses in the Growth Pole area, are at risk of pollution as a result of insufficiently treated water discharges, often from plants that can perform only mechanical treatment. As well, domestic wastewater treatment plants cannot perform tertiary treatment. Last but not least, the phreatic water and the groundwater continue to be at major risk of pollution as a result of the extractive activities, despite the improvement of oil technologies.

Even if environmental reports do not indicate hazardous concentrations of pollutants in the soil samples collected, the anthropic pressure on soil quality at the level of Ploiești Growth Pole is substantial. In addition to the 100 ha of sites contaminated as a result of economic activities, especially in the field of oil extraction and processing industry, there is pressure related to the deficiencies in the waste management system, such as illegal dumping, incomplete collection, and pollution generated by materials that are hard to recycle and that are not selectively collected.

At the level of economic operators, there are several trends that should be considered by the institutions in the field of environmental protection, such as the expansion of industrial parks, given that some companies carry out potentially polluting activities, and given the bankruptcy of companies which have left behind large industrial areas that are totally or partially abandoned (e.g. Astra Română refinery, ROMFOSFORCHIM, Dorobanțul etc.), and which must be carefully monitored in terms of environmental protection. As well, oil industry assets (wells, pipelines, warehouses, especially non-compliant ones) must be monitored after their activity has ceased.

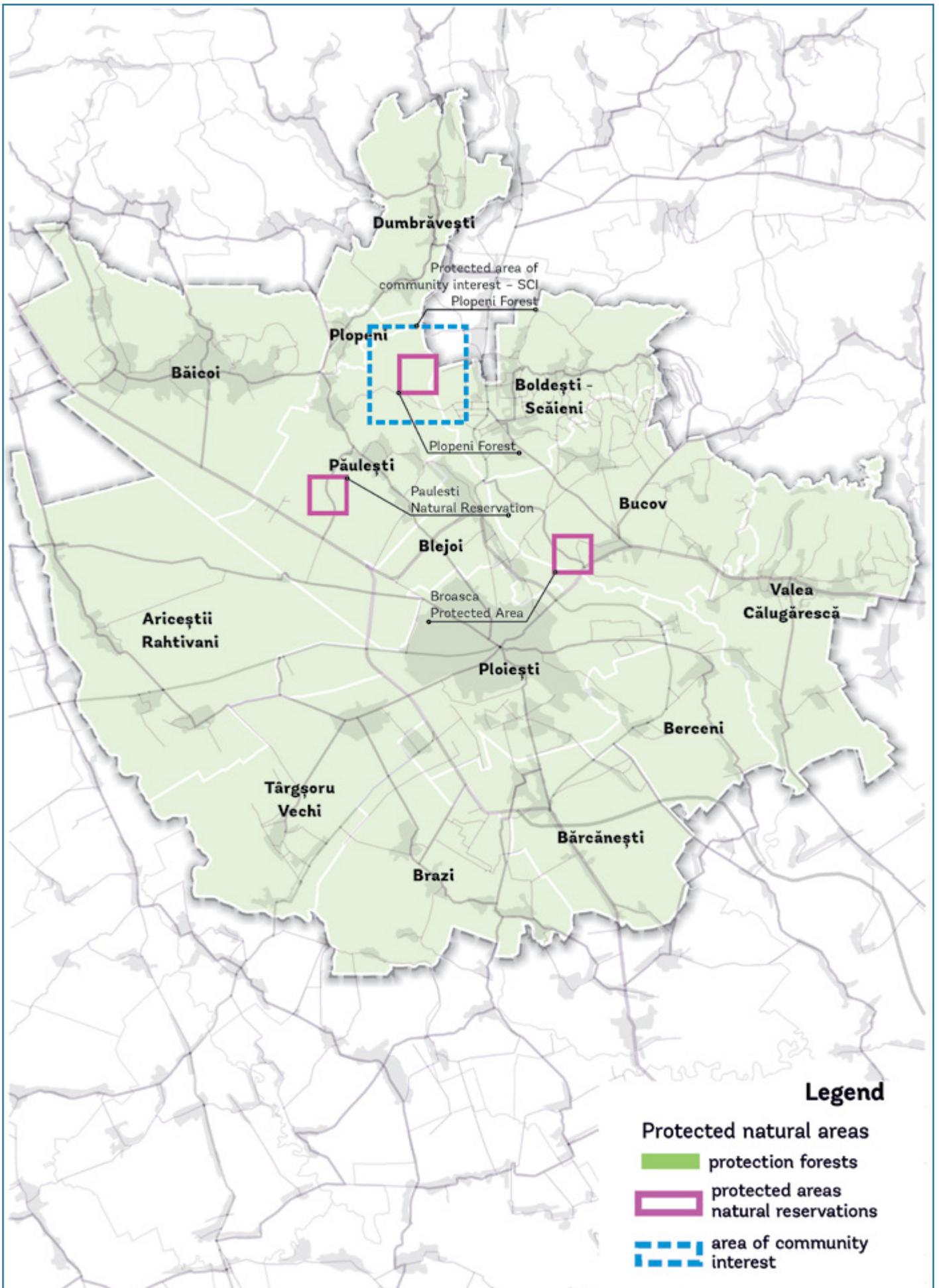


Protected natural areas cover small surfaces at the Growth Pole level. They include a number of areas with protection status, as established in the GUP of communes and in the decisions of the local councils (and which are also included in the spatial plan of Prahova county): Broasca (39.2 ha) in Bucov commune; nature reserve (40 ha) in Păulești commune; and the Plopeni Forest (10 ha) in Plopeni town.

The area includes a habitat of national importance - Plopeni Forest (protected site of Community importance - SCI, with an area of 91 ha), which hosts a vegetal association that is endemic to Romania, namely Peucedanorocheliani-Molinietumcoeruleae, characterized by swampy groves with clayey substratum and high ground water level. Plopeni Forest site is in the custody of Prahova County Museum of Natural Sciences, which accessed funds from SOP ENVIRONMENT 2007-2013 to develop a management plan.

There is a major anthropogenic pressure on local biodiversity, for instance due to the expansion of built-up perimeters with settlements, and the expansion of transport infrastructure (e.g. establishment of industrial parks, new residential areas, and construction of highways). This has negative effects on climate change and on habitats in these areas, which have shrunk dramatically.

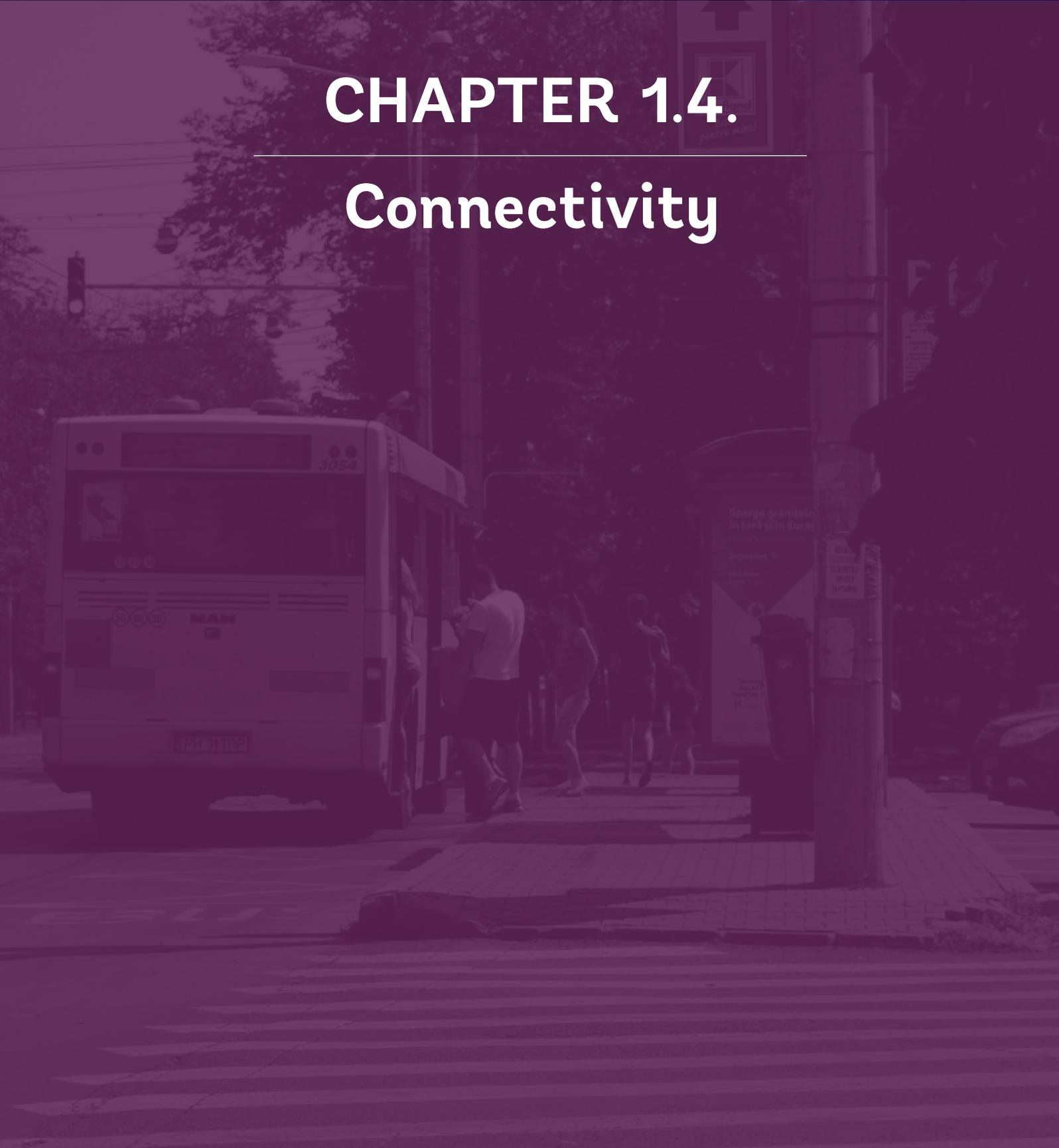
Map 54. Protected natural areas



1

Analysis of Development Needs and Areas of Intervention

CHAPTER 1.4.
Connectivity



1.4. Connectivity

1.4.1. Accessibility and mobility (transport infrastructure and public transport)

Road connectivity

Ploiești municipality has direct access to two roads in the road central network TEN-T: DN 1 / E60 and DN 1B / E 577, which ensure accessibility to the most important areas in Romania: capital area and Wallachia, Moldavia, and Transylvania.

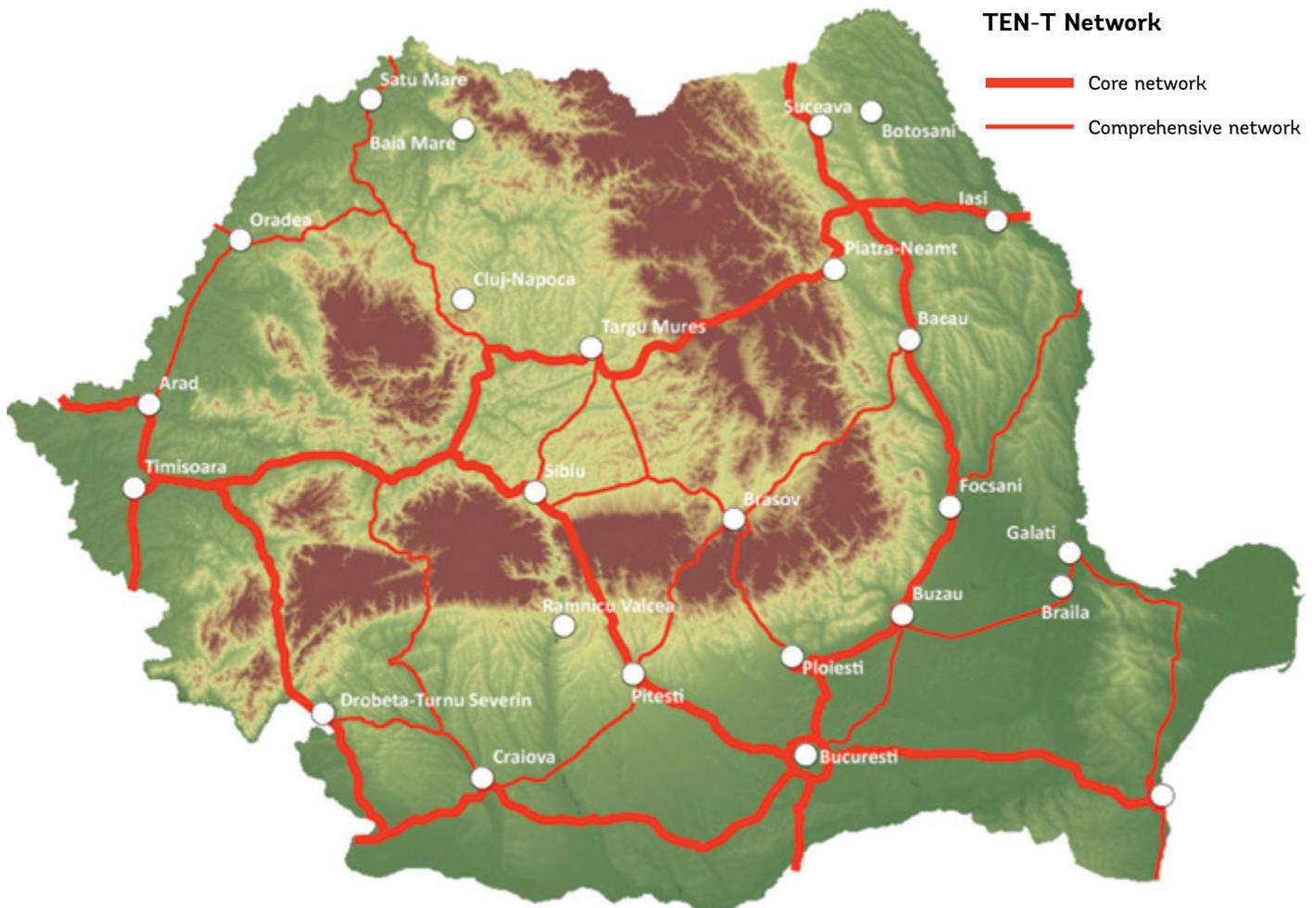
Besides these, there are other secondary gateways:

- DN 1A: Bucharest – Buftea – Ploiești – Boldești - Scăeni – Vălenii de Munte – Săcele – Brașov;
- DN 72: Ploiești – Târgoviște – Găești;
- DN 1D: Albești - Paleologu – Urziceni.

DN 1 has two traffic lanes in each direction between Bucharest and Comarnic; the same happens with DN 1B between Ploiești and Albești Paleologu, while the rest of the national roads that ensure access to the municipality have a single lane per direction.

Recently, A3 highway Bucharest (Ring Road) – Ploiești (Bărcănești node), parallel to DN 1, has been inaugurated; still, it continues to register low levels of traffic because it lacks a direct penetration artery in Bucharest, as the respective section, which is about 9.5 km long, is under execution.

MAP 55. TEN-T core and comprehensive road network in Romania



Source: Transport Ministry

The national roads that ensure access to Ploiești are generally in a good and very good condition, the best traffic conditions being encountered on DN 1 (Ploiești – Câmpina – Comarnic section, including Ploiești West Ring Road) and on A3 Highway. In contrast, DN 1A Bucharest – Cocorăști – Colț segment is in a poor state.

In recent years, the national administrator of motorways and national roads (CNADNR) has conducted the following major investments in the area:

- enhancing the circulation on Ploiești West Ring Road – through an investment of about 40 million EUR, from the state budget;
- infrastructure modernization for traffic safety on DN 1 in linear villages and black spots – through an investment of about 20 million EUR, financed from SOP TRANS 2007-2013.

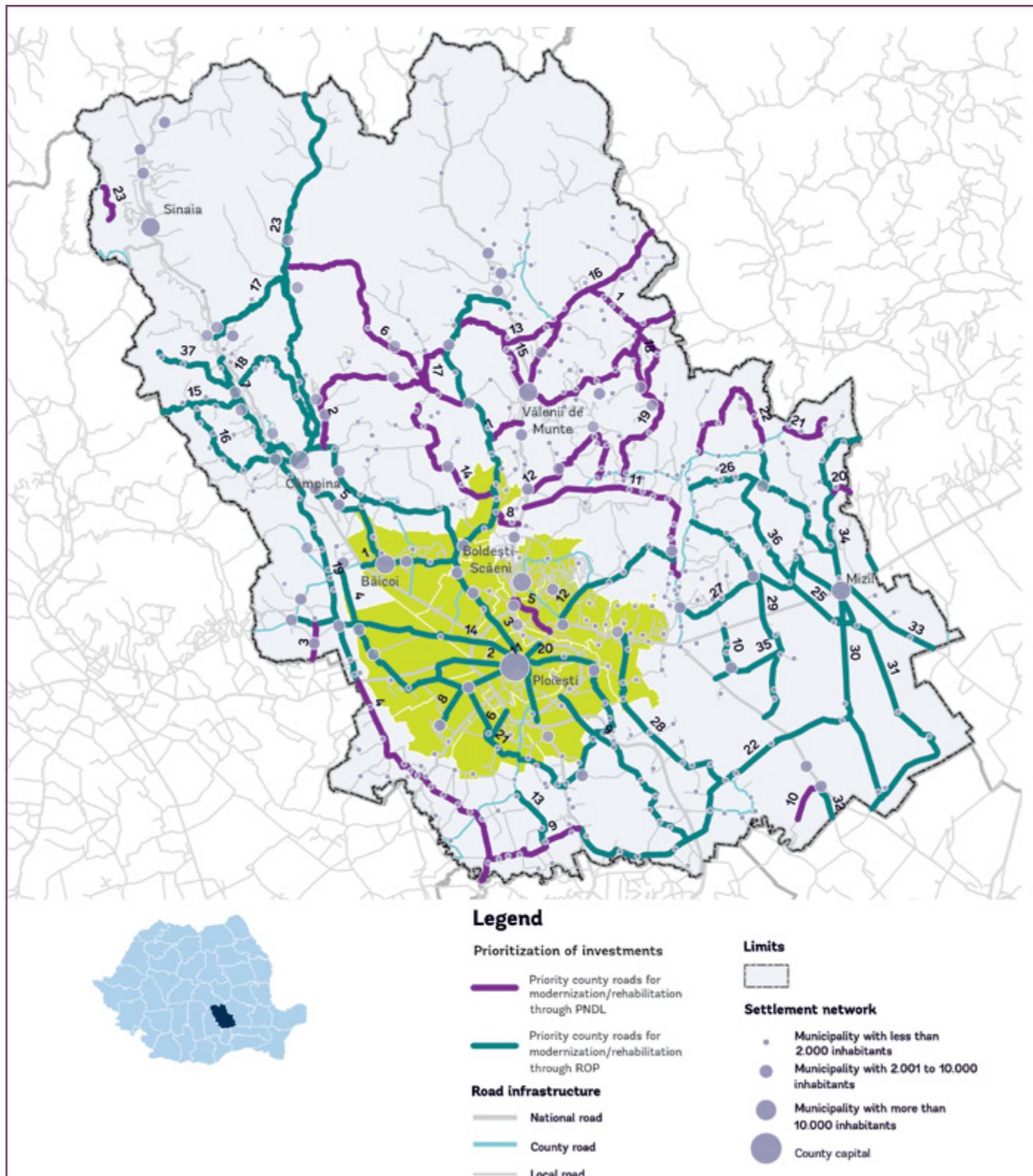
The table below indicates the county roads that provide access to the Growth Pole and the links between localities therein. Appendix 1.4.1 includes a series of maps summarizing this information.

Table 12. County roads characteristics ensuring access to Ploiești Growth Pole

County road sign	Connected localities within Ploiești Growth Pole	Average daily traffic (min/max at traffic census posts)	Viability state on the Growth Pole's territory	Type of road cover
DJ 100D	Plopeni - Bănești	2,007 - 2,397	Good	Light asphalt
DJ 100E	Băicoi - Câmpina - Afumați	824 - 2,434	Good	Light asphalt
DJ 100F	Băicoi - Găgeni	3,640 - 6,007	Good / average	Modernized asphalt
DJ 100L	DN 1A - Urlați	588 - 2,835	Average	Modernized asphalt / Light asphalt
DJ 101D	Ploiești - Râfov - Olari	1380 - 6,735	Average	Light asphalt
DJ 101F	Valea Călugărească - Drăgănești	1784	Average	Light asphalt
DJ 101G	Tătărani - Tinosu - Șirna - Dâmbovița county limit	815 - 2,261	Good	Light asphalt
DJ 101I	Ploiești - Filipeștii de Târg - Filipeștii de Pădure	719 - 1,677	Good	Modernized asphalt / Light asphalt
DJ 102	Ploiești - Păulești - Plopeni - Slănic - Homorâciu	915 - 14,183	Good	Modernized asphalt
DJ 102E	Ploiești - Bucov - Popu - Urlați	2,035	Good	Light asphalt
DJ 104P	Ploiești - Negoiești	3,322	Good	Light asphalt
DJ 129	Ploiești - Strejnicu - Târgșoru Vechi - DJ 101A	2,050 - 4,703	Good/poor	Light asphalt / Dirt / Gravel
DJ 139	Ploiești - Berceni - Râfov - DN 1	894 - 1,636	Average	Light asphalt
DJ 140	Ploiești - Brazi - DN 72	948 - 1,944	Average/poor	Light asphalt
DJ 144	DN 72 - Ariceștii Rahtivani - Florești	1,679 - 6,007	Average	Light asphalt
DJ 155	DN 1 - Păulești	2,530	Good	Light asphalt
DJ 156	DN 72 - Strejnicu	1,389 - 9,604	Good	Modernized asphalt
DJ 215	Băicoi - Scorțeni	1,495 - 1,864	Good	Light asphalt
DJ 217	DJ 102 - DN 1A	1,883	Average	Light asphalt
DJ 218	Dumbrăvești - Cosminele	1,189	Average	Light asphalt
DJ 232	Boldești-Scăeni - DJ 102E(Popu)	626	Good	Light asphalt
DJ 236	Bucov - DN 1A	N.A.	Average	Modernized asphalt
DJ 250	Bucov - Boldești-Scăeni	5,446	Good	Light asphalt

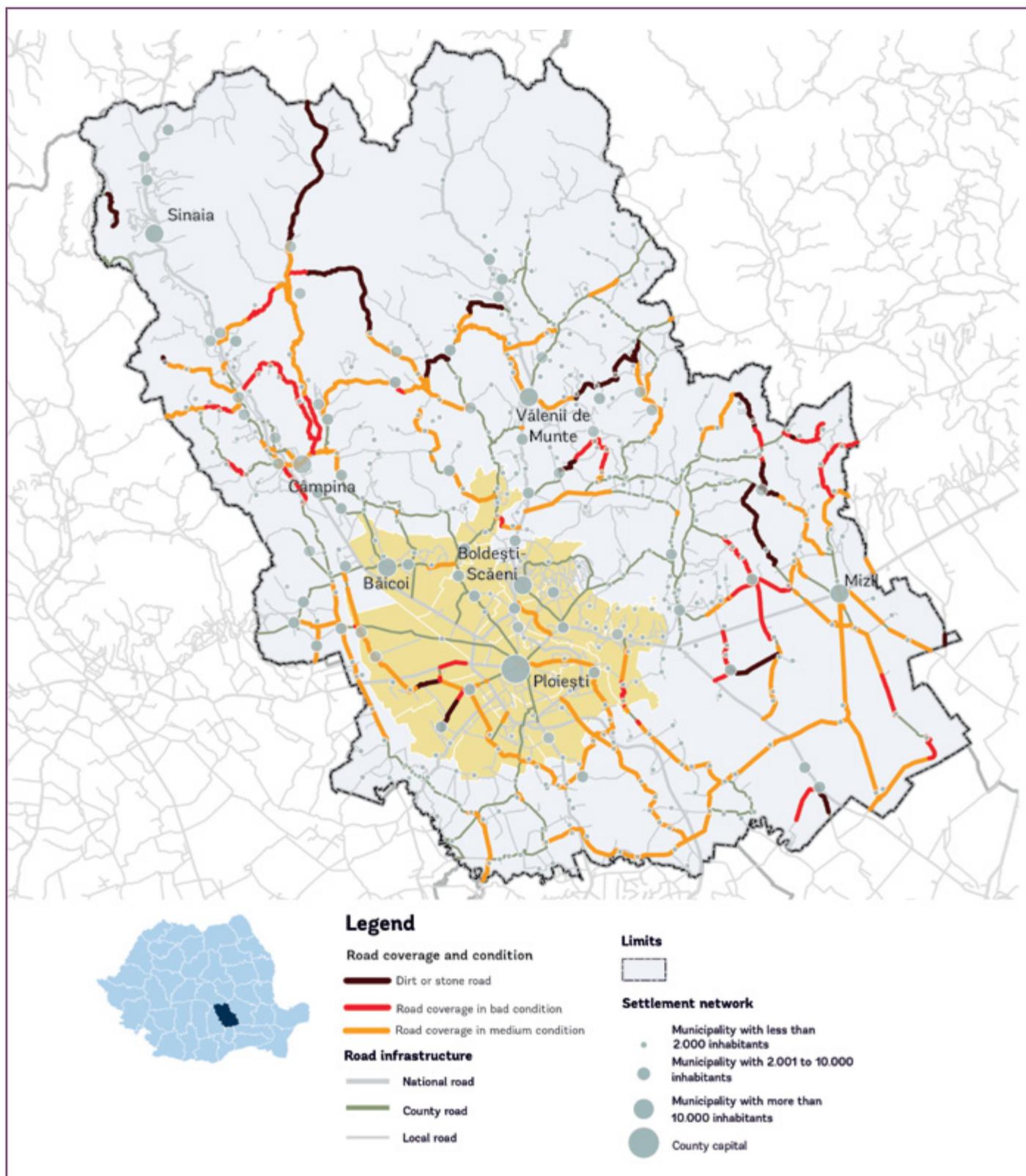
A recent World Bank study proposes a set of criteria for prioritizing investment projects from public funds that aim at improving access to major communications network: correlation with projects from the General Transport Master Plan of Romania, access to opportunities, volume of average daily traffic, and volume of the population served. According to these criteria, the county roads that ensure the connectivity of Ploiești Growth Pole and that should be prioritized at the level of interventions are: DJ 217, DJ 100L, DJ 218, DJ 236 (with proposed funding from PNDL - National Local Development Program), and DJ 100F, DJ 156, DJ 129, DJ 102, DJ 144, DJ 100D, DJ 104P, DJ 102E, DJ 101I, DJ 100E, DJ 101F, DJ 139, DJ 140 respectively (with potential funding through ROP).

Map 56. Investment prioritization in the rehabilitation and modernization of county roads in Prahova County



Source: World Bank

Map 57. County road sections in need of rehabilitation / modernization (see broken figure above)



Source: World Bank

As it can be observed, over 95% of the county roads in Ploiești Growth Pole are upgraded, but many of them have not been completely rehabilitated, undergoing only maintenance and repair works.

In terms of traffic volume, the highest daily averages are recorded on DN 1, from Bucharest to Ploiești (30,000 to 40,000 vehicles per day, depending on the section) and from Ploiești to Comarnic (25,000 – 30,000 vehicles day), this being in fact the motorway with highest heavy traffic in Romania. Although DN 1 has 4 lanes and bypasses the main urban settlements in the area (Ploiești, Băicoi, Câmpina), and despite the fact that A3 motorway linking Ploiești to Bucharest Ring Road has been recently opened, on this highway there still are traffic jams, especially on weekends and

during tourist seasons on Prahova Valley. Besides, a 15,000 vehicles per day traffic is considered to be highway traffic. At present, the data are more than double, showing the need to extend A3 Highway from Ploiești to Brașov.

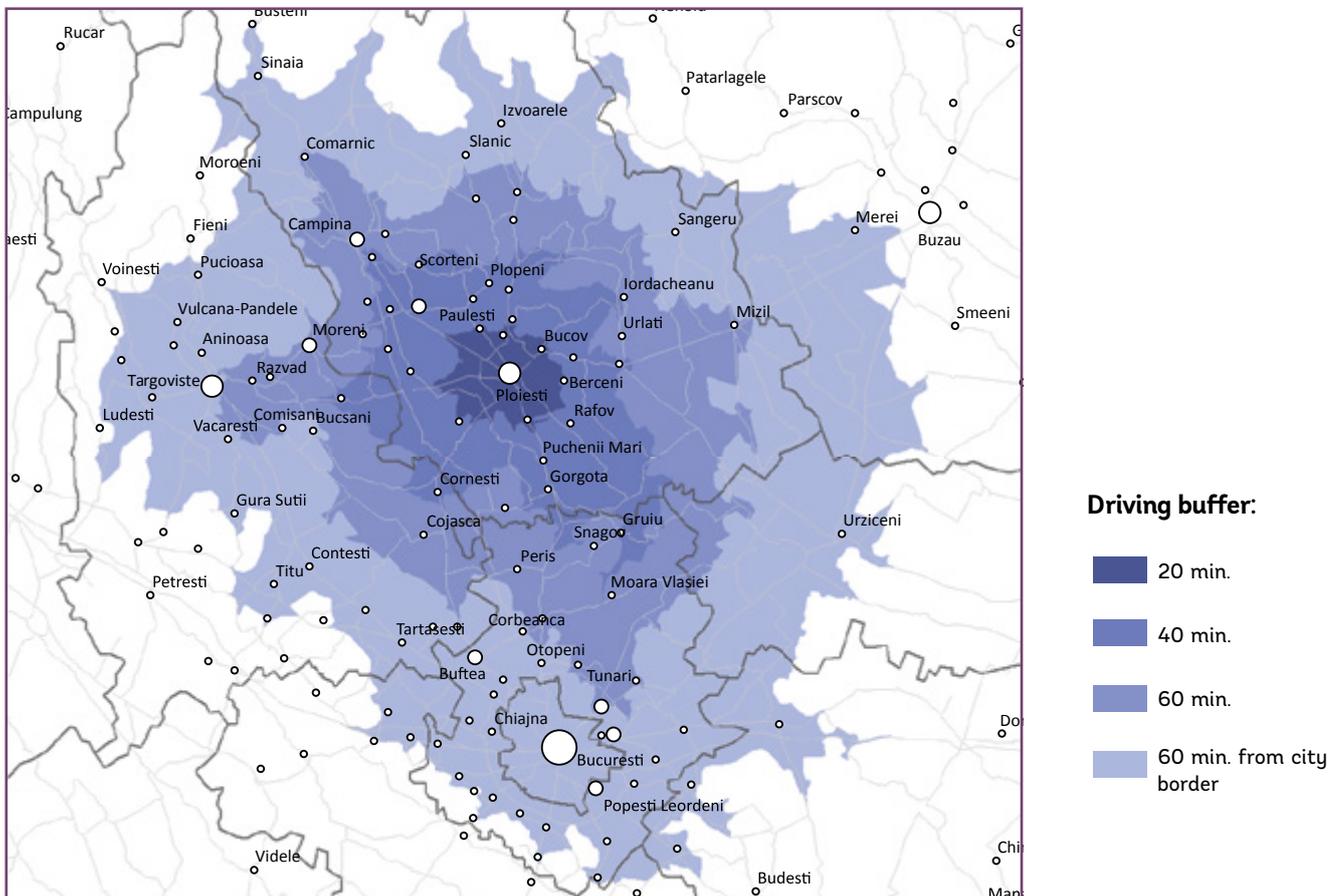
The national road ranking second in terms of traffic volume is DN 1B, with over 22,000 vehicles per day in 2010 on the section Ploiești – Albești Paleologu, including on the northeastern ring road of the municipality, according to the traffic census conducted by CESTRIN. This motorway is followed by DN 1A, which is used as travel alternative between Bucharest – Ploiești – Brașov when traffic jams with 10,000 – 15,000 vehicles per day occur on DN 1, from Ploiești to Vălenii de Munte; the number of vehicles are significantly fewer on Ploiești – Bucharest section (6,000 – 8,000 per day), where traffic on DN 1 and A3 is more fluid, which makes DN 1A less attractive as a travel alternative towards the capital, besides the fact that this highway is longer. DN 72, which connects Ploiești and Târgoviște, records more than 12,000 vehicles per day between Ploiești and Dâmbovița county limit.

A closer analysis of traffic flows on the national roads in Ploiești area indicates that traffic in the Growth Pole area represents a high share in the total traffic. This is reflected in the decrease of traffic volumes as one moves away from the city. A significant contribution in this respect is made by the nearly 40,000 people who commute to Ploiești from a maximum distance of 40 km, plus the people who travel for studies (students) and other services (administrative, medical, etc.) from the entire Prahova county.

Summarizing, the most significant traffic flows enter the city through the north-south penetrations (Republic Avenue, Independence Avenue, Bucharest Avenue), western penetrations (Ștrandului Street, Gheorghe Doja Street), and eastern (Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino Street).

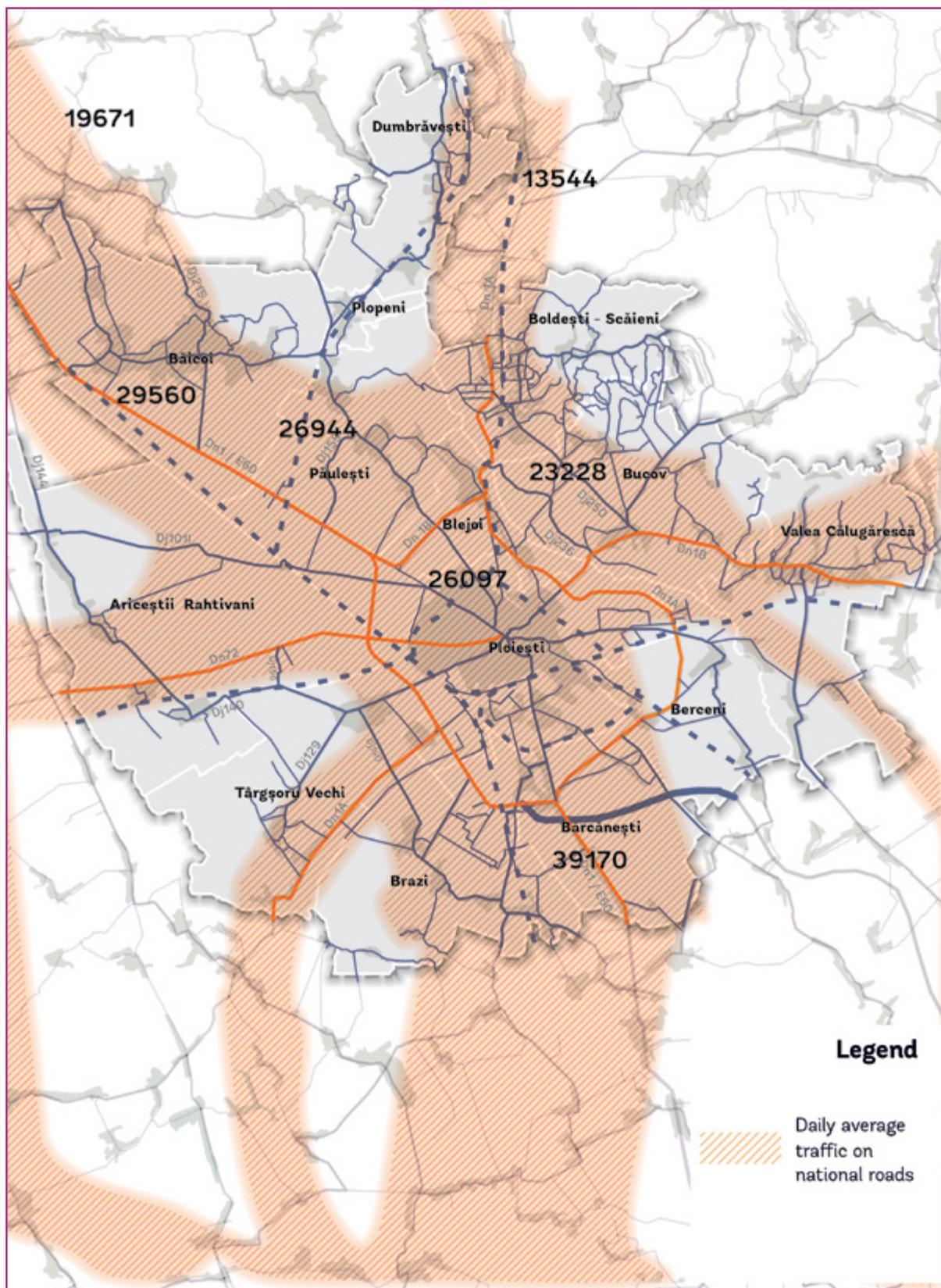
According to the World Bank's "Competitive Cities" study, on a 20 minute driving buffer from Ploiești municipality there are 305,000 inhabitants, while at a 40-minute buffer, there are 556,000 inhabitants. Similarly, at the 20-minute driving buffer revenues generated by firms were around 2.9% of all firm revenues generated in Romania, while at the 40-minute driving buffer this share grows to 3.4. These values are comparable to those achieved by the other six Growth Poles in Romania, despite the fact that Ploiești has the smallest population of them all.

Map 58. Ploiești municipality's influence area at a driving buffer of 20, 40, and 60 minutes from city border



Source: World Bank. 2013. Competitive cities

Map 59. Average daily traffic on national roads in Ploiești Growth Pole

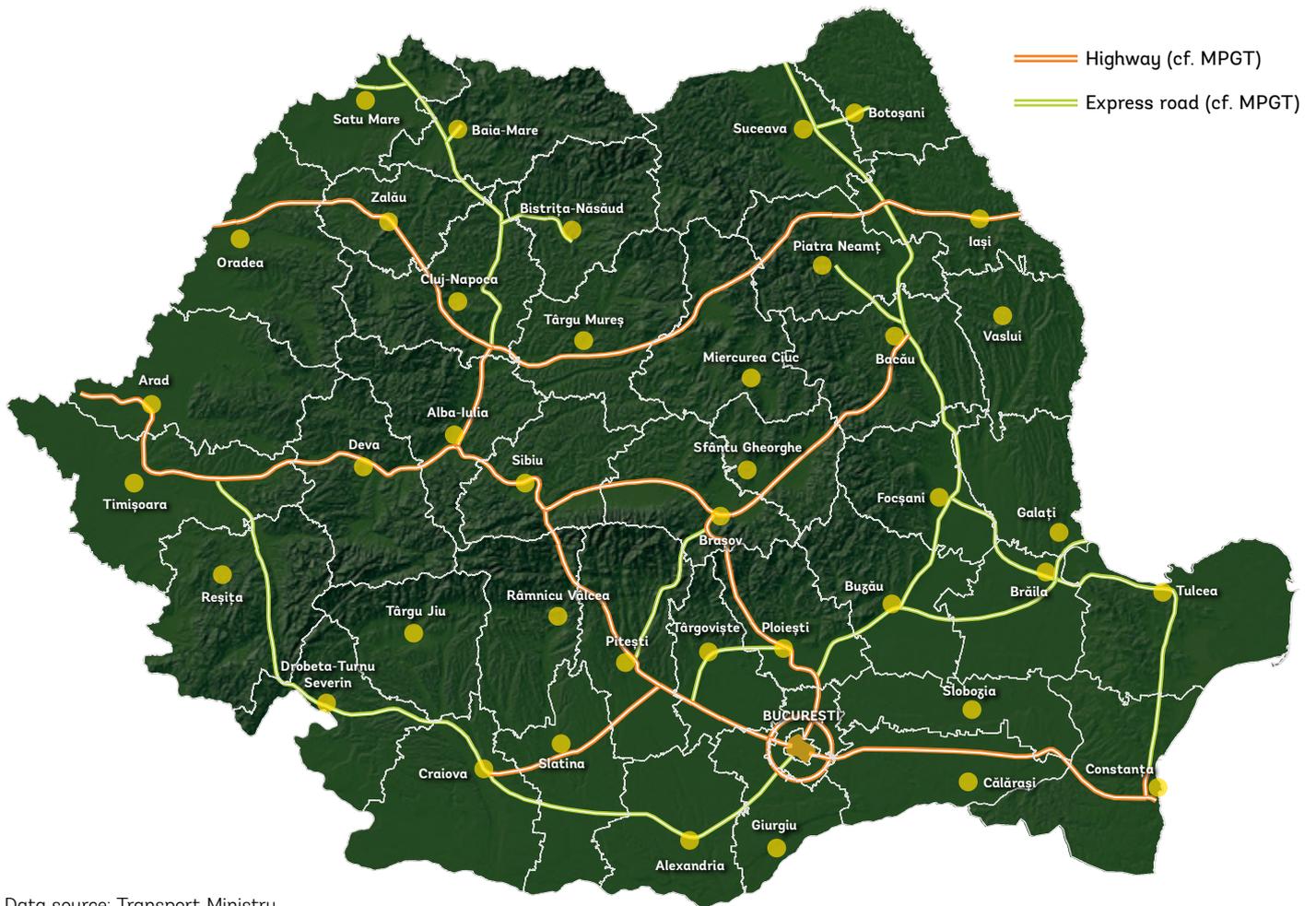


Source: CESTRIN

According to the General Transport Master Plan of Romania (GTMP), the following major transport projects are programmed for the period 2015-2030 in Ploiești area:

- Construction of Ploiești – Comarnic – Brașov motorway;
- Construction of Ploiești – Bužău – Focșani – Bacău – Suceava – Ukraine border expressway;
- Construction of Ploiești – Târgoviște – Găești expressway.

Map 60. Investment proposals for 2015-2030 horizon, according to GTMP (Draft in progress as of November 2014)



Data source: Transport Ministry

Road traffic safety

Throughout this sub-chapter, the following aspects were examined and calculated: the general distribution of traffic accidents and their characteristics in Ploiești municipality relative to county and national context; hotspots; black-spots; and dangerous road sections. As well, black pyramids, social vulnerability pyramids and the social vulnerability index at accident moments were constructed.

Statistics show that the state of fact in Ploiești with respect to the number of accidents and casualties is more favorable compared to many other capital cities; however, contrary to the national trend, this number is on the increase. Thus, over the examined period (2010-2015), in Ploiești municipality not less than 1,611 accidents were registered (30% of those reported in Prahova county), resulting in 1903 casualties, of which 1,472 people were slightly injured, 405 seriously injured and 26 died. Most traffic accidents occurred at intersections (about 500 cases) and pedestrian crossings (300 cases), the main reason being the failure to give priority. Although accidents are in decline nationally, Ploiești municipality witnessed an increase of 8.3% in the total number of accidents in 2014 compared to 2010.

Table 13. Evolution of road accidents in Ploiești municipality (2010-2015)

Year	Accidents	Vehicles	Slightly injured	Severely injured	Dead	Total casualties
2010	290	410	261	70	7	338
2011	332	509	306	91	5	402
2012	308	437	281	82	2	365
2013	320	489	302	71	6	379
2014	316	459	279	79	5	363
*2015	45	70	43	12	1	56

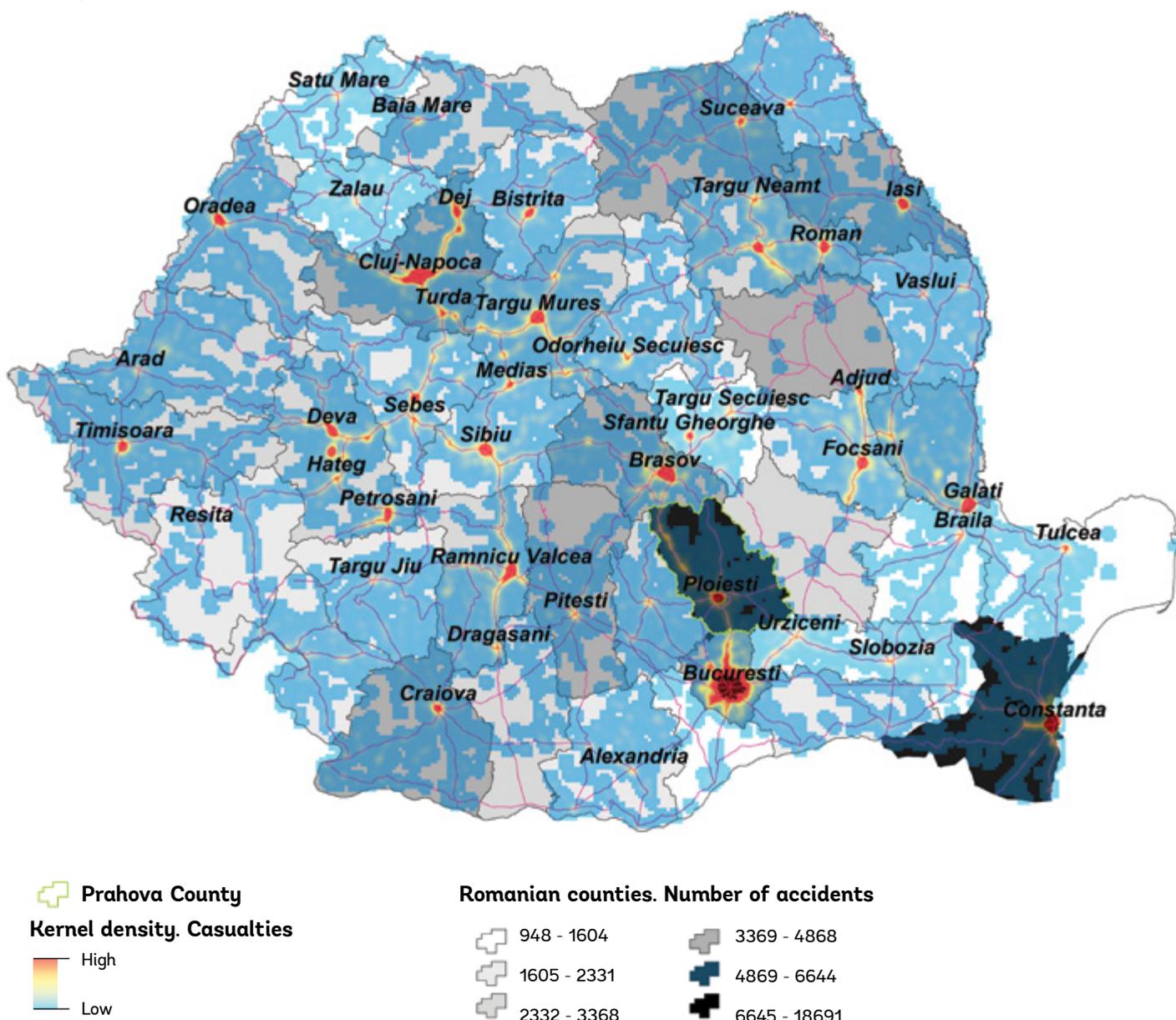
*only in January and February

Source: General Inspectorate of Romanian Police

The rate of victims in accidents (the number of victims reported to the number of accidents) in Ploiești municipality is of 1.18 victims per accident, significantly lower than the national average of 1.34 deaths per accident. In Romania, the average number of deaths per accident (fatality rate) was of 0.777, while in Ploiești this rate was much lower, namely 0.016 deaths/accident. As regards the rate of vehicles involved in traffic accidents (number of vehicles relative to the number of accidents), the state of fact in Ploiești (1.47 vehicles per accident) is equivalent to the national average, namely 1.49 vehicles per accident.

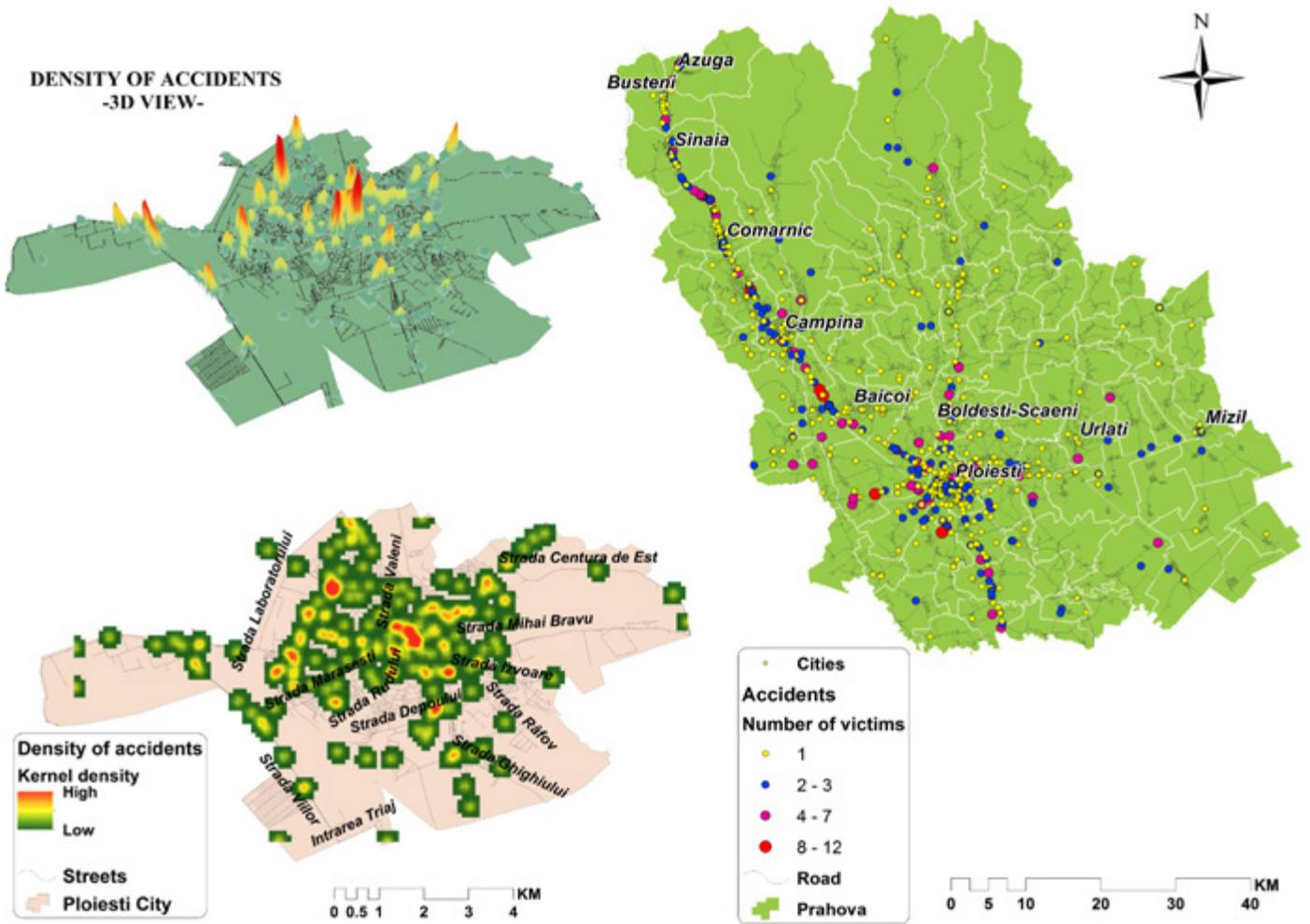
If we were to compare the main cities and municipalities nationally, we can say that by far the most delicate situation is found in Bucharest, where in the last 5 years there have been 18,691 accidents resulting in 21,926 victims, of whom 16,860 were slightly injured, 4,079 were seriously injured, while 407 died. As can be seen in Fig. 1 (hotspots of the victims, made using KDE), dramatic situations are found in the cities of Constanța (3,635 accidents, 4,355 injured, 128 dead), Cluj-Napoca (2,350 accidents, 2,763 injured, 64 dead), Brașov (1,983 accidents, 2,385 wounded, 79 dead), Craiova, Iași, Galați, Oradea, Timișoara, and Sibiu. As it can be seen from the figure below, DN 1 Bucharest – Ploiești – Brașov, which transits Ploiești Growth Pole, is the most visible traffic accidents hotspot in Romania. Moreover, Prahova county ranks second at the national level with respect to the recorded number of road accidents; the fact that most accidents occurred outside the county capital is atypical.

Map 61. Number of road accidents at the level of Romanian counties and their density according to the number of victims, 2010-2015



Source: Own drawing

Map 62. Spatial distribution of road accidents and casualties in Prahova County and Ploiești Municipality



Source: Own drawing

Some results have revealed several dangerous areas, most of them being located in important intersections for the municipality or on crosswalks. These include: the ones from the city center and Heroes Square (intersection of Republic Avenue and Carpathian and Vasile Lupu streets); the intersection of Republic Avenue, Constantin Dobrogeanu Gherea Street, Tache Ionescu Street, and Victory Square; the dangerous area from the north-western part of the city, namely the intersection of North Road, Independence Avenue, and West Road. That being said, the first recommendation for lowering the number of accidents would be to handle the problem of dangerous intersections.

The drawing above allows us to say that in the northern and north-western part of the municipality there is an area with a high density of casualties. This area is at the intersections of Republic Avenue with Zidari and Pichetului streets, North Road, and West Road. Another area in which accidents with many casualties happen frequently is the intersection of George Grigore Cantacuzino street and West Road. Besides, it is worth noting here that along the Western Ring Road of Ploiești two black-spots are found, one at the intersection with Mărășești street and one in the north, at the junction with Buda street.

In terms of vehicles involved, the highest density of accidents is recorded in the popular intersection of West Road, Republic Street, and North Road, but also in smaller intersections like that of Camelia Street and North Road, North Road and Constantin Brezeanu Street, or Pichetului Street and Republic Avenue. As expected, the central area is a hotspot for accidents involving multiple vehicles, especially in the intersection formed by Tache Ionescu Street, Constantin Dobrogeabu-Gherea Street, Republic Avenue, and Victory Square. A third hotspot is located in the area of the four intersections that are formed by Lupeni street and Constantin Stere, Cavalului, Spătari, and Vioarei Streets. In Fig. 8 it can be seen that there are other smaller hotspots in terms of density and surface, but they should not be neglected. These are located in the following intersections: Apelor Street –Ștrandului Street– Gheorghe Doja Street– Lopătari street; West Road – George Grigore Cantacuzino Street – Petrolului Avenue – Bucharest Avenue.

The city center is the area with the most hotspots, which are generally located in or near the intersections. These include: the intersection of Independence Avenue and Constantin Dobrogeanu Gherea street, the one located on George Grigore Cantacuzino street (near the intersection with Tache Ionescu Street), the one located on the midway of Ioan Luca Caragiale street (near the intersection with Vlad Țepeș street), the one situated at the intersection of Republic Avenue with Carpathians street, and the one in the intersection of Hașdeu, Milcov, Year 1848, Miciurin, Ana Ipătecu, Mihai Eminescu Streets, and Independence Avenue. Street sections from the “highly dangerous” category are also found in: the intersection of Mihai Bravu and Avram Iancu Streets, the intersection of Stadionului and Alexandru Vlahuță Streets, or the intersection of Malu Roșu and Zimbrului streets. An interesting situation is found on the West Road and the Western Ring Road, which have numerous hotspots, but most often these are considered as belonging to “medium dangerous” category.

About 20% of accidents occurred on pedestrian crossings, causing no less than 16 deaths (60% of all deaths). This dramatic situation makes us think that the development of pedestrian crossings (with traffic lights or deceleration ramps) is of primary necessity. But there are cases in which the best decision would be their displacement or even their abolishment.

Another remark is that traffic accidents involving cyclists have been increasing constantly in the last 5 years, so introducing special lanes for them along the road network or the refurbishment and extension of the existing lanes would be required.

Regarding social vulnerability, it was noted that young males aged between 18 and 26 years are most likely to get involved in traffic accidents, but also the children aged between 0 and 17, boys and girls alike. Based on these results, one can say that the best measure to reduce the impact of accidents on young people road would be to intensify road education in schools.

Each road accident with casualties has a negative impact on public health, so their analysis is vital for the improvement of traffic safety policies. For each accident, it is very important to determine the place, time, manner, spatial characteristics and social groups that are vulnerable to accidents in order to make effective decisions for the gradual disappearance of these dramatic events.

Rail connectivity

The railway network in Ploiești municipality is dense, the city being one of the most important railway nodes in Romania, located at the intersection of the highways linking Transylvania and Wallachia, Bucharest and Moldova. Moreover, Bucharest – Ploiești – Brașov and Bucharest – Ploiești – Bužău routes are the most circulated in Romania, with more than 8,000 passengers per day (Louis Berger SAS, 2009).

Ploiești Growth Pole and Ploiești municipality are crossed by the following two rail thoroughfares: 300 Bucharest – Ploiești – Brașov – Teiuș – Cluj – Oradea, and 500 Bucharest – Ploiești – Bužău – Focșani – Bacău – Pașcani – Suceava – Vicșani; and by other secondary lines: 302 (Ploiești – Târgoviște), 306 (Ploiești-Slănic), 304 (Ploiești – Măneciu), and 701 (Ploiești – Urziceni – Slobozia – Țândărei). The two rail thoroughfares have electrified double lines, while the secondary lines are simple and without electricity. The railway infrastructure is old and outdated, the circulation speed of commercial goods and passenger trains being mostly between 40 and 50 km/h, making them uncompetitive compared to road transport. In this context, rail transport has witnessed a decline in volumes of over 50% compared to the early 90s.

However, Bucharest – Ploiești – Predeal line has been completely rehabilitated and modernized with European exceeding 300 million EUR. This allows trains to travel at speeds up to 150-160 km/h.

The city has four stations and two operational halts, located in all directions of the city, as follows:

- Ploiești South Station;
- Ploiești West Station;
- Ploiești East Station;
- Ploiești North Station;

- Ploiești Triaj Halt;
- Ploiești East – Post 1 Halt.

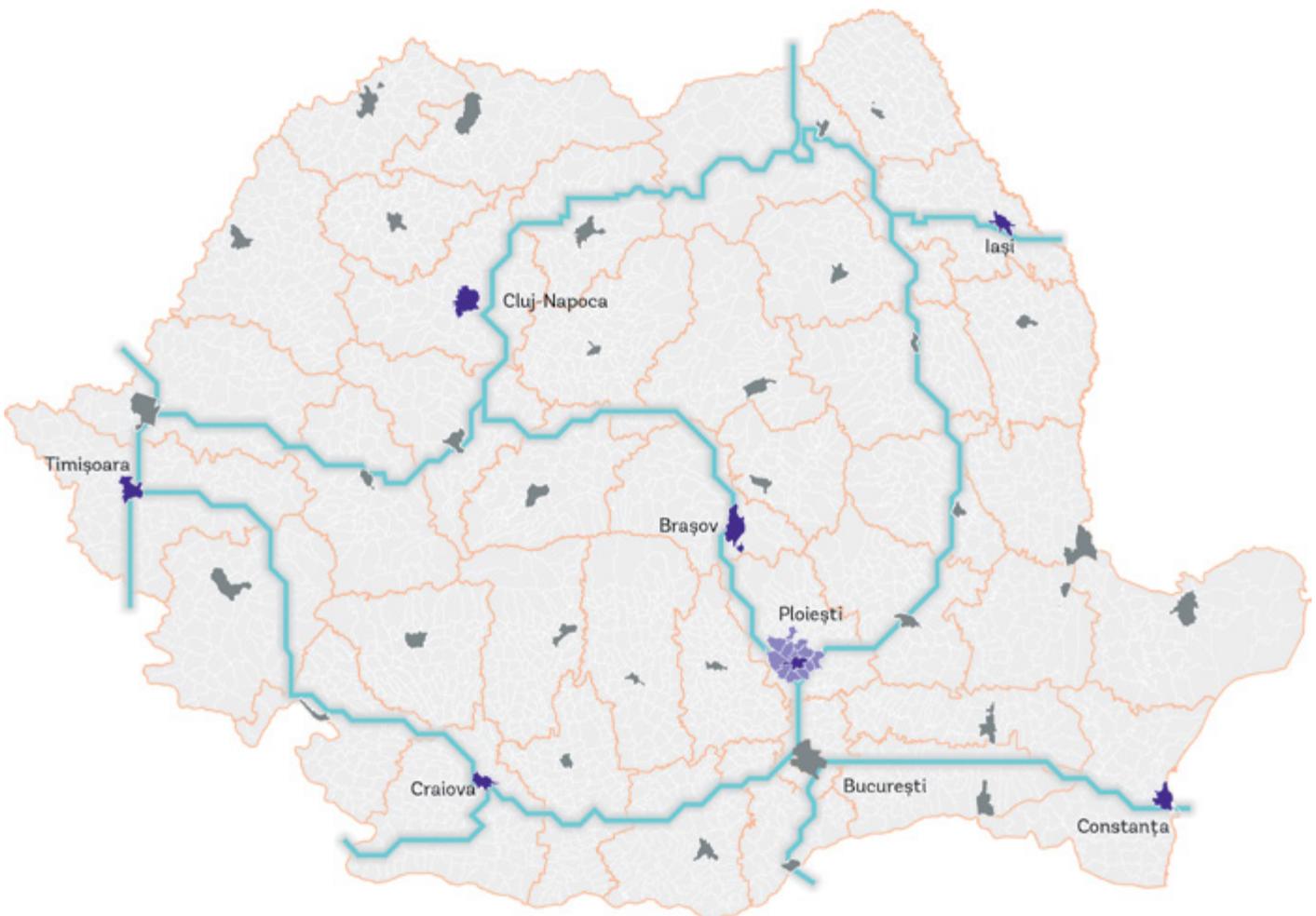
There are also railway stations and halts in other localities of the Growth Pole: Târgșoru Nou, Crângul lui Bot, Buda, Florești (serving the city of Băicoi), Găgeni, Plopeni, Plopeni village, Găvănel (Dumbrăvești), Blejoi, Boldești-Scăeni, Valea Călugărească, Brazi.

Every day, Ploiești stations are crossed by an important number of trains, as follows:

- North Station (8 pairs of REGIO trains, towards Măneciu);
- South Station (23 pairs of trains, of which 5 are INTERREGIO trains towards the following final destinations: Bucharest, Brașov, Bužău, Slănic, Suceava);
- West Station (33 pairs of trains, of which 13 are INTERREGIO trains towards the following final destinations: Brașov, Slănic, Bucharest, Satu Mare, Beclean, Craiova, Iași, Constanța, Timișoara, Curtici, Târgu-Mureș, Dej, Cluj-Napoca);
- East Station (10 pairs of REGIO trains towards Mărășești, Bucharest, Bužău, Brazi);
- EP 1 Halt (8 pairs of REGIO trains towards Măneciu);
- Triaj Halt (10 pairs of REGIO trains towards Bucharest, Brazi, Brașov, Bužău).

These trains are operated by CFR CĂLĂTORI S.A. state company or by private companies, such as TRANSFEROVIAR CĂLĂTORI and REGIOTRANS.

Map 65. TEN-F Network in Romania



Source: CNCF CFR S.A.

Currently, the distances to the Growth Pole's localities and the leading urban poles in the region are covered during the following times:

Table 14. Comparison between distances traveled by train and by bus between Ploiești Municipality and the main cities in the region and in the Growth Pole

Destination	Journey times with the fastest train available (min)	Journey times with the fastest bus/ minibus available (min)
Bucharest	42	52
Brașov	108	80
Bușău	68	40
Târgoviște	98	55
Băicoi	13 (Florești)	41
Plopeni	29	20
Boldești-Scăeni	28	25

Source: www.autogari.ro and www.infofer.ro

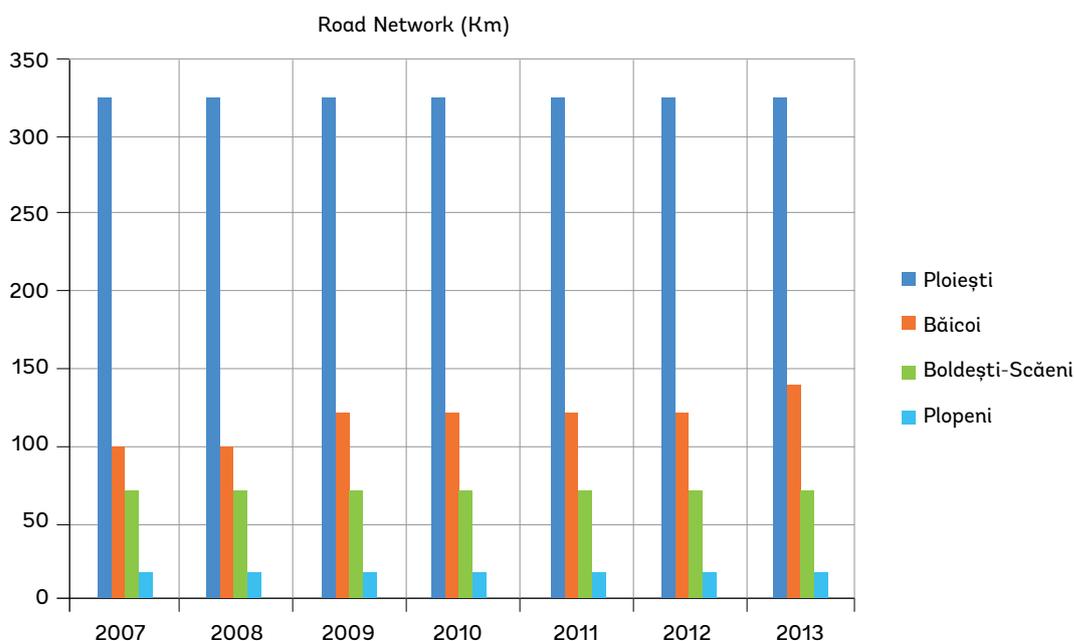
Air connectivity

Regarding air transport, Ploiești doesn't have its own airport, but it is just 45 km away from "Henri Coanda" International Airport, located in Otopeni – Bucharest, which is the most important in Romania, with an annual passenger average of more than 7 million people and with domestic and international flights towards the most important cities in Europe and the Near and Middle East.

Street network

The road network from the cities that belong to Ploiești Growth Pole measures in total 549 km, which shows an increase by 35 km compared to 2007, due to the inclusion in the network of other roads from Băicoi city, which had a different destination previously. Following reclassification as well, in Plopeni the road network decreased by 4 km, while in Ploiești and Boldești-Scăeni its length remained unchanged in the last 7 years.

Figure 54. Length of municipal street network in Ploiești Growth Pole by cities during 2007-2013

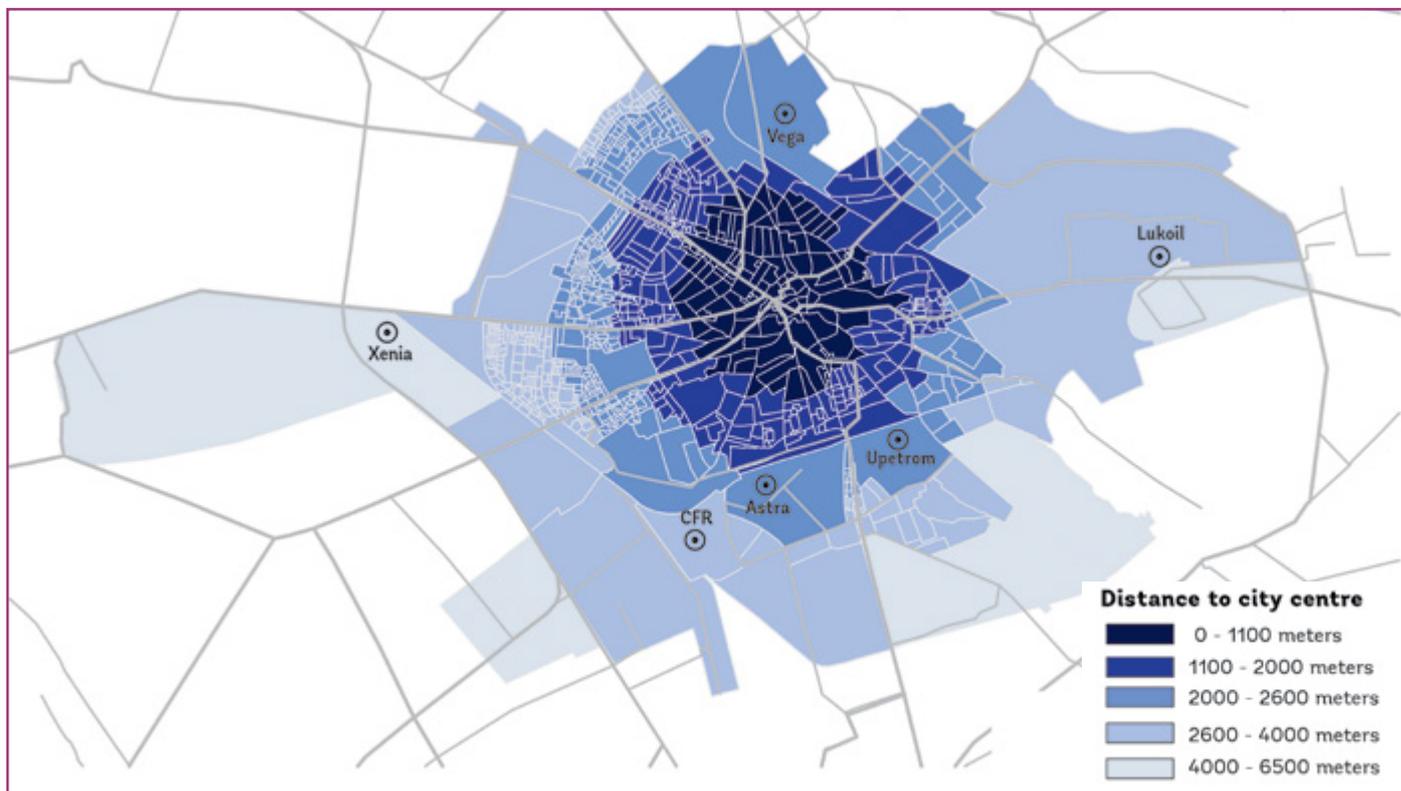


Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database.

As regards the degree of modernization, in 2013 83.2% of these streets were asphalted, which meant an increase by 11.5 percentage points (+88 kilometers) compared to 2007. This increase can be attributed to street modernizations or reclassifications of already upgraded streets in Ploiești municipality (36 km), Băicoi city (45 km), and Boldești-Scăeni city (2 km). Despite large investment works, made with funds from either the local budget, the European Union, or the

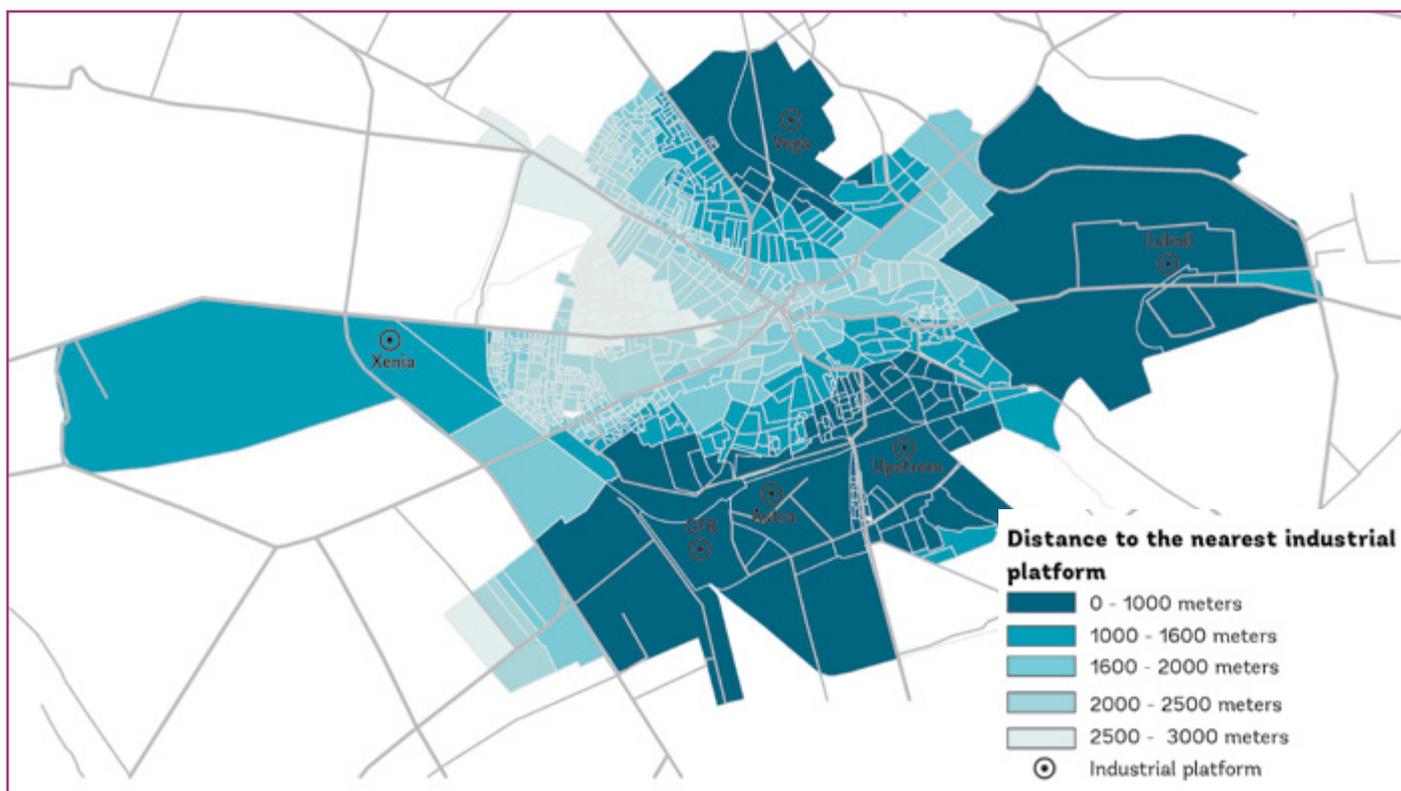
state budget, Ploeni city remains the only one with the entire road network modernized, owing this to its specific characteristics (very limited surface and street network, new urban tissue of collective housing type). In all other cities, there are still unasphalted streets, made of cobblestone or dirt, mostly in Băicoi (39 km), Ploiești (27 km), and Boldești-Scăeni (26 km).

Map 66. Distance (meters) up to the center of Ploiești Municipality



Source: Own drawing

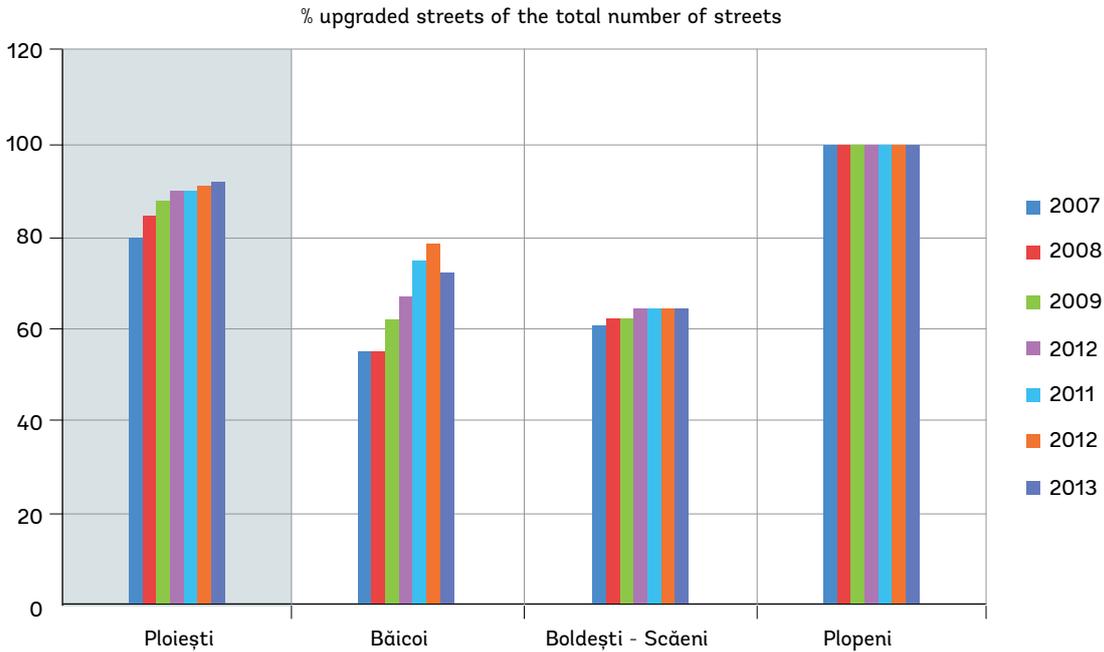
Map 67. Distance (meters) up to the nearest major industrial platform in Ploiești Municipality



Source: Own drawing

The most problematic situation is found in the five cities' suburbs with individual housing tissue: for instance, Țintea district (Băicoi) or Mitică Popescu district (Ploiești). In recent years, the city of Ploiești has made some investments for the modernization of transport infrastructure in suburbs like Râfov and Găgeni.

Figure 55. Share of upgraded urban streets of the entire road network by cities during 2007-2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

According to the estimates of Ploiești City Hall, in the city there are 50,000 cars belonging to either individuals or legal entities, and this number is on the increase. Instead, the total number of parking spaces in the city amounts only to 25,000, paid and unpaid all together. Toll parking places are about 1,100 in number, being located mainly in the city center and managed by a company subordinated to the City Hall– S.C. URBAN MANAGEMENT SERVICES PLOIEȘTI S.R.L., while the free parking places are used by local residents. The price for an hour of parking is 2 lei, which can be paid either at parking meters or by SMS. Although there has been an initiative to issue parking passes for condominium parkings since 2013, it has not been adopted so far.

As regards exclusively pedestrian areas, they are narrow and limited to Civic Center Esplanade and a number of streets and alleys in the same central zone: Unirii Street, Toma Caragiu Street, Griviței Street, etc.; still, they are discontinuous. The sidewalks on some streets are degraded and do not ensure safe movement of passers. In addition, in suburbs, some streets that were not modernized lack sidewalks.

Ploiești municipality has a 3 kilometer bicycle lane on the north – south axis (Independence Avenue – Bucharest Avenue), implemented with European funds. This lane is often unusable because of illegally parked vehicles on its surface. As well, bike and roller lanes can be found in the park of “Olimpia” Sports Hall.

Figure 17. Cars blocking bicycle lanes



Source: World Bank. 2013. TRACE: Improving energy efficiency in Ploiești

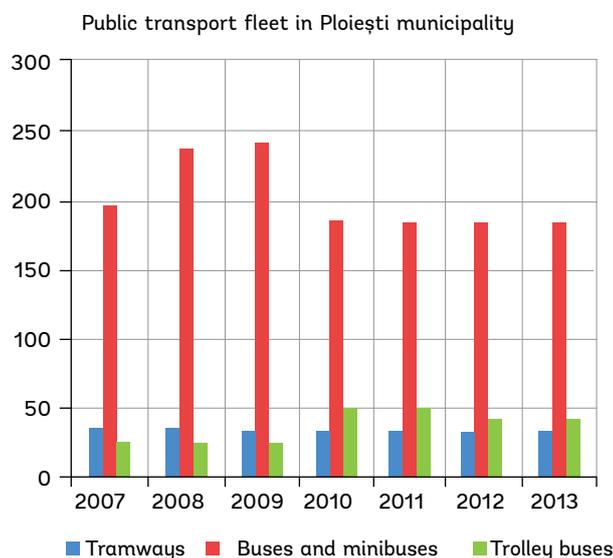
Public transport

Public transport services are provided exclusively in Ploiești municipality by a company subordinated to the Local Council – S.C. TRANSPORT CALATORI EXPRES S.A. (TCE), with a tradition of over 80 years. The company operates two trolley routes with a length of 25.3 km, two tram routes with a length of 24 km and 41 buses. About 75% of company revenues in the first semester of 2014 were subsidies, the number of employees being over 1,000. The company faces chronic financial problems, which require urgent measures to streamline its activity.

The company currently operates a total of 33 trams, 42 trolley buses and 183 buses and minibuses, the buses and trams fleet being on the decrease compared to 2007 following the cassation of used vehicles, while the number of trolley bus has increased, following the purchase of new vehicles.

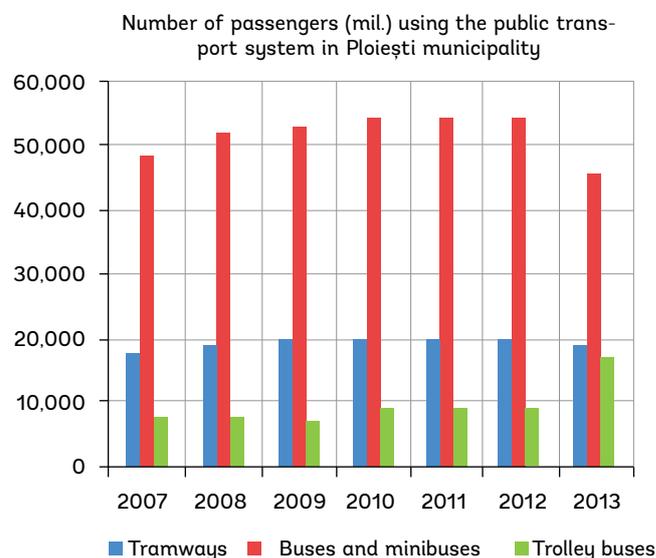
The vehicle fleet of TCE is extremely outdated, resulting in high maintenance costs, long waiting times at stations and limited passenger safety. The newest buses in the TCE fleet are the 50 9-year-old BMC units, while the oldest are about 40 years old. As regards trolleys, the newest 24 Neoplan units were purchased in 2009. The fleet of second-hand trams was purchased 13 years ago from the German town Potsdam, the wagons having been manufactured between 1977 and 1985. Besides, the vehicles do not have, in general, air-conditioning, which affects negatively the comfort of passengers. The ticket price for a trip is 2 lei, which is similar to other growth poles in Romania. From the fall of 2014 until the end of 2015, the trip by public transport will be free for the citizens with incomes lower than 3,000 lei in order to compensate for the inconvenience related to works at the tram infrastructure and other objectives, objectives such as the passage at the West Railway Station. In 2012, a pilot project for introducing the electronic ticketing system on trolleys in the city was implemented, but it did not cover the entire network, and in 2014 the payment of tickets by SMS was introduced too.

Figure 56. Public transport fleet in Ploiești municipality by vehicle type during 2007-2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

Figure 57. Number of passengers who used the public transport system in Ploiești municipality by vehicle type during 2007-2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

A World Bank analysis regarding the energy efficiency in Romania's growth poles has revealed that only about 30% of the residents' daily trips are made by public transport means; this percentage is one of the lowest of all growth poles and similar cities in Eastern Europe. However, the number of passengers who use public transport in Ploiești has increased in 2007-2013 by 12.1%, and up to 82.2 million in 2014. Of these, 55.7% opted for buses and minibuses, 23.6% for trams, and 20.7% for trolleys. Compared to 2007, there is an increase in the number of passengers who used trolleys (+ 126.5%) and trams (+ 11.9%) over those who opted for buses (-5.5%).

In the absence of a metropolitan operator, the interurban passenger transport is carried out by private operators based on a county transport program approved by Prahova County Council. For 2015, the program provides the following trips across the main routes that are relevant for Ploiești Growth Pole:

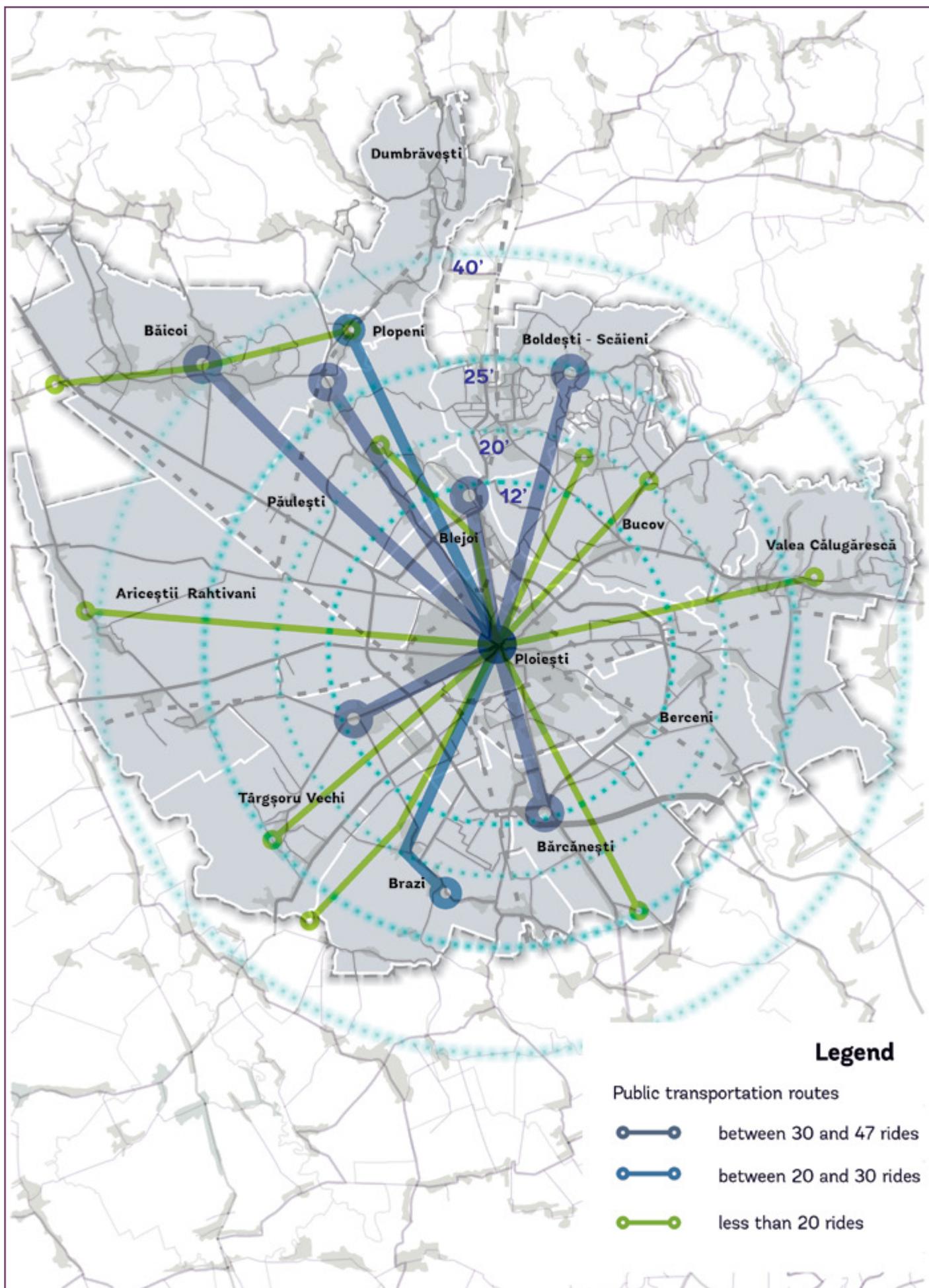
Table 15. Public transport routes ensuring the connection with Ploiești Growth Pole

Route	Number of planned daily trips	Trip duration (min.)
Ploiești - Boldești-Scăeni	45	25
Ploiești - Plopeni	27	20
Ploiești - Păulești - Băicoi	47	41
Câmpina - Cocorăștii Mislui - Plopeni	40	40
Florești - Băicoi - Plopeni	15	25
Vălenii de Munte - Lipănești - Plopeni	1	35
Plopeni - Slănic	15	45
Ploiești - Băicoi - Scorțeni	12	30
Ploiești - Târgșoru Vechi	16	25
Strejnicu - Ploiești	36	10
Ploiești - Ariceștii Rahtivani - Călinești	11	60
Ploiești - Ariceștii Rahtivani - Nedelea	18	45
Ploiești - Târgșoru Nou	5	30
Ploiești - Brătășanca - Mărgineni	8	45
Ploiești - Blejoi - Cocoșești	14	22
Ploiești - Plopeni - Cosminele	9	60
Ploiești - Blejoi	32	12
Ploiești - Popu - Vărbila	15	40
Ploiești - Popu - Hârșă	14	30
Ploiești - Pleașa	16	20
Ploiești - Valea Călugărească	14	20
Ploiești - Bucov - Radila	6	25
Ploiești - Berceni	11	15
Ploiești - Bărcănești - Odăi	16	25
Ploiești - Bărcănești - Pietroșani	58	20
Ploiești - Brazi - Bătești	29	30
Ploiești - Brazi - Stejaru	12	35
Țintea - Mislea - Câmpina	14	35
Câmpina - DN1 - Băicoi	11	20
Băicoi - Scorțeni - Telega	14	30
Ploiești - Plopeni - Țipărești	9	28
Ploiești - Plopeni - Berteș	12	70
Ploiești - Plopeni - Aluniș	6	60
Ploiești - Plopeni - Slănic	16	70
Ploiești - Lipănești - Mălăiești de Jos	11	38
Ploiești - Parc Bucov - Colonie Pleașa	12	20
Ploiești - Păulești - Găgeni	38	15
Băicoi - Călinești - Filipeștii de Târg	14	45
Ploiești - Plopeni - Scurtești	8	65
Băicoi - Plopeni - Slănic	7	60

Source: Prahova County Council

Ploiești municipality has a bus station in the Southern Railway Station area, as well as several stations for passenger embarkation/disembarkation at various points in the city (Eastern, Western, and Northern Railway Stations, Găgeni Street, Bucov Barrier, etc.). However, there are no intermodal terminals with adequate infrastructure to enable rapid and safe transshipment of passengers from one type of transport to another (eg. railway – public transport).

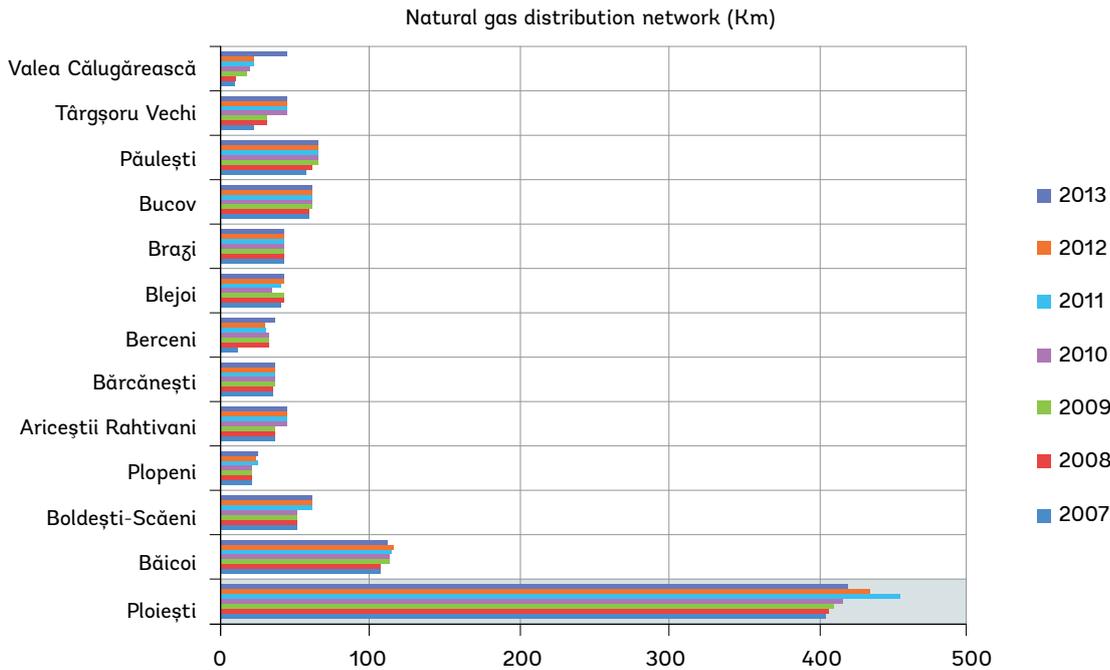
Map 68. Public transport routes



1.4.2. Energy (gas, electricity)

Natural gas distribution network at the level of Ploiești Growth Pole covers all component localities, except for Dumbrăveni commune. During the period 2007-2013, the distribution network expanded by 134 km (+14.5%) up to a total of 1,034 kilometers as a result of investments made by the distribution operator (GDF SUEZ) in all component territorial-administrative units, including in Ploiești municipality. In this period, the largest network expansion was recorded in Valea Călugărească (+36 km), Berceni (+26 km), and Târgșoru Vechi (+20 km) communes, but also in Ploiești municipality (+15 km) especially in view of branching new consumers to the gas distribution system.

Figure 58. Length of the simple gas distribution network in Ploiești Growth Pole by localities during 2007-2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

Despite continued growth of the natural gas distribution network, the volume distributed to consumers decreased by 53.5% during the period 2007-2013, primarily as a result of lower consumption in the industry (-67.9%), on Ploiești and Brași platforms. In contrast, the volume of natural gas distributed to the population increased by 6% compared to 2007, due to the increasing number of households and individual heating systems installed.

Despite significant investments made in recent years by the distributor of natural gas, part of the network is old and outdated, replacement of pipelines and branch pipes by modern ones being required for the continuous improvement of customer supply security. To achieve this objective, during the period 2013-2014, an extensive program for replacing a 50-year-old operating gas network was initiated in Ploiești municipality. The project envisages the rehabilitation of 94 km of the network, representing approx. 40% of the existing steel network in Ploiești, and the required investment amounts to 29 million lei. The works were concentrated in the following areas: Mihai Bravu district, Civic Center I, Civic Center II, Lupeni-Hășdeu, Buna Vestire, Nicoale Titulescu, and Andrei Mureșanu.

Prahova county and even Ploiești Growth Pole store, besides renewable energy resources, a very significant volume of conventional energy resources, being considered as "the industrial center" for oil and natural gas extraction and processing in Romania. Thus, according to the Institute of Electro-technical Research and Design (ICPE), the National Administration of Meteorology (ANM), and ICEMENERG (2006) data, Ploiești area has a solar radiation intensity of about 1,250-1,300 kWh/m²/year, which is an average value in the national context, and the average annual wind speed reaches 4 m/s at 50 m above the ground, which makes profitable the investments in air turbines. In addition, the annual energy potential of agricultural and woody biomass in the county is over 430 TJ (National Wood Institute, 2006) and the rivers upstream of Ploiești (Prahova, Teleajen, and Doftana) have potential for small hydro power plants installation (Hidroelectrica and Polytechnic University of Bucharest, 2005).

Map 69. Length of natural gas distribution network

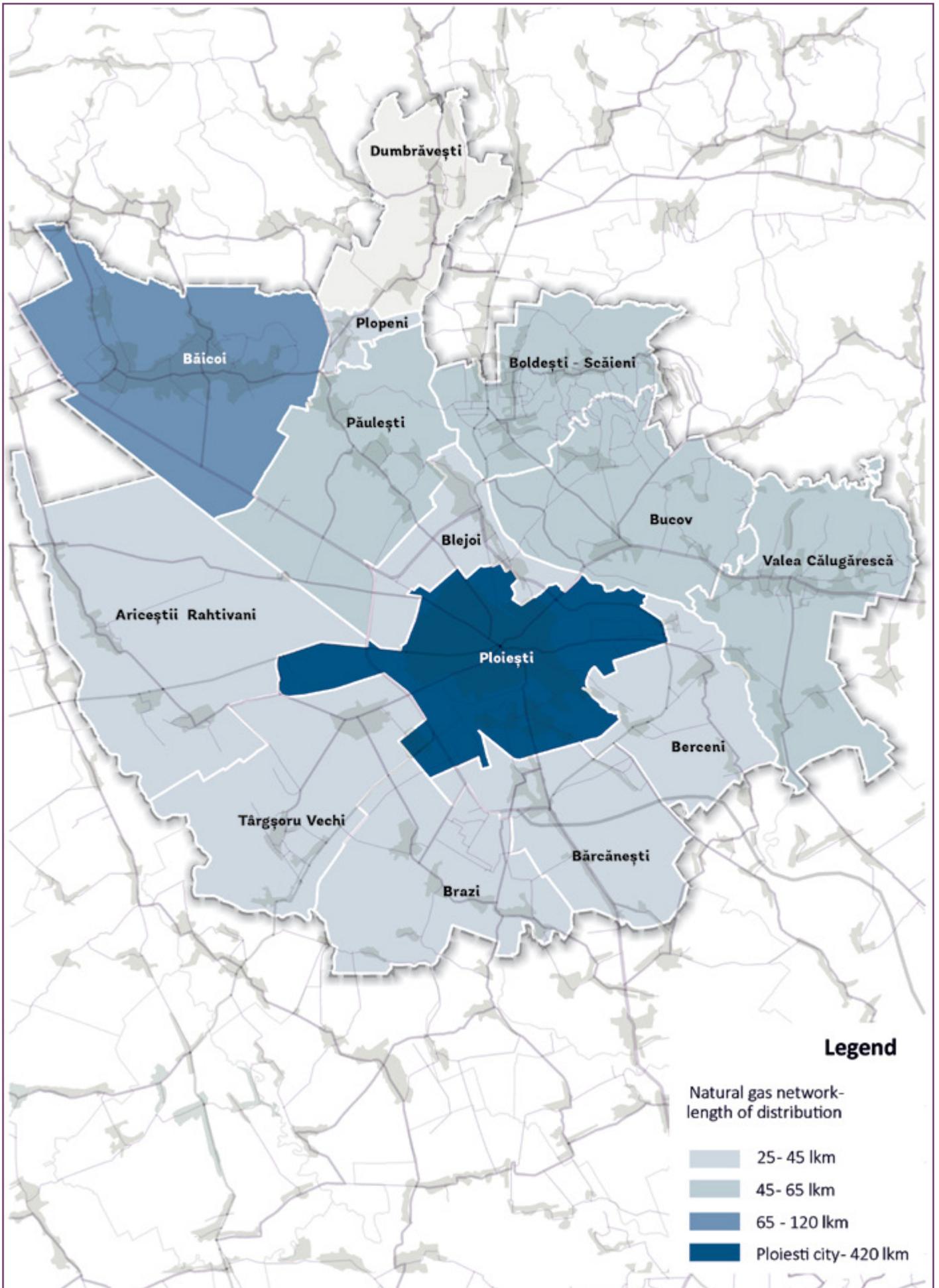
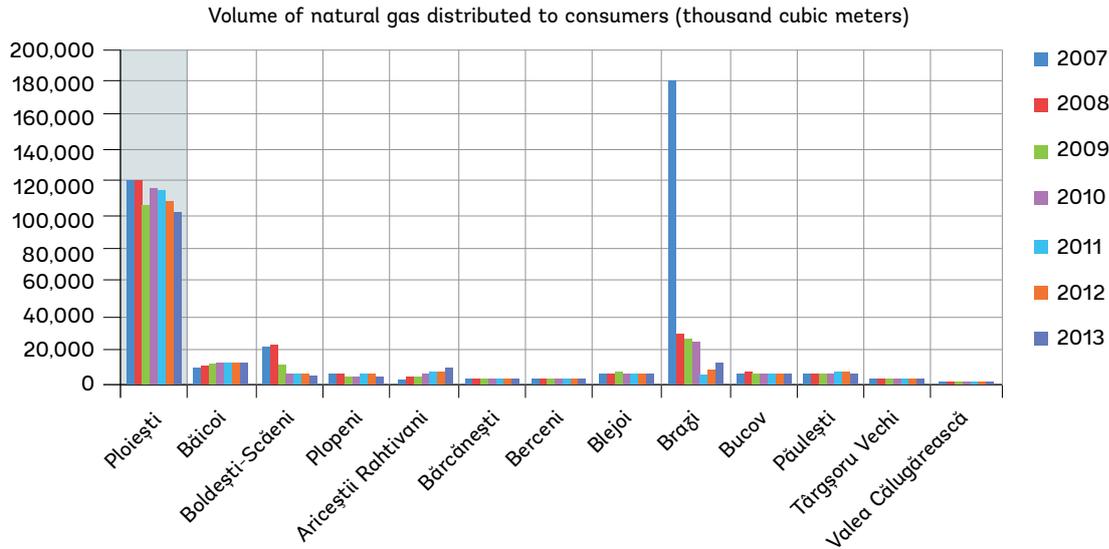
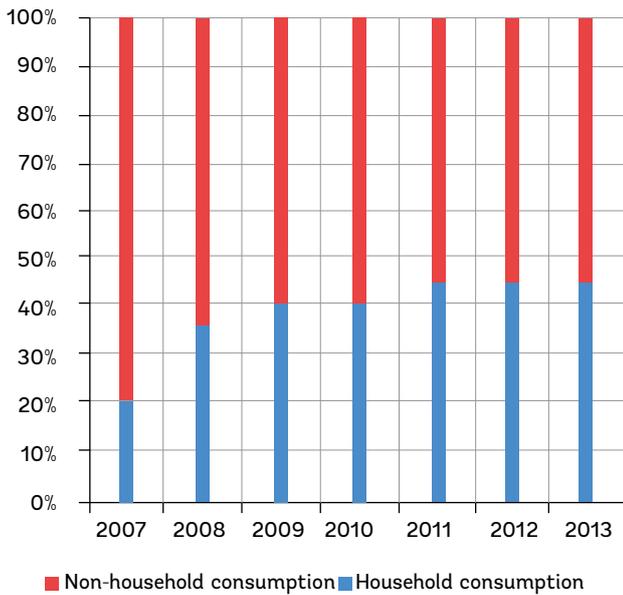


Figure 59. Volume of natural gas distributed to consumers in Ploiești Growth Pole by localities during the period 2007-2013



Source: Own drawing

Figura 60. Structure of natural gas consumption in Ploiești Growth Pole by consumer type during 2007-2013



Source: Own drawing

under execution in Ploiești Growth Pole as well as many projects to exploit the potential of renewable energy – especially solar (Băicoi, Valea Călugărească, Bucov, Ploiești, Ariceștii Rahtivani, Berceni, Dumbrăvești), but aeolian (Băicoi). Still, their installed capacity is less than about 100 MW, much below the potential of the area. From the perspective of the installed capacity of solar and wind plants, Prahova county has an insignificant share at the national level, one of the reasons being the limited availability of land and their high price compared to neighboring counties in the plain area (Ialomița, Călărași, Giurgiu, Bușău, Brăila, etc.).

Electricity transport in Ploiești area is ensured by CNTEE TRANSELECTRICA, through the 400 kV overhead power lines (OPL) Domnești – Brazi Vest – Dârste, (which ensure the connection of the new PETROM cogeneration power plant, the largest of its kind in Romania), 220 kV OPL Brazi Vest – Teleajen – Stâlpu, 220 kV OPL Fundeni – Brazi Vest, 220 kV OPL Brazi Vest – Târgoviște – Bradu. In addition, there are transformer stations of 400/220/110 kV at Brazi Vest and

Electricity production facilities from Ploiești Growth Pole firstly include Brazi thermal power plant, owned by OMV Petrom. It runs on natural gas and was opened in 2011, following an investment of over 530 million EUR, and has an installed capacity of 860 MW, capable of providing 10% of Romania’s energy production. Since it is extremely flexible and can be started and stopped quickly, Petrom plant will be used to balance the country’s wind energy production during the periods when the wind does not blow. The plant produced 1.86 TWh of electricity in 2012, and 2.86 TWh in 2013. As well, Coca Cola company opened in 2009 a cogeneration unit at its factory in Ploiești, the heating operator DalkiaTermo Prahova detains a cogeneration plant with a capacity of 107 MW, and Lukoil Romania holds another unit with a capacity of 45 MW. In terms of installed power at cogeneration plants, Prahova county ranks first nationally.

At present, several projects for the exploitation of renewable energy potential were commissioned or are

PETROM, and of 220/110 kV at Teleajen. Besides, Ploiești area is included in the 400 kV ring of Bucharest municipality.

The electricity distribution network is currently operated by S.C. ELECTRICA through its distribution branch, Muntenia Nord Distribution S.A. The main activity of Ploiești distribution branch is the electricity distribution, but also the exploitation and development of distribution systems, PRAM, telecommunications, and information technology. It owns electricity distribution facilities at the level of Prahova county, in the south-eastern part of Romania, as follows:

- 834.84 km lines of 110 kV (circuit);
- 3,397.152 km medium voltage lines (circuit);
- 10,583.82 km low voltage lines (circuit);
- 46 transformer stations (of which 30 of 110 kV and 16 of medium voltage);
- 2,088 transformer substations.

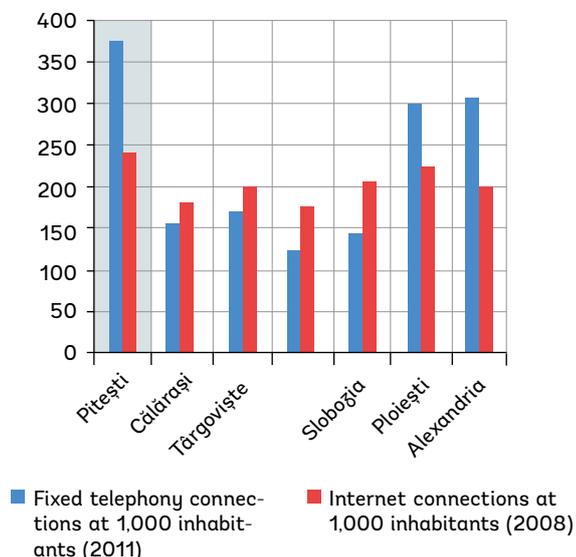
Of all the power lines, only 16.6% were underground power lines (UPL), the rest being overhead power lines (OPL). The lack of an underground canalization system for all types of OPL is one of the most pressing issues that Ploiești municipality faces currently; this affects apartment blocks façades and architecturally valuable buildings frontages, determining an unattractive urban look.

In addition, some stations and substations in the city are undersized and outdated, so they need to be replaced in view of avoiding problems at the level of customer supply continuity.

1.4.3. IT&C

According to the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications' (ANCOM) data, in 2011, in Ploiești municipality there were 62,053 fixed lines, of which 52,055 were being used by individuals, and 9,998 by companies. In 2008, in the same municipality, there were 47,543 Internet connections, which were provided at "best-effort" speeds (over 128 kbps). Despite that Ploiești municipality records the highest number of fixed telephone lines and high-speed connections in South Muntenia region, the connection rate of the population remains below the level registered in other similar cities, like Pitești. However, compared to the most recent years for which statistical data are available, it is very likely that the number of fixed telephone stations have fallen to the detriment of mobile telephony, which reached a penetration rate of over 90% of the population. Similarly, the number of high speed Internet connections grew continuously compared to 2008, and the connection rate is approaching 50%.

Figure 61. Fixed telephony and Internet connections number at 1,000 inhabitants in the main cities of South Muntenia Region



At the local level one can find all mobile and fixed telephony, Internet and TV cable companies in Romania; they made significant investments to provide high quality services in the European context, at relatively affordable prices. 4G services are available locally since 2013, Ploiești being one of the first cities in Romania that benefited from such networks.

1.4.4. Completed / ongoing projects

In terms of mobility projects that have been implemented in Ploiești Growth Pole during the period 2007-2013, the most relevant are the following:

- Increase traffic capacity by developing a link road between DN 1 and DN 1B, the DJ 236 county ring road in the north of Ploiești municipality – worth 43.9 mil. Lei, co-financed by ROP 2007-2013, through PA1.
- Increase accessibility to the northern part of the Growth Pole, especially towards Prahova County Hospital by developing a road passage in continuation of DJ102 over DN 1B – worth 78.6 mil. Lei, co-financed by ROP 2007-2013, through PA1.
- Increase public transport mobility by the rehabilitation of 102 tram route through works aimed at: improving the tread, waiting stations adapted to people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling and automation elements. Stage I: North Loop - Republic Intersection – worth 62.8 mil. Lei, co-financed by ROP 2007-2013, through PA1.
- Increase public transport mobility by the rehabilitation of 101 tram route through works aimed at: improving the tread, waiting stations adapted to people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling and automation elements. Stage I – worth 35.6 mil. Lei, co-financed by ROP 2007-2013, through PA1.
- Increase public transport mobility by the rehabilitation of 102 tram route through works aimed at: improving the tread, waiting stations adapted to people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling and automation elements. Stage II: Republic Intersection - West Loop – worth 83.7 mil. Lei, co-financed by ROP 2007-2013, through PA1.
- Increase public transport mobility by the rehabilitation of 101 tram route through works aimed at: improving the tread, waiting stations adapted to people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling and automation elements. Stage II – worth 73.7 mil. Lei, co-financed by ROP 2007-2013, through PA1.
- Rehabilitation of DJ 101G Tătărani – Brazi – Tinosu - Șirna – Hăbud – Crivățu – worth 45.8 mil. Lei, co-financed by ROP 2007-2013, through PA2.
- Develop an overpass at West Railway Station – worth 91 mil. Lei, co-financed by ROP 2007-2013, through PA1.

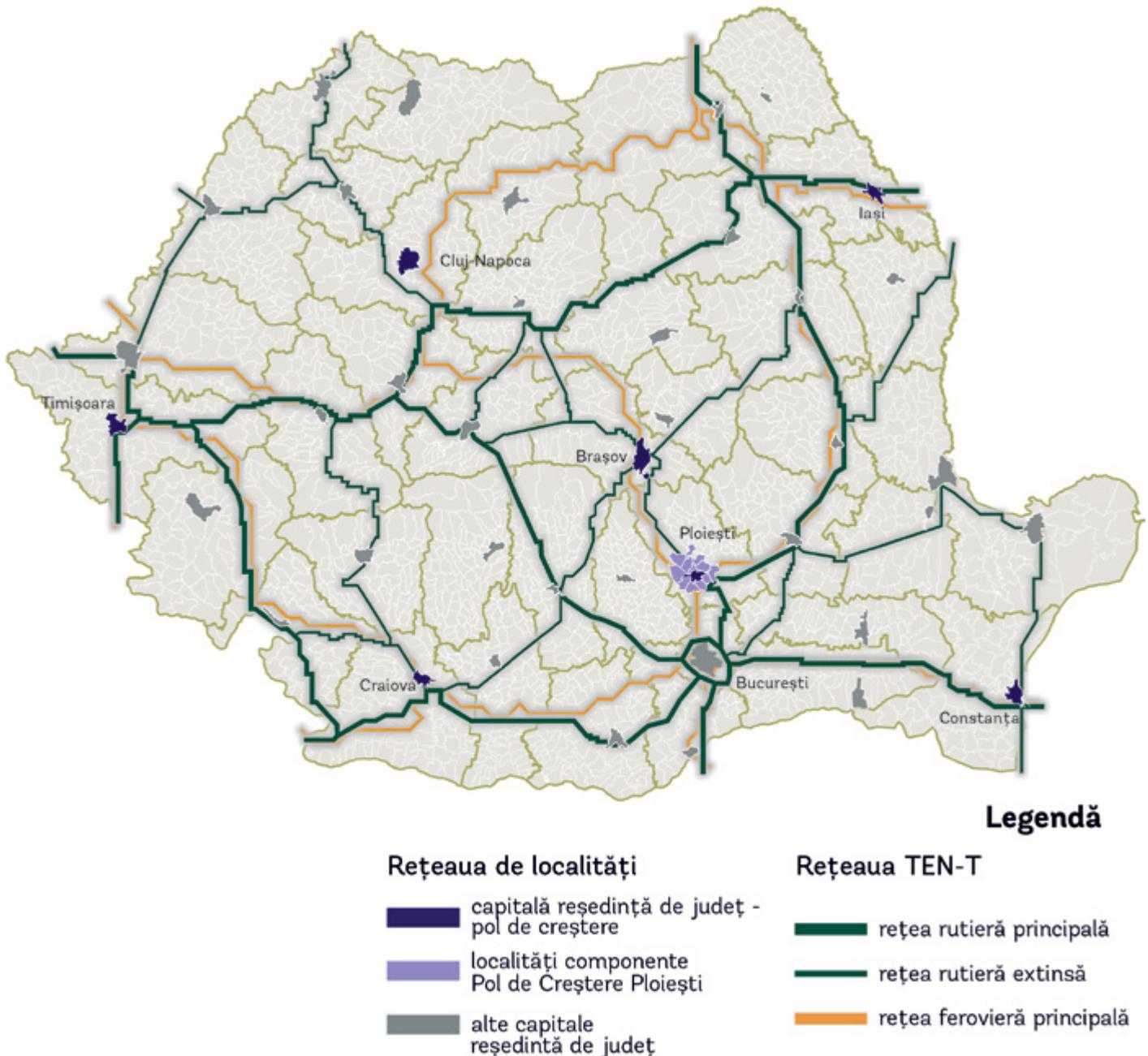
Less extensive works made with local budget funds are also worth mentioning along with the rehabilitation of Mihai Bravu Street, Republic Avenue, Ghighiului Street, South Railway Station passage, and streets packages (including sidewalks), in the following districts: Bereasca, May 9, Enache Văcărescu, Malu Roșu, Moțoi, Râfov, Găgeni, Gheorghe Doja, Vega, Mitică Apostol, Peneș Curcanul etc. As well, parking areas were developed on Republic Avenue, Gh. Doja Street, while in the in the northern, western, and central-southeastern zones were used ecological tiles for the construction of parking places. The pavements were restored at the Administrative Palace, the esplanade of the Unions' House of Culture, the sidewalks from North Complex and on Toma Caragiu Street. An over-ground parking was developed on Cuza Vodă Street. For the year 2015, about 19 million Lei from the budget of the municipality were assigned for current repairs to streets. For the period 2014-2020, the investments in the field of accessibility and mobility are the main concern of the municipality. The focus is mainly on: street modernization works in the areas of Pictor Rosenthal and Râfov; completion of the link between West Railway Station and South Railway Station; purchase of rolling stock (for trams) and buses; implementing one-way traffic lanes; expanding the pedestrian area around the Administration Palace; construction of a new passage over the railway in the south-eastern part of the municipality (Podul de Lemn); upgrading intersections and implementing an intelligent traffic management system; modernization of sidewalks parallel to the tram line, etc.

In the field of distribution infrastructure for natural gas, electricity, and IT&C, investments were made primarily from the private operators' funds and were targeted towards replacing the existing networks with modern ones, which would lead to better quality services provided to end consumers. The most important of these were those referring to the replacement of about 94 km of gas distribution network in Ploiești municipality, simultaneously with its expansion in urban and rural areas in the Growth Pole.

Currently, the EU-funded Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan of Ploiești Growth Pole is under development. The plan, completed in 2015, aims at creating a sustainable and modern urban transport system, as well as at supporting economic development through improving accessibility for people and goods. It will become the support framework for the urban transport projects that will be financed by the Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020, with the support of the European Regional Development Fund.

1.4.5. Conclusions – existing disparities, trends, needs, and intervention areas

Map 70. Regional accessibility



Ploieşti Growth Pole has a favorable geographical position in terms of accessibility at the national and European levels, being situated at the crossroads of major road and rail transport corridors in Romania, part of the TEN-T core network. The largest airport in Romania (“Henri Coandă”, Otopeni-Bucharest), with over 8.3 million passengers and 100,000 landings/take-offs, is very easy to access, as it is 40 minutes away, providing satisfactory connections to most internal and external destinations.

In what regards the connection with Transylvania and Moldavia, the lack of rapid transport links with Braşov and Buşău municipalities, as well as with Târgovişte area limits accessibility. Hence, national roads connecting these urban poles record high traffic values, as well as congestion and accident risks. For instance, the transport axis Bucharest – Ploieşti – Braşov records the highest traffic values in the country, especially on weekends and during peak tourist seasons on Prahova Valley, and still does not have a highway yet. As well, the upgrade of DN 1 and the construction of A3 segment that connects Bucharest to Ploieşti have ensured only a partial decongestion of DN 1, as there is no direct access to the capital on a distance of about 10 km.

The national roads that ensure the municipality's access to the major transport network and to other urban poles in Romania are in good condition, as they benefited from modernization and maintenance investments. The high traffic intensity in Ploiești area, which is generated by both commuting and transit flows, creates a major risk of traffic congestion at the level of road arteries that go through the city.

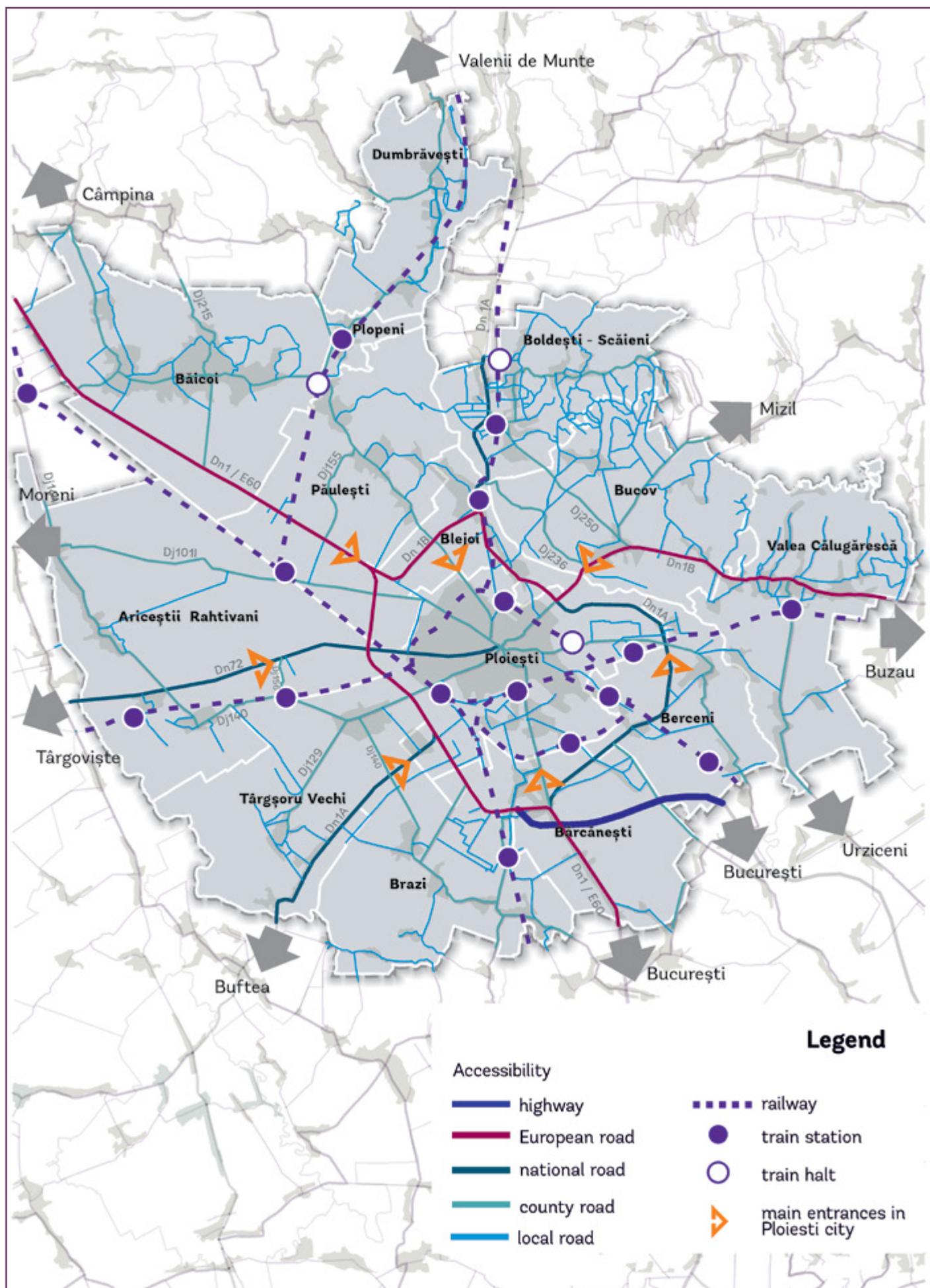
Although Ploiești municipality is one of the most important railway hubs in Romania, the advanced wearing of the railway infrastructure has led to substantial decreases in rail traffic values compared to 1990, being concurred by road transport. As well, railway stations in the municipality have not gone through extensive rehabilitation and modernization processes in order to become more attractive to passengers.

Although at the local level, there are several train stations and bus terminals used daily by a large number of passengers, especially by those traveling to Ploiești from various localities of Prahova county (commuters, students, etc.), the lack of intermodal terminals to ensure the rapid transfer from one type of transport to another (railway transport, urban and interurban transport, cycle and pedestrian circulation, etc.) is visible.

The traffic in the Growth Pole is negatively influenced by the existence of anthropic barriers to mobility, including the dense network of railways that surrounds Ploiești and the lack of overground and underground passages at crossing points.

The upgrade degree of the road network has increased in the last decade, amid substantial investment from various sources of funding, including from European funds. However, more than 15% of the streets are still not modernized, the most disadvantaged areas being the suburbs, some of them having enlarged with new constructions in recent years. The streets that were not modernized hamper traffic flow and lead to the risk of accidents, besides the fact that some arteries in the city become undersized, especially in the central area.

Map 71. Mobility in the Growth Pole



In spite of the investments made by the county administration from local, state, or European funds, most of the county roads linking Ploiești municipality to its immediate area of influence are in poor condition, with thin asphalt on the surface. Some of them record traffic values that are comparable to those of many national roads in Romania, hence accelerating investments in their rehabilitation by using all available funding sources (ROP 2014-2020 PNDL, the budget of Prahova County Council) needs to continue.

Mobility inside Ploiești municipality and some of the neighboring localities is low due to the lack of extensive traffic management, especially at the level of penetration arteries (north-south, east-west) and those with limited transport capacity, but also due to intersections with inadequate geometries and facilities. All these elements also increase the risk of accidents too.

The continued increase in the number of vehicles in the Growth Pole has led to a chronic shortage of parking places, estimated at 25,000 units, both in central areas and near large housing complexes. In addition, the administration of parking spaces is still deficient, given that many vehicles are parked illegally on public places, and even on green spaces, and the number of paid parking places, as well as the revenues generated by them for the municipality are reduced.

The public transport network is relatively extensive and covers by the means of buses, trams, and trolley buses most of the areas with high housing density. In addition, recent years have brought a diversification of the services offered to passengers, such as the payment of tickets via SMS, and an increase in the number of passengers using trolleybuses and trams. However, the advanced wearing of the available public transport fleet leads to high costs for vehicle maintenance, failure to follow traffic schedules, and large volumes of CO₂ emissions, also endangering the safety of passengers and other road users. In these circumstances, only 30% of daily trips are done by public transport, in favor of private cars and taxis. Furthermore, the lack of electronic ticketing systems and GPS monitoring at the level of the entire public transport system, and the inadequate facilities for the disabled also affect the local public transport system.

Interurban passenger transport services are generally satisfactory in terms of vehicles used and transport schedules covered by multiple private operators that are active locally. However, the lack of a metropolitan (urban and interurban) integrated transport system is still visible at the level of stations, transport schedules, and pricing.

Despite some pilot local initiatives, alternatives to non-motorized transport remain very low: lack of exclusively pedestrian and interconnected zones, walkways in high-traffic areas, and reduced extension of cycle lanes, which are not integrated, do not ensure safe movement of cyclists, and are often blocked by vehicles parked illegally.

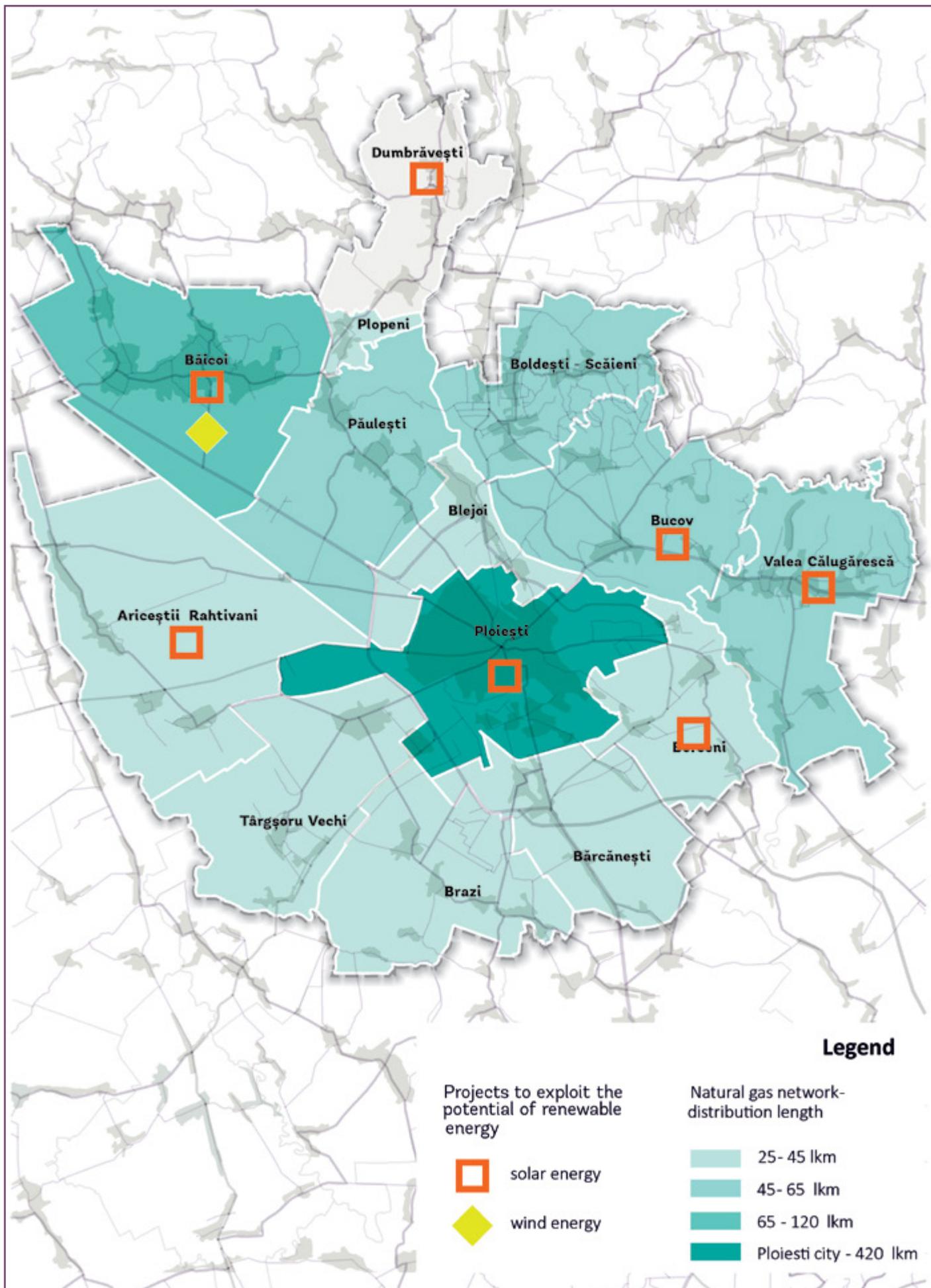
All localities of Ploiești Growth Pole benefit of natural gas distribution networks, which create additional comfort of habitation and an advantage in attracting investments. A significant part of the network, especially in cities, is outdated and requires upgrading or even expansion works, such a program being already underway in Ploiești based on the private funds of the distribution operator.

The electricity distribution network, which is under the management of a state company, is characterized by a high degree of wearing, including at the level of supply lines, transformer stations, etc., which aggravates the risk of supply disruptions and even incidents. As well, in the absence of an underground canalization system, 80% of the power lines are overhead, affecting the urban aesthetics.

Ploiești municipality is one of the most important energy centers of Romania, concentrating a high volume of conventional and renewable resources (solar energy, agricultural biomass, etc.). Romania's largest and most modern thermal power station using natural gas was inaugurated at Brazi – it provides 10% of the total consumption and, the capacity of cogeneration units in the area is the largest in the country. However, the potential of producing renewable energy especially for public consumption remains largely unexploited.

With regard to IT&C, the Growth Pole's residents have access to the latest technology, enjoying a wide range of high quality services from private operators at competitive prices. However, the number of Wi-Fi locations in cities and in the zones of attraction for residents, tourists, and visitors is very low.

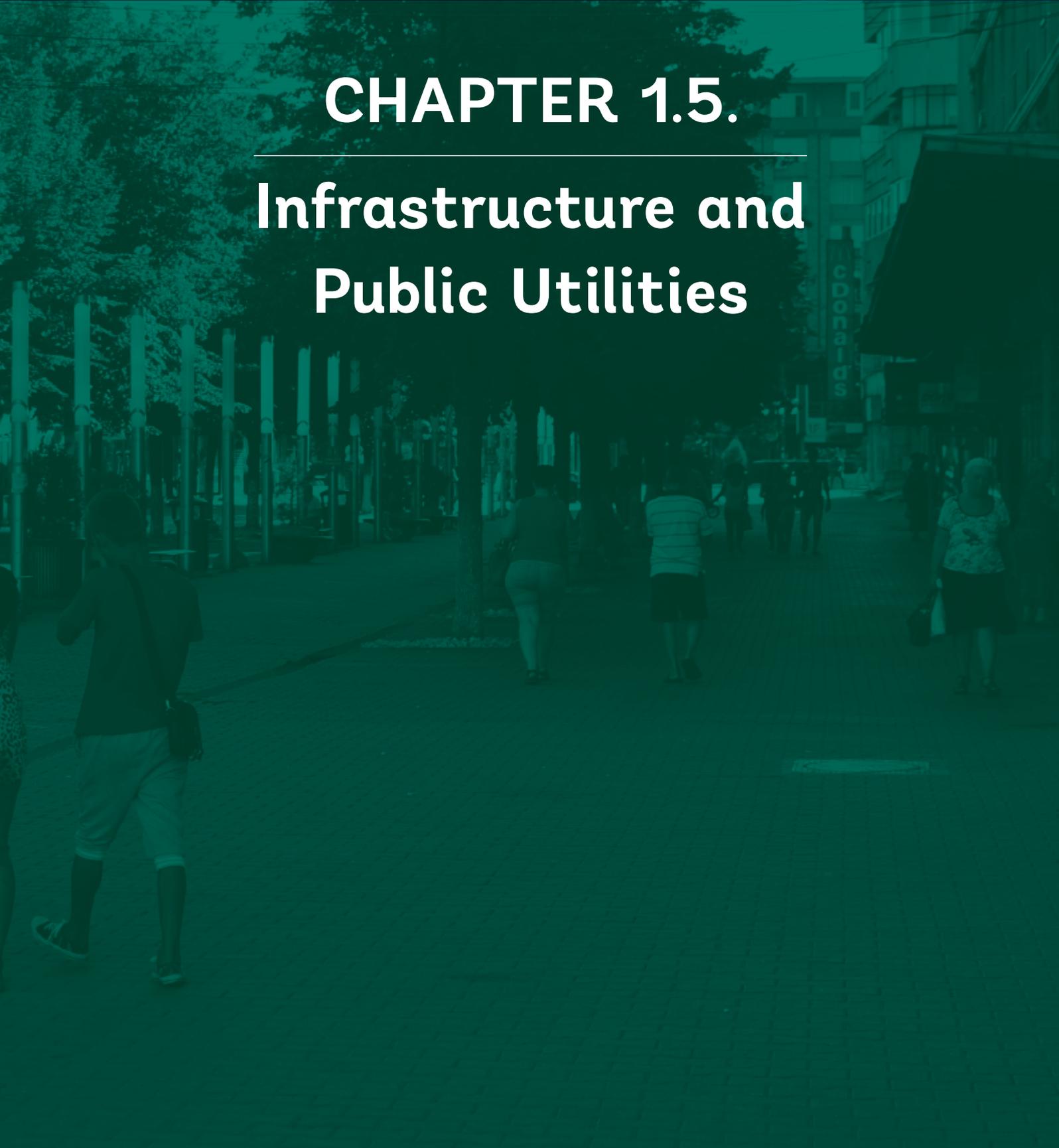
Map 72. Energy and IT&C connectivity



1

Analysis of Development Needs and Areas of Intervention

CHAPTER 1.5.
**Infrastructure and
Public Utilities**



1.5. Infrastructure and Public Utilities

1.5.1. Public Space

The central area of Ploiești concentrates most of the public spaces, which are arranged around objectives of public interest, including in front of railway stations. The most important are the following:

- Halele Centrale area, together with Piața Centrală and Piața Toma Socolescu - bounded by G. Coșbuc Str., Griviței Str., Gen. V. Milea Str., and Republicii Blv.;
- Civic Center Esplanade - bounded by Republicii Blv. and other public buildings (bank, shopping center etc.);
- Ion Luca Caragiale Square - in front of the Ploiești City Hall, bounded by Republicii Blv., Dobrogeanu Gherea Str., Second Lieutenant-Hero C. Cătălin Str.;
- Ion Luca Caragiale traffic square - bounded by the intersection of Independenței Blv., R. Stanian Str., and Golești Str.;
- Ploiești South, Ploiești West and Ploiești North railway station squares.

The main pedestrian zone of Ploiești is represented by a 0.12 km² downtown area, with its spatial and functional characteristics, which was the object of the EU CIVITAS - SUCCESS project, being aimed at creating a controlled roadway area dedicated to pedestrians, cycle lanes and pedestrian tracks, public transport stations, etc.

Green spaces, parks, recreation, leisure, and sport areas are arranged in a dispersed manner at the growth pole level and have various typologies:

- Green alignment spaces along the street structure;
- Traffic squares and green spaces between the blocks, serving residential areas;
- Public parks and traffic squares;
- Sports and leisure parks.

Their evolution in the component cities, according to NIS data, is shown in the following table:

Table 16. Evolution of green space surfaces in Ploiești Growth Pole

Municipalities and cities	Years							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	UM: Ha							
PLOIEȘTI MUNICIPALITY	225	225	225	225	225	302	302	302
BĂICOI CITY	11	11	11	11	31	31	84	84
BOLDEȘTI-SCĂENI CITY	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
PLOPENI CITY	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

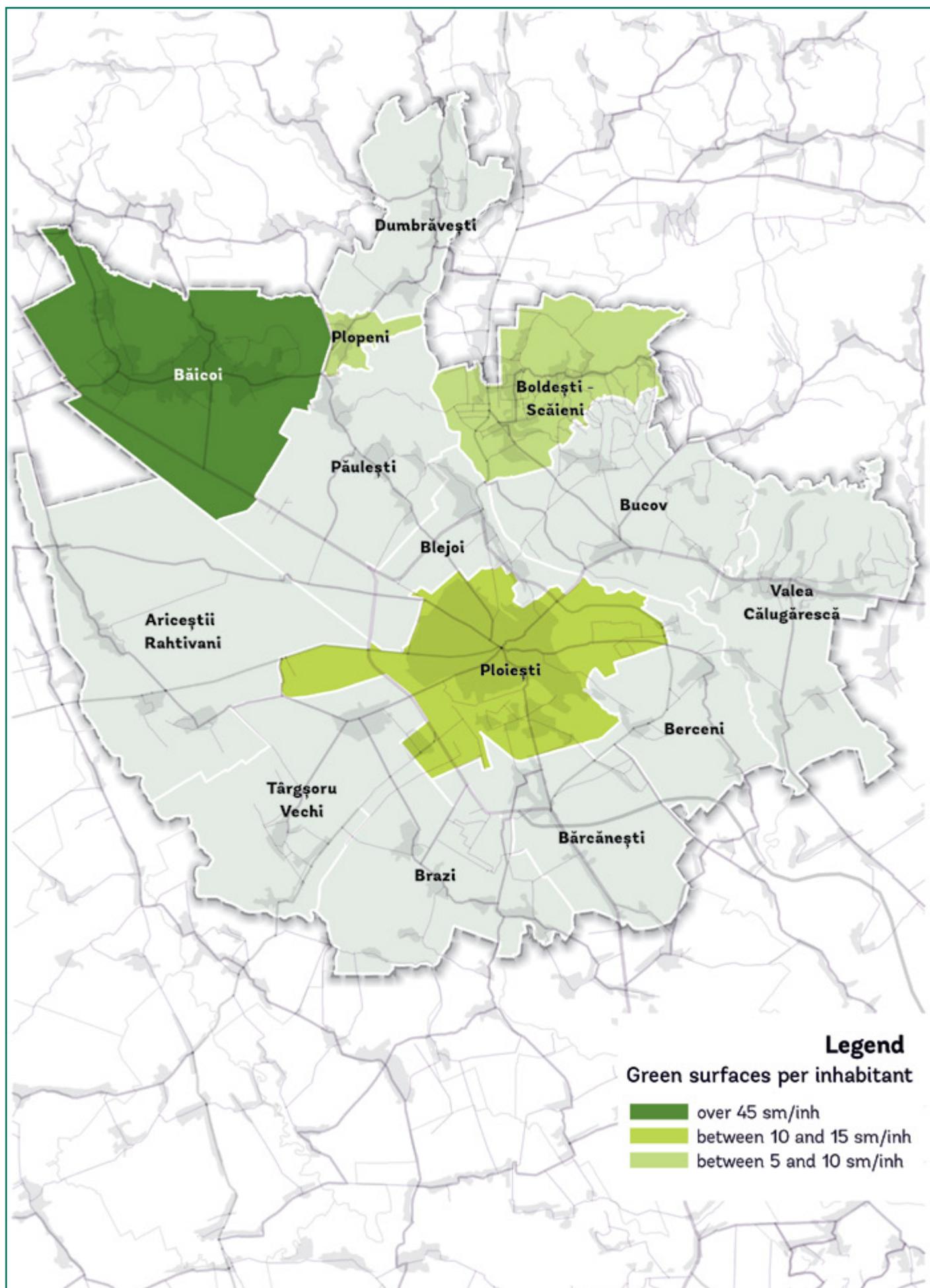
Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

According to the General Urban Plan of Ploiești, approved in 1999, the surface of green spaces was around 108.58 ha, being foreseen to increase to 433 ha by 2020.

According to Local Council Decision no. 124/2010 - Annex 1.1, areas registered in the inventory of assets that make up the public domain of Ploiești, endorsed by Government Decision no. 1359/2001, amount to 2,047,836 (204.78 ha):

- Parks: 337,100 m²;
- Public gardens: 150,637 m²;
- Green spaces: 373,250 m²;
- Traffic squares: 104,616 m²;
- Green spaces in the built-up area: 1,082,233 m².

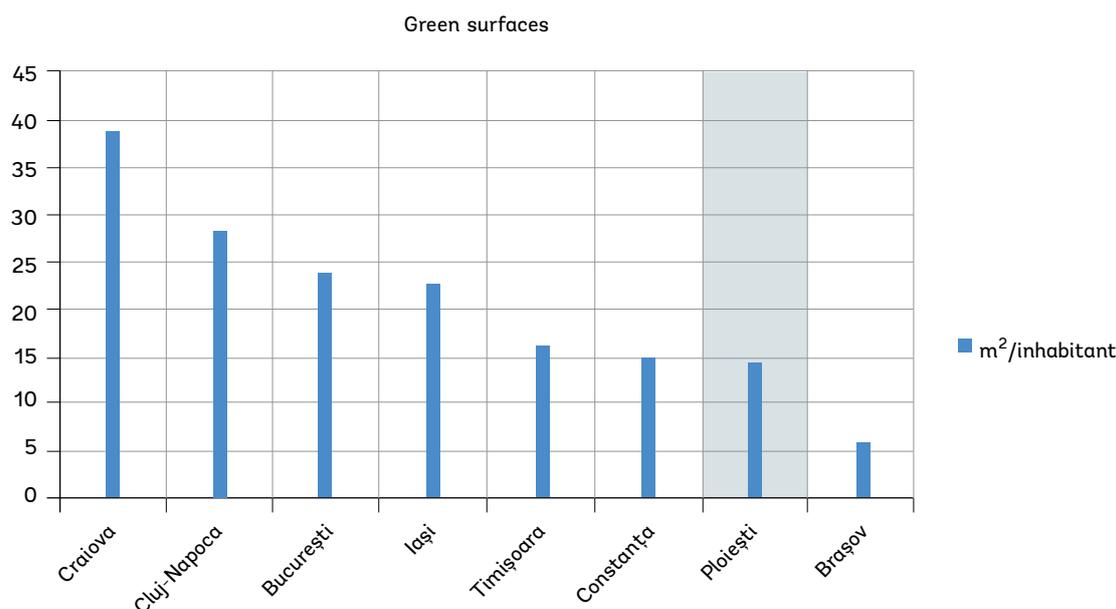
Map 73. Green surfaces per inhabitant



Differences between the 3 data sources can be noted regarding the surface of green spaces in Ploiești, depending on the time of the analysis and the calculation method. However, even according to the most updated and most favorable source (NIS, 2013, which, however, takes into account the land of sports locations and facilities), the surface of green spaces does not exceed 14.4 m²/inhabitant, far below the European standards of 26 m². In order to achieve this target, the area of green spaces should increase to 545 ha, even exceeding the GUP projections for 2020. However, it should be mentioned that the existing balances do not reflect the total surface of this type of area at the local level, in the absence of a green cadaster of the municipality.

As regards the rest of the cities that make up the Growth Pole, the only one complying with the 26 m²/inhabitant standard is Băicoi (46.7 m²/inhabitant), given the existing green spaces around the salt lakes (e.g. Livedea), which are mostly undeveloped though, while Plopeni and Boldești-Scăeni have less than 15 m² of green space/inhabitant.

Figure 62. Green surfaces per inhabitant in Romania's growth poles in 2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database Own calculations

Ploiești municipality holds the 7th place among the 8 growth poles in Romania in terms of average area of green spaces/inhabitant, surpassing only Brașov, which is, however, surrounded by extensive green and natural spaces, being located in the Romanian mountains.

Parks in Ploiești are generally small, being located, being arranged, with few exceptions, along the main roads in the city, especially on the north-south axis (Independenței Blv. - Republicii Blv.). The largest of these is Ploiești West Park, being currently under development with funds from ROP 2007-2013, with a total area of about 58 ha, located between the bypass road and West Rail Station. It will include 45 ha of planted areas, an artificial lake, resting / contemplation / picnic places, covered greenhouse, water fountains, artificial rocks, water mill, skating / roller rink, playgrounds for children, scene, pavilion, 12 sports grounds, cycle paths, walkways, etc. Tineretului Park is the second largest park and has been arranged around Olimpia Sports Hall. This includes, in turn, planted areas, a recreational lake and sports facilities (ice rink, tennis courts and football fields, running track, skydiving tower, cycle and roller paths) that were recently arranged.

The largest deficit of green spaces is in the districts built during the communist era and densely populated (Malu Roșu, Enăchiță Văcărescu, Vest, etc.). Although they are numerous small interstitial green spaces, many of them are occupied by illegally parked cars or are improperly arranged, not being available to the public.

Although not located on the territory of Ploiești, the most popular recreational area in the region remains the memorial park "Constantin Stere" Bucov, located in the east side of the city, across the Teleajen river, with a surface of over 100 ha, a 16 ha zoo, a recreational lake, and numerous busts of Romanian writers.

Public lighting

Currently, public lighting services in the localities of Ploiești Growth Pole are provided either by companies that assumed the management of these services by concession, or by the local authorities and ELECTRICA.

Table 17. List of public lighting operators operating within Ploiești Growth Pole

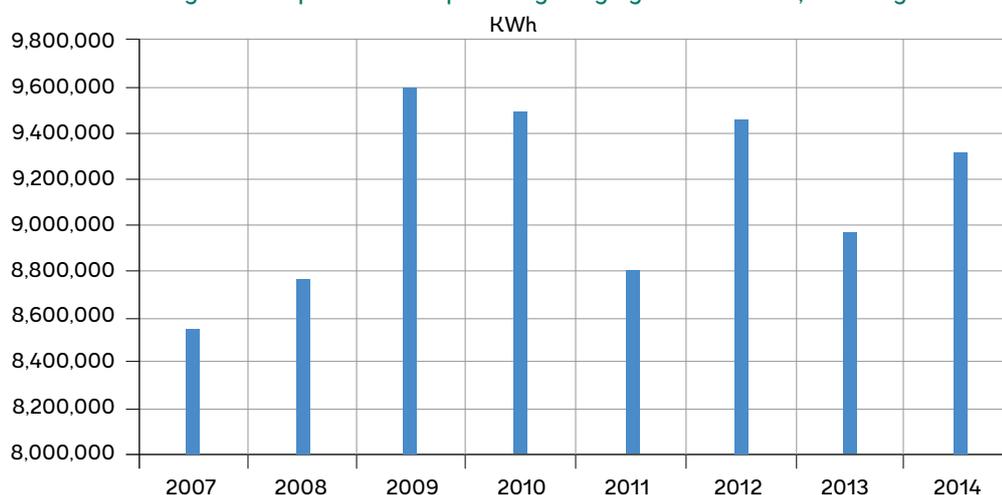
Administrative-territorial unit	Public lighting operator	Majority capital
Ploiești	S.C. Servicii de Gospodărie Urbană S.R.L.	Public
Băicoi	S.C. General ME.EL Electric S.R.L.	Private
Boldești-Scăeni	S.C. General ME.EL Electric S.R.L.	Private
Plopeni	Local Public Authority	Public
Ariceștii Rahtivani	S.C. Electroconstruct S.R.L.	Private
Bărcănești	Local Public Authority	Public
Berceni	Local Public Authority	Public
Blejoi	S.C. General ME.EL Electric S.R.L.	Private
Brazi	Local Public Authority	Public
Bucov	S.C. TERMOELECTRICA S.A.	Public
Dumbrăvești	S.C. TERMOELECTRICA S.A.	Public
Târgșoru Vechi	S.C. TERMOELECTRICA S.A.	Public
Valea Călugărească	S.C. ELECTRICA S.A.	Public

Source: ANRSC

In Ploiești municipality, public lighting service has been delegated by concession to a private company (S.C. LUXTEN LIGHTING COMPANY S.A.) until 2013, when it was transferred temporarily to the company subordinated to the municipal authority - S.C. SERVICII DE GOSPODĂRIE URBANĂ S.R.L., but which does not hold ANRSC license for such activities. In 2015, there will be an open tender aimed at delegating the management by concession of public lighting service in Ploiești, to a licensed operator, selected by open tender for a period of 10 years, with possibility of extension, based on a new decision of Ploiești Local Council.

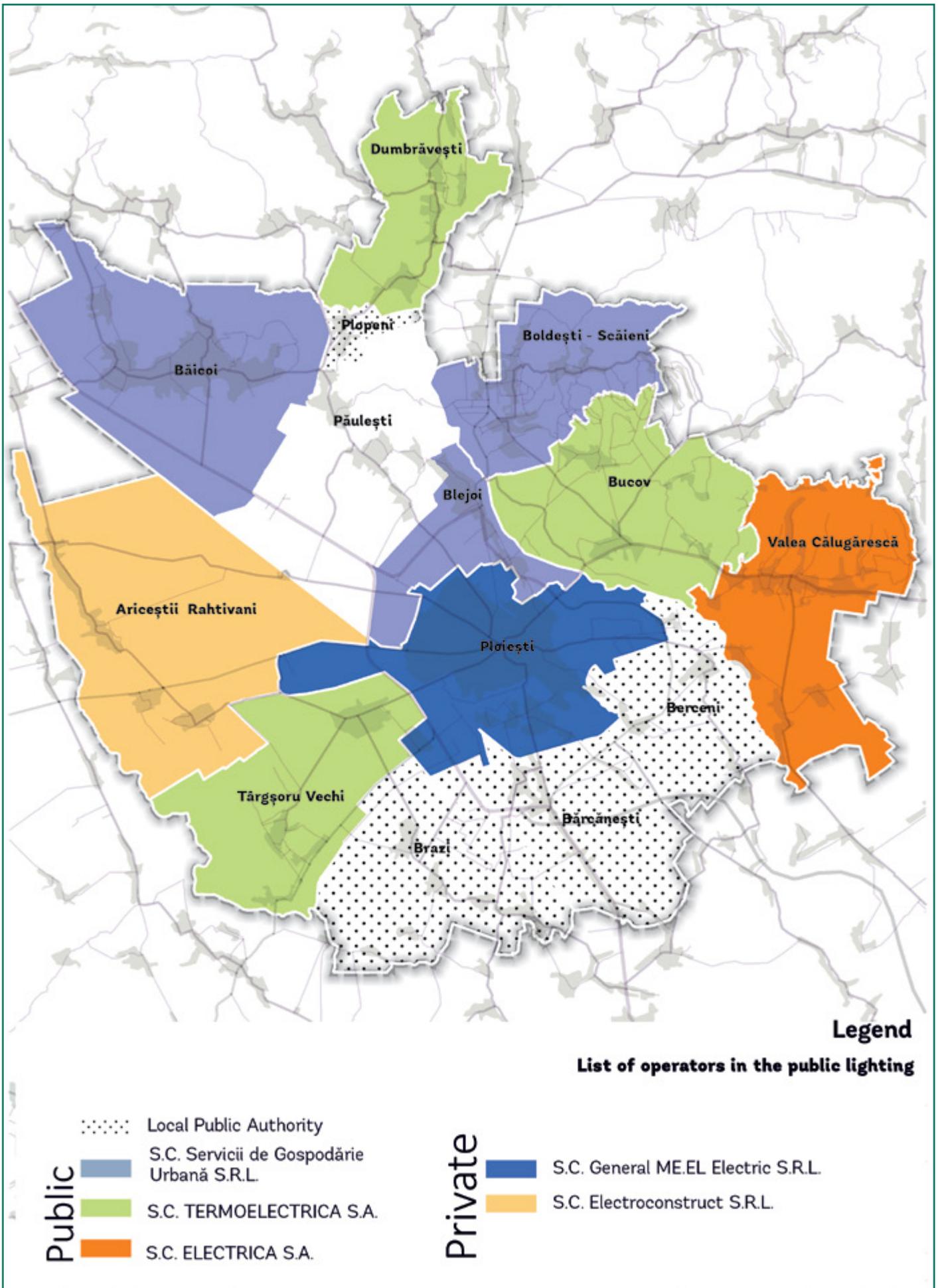
The public lighting network in Ploiești is 228.4 km long, covering almost the entire road network of the city, plus the power networks owned by SC Electrica SA. During 2001-2014, 4,165 pillars, 13,234 consoles 15,967 sodium vapor discharge lamps, 217,955 linear meters of network, 894 distribution boards, and 121 lighting points related to the public lighting network were rehabilitated. Replacing old mercury-based lamps with those based on sodium vapor had the effect of limiting the increase of electricity consumption compared to the early 90s, although in 2014 it increased by 9%, as compared to the numbers recorded in 2007. The increase in energy price the increase of the consumption value by 70.7% during 2007-2014, up to 5.2 million RON annually, i.e. about 1% of the total expenditure incurred from the local budget.

Figure 63. Electricity consumption of the public lighting system in Ploiești during 2007-2014



Source: Autonomous Public Service Undertaking of Ploiești

Map 75. Operators in the public lighting



However, with a consumption of 595 kWh per lighting pole, the consumption in Ploiești is slightly higher than in Cluj-Napoca, but is lower than in other growth poles. Tariff for public lighting depends on the times of the day. For example, 1 kWh of electricity costs RON 0.7, including VAT, during peak hours, and only half of this amount (RON 0.35) outside the peak hours. In winter, the lights are on from 17:30 to 07:30, while in summer, they are on from 22:00 to 05:30.

Public lighting poles equipped with new sodium vapor lamps



Source: World Bank. 2013. TRACE: Improving energy efficiency in Ploiești

A few years ago, the operator tried to implement an innovative lighting system, which was very effective, but expensive, by installing more LED bulbs in one of the city's parks. It was an ambitious pilot project, which sought to demonstrate that an effective solution can be used on street lighting. Although it was appreciated by city administrators, this solution was considered very expensive and soon the pilot project was abandoned.

Currently, the system allows the street lighting supplier to be informed in due time, by a simple phone call, of any problem that arises in connection with lighting poles or lamps. Often people call the dispatch center during the first 10 minutes from the time a bulb fails. The fact that all streets in Ploiești are illuminated helps maintaining a low crime rate in the city.

Recently, the municipality has tried to introduce a centralized program to control light intensity, but unfortunately, there were some problems and some parts did not work. The residents of some streets where this program was implemented were against this system. As the contract with the municipality has reached its end, the operator responsible for the management by concession of the public lighting service did not want to continue with the program or to see what went wrong and fix the problem.

In the future, one of the very ambitious plans of RASP is to further improve the system and introduce public lighting with LEDs. However, for the moment, the municipality is aware that the city budget cannot sustain capital investment for such an effective, but very expensive solution.

1.5.2. Water supply and sewerage systems

Drinking water distribution services are provided at the Growth Pole level by a number of operators with majority state-owned or private capital, as follows:

Table 18. List of drinking water distribution operators by localities

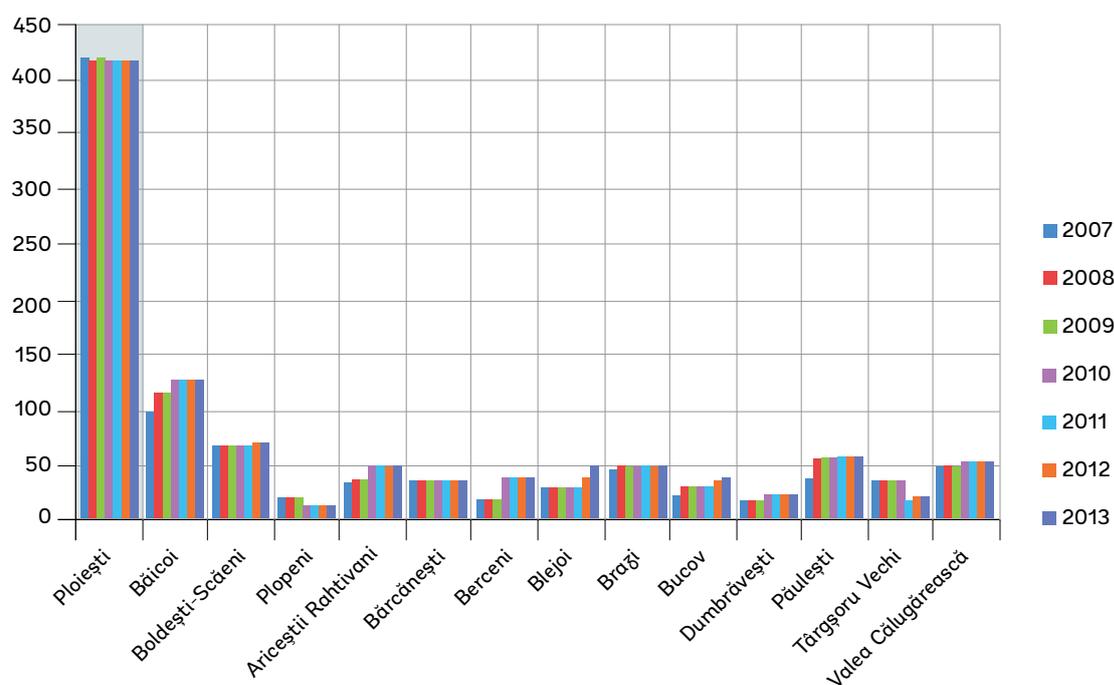
Operator	Majority capital	TAU where the service is provided
S.C. HIDRO PRAHOVA S.A.	Public	Băicoi, Plopeni, Dumbrăvești
S.C. JOVILA CONSTRUCT S.R.L.	Private	Boldești-Scăeni, Berceni, Blejoi, Bucov, Valea Călugărească
S.C. APA NOVA Ploiești S.R.L.	Private	Ploiești
S.C. CAPOLES SERV S.R.L.	Private	Bărcănești
S.C. AQUASAL UTILSERV S.R.L.	Public	Brazi
S.C. PAMA S.R.L.	Private	Păulești
S.C. SERVICIUL DE ALIMENTARE CU APĂ S.R.L.	Public	Ariceștii Rahtivani
SERVICIUL PUBLIC DE ALIMENTARE CU APĂ ȘI CANALIZARE	Public	Târgșoru Vechi

Source: ANRSC

As it can be seen, water supply and sewerage systems were given in concession by the local authorities to various private companies. This is the case with Ploiești municipality, Boldești-Scăeni city and Berceni, Blejoi, Bucov, Valea Călugărească, Bărcănești, and Păulești communes. The concession procedure targeted exclusively the management of the existing infrastructure and property, their upgrading, rehabilitation and maintenance, the performance of investments and network operation in exchange for annual royalties, while territorial-administrative units remained the owner of the infrastructure. For example, in the case of Ploiești municipality, the extension of the water and sewerage network is made by the municipal authority, the operator having an advisory and consultative role, while the responsibility for the connections lies with the operator or consumer, as appropriate. Therefore, they can still access funds for investments in water and sewerage infrastructure, less EU-funded programs that require the existence of a regional operator, such as SOP ENVIRONMENT 2007-2013. The only operator with this status is S.C. HIDRO PRAHOVA S.A., which is currently implementing a project with a grant from this program.

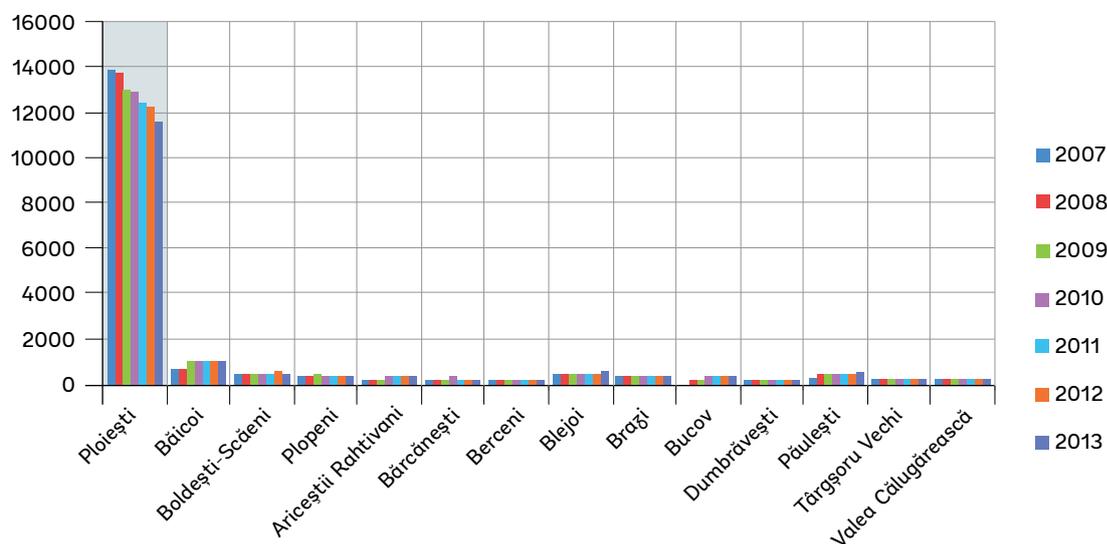
At the end of 2013, the simple distribution network of drinking water from Ploiești Growth Pole was 1,043 km long, increasing by about 115 km (+12%) as compared to 2007. The most important water network expansions were recorded in Băicoi city (+26 km) and in Blejoi (+21 km), Berceni (+20 km), Păulești (+18 km), Ariceștii Rahtivani (+15 km), and Bucov (+14 km) communes. On the other hand, in the Târgșoru Vechi commune, network length has been reduced by 14 km in the same period, and in the Plopeni city, by 6 km, the reasons being related either to the decommissioning of pipelines, due to their age, or of administrative nature. However, Ploiești continues to hold the largest distribution network of drinking water, with a total length of about 417 km, of which 20 km is the water feed network. Out of the 882 streets in Ploiești municipality, 817 are fully connected to a water supply network, 43-partially connected, and 22-not connected at all. Also, some areas of the city, such as Vega and Teleajen colonies, are to utility networks belonging to local operators, which have their own wells, and not to the public network, since the municipal authority could not make any investment here on reasons of land ownership-related restrictions. In this context, cadastral works must be completed to clarify the regime of land ownership, which also affects future investment in public utility network. Also, it should be borne in mind that in some areas there are no connection requests from individual consumers so as to justify significant investments for the expansion.

¹The total length of the simple water distribution is the length of tubes and pipes installed in the respective locality for the transport of drinking water from the feed pipelines or pumping stations to the consumers' connecting points. The length of the distribution network will be recorded as a simple network, taking into account that, if there are two or more pipes installed on the same street, their aggregate length will be considered. Both service networks and the distribution main and secondary roads will be included. The length of the connection pipes or the length of the feed pipelines is not included in the length of the distribution network. The length of the feed pipeline is not included, even if there are consumers connected to it.

Figure 64. Length of the simple distribution network for drinking water (km) by localities during 2007-2013

Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

Despite the continuous expansion of the distribution network, the amount of water supplied to consumers fell by 8.2% during 2007-2013 to 15,575 mil. m³ in 2013. Of the total drinking water produced, about 75% is billed to consumers.

Figure 65. Amount of water supplied to consumers (thousand cubic meters) by localities during 2007-2013

Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

Of this amount, 78.7% was distributed to households, and 21.3% to non-domestic users (economic operators, public institutions, etc.). As compared with 2007, household consumption fell by 4.4%, and the non-domestic one - by 20%. The causes regarding the consumption decrease of drinking water are multiple, including:

- decline of the stable population, given the negative natural growth and internal and external migration;
- shrinkage of the economic activity and modernization of production processes;
- increase of the consumption metering level and decrease in network losses, as a result of its modernization;
- voluntary decrease of water consumption, given its rising price and the decline of household incomes during the global crisis.

Map 76. List of the operators for the distribution of drinking water per municipality

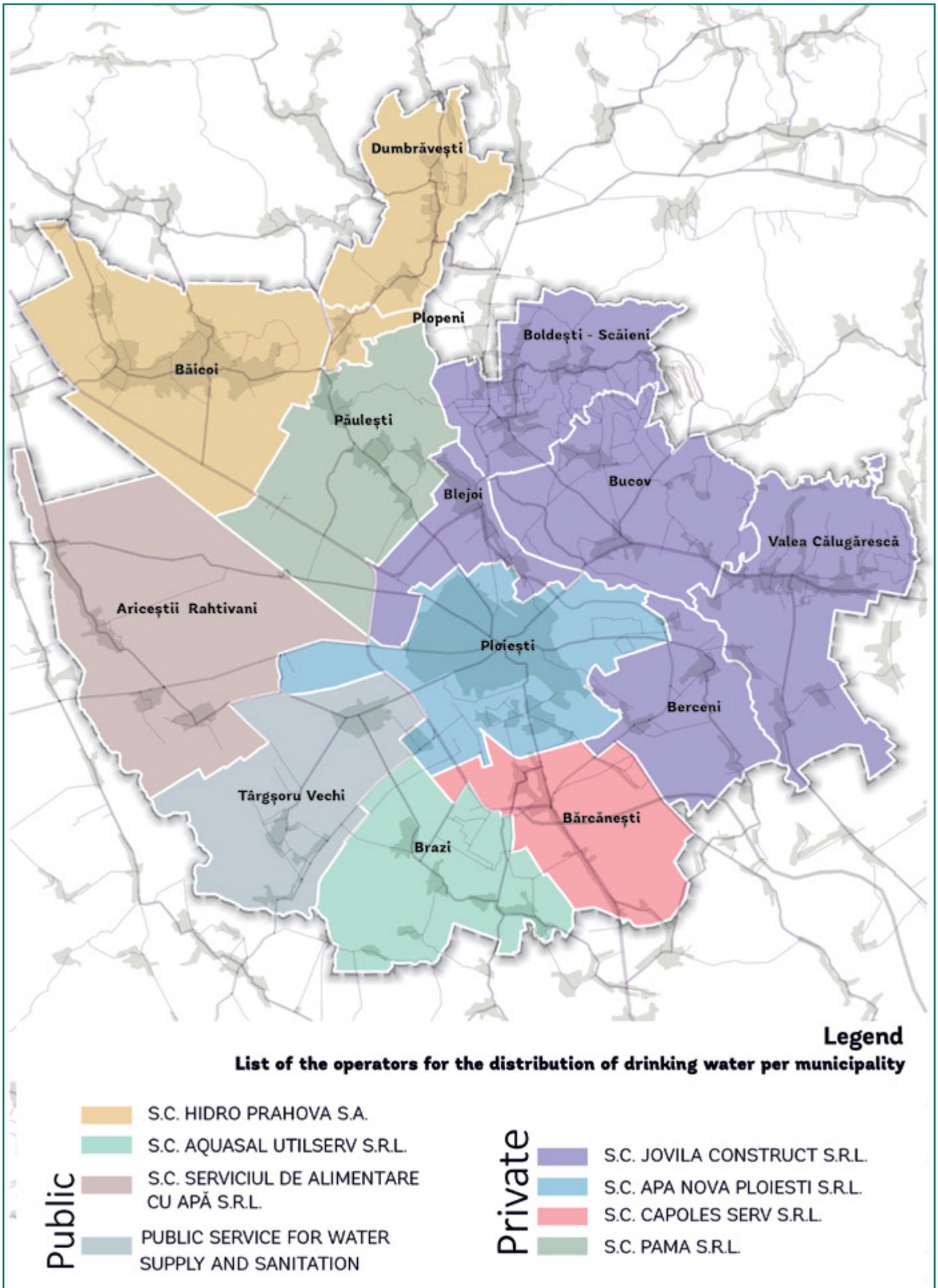
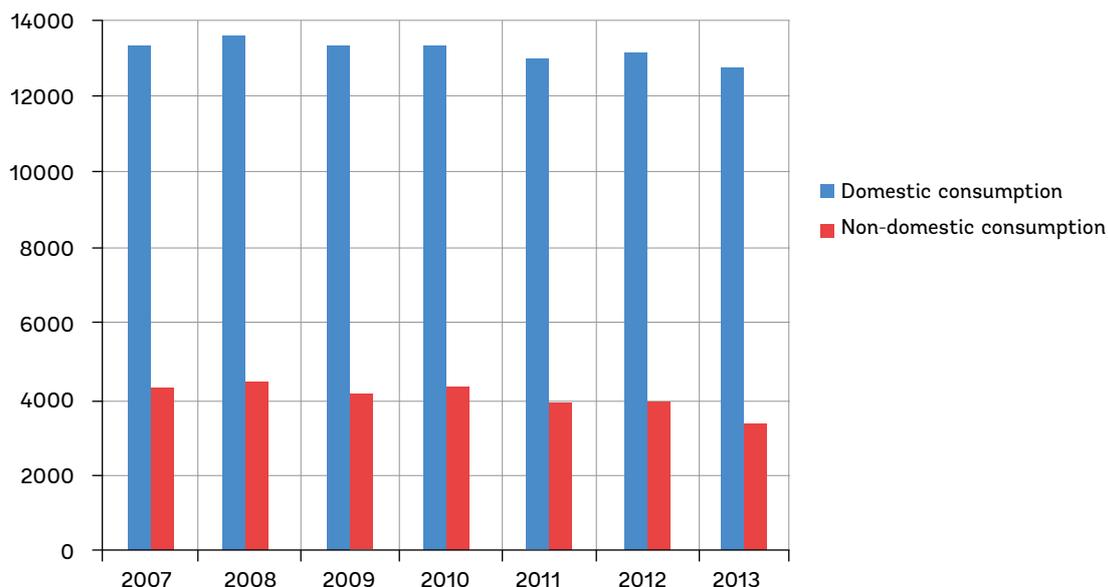


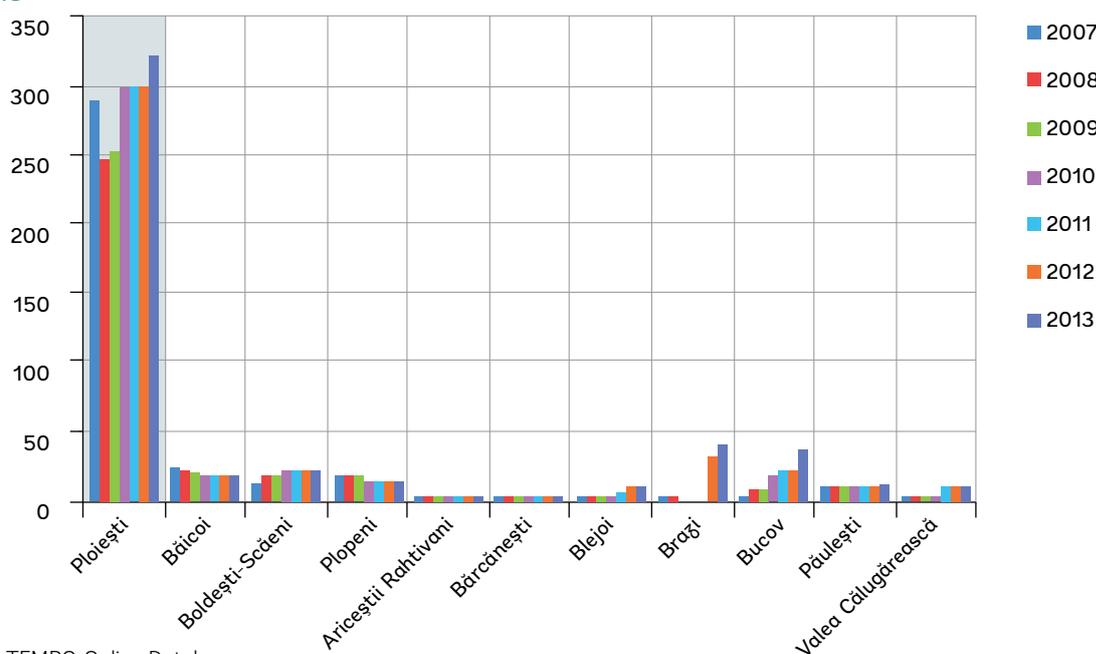
Figure 66. Amount of drinking water distributed in Ploiești Growth Pole (thousand cubic meters) by types of consumers during 2007-2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

The simple sewerage network in Ploiești Growth Pole was in 2013 only 486 km long, which is less than 50% of the length of the water distribution network in the same area. As compared with 2007, the sewerage network has however expanded by about 121 km (+31%), given the investments made mainly in Ploiești (+32 km), Brazi (+38 km), Bucov (+34 km), Blejoi (+8 km), Valea Călugărească (+7 km) communes, and Boldești-Scăeni (+10 km) city. Decreases in the length of the distribution network were recorded in Băicoi city (-7 km), either by the decommissioning of old pipes or by changes in their statistical classification. Therefore, at present, 3 communes from the Growth Pole still lack a sewerage system (Berceni, Dumbrăvești, and Târgșoru Vechi), but in two of them the network is limited to 1-2 km (Bărcănești, Ariceștii Rahtivani), the only satisfactory situation being in the communes that received grants (Bucov) or state budget funds (Brazi) for such investment.

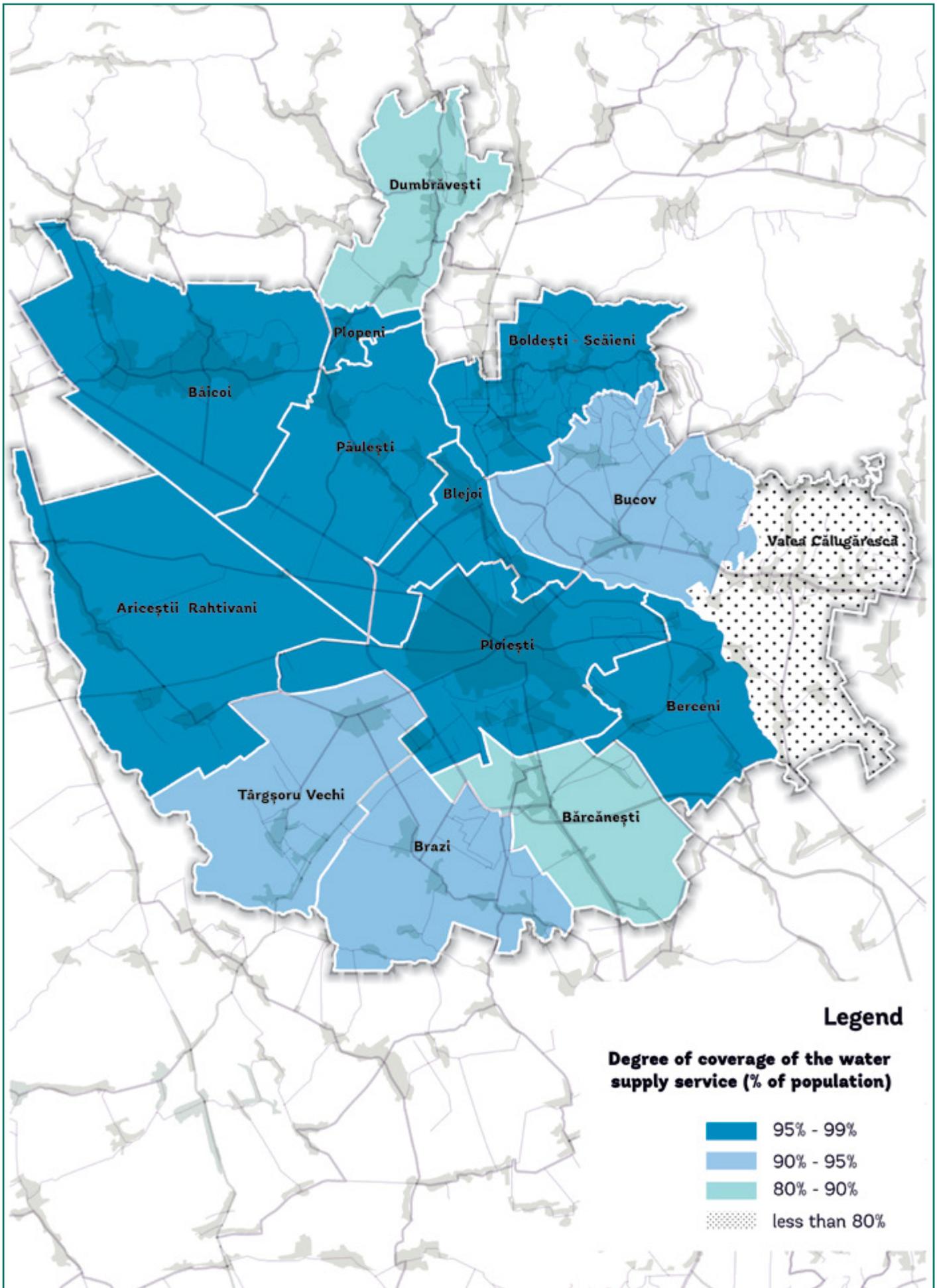
Figure 67. Simple sewerage network length (km) at the level of Ploiești Growth Pole during by localities during 2007-2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online Database

² The simple total length of the sewer pipes is the length of the channels (tubes) through which waste water (municipal, industrial, etc.) and rainfall water within the locality with public sewerage are collected and discharged, starting from the connection pipe chamber of buildings with sewerage facilities to the discharge of wastewater into a natural outlet. Both sewerage (service) networks and primary and secondary sewers are included. In the event the ducts are placed in several rows on the same street, their overall length is considered. Connections to buildings are not included.

Map 77. Degree of coverage(%) of the water supply service



The sewerage network in Ploiești is about 328 km long. Out of the 882 streets in the city, 664 are completely serviced by a sewerage system, 60 are partially serviced by a sewerage system, and 158 do not have a sewerage system at all.

In the case of Ploiești municipality, water supply and sewerage services are provided by S.C. APA NOVA PLOIEȘTI S.R.L., a company with private majority capital (VEOLIA EAU Group - 73%), but in which TAU Ploiești has also a stake of 27%. This company was given in concession water supply and sewerage services by the municipality in 2000 and for a period of 25 years, being at that time the first public-private partnership in the field of public utilities in Romania.

The company has currently about 22,000 clients and over 200,000 inhabitants who benefit from its services. The metering level is of 100%, and some of the company's services, including the communication of the index, permit requests, consumption calculation, or information on water quality and payment can also be provided online. There is also a Customer Center, opened in 2003 and available 24 hours a day. The tariff for drinking water in 2015 is RON 3.42/m³, and for sewerage is RON 1.46/m³, VAT included, i.e. the lowest level of those registered in all county capitals in Romania, and 45% lower than the highest one recorded nationally. The tariff did not increase in the last years, despite the fact that there is a decision of the Local Council in this regard since 2006. The degree of bill collection is over 99%, a very good disconnection program being in place in case of default.

The operator supplies water to city residents from 2 types of sources:

- underground sources (Crângul lui Bot, North-east and North-west capture zones, i.e. 82% of total water consumption in the city);
- surface sources - Paltinul storage lake (18%).

Approximately 1,000 samples are taken monthly to test water quality, indicating water compliance with national potability standards.

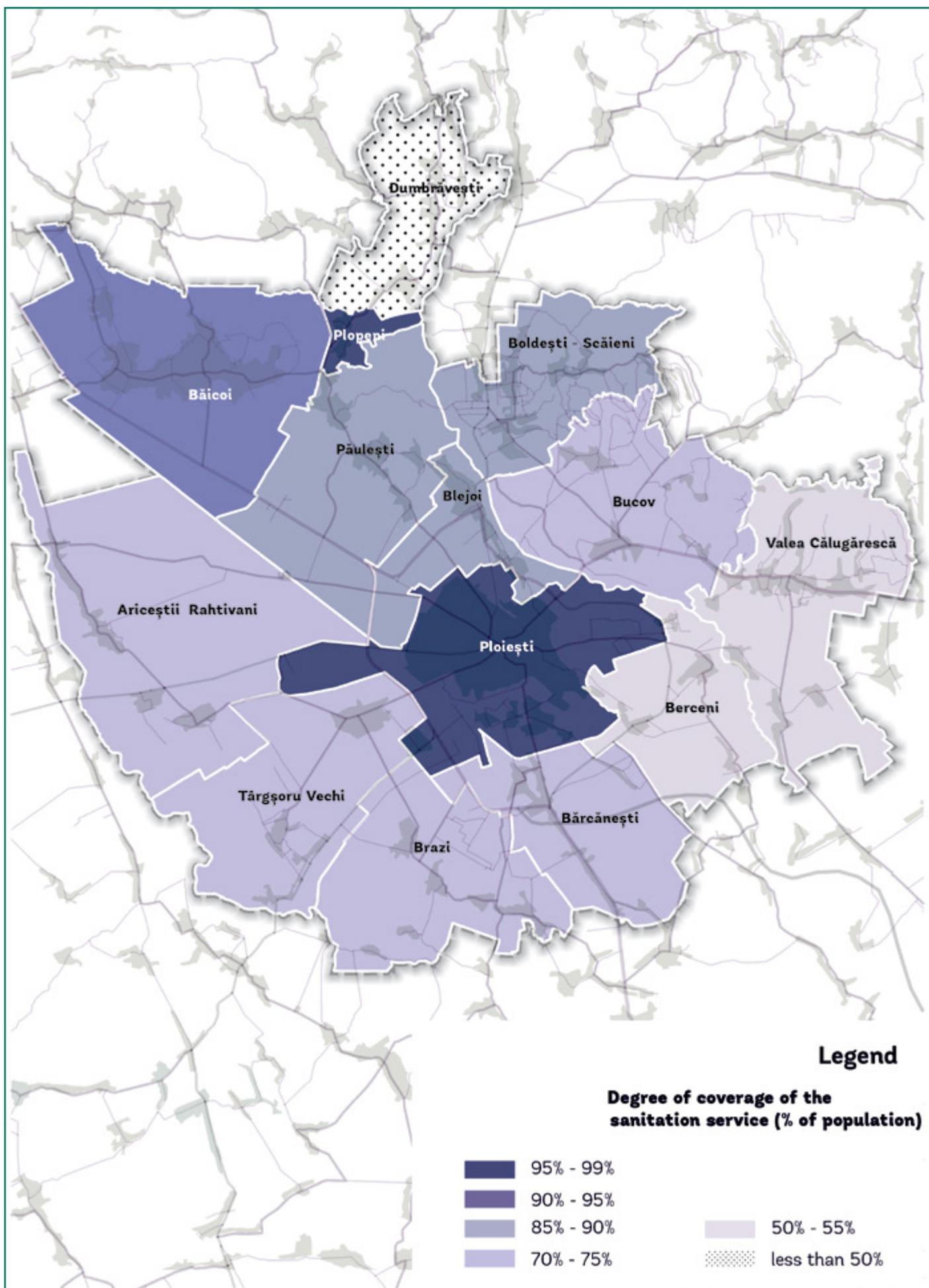
As for the sewerage service, the company collects annually about 15-16 million m³ of wastewater and treats over 20 million m³. The sewerage system of the city is a mixed one, waste, industrial, and meteoric water being taken by the two main collectors. In times of very heavy rainfall, excess water can be discharged directly into Dâmbu brook. The sewerage divider system occupies only a small area of the municipality (e.g. Ploiești North and Bereasca districts). The treatment plant of Ploiești is located in the south-east of the city and has a capacity of 1,200 l/s, Dâmbu brook being the outlet.

During the 15 years since it has been given in concession the water supply and sewerage services, APA NOVA PLOIEȘTI invested over 30 million EUR in modernization works, with the following results: the expansion of over 90 km of drinking water network, over 13,000 new or replaced connections, 1,600 valves installed or replaced, over 30 km of sewerage network restored and expanded, 4,000 new sewer connections, the acquisition of modern and performing equipment, own SCADA system, etc. The company has over 250 employees in total (about 3 times less as compared with the time of the concession), generating profit and having a labor productivity 2.5 times higher than the average of the other relevant operators in Romania.

As regards the regional water and sewerage operator in the county - S.C. HIDRO PRAHOVA S.A., it provides services in the cities of Băicoi, Plopeni, in the Dumbrăvești commune all located in Ploiești Growth Pole, plus other 40 other urban and rural localities in the county, with a total of over 150,000 inhabitants, which joined the Intercommunity Development Association "Prahova Water Management Partnership". The price for drinking water supply was in 2015 RON 4.61/m³, while the cost for sewerage was RON 3.03/m³, VAT included, higher than in Ploiești, one of the reasons being the lower density of HYDRO PRAHOVA consumers and the need for financial support in the case of projects carried out with European funds.

The main sources of drinking water supply in Ploiești Growth Pole are the surface ones: Paltinul systems for Băicoi and Plopeni, respectively Măneciu for Plopeni. Water supply from underground sources is done from the capture zones Boldești-Lipănești (Plopeni and Boldești-Lipănești), 7000H well drilling and new well drilling - Pomicola H (Băicoi). The water collected from surface and underground sources is transported to the households of the localities through feed pipelines. Ariceștii Rahtivani, Valea Călugărească, Bucov, Blejoi (partially), Berceni communes are supplied from underground sources (wells), while Bărcănești, Blejoi (partially), Brazi, Dumbrăvești, Păulești, and Târgșoru Vechi, from surface sources.

Map 78. Coverage of the sanitation service



Water treatment plants are located in Voila (for Paltinul Lake), Vălenii de Munte (for the Măneciu system), and Boldești (for Boldești-Scăeni city). Cities have their own water management systems, which collect water from underground and surface sources through waterworks and are equipped with storage tanks and water booster systems (Mechanical Plant of Ploeni; Băicoi, Tufeni, and Găgeni Canton – Băicoi; Boldești and Scăeni).

The water distribution network is outdated in most localities, generating in the network losses amounting to 50% of the water produced, and some rural or urban districts are not connected yet to the network yet. Small towns, such as Băicoi or Ploeni, benefited from investments from pre-accession funds (SAMTID/PHARE) for the rehabilitation and modernization of their water network (dams, treatment plants, feed pipelines, reservoirs, pumping stations, distribution networks). The biggest problems were identified in Ploiești, which, given that it could not access grants from SOP ENVIRONMENT 2007-2013, due to the absence of a regional operator for water and wastewater services, operator has not rehabilitated yet any of the water and sewage networks, including collectors and primary water supply pipelines (part of which is almost 100 years old). The project to modernize the wastewater treatment plant, which started with government funds, has been also abandoned for several years. The investment need for this target is about 3 million EUR, and a possible solution considered by the municipality is its transfer to APA NOVA, which would have to complete the works and operate the station.

There are several operational wastewater treatment plants in Ploiești localities (1200 l/s), Băicoi (27 l/s), Boldești-Scăeni (32 l/s), Ploeni (32 l/s), Bărcănești, Păulești, and Valea Călugărească, all featuring the secondary treatment stage (mechanical and biological). The outlet is Teleajen river (Ploeni, through Teiușului/Văcăriei brook, Boldești-Scăeni).

A number of communes have provided individual solutions for wastewater treatment, generally septic tanks or one-piece modules (e.g. Brazi and Ariceștii Rahtivani). The sewerage networks are old, even older than 40 years, and the rate of wastewater infiltration/seepage into the soil reaches 30-40%. Many old pipes are damaged on their whole sections, and large areas, even in urban settings, are not connected to a sewerage system (e.g. Mitică Apostol district in Ploiești; Tufeni, Țintea, Dâmbu - Băicoi), which generates a high health risk. Moreover, part of the wastewater is discharged directly into the outlet, without being treated. Wastewater of industrial origin is discharged by some economic operators directly into the Prahova, Ažuga, and Teleajen rivers, many industrial treatment plants having only a mechanical stage. It must not be ignored the fact that much of the river water, uncollected by separation systems, reaches the treatment plants and causes an increase of their operating costs unreasonably. The treatment plants are also old, the mechanical and biological equipment being outdated and worn-out, leading to the discharge of insufficiently treated water into the outlets. Tertiary stage treatment, which is required for all urban areas with a population equivalent of more than 10,000, has not been implemented yet, and the sludge is not properly stored and treated.

Starting from the above issues, a master plan has been drafted for water and wastewater infrastructure in the localities that are part of the IDA "Prahova Water Partnership" and the proposed operator in order to attract grants through SOP ENVIRONMENT 2007-2013 was S.C. HIDRO PRAHOVA S.A. The financing contract worth 162.7 million EUR, of which 116.5 million EUR from the Cohesion Fund, was signed in 2011. For the urban areas in Ploiești Growth Pole, the foreseen investments are the following:

1. Băicoi urban agglomeration - totaling 10.68 million EUR:

- New chlorination stations at Bobeica, Tufeni tanks, Băicoi Station, and Canton;
- Tufeni tank feed pipelines rehabilitation;
- New main collector (3.8 km) in Băicoi-Ploeni, DN 600-800;
- New wastewater pumping station;
- Network expansion in the localities / districts Băicoi Tufeni, Schela, Liliesți, Țintea, Dâmbu (44.5 km);

2. Ploeni urban agglomeration - totaling 8.28 million EUR:

- Wastewater treatment plant construction in Ploeni, with tertiary treatment stage, to serve Băicoi urban agglomeration;
- Extension of the sewerage network by 9 km in Ploeni.

With funds from the state budget, generally through MRDPA programs, several works for the expansion and modernization of water and sewerage network in the city of Băicoi have been completed or are in progress (water supply system, sewerage and treatment plant in Tufeni, Țintea, Dâmbu).

Annex 1.5.1. covers the regional master plan on water, including the designation of water systems and conurbations/ clusters eligible for investment. They concern in particular, the extension of the sewerage network in rural localities that still lack such a public network, but also the extension of the drinking water network.

1.5.3. Waste management

Based on the Environmental Report (EPA 2013), two documents on waste management were drafted in Prahova County:

County Waste Management Plan (CWMP 2008), approved by the Decision of the County Council no. 113/30.09.2008, which provides the framework for the development of of EU-funded municipal waste management projects. As well, it optimizes investments and operational costs of municipal waste management at county level and ensures, in the medium and long term, the development of integrated municipal waste management systems, with positive effects on the environment and human health.

The most important objectives of the CWMP are the following:

- extension of waste collection in rural areas that currently lack sanitation services;
- development of separate waste collection systems in order to achieve the recycling targets for packaging waste, electrical and electronic equipment waste, end-of-life vehicles;
- construction of waste treatment plants in order to achieve the targets for reducing the amount of biodegradable waste discharged in the storage facilities;
- closing the non-compliant storage facilities and the ecological rehabilitation of the sites;
- construction and operation of new compliant storage facilities.

Long Term Investment Plan for the period 2008-2038 on the Integrated Waste Management in Prahova county identifies the measures, for a period of 30 years, to be taken for the development of an integrated solid waste management system in Prahova county, in accordance with the legal obligations, by:

- defining a phased program of long-term investments in waste management for the county of Prahova;
- the development of adequate integrated waste management systems to ensure compliance with EU Directives;
- drafting support documents for funding applications;
- drafting procurement plans and tender documentation in accordance with national legislation on public procurement;
- increasing local capacity in the preparation and implementation of projects.

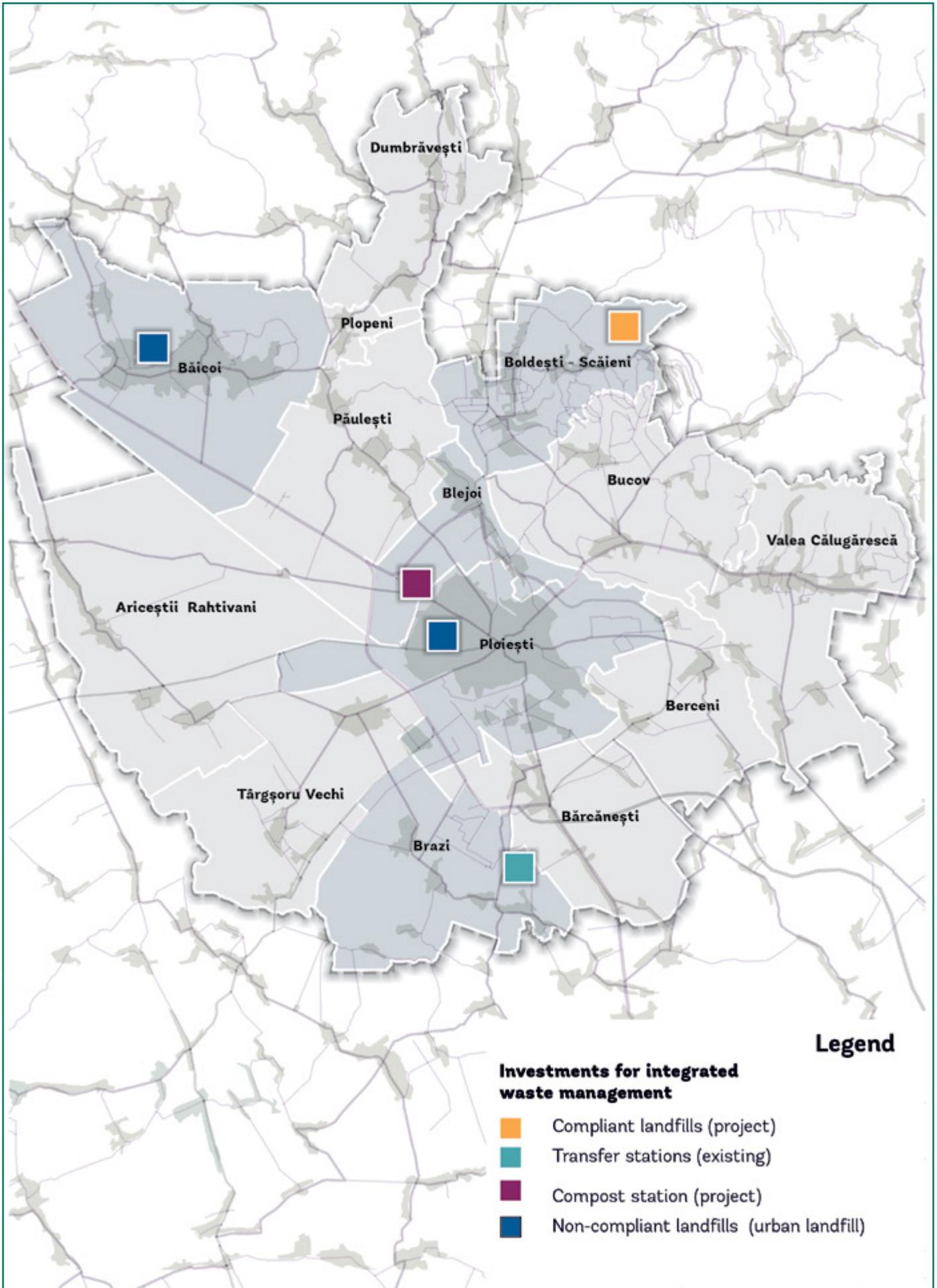
The plan assumes that the rate of waste generation will increase in urban areas by 2020 (from 1.21 kg to 1.32 kg mixed collected waste/inhabitant/day) and will decrease in rural areas (from 0.64 kg to 0.45 kg/inhabitant/day), and the increase of the connection level of the population to sanitation services up to 100% will generate a significant increase in the quantity of waste collected for all categories (household waste collected from population and economic operators, municipal waste, bulky waste from parks, gardens, markets, streets). As regards their composition, it is expected that the share of biodegradable waste will decrease from 58% to 48%, concomitantly with the increase of the plastic one (from 8% to 10.5%), paper and cardboard (from 9 to 10%), mineral, composite, and fiber (15% to 22%), especially due to the wide-scale implementation of selective collection.

The plan proposes, among other things, the following investment objectives relevant for the Growth Pole Ploiești:

- construction of a new storage facility in Ariceștii Rahtivani - Florești area;
- construction of a composting plant in Ploiești (on the location of the former non-compliant storage facility);
- construction of transfer stations at Brazi, Bușteni, and Urlați, including sorting and recycling plants in the last two.

The new storage facility would serve most of the county, less Vălenii de Munte area, Brazi transfer station, Brazi, Berceni, Bărcănești, Târgșoru Vechi communes, Urlați city and Valea Călugărească commune, while the rest of localities of the Growth Pole (Ploiești, Boldești-Scăeni, Plopeni, Bucov, Ariceștii Rahtivani, Dumbrăvești, Păulești, Blejoi) are due to transport waste directly to the Aricești-Florești storage facility, which is equipped with a sorting station.

Map 79. Investments for Integrated Waste Management in Prahova County by the year 2038



As regards waste collection, a dual selective collection system is proposed for 90% of the population, supplemented with voluntary submission points equipped with 3-bin recyclable fractions. Dual selective collection assumes the implementation of a 2-bin system (a dry one for recyclable waste, a wet one for biodegradable and recyclable waste of poor quality), operating under the “door-to-door” recycling regime. Mixed collection will be allowed only in central areas with high concentration of population. In addition, in rural areas, voluntary submission points of recyclable fractions will be of the “bring centers” - type, with 3 bins, individual composting in households being projected to reach at least 30% of household waste. Mixed collection will be accepted only in very small villages. Waste collection will be done in 120 l and 240 l bins for single and multi-family collection points, 1,100 l containers for multi-family collection points and for institutions and economic operators, 660 l containers for institutions and economic operators with small amounts of waste generated, bell containers for voluntary collection of glass, 1,100 l containers for the voluntary collection of paper and paperboard. The recommended means of transport are the dump trucks of 4 t and 8-12 t.

However, it should be noted that these investments, projected for a more distant time horizon (2038), have changed after the approval of the Plan, since, for 2007-2013, the funds allocated from SOP ENVIRONMENT were assigned to other objectives subordinated to the Integrated Waste Management System (IWMS) Prahova, which are detailed below.

Waste collection is not widespread in the county. In 2013, local authorities and sanitation operators collected household waste from 90% of the urban population and 44.86% of the rural population, which, at the county level, represents an average of 67.43% (according to the preliminary data reported by sanitation operators in the county).

In Prahova county, municipal waste management is carried out in an organized manner by sanitation companies or the local authorities' own specialized services. The reports received from sanitation companies operating in Prahova County indicated the following quantities of municipal waste collected from households and economic agents in 2013:

Table 19. Quantities of municipal waste collected in 2013

Type of collected waste	Quantity of waste (tons)
1. Household and similar waste - Total, of which:	142,686
- household waste from the population, mixed	107,107
- household and similar waste from economic units, commercial units, offices, institutions, hospitals	32,185
- municipal waste not otherwise specified	1,660
- household waste collected separately (without waste from construction, demolitions)	1,734
2. Municipal services waste - Total, of which:	33,007
- street waste	28,053
- market waste	1,820
- garden, park, and green space waste	3,134
3. Construction material waste and demolition waste	3,558
TOTAL municipal waste collected	179,251

Source: Sanitation operators

Municipal waste management

The municipal waste collection is performed by a private company - Rosal. In turn, Boldești-Scăeni landfill (in Ploiești Growth Pole) is administered by another private company - Vitalia. The amount of waste collected in Ploiești in 2012 was about 300 kg/person - the lowest value of the 7 growth poles in Romania. This is the result of several possible causes, such as the low level of socio-economic development, which is directly proportional to the waste generation index, incomplete collection of all the waste or differences in how waste was weighed.

In the other localities of Ploiești Growth Pole, collection is done by public or private operators, as follows:

Table 20. Sanitation operators in Ploiești Growth Pole by component localities

Component locality	Operator name	Ownership
Băicoi	S.C. FLORICON SALUB S.R.L.	Private
Boldești-Scăeni	S.C. VITALIA SERVICII PENTRU MEDIU S.R.L.	Private
Plopeni	S.C. SERVICII EDILITARE S.R.L.	Public
Ariceștii Rahtivani	S.C. COMPANIA ROMPREST SERVICE S.A.	Private
Bărcănești	S.C. ITECOL TEHNICA S.R.L.	Private
Berceni	S.C. ITECOL TEHNICA S.R.L.	Private
Blejoi	S.C. VITALIA SERVICII PENTRU MEDIU S.R.L.	Private
Brazi	S.C. AQUASAL UTILSERV S.R.L.	Public
Bucov	S.C. ITECOL TEHNICA S.R.L.	Private
Dumbrăvești	S.C. COMPANIA ROMPREST SERVICE S.A.	Private
Păulești	S.C. GCL S.A.	Public
Târgșoru Vechi	S.C. ECO SERVICIUL APĂ CANAL SALUBRIZARE S.R.L.	Public
Valea Călugărească	S.C. SERVICII SALUBRITATE BUCUREȘTI S.A.	Private

Source: ANRSC

Since 2012, selective waste collection has been introduced in Ploiești. Selective collection was done directly at source, not at the landfill, and impressive results were soon recorded. In 2013, for example, already a quarter of the household waste collected was recycled - one of the best collection rates in all the growth poles (only Cluj-Napoca had a better rate in 2013). For residential buildings, selective collection is done in two ways. City inhabitants are distributed special bags and holders for separate collection of recyclable material and organic waste, and the sanitation operator collects these bags directly from the residents.

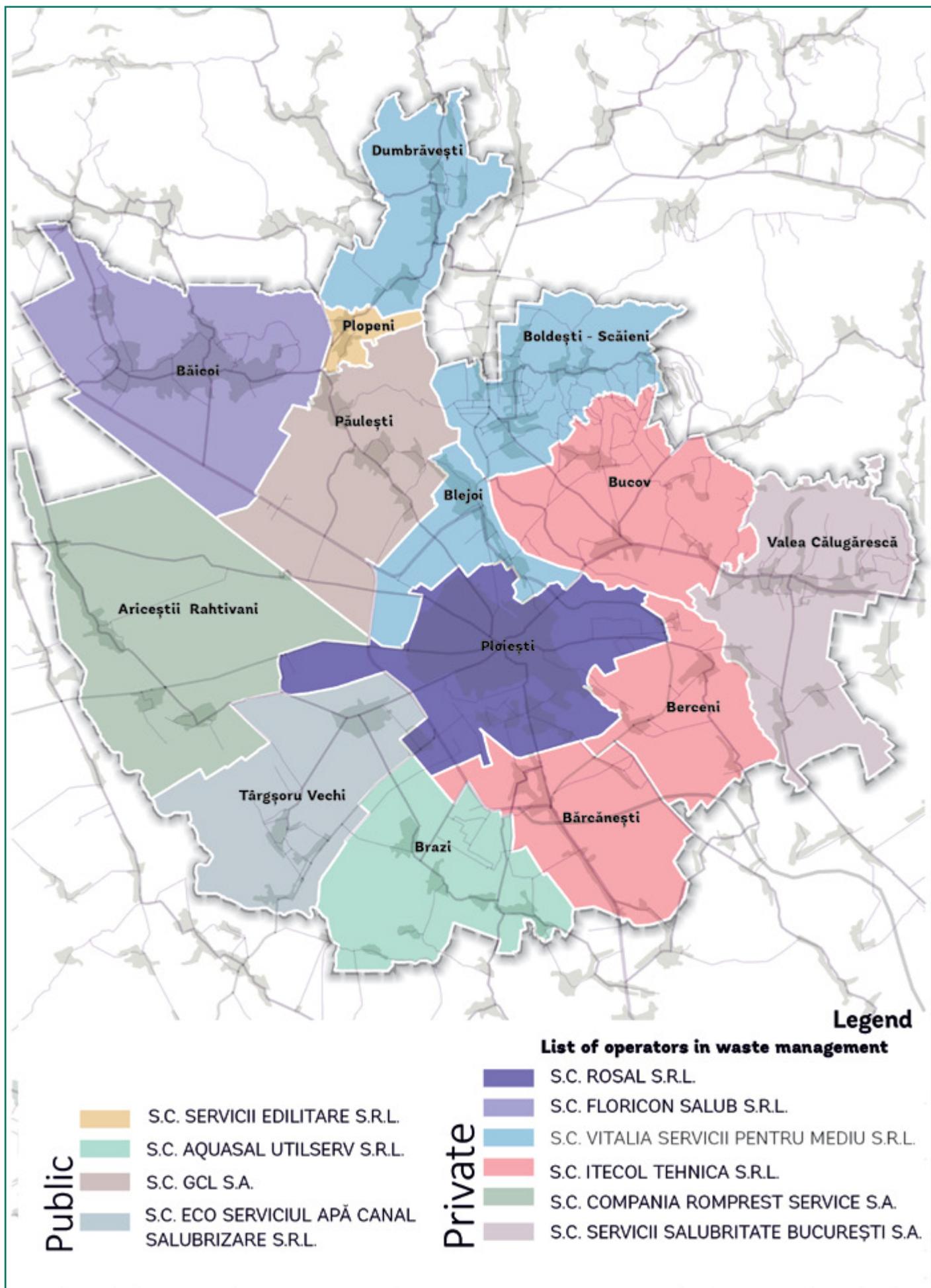
In residential buildings, waste is recycled in bags available on each floor. These bags are then collected in special containers located in different locations. Most of these containers are located near residential buildings. In the city, there are 260 selective collection points, where waste such as paper, glass, and plastic can be stored. In addition, there are 39 underground platforms, buried in the ground, only the cover being visible. The residents bring their trash bags to the buried containers, open the covers and throw the bags into the platforms that are several meters deep.

Buried platforms for solid waste (left) and special containers for selective collection (right)



Source: World Bank. 2013. TRACE: Improving energy efficiency in Ploiești

Map 80. List of waste management operators and coverage



The selective collection rate is higher at the household level than in residential buildings. The local authority provides incentives to encourage population in residential buildings to separate recyclable waste from the organic one, offering a 20% reduction in the collection tax if the minimum scale of 3.6 kg waste/person/month is reached.

Since 2012, there have been several information campaigns for the population carried out in Ploiești on selective waste collection and separation of plastic bottles, cans, and paper from organic garbage. The population reacted positively to these initiatives, fact proven by the percentage of selective collection in the city. Solid waste collection fee is RON 6/ person/month.

The municipal administration is taking steps to address the problem of construction waste originating from construction sites, demolitions and other related activities. Currently, there are no regulations on construction waste and no indication about their storage or about related charges. The local council wants to pass a decision requiring the constructor or construction companies to clearly specify, before beginning construction-related activities, what they intend to do with the waste resulting from construction / demolition and where they are going to store it.

In the other localities in Ploiești Growth Pole, the implementation of selective waste collection is at an early stage, the relevant infrastructure being poor, as well as people's awareness.

Most municipal waste collected in Prahova county, including those at the level of Ploiești Growth Pole, are transported and landfilled at the compliant storage facility in Boldești-Scăeni city, after the former non-compliant landfills in each city were closed. Since 2001, the ecologic landfill from Boldești-Scăeni, located 15 km away from Ploiești, has been operated by a private company, Vitalia Servicii pentru Mediu - Tratarea Deșeurilor S.R.L. The company owns 15 ha of land, of which 13 ha are cells in which solid waste is landfilled and stored. The landfill has six cells; currently, three of them are full, and one is operating at half capacity.

In total, the ecological landfill can store 3 million tons of garbage; up to now, there have already been deposited 1.2 million tons, the estimated service life being up to 2027. The landfill handles nearly 80% of the waste collected in Prahova county, including waste collected in Ploiești by Rosal. The ecological landfill serves 600,000 people. Approximately 130,000 tons/year are discharged here, and the storage fee is RON 59.22/ton.

Vitalia landfill has the capacity to produce biogas, a project worth 2 million EUR being already implemented for an installed capacity of 0.6 MW, which will subsequently increase to 1 MW. Vitalia plans to invest several other million EUR to produce 6 to 8 MW of electric and thermal energy through a gasification process. The production of a kWh of biogas is cheaper than the production of energy from other renewable sources.



The ecological landfill is one of the most modern and best equipped facilities of its kind in Eastern Europe. All activities of the landfill are automated and are performed using high-tech equipment. Trucks carrying the waste are weighed at the gate and the operator immediately issues documents with the date and amount of the garbage discharged. Waste dumping monitoring is computerized, allowing the company to have accurate records of the amount of landfilled garbage.

Vitalia operates the ecological landfill using 6-8 trucks, including a compactor and some large machinery. Currently, there is no sorting station. Such a plant is included in the master plan on solid waste and is to be built near the landfill, with funding from SOP ENVIRONMENT 2007-2013. The landfill has a plant for leachate treatment by reverse osmosis - allowing water treatment - in which the operator has invested about 650.000 EUR, excluding VAT. Leachate treatment plant has a processing capacity of 3 m³/h and a recovery rate of 70%, the remaining 30% being re-injected.

The Prahova integrated waste management system is a complex project of approximately 36 million EUR (excluding VAT), financed by the European Union through the Operational Program Environment 2007-2013. The contract for the solid waste plan was signed in 2013 and includes the following components:

- closing the non-compliant storage facility in Ploiești, with an area of 31 ha, and building waste transfer stations in Bușteni/Sinaia and Urlați.
- building a recyclable waste sorting station in Boldești-Scăeni, with a capacity of 45,000 tons/year;
- building a mechanical and biological treatment plant for biodegradable waste in Ploiești, near the former non-compliant storage facility;
- purchasing IWMS-related equipment to equip member TAUs of IDA with 2-fraction bins, containers for selective collection, composters, etc.;
- procuring technical assistance services for project management, supervision, and checking of works, auditing, advertising.

The system will include components that were completed previously from other funding sources, such as pre-sorting plant in Drăgănești.

These works started in 2014 and will be completed during 2016-2017. Investments made under the project will be accompanied by investments from sanitation operators' own funds, targeting mainly the purchase of collecting equipment and the rest of the bins (20-30% of the total).

Once the investment is completed and the sanitation operators are designated in each area of the county by auction, the solid waste management policy will require that collection and storage charges are accessible to the population, and thus they will be established considering a maximum value. Ploiești Growth Pole is located entirely in zone II of IWMS, so that a single operator will provide sanitation services for a period of 10 years, and the contracts of each local authority with various subordinated or private operators will be terminated.

By 2025, the disposal of waste collected in Prahova county will be done at the two compliant storage facilities in Boldești-Scăeni and Vălenii de Munte, operated by the private company Veolia, respectively by the Company of Public Services and Renewables, a state company subordinated to the county administration. The latter manages the other ecological landfill in the county, located in Vălenii de Munte and established in 2005. This landfill serves less than a quarter of the county population, 48,000 tons of solid waste being deposited there annually. It is equipped with an installation that produces a small amount of energy by the gasification process, but, because the mud flow is not constant, the gas concentration is not very high. The obligation to recover recyclable waste lies with the operator managing the sorting plants.

For the period 2014-2020, investments for the completion of IWMS are expected, aimed primarily at biogas recovery from the waste mechanical and biological treatment plant in Ploiești. As well, the following could be considered: implementation of the system of underground bins in urban areas, provision of new equipment, and solving the waste disposal problem after 2025, when the storage at Boldești-Scăeni will reach its maximum capacity. Another local problem is the lack of inert waste storage facilities, which could be acquired through public-private partnership.

Public-private partnership (PPP) in the field of solid waste in the county of Prahova is an example that such mechanisms can work in Romania. However, there is more to be done to further improve this area. The PPP model is not working as it should, because the legal framework is deficient and contains provisions that do not clearly define the role of public and private companies and how they should interact. On the other hand, the most challenging factor is the duration of the partnership and its operating period. Banks are not willing to lend money for short-term projects, of 3-5 years, and prefer programs that are spread over a longer period of time.

Industrial waste management

Economic activities with the largest amounts of waste production in the county are the following:

- gravel and sand extraction;
- manufacture of products from crude oil processing;
- coal mining and preparation;
- electricity production;
- manufacture of machinery for extraction and construction;
- wood sawmilling and planing.

Storage of hazardous and non-hazardous industrial waste

In the county of Prahova, in 2013 there were two operating industrial waste storage facilities:

- one hazardous waste storage facility, located in Ariceștii Rahtivani commune, Târgșoru Nou village, managed by S.C. Ecomaster Servicii Ecologice S.R.L., with a design capacity of 1,576,000 tons and a volume of 985,000 m³, operating in the first place with a 212,000 m³ cell;
- one non-hazardous industrial waste storage facility, located in Băicoi city, managed by S.C. Vitalia Salubritate Prahova S.R.L., with a design capacity of 1,100,000 m³, operating in the first place with a 300,000 m³ cell.

Waste generated from medical activities 2013

For 2013, a number of 15 hospitals reported to Prahova County Public Health Department. The amount of (infectious and stinging) medical waste generated by hospitals went up to 170 tons. The final disposal of hazardous medical waste generated by the hospitals in the county is done by incineration in authorized installations.

Another alternative regarding waste treatment is the neutralization by thermal sterilization of medical hazardous waste in the health unit (own equipment), the treated waste (non-hazardous) being stored in the municipal landfill. Such medical waste treatment is performed in the facility owned by Ploiești County Emergency Hospital. The amount of hazardous medical waste collected and incinerated in 2013 went up to 537 tons.

In Prahova county, two companies were authorized in terms of health and environmental protection to carry out the collection and transport of medical waste: S.C. ActisServ S.R.L. Ploiești and S.C. DežinserServ S.R.L. Ploiești.

1.5.4. Heating system

The heating system in Ploiești is managed by Dalkia Termo Prahova, a private company that owns 87.2% of the Dalkia Romania shares, part of French group Veolia. The remaining 12.8% of the shares are distributed equally between the local authority of Ploiești and Prahova County Council. Dalkia has been responsible for managing the heating system in the city since 2004, when the company signed a 15-year concession agreement with the two institutions mentioned above. The contract, which resulted from and is based on indicators which do not take into account the losses on the network, is valid until 2019 and may be extended after the expiry of the initial period. The company is responsible for the entire process, from production to distribution of heat through a mixed system of electricity and heat. The plant is located in Brazi, 10 km from Ploiești, and, along with the central primary network, is owned by the county administration, while the secondary network is owned by the municipality.

According to the contract signed in 2004 with the local government, Dalkia has to invest 25 million EUR in network modernization and equipment to increase the efficiency of the system. By 2015, the company had already invested 27 million EUR in this regard. For example, the new gas turbine of the Brazi plant was commissioned in 2010, as part of projects worth 53 million RON aimed at increasing the efficiency of heat production. Here are the values of such investments by objectives:

- RON 14 million for investment in the secondary network;
- RON 16 million for investment in the primary network;
- RON 2 million for investment in environmental compliance;
- RON 20 million for investment in improvement;
- RON 30 million for investment in security.

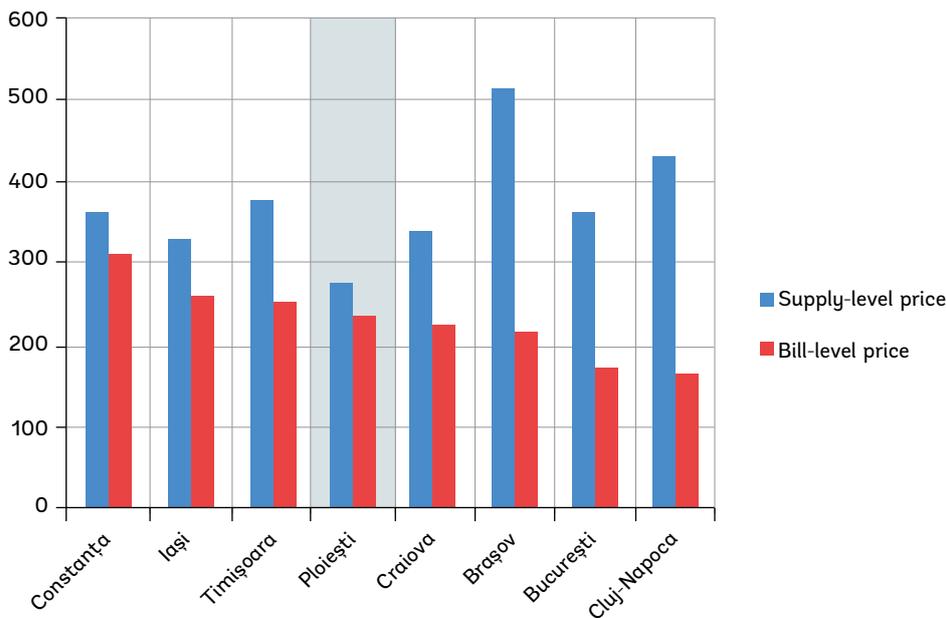
Dalkia supplies heat and hot water for about 57,800 flats in blocks (85% of all apartments in Ploiești) through a number of 2,287 connections, and serves over 100,000 people, i.e. nearly half of the city's population. In addition, Dalkia supplies heat for more than 30 municipal buildings and about 700 economic operators. Dalkia customer structure is as follows: 66.9% residential customers, 31.65% economic and industrial operators, and only 1.38% public buildings. The company's industrial customers include prestigious companies, such as OMV Petrom and TIMKEN.

The plant in Brazi has 2 steam turbines x 105 MW, a 50 MW steam turbine, a 25 MW + 29 MW gas turbine, a 1 MW gas engine and 2 MW steam turbine. Usually, turbines operate, on average, 9 months per year and use 600,000 m³ of natural gas for hot water production. In addition, heating units (substations) in Ploiești can produce 475 MW heat. Plants use both natural gas and coal and can use a mixed technique, given that they have the ability to simply switch from one fuel type to another. In winter, natural gas consumption is three times higher than in summer. It should be noted that Brazi plant is directly connected to TRANSGAZ distribution infrastructure and has its own plant for regulating and metering gas pressure.

The length of the primary network is 62 km, of which 62% is underground and 38% is at surface. The length of the secondary network is 92 km. Most of the network was built in the 60s. So far, half of the 88 substations in the city were modernized with EBRD financing.

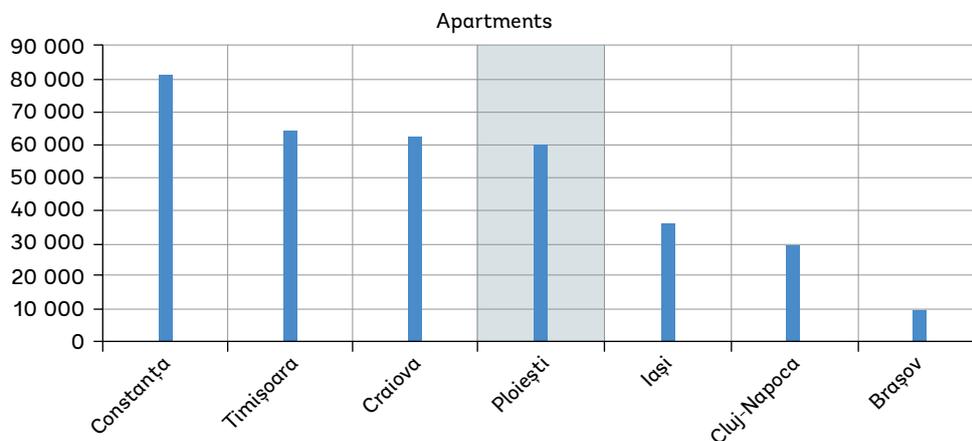
Replacing eight kilometers of pipelines in 2004 contributed to the significant improvement of the efficiency of the system starting with that year, requiring 30% less natural gas. Before finalizing the program for increasing system efficiency, 300 m³ were needed to produce one Gcal of heat, compared to only 200 m³ currently required. It also reduced the consumption of water and electricity. From 2005 to 2010, hot water consumption decreased by 50%, from 250,000 tons/year to approximately 100,000 tons/year. Similarly, electricity consumption has reduced significantly, from 100,000 MWhe in 2005 to 60,000 MWhe in 2010.

Energy savings and low fuel consumption contributed to the improvement of the heating system performance, including the boilers and turbines. For example, turbine performance in the cold weather increased from 36.8% in 2004 to 43% in 2010, while thermal power supply increased from 94.02% in 2004 to almost 100% in 2011. At present, the central heating system can lead to an efficiency of 75% when outside temperature is 0°C, and 76% when the temperature increases to 4°C. The maximum temperature of hot water is 110°C.

Figure 68. Price of Gcal supply and billing at the growth poles' level in Romania in January 2015

Source: ANRSC

In this context, the heating system of Ploiești is attractive, succeeding to remain competitive, managing to stay competitive as compared with the trend noted in other growth poles (Cluj-Napoca, Brașov, Iași) where people disconnect from the centralized system and installing individual heating plants, which operate with natural gas.

Figure 69. Number of apartments connected to the district heating system at the level of growth poles in Romania in January 2015

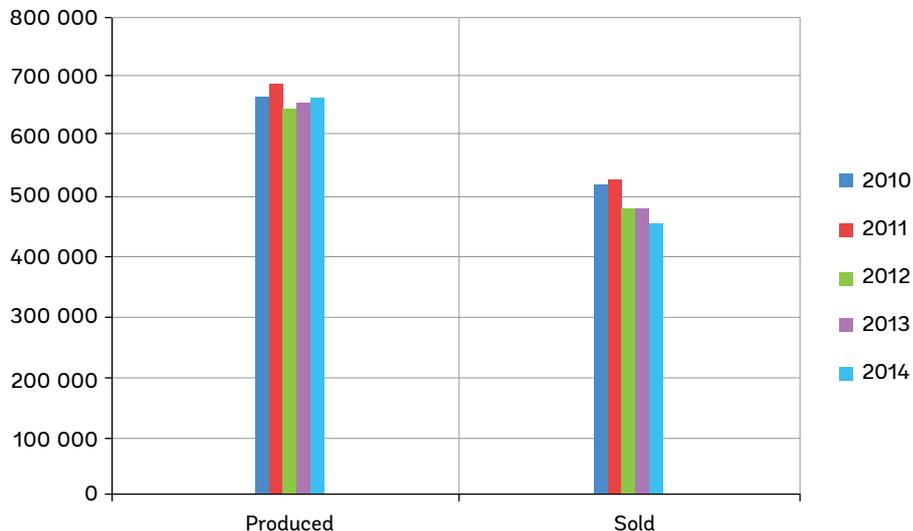
Source: ANRSC

The heat is distributed during the cold season, about five months a year, and is only provided if the temperature drops to 10°C for three consecutive nights. Hot water/heat distribution is done vertically. In this case, if a client (apartment) does not pay the bill on time (the claims recorded by the company amount to about RON 2 million/year), the whole building may be affected, including residents who paid their bills. The company may disconnect the building from the district heating network, heat and hot water supply being cut off in all apartments until the remaining bills are paid. On the other hand, the implementation of horizontal distribution, in addition to the high cost of investment, raises risks of energy losses, in which case it would impose a binomial price. About 20-30% of the buildings in the city now have individual heat consumption metering systems and all the connections are metered by the company.

The thermal rehabilitation of hundreds of apartments in Ploiești has contributed to maintaining a high level of comfort in old residential buildings, where, in the past, residents were suffering from cold and used to receive heat and water service of poor quality.

However, despite the efforts to improve efficiency and maintain heat price at the lowest level in Romania, Ploiești heating network is facing a number of difficulties. The main problem is the heat loss due to leakage of hot water from the network. At present, technical and commercial losses in the network are estimated at 25%. However, compared to most cities in Romania, including other growth poles, such as Brașov and Cluj-Napoca, Ploiești is doing much better in this respect.

Figure 70. Amount of heat (Gcal) produced at the CET limit and sold in Ploiești



Source: DALKIA TERMO PRAHOVA

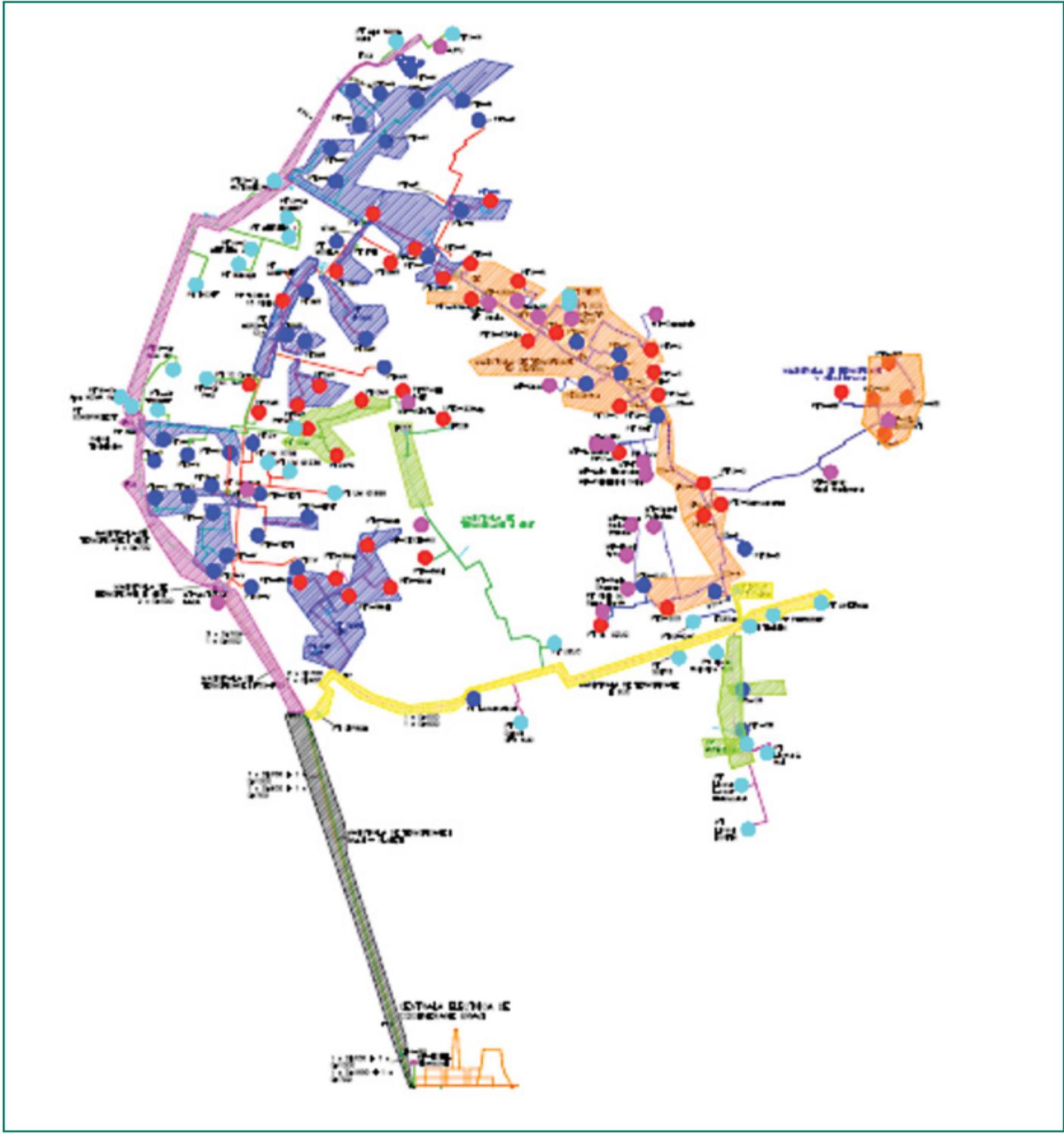
Heat losses affect the collection of heat and hot water bills. The main losses are those in the network and are caused by the age of the pipes. Although the network has an average age of 32.3 years, a younger age compared to other systems in the country, the pipes are made of low quality materials. Although the company has invested millions of EUR in various programs to improve the efficiency of the system, the problem of network losses is still unresolved. Dalkia Termo Prahova has implemented a SCADA system, but this tool cannot identify network problems. Last evaluation of losses in the pipelines was performed in 2010.

Although locally there are only about 300 official disconnections from the centralized network/year, they increase environmental risks and overcharge the bills of the other residents who remain connected to the system, due to thermal imbalances, given that the current legislation does not impose restrictions regarding the disconnection from these systems.

In this context, an investment plan for the district heating network in Ploiești has been developed for 2025, targeting projects worth more than 100 million EUR for the modernization of the primary and secondary heat network. Other solutions using biomass and similar renewable resources for the production of heat and electricity could be added.



Map 81. Proposed investments in the district heating network of Ploiești for the period 2015-2020



- Year 2015
- Year 2016
- Year 2017
- Year 2018
- Year 2019
- Year 2020

LEGENDĂ

- Thermal substation (modernised)-urban consumers
- Thermal substation (unmodernised)-urban consumers
- Thermal substations=tertiary consumers+industrial
- Thermal modules

The sections that were not measured will enter the modernisation process in the 2021-2025 period.

Source ANRSC

1.5.5. Completed / ongoing projects

During 2007-2013, works for the extension and rehabilitation of the water and wastewater (including treatment) infrastructure were started in Băicoi and Ploieni agglomerations. They amounted to more than EUR 20 million and were co-financed through SOP ENVIRONMENT 2007-2013. In addition, funds from the government and from private operators were allocated for the same purpose for the cities of Ploiești and Băicoi, but also for a part of the rural areas. Ploiești local authority has performed with its own funds works for the expansion and modernization of the water supply and sewerage network in several areas of the city, most of them being directed to the following districts: Bereasca, Mihai Bravu, Peneș Curcanul, Malu Roșu, Gh. Doja, Râfov, and Găgeni.

For the period 2014-2020, the Master Plan for Water-Sewerage of Prahova county provides investments for the expansion of the related infrastructure, especially in the rural parts of the Growth Pole that lack water and sewerage networks or where such networks cover their area only partially, so that all agglomerations of over 2,000 p.e. should be connected by 2018. In this respect, the European funds will be accessed through LIOP 2014-2020, NRDP 2014-2020, but state-budget funds will also be available through programs as NLPD.

In the field of integrated waste management, investments of around EUR 43 million, including EU co-financing through SOP ENVIRONMENT 2007-2013, are currently under implementation. They are targeted towards the construction of transfer stations (Boldești-Scăeni), sorting stations (Boldești-Scăeni), garbage composting plants (Boldești-Scăeni), mechanical and biological treatment plants (Ploiești), greening of the former non-compliant storage facility in Ploiești, and the purchase of equipment and vehicles for waste collection. In parallel, sanitation operators have invested in the improvement of transport and collection infrastructure and in the implementation of selective collection, and the company that owns the compliant storage facility in Boldești-Scăeni invested capital in order to use better the waste, including for energy purposes (biogas). During 2014-2020, the County Master Plan in the field of waste is aimed at additional investments supplementing the integrated system with new stations for water transfer and compaction, new storage facilities, purchase of equipment for increasing the share of waste collected selectively.

Currently, an investment for the establishment of the West Municipal Park, worth over RON 50 million and co-financed from ROP 2007-2013, is under implemented. At the end of the project, the park will have an area of 50 hectares and will become a major attraction for the residents of the Growth Pole. As well, the municipal authority allocated annually from the local budget considerable amounts for planning, modernizing, and maintaining green areas, most of them being directed to to "Constantin Stere" Memorial Park from Bucov (over EUR 2 million after 2007), and Tineretului Park, "Toma Caragiu" Park, Căineni Park, etc. Moreover, significant funds from the local budgets were allocated for the development and upgrading of playgrounds (streets: Cameliei, Mărășești, Sala Sporturilor, București Blv., Dendrological Park, Cîbinului Str., Mihai Bravu Str., Malu Roșu area, Modern Park, Republicii Blv., etc.).

The public lighting system has undergone a comprehensive upgrading after 2000, when about 75% of the infrastructure (poles, lamps, consoles, overhead lines, flash points, etc.) were replaced with local-budget funds by the operator that received in concession the management of the system from the municipal authority.

The private operator managing the municipal district heating system has invested in the last 15 years more than EUR 27 million in Brazi plant, but also in primary and secondary networks, these amounts being allocated from its own budget. Future plans aim to replace the very old network, which generates significant losses.

1.5.6. Conclusions - existing disparities, trends, needs, and areas of intervention

Public utilities

The water supply and sewerage network has continuously expanded in recent years, against the background of the investments made with EU, state-budget, and local funds. The most important water network expansions were noted in Băicoi city (+26 km) and in Blejoi (21 km), Berceni (20 km), Păulești (18 km), Ariceștii Rahtivani (15 km), and Bucov (14 km) communes. Consumers in the area also enjoy quality drinking water sources, and the public-private partnership in the field of public utilities has proved to be a success to be followed in the case of Ploiești.

However, the urban network is outdated and generates significant losses, besides the fact that it generates significant losses and provides a lower level of consumer satisfaction, having as well a negative impact on the environment. Moreover, some urban districts, even in Ploiești (e.g. Mitică Apostol), and its surrounding villages do not have public water supply and/or sewerage systems. In new residential areas, the infrastructure is poor, the owners sometimes being forced to bear the cost of extending utilities on their own or to seek individual solutions.

Incompletely treated wastewater is discharged into the outlets, as most of the treatment plants are able to cover only the mechanical and biological stages. Moreover, because of the lack of systems for separate collection of rainwater, floods are generated or the rainwater reaches treatment plants and leads to unnecessary increases in their operating costs, ultimately borne by consumers.

At present, three communes from the Growth Pole still lack a sewerage system (Berceni, Dumbrăvești, and Târgșoru Vechi), in two of them the network is limited to 1-2 km (Bărcănești, Ariceștii Rahtivani), the only satisfactory situation being in communes that received grants (Bucov) or state-budget funds (Brazi) for such investments.

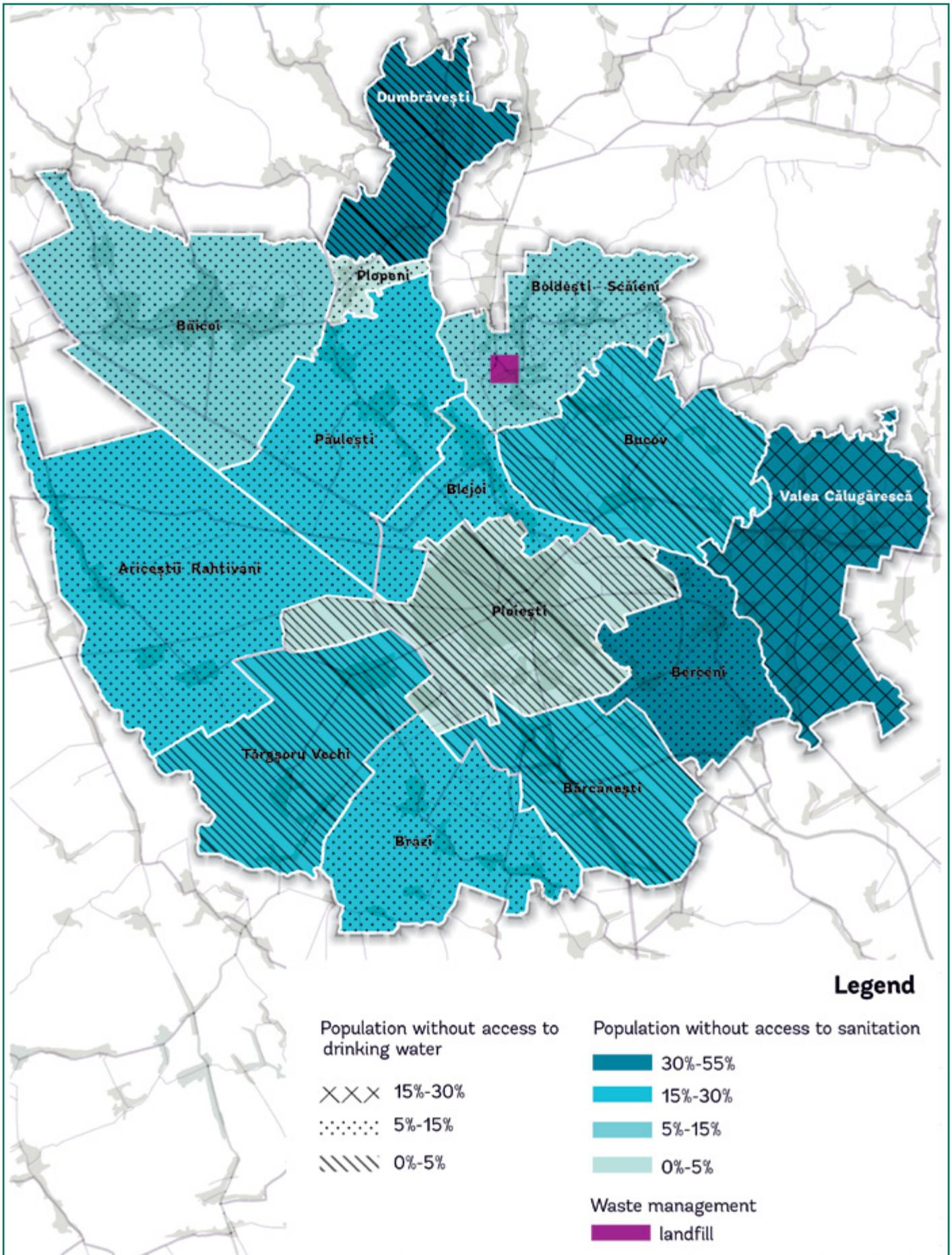
The Master Plan for Water and Sewerage provides investments in the areas that are not covered by public utility networks. They are co-financed through EU and national programs and aim at achieving the targets set by the EU Directives in the field by 2018.

As regards waste management - waste is transported and landfilled at the compliant storage facility in Boldești-Scăeni city, after the former non-compliant landfills in each city were closed. All cities have sanitation operators, the one in Ploiești proving to be very active in implementing selective waste collection measures, the relevant infrastructure being one of the most advanced in Romania.

However, the population and economic agents still have a low level of awareness regarding the importance of selective waste collection and some of the county's integrated system links are not operational yet (transfer, sorting, individual composting, storage and recovery facilities, including construction waste, etc.), especially in rural areas and small towns. In addition, the existing storage facility will be extended or a new location must be sought for such an operation around the metropolitan area. Such investments are foreseen in the County Master Plan for Waste Management on on the 30-year horizon.

The local heating system is one of the most developed in Romania in terms of modern production capacities (including cogeneration), number of consumers and supply price, this being the result of a successful partnership with a private partner. However, the primary and secondary network is outdated, resulting in significant losses (up to 25% of the amount of energy produced) and additional costs, low-level services for consumers and even environmental risks. In this regard, investment is needed for the following: upgrading the network, connections, implementation of new solutions to reduce costs, in decreasing the environmental impact of thermal power generation etc.

Map 82. Public utilities



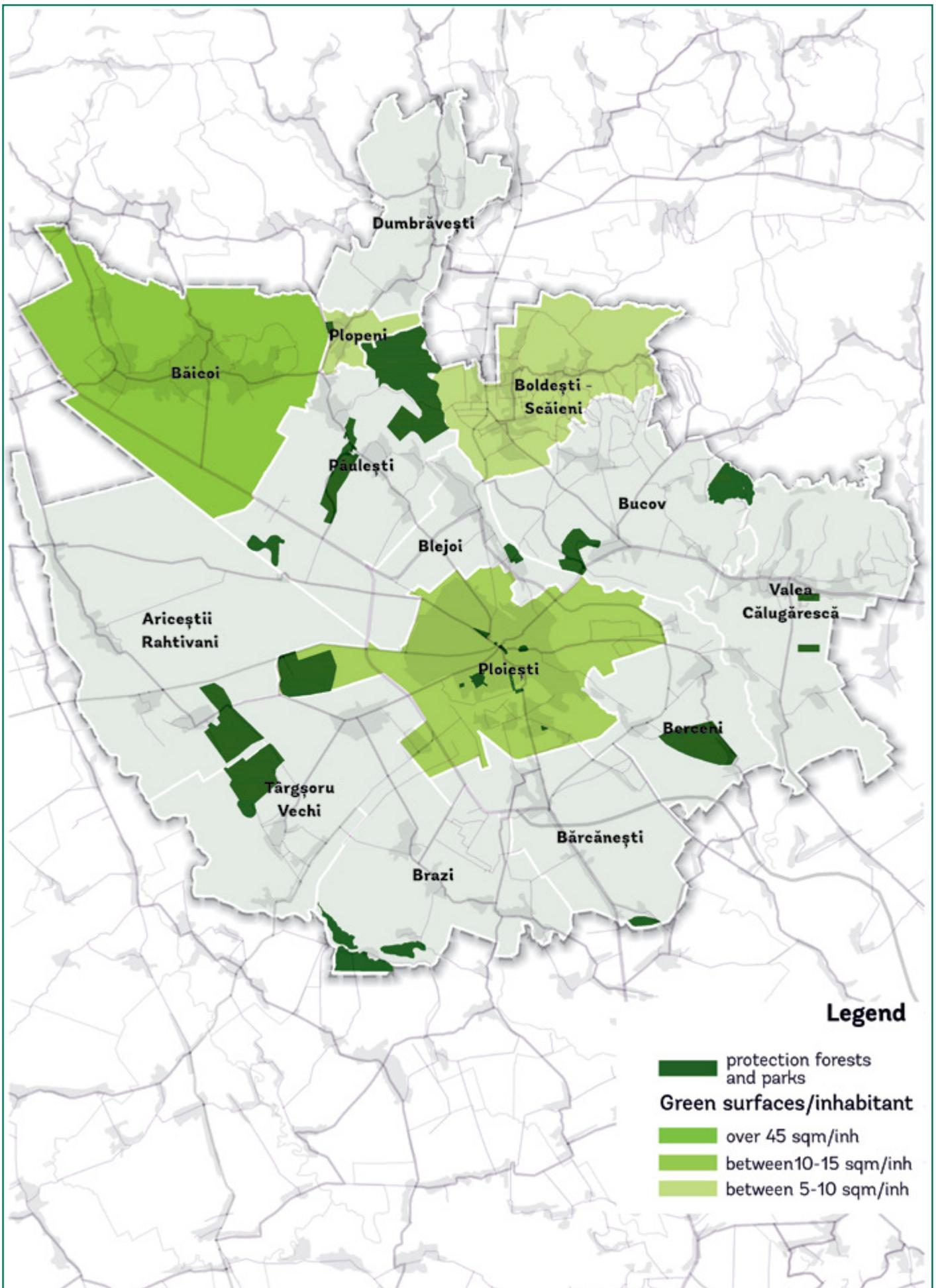
Green spaces

Despite the increase of local investment, the lack of green and leisure spaces is one of the most urgent problems in Ploiești and also in other towns around it. Large residential complexes have not been provided with generous green spaces, and the existing ones are not properly planned. Also, leisure places in the area are not properly used (see the forests in Plopeni or the salt lakes in Băicoi), which could become touristic attractions for locals and visitors.



In order to comply with the European standards, new green areas, sports and leisure spaces have to be arranged, covering at least 200 ha, and a green cadastre of the cities has to be developed in order to ensure a more effective management of these surfaces.

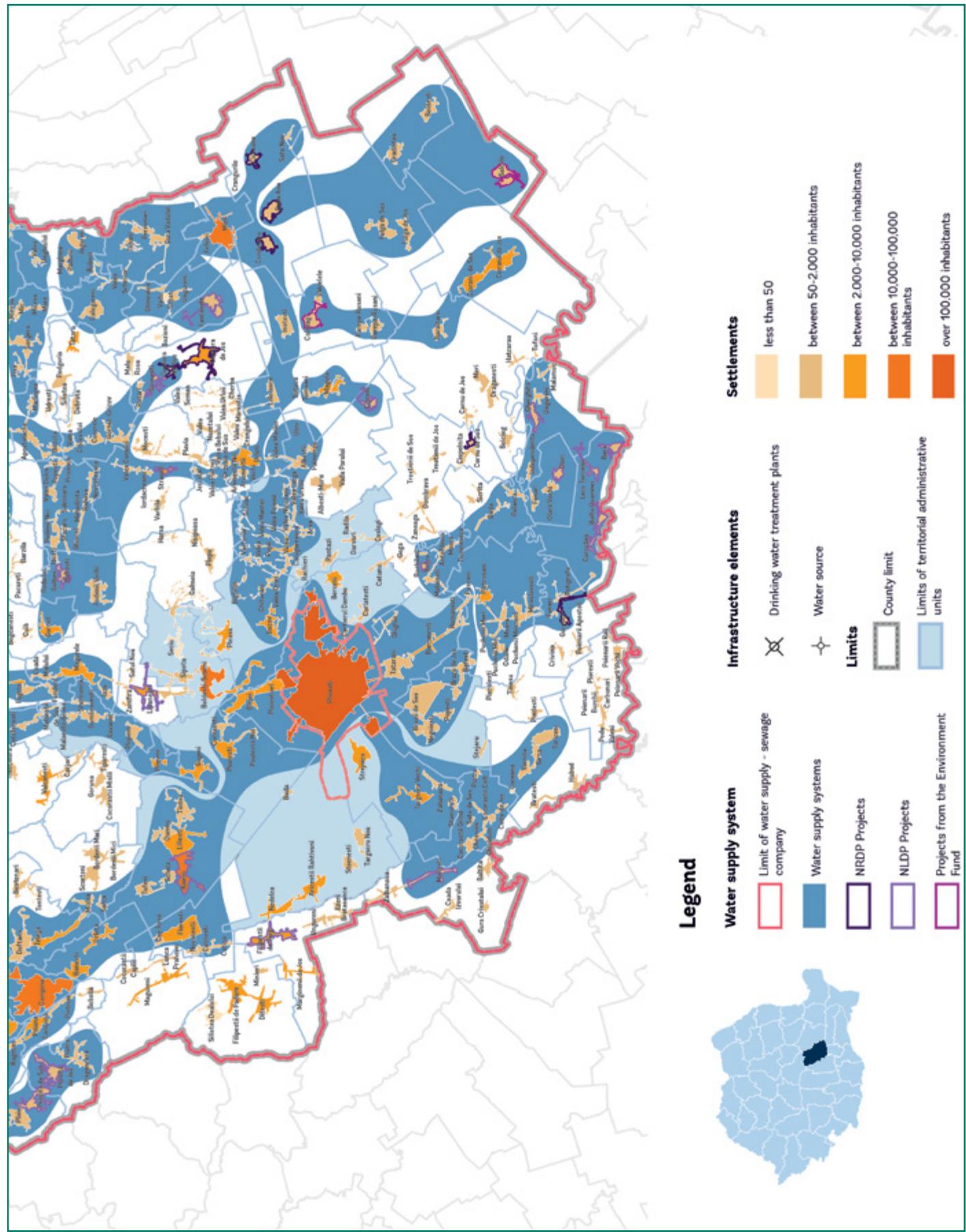
Map 83. Green spaces. Protection forests and parks



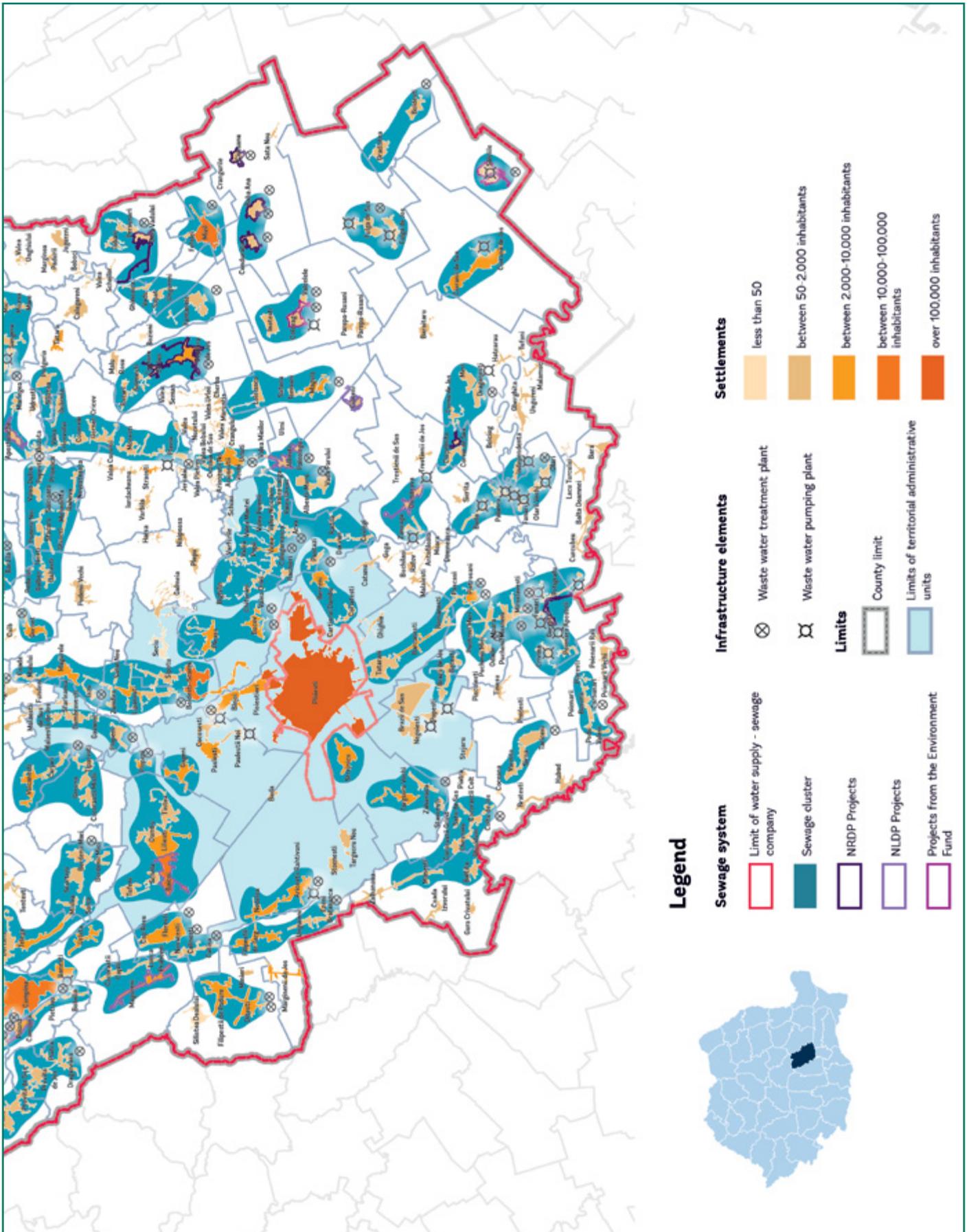
ANNEX 1.5.1

Water-Sewerage system in Prahova County

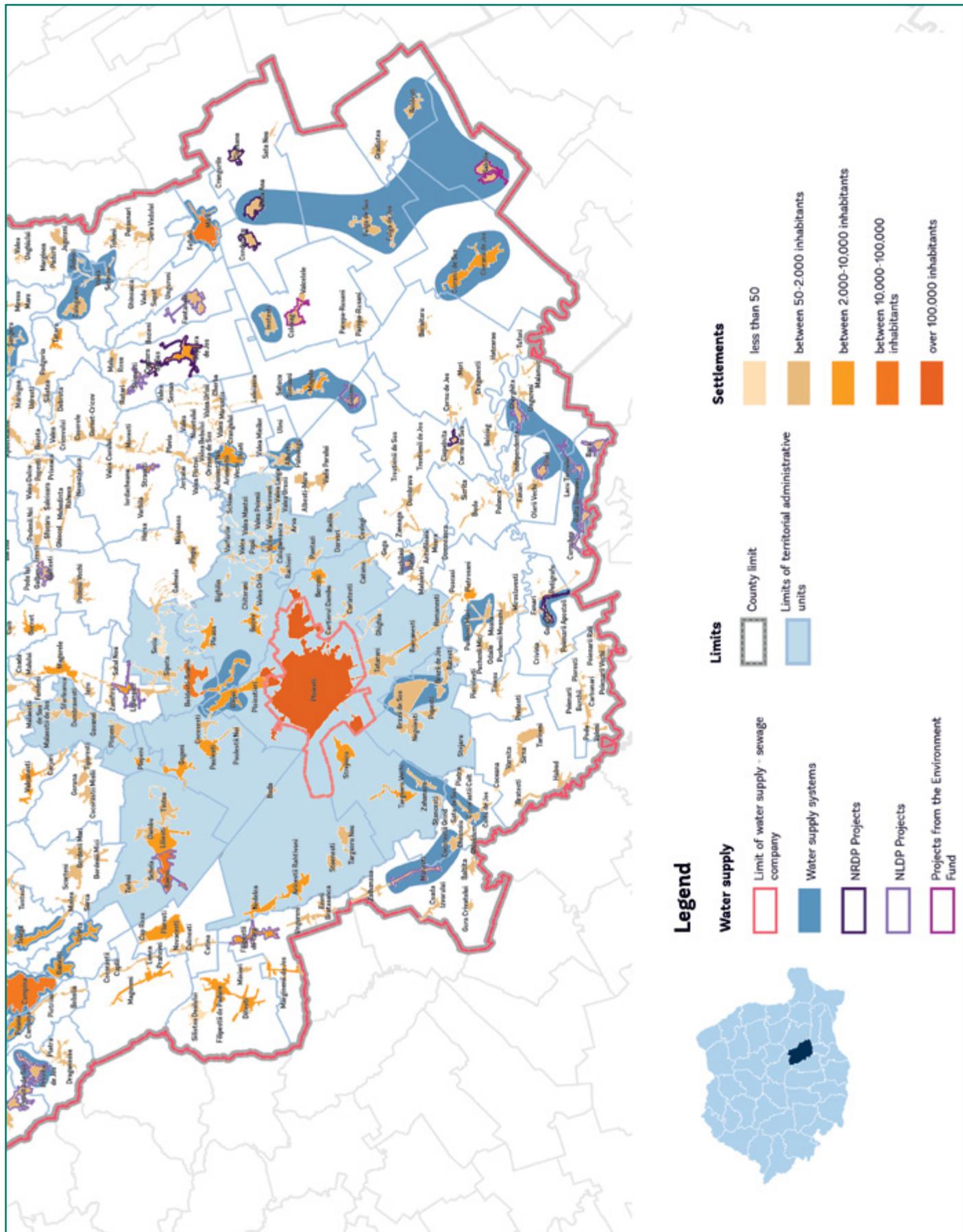
Map 84. Proposal - Water Master Plan - Ploiești Growth Pole



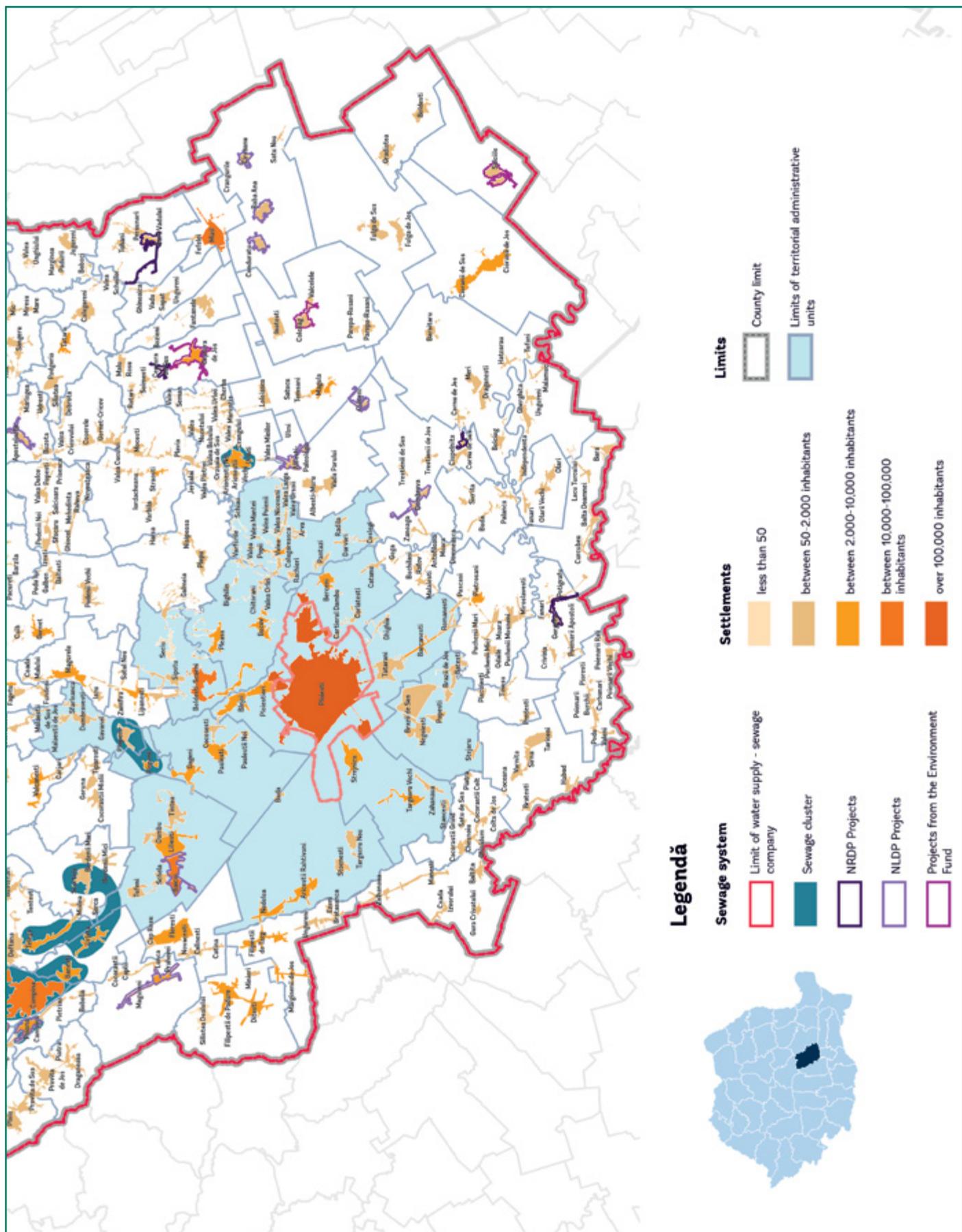
Map 85. Proposal - Sewerage Master Plan - Ploiești Growth Pole



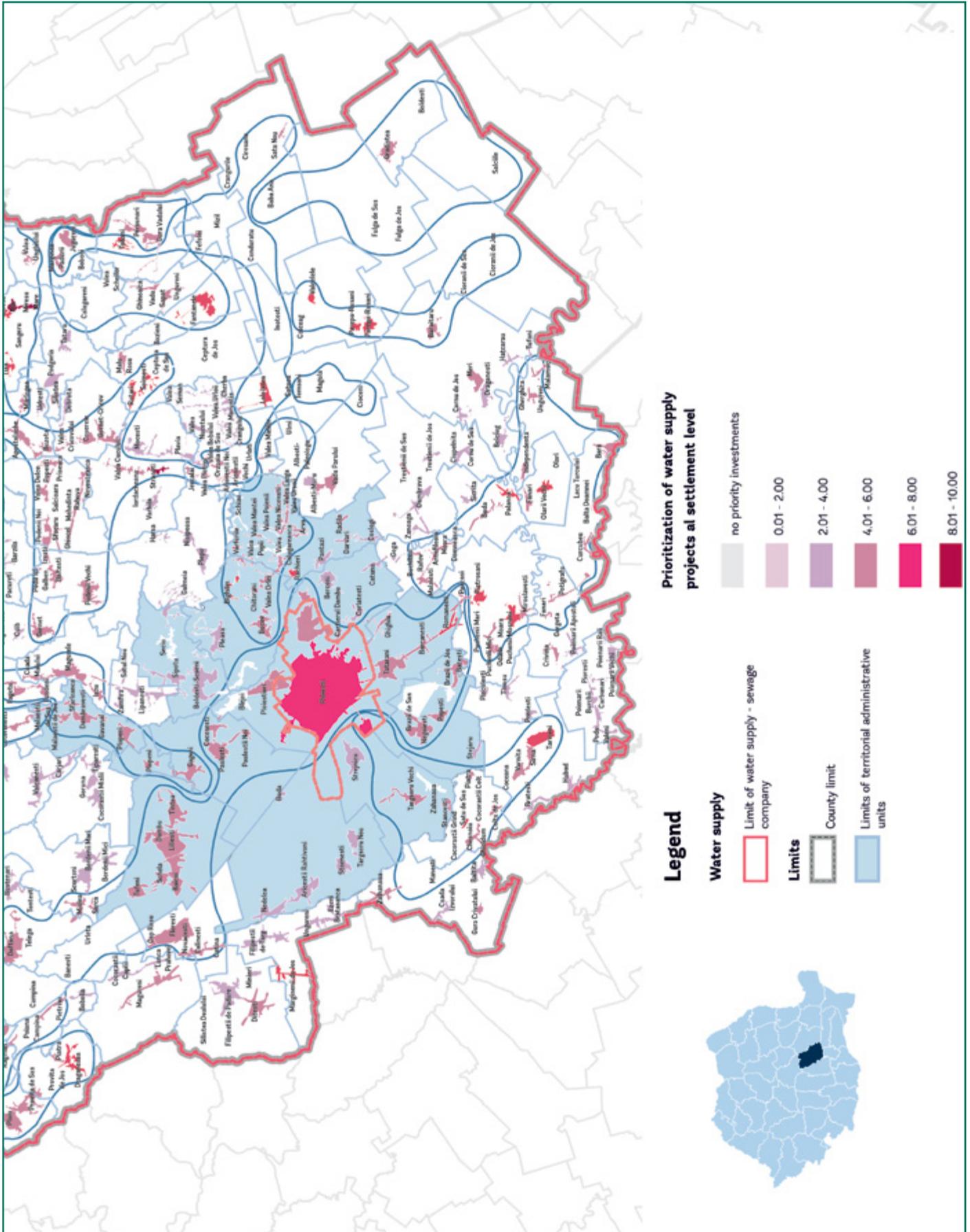
Map 86. Proposal for investments in water infrastructure through 'Large Infrastructure' Operational Program and ongoing projects through the National Local Development Program (NLDP), the National Rural Development Program (NRDP) and the Environment Fund



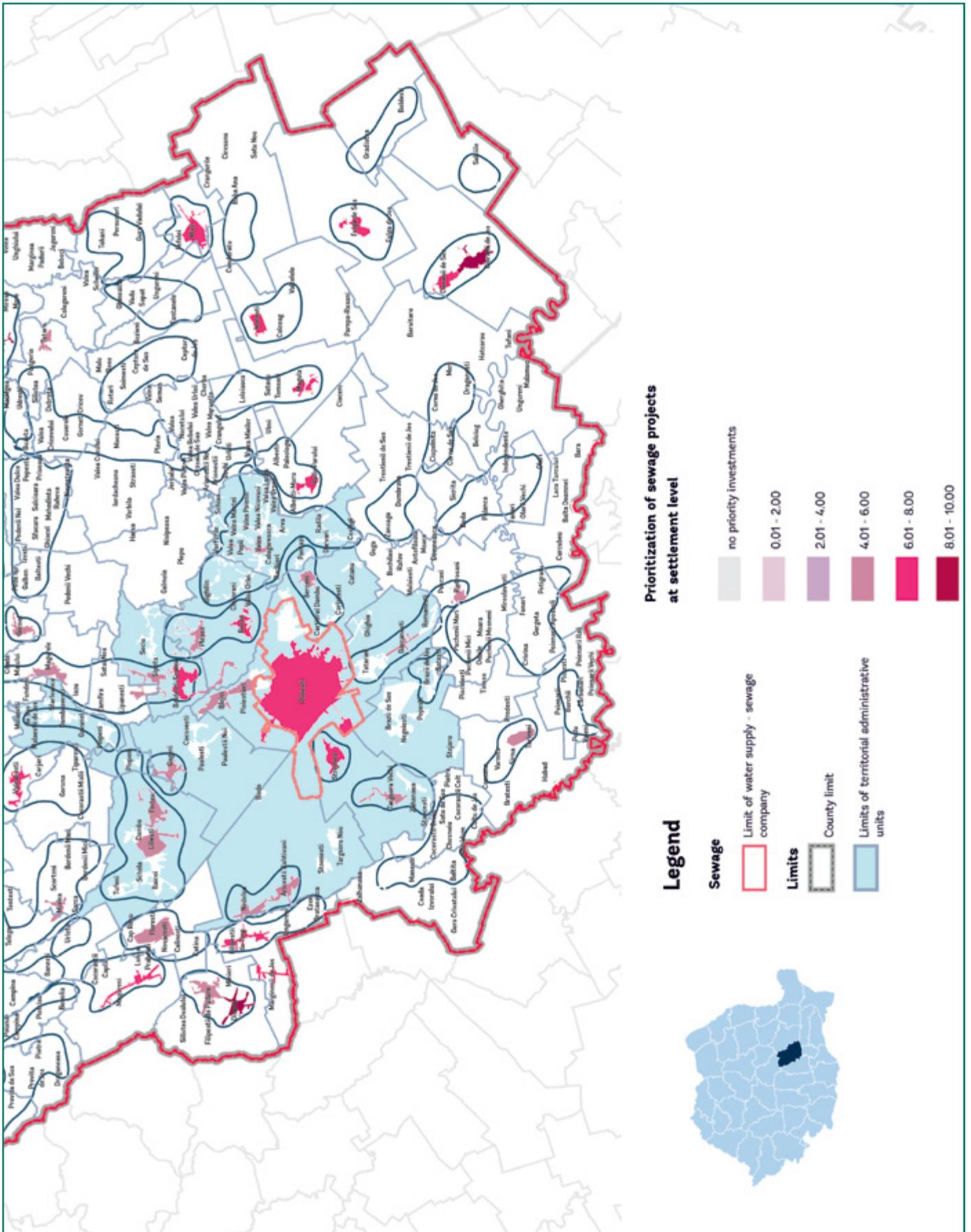
Map 87. Proposal for investments in sewerage infrastructure through 'Large Infrastructure' Operational Program and ongoing projects through the National Local Development Program (NLDP), the National Rural Development Program (NRDP) and the Environment Fund



Map 88. Prioritization of water supply projects - Ploiești Growth Pole

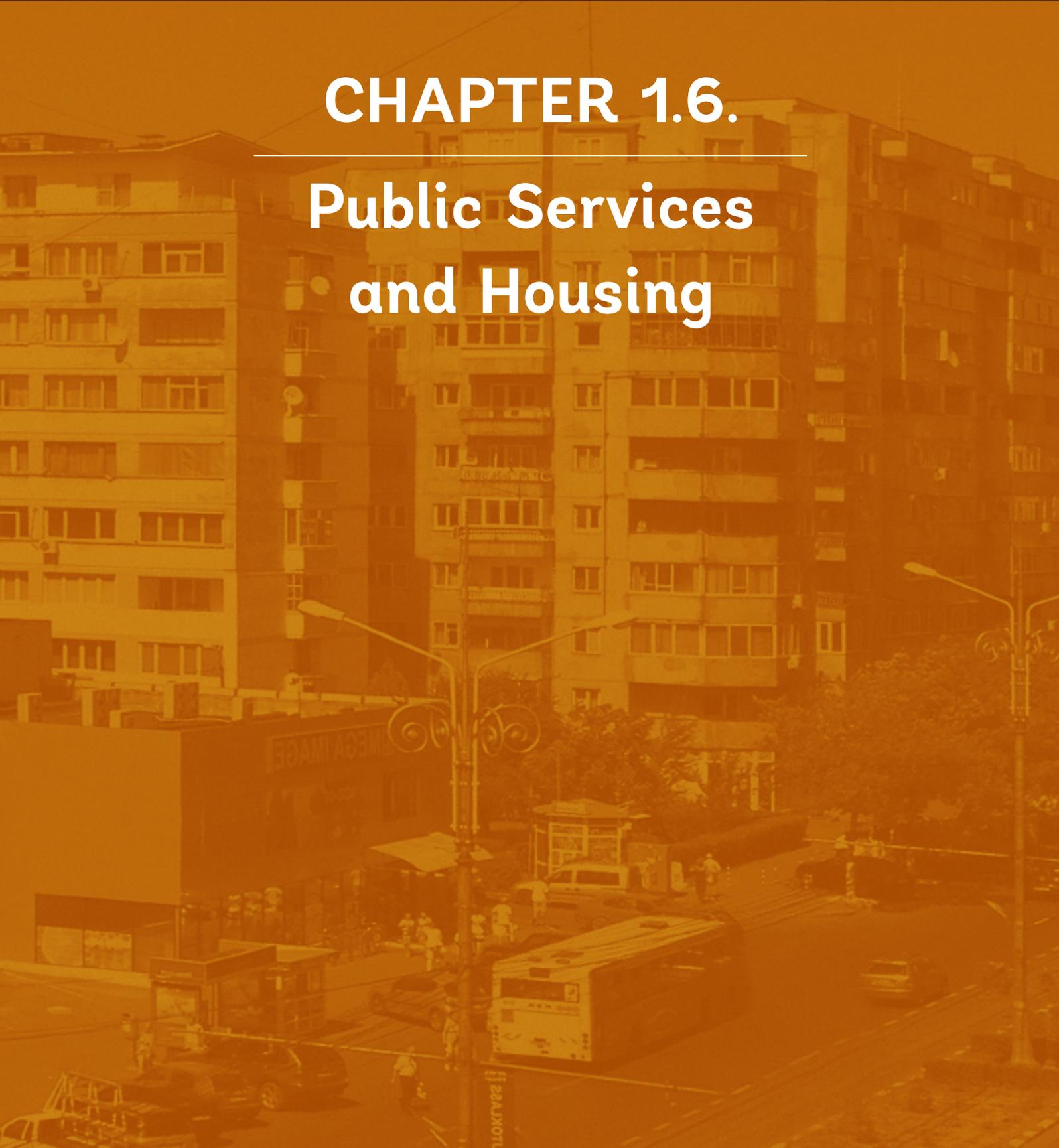


Map 89. Prioritization of sewage projects - Ploiești Growth Pole



CHAPTER 1.6.

Public Services and Housing



1.6. Public Services and Housing

1.6.1. The housing stock

Residential areas (intended for both multifamily and individual habitation) and the related facilities (education, health, small trade, places of worship, etc.) take up the largest share of a city's structure. They have usually developed along the major routes connecting the city with the new industrial areas. As regards the quality of housing conditions, two categories can be discerned:

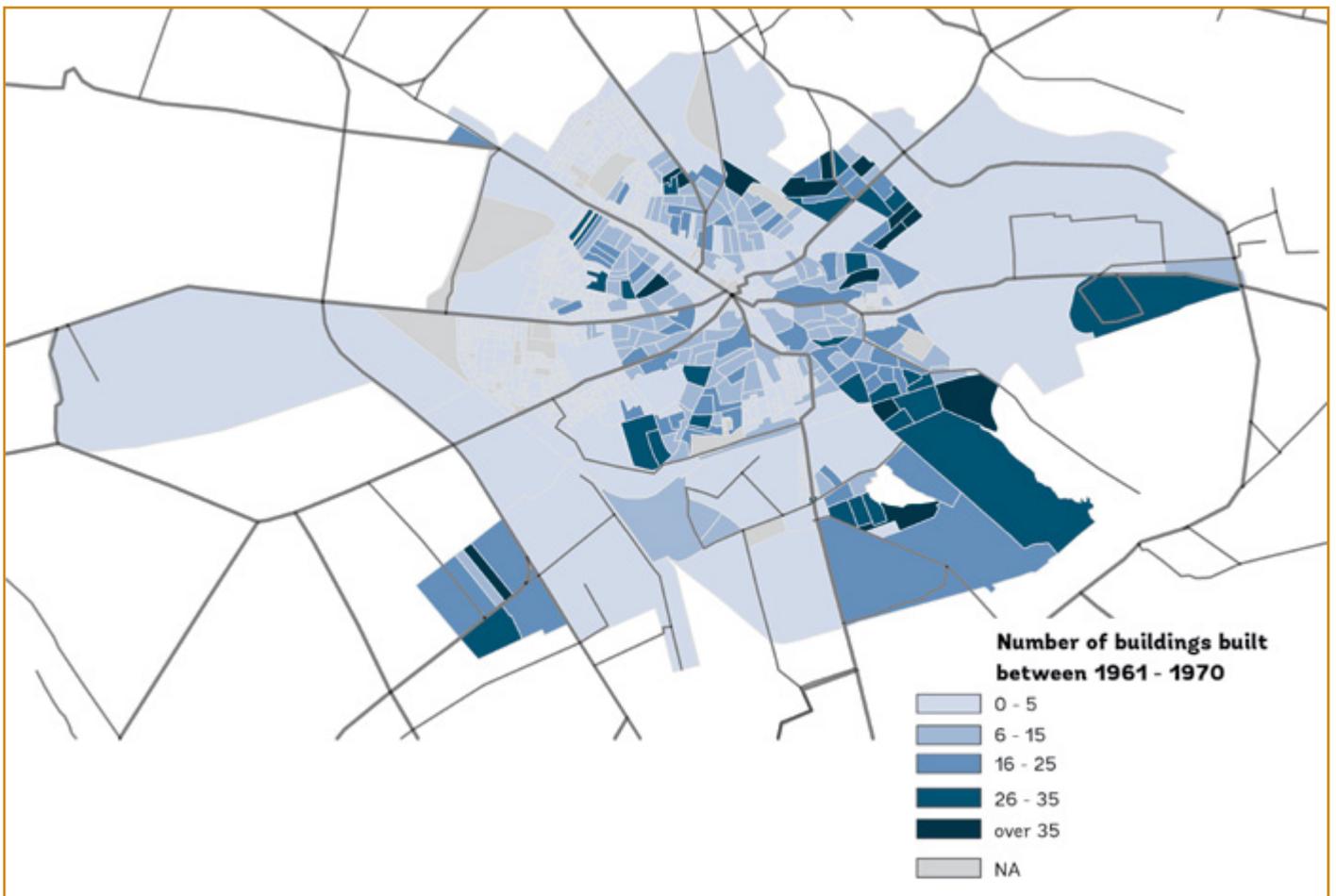
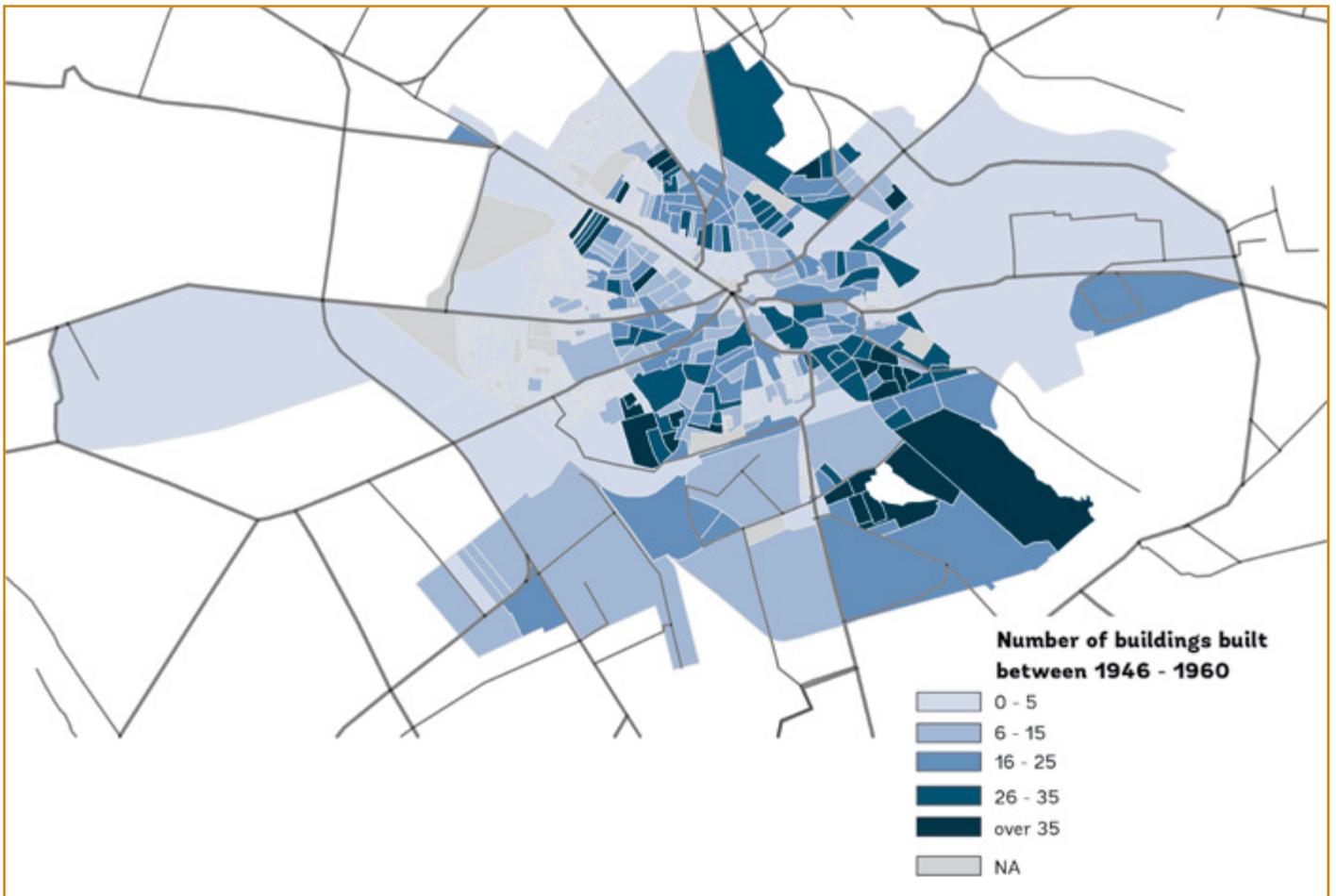
- (a) houses in central and adjacent areas (ex. Centre, Traian, Ploiești Sud, Democrației, Dorobanți, Mihai Bravu, Văleni), characterized by an urban typology, where architectural layouts are generally more functional, the buildings are more generously sized and connected to all available utilities – power, water, sewage, gas, phone;
- (b) detached houses in the suburban neighborhoods, many with a rural character, lacking proper infrastructure and facilities (no sewage and gas, sometimes not even water), which were and are still inhabited by low- to middle-income residents (e.g. Bereasca, Bărcănești, Moțoi, Râfov, Mimiou, Pictor Rosenthal, Buda).

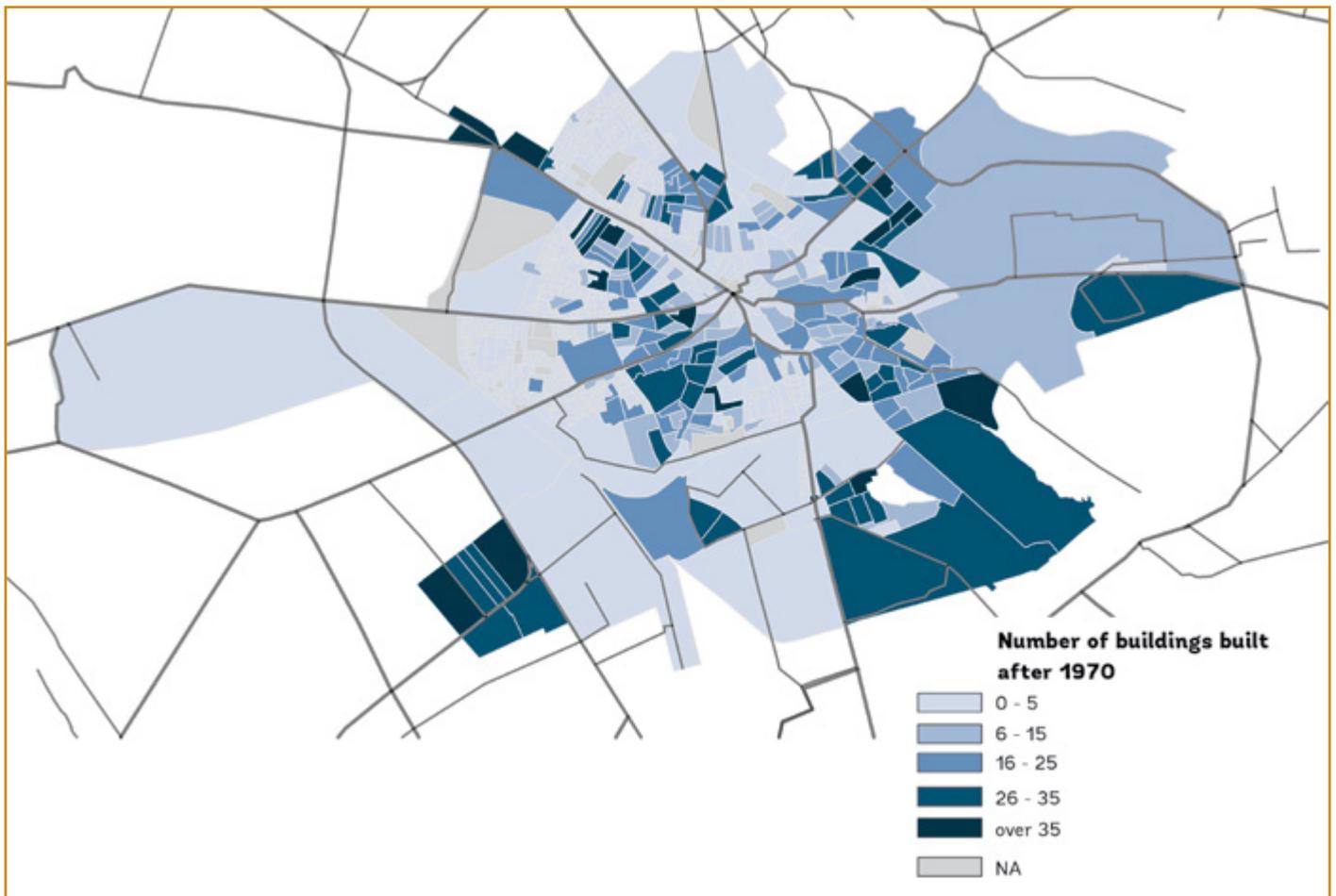
As regards the periurban area, it has a rural character and features residential areas comprising mainly of detached houses, quite uniform in aspect and layout. In the period of rural systematization (from the 1960s up to the 1990s), there were few interventions, some low- to medium-height dwellings emerging in Bărcănești and Brazi communes.

After 1990, since Ploiești lacked sufficient available free land, the drive to expand residential areas was reflected by the emerging complexes of detached houses, located in periurban areas following the extension of built-up areas of the relevant communes, mainly in norther areas, in Blejoi, Păulești, and Bucov communes. In the post-2004 period of the real estate boom, the residential complexes in the vicinity of Ploiești city have begun to shift towards multifamily rather than individual housing. The new buildings have an urban character, with a habitation quality typically superior to the existing one, and an occupancy rate of detached houses usually below 40-45%.



Map 90. Number of residential buildings according to construction year and census sectors in Ploiești municipality



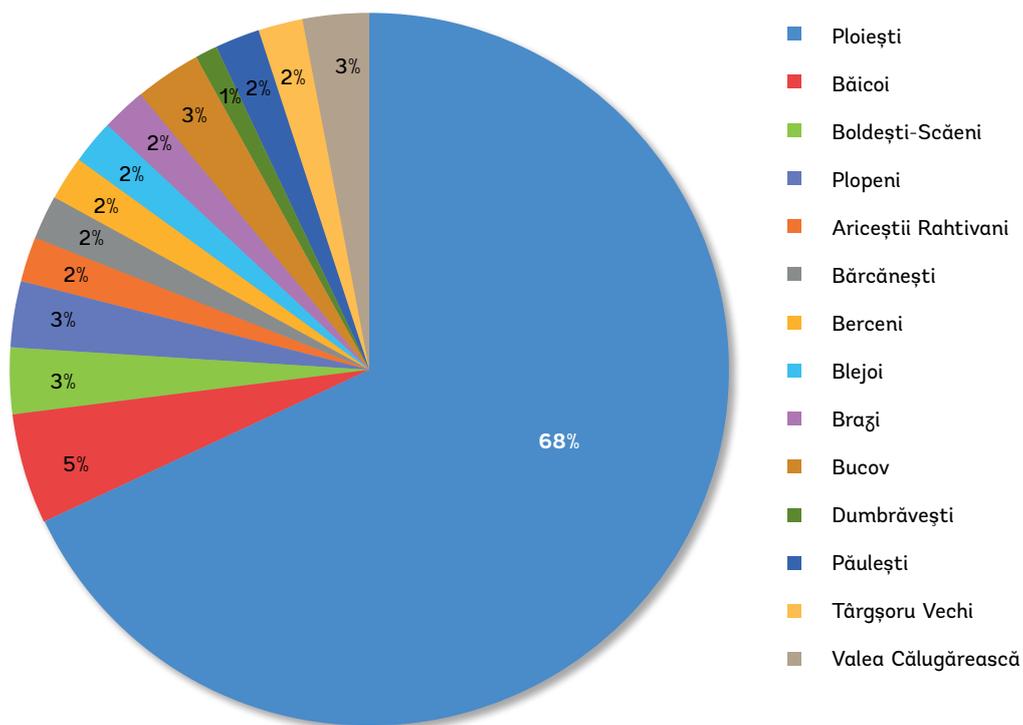


Source: Own diagram based on NIS, RGPL data, 2011

At the end of 2013, the housing stock of Ploiești Growth Pole amounted to 133,882 dwellings as per the NIS estimates, showing a 4.5% increase as compared with 2007, and a 0.7% increase as compared with the General Population and Housing Census data of 2011 (exhaustive data), due to the construction of new, mainly detached-type dwellings. Out of these, 90,487 (67.6% of the total) were located on the administrative territory of Ploiești municipality.



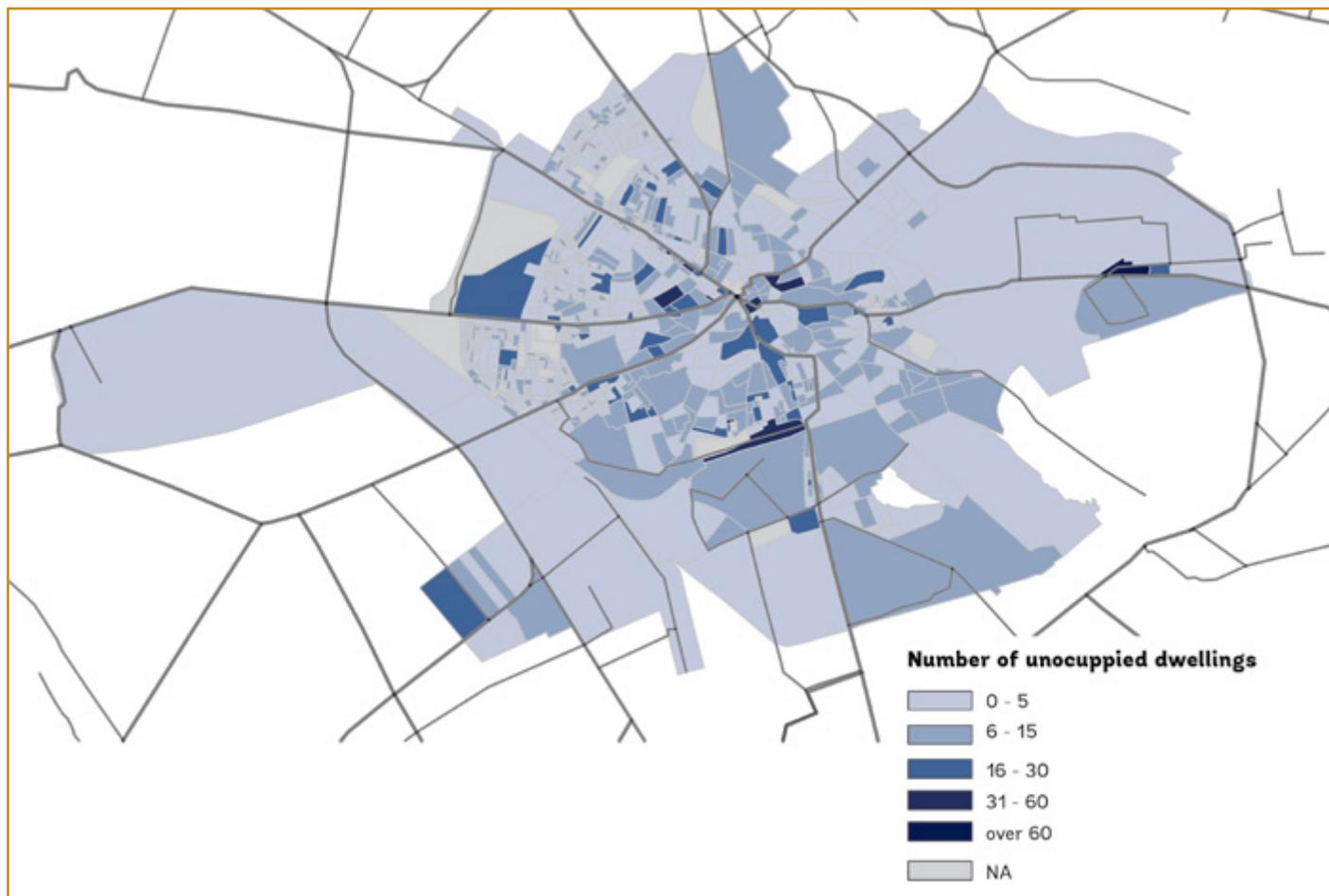
Figure 71. Distribution of the housing stock by component localities in Ploiești Growth Pole in 2013



Source: NIS, the TEMPO Online database

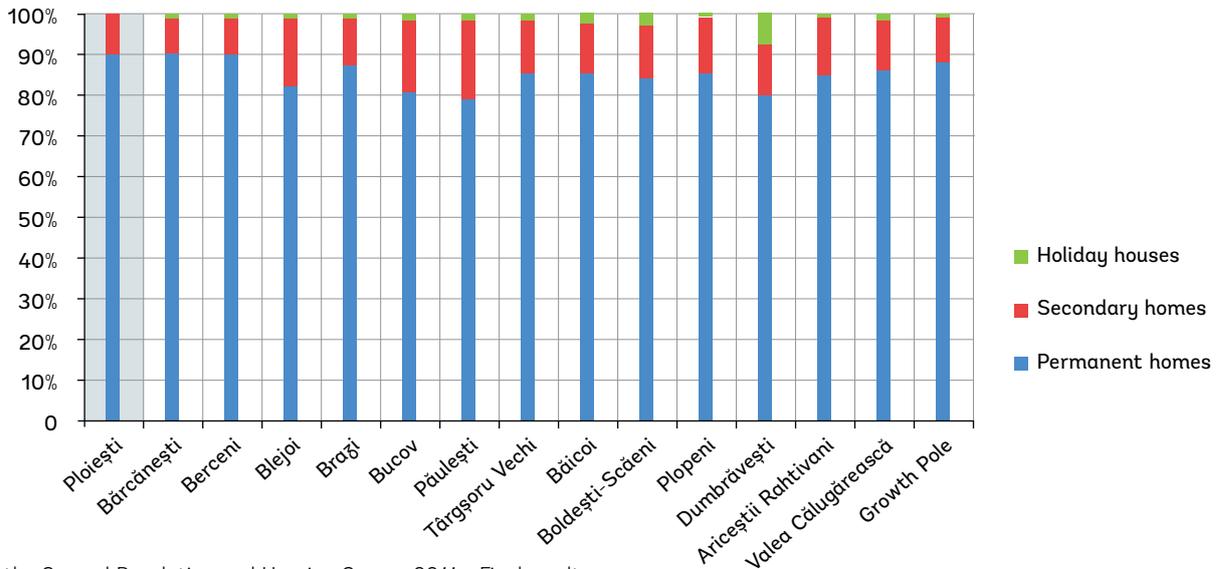
Of the existing dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole, 87.1% are permanent, 11.5% secondary, and 1.4% are holiday houses, located usually in more scenic areas, such as Dumbrăvești. Around 10.1% of the dwellings in Ploiești municipality are secondary homes, particularly those located in blocks of flats, many residents living actually in the surrounding rural localities, where they built or purchased more spacious homes, or in other cities or countries, where they work.

Map 91. Number of unoccupied dwellings by census sectors in Ploiești municipality



Source: Own diagram

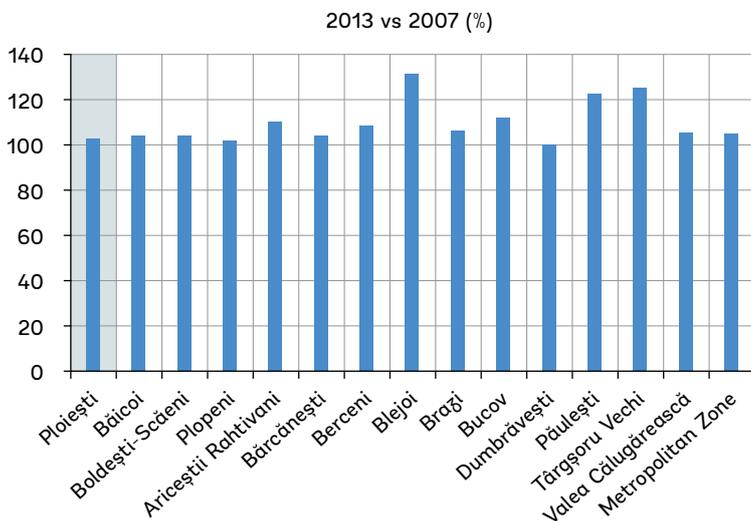
Figure 72. Dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole according to current status by localities



Source: NIS, the General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results

The housing stock dynamics in the 2007-2013 period mirrors a clear suburbanization phenomenon, reflected in the increasing number of homes built in the city's surrounding communes. Thus, while the total housing stock of Ploiești municipality increased by merely 2.3% after 2007, the growth rate in Blejoi, Târgșoru Vechi, Păulești, Bucov, and Ariceștii Rahtivani communes ranged between 10.4% and 31.9%. These localities are part of Ploiești metropolitan area and are relatively easily accessible. As well, land prices are much lower than in the inner city area, which makes them much more attractive for building housing complexes. Moreover, these areas have plenty of available land for residential expansion as compared with Ploiești city, which already has a high housing density.

Figure 73. Housing stock dynamics of Ploiești Growth Pole in the 2007-2013 period



Source: NIS, the TEMPO Online database

A total of 4,144 dwellings have been built during the 2007-2013 period in Ploiești Growth Pole, of which only 1,270 (30.6%) in Ploiești municipality itself, and nearly 3,000 in the neighboring localities. Only 228 of these have been built from public funds, being mainly ANL rental homes. After 2010, the number of completed dwellings dropped against the background of the global economic recession and financial crisis, which took a heavy toll on the real estate market.

Map 92. Housing stock dynamics

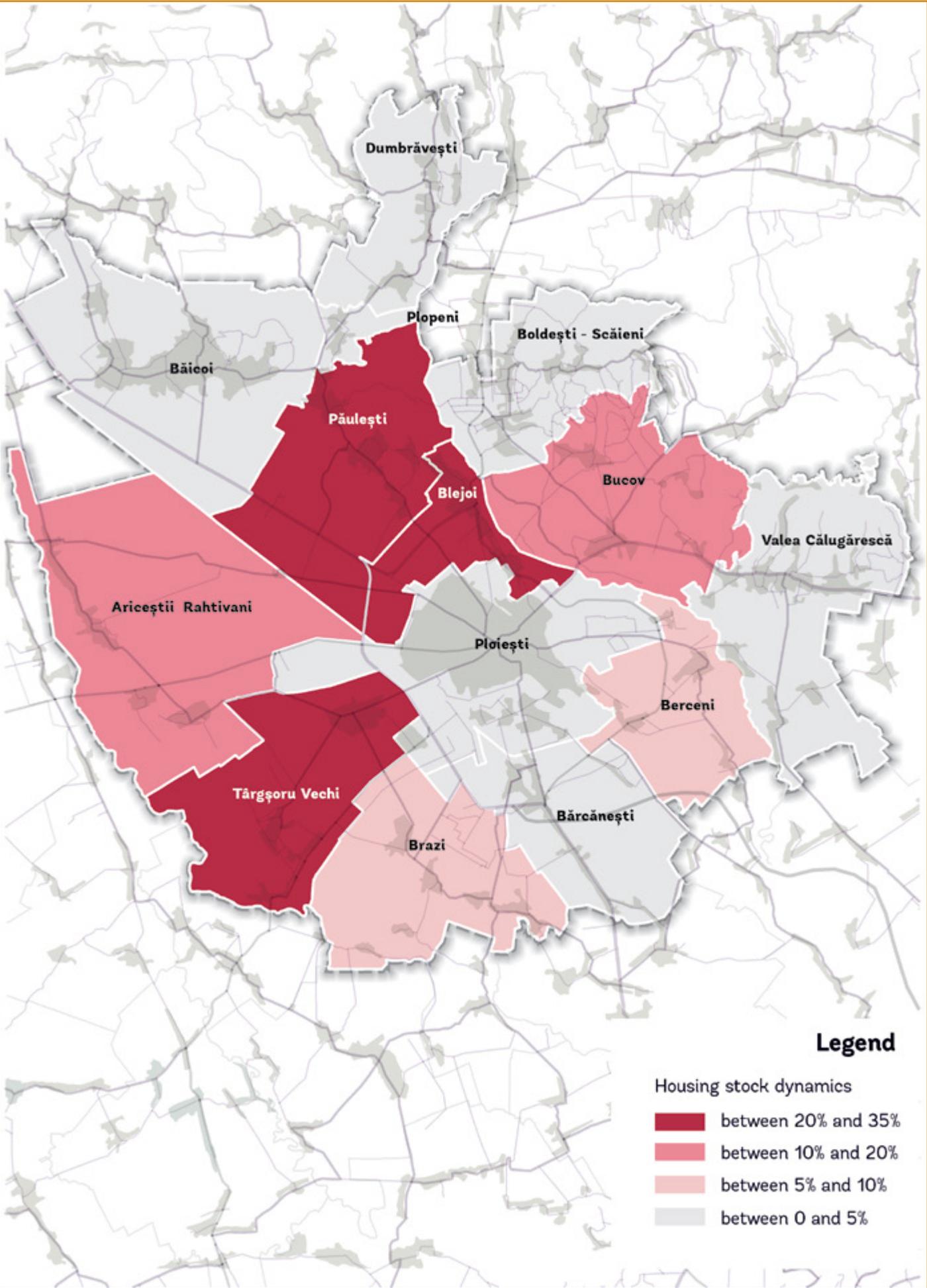
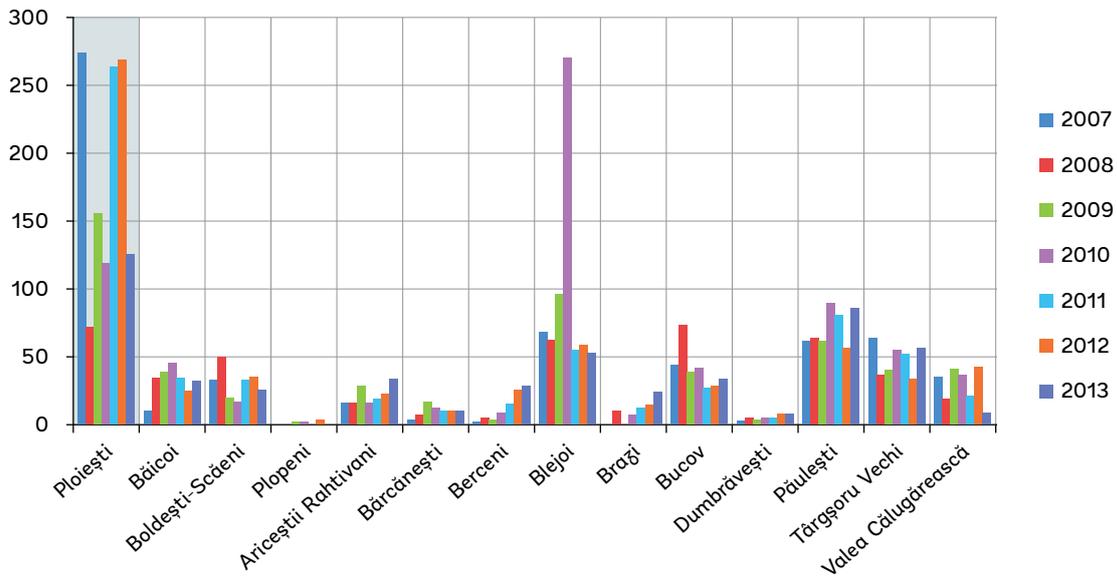
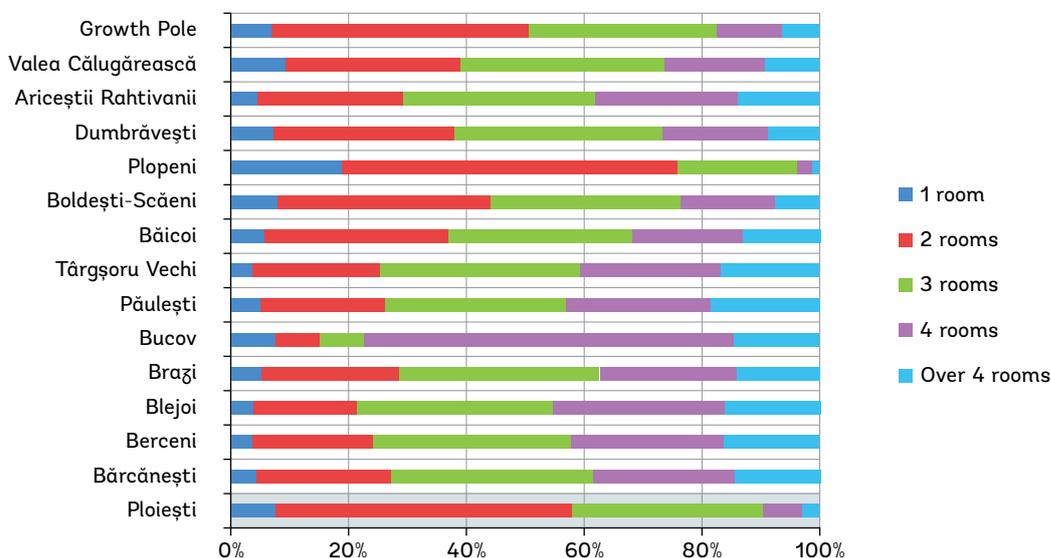


Figure 74. New home building rates by localities in the 2007-2013 period

Source: NIS, the TEMPO Online database

Of the total dwellings in the Growth Pole, 98.5% are under private ownership, 1.2% under public ownership, and 0.3% are owned by religious orders under common or cooperative ownership schemes. Out of the total 1,596 publicly owned dwellings, 1,092 are located in Ploiești municipality, most of them consisting in rental homes for young people or social housing (the nursing homes of the Teleajen, Mihai Bravu, Râfov districts and Rafinorilor street, which provide accommodation for more than 600 people). These numbers are completely insufficient as compared with the number of applications for social housing (300, of which only 100 are priority applications) and the number of applications for ANL housing (more than 1,500), which cannot be resolved in their totality. In addition, more than 1,400 young people submitted applications for home building land in Tineretului district, while the municipality has 100 times less available lots. Projects for youth housing in partnership with ANL are currently being implemented in Cosminele Street (21 mortgaged homes) and Libertății Street (100 apartments). Moreover, there are plans for the building of a district of mortgaged homes in the town of Plopeni, a 30 apartment block in Păulești commune, and the rehabilitation of a former social housing complex in Valea Călugărească commune.

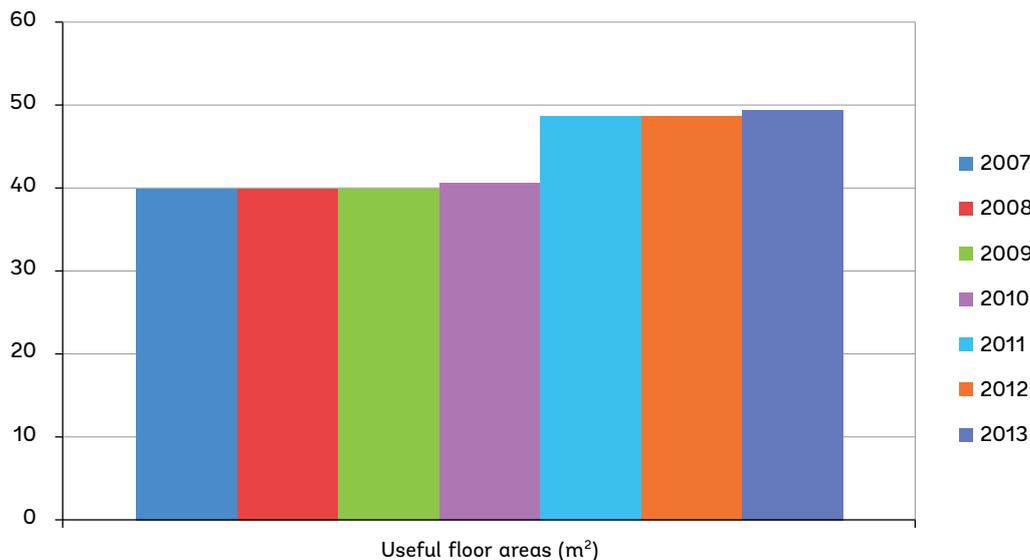
As regards the number of living quarters, most of the homes in Ploiești Growth Pole have 2 and 3 rooms, particularly in Ploiești and Plopeni (around 80% of the total homes), where the prevailing homes consist in small low-comfort apartments in blocks built in the Communist period. Moreover, nearly 20% of the dwellings in Plopeni have a single room (studios), as they were built for the unmarried workers from Plopeni Mechanical Plant. However, in communes with new residential areas made up of more spacious houses and villas and in some localities with older housing stock, but with prevailing detached houses, homes with at least 4 rooms are prevalent (Blejoi, Păulești, Târgșoru Vechi, Berceni – more than 40% of the entire housing stock).

Figure 75. Structure of Ploiești Growth Pole's housing stock by localities, according to number of rooms

Source: NIS, the General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results

The average useful floor space grew significantly in the 2007-2013 period, from 39.6 m²/home to 48.9 m² (+23.5%). This increase was due to the building of new, more spacious dwellings (mainly new, detached houses), and to the extension and modernization of existing homes.

Figure 76. Average useful floor area of dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole, 2007-2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

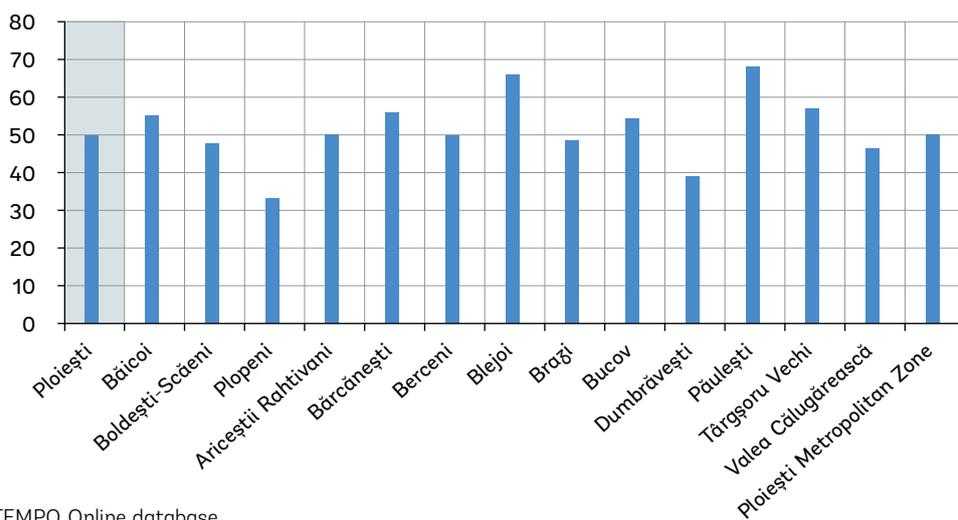
Figure 93. Average useful floor area (m²) of dwellings in Ploiești municipality, by census sectors



Source: Own diagram based on NIS, RGPL data, 2011

The most spacious dwellings can be found in localities where the housing stock has been renewed recently: Păulești, Blejoi, Târgșoru Vechi (with more than 55 m²/house). On the contrary, the least spacious dwellings are found in Plopeni, where the housing stock mainly consists in multifamily housing – blocks of flats with low living standards, built during the communist period. The average area of dwellings in Ploiești municipality is 48.2 m².

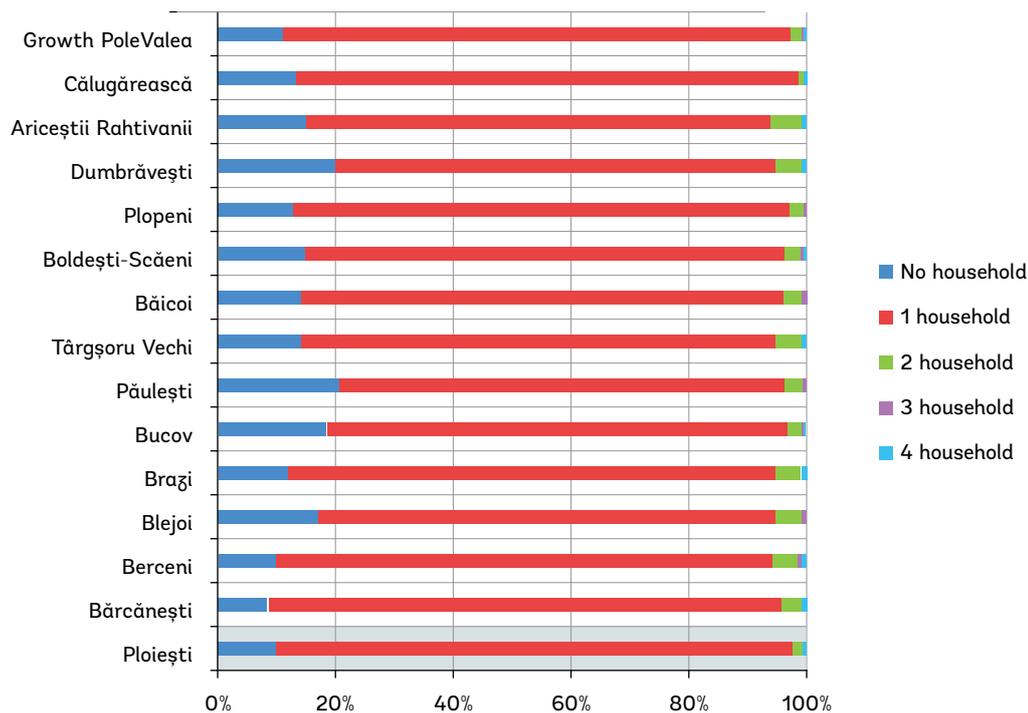
Figure 77. Average useful floor area of dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole (m²) in 2013



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

Around 84.7% of the dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole consist in single households, (being implicitly single-family houses), in 12.9% there aren't any households (since they are not permanent homes), and 2.4% accommodate two or more households.

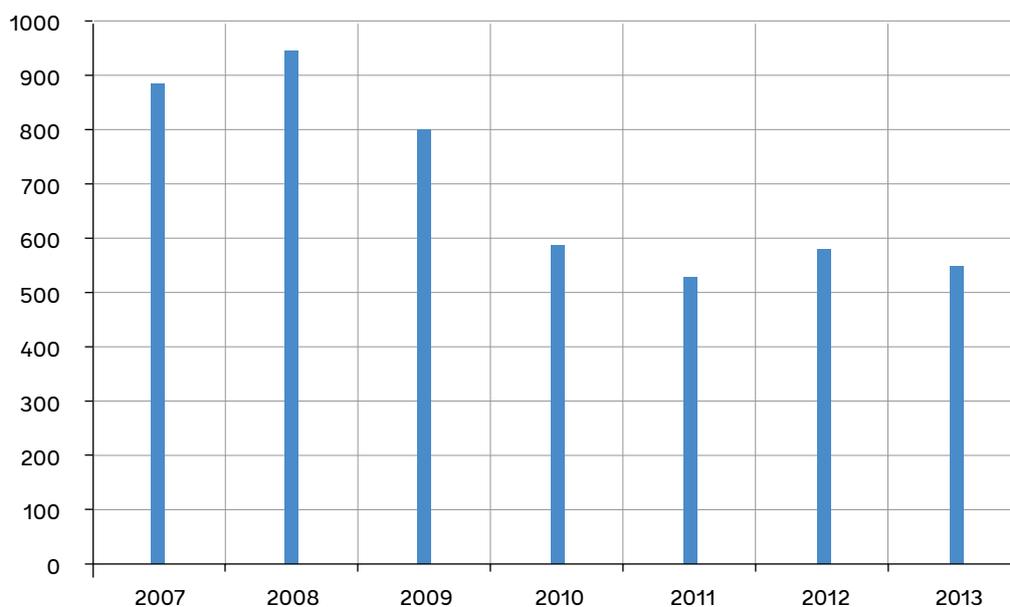
Figure 78. Distribution of the housing stock in Ploiești Growth Pole according to households per housing unit



Source: NIS, General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results

As regards the building permits issued at the level of the Growth Pole, their number dropped by more than 40% after the peak 2008, against the background of the global economic and financial recession. Most of the current building permits continue to be issued for Ploiești municipality and Bucov, Păulești and Târgșoru Vechi communes.

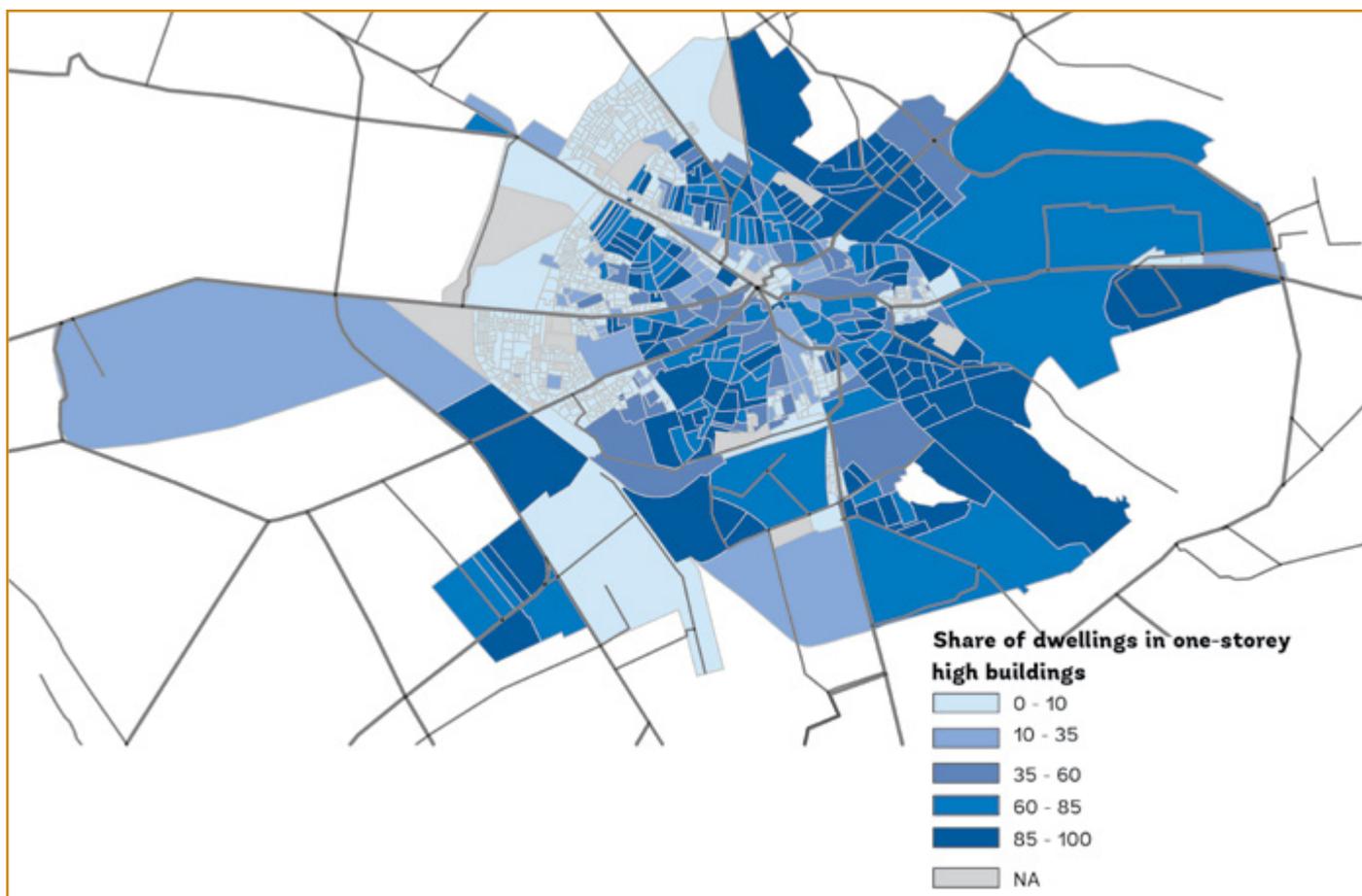
Figura 79. Number of building permits issued at the level of Ploiești Growth Pole in the 2007-2013 period



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

Out of the total dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole, 83.4% are single-storey, 15.5% have between 1 and 4 storeys, and 1.1% have more than 4 storeys. The localities featuring more P+1 dwellings (above 20% of the total) are Blejoi and Păulești, following the development of new residential districts with villa-type buildings (P+1). In total, the Growth Pole has 3,422 blocks of flats, out of which 2,781 have no more than 4 storeys, and 641 have 5 and more storeys. They are prevalent in Ploiești (2,899 blocks of flats), Plopeni (154), Boldești-Scăeni (60), Băicoi (58), Valea Călugărească (55), Bucov (34), Bărcănești (16), Brazi (13), these localities being the most affected by the forced systematization, industrialization, and urbanization during the communist period.

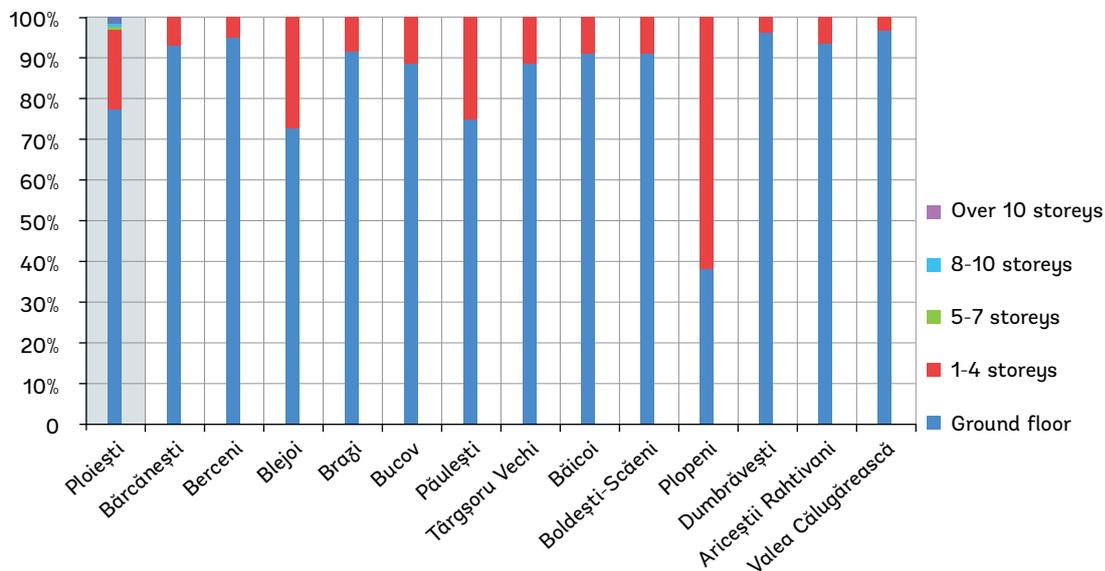
Figure 94. Share of single-storey buildings in Ploiești municipality by census sector, 2011



Source: Own diagram based on NIS, RGPL data, 2011

Blocks of flats with more than 5 stories are found in Ploiești municipality alone, where large complexes of block of flats were built during the communist period, including high-rise buildings. However, 77.5% of the city's residential buildings are single-storey (detached houses), 10.4% are P+1 (more than 2,300 villas), and 12.1% are blocks of flats (2,899), of which 2,262 3 or 4-storey blocks and 637 blocks with more than 5 storeys. Together, these blocks include more than 72,000 dwellings (80% of Ploiești municipality's total housing stock) and should be prioritized for thermal and structural rehabilitation works, as they refer to a large number of people and dwellings, many of the latter being exposed to seismic risk (those built before 1977) and having low energy efficiency and degraded façades.

Figure 80. Structure of the residential buildings in Ploiești Growth Pole by localities, according to number of storeys

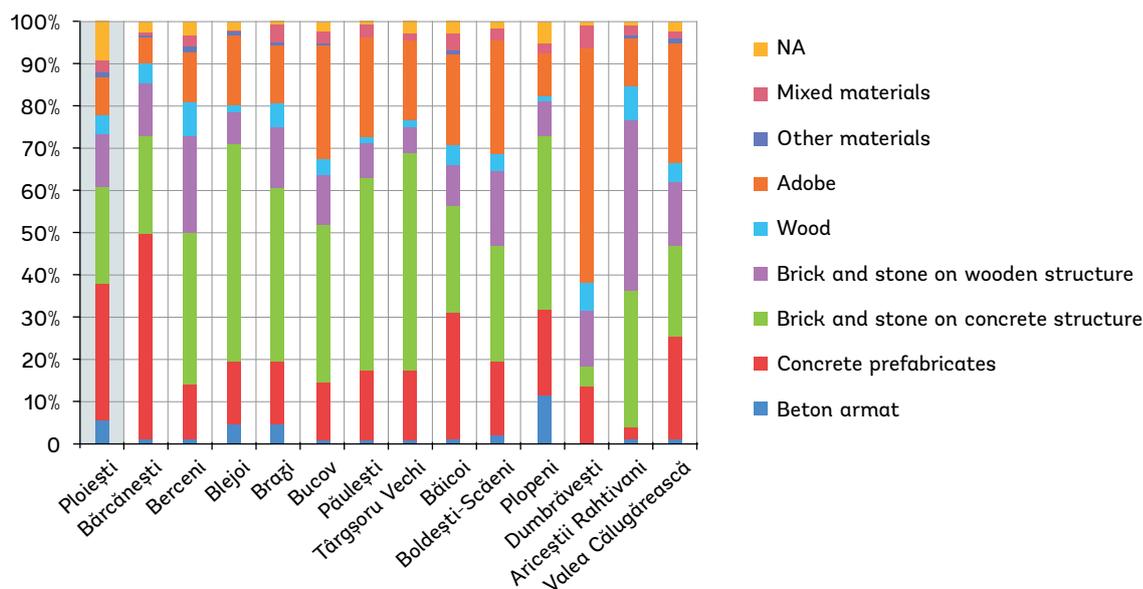


Source: NIS, the General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results



With regard to the building materials of outer walls, one may notice that most of the residential buildings that are made of low-quality and hazard-vulnerable materials are found in rural localities (Dumbrăvești, Valea Călugărească, Bucov), as well as in the towns of Boldești-Scăeni and Băicoi, with a relatively old housing stock, mainly consisting in dwellings constructed in the first half of the 20th century. On the other hand, dwellings that are made of durable materials (concrete, concrete prefabricates, brick, stone) are prevalent in localities with new housing stocks built either during the communist or post-revolution period, such as Ploiești, Plopeni, Bărcănești, Blejoi, Brazi, Târgșoru Vechi, Păulești (more than 60% of the buildings). Altogether, 24.1% of the residential buildings in Ploiești Growth Pole are built with low-quality materials, this share being lower for Ploiești municipality (16.8%).

Figure 81. Residential buildings in Ploiești Growth Pole according to building materials used for exterior walls, by localities

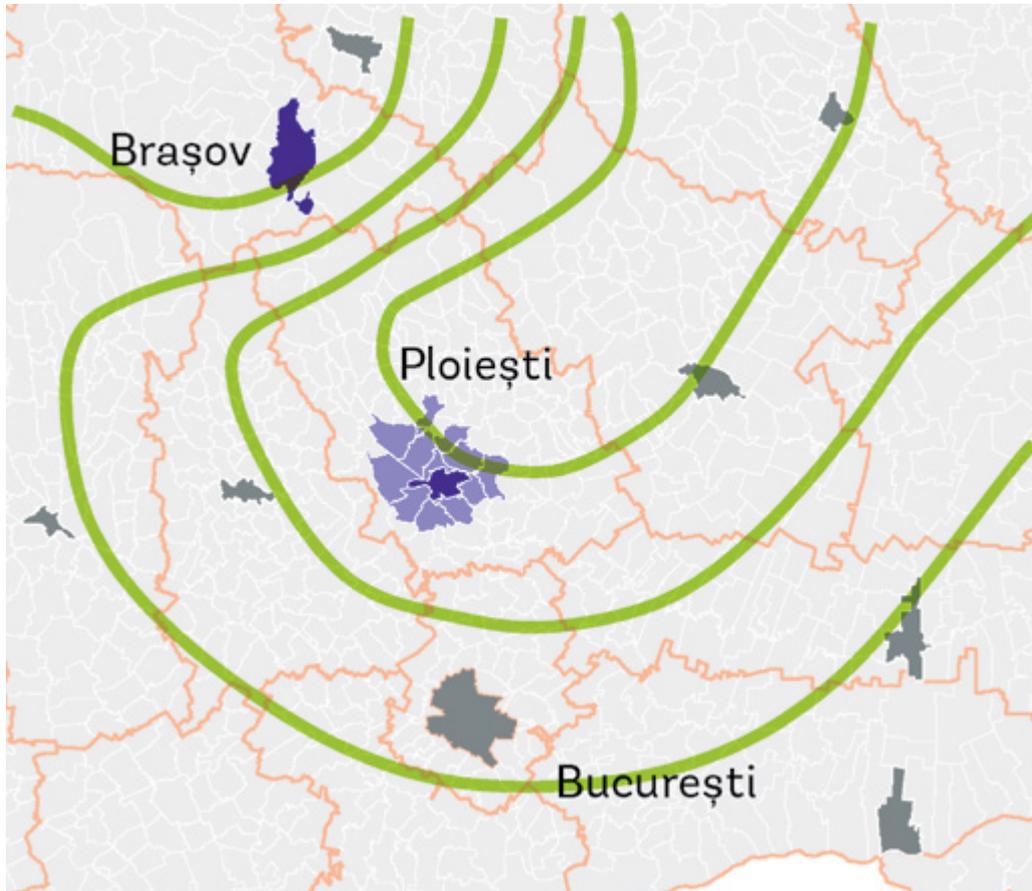


Source: NIS, the General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results

Out of the total current residential buildings of Ploiești Growth Pole, 3.1% have been built before 1919, 12.5% between 1919 and 1945, 20.7% between 1945 and 1960, 21.5% between 1961 and 1970, and 42.2% after 1970. Thus, the average age of residential buildings in this area is more than 50 years. Moreover, 65.5% of these buildings were built before the 1977 earthquake, meaning they were not designed to resist to large-magnitude earthquakes, particularly as Ploiești municipality lies in the most earthquake-prone area of Romania, next to the cities of Bužău and Focșani, which however have a newer building stock.

In Ploiești, more than 100 blocks of flats are built before the 1977 earthquake, most of them being located in the northern area (Cameliei and Nordului streets), southern area (Mihai Eminescu and Jianu streets) and central area (Independenței Boulevard, the west side of the Civic Center). They risk to be destroyed by the first earthquake above 7 degrees on the Richter scale. Although the surveying of seismic risk buildings began 20 years ago, only 49 blocks of flats have gone through this procedure so far, 31 being included in the 1st class of seismic risk (some representing a public hazard) and 18 in the classes II-IV. Only one building of this sort has been rehabilitated under a MRDPA program.

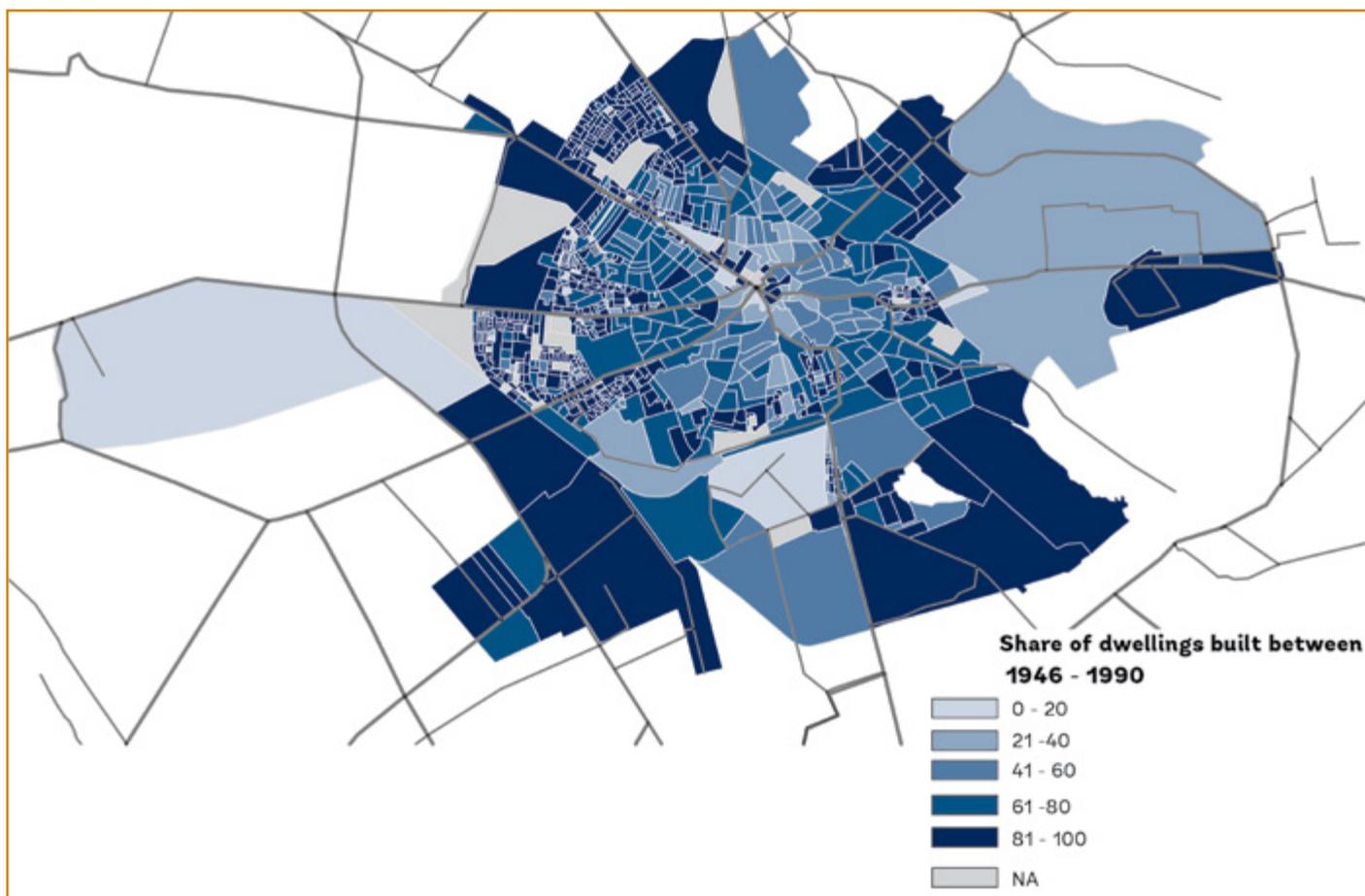
Map 95. Areas with peak land acceleration for earthquakes with ARI (average recurrence interval) = 100 years



Source: UTCB

With the exception of Blejoi, Păulești, and Târgșoru Vechi communes, where 50% of the housing stock has been built in the last 20 years following the emergence of the sub-urbanization process, the remaining localities of Ploiești Growth Pole feature mainly detached or multifamily buildings built in the communist period. The interwar or pre-war buildings take a larger share (more than 20% of the total) in Ploiești municipality only, which has a longer urban tradition and has developed better in that period.

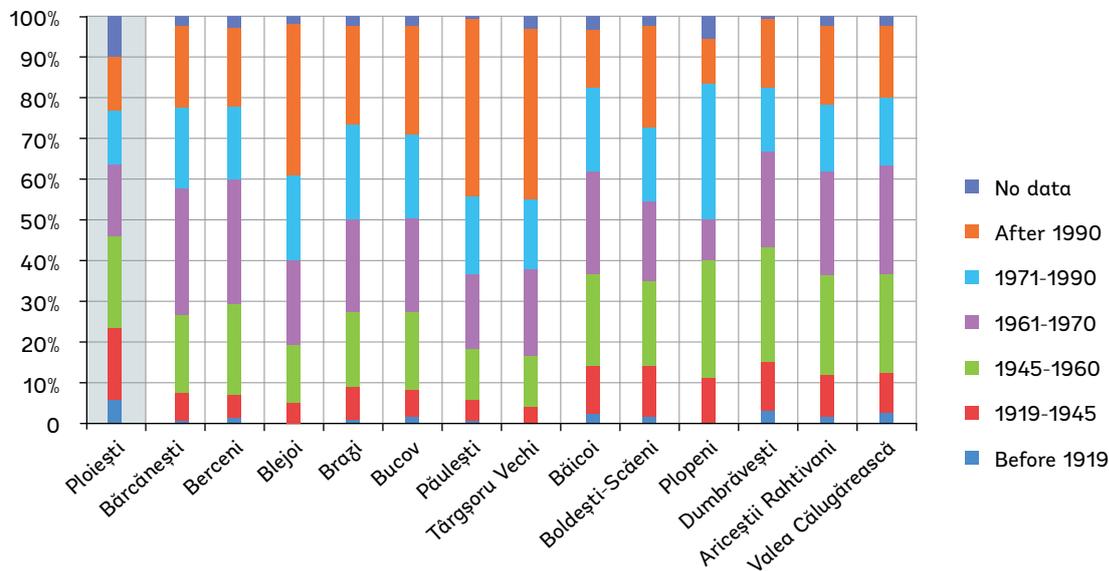
Figure 96. Share of residential buildings constructed during communist years in Ploiești municipality by census sectors



Source: Own diagram based on NIS, RGPL data, 2011

Overall, one may say that the advanced age of the Growth Pole housing stock raises living quality and safety issues and requires consolidation works, particularly for the pre-1977 buildings, whether houses or blocks of flats.

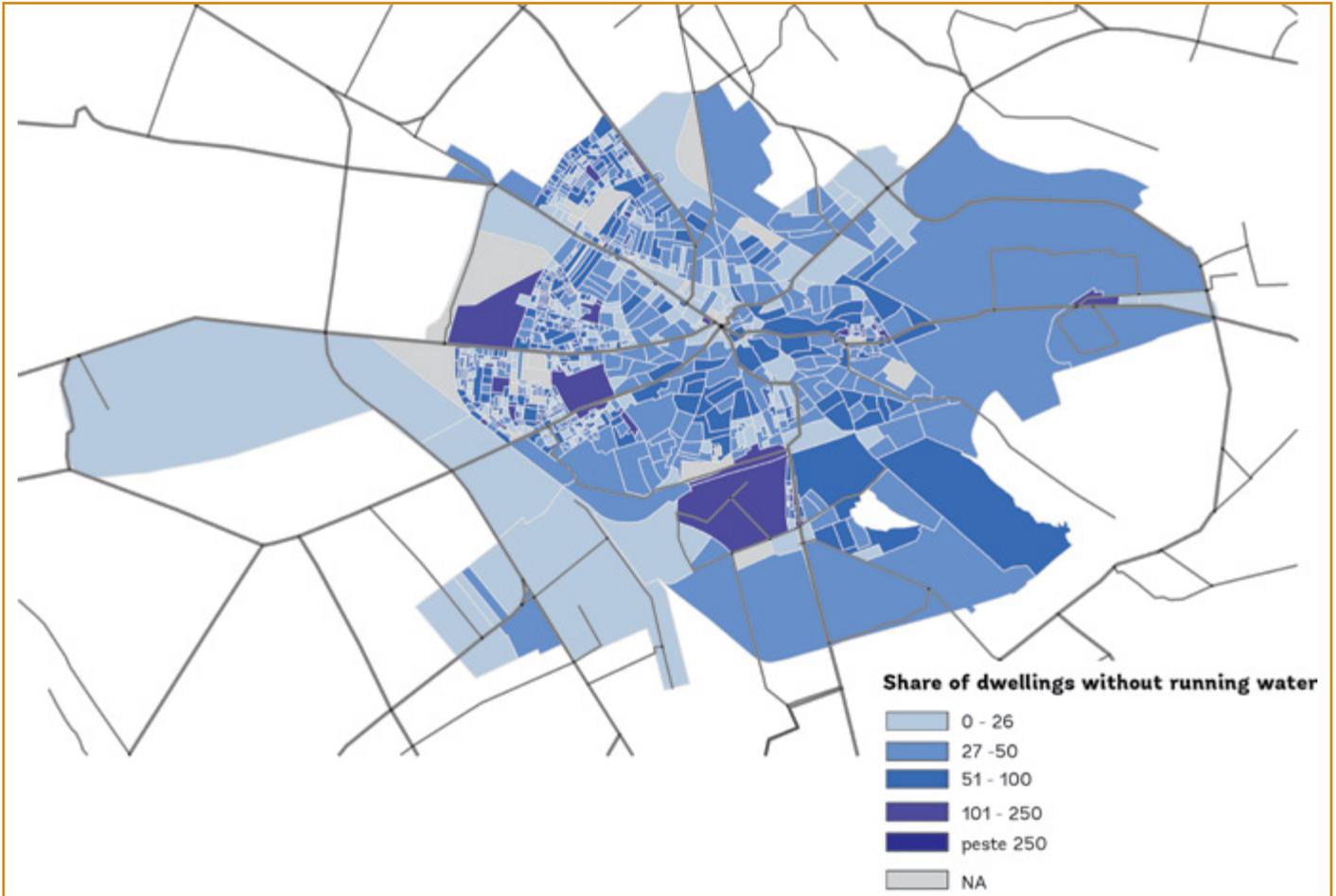
Figure 82. Residential buildings in Ploiești Growth Pole by localities and construction year



Source: NIS, the General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results

At the 2011 census, 96.7% of the dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole had available drinking water supply, of which 92.9% from the public network, and 3.8% from own systems. However, 6.6% of these did not have en-suite water supply – only in-building and outdoor water supply systems. Most of the dwellings without water supply were found in the communes of Valea Călugărească (19.9% of the total), Dumbrăvești (17%), Bărcănești (14.7%), Târgșoru Vechi (12.5%), and Bucov (11.9%). Only 835 dwellings without water supply were recorded in Ploiești municipality, i.e. just 0.9% of the total, together with other 1,572 dwellings with in-building or outdoor water systems, and 654 dwellings with own water supply systems. The central drinking water supply system served 87,187 dwellings (96.6 of the city's housing stock).

Map 97. Number of dwellings without running water by census sectors in Ploiești municipality

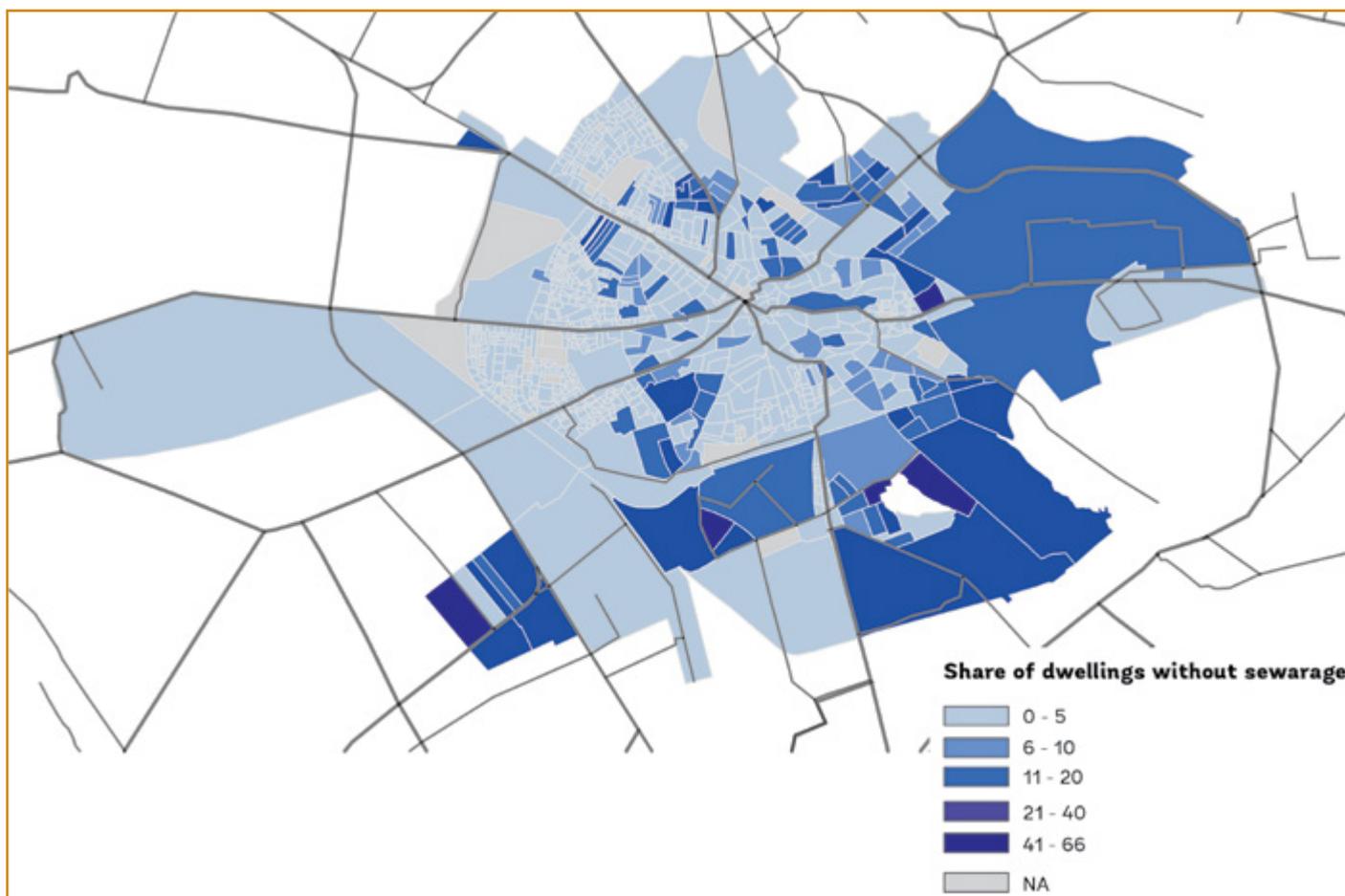


Source: Own diagram



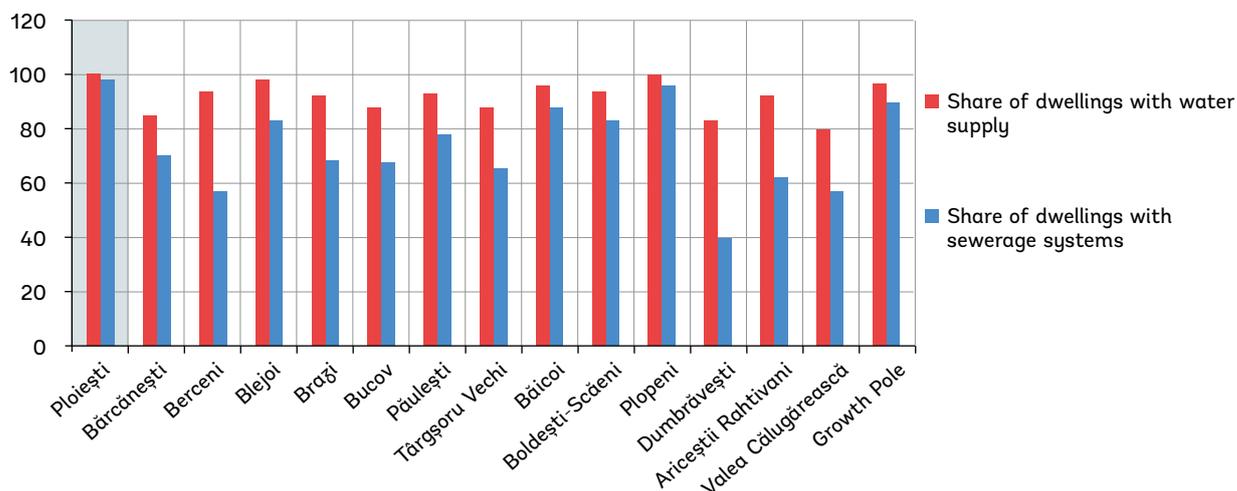
On the other hand, the 2011 census further showed that 90.1% of the dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole were connected to the sewerage network, out of which 68.8% to the public network, and 21.3% to private networks. The highest share of dwellings not connected to a sewerage system is found in the communes of Dumbrăvești (59.8%), Valea Călugărească (43%), Berceni (42.8%), Ariceștii Rahtivani (37.5%), Târgșoru Vechi (34.3%), Bucov (33.1%), and Brazi (31.4%). A total of more than 13,700 dwellings in the Growth Pole are not connected to a sewerage system. Due to the lack of central sewerage networks, private sewerage networks prevail in most of the Growth Pole localities (e.g. based on septic tanks), the only exceptions being Ploiești, Boldești-Scăeni, and Plopeni. Ploiești had a number of 2,407 dwellings without sewerage facilities, i.e. 2.7% of the total housing stock, located mainly in suburban districts (such as Mitică Popescu), plus 5,405 dwellings connected to private networks. A total of 81,235 dwellings were connected to the public sewerage network (90% of all city dwellings).

Map 98. Number of dwellings not connected to sewerage systems by census sectors in Ploiești municipality



Source: Own diagram

Figure 83. Share of dwellings with water supply and sewerage systems by component localities of the Growth Pole in 2011



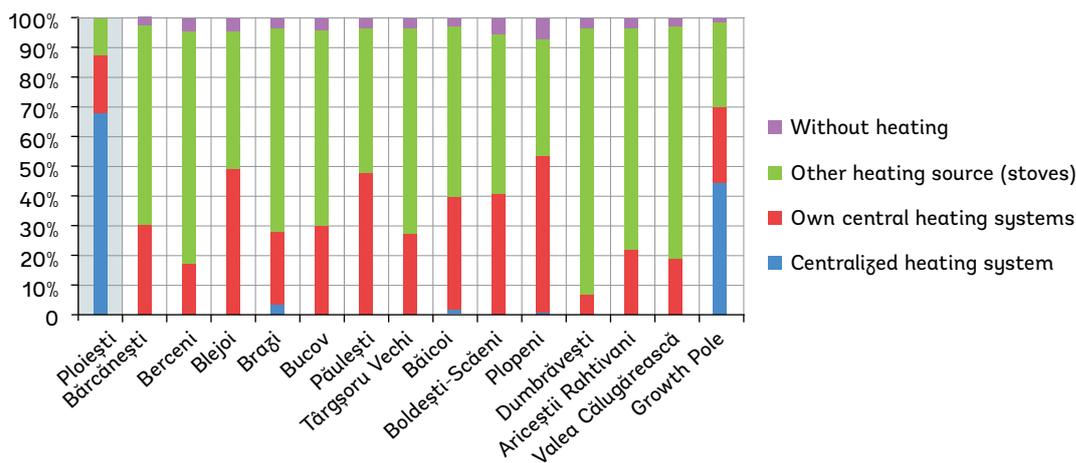
Source: NIS, the General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results

As regards the heating supply, 44.8% of all dwellings are connected to a centralized heating system, 25.8% have their own gas-, LPG- or solid fuel-based central heating systems, 28% use cookers, stoves or electric heating appliances, and 1.4% are not heated. In Ploiești municipality, 87.7% of dwellings have central heating, of which 68.4% are connected to the central heating network, and 19.3% have their own heating systems. It has the largest share of dwellings (apartments) connected to the public central heating system of all Romanian growth poles, considering that many such systems collapsed in the years 2000. More than 10,400 city dwellings, namely detached houses, still use gas, wood, and coal stoves for heating, while 573 are not heated.

As regards the other localities of the Growth Pole, with the exception of Plopeni, where more than 50% of dwellings have their own heating systems, most of them are still heated by stoves, mainly based on solid fuels such as coal, which generate a high volume of CO₂ emissions. The most unfavorable situation is found in Dumbrăvești commune, the only one not connected to a gas network in the respective area. However, the share of dwellings with their own central heating systems increased significantly over the last decade, particularly in the localities surrounding Ploiești municipality, where new, modern residential districts have been built (Blejoi, Păulești, etc.).

Currently, only 82.3% of the dwellings in the Growth Pole and 93.5% of the dwellings in Ploiești municipality are supplied with domestic hot water. The most disadvantaged localities in this respect are Dumbrăvești (27.3% of the total), Berceni (36.2%), Valea Călugărească (41.4%), and Bucov (47.8%), which are either lacking a central heating network or have a small share of dwellings equipped with individual heating systems.

Figure 84. Structure of the housing stock in Ploiești Growth Pole by localities, according to heating system

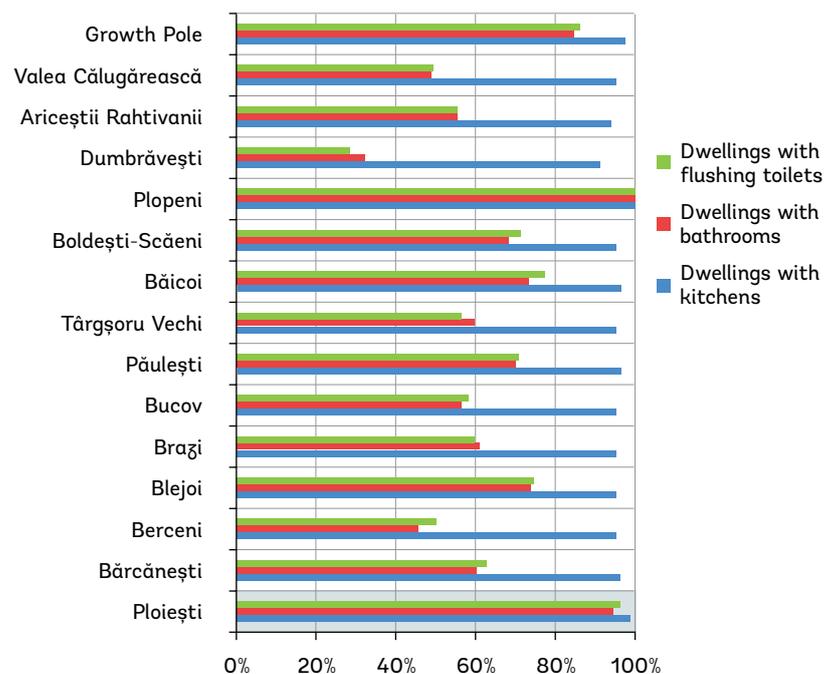


Source: NIS, the General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results



In 2011, 98% of dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole had a kitchen, 85.7% had a bathroom, and 87.3% had en-suite, in-building or outdoor flushing toilets. The best situation is found in Ploiești and Plopeni, which have a housing stock largely made up of blocks of flats built in the communist period, which, despite their low comfort, are equipped with all the required domestic fixtures and appurtenances. At the other end of the spectrum there is a string of rural localities such as Dumbrăvești, Berceni, Valea Călugărească, Ariceștii Rahtivani, with less developed urban utilities and obsolete housing stock, typical for rural settlements. Metropolitan communes, which benefitted from the expansion of modern residential areas (Blejoii, Păulești), witnessed a significant improvement in the level of domestic fixtures as compared to the 2011 census.

Figure 85. Types of home utilities by localities 2011

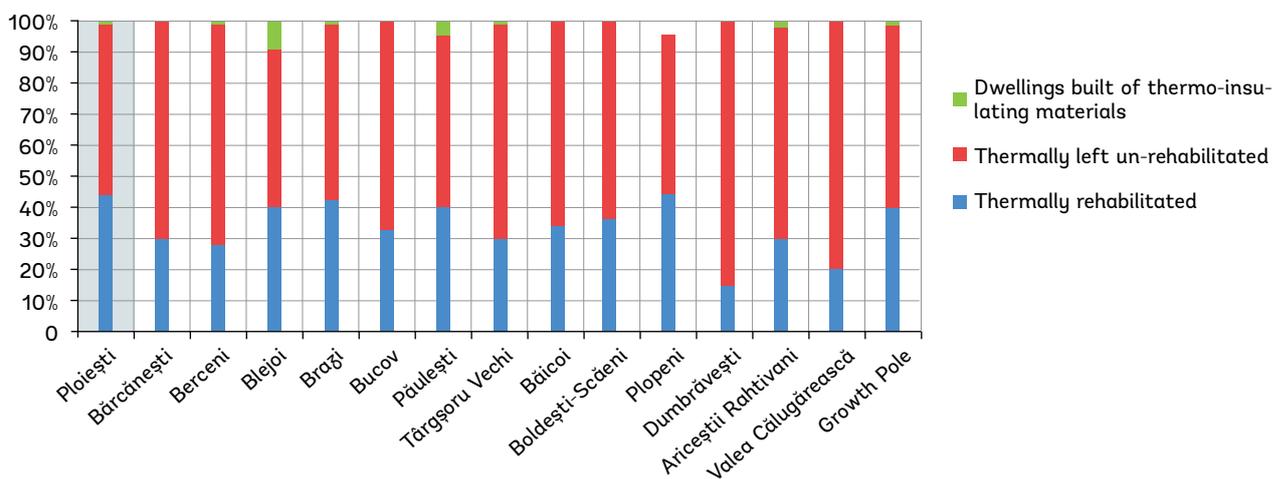


Source: NIS, the General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results

In terms of electrification, Ploiești Growth Pole has 836 dwellings not connected to the power network, i.e. only 0.6% of the total housing stock. Most of these dwellings are found in Ploiești (296), Bucov (80), Valea Călugărească (65), Brazi and Berceni (55), Blejoii (49), and Târgșoru Vechi (43). In most cases, these were due to voluntary disconnection determined by the owners, the power supply network being developed in all these locations. However, the electricity distribution network is considered for expansion in localities with widespread newly-built residential areas, such as Blejoii or Păulești.

As regards the energy efficiency of the buildings the 2011 census data shows that only 40.8% of the dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole have been subject to thermal rehabilitation, while more than 80,000 dwellings (58.6% of the total) require such works. The extent of thermal rehabilitation is slightly larger in Ploiești municipality (44.6%), but there still are approximately 50,000 dwellings, both apartments and detached houses, which require thermal insulation and even structural rehabilitation works.

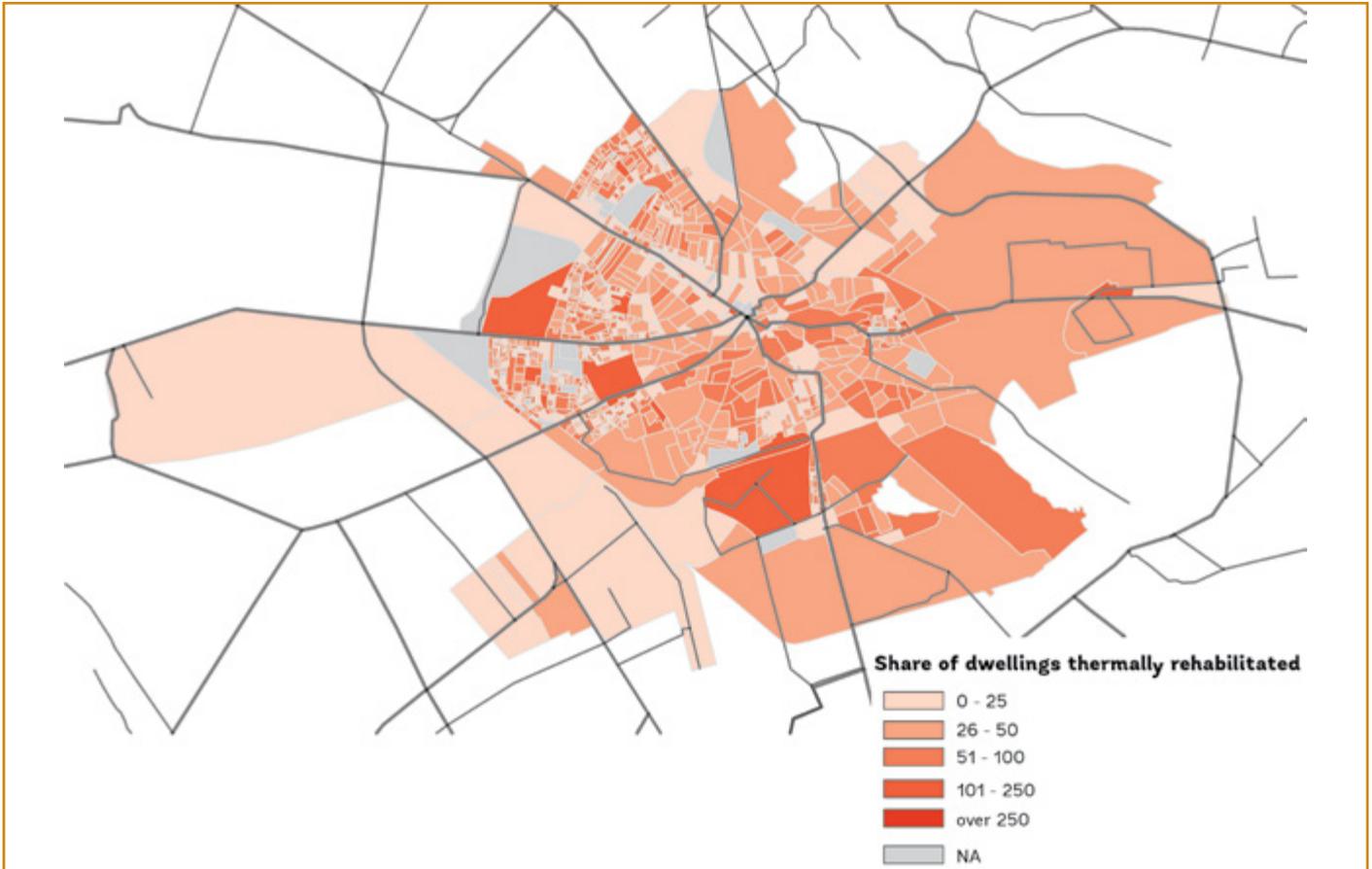
Figure 86. Energy efficiency of dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole by localities



Source: NIS, the General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results

In 2011-2012, nearly 50 blocks of flats have been rehabilitated in the West I and II districts, as well as Malu Roșu and North districts in Ploiești municipality through a program co-financed by MRDPA with 50% at the local level, and projects for the rehabilitation of 9 blocks are currently under assessment or implementation in the Republicii, Bănești, and Sinăii areas, co-financed by the EU through the ROP 2007-2013 and based on the contributions of the associations of owners. These are complemented by several blocks of flats that have been thermally rehabilitated totally or partially on the owners' expense.

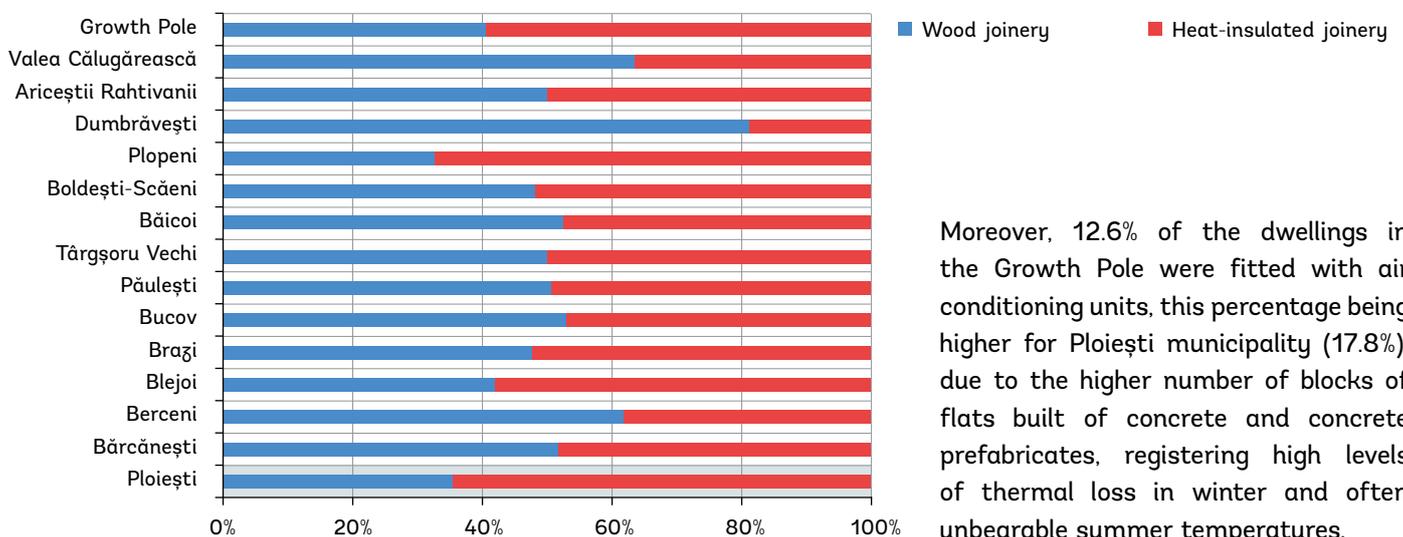
Map 99. Share of thermally rehabilitated dwellings by census sectors in Ploiești municipality in 2011



Source: Own diagram based on NIS, RGPL data, 2011

In 2011, 59.1% of the dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole had heat-insulated joinery (PVC, aluminum or laminated wood with double glazing window), while the remaining dwellings had regular wooden joinery. The percentage of dwellings with heat-insulated joinery was higher in Ploiești municipality, i.e. 64.2%.

Figure 87. Dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole according to window joinery, by localities



Moreover, 12.6% of the dwellings in the Growth Pole were fitted with air conditioning units, this percentage being higher for Ploiești municipality (17.8%), due to the higher number of blocks of flats built of concrete and concrete prefabricates, registering high levels of thermal loss in winter and often unbearable summer temperatures.

Source: NIS, the General Population and Housing Census 2011 – Final results

1.6.2. Education

In the larger context of the wider objective of the Regional Operational Programme (ROP) to reduce economic and social development gaps between developed and least developed areas, the education and professional training component plays an important role in driving a sustainable economic growth in Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole. Furthermore, this objective is compatible with and contributes to the final objective of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth for Romania.

The Romanian education sector is an integral part of the Government's Strategy to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives and targets, which largely focus on improving educational standings and preventing school dropout. For this purpose, the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (MECS) drafted three Education Strategies under the ex-ante conditionalities required by the European Commission (EC) for the next financial programming period 2014-2020, targeted at three specific objectives, namely:

- Reduction of early school dropout rates (ESD);
- Increased participation to tertiary education (TE);
- Increased adult participation in lifelong learning (LL).

The population decline of the last two decades demands the correlation of education policies with economic and social policies to ensure a sustainable and inclusive growth. A development strategy for 2014-2020 should envisage actions and interventions which support and drive the achievement of such targets. However, as regards the South Muntenia region, it has to be reminded that Prahova county recorded a lower rate of rural population decline between 1990-2010, i.e. -1.5%, than Ialomița and Teleorman counties, where these rates are significantly higher, namely -15% and -14%. On the other hand, Prahova county has higher rates of urban population decline (-9.5%).

Moreover, some of the general findings of the analysis of demographic processes occurring in Romania and the entire South Muntenia region between 1990 and 2010 showed the short-, medium- and long-term negative impact of population decline on active population ageing, as well as on school population. In addition, the number of children born by very young or single mothers is on the increase, which leads to a higher risk of school dropout for such children (ADR South Muntenia Study, page 29).

Table 21. Europe 2020 Strategy targets – current situation

Europe 2020 targets (%)	Romania's targets (%)	Romania in 2013 (%)
Early school dropout rate below 10%	11.3	17.3
At least 40% of the population aged between 30 and 34 to complete tertiary education	26.7	22.8
At least 15% of the population aged between 25 and 34 to take part in lifelong learning	10	2.0

Source: The National Reform Programme 2014

¹http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

²http://www.edu.ro/index.php/articles/proiecte_acte_norm/c402/

³ Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council

⁴ RDA South Muntenia, Study on the social issues and life quality in the South Muntenia Region, pp. 31-32

Educational infrastructure and school population

The current educational infrastructure of the component localities of Ploiești Growth Pole is made up of 211 education facilities, of which 108 nursery schools (fulltime and all-day kindergartens), 71 primary and secondary schools (including special needs education), 26 high schools, 5 post-secondary schools, and a tertiary education school. 187 of these are public, i.e. 94 kindergartens, 68 primary and secondary schools, an art and vocational school, 22 high schools, a post-secondary school, and a university.

Table 22. Number of public education facilities by types and localities in Ploiești Growth Pole during the school year 2013/2014

Locality	Public education facilities							Total
	Kindergartens	Primary schools	Secondary (including special needs) schools	Art and vocational schools	High schools	Post-secondary schools	Universities	
PLOIEȘTI MUNICIPALITY	40	1	28	1	17	1	1	89
BĂICOI CITY	5	2	3	0	1	0	0	11
BOLDEȘTI-SCĂENI CITY	6	0	3	0	1	0	0	10
PLOPENI CITY	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Ariceștii Rahtivani COMMUNE	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	8
BĂRCĂNEȘTI COMMUNE	4	0	3	0	1	0	0	8
BERCENI COMMUNE	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	9
BLEJOI COMMUNE	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
BRAZI COMMUNE	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	8
BUCOV COMMUNE	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	8
DUMBRĂVEȘTI COMMUNE	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
PĂULEȘTI COMMUNE	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
TÎRĞȘORU VECHI COMMUNE	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ COMMUNE	7	1	4	0	1	0	0	13
TOTAL	94	8	60	1	22	1	1	187

Source: Prahova County Inspectorate, 2015

As regards the private sector, Ploiești Growth Pole has 14 kindergartens, 3 primary and secondary schools, 3 high schools, and 4 post-secondary and nursing schools.

Table 23. Number of private education facilities by types and localities in Ploiești Growth Pole during the school year 2013/2014

Locality	Private education facilities						Total
	Kindergartens	Primary and secondary schools	Art and vocational schools	High schools	Post-secondary schools	Universities	
PLOIEȘTI MUNICIPALITY	11	1	0	3	4	0	19
BĂICOI CITY	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
PĂULEȘTI COMMUNE	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	14	3	0	3	4	0	24

Source: Prahova County Inspectorate, 2015

As regards early childhood facilities, Ploiești municipality offers 6 day care centers for 606 children, and one day care center for 12 children in Boldești-Scăeni.

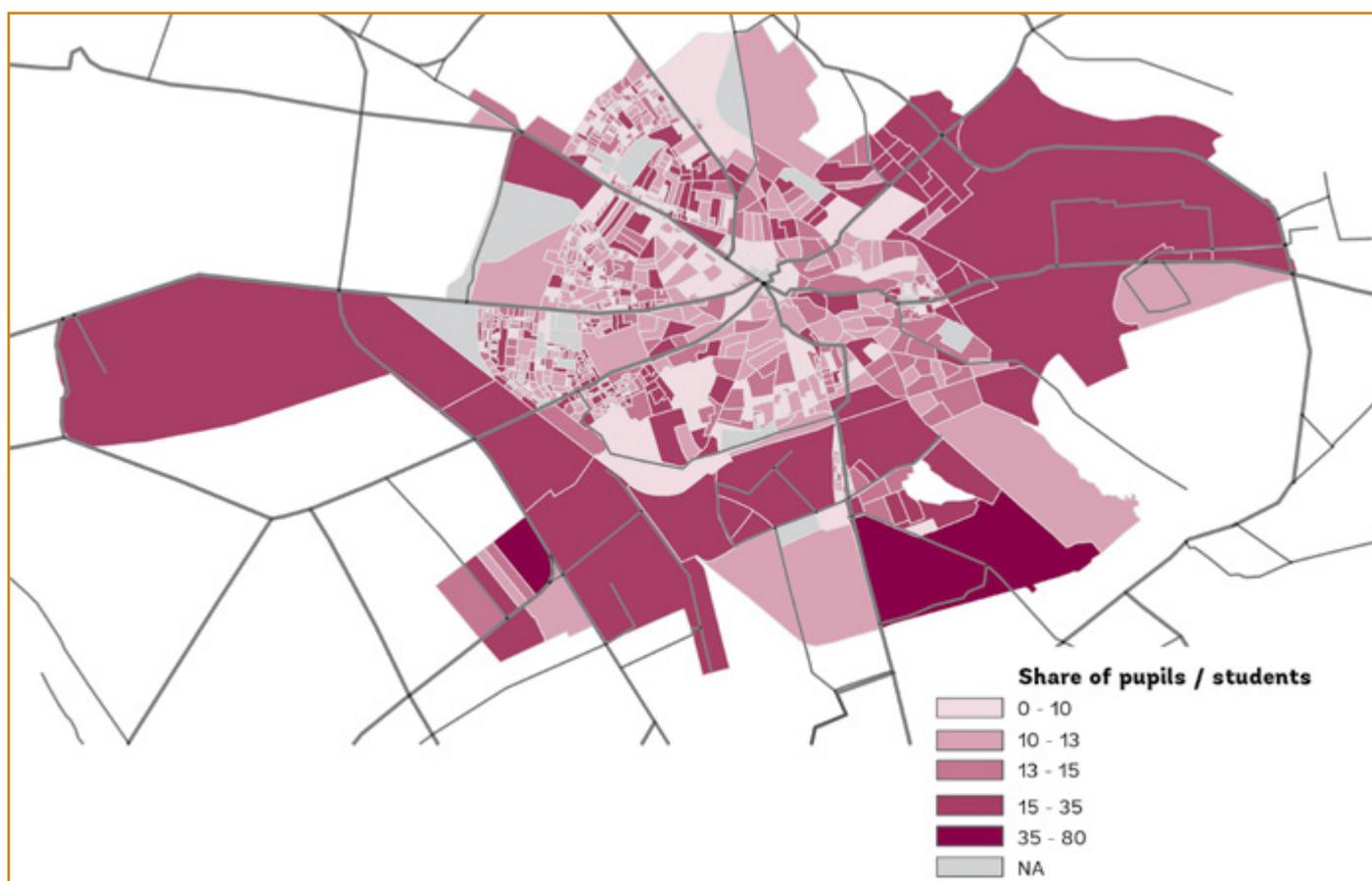
Table 24. Early childhood facilities in Ploiești Growth Pole during the school year 2013/2014

Early childhood facilities	No. of day care centers	No. of children	No. of nurses	No. of care takers	No. of educators
Ploiești municipality	6	606	17	41	44
Boldești-Scăeni	1	12	1	1	0
Total	7	618	18	42	44

Source: Prahova Directorate of Public Health, 2015

The total school population of Ploiești Growth Pole amounted to 63,849 children, pupils, and students in 2013, i.e. 19.3% of the total permanent population in the area. Out of these, 8,398 children were enrolled in kindergartens, 15,152 pupils in primary schools, 11,784 pupils in secondary schools, 17,704 pupils in high schools, 583 in vocational schools, 3,597 in post-secondary and technical schools, and 6,631 were university students.

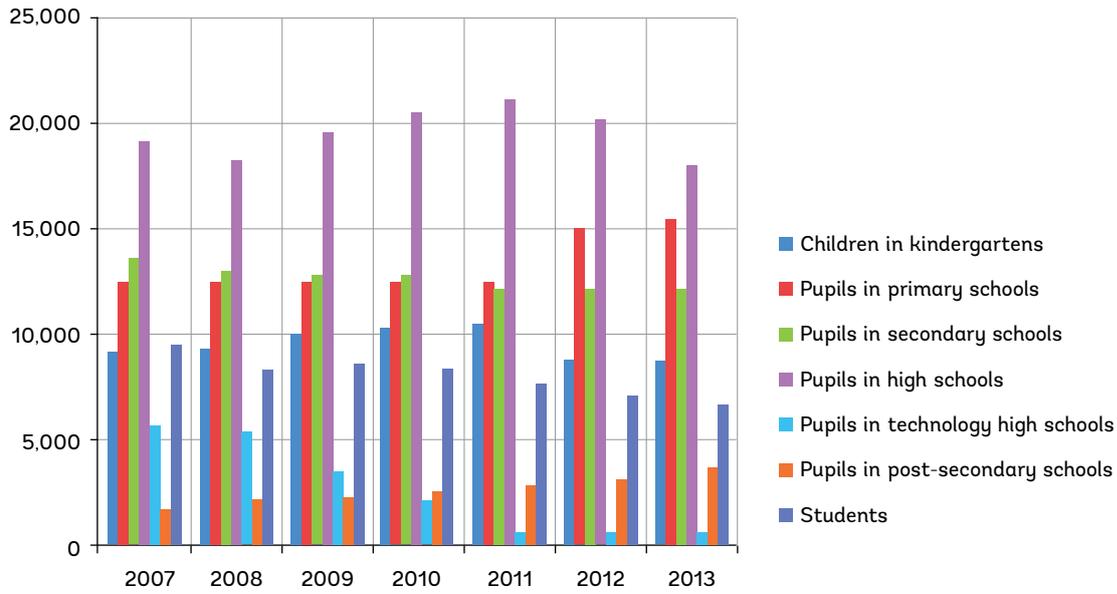
Map 100. Share of pupils and students in the total population at the level of census sectors in Ploiești municipality in 2011



Source: Own diagram based on NIS, RGPL data, 2011

As compared with 2007, the total school population decreased by 8.7%, mainly due to the steep decline of birth rates over the last two decades, and secondly to school dropout and the internal and external migration of the population, as most of the high school graduates in Ploiești enroll in Bucharest universities. This decrease has left a significant mark on vocational education (-89.7%) due to the reorientation of pupils to technical high schools, and on the number of students (-31%) against the background of low pass rates of the Bacalaureate and the competition from other universities. Significant increases occurred in the number of pupils enrolled in post-secondary schools (+221.8%), which became an appealing alternative for those unable to attend university courses, as well as in the number of primary school pupils (+24.7%), following the introduction of the Zero Grade.

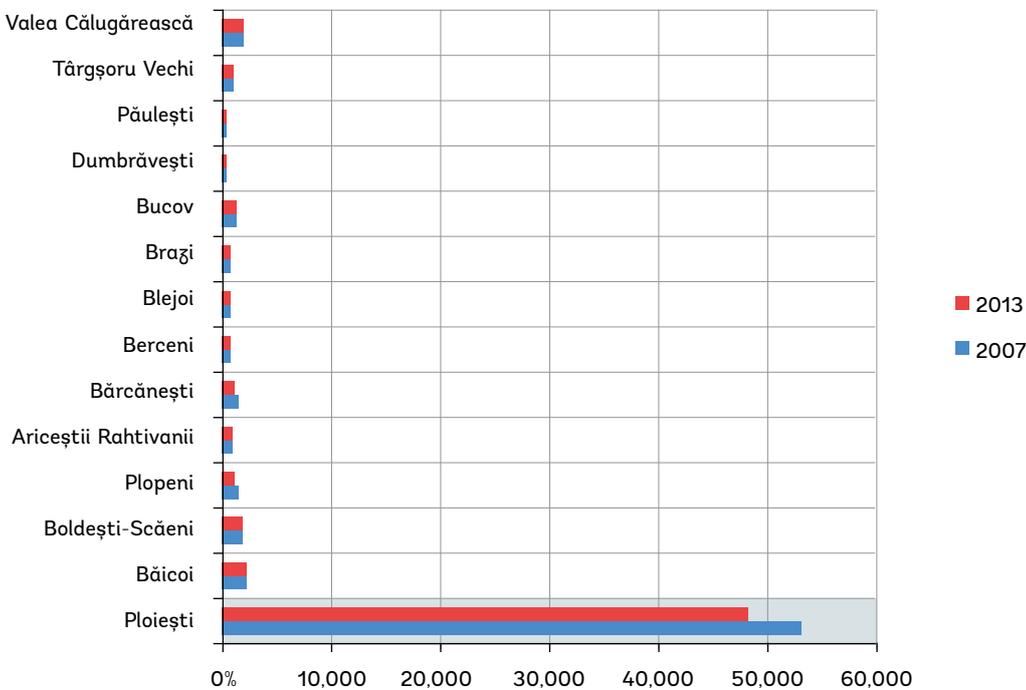
Figure 88. School population in Ploiești Growth Pole by education level in the 2007-2013 period



Source: National Institute of Statistics

75.8% of the school population (48,428 children, pupils, and students) is found in Ploiești municipality, which has the highest highest volumes of school population, high schools, and faculties, which attract graduates from most of the county's localities and even from neighboring counties. The school population decreased in most component localities in 2007-2013, including in Ploiești (-9.1%), with the only exceptions of Târgșoru Vechi (+8.1%), Păulești (+47.4%), Dumbrăvești (+7.1%), and Blejoi (+3.8%), especially due to higher birth and immigration rates (suburbanization). Still, many of the school age children in the neighboring localities commute to educational facilities in the city, which have a better education offer and higher reputation.

Figure 89. School population in Ploiești Growth Pole during the 2007-2013 period by localities



Source: The National Institute of Statistics

In 2012, the total number of graduates in Ploiești Growth Pole amounted to 10,321 (all education levels being considered), of which 2,751 were secondary education graduates, 5,101 high school graduates, 88 vocational school graduates, 955 post-secondary school graduates, and 1,426 university graduates, lower than in previous years (except for post-secondary schools), due to the declining school population. One may notice that only 25% of high school graduates in this area remain to attend university studies in this city, while the others prefer post-secondary schools or universities in different cities.

The offer of high schools in this area, which concentrate most of the existing school population, is quite diverse, as it is shown in the table below:

Table 25. Field of study, number of students, and pass rate in high schools in Ploiești Growth Pole during the school year 2013/2014

High school	Enrolled students	Baccalaureate pass rate	Humanities	Sciences	Sports	Pedagogy	Technical	Natural resources and environment	Vocational	Services
PLOIEȘTI										
Spiru Haret College	1,270	75%	X	X			X			
Economic Virgil Madgearu College	1,247	79%		X						X
A.I. Cuza National College	886	98%	X	X						
Jean Monnet Național College	1401	98%	X	X		X				
I.L. Caragiale Național College	1,179	99%	X	X						
Mihai Viteazul Național College	1,235	98%	X	X	X					
Nichita Stănescu Național College	882	95%	X	X						
Elie Radu Technical College	1,377	48%	X	X			X	X		
Lațăr Edeleanu Technical College	1,189	52%		X			X	X		
Toma N. Socolescu Technical College	1,520	38%	X	X			X	X		
Carmen Sylva Art College	347	94%							X	
1 Mai Technical High school	781	36%		X			X			
Anghel Saligny Technical High school	823	10%					X		X	X
Transportation Technical High school	760	8%					X			
Ludovic Mraček Technical High school	477	18%					X	X		
Victor Slăvescu Technical Administrative and Services High school	212	88%		X						X
Sf. Apostol Andrei Technical Services High school	1137	51%								X
BĂICOI										
C-tin Cantacuzino Technical High school	403	60%	X	X						X
BOLDEȘTI-SCĂENI										
Teodor Diamant Technical High school	486	8%		X			X	X		
PLOPENI										
Gh. Lațăr Technical High school	431	64%		X			X			
BĂRCĂNEȘTI										
Technical Agricultural High school	338	10%					X	X		X
VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ										
Gh. Ionescu-Sisești Agricultural College	547	26%					X	X		X

Thus, there are 10 high schools specialized in humanities (philology, social sciences), 16 in sciences (mathematics and informatics, natural sciences), 2 sports high schools (volleyball, basketball, handball), a pedagogy high school (teachers / educators), 1 vocational high school (music, visual arts), 12 technical high schools (mechanics, electronics-automation, electrics, electro-mechanics, constructions-installations-civil engineering, industrial chemistry, construction materials, wood products manufacturing, textile and leather industry, media production), 7 natural resources and environment high schools (ecology and environment, food industry, agriculture), 8 services high schools (aesthetics and human hygiene, tourism and catering, economics, trade).

As can be seen, around 65% of the students are enrolled in technical high schools, to the benefit of the local labor market, which mainly favors job seekers with secondary education (for the industry, services, constructions), but their Baccalaureate pass rate is very low as compared to academic high schools, i.e. 8% to 52% versus over 90%. Students who fail to pass this exam may only attend post-secondary schools instead of universities.

As regards vocational education, 14 public high schools feature technical classes (electrics, electronics-automation, chemical industry, food industry, wood products manufacturing, constructions-installations-civil engineering, mechanics, textile and leather industry, tourism and catering, aesthetics, and human hygiene). The number of vocational students dropped steeply over the past two decades, as most secondary school graduates chose mainly academic high schools, thus giving rise to difficulties in ensuring sufficient numbers of secondary education graduates for the main local economic sectors (industry, constructions, services, agriculture).

As regards post-secondary education, there are 10 such high schools (agriculture and food industry, tourism and catering, aesthetics and human hygiene, health and pedagogy assistance, economy, services, textiles and leather, constructions-installations and public works, informatics, transports, and environment), in addition to 5 public and private nursing schools.



The main education institution in the field of higher education is the Petroleum and Gas University (PGU), established in 1948, which trains specialists for the Romanian oil and gas industry. In the last two decades, the educational offer of the university was supplemented with humanistic and economic studies, at 5 faculties. The University campus comprises around 80 seminar and lecture rooms, 140 laboratories, 9 amphitheatres, one auditorium, one library, an Internet-connected computer network, servers, one gym and sports fields, 7 student dorms with 1,600 places, one cafeteria, medical and dental offices, a student's club, etc. According to the classification of the Ministry of National Education, the Petroleum and Gas University is a 3rd category „education-focused university”, and was granted a high level of trust by ARACIS. However, the scientific performances of the university trail significantly behind those of traditional universities, such as Bucharest, Iași, or Cluj-Napoca.

Table 26. Educational offer of PGU Ploiești in the academic year 2013/2014

Ploiești Petroleum and Gas University ⁵		
Faculties	Fields	No. of students ⁶ (2013/2014)
Faculty of Petroleum and Gas Engineering	1. Mines, oil and gas (IF, IFR) 2. Geological Engineering (IF)	1,223
Faculty of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering	1. Mechanical engineering (IF) 2. Electrical engineering (IF) 3. Electronic engineering and telecommunications (IF) 4. System engineering (IF, IFR) 5. Computers and information technology (IF) 6. Engineering and management (IF, ID)	1,640
Faculty of Petroleum Refining and Petrochemistry	1. Chemical Engineering (IF) 2. Environmental engineering (IF, IFR)	885
Faculty of Economic Sciences	1. Business administration (IF) 2. Finances (IF) 3. Accounting (IF, ID) 4. Cybernetics, statistics, and economic informatics (IF, ID) 5. Management (IF, ID)	2,617
Faculty of Letters and Sciences	1. Language and Literature (IF) 2. Mathematics (IF) 3. Informatics (IF) 4. Chemistry (IF) 5. Administrative sciences (IF) 6. Education sciences (IF)	1,655

Source: Petroleum and Gas University, 2014/2015

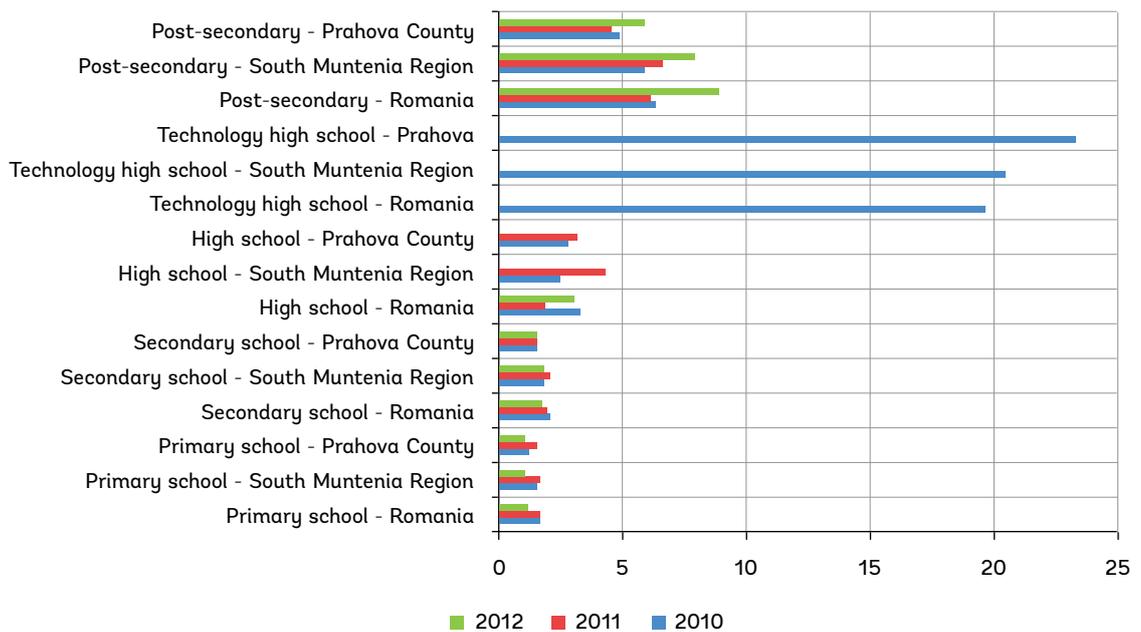
Owing to its unique position at the national level and good external reputation, the Petroleum and Gas University attracts more than 400 foreign students each year from countries such as Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Angola, Ivory Coast, Iraq, Syria, Vietnam, Turkmenistan, etc. Moreover, student and professor exchange programs are being carried out with other European universities under the ERASMUS Program. The students of this institution take part in internships at local companies in the industry, with some receiving even employment offers before completion of their studies. The University cooperates with the private sector for research projects as well, as it owns state of the art equipment and facilities purchased under POS DRU and POS CCE 2007-2013, although the promotion of its offer of services is still not at its best. Such an approach is needed particularly against the backdrop of falling student numbers and insufficient education funding resources from the state budget.

⁵ <http://www.upg-Ploiești.ro/facultati/index.html>

⁶ Number of students enrolled in all education forms, Bachelor and Master degrees. Prahova County Sustainable Development Plan for 2014-2020, pp. 69-72

Despite the unavailability of local-level data, the school dropout rate in Prahova county fell below the regional and national average, particularly for the secondary, high school, vocational, and post-secondary education. The vocational education dropout rates remain however a matter of concern (more than 20% of the total number of students), revealing the low attractiveness of such studies for graduates. The high schools with the highest dropout rates are the following: „Sf. Apostol Andrei” Technical Services High School (16 students), Toma Socolescu Technical College (12 students), Anghel Saligny Technical College (10 students), and Gh. Lazăr Technical College Plopeni (8 students). The school dropout phenomenon is more prevalent among Roma students from rural areas, who are the most exposed to the risk of education exclusion. Most of them are studying at at Toma Socolescu Technical College (25 students), Gh. Lazăr Technical College Plopeni (21 students), Lazăr Edeleanu Technical College (20 students), Transportation Technical College (15 students), Spiru Haret College (15 students), Virgil Madgearu Economic College (14 students), Sf. Apostol Andrei Technical Services High School (11 students), and Nichita Stănescu National College (12 students).

Figure 90. County and regional school dropout rates by education levels during 2010-2012



Source: The National Institute of Statistics

As regards the vocational training offer (training and retraining), this is very diverse, covering a wide range of qualifications and skills in various economic and social areas. It is provided by different vocational training providers, such as: public institutions (3), private companies (31), and specialized NGOs (14) – see the Annex for the full list of authorized providers. The public institutions with the most diverse training offer are Prahova County Employment Agency (23 occupations, free courses for the unemployed), Prahova Chamber of Commerce and Industry (29 occupations), Prahova County Chamber of Agriculture. Despite the abundant offer of training courses, the number of participants remains limited, with most participants choosing the free courses. This fact is worrying due to the significant number of local adults qualified especially during the communist period for occupations that are not currently sought on the market.

Social measures in the education field – social and support programs

The Ministry of Education is implementing a series of measures to support and assist the pupils enrolled in the public education system, such as Cornul și Laptele (the Roll and Milk), Fructe (Fruits), Bani pentru Liceu (Money for High School), Bursa Profesională (Professional scholarship), and EURO 200.

Table 27. MECS-coordinated social and support programs for pupils in 2013

Program	Allocation per child	Source of funds
The "Roll and Milk" program	0.7 RON/child/day primary level 1.17 RON/child/day secondary level	Ministry of Agriculture (EU funds)
The Fruits program	0.37 RON/child/day/fruits	Ministry of Agriculture (EU funds)
The "Money for High school" program ⁷	150 RON/month/pupil	MECS budget
The Professional Scholarship program (support for all pupils from vocational and technical education) ⁸	200 RON/month/pupil	MECS budget

Source: MECS

In Ploiești Growth pole, around 27,000 pupils benefit from the „Roll and milk” and „Fruits” programs, and 237 pupils from the „Money for High school” program.

Table 28. Number of beneficiaries of the "Money for High School" Program by localities in the school year 2013/2014

Locality	No. of beneficiaries ⁹
Ariceștii Rahtivani	16
Băicoi	10
Bărcănești	13
Berceni	6
Boldești-Scăeni	25
Brazi	2
Bucov	11
Ploiești	110
Plopeni	15
Păulești	1
Târgșoru Vechi	17
Valea Călugărească	11
Total	237

Source: MECS

The EURO 200 program¹⁰ is intended to support the purchasing of personal computers by means of social grants. The social grant amounts to the equivalent in RON of EUR 200 for one computer. This program is targeted at pupils and/or students in the public or private education sector aged up to 26 years old, living in families with a monthly gross income of no more than RON 1,500 per family member. The number of individual recipients of this grant for 2013/2014 is shown in the table below.

⁷ GD 1488/2004 approving the criteria and amount of the financial support granted to pupils under the „Money for High School” National Social protection program

⁸ GD 1062/2012 on governmental subsidies related to costs incurred by vocational training students

⁹ <http://banidliceu.edu.ro/>

¹⁰ This program is regulated under Law 269 of June 2004

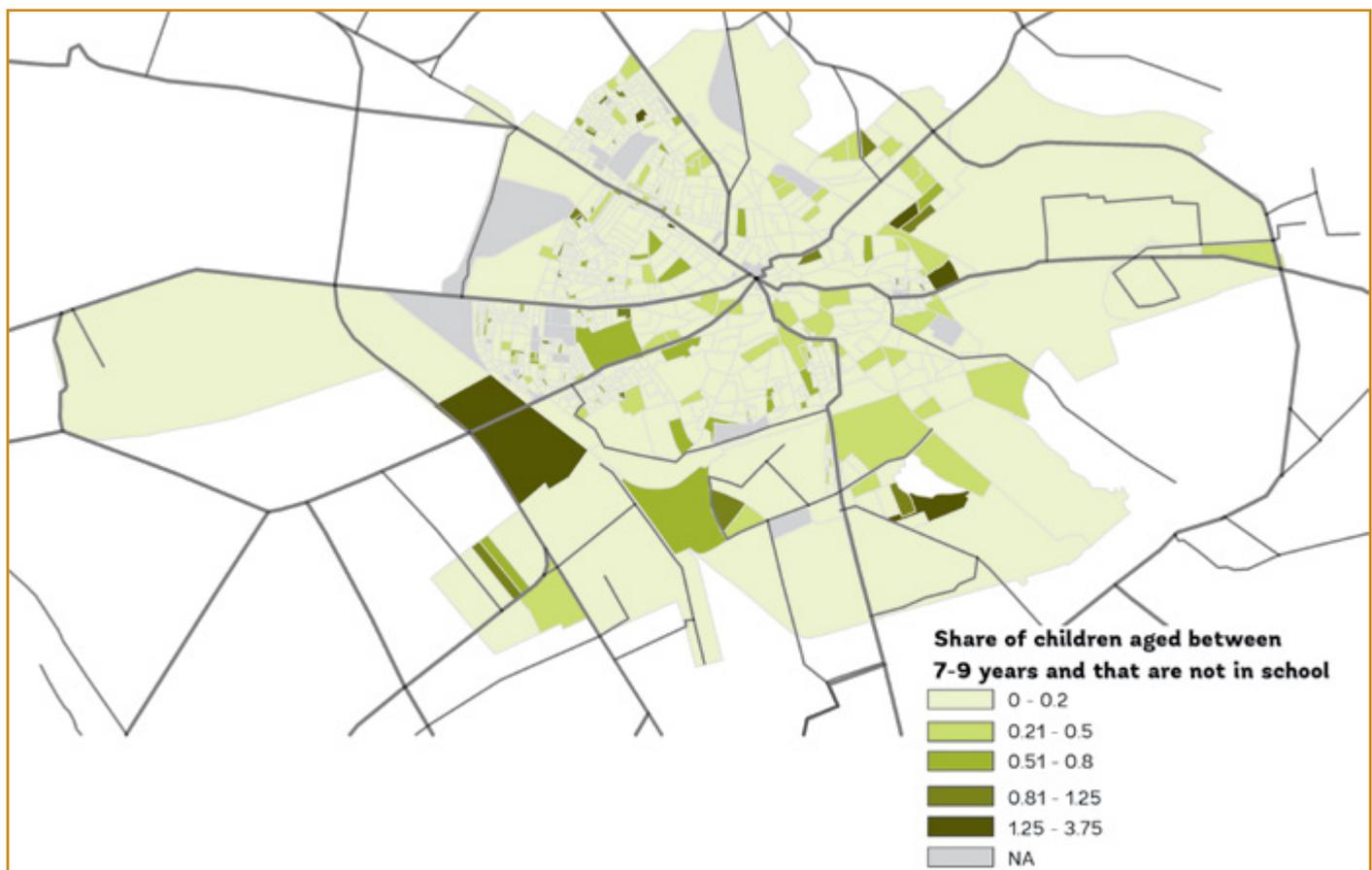
Table 29. Number of beneficiaries of "EURO 200" Social Program by localities in the school year 2013/2014

Locality	School	Beneficiaries
Municipiul Ploiești	Transportation Technical High school	3
	Sfântul Apostol Andrei Technical Services High school	1
	Candiano Popescu Secondary school	11
	The Ioan Grigorescu Secondary school	2
	Lațăr Edeleanu Technical College	1
	Virgil Madgearu Economic College	1
Berceni	Secondary school	5
Dumbrăvești	Secondary school	4
Târgșoru Vechi	Secondary school (Strejnicu)	2
	Secondary school (Târgșoru Vechi)	1
Valea Călugărească	Ion Ionescu secondary school	2
Total		33

Source: MECS

The program titled „A second chance” is intended for anyone who failed to graduate primary or secondary education and is more than 4 years older than the school age for the respective grade. Such classes are organized in the schools of Ploiești Growth Pole as follows:

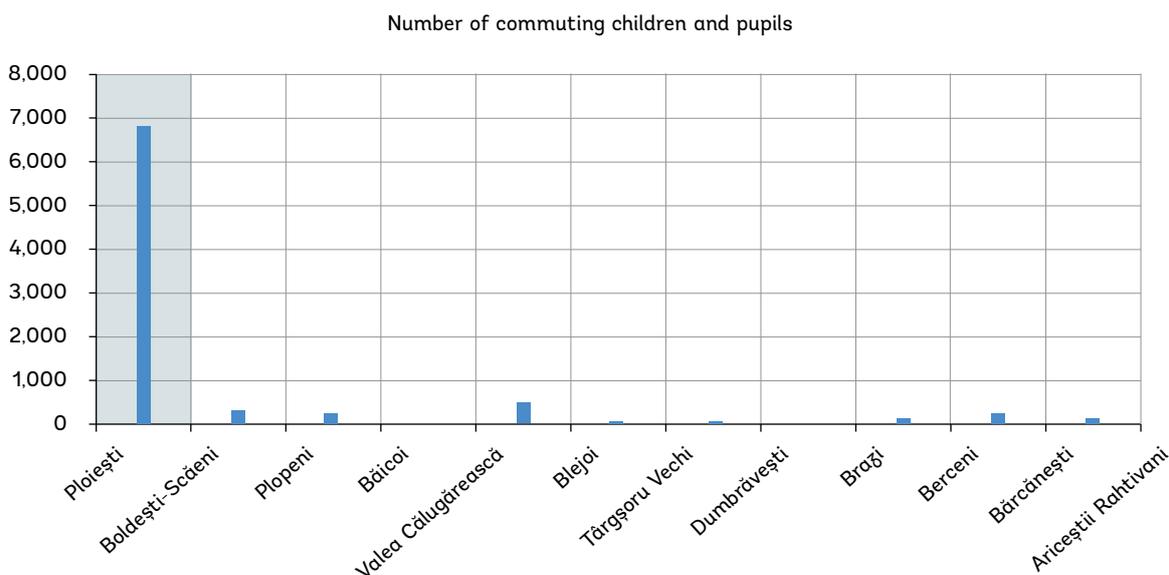
- Secondary school no. 13, Ploiești – 1 class of 32 pupils;
- Toma Caragiu Secondary school, Ploiești – 9 classes of 201 pupils;
- Special Vocational School, Plopeni – 2 classes of 17 pupils.

Map 101. The share of 7-9 year-olds not enrolled in an education institution at the level of census sectors in Ploiești municipality in 2011

Source: Own diagram based on NIS, RGPL data, 2011

Commuting to school is frequent in Ploiești Growth Pole. The educational facilities in Ploiești municipality attract 6,726 children and pupils from other localities, some from significant distances (30-50 km), most of them choosing the high schools in Ploiești, as most of the rural localities and small towns either do not have such facilities, or their current education offer is limited. The number of commuting children and pupils is less than 500 in other localities of Ploiești Growth Pole, more significant numbers being only reported for the communes of Valea Călugărească and Bărcănești, respectively the towns of Boldești-Scăeni and Plopeni, with high schools that attract pupils from neighboring localities. School mini-buses have been purchased under a MRDPA program in 2014, the communes such as Brazi, Berceni, Târgșoru Vechi, Ariceștii Rahtivani, Valea Călugărească being among the beneficiaries. However, many pupils still travel to city schools with public transport means or their parents' vehicles, a fact that requires further investments in the expansion and modernization of connecting roads and public transportation for fast and safe travel.

Figure 91. Number of commuting children and pupils by component localities



Source: ISJ Prahova

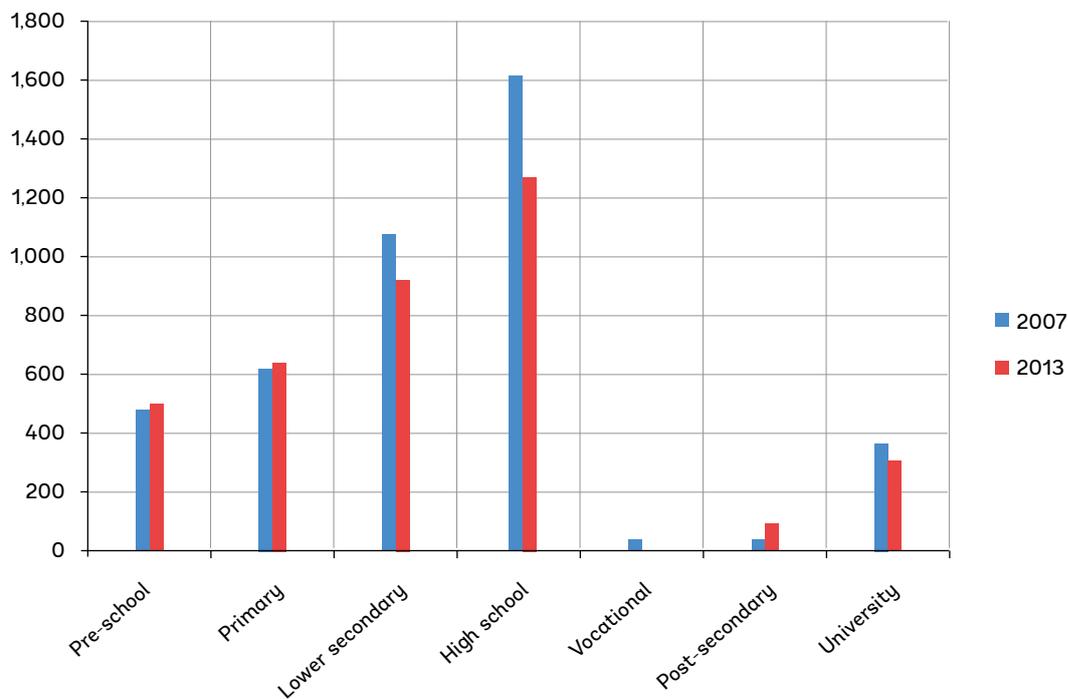
The total numbers of the teaching staff working in educational facilities of Ploiești Growth Pole was 3,712 in 2013 (2,700 in Ploiești municipality), of which 492 in the pre-school education, 637 in primary education, 922 in secondary education, 1,274 in high schools, 84 in post-secondary education, and 303 in higher education. There is a 11.6% drop in the number of teaching staff as compared with 2007, higher than the drop in school population (of approx. 9%), which indicates that the number of students per teacher increased slightly from 16.9 to 17.5. One reason is the migration of teaching staff to other fields or cities/countries following the low wage rates, which make teaching unattractive for young graduates. Thus, many educational facilities have to resort to less qualified teaching staff or even substitute teachers, a situation particularly prevalent in rural areas.

In 2013, the educational infrastructure of Ploiești Growth Pole included the following:

- 1,511 classrooms, amphitheatres and school offices (1,027 in Ploiești municipality), of which 772 in general schools, 642 in high schools, 36 in post-secondary schools, and 61 in the university;
- 396 school laboratories (294 in Ploiești municipality), of which 123 in general schools, 154 in high schools, 15 in post-secondary schools, and 104 in the university;
- 78 gyms (47 in Ploiești municipality), of which 50 in general schools, 27 in high schools, and one in the university;
- 137 school workshops (94 in Ploiești municipality), of which 2 in general schools, 133 in high schools, and 2 in the university;
- 74 sports fields (44 in the Ploiești municipality), of which 52 for general schools, 20 for high schools and 2 for the university;
- 5,082 personal computers for educational activities (3,742 in Ploiești municipality), of which 1,733 in general schools, 2,047 in high schools, 120 in post-secondary schools, and 822 in the university.

As compared with 2007, there was a 13.7% increase in the number of school laboratories, 18.2% in the number of gyms, 7.2% in the number of sports fields, and 44.7% in the number of personal computers, due to investments in some educational facilities from various sources (the local, county, and state budget, European grants, loans, etc.). However, the number of classrooms and school offices decreased by 4% following the closing or restructuring of some educational facilities due to the decreasing school population (Ariceștii Rahtivani, Valea Călugărească, etc.), while school workshops decreased by 16.5% following the decline of the technical and vocational education, a fact which threatens the practical training of the pupils and lowers their prospects for integration on the labor market. Against this background, the average number of pupils per classroom dropped from 45.2 in 2007 to 43 in 2013, a trend which will continue in the future and calls for a restructuring of the school infrastructure. This will also require an appropriate change of function for redundant educational facilities, especially in rural areas, such as the creation of after-school or social non-residential centers for children and adults, vocational training centers, etc. On the other hand, with a demand exceeding by far the available places, the increased number of pre-school children has put a lot of pressure on the kindergartens (and particularly all-day kindergartens) in the central area of Ploiești.

Figure 92. - Number of teaching staff by education levels in 2007 and 2013



Source: NIS, the TEMPO Online database

Map 102. Number of commuting children and pupils

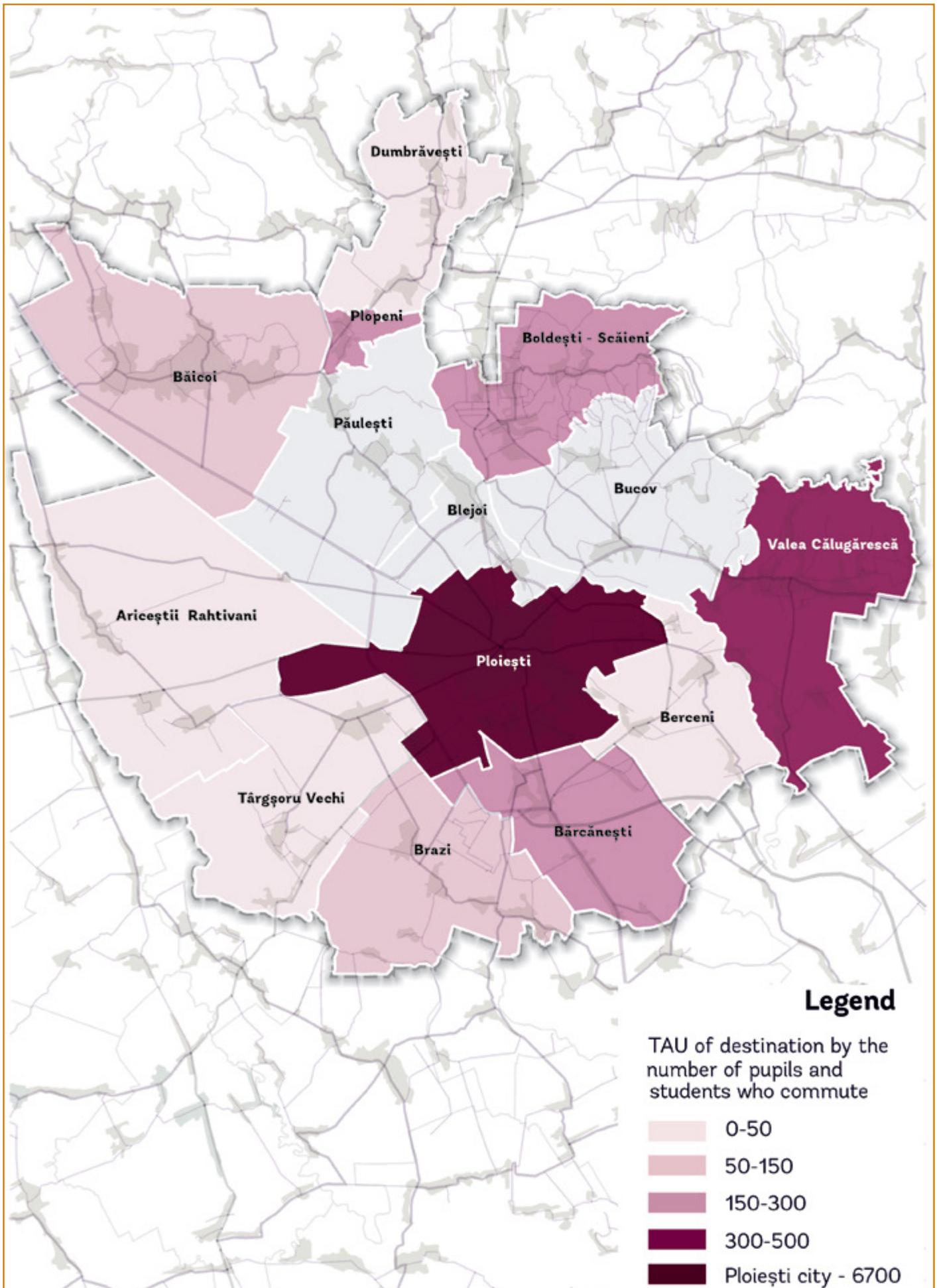
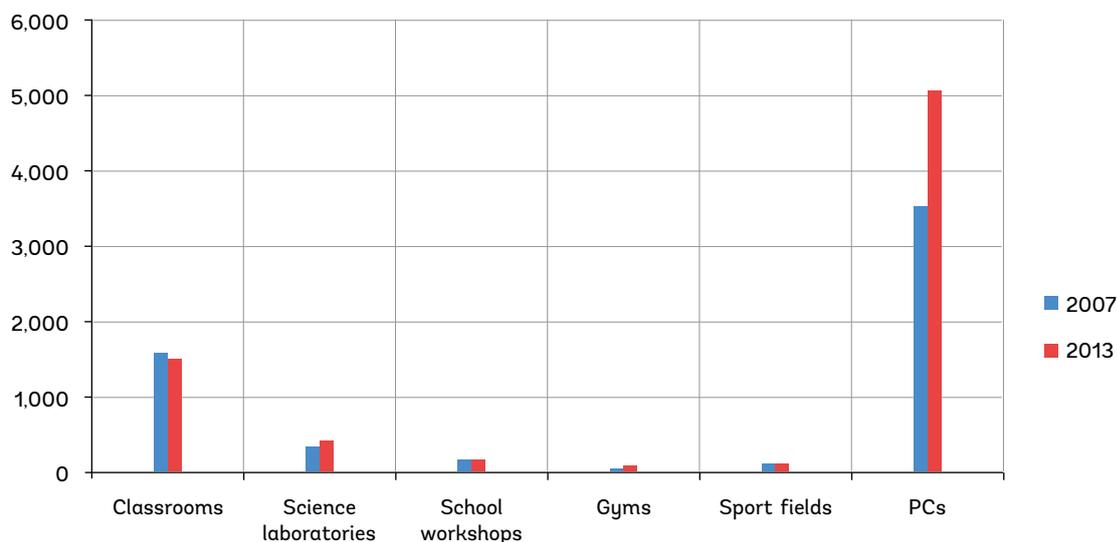


Figure 93. Educational infrastructure dynamics in Ploiești Growth Pole in the 2007-2013 period

Source: NIS, the TEMPO Online database

Despite the positive trends of the past years, the school sports infrastructure remains poor, with only one sports field, respectively one gym for more than 800 pupils, which hinders the performance of sports classes and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle among young people. Moreover, in some localities (such as Dumbrăvești), there are no sports facilities attached to schools or the existent ones are unsuitable (improvised), this being the case at Toma Socolescu Technical College, Gh. Ionescu Șișești Agricultural College (in Valea Călugărească), and Carmen Sylva Art School. In addition, the facilities of school laboratories, including computer laboratories, are generally obsolete and overused.

The data made available by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research shows that 7 education facilities from the Growth Pole are not earthquake-resistant (those of Băicoi, Ariceștii Rahtivani, and Valea Călugărească), and 15 have overcrowded classrooms (less than 2 m²/pupil: Băicoi, Bărcănești, Bucov, Plopeni, Târgșoru Vechi), 24 have inadequately furnished classrooms (Băicoi, Bărcănești, Brazi, Bucov, Dărmănești, Valea Călugărească, Plopeni), 33 are not fire-safe (Băicoi, Ariceștii Rahtivani, Bărcănești, Berceni, Târgșoru Vechi, Valea Călugărească), 35 do not have airtight doors and windows (Băicoi, Ariceștii Rahtivani, Plopeni, Bărcănești, Berceni, etc.).

Similar issues were found in educational facilities from Ploiești municipality (see the Annex on the situation of educational infrastructure by specific educational facilities):

- 30 educational facilities are not fire-safe;
- 51 do not have airtight roofs and windows;
- 7 cannot maintain a constant indoor temperature;
- 9 work in buildings which are not earthquake-resistant;
- 21 have overcrowded classrooms;
- 3 do not provide appropriate temperature and lighting;
- 21 are inadequately furnished;
- 30 have classrooms which prevent active learning;
- 45 are not fitted with air conditioning and ventilation units;
- 66 do not have soundproof classrooms;
- 25 have no or inappropriate library premises;
- 17 have no or inappropriate teachers' rooms;
- 27 have no computer laboratories;
- 26 have no study rooms;

- 30 have no cafeterias or restaurants;
- 11 work in overcrowded buildings;
- 11 are connected to central heating systems;
- 7 have no heat-insulated joinery;
- 32 have no fully insulated walls;
- 17 have no access facilities for the disabled;
- 10 have no science laboratories;
- 20 have no gyms;
- 7 have no sports fields.

This calls for additional investments in the development and modernization of educational infrastructure for quality services in optimum conditions.



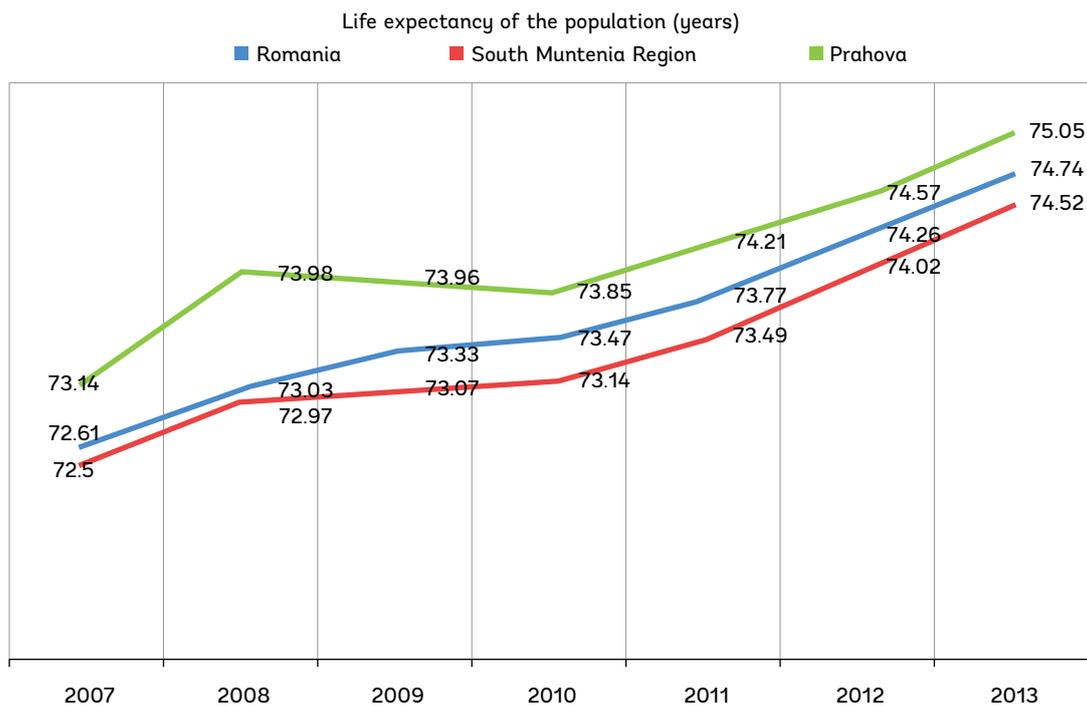
1.6.3. Health and medical services

The health system¹¹ is currently facing a negative balance between the birth rate, death rate, and external migration, also reflected in the all-time low regional and local birth rate in southern areas – except Bucharest-Ilfov – while the traditional gap between rural and urban areas was erased in 2011. For the past 10 years, the conjectural index of fertility has been stable at around 1.3 children/woman in Romania, versus 1.56 children/woman in EU27. In this context, the National Health Strategy 2014-2020 established the following health priorities for the 2014-2020 period:

- A system for basic community assistance services targeted at vulnerable groups;
- Increased efficiency and diversity of primary medical assistance services;
- Increased quality and efficiency of ambulatory care services;
- Setting up a network of medical assistance providers.

The life expectancy of the population in Prahova county increased by almost 2 years in the 2007-2013 period, up to 75.05 years, i.e. above the national and regional average, thanks to improved access to new treatment techniques and medicines and a drop in infant mortality. It was also noted that women have a significantly higher life expectancy than men (78.66 years vs. 71.44 years), and urban population lives on average 1.5 years more than rural population (75.73 years vs. 74.3 years). In spite of this, the difference up to EU-28 average life expectancy remains at around 5 years.

Figure 94. Population life expectancy during 2007-2013

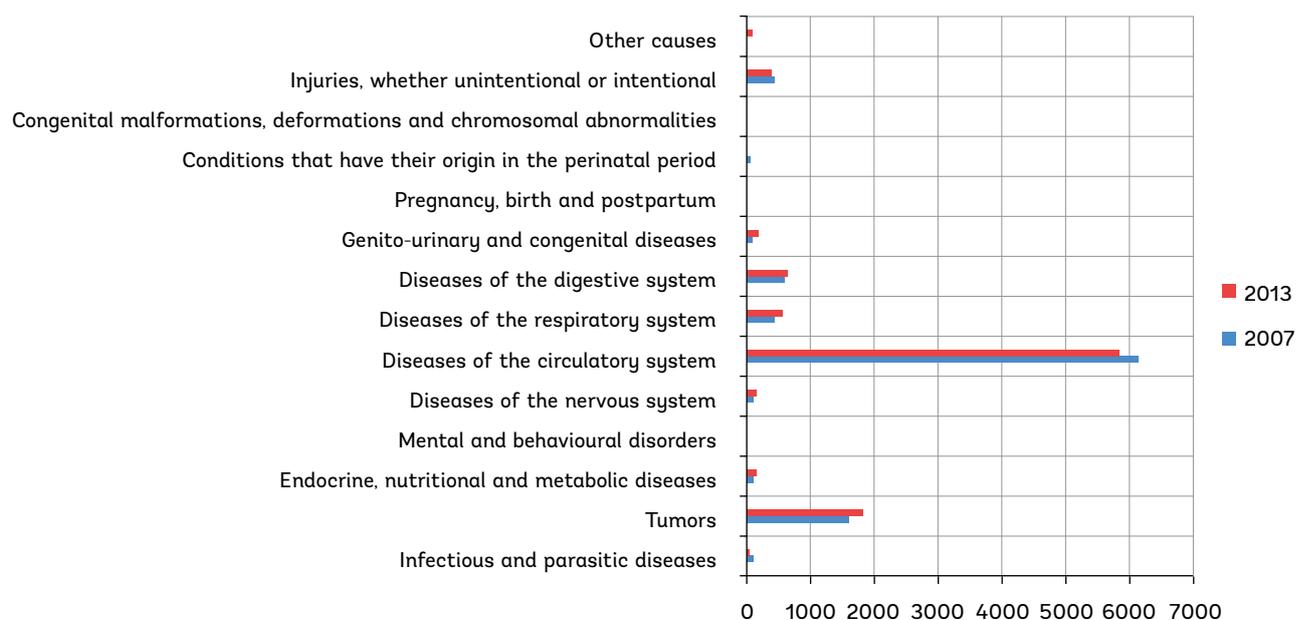


Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

Cardiovascular diseases remain the main cause of death at county level, accounting for around 60% of total deaths, followed by cancer (18%), digestive system diseases (6.4%), and respiratory system diseases (5.7%). Despite the medical progress and related improvement of life expectancy, the population morbidity rate is on an upward trend due to demographic ageing, unhealthy lifestyle, insufficient prevention measures, etc., which puts additional pressure on the county's medical system, particularly in light of its restructuration and shortage of staff.

¹¹ The National Health Strategy 2014-2020, available at http://www.ms.ro/documente/Anexa%201%20-%20Strategia%20Nationala%20de%20Sanatate_886_1761.pdf

Figure 95. Main causes of deaths in Prahova County in the 2007-2013 period



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

The health infrastructure of Ploiești Growth Pole is more developed in Ploiești municipality and includes the following types of facilities:

Table 30. Current medical infrastructure of Ploiești Growth Pole in 2013

Type of medical facility	Total facilities	Public	Private
Hospitals	12	7	5
Specialized outpatient care facilities	2	1	1
Hospital outpatient care facilities	5	5	0
Clinics	1	1	0
Health centers	1	0	1
Mental health centers	2	2	0
Medical-social facilities	1	1	0
Diagnosis and treatment centers	1	1	0
General medicine practices	45	1	44
School medical offices	63	63	0
Student medical offices	1	1	0
Family medicine practices	164	113	51
Dental practices	237	1	236
Civil dental associations	5	0	5
Specialized practices	194	8	186
Pharmacies	185	10	175
Pharmaceutical points	15	2	13
Pharmaceutical warehouses	9	0	9
Nurseries	7	7	0
Medical laboratories	74	29	45
Dental technology	118	0	118
Transfusion centers	1	1	0
Other types of medical practices	5	0	5

Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

The public sector witnessed some degree of restructuring as compared to 2007, including by the closing down and consolidation of hospital care facilities and the development of the private medical sector, and by establishing new hospitals, clinics, family medicine, and dental practices, laboratories and pharmacies.

Significant gaps are also noted between the complex range of public and private medical services available in Ploiești municipality (emergency county hospital, specialty hospitals, many practices and laboratories) and the basic services provided in neighboring localities (family medicine practices, pharmacies). Other hospital facilities are available in the towns of Băicoi, Boldești-Scăeni, and Plopeni, the last two also featuring private facilities.

The total number of hospital beds reached 2,248 in 2008, of which 2,122 in the public sector and 126 in the private sector. The number of beds in the public sector decreased by 9% as compared to 2007, but was almost entirely offset by the emergence of private hospital facilities. Out of the total hospital beds, 2,026 (90% of the total) were located in Ploiești municipality, followed by Băicoi (130), Plopeni (54), and Boldești-Scăeni (38).

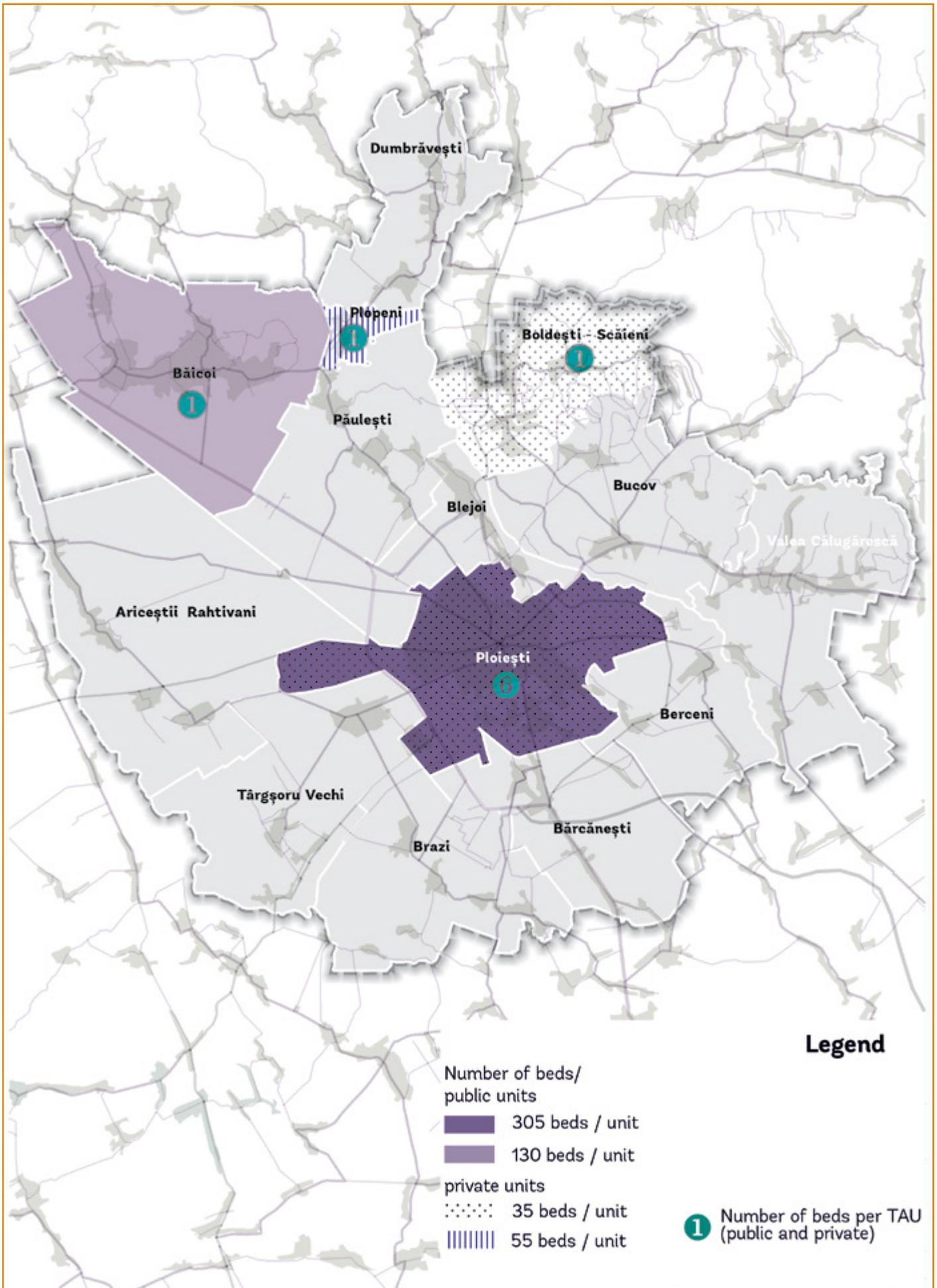
Overall, the total admissions in the hospitals of Ploiești municipality (except the CF General Hospital) amounted to 74,285, 19.6% less than in 2007, against the background of the growing emphasis on ambulatory care.

Table 31. Number of beds and specializations of hospital facilities in Ploiești Growth Pole in 2014

Locality	Facility	Sections / Departments	Admissions	No. of beds
Ploiești	Ploiești Emergency County Hospital: - North branch - Buna Vestire branch - Boldescu branch - Oborului branch - Republicii branch	General surgery, Neonatology, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Vascular surgery, Plastic, and reconstructive surgery and Burn unit, Internal medicine, Nephrology, Diabetes mellitus, Nutrition and metabolic diseases, Orthopedics and Traumatology, Cardiology, Neurosurgery, ATI, Neurology, Pediatrics, UPU SMURD, Gastroenterology, Ophthalmology, Psychiatry, Dermatology and venereal diseases, Urology, ORL, Pulmonology, Infectious diseases, Maxillofacial surgery, Oncology	45,204	1,160
	Pediatrics Hospital Ploiești	Pediatrics, Pediatric surgery and orthopedics	5,621	135
	CFR General Hospital Ploiești	Internal Medicine, General surgery, ATI, Physical rehabilitation and Balneology, Nephrology, Psychiatry		155
	Ploiești Municipal Hospital	Internal Medicine, Oncology, Rheumatology, Physical rehabilitation and Balneology, Hematology, Cardiology, Radiotherapy	9,330	267
	Ploiești Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital	Obstetrics -Gynecology, Neonatology, ATI	11,936	300
Băicoi	Băicoi City Hospital	Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, Rehabilitation, Physical medicine and balneology, Pediatrics General surgery, ATI		130
Private facility		Sections / Departments		No. of beds
Ploiești	S.C. Spital Lotus S.R.L	Obstetrics/Gynecology		34
Plopeni	S.C. Dentirad Hospital S.R.L	Internal medicine, Medical rehabilitation		34
	S.C. Darius Medical Center S.R.L	Physical rehabilitation and balneology, Neuromotor rehabilitation, Palliative care		20
Boldești-Scăeni	S.C. Bestmed S.R.L	Neuromotor rehabilitation, Palliative care		38

Source: NIS, 2013; Prahova County Sustainable Development Plan 2014-2020, 2015

Map 103. Number of beds/unit



Ploiești Emergency County Hospital is the only hospital on a 60 km radius providing 24/7 medical assistance, with permanent laboratory and imaging investigations for multiple-trauma cases. The unit serves 97% of the population in Prahova county, i.e. more than 762,900 inhabitants, as well as the population of neighboring counties, such as Dâmbovița (0.8%), Buzău (0.5%), Bucharest (0.4%), Ialomița (0.2%). The hospital has 1,150 beds and 10 unique wards at county level: plastic surgery, reconstructive surgery and burn unit; nephrology; diabetes mellitus, nutrition and metabolic diseases; cardiology; neurosurgery; neurology; gastroenterology; ophthalmology; urology; ORL, 7 unique wards at county level: vascular surgery; coronary intensive care; interventional cardiology; toxicology; endocrinology; dermatology and venereal diseases; oral and maxillofacial surgery. The main indicators achieved in 2013 are presented in the table below.



Table 32. Main activity indicators of Prahova Emergency County hospital

Indicators	Achieved
Hospital discharges	51,261
Bed use index	340.20
Average hospitalization period	7.07
Bed occupancy ratio (%)	93.21
Inpatient mortality ratio	3%

Source: Prahova Emergency County Hospital Report, 2014

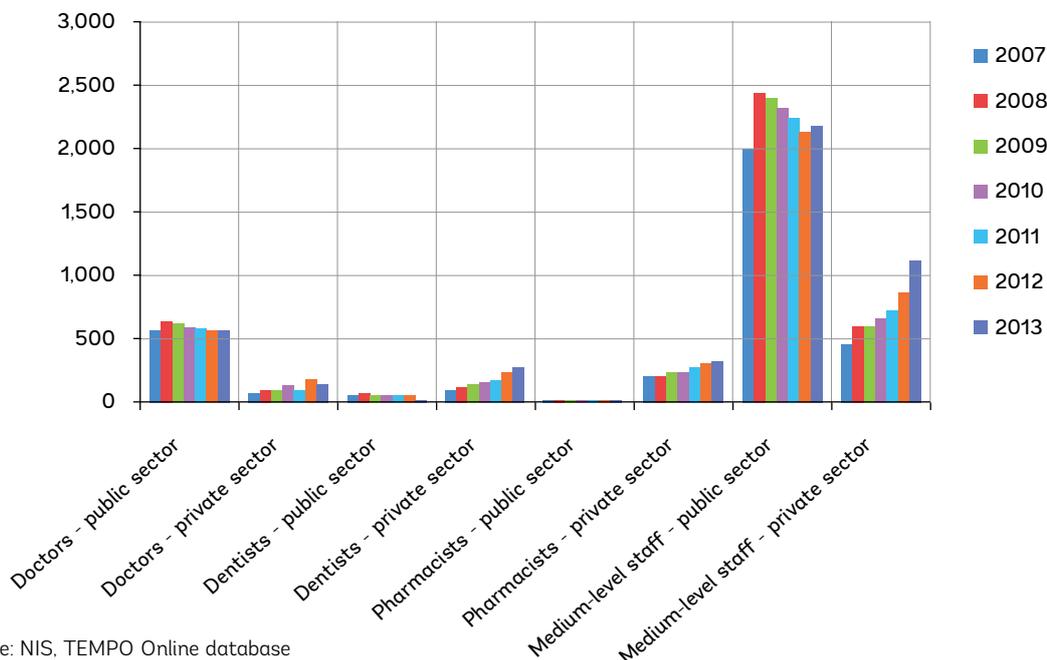
Moreover, the Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology and CFR General Hospitals are the only specialized medical units with specialized county coverage.

Ploiești Growth Pole does not have any category I or II medical units, which are usually found in academic centers (Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iași), but only category III (Emergency County Hospital), category IV (Municipal Hospital, General CF Hospital, Băicoi municipal hospital), and category V (Pediatrics Hospital, Obstetrics Gynecology Hospital) units, which provide less comprehensive medical services. For this reason, a significant number of local patients who require more complex consultations and interventions will opt for the university clinics in Bucharest.

The local medical infrastructure is generally overused and obsolete, despite some investments (for instance, in 2014 alone, Prahova County Council allocated 10 mil. Euro for investments in the three hospitals under its management, plus 6.5 mil. lei for equipment in 2015) in the rehabilitation of facilities and endowment with modern medical equipment in recent years. Thus, the Pediatrics Hospital is housed in inadequate premises, a situation which will be addressed by the reconversion and furnishing of a new building donated by OMV Petrom, with an area in excess of 14,000 m². Moreover, Buna Vestire branch of the Emergency County Hospital, which currently serves the dermatology, gastroenterology, internal and endocrinology wards, was found in an advanced state of disrepair and was proposed for closing by the Ministry of Health in 2013. The Municipal Hospital and the Obstetrics-Gynecology Hospital are however in a better shape, as they benefitted from significant rehabilitation, modernization and endowment funds from the local and county budgets and the BEI, as well as the Medical-Social facility of Boldești-Scăeni, which received funding from the Ministry of Labor. Furthermore, the Emergency County Hospital, the Municipal Hospital and the Băicoi Hospital received grants for the implementation of integrated IT systems. The former Ploieni Hospital, closed down by decision of the Ministry of Health in April 2011, was reopened as a private clinic a month later. All the hospital facilities and hospital-based outpatient units in the area require new quality equipment.

As regards the medical staff of Ploiești Growth Pole, it included 694 doctors, 313 dentists, 330 pharmacists and 3,237 medium-level staff. As compared to 2007, the number of doctors increased by 12%, dentists by 87%, pharmacists by 52%, and medium-level staff by 33%, which can be attributed to the development of private medical services, as public units are faced with acute staffing shortages due to migration to private hospitals or other medical centers in the country and abroad. For instance, Ploiești Emergency Ward employs only 10 of the 24 doctors needed to consult more than 250 patients per day. Similar situations occur with ATI, cardiology, neurology, nutrition diseases, etc. specialists. The low interest of doctors for the public health sector relates to low wages and inadequate working conditions.

Figure 96. Medical staff evolution numbers in Ploiești Growth Pole by types and sectors in the 2007-2013 period

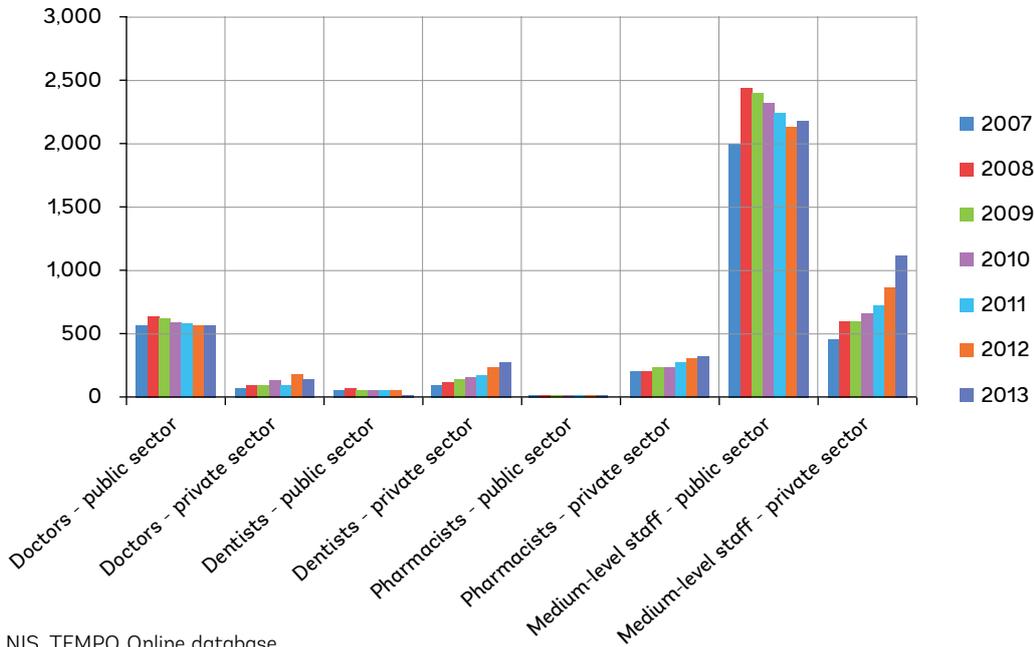


Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

The emergency pre-hospital care in Prahova county is provided by the County Ambulance Service, which cooperates with the first aid teams of of Șerban Cantacuzino Inspectorate for Emergency Situations Prahova, and with all the inpatient units of the public and private medical care network of Prahova. The County Ambulance Service includes a hub station in Ploiești and a substation in Băicoi. The response to major emergencies has improved in the urban environment since 2010, especially following the development of SMURD services. There are approximately 120,000 calls to the County Ambulance Service per year (second place nationwide after Bucharest), but the staffing shortage is 75% for doctors and 37% for ambulance staff and nurses.

As compared to other Romanian growth poles, Ploiești municipality has the fewest hospital beds and doctors, despite the large population served (more than 700,000 inhabitants), trailing behind traditional university medical centers in particular, which also have category I and II hospitals (Bucharest, Iași, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Craiova).

Figure 97. Medical infrastructure and staff in Romania's Growth Poles



Source: NIS, TEMPO Online database

Furthermore, life expectancy of the population in Ploiești is around 0.7 times lower than in Cluj-Napoca, București, and Brașov, and is above the values registered in Constanța, Craiova, and Timișoara.



6.4. Social assistance and services

The social assistance policies and strategies for the welfare of children, families, single persons, the elderly, the disabled, and any other persons in need at county level are implemented by Prahova General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), a public institution with legal personality subordinated to Prahova County Council. Its organizational structure includes specialized services / offices / departments, consisting in social assistance units designed to provide welfare housing for children in difficulty and disabled adults, as well as alternative welfare services.

According to the 2013 Activity Report of this institution, there are 9 children welfare units and 10 adult welfare units. At the end of 2013, 36,498 persons were registered at the Social Welfare Service for disabled persons (children and adults). The value of the benefits paid to these people amounted to 118,133 thousand lei, i.e. 64.07% of the DGASPC Prahova budget. As of May 2013, DGASPC Prahova included a Committee for the disabled, an advisory body tasked with assessing the needs of disabled persons in Prahova county and proposing to the relevant institutions measures to improve their life conditions.

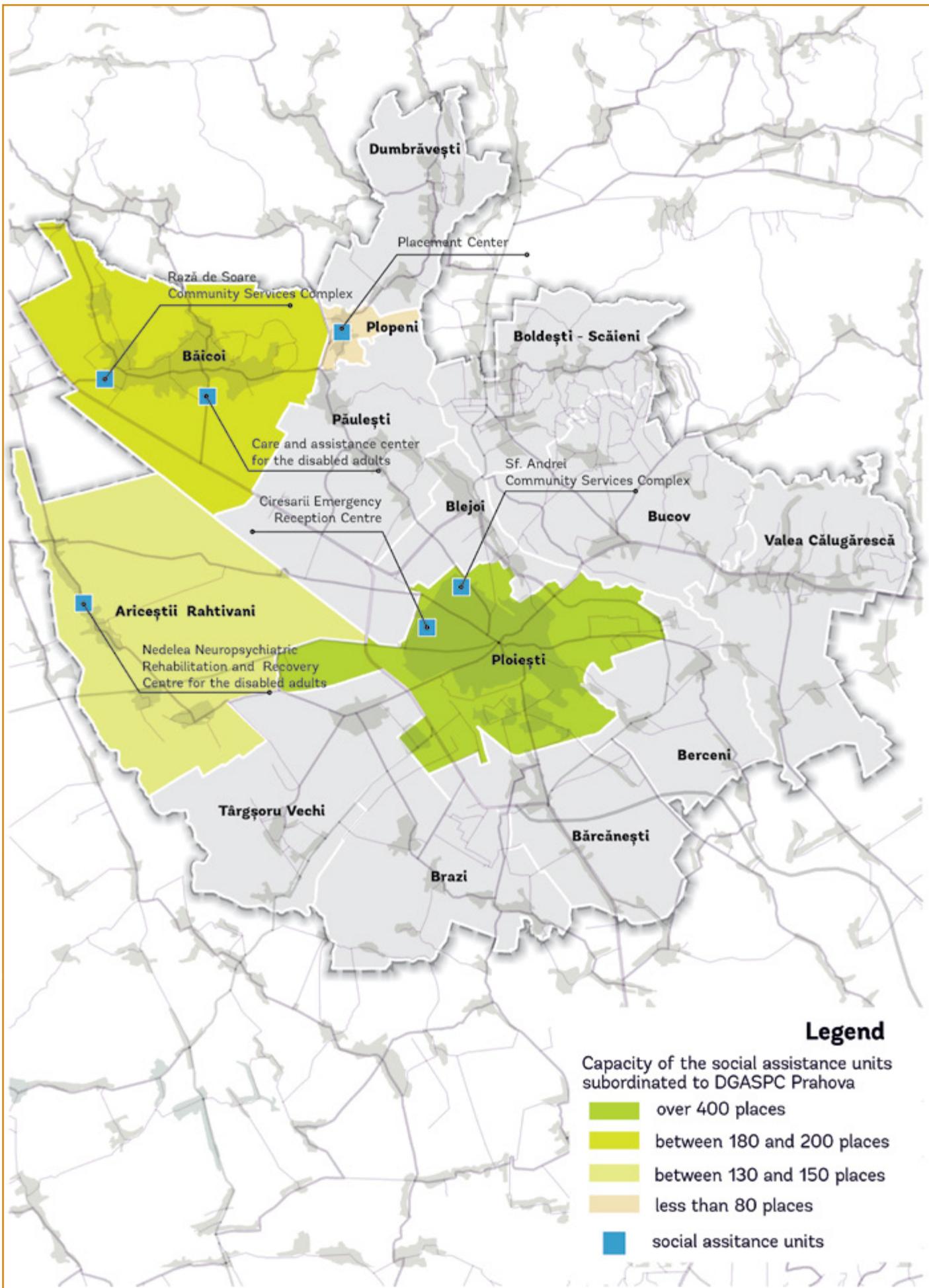
Table 33. Social welfare units subordinated to DGASPC Prahova and located in Ploiești Growth Pole

Locality	Unit	Capacity	Total users
Ploiești	'SF. ANDREI' PLOIEȘTI COMMUNITY SERVICES		
	Care center for disabled children	75	75
	Day care center for disabled children	132	63
	Counselling and support service for children and parents		171
	Maternal care center		5
	'CIREȘARI' EMERGENCY RECEPTION CENTRE	20	18
Băicoi	'RAZĂ DE SOARE' COMMUNITY SERVICE COMPLEX		
	Care center	28	24
	Counselling and social assistance center		51
	Care and assistance center for disabled adults	103	81
Plopeni	Care center	60	62
Ariceștii Rahtivani	Nedelea neuropsychiatric recovery and rehabilitation center for adults with disabilities	135	135
Total		553	685

Source: DGASPC Prahova Activity Report, 2013

The second major provider of social services in the Growth Pole is the Administration of Community Services - Ploiești, subordinated to the Local Council. It has the following substructures: Social Welfare Service; Service for Protection of Persons at Risk (including Personal Caregivers); Social Benefits Service; Legal and Supervisory Service; Gas, Wood and Electricity Heating Subsidies Service; Thermal Heating Subsidies Service; Food Preparation and Distribution Centre (Community kitchen); Social Emergency Centre for the Homeless; Preschool Children Day care Centre; Citizen Information and Pensioner Entertainment Centers (4); School Medical Offices; Sanitary Mediator's Department. The Community Kitchen serves around 1,200 people, the Social Emergency Centre for Homeless accommodates up to 50 people, and the Preschool Children Day Care Centre cares for 25 children.

Map 104. Social assistance units



The institution's local-level records for 2014 were the following: 599 persons receiving guaranteed minimum income, 1,396 persons receiving benefits for severe disability, 433 allowances for personal caregivers of severely disabled persons, 21,000 households receiving municipal heating subsidies (16,000 apartments and 5000 houses), and more than 15,000 people being granted food aid under the PEAD Program, of which more than 9,500 disabled persons (mostly with neuropsychological, somatic, physical, and visual impairment), 3,500 pensioners with income under 400 lei/month, 2,000 unemployed persons, 500 recipients of the guaranteed minimum income. In total, they account for around 7% of the city's permanent population. The number of people receiving social benefits dropped since 2007 due to more restrictive eligibility conditions.

The Community Services Administration - Ploiești has concluded partnerships with a series of public institutions (the Boldești-Scăeni Medical-Social Assistance Unit, the Probation Service attached to Prahova Tribunal, Prahova Prefecture, DGASPC Prahova, Prahova Territorial Labor Inspectorate, Prahova Public Health Authority, Prahova County School Inspectorate, County Police Inspectorate), but also with non-profit social organizations (Vasarley Life Care Association for homeless people; St. Nicolae Barbu Establishment Association for homeless people; Princess Margareta of Romania Foundation for dependent elderly; Youth's Future Association for young people at social risk; the National Association of the Hearing-impaired – Prahova branch – for persons with hearing impairment; Concordia Humanitarian Organization – Ariceștii Rahtivani branch – children at risk of abuse; Constantin and Elena Foundation – social kitchen).

As regards the allocations for social benefits and services in Ploiești municipality, they amounted to approximately 20 mil. Euro in 2013, with the largest shares being allotted to public transportation subsidies for pensioners, pupils, veterans, and students (34.7 mil. lei), municipal subsidies for heating (23 mil. lei), and social assistance subsidies for the disabled (17.4 mil. lei), while the rest were oriented towards the following: social kitchen, preschool children day care center, guaranteed minimum income, newlyweds, school medical offices, nurseries, social welfare for nursing homes, scholarships.

Other public social services providers in Ploiești Growth pole include:

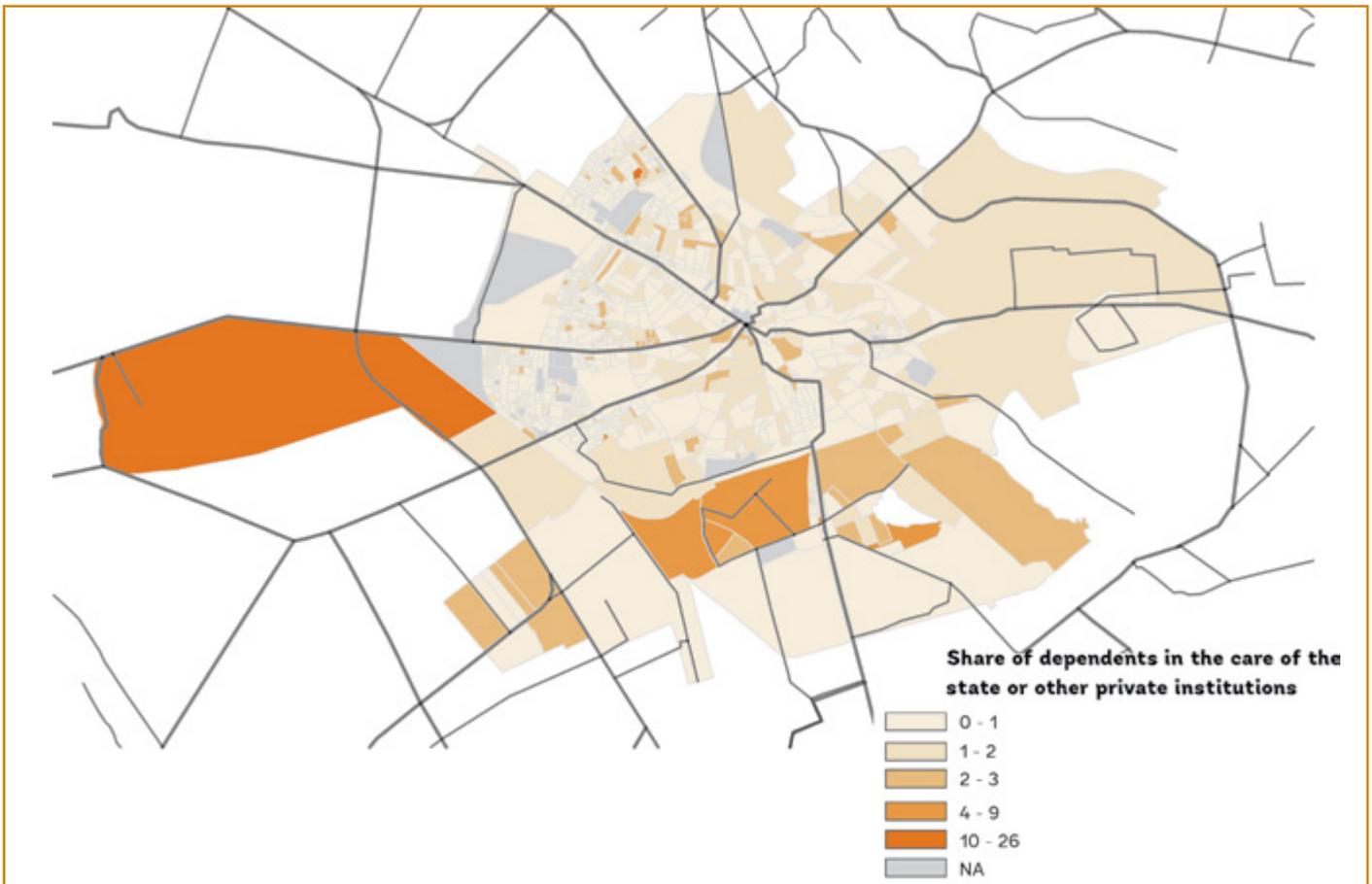
- All town halls with departments providing primary public social assistance services, such as: assessment of social needs, information and counselling, social assistance for children, families, single persons, the elderly, the disabled, and all persons in need, which are tasked with resolving the community social problems in these fields;
- Ploiești penitentiary;
- Târgșoru Vechi women's penitentiary.

Besides public institutions, there is a series of private organizations and associations accredited as social services providers by the Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Protection, and the Elderly:

- National Association of the Hearing Impaired – Ploiești Branch;
- Constantin and Elena social kitchen – Ploiești;
- Association for the Support of Disabled Children – Ploiești branch;
- Romanian Association of the Blind – Ploiești Branch;
- Compassion & Care Association – Ploiești;
- Marcel Samaritan Foundation – Plopeni.

Despite the existence of these social associations and the conclusion of partnerships with relevant public authorities, the contribution of NGOs to the provision of social services remains low, notwithstanding their significant potential to increase the range of social services they provide and the number of their beneficiaries.

Map 105. Share of people supported by the State and other organizations by census sectors in Ploiești municipality in 2011



Source: Own diagram based on NIS, RGPL data, 2011

1.6.5. Ongoing/completed projects

In 2007-2013, the local budget covered the following investments in the educational infrastructure:

- Indoor heating systems and installation of central heating units at Radu Stanian Secondary School, Kindergarten no. 7, Ienăchiță Văcărescu Secondary School, Florin Comișel Secondary School, Kindergarten no. 38, School no. 13, School no. 19, Kindergarten no. 4, Ion Creangă Secondary School, Jean Monnet High School;
- Roof restoration at Mihai Viteazul National College;
- Fencing restoration at Grigore Moisil Secondary School;
- Installation of surveillance equipment in 41 educational facilities;
- Joinery replacement at I.L. Caragiale National College;
- Modernization of 12 school sports fields;
- Current repair works at more than 70 educational facilities;
- Consolidation works at Petrol Teleajen School Group, Nichita Stănescu National College, Andrei Mureșanu Secondary School, and Rareș Vodă Secondary School;
- Construction of a gym at Nicolae Bălcescu Secondary School;
- Purchasing of beds for all-day kindergartens;
- Construction of two new kindergartens on Bobâlna and Mărășești streets;
- Technical and urban utilities works at the gym of Grigore Moisil Secondary School and the St. Vineri Secondary School;
- Construction of a school campus at Virgil Madgearu Economic College (initially funded from the state budget, but currently abandoned).

Following these investments, all the educational facilities of the municipality have been thermally rehabilitated through a supplier loan, most of them providing heating from their own heating units, and the rest being connected to the central urban heating system.

The following educational infrastructure investments are expected for the 2014-2020 period: construction of new

kindergartens (20, Petrolului Blv; 29, Strung Alley, Poștei Street) – initiated by the Ministry of Education, then suspended; construction of new nurseries; rehabilitation of some colleges; construction of an auditorium at the Art High school; construction of outbuilding at Al. I. Cuza College; completion of the campus at Virgil Madgearu Economic College, including provision of furnishing and equipment for laboratories, workshops and classrooms, etc.

According to the Sustainable Development Plan for 2014-2020 of Prahova county, investments, capital repairs, rehabilitations, modernizations of buildings, operating theatres, technical-sanitary facilities, and purchases of medical equipment and devices have been carried out for all the medical facilities under the authority of Prahova County Council, namely: Ploiești Emergency County Hospital, Ploiești Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital, and Ploiești Pediatrics Hospital, mainly funded by Prahova County Council.

The Mental Health Center of Ploiești municipality has been built with an external grant in 2010, and the project for the modernization of the Obstetrics and Neonatology wards has already begun. The Environment Fund Administration funded the project „Solar energy for water heating at county medical facilities under the public ownership of Prahova county, consisting in the installation of 2 solar systems at Boldescu ward of Ploiești Emergency County Hospital.

Ploiești Emergency County Hospital (leader), in partnership with Ploiești Pediatrics Hospital and Băicoi City Hospital have started the project “Development of the medical information system through e-health services for the benefit of the residents of Prahova county” under the PA3 (Information and communication technology for the private and public sectors) of the SOP IEC 2007-2013, aimed at increasing economic competitiveness and promoting cooperation between hospitals and citizens/the external environment, as well as improving and fully utilize the IT&C potential and applications in hospitals through the implementation of e-health systems, services and applications. A similar project has also been implemented by Ploiești Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital.

The Oncology ward of the Municipal Hospital has been consolidated and revamped with funding from the local budget and the MRDPA, and the sanitary facilities, waterproofing, coverings, and laboratory fixtures have also been installed or repaired. The Schuller Hospital building has been previously restored under a World Bank grant. Moreover, the Infectious Disease Hospital building has been rehabilitated, the kitchen was modernized and sanitized, the outdoor water supply network has been replaced, the inpatient wing, the adult ward, the chlorination station, outer plastering, and the heating systems have been repaired.

In addition, reconversion and renovation works are currently carried out at the former PETROM headquarters, which was donated to the municipality to host the Pediatrics Hospital, an investment in excess of 20 mil. Euro to be funded from the local budget and loans.

Moreover, one of the strategic objectives set out under the Integrated Development Plan for 2014-2025 of Ploiești Growth Pole is the development of health infrastructure through the provision of professional medical services in modern and well-equipped premises.

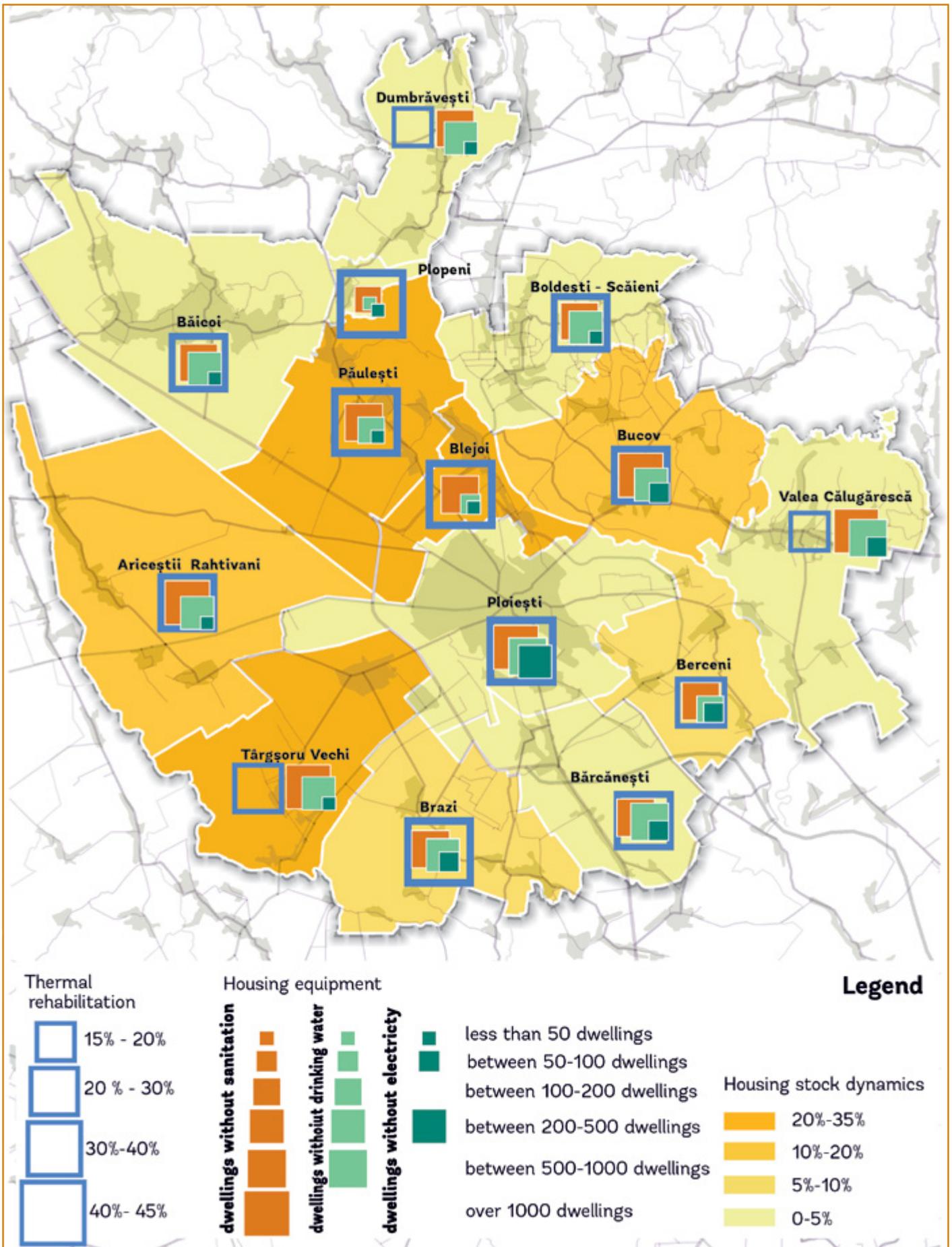
As regards the social services infrastructure, in 2007-2013, Prahova County Council and Ploiești municipality Hall accessed European funds for the following objectives:

- Liliești Băicoi Care and Assistance Centre – PHARE 2004-2006;
- Rehabilitation / modernization and appropriate furnishing of C.S.C. Rața de Soare, Băicoi – POR, PA1;
- Rehabilitation / modernization and appropriate furnishing of the Neuropsychiatric recovery and rehabilitation center for adults with disabilities Nedelea (Ariceștii Rahtivani commune) – ROP, PA1;
- Rehabilitation / modernization and appropriate furnishing of the Liliești Băicoi Care and Assistance Centre – ROP, PA1;
- Rehabilitation / modernization and appropriate furnishing of Cireșarii Emergency Reception Centre – ROP, PA1;
- Conversion of military barracks into a nursing home in Ploiești – ROP, PA3.

Moreover, investments have been made in the construction of social housing as of 2007 (Libertății district), which was however suspended following a dispute with the construction company. The building of “buffer” (temporary) social housing is a priority for the municipality in the 2014-2020 period.

1.6.6. Conclusions - existing disparities, trends, needs, and intervention areas

Map 106. Housing



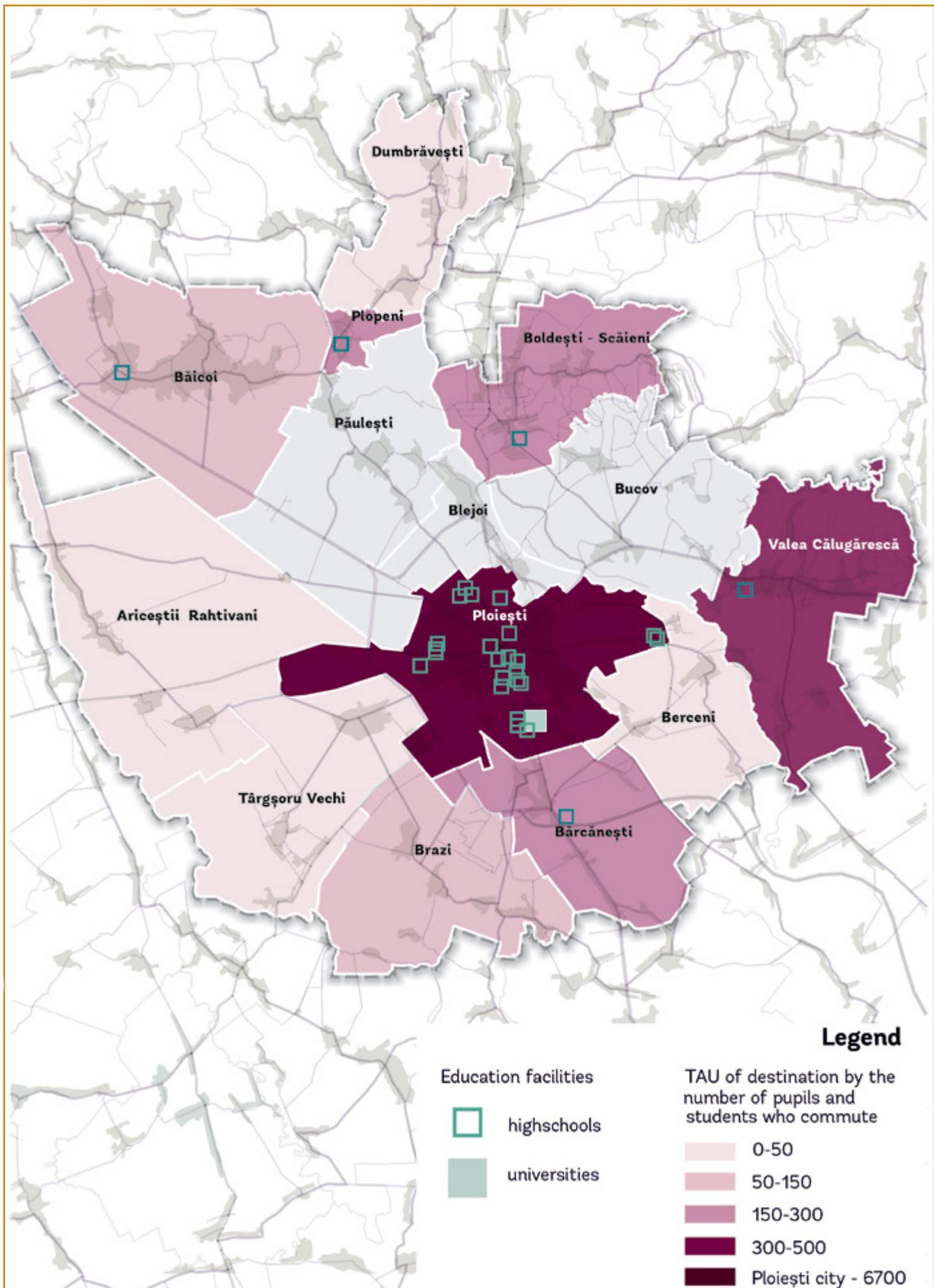
The housing stock dynamics in the 2007-2013 period mirrors a clear suburbanization phenomenon reflected in the increasing number of dwellings built in the city's surrounding communes. Thus, while the total housing stock of Ploiești municipality increased by merely 2.3% after 2007, the growth rate in Blejoi, Târgșoru Vechi, Păulești, Bucov, and Ariceștii Rahtivani communes ranged between 10.4% and 31.9%. These localities are part of Ploiești metropolitan area and are relatively easily accessible, while land prices are much lower than in the inner city area, which makes them much more attractive for building housing complexes. Moreover, these areas have plenty of available land for residential expansion as compared with Ploiești municipality, which already has a high housing density.

A number of 54,021 dwellings have rehabilitated in this period. Currently, more than 40% of dwellings in Ploiești municipality, Plopeni town and Blejoi, Păulești, and Brazi communes are thermally rehabilitated.

As regards available utilities, there is a significant share of dwellings without water supply and sewerage networks, particularly in Berceni, Dumbrăvești, and Valea Călugărească communes, where more than 40% of dwellings do not have access to sewerage facilities. In Valea Călugărească commune, 20% of dwellings do not have access to drinking water.



Map 107. Education



The educational infrastructure of Ploiești Growth Pole is comprehensive and covers all education levels, from primary schools to postgraduate education, in both public and private facilities, with the latter on an increasing trend in recent years.

The steep decrease of the birth rate, internal and external migration of the population, the migration of high school graduates to other university centers, and the existence of some cases of school dropouts determined the reduction of school population by almost 9% in the 2007-2013 period alone, a trend which is expected to continue. However, an increase of enrolment in preschool education and post-secondary schools has been noted, the latter being an alternative for pupils who failed to pass the Bacalaureate.

The offers of high schools in Ploiești Growth pole are diverse, consisting in fields such as sciences, humanities, vocational and sports, technical and services. Technical high schools attract the most pupils, especially from neighboring localities, but their Bacalaureate promotion rate is very low (sometimes below 10%), raising doubts on the schools' capacity to ensure sufficient numbers of secondary education graduates in the future.

Petroleum and Gas University of Ploiești has a tradition of nearly 70 years in higher education and a unique profile in national context, offering Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral degrees at 5 faculties. In spite of this, the number of students dropped significantly in the past years due to the increasing attractiveness of other national (Bucharest) or international university centers, so that only 25% of the city's high school graduates choose to continue their studies locally.

The ongoing vocational training offer is diverse at local level and covers a wide range of occupations for secondary or higher education graduates, being provided by public institutions, NGOs, and private companies. However, with the exception of free courses for a few categories, the number of participants to ongoing professional training activities remains low, which in turn hampers the vocational retraining process, while many companies prefer to provide in-house, job-specific training for new employees.

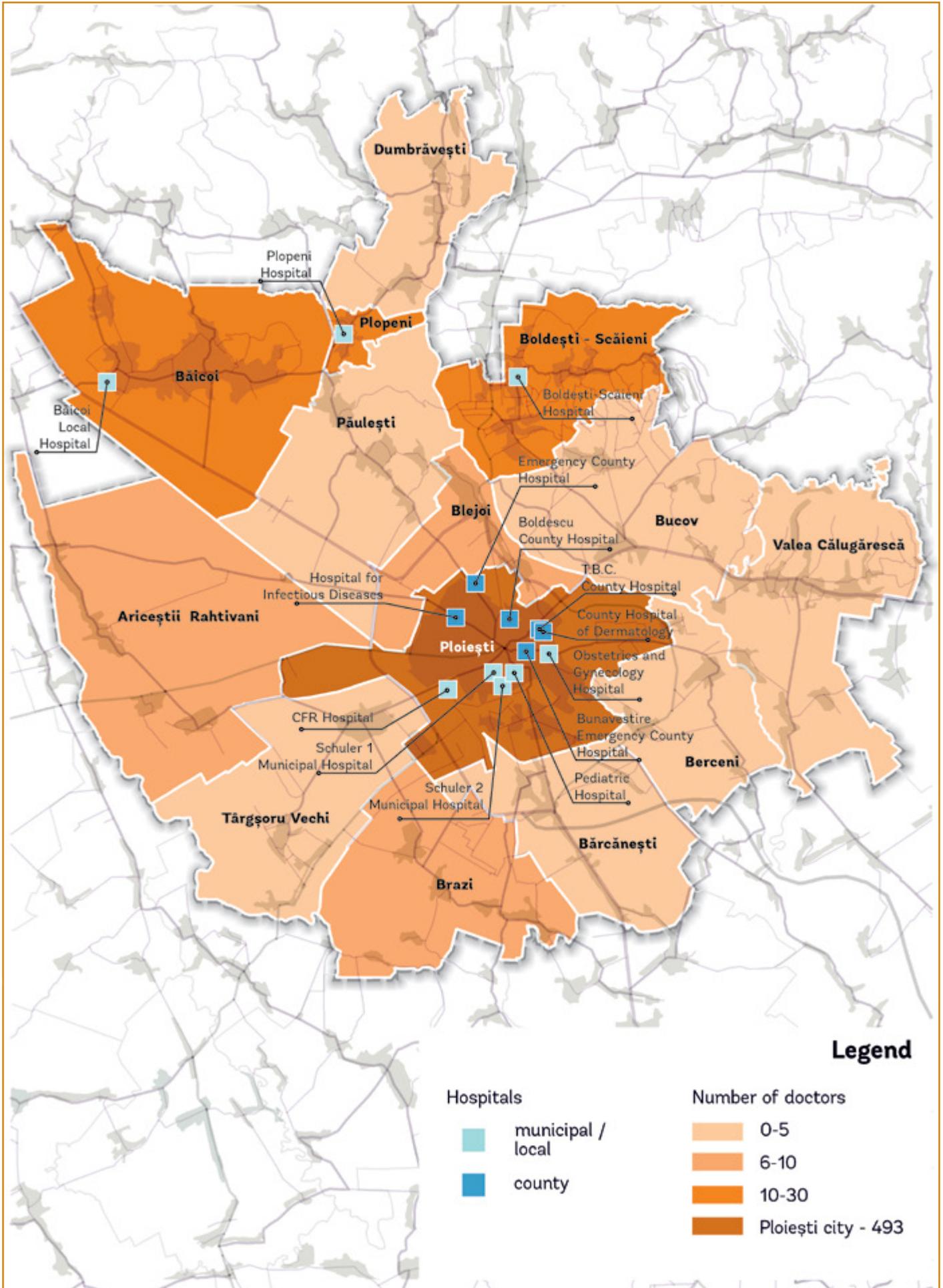
The school dropout rate remains below the regional and national average, but is still significant among vocational school students, students from rural areas and Roma families, who are the most exposed to the risk of education exclusion.

School age commuters are highly prevalent, competing in numbers with adult commuters. Nearly 7,000 children and pupils from all across Prahova county, but especially in a maximum 30 km radius, do their studies in Ploiești municipality, being attracted by the diverse and superior quality education provided by local educational facilities. Although school buses are available, many prefer to use public transport means or travel in their families' cars, a further reason to continue investments for the stimulation of metropolitan-wide mobility.

The local educational infrastructure has been improving in the past years thanks to investments from many funding sources, including EU funds, but most educational facilities are still faced with major deficiencies related to inappropriate conditions and poor energy efficiency of buildings, furnishings, school equipment and materials in classrooms and laboratories, the inadequate sports infrastructure, etc. Future investments in the educational infrastructure should however take into account the grim demographic outlook and the educational achievements up to now, which will determine the closing down or restructuring of certain local educational facilities.



Map 108. Health and social services



Life expectancy of the population in Ploiești area increased from 2007, but remains below the European average and even that of other Romanian growth poles, the causes being, among others, the high rates of cardiovascular and oncologic diseases due to little consideration for prevention or healthy lifestyle. These deficiencies exert significant pressures on the local medical facilities, which often fail to cope with the demand.

The network of public medical facilities is complex and includes single specialization hospitals at county level, serving more than 700,000 residents. However, the deficient health infrastructure and staff shortages constrain many patients to travel to Bucharest for more complex investigations and interventions. Moreover, the private sector is rapidly growing and provides some paid services of a better quality for patients.

Admissions in local hospitals dropped by around 20% since 2007, against the background of patient reorientation to outpatient care services and the restructuring of the public health network. However, the hospital-based outpatient care facilities have limited capacity and lack appropriate, state of the art medical equipment. Moreover, some hospitals are housed in buildings unfit for quality medical services (Buna Vestire ward or the Pediatrics Hospital). Besides, Ploiești municipality is one of the few growth poles lacking category I and II medical facilities that providing high quality and diverse health services.

The public sector is faced with chronic understaffing due to the internal and external migration of specialists, professionals, including to the private sector, or the unattractive working conditions and wages. The same situation occurs at the County Ambulance Service, which faces increasing difficulties in managing the high numbers of requests with severely understaffed personnel.

The local infrastructure of social services is complex, the most significant suppliers being the specialized departments within city halls and the County Council. Nevertheless, the scope of social services and beneficiaries needs to be extended, with emphasis on the non-residential component, taking specifically into account the increased number of people at risk of social exclusion (such as dependent elderly, homeless people, children with parents working abroad, people with disabilities, etc.).

The number of social benefits recipients has decreased as compared with 2007 due to more restrictive eligibility conditions, but more than 7% of the city's population meets the criteria for social welfare payments (unemployed, people with disabilities, recipients of the minimum guaranteed income, low-income pensioners, etc.), for whom the municipality earmarks around 20 mil. Euro from the local budget each year.

The involvement of NGOs in the provision of social services remains low as compared with other growth poles, despite the conclusion of partnerships between relevant public institutions and such organizations.



Annex 1.6.1 Vocational training providers in in Ploiești Growth Pole¹²

Public institutions
PRAHOVA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
PRAHOVA CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE
PRAHOVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
Private companies - vocational training providers
S.C. ACQUISITION CAREER MANAGEMENT S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. AEVUM ECO CONSULT S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. AGI CONSULTING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. ALEDAV OSOSCHI S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. ALFA EUROCURS INVEST S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. ANDRAG EXPO S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. CENTRUL DE CONSULTANTA și STUDII EUROPENE S.R.L.
S.C. CENTRUL DE PREGATIRE și FORMARE PROFESIONALA INTERNATIONAL S.R.L.
S.C. CENTRUL DOXIS S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. CENTRUL ZONAL DE FORMARE PROFESIONALA A ADULTILOR S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. DOMA TRAINING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. DOTIS TRAINING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. DRAGMA CONSULTING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. ELGA TRAINING & CONSULTING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. ENOMIS CONSULTING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. FAXMEDIA CONSULTING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. FORM - EXPERT S.R.L.
S.C. FORM EXPERT HR CONSULTING SERV S.R.L.
S.C. FORMAT ORIZONT S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. FORMAT SAPIENS S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. HSEQ CONSULTING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. MEDA CONSULTING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. MODULE QUALITY CONSULTING S.R.L. Boldești-Scăeni
S.C. ONE TRAINING DEVELOPMENT & CONSULTING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. PLURI CONSULTANTS ROMANIA S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. RESUM CONSULTING S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. TEAMNET INTERNATIONAL S.A. Ploiești
S.C. TREMOT DOBRE și FIII S.R.L. Băicoi

¹² The National Authority for Qualifications. National Register of Adult Vocational Training Providers (RNFFPA), available at <http://www.anc.edu.ro>

S.C. TRES BELLE MADEMOISELE S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. UNIAS EDUCATION & CONSULTING CENTER S.R.L. Ploiești
S.C. WONDER EDUCATION CENTER S.R.L. BREAZA
NGOs – vocational training providers
REGIONAL CENTRE FOR EQUALITY ASSOCIATION
SACRED ROMANIA ASSOCIATION
APOLLO RESOURCE CENTRE ASSOCIATION
BREEDING APICULTURE FARMS ASSOCIATION
AMUS FRANCE ROUMANIE MUTUAL ASSOCIATION
ROMANIAN TRAINING AND RETRAINING COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION Ploiești SUD
FORTUNA Ploiești HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
INITATIVE AND CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
A.S.T.R.U ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RESOURCES SUPPORT AND TRAINING
EDUCATION, SUPPORT, AND TRAINING CENTRE
Bușteni INDUSTRY PERSONNEL TRAINING CENTRE
PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF THE CRAFTS ASSOCIATION SPIRU HARET, Ploiești branch
HUMANITAS NATIONAL FOUNDATION ROMANIA, Ploiești branch
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION – Ploiești branch

Source: The National Authority for Qualifications

ANNEX 1.6.2.

Current state of primary and secondary school infrastructure in Ploiești Growth Pole

Nr.	School	Road distance between school and city center	Access to public transportation	Type of school	Total indoor area (m ²)	No. of enrolled students	No. of classes (groups)	Teaching staff	Permanent power supply	Fire security	Airtight roofs and windows	Earthquake resistant buildings	Overcrowded classes (less than 2 m ² /pupil)	Appropriate furnishing (single desks)	Heating system
1	ANGHEL SALIGNY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, PLOIEȘTI	7 km	Yes	Public	4,800 m ²	823	35.00	51.00	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None	All	Central
2	LUDOVIC MRAZEK TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, PLOIEȘTI (preschool, high school, post-secondary, technical school)	4 km	Yes	Public	5,236	477	21.00	24.00	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None	Most	Individual
3	CONSTANTIN CANTACUZINO TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, BĂICOI	500 m		Public	2,800 m ²	825	34.00	52.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
4	DUMITRU GHENOIU SECONDARY SCHOOL, BĂICOI	5 km		Public	1,050 m ²	162	10.00	11.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
5	ȚINTEA BĂICOI SECONDARY SCHOOL	5 km		Public	1,050 m ²	162	10.00	11.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
6	PRIMARY SCHOOL, DÂMBU, BĂICOI	5km		Public	353 m ²	63	5.00	4.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
7	LILIEȘTI SECONDARY SCHOOL, BĂICOI	400 m	No	Public	2,000	496	19.00	32.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Half	Most	Individual
8	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, LILIEȘTI, BĂICOI	200 m		Public	600 m	125	5.00	5.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
9	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, ȚINTEA, BĂICOI	50 m		Public	150 m	40	2.00	2.00	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None	All	Central
10	FULLTIME AND ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN, BĂICOI	300 m	No	Public	320	162	5.00	7.00	Yes	No	No	No	None	All	Individual

Nr.	School	Road distance between school and city center	Access to public transportation	Type of school	Total indoor area (m ²)	No. of enrolled students	No. of classes (groups)	Teaching staff	Permanent power supply	Fire security	Airtight roofs and windows	Earthquake resistant buildings	Overcrowded classes (less than 2 m ² /pupil)	Appropriate furnishing (single desks)	Heating system
11	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, DĂMBU, BĂICOI	4.5 km	No	Public	50	40	2.00	2.00	Yes	No	No	No	None	All	Individual
12	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, TUFENI, BĂICOI	2.5 km	No	Public	60	20	1.00	1.00	Yes	No	No	No	None	All	Individual
13	ION KALINDERU COLLEGE, BUȘTENI	150 m	Yes	Public	2536 m ²	319	15.00	32.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Most	All	Individual
14	NESTOR URECHIA SECONDARY SCHOOL, BUȘTENI	100 m	No	Public	3257.83	298	13.00	24.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	None	All	Individual
15	CEZAR PETRESCU SECONDARY SCHOOL, BUȘTENI	1 km	No	Public	882	14.3	9.00	19.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	None	All	Individual
16	CEZAR PETRESCU FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, BUȘTENI	1 km	No	Public	125	41	2.00	2.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	None	All	Individual
17	FRAM URSUL POLAR FULLTIME AND FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN, BUȘTENI	1 km	No	Public	281	81	4.00	7.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	None	All	Individual
18	REGINA ELISABETA SECONDARY SCHOOL, BUȘTENI	3 km	Yes	Public	1,064	161	8.00	19.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
19	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 3, POIANA ȚAPULUI, BUȘTENI	3 km	Yes	Public	149	41	2.00	2.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
20	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 4, BUȘTENI	2 km	Yes	Public	217	21	1.00	1.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
21	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 5, BUȘTENI	0.5 km	Yes	Public	193	19	1.00	1.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
22	GHEORGHE LAZĂR TECHNICAL COLLEGE, PLOPENI	200m	Yes	Public	4,305	482	20.00	35.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
23	CAROL I SECONDARY SCHOOL, PLOPENI	1 km	No	Public	2,422	532	23.00	30.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	Some	All	Individual
24	FRUNZA DE STEJAR FULLTIME AND FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN, PLOPENI	1 km	No	Public	1,884	196	8.00	10.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	None	All	Individual

Nr.	School	Road distance between school and city center	Access to public transportation	Type of school	Total indoor area (m ²)	No. of enrolled students	No. of classes (groups)	Teaching staff	Permanent power supply	Fire security	Airtight roofs and windows	Earthquake resistant buildings	Overcrowded classes (less than 2 m ² /pupil)	Appropriate furnishing (single desks)	Heating system
25	SECONDARY SCHOOL, ARICEȘTII RAHTIVANI	1 km	No	Public	1,100	318	16.00	18.00	Yes	No	No	No	None	All	Individual
26	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, ARICEȘTII RAHTIVANI, BĂICOI	500 m	No	Public	100	78	3.00	3.00	Yes	No	No	No	None	All	Individual
27	GHEORGHE LAZĂR SECONDARY SCHOOL, BĂRCĂNEȘTI	7.2 Km	Yes	Public	1,400	231	11.00	9.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	All	Some	Individual
28	SECONDARY SCHOOL, ROMĂNEȘTI, BĂRCĂNEȘTI	11.2 km	Yes	Public	700	188	9.00	9.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	All	Some	Individual
29	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, BĂRCĂNEȘTI	7.2 Km	Yes	Public		80	3.00	3.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	All	None	Individual
30	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, ROMĂNEȘTI	11.2 km	Yes	Public		59	3.00	3.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	All	None	Individual
31	SECONDARY SCHOOL, TĂTĂRANI, BĂRCĂNEȘTI	6.9 km	Yes	Public	1,050	138	9.00	10.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	All	Some	Individual
32	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, TĂTĂRANI	6.9 km	Yes	Public		48	2.00	2.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	All	None	Individual
33	SECONDARY SCHOOL, BERCENI		Yes	Public	1,040	372	16.00	25.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	None	All	Central
34	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 1, BERCENI (preschool)	400 m	Yes	Public	44	20	1.00	1.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	None	All	Central
35	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 2, BERCENI (preschool)	100 m	Yes	Public	83	44	2.00	2.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	None	All	Central
36	SECONDARY SCHOOL, BRAZI	1 km	No	Public	2,400	157	9.00	12.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Most	Individual
37	DUMITRU HERA SECONDARY SCHOOL, BĂTEȘTI, BRAZI	2 km	No	Public	2,000	177	9.00	10.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Most	Individual
38	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, BĂTEȘTI, BRAZI	2 km	No	Public	150	48	2.00	2.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual

Nr.	School	Road distance between school and city center	Access to public transportation	Type of school	Total indoor area (m ²)	No. of enrolled students	No. of classes (groups)	Teaching staff	Permanent power supply	Fire security	Airtight roofs and windows	Earthquake resistant buildings	Overcrowded classes (less than 2 m ² /pupil)	Appropriate furnishing (single desks)	Heating system
39	FULLTIME AND FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN, BRAZI	1km	No	Public	500	60	3.00	4.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
40	PROFESOR OPREA MIHAI' SECONDARY SCHOOL, NEGOIEȘTI, BRAZI	200 m	Yes	Public	700 m p	173	9.00	10.00	Yes	Yes	Nu	Yes	None	All	Individual
41	ANTONIE VODĂ SECONDARY SCHOOL, POPEȘTI, BRAZI	300 m	Yes	Public	700 mp	187	8.00	9.00	Yes	Yes	Nu	Yes	None	All	Individual
42	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, NEGOIEȘTI, BRAZI	200 m	Nu	Public	300 mp	38	2.00	2.00	Yes	Yes	Nu	Yes	None	All	Individual
43	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, POPEȘTI, BRAZI	300 m	Nu	Public	300 mp	44	2.00	2.00	Yes	Yes	Nu	Yes	None	All	Individual
44	CONSTANTIN STERE SECONDARY SCHOOL, BUCOV	0.5 km	Nu	Public	1498 mp	406	18.00	25.00	Yes	Yes	Nu	Yes	Some	Most	Individual
45	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, BUCOV	0.5 km	Nu	Public	1300 mp	148	6.00	8.00	Yes	Yes	Nu	Yes	None	All	Individual
46	MIHAI VODĂ SECONDARY SCHOOL, PLEAȘA, BUCOV (primary, secondary)		Yes	Public	1447,97	309	14.00	23.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Some	Central
47	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 1, PLEAȘA, BUCOV		Yes	Public	174	67	3.00	3.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Some	Central
48	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 2, PLEAȘA, BUCOV	3 km	Yes	Public	176	38	2.00	2.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Some	Central
49	SECONDARY SCHOOL, DUMBRĂVEȘTI	10	Yes	Public	1058	155	8.00	7.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some	Some	Individual
50	SECONDARY SCHOOL, PLOPENI, DUMBRĂVEȘTI	5	Yes	Public	750	177	9.00	12.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Some	Individual
51	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, DUMBRĂVEȘTI	10	Yes	Public	118	20	1.00	1.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	None	Individual

Nr.	School	Road distance between school and city center	Access to public transportation	Type of school	Total indoor area (m ²)	No. of enrolled students	No. of classes (groups)	Teaching staff	Permanent power supply	Fire security	Airtight roofs and windows	Earthquake resistant buildings	Overcrowded classes (less than 2 m ² /pupil)	Appropriate furnishing (single desks)	Heating system
52	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, PLOPENI, DUMBRĂVEȘTI	10	Yes	Public	352	55	3.00	3.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	None	Individual
53	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, SFÂRLEANCA, DUMBRĂVEȘTI	40	Yes	Public	85	14	1.00	1.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	None	Individual
54	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, MĂLĂIEȘȚII DE JOS, DUMBRĂVEȘTI	35	Yes	Public	65	17	1.00	1.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	None	Individual
55	ARHITECT T.T. SOCOLESCU SECONDARY SCHOOL, PĂULEȘTI	1000 m	Yes	Public	748 mp	196	9.00	18.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
56	VLAD MUȘETESCU SECONDARY SCHOOL, GĂGENI, PĂULEȘTI	300 m	Yes	Public	550 mp	127	9.00	18.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
57	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, PĂULEȘTI	10		Public	280 mp	62	2.00	2.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
58	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, PĂULEȘTI	100	No	Public	250 mp	23	1.00	1.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
59	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, GĂGENI, PĂULEȘTI	300 m	No	Public	330 mp	36	2.00	2.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Central
60	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, STREJNICU, TÂRGȘORU VECHI	500 m	No	Public	200 mp	175	7	7.00	Yes	No	No	Yes	Most	All	Individual
61	GHEORGHE IONESCU ȘIȘEȘTI' AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	1,9 km	Yes	Public	3389 MP	699	29	47.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Most	Individual
62	ION IONESCU SECONDARY SCHOOL, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	1	Yes	Public	1.043	424	17	22.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
63	SECONDARY SCHOOL, NICOVANI, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	3	No	Public	567	189	6	10.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	None	All	Individual
64	SECONDARY SCHOOL, NICOVANI, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	3	Yes	Public	665	100	9	6.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	None	All	Individual

Nr.	School	Road distance between school and city center	Access to public transportation	Type of school	Total indoor area (m ²)	No. of enrolled students	No. of classes (groups)	Teaching staff	Permanent power supply	Fire security	Airtight roofs and windows	Earthquake resistant buildings	Overcrowded classes (less than 2 m ² /pupil)	Appropriate furnishing (single desks)	Heating system
65	SECONDARY SCHOOL, NICOVANI, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	500m	No	Public	515mp	56	2	4.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
66	VOINICEL FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	500m	No	Public	320m	25	1	1.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
67	LUMINITA FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	50m	No	Public	286.50mp	46	2	2.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
68	CĂSUTA FERMECATĂ FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, RACHIERI, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	3 Km	No	Public	119.82sqm	56	2	2.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
69	SECONDARY SCHOOL, DÎRVARI VILLAGE, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	7	No	Public	760	207	9	16.00	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None	Most	Central
70	PRIMARY SCHOOL, PANTAZI, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	7	No	Public	200	17	1	3.00	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None	Most	Central
71	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, DARVARI, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	7	No	Public	250	55	3	3.00	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None	All	Individual
72	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, PANTAZI, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	7	No	Public	50	34	2	2.00	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None	All	Central
73	PRICHINDEL FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN, NICOVANI, VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ	2	No	Public	100	40	2	2.00	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None	All	Individual
74	REGINA ELISABETA SECONDARY SCHOOL, BUSTENI	3 km	Yes	Public	1,064	161	8	19.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	None	All	Individual
75	SPECIAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, PLOPENI	700 m	Yes	Public	1016 mp	109	10	21.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	Some	Central

Source: MECS – SIIIR (Romanian education IT integrated system), 2015

ANNEX 1.6.3.

Current state of Ploiești preschool infrastructure

No.	Preschool Unit	Distance between school and city center	Access to public transportation	Type of school	Total indoor area (m ²)	No. of enrolled students	No. of classes (groups)	Teaching staff	Electricity	Fire security	Insulated roofs and windows	Constant temperature in buildings	Direct yard access	Earthquake resistant buildings	Appropriate furnishing for students	Heating, ventilation, air conditioning	Soundproofed classrooms
1	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO.11	3 km	No	Public		60	3	3	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	All	All
2	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 6	5 km	Yes	Public	189	18	1	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	All	None
3	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 6	4000 m	No	Public	786	128	6	6	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	None
4	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 6	500 m	Yes	Public	110	51	2	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	All	None	None
5	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 7	1000 m	No	Public	560 mp	33	2	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	All	All	Most
6	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 41, PLOIEȘTI (preschool)		Yes	Public	300	50	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	All	None
7	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 26	3.5 km	Yes	Public		39	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	All	All
8	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 51	3 km	No	Public	723 mp	109	6	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	Most
9	ION CREANGĂ FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN	1500 m.	Yes	Public		34	2	2	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	None

No.	Preschool Unit	Distance between school and city center	Access to public transportation	Type of school	Total indoor area (m ²)	No. of enrolled students	No. of classes (groups)	Teaching staff	Electricity	Fire security	Insulated roofs and windows	Constant temperature in buildings	Direct yard access	Earthquake resistant buildings	Appropriate furnishing for students	Heating, ventilation, air conditioning	Soundproofed classrooms
10	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 8	1 km	Yes	Public	208	62	3	3	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	None
11	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 14	5 km	Yes	Public		56	2	2									
12	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 43		Yes	Public		49	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	All	All
13	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 50	3.3 km	No	Public	876	120	5	5	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	None
14	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 20	9.3 km	No	Public	105	1	1	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	None
15	SFINȚII ARHANGHELI MIHAIL ȘI GAVRIIL FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN	2 km	Yes	Public	850	205	8	18	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	All	Some	All
16	SCUFIȚA ROȘIE FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN	3 km	Yes	Public		230	8	14	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Most	All
17	FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN NO. 21	3km	Yes	Public	1,124mp	190	6	12									
18	FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN NO. 23	2.3 km	No	Public	774	220	8	16	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	None
19	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 10	2.5 km	No	Public	673	146	6	6	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	None	All	None
20	FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN NO. 28, PLOIEȘTI (Preschool)	10 minutes	No	Public	1,947	250	8	16	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Half	Most
21	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 4 (Preschool)			Public		44	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Most	None
22	NICHITA STĂNESCU FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN	5 minutes	No	Public	310	52	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Most	Half

No.	Preschool Unit	Distance between school and city center	Access to public transportation	Type of school	Total indoor area (m ²)	No. of enrolled students	No. of classes (groups)	Teaching staff	Electricity	Fire security	Insulated roofs and windows	Constant temperature in buildings	Direct yard access	Earthquake resistant buildings	Appropriate furnishing for students	Heating, ventilation, air conditioning	Soundproofed classrooms
23	CHEIȚA DE AUR FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN	10 minutes	No	Public		40	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	None
24	FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN NO. 30	0.7 km	No	Public	537,65	101	3	6	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Half	None
25	FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN NO. 30	0.2 km	No	Public	255,51	50	2	2	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Half	None
26	ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN NO. 33	0.5 km	No	Public	118,27	37	2	2	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Half	None
27	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 24	3 km	No	Public	284mp	52	2	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Half	None
28	ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN NO. 35	0.7 km	No	Public	537,65	101	3	6	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Half	None
29	SF. STELIAN FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN	0.2 km	No	Public	255,51	50	2	2	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Half	None
30	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 3	0.5 km	No	Public	118,27	37	2	2	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Half	None
31	SF.MUCENIC MINA FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN	3.5 km	No	Public	774	310	10	20	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	All	All
32	ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN NO. 38	500 m	Yes	Public	720mp	220	8	15	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	All	Half	None
33	FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN NO. 5	500 m	Yes	Public	270 m2	55	2	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	All	None	None
34	ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN NO. 40	3 km	No	Public	606	300	8	16	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	Some	None
35	CRAI NOU FULLTIME AND FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN	20 min	Yes	Public	1,900	208	9	19	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	None
36	CRAI NOU FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN	20 min		Private	540	80	4	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	None

No.	Preschool Unit	Distance between school and city center	Access to public transportation	Type of school	Total indoor area (m ²)	No. of enrolled students	No. of classes (groups)	Teaching staff	Electricity	Fire security	Insulated roofs and windows	Constant temperature in buildings	Direct yard access	Earthquake resistant buildings	Appropriate furnishing for students	Heating, ventilation, air conditioning	Soundproofed classrooms
37	CĂSUȚA CU POVEȘTI FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN	30 min		Private	250	48	2	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	None
38	CĂSUȚA CU POVEȘTI FULLTIME KINDERGARTEN	3.2 km	No	Public	943	325	12	20	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	None	None
39	DUMBRAVA MINUNATĂ FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN	4 km	Yes	Public	1,400	233	8	17	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All	All	All
40	LICURICI FULL-DAY STEP-BY-STEP KINDERGARTEN	4 km	No	Public	2,089	300	10	16	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	All		None

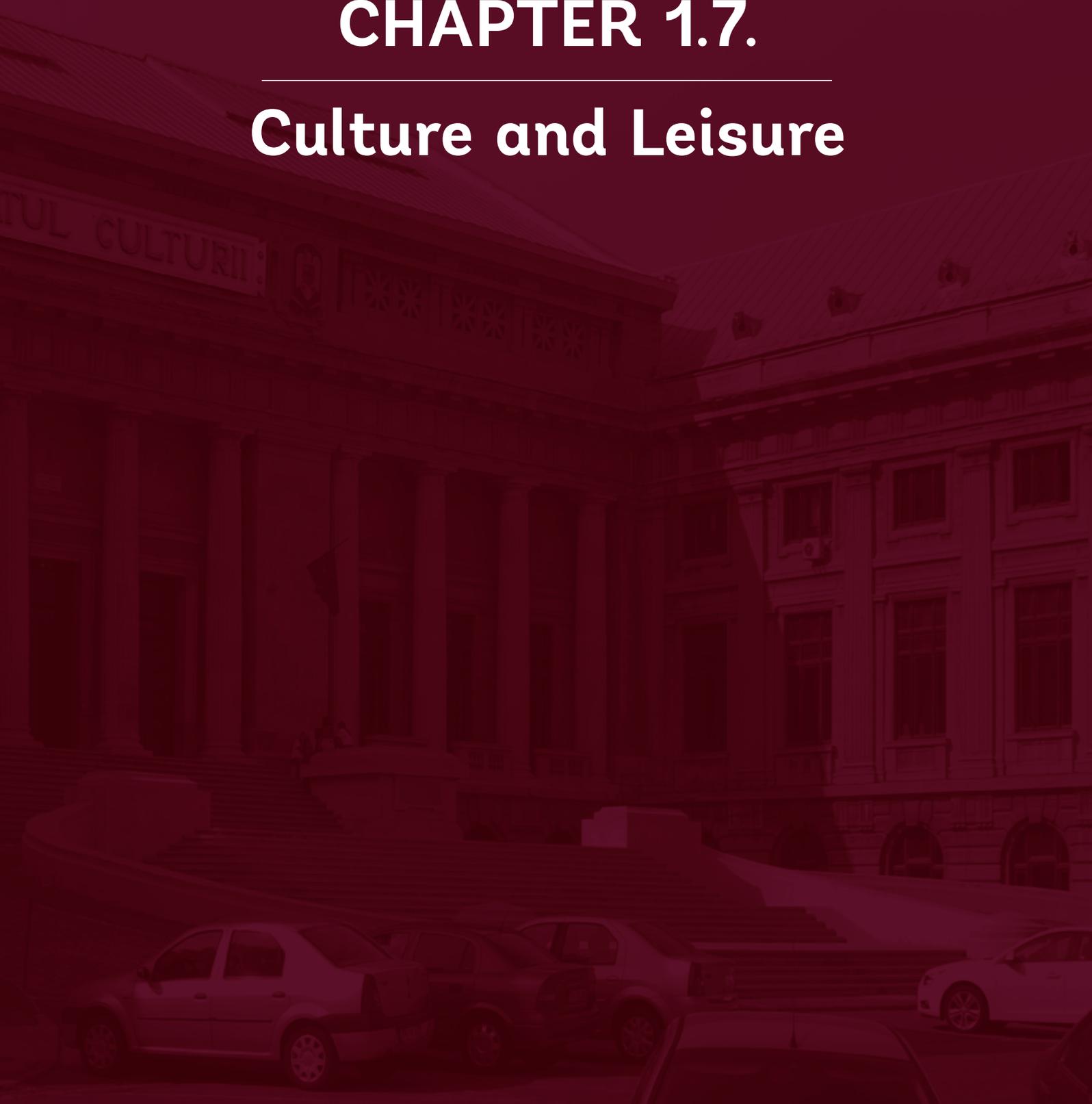
Source: MECS – SIIIR (Romanian education IT integrated system), 2015

1

Analysis of Development Needs and Areas of Intervention

CHAPTER 1.7.

Culture and Leisure



1.7. Culture and Leisure

1.7.1. Protected Areas and Historical Monuments

Ploiești Growth Pole has the lowest number of historical monuments and cultural units of all growth poles. Annex III to Law no. 5/2000, which lists the administrative-territorial units having a high concentration of built heritage with national-interest cultural value, identifies the following: the Ploiești municipality (due to the Hagi Prodan House and the Central Halls / Halele Centrale), Târgșoru Vechi commune (due to the archaeological reserve of Târgșor, and "La Mănăstire" medieval vestiges), and Bărcănești commune (due to its mansion). Of these, the Central Halls are a symbol of Ploiești, serving as the city's main commercial building since 1935. Plans are already in place to consolidate the building and maintain its initial destination, as well as to better integrate it into the central area and to improve accessibility.

The List of Historical Monuments (2010) has 193 headings in total, broken down by localities and monument categories, according to the table below. The detailed list of headings is included in Annex 1.7.1.

Table 34. Number of historical monuments per categories and localities

	Ploiești	Boldești-Scăeni	Plopeni	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Bărcănești	Bercenti	Bleji	Brași	Bucov	Dumbrăvești	Păulești	Târgșoru Vechi	Valea Călugărească	Ploiești Growth Pole
I. Archaeological monuments	52	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	5	1	5	13	1	81
II. Architectural monuments	78	3	0	2	7	3	3	2	5	0	0	3	0	108
III. Public forum monuments	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
IV. Memorials and funerary monuments	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	8
Monuments of national interest (A)	32	1	0	2	7	3	2	2	3	1	0	12	0	65
Monuments of local interest (B)	108	4	1	2	1	0	1	1	9	0	5	5	1	138
TOTAL	140	5	1	4	8	3	3	3	12	1	5	1	1	193

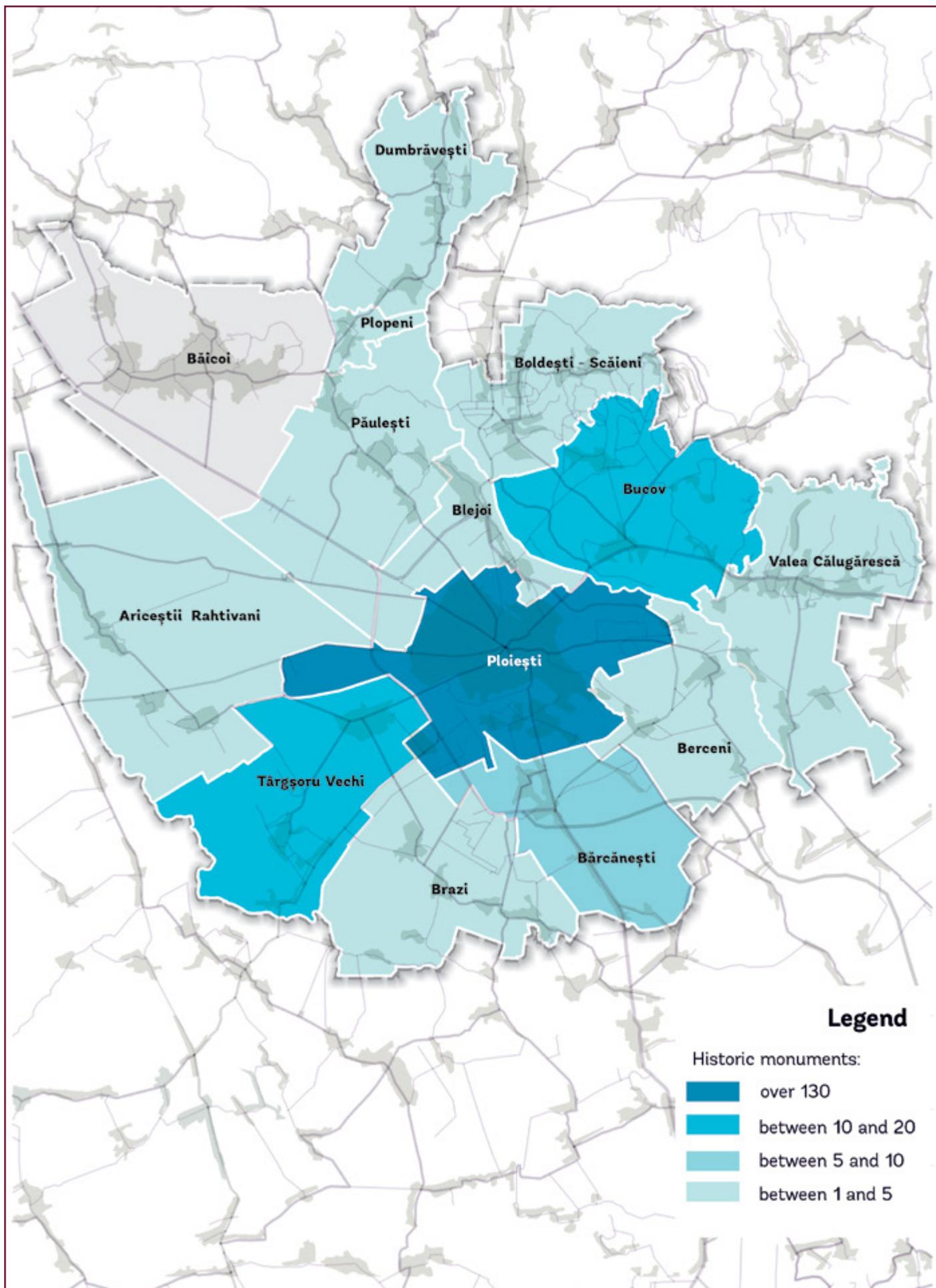
Source: Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, List of Historical Monuments (2010)

As we can see, only 65 monuments are of national interest (category A), mostly located in Ploiești municipality (32) and in Târgșoru Vechi commune (12). The prevalence and the local level of archaeological and architectural attractions is also noticeable.

Some of the public, civil and industrial constructions of Ploiești municipality that make up the built fund have survived disasters and, together with the buildings erected over the past ten years, they make up a patchwork of styles that are, however, easy to identify on site.

For example, the central area has not a unitary aspect in terms of the built fund and goes through various stages of architectural styles, from neoclassicism and neo-gothicism, through communist-era specific style to the contemporary glass and metal construction pattern. This is the reason why the conservation status of the built fund is so diverse, from buildings and monuments in a poor condition to restored monuments and new buildings. The most visible architectural image, however, is the one given by the overall interventions carried out from 1950 to 1965 and later in 1980, which is common to all Romanian cities that underwent urban restructuring stages.

Map 109. Distribution of monuments in the Growth Pole



The representative public and private buildings dating back to the late 19th century and the early 20th century belong to styles of western influence: neoclassic, neo-gothic, or baroque, but also to the neo-Romanian style, influenced by Brâncoveanu style, with the architect Toma N. Socolescu as an important representative. Most of these buildings are located in the central area of the city, along and adjoining the Republicii boulevard (former Calea Câmpinei) and the Independenței Boulevard (as a matter of fact, the latter makes up an important area of protected architectural works), and around streets such as: Mihai Bravu, Romană, Stadionului, Constanței, Armoniei, Basarabi, Bobâlna, Decebal, Democrației, Gheorghe Doja (former Oilor), etc. This area overlaps for the most part with the historical one.

The buildings have various purposes -- dwelling houses, offices of current banks or companies, churches and public institutions: Hagi Ivan Prodan Merchant's House (built in 1785 in neo-Romanian style, with decorations of neoclassical inspiration on the side façades), Avram Ergas Mamaciu House (built in 1870 in neo-gothic style), N. Pârvulescu House (today Dental Clinic No. 1, built in 1870 in neo-gothic style), Tiseanu House (built in the mid-19th century in neoclassical style), N. Simache Clock Museum (former Elefterescu House, built in 1890 and rebuilt in 1930 in neo-gothic style), the County Museum of History and Archaeology, Sf. Petru și Pavel School (the first middle school in Ploiești, built from 1865 to 1867 in neoclassical style), Palace of Culture (former Palace of Justice, built in 1920 in neoclassical style), I. L. Caragiale Memorial Museum (former Dobrescu house, built in 1712 in Romanian style), the Bell Tower of Sf. Ioan Botezătorul Cathedral, built from 1916 to 1948, Sf. Vineri (Holy Friday) Church (built from 1875 to 1880 in gothic style, with Russian style spires).

As regards religious buildings, the most remarkable churches in terms of architectural quality are the following: Sf. Voievozi, Sf. Ioan, Sf. Nicolae Vechi, Biserica Domnească, Sf. Vineri, Maica Precista. These churches are relatively well preserved; however, their interior paintings are often in a poor condition.

According to Prahova County Directorate for Culture and National Heritage, valuable buildings are subject to much pressure / aggression, which consists in the destruction and/or modification of the initial appearance (inadequately colored façades, exterior cladding with inappropriate materials, placing various facilities on façades), erection of new buildings with inappropriate scale in the monuments' protection area. The heritage buildings serving as headquarters of public institutions (such as Hagi Prodan House, Dobrescu House, Palace of Culture, the Clock Museum, etc.), which have received investments for consolidation purposes in recent years, are relatively well preserved, whereas most of the private buildings that are used as dwellings are in a poor condition. Such buildings require consolidation of their structural frames, sanitation and repair of their façades.

The movable cultural heritage – including almost 1,000 assets of an extraordinary historical, archaeological, historical-documentary, artistic, ethnographic, scientific, and technical value – are classified into Treasury and Fund and are concentrated in the museums located in the area (e.g. Ion Ionescu-Quintus County Museum of Art, County Museum of History and Archaeology), and in Nicolae Iorga County Library, which has a rare collection of books. The list is completed by other several hundreds of thousands of movable cultural assets of lesser importance, which are in the possession of institutions or natural persons.

The local archaeological heritage mainly consists of the reserve of public interest from Târgșoru Vechi. Covering approximately 17 ha and showing evidence of life from the Paleolithic to the 19th century, the reserve is one of the most important sites of this type in Muntenia. The Roman Camp and Baths in Mălăiești (Dumbrăvești commune), where very well preserved Roman baths and a fortification system were brought to light, represent another heritage site of high tourist potential, for which restoration and capitalization efforts have already been initiated. The works proposed for this site are the following: conservation and restoration of the Roman camp and baths, creation of an archaeological center, construction of an info point, a site museum, a visitor center, and a souvenir shop.

The intangible heritage of Ploiești Growth Pole consists of its cultural institutions of national, county, and local importance. In 2013, the list of cultural facilities in Ploiești Growth Pole included the following:

- **12 museums, museum collections and sections**, of which 9 are located in Ploiești municipality: County Museum of History and Archaeology, County Natural Science Museum, Ion Ionescu Quintus County Museum of Art, Nicolae Simache Clock Museum, National Oil Museum, I.L. Caragiale Memorial Museum, Paul Constantinescu Memorial Museum, Merchant's House (Hagi Prodan) Museum, Nichita Stănescu Memorial Museum. Two are located in Bucov commune (Constantin and Ion Stere Memorial Museum, the Zoo) and one in Valea Călugărească commune (Crama 1777

Museum, dedicated to ethnography and inaugurated in 2013). Târgșoru Vechi Archaeological Reserve, open to visitors during the summer, and the museum collection of Ghighiu Orthodox Monastery (Bărcănești) also fall into this category. These museums attracted over 194,000 visitors in 2013, a 79% increase compared to 2007. Such dynamics are almost exclusively due to the Memorial Museum and the Zoo in Bucov, which attracted over 80,000 visitors following a vast program of investments in the area, meant to modernize and diversify the entertainment facilities. Rehabilitation works were also carried out at the Clock Museum in Ploiești, the only museum of this type in Romania, which has approximately 4,000 items to display.

- **125 libraries**, of which 11 are public, 20 specialized, and 94 belong to secondary and higher education institutions. The number of libraries in the Growth Pole has fallen by 10 as compared to 2007, due to the closing down of some educational establishments and communal libraries, such as the libraries in Bărcănești, Berceni, Blejoi, and Păulești. Overall, the 125 functional libraries have over 2.39 million books (of which 1.93 million books in Ploiești municipality), and the number of active readers in 2013 was 57,616, which accounts for approximately 17% of the Growth Pole's population. This number has decreased year by year, mainly due to the decline in the school population (who constitutes the major part of the readers), but also to the growing use of online information media to the detriment of written culture. In another respect, the libraries' book stock is generally old and the premises are inappropriately equipped and therefore unattractive to readers. The most important institution of this type in the Growth Pole is Nicolae Iorga County Library - Ploiești, which was established in 1921 and operates in a single facility. It has over 502,000 books and periodicals, of which approximately 300,000 are annually borrowed or consulted, and the number of subscribed readers in 2013 amounted to 13,722. The library has one lending section, one copies section, one documentary (rare book) section, one multimedia section, one rotunda, one catalogues' room, one community internet center – the BIBLIONET network, and one reading room of approximately 90 seats. The library annually organizes over 50 cultural events (seminars, summer schools, book launches, symposiums, etc.), as well as IT initiation courses.

- **4 cinemas**: 'Premiera' Cinema (former 'Patria', administered by RomâniaFilm), City Cinema, City AFI Cinema, and Twins Club, the last three being private units located inside shopping centers. With 12 auditoria (of which 7 are 3D) and 2,087 seats, Cinema City is the largest and most modern cinema, followed by City AFI Cinema, with 6 auditoria (of which 5 are 3D) and 1,273 seats. Twins Cinema has 85 seats in one 3D auditorium in the central area, and 'Premiera' Cinema, upgraded in 2011, has one 3D auditorium of 800 seats. As a result of such investments, the number of seats in Ploiești auditoria was 2,638 in 2013 (a 206% increase versus 2007), the number of screenings reached 23,422 (a 28-fold increase), and the audience increased to 427,000 people (43-fold);

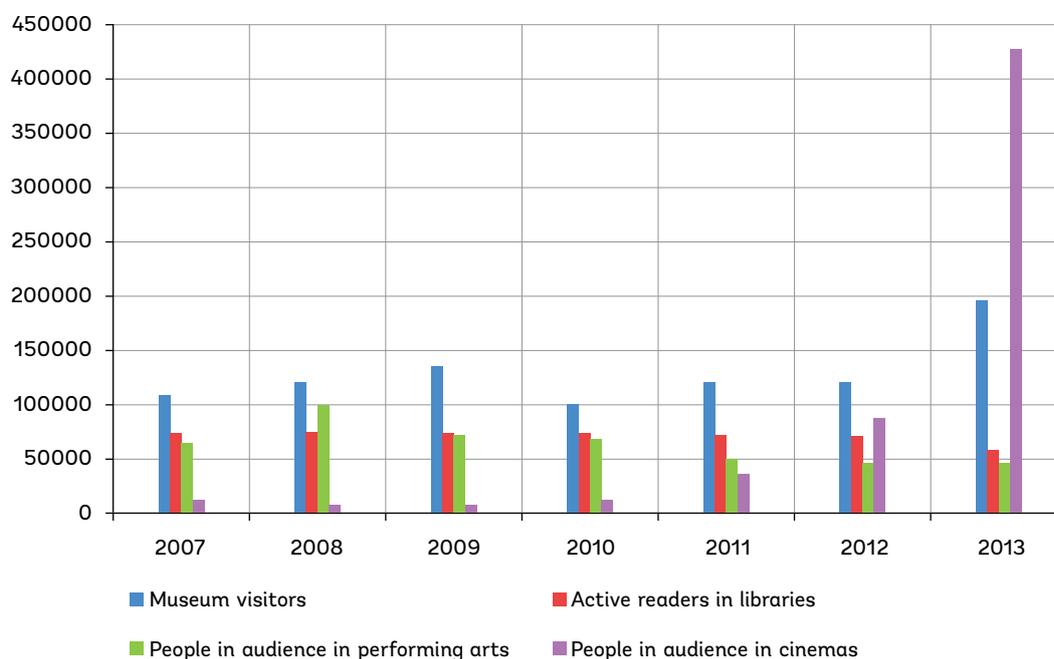
- **5 performing arts institutions**, including the subordinate sections thereof – Toma Caragiu Theatre, with the Variety Theatre and Puppet Theatre sections, and Paul Constantinescu Philharmonic, including the Symphony Orchestra and the



Folk Orchestra. In 2013, these institutions organized 354 performances and concerts, 34.4% less than in 2007. The two institutions have 540 seats in their auditoria (of which 250 are dedicated to theatre), the number being in decline as compared to 2007, which can be explained by the restitution of the former building of the 'Ciufulici' Children's Theatre. As the puppet section has no space of its own, it currently organizes performances in the premises of Cercul Militar (the Military Circle) or Toma Caragiu Theatre. Works are being carried out to rehabilitate and equip a building which could house the puppet section. The total audience of the cultural institutions in the municipality reached 44,852 people in 2013, which is 29.1% less than in 2007. The decline might be due to people's diminished interest in culture and to the challenges faced by the sector's institutions (scarcity of staff and job capping, low level of remuneration, improper equipment, etc.), which resulted in a decreased number of performances. However, the theatre and the philharmonic are involved in the organization of cultural events with significant international standing, such such as: Toma Caragiu Theatre Festival, Hot Jaz̃ Summit Festival, or 'Zilele Muzicale' (Musical Days) Festival of Paul Constantinescu Philharmonic.

• **other cultural institutions** – the Palace of Culture, a newly rehabilitated monumental building, erected in the French neoclassical style in the interwar years, which is home for the County Natural Science Museum, “Muzeul Omului” (The Human Being Museum) Permanent Exhibition, People’s School of Art, Nicolae Iorga County Library, etc. The Culture House of Trade Unions, erected during the communist era, includes: one auditorium of approximately 600 seats, one conference room of 200 seats, one sports hall, rooms that can be used by debating groups and musical bands, one library, and one lobby. It hosts various public and cultural meetings, symposiums, conferences, shows (including the performances of ‘Chindia’ Folk Troupe that is subordinated to the House), literary circles, etc. I. L. Caragiale Culture House, subordinated to the municipality, hosts Prahova Folk Troupe and Dimitrie Gusti People’s University, which organize various lectures, conference and debate series, including ‘Atitudini’ (Attitudes) art circle, with a moonlight soiree and its own publication. The Students’ Culture House hosts several musical bands, dance troupes, and theatrical companies, as well as circles dedicated to students, in areas such as: science, arts, training and vocational education, aesthetics, design, documentation, literature. Furthermore, each urban and rural locality around the municipality has culture houses and/or culture centers, but their cultural offer is relatively poor as compared to the city of Ploiești, since many of such institutions have improper infrastructure and equipment, and the staff is insufficient.

Figure 98. Cultural consumption at the level of Ploiești Growth Pole between 2007 and 2013



Source: National Institute of Statistics, TEMPO Online database

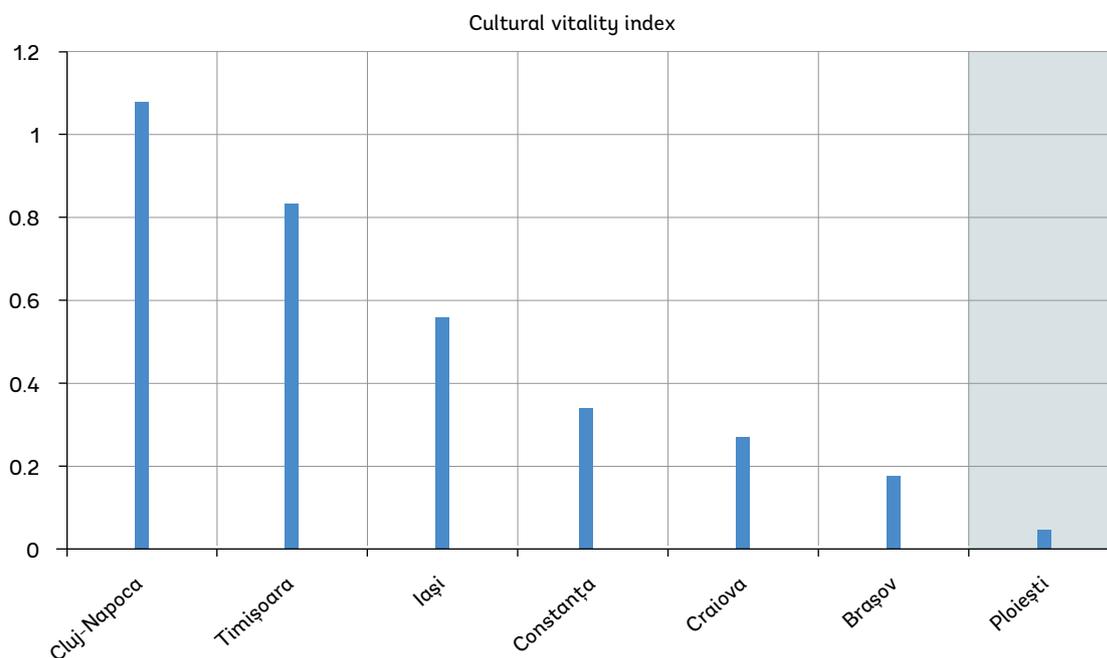
The non-governmental sector in the culture area is rather poorly represented locally, unlike other cities of similar size. The associations with a relevant activity in the field, including Momentum, Paul Constatinescu 2009, the Hellenic Union of Romania – Prahova Hellenic Community, etc., organize various cultural events locally and on an annual basis.

The local media includes: local newspapers (Republicanul, Prahova, Altphel, etc.), online publications (Phon, Max Media, Incomod PH, Jurnalul Prahovean, Observatorul Prahovean, Gazeta de Prahova, Prahova Business, etc.), local TV and radio channels (Radio Prahova, Radio SOS, Radio WylFm, Antena 1 Ploiești, Alpha TV Ploiești, Prahova TV, VP-TV, PRO-TV Ploiești, etc.).

1.7.2. Cultural Events and Activities

The report on the cultural vitality of Romanian cities (Centre for Research and Consultancy on Culture, 2010) analyzes and ranks 46 Romanian cities based on a cultural vitality index, calculated as an average of 6 indicators: (1) cultural sector infrastructure, (2) specialized human resources, (3) budget allocations to culture, (4) participation in cultural activities, (5) creative economy, (6) non-profit sector. Ploiești municipality ranks 18, below all the other municipalities belonging to growth poles, and also below other county seat municipalities in the South Muntenia region, such as Târgoviște and Pitești. The largest gaps identified by the authors of the study in the local cultural sector are related to the scarcity of staff and the insufficient activity of the relevant NGOs, whereas better outputs were found in terms of volume of local budget allocations to culture and people's interest in culture. The study also notes the poor development of cultural and creative industries relative to the local economy, their share of the local GDP being around 50 times lower compared to other growth poles in the country, such as Cluj-Napoca.

Figure 99. Cultural vitality index in the Romanian growth poles



Source: Centre for Research and Consultancy on Culture, 2010

The cultural sector's better results in other growth poles as compared to Ploiești is due to the broader social and economic background thereof. This could be explained, inter alia, by the following: the proximity between Ploiești municipality and the capital city, which polarizes the cultural life in the southern part of Romania; the number of students and young people (one of the most important categories of culture consumers), which is much lower than in traditional university centers (Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Iași); the lower number of people having attended a higher education institution; the local "brain-drain" phenomenon; the people's low purchasing power, etc.

A full list of the cultural events organized in 2014 in Ploiești Growth Pole is included in Annex 1.7.2.

1.7.3. Youth and Sports

The sports infrastructure in Ploiești Growth Pole includes stadiums, public and private sports halls, and sports grounds. Ilie Oană stadium, the largest sports facility at the Growth Pole's level, was completely rebuilt between 2009 and 2011. It has two stands and two terraces of over 15,000 seats (all covered), natural grass pitch, nocturnal lighting system, and electronic scoreboards. Astra (Columbia) Stadium is the second arena in terms of size, with a capacity of 10,000 seats that are partially covered and distributed into 2 stands, a nocturnal lighting system, an electronic scoreboard, and natural grass. Other local type-approved stadiums are 'Chimia' Brazi (2,500 seats), 'Conpet' Strejnic-Ploiești (2,000 seats), 'Gheorghe Silaev' Plopeni (9,000 seats), 'Dorobanțul' Ploiești (1,500 seats), 'Petrotrans' Ploiești (500 seats), 'Metalul' Băicoi (2,000 seats), 'Vega' Ploiești (5,000 seats), 'Prahova' Ploiești (4,000 seats), etc. Because of their basic and obsolete infrastructure (developed during the communist era), these stadiums can only host local or county-level competitions.

Olimpia Sports Hall, erected during the communist era, has 3,500 seats and hosts basketball, volleyball, tennis, and handball trainings and competitions. It was modernized and expanded in the last years (2010-2013) with state-budget funds. A new stand was built, seats were replaced, the outdoor spaces were refurbished, etc. Vega Olympic Swimming Pool was built in the 1960s and has 6 lanes. Over 400 students of the municipality schools exercise there. The building is vulnerable to earthquakes and requires consolidation and modernization, as only sanitation works have been carried out so far.

Ploiești Racecourse is the only harness racing arena in Romania and has a tradition of over 50 years. As the racecourse was in an extremely poor condition, it has been demolished and works have been started for the construction of a modern arena of over 1,300 seats. Such works benefit from European co-financing.

Leonard Doroftei Multi-functional Sports Hall, inaugurated in 2003, can host trainings in handball, volley, gymnastics, chess, karate, mini football, basketball, tennis, and contact sports.

Oil and Gas University has its own sports complex, with a sports hall, handball courts, mini football pitches etc. In addition, there are 74 sports grounds belonging to educational units (44 in Ploiești), and 78 sports halls (47 in Ploiești), some of which are available not only to the students of the respective schools and high schools, but also to the general public, but in exchange for a fee. A growing number of private football pitches and tennis courts, covered and provided with a nocturnal lighting system, as well as swimming pools and fitness-aerobics rooms are also available locally, the interest in amateur sports being on the increase.

As regards the sports activity, the following clubs constantly obtained good results in internal and international competitions:

- 'Petrolul' Sports Club – with athletics, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, karate, swimming, wrestling, skating, bowling, ham radio, chess, fencing, table tennis sections;
- Municipal Sports Club (CSM) – with handball, athletics, boxing, football, gymnastics, judo, karate, swimming, skating, chess, volleyball sections;
- School Sports Club (CSS) – with tennis and basketball sections;
- 'Conpet' Sports Club – with boxing, cycling, karate, football, bowling, chess sections;
- 'Petrom' Sports Club – with athletics, basketball, boxing, football, judo, karate, karting, scrabble, yachting sections;
- Asesoft University Sports Club – basketball club.

Despite the good results and the local authorities' involvement in supporting sports activities, the interest in performance sports has declined among children and youth as compared to the communist era. However, recent years have seen a tendency of returning to such sports, due to people's increasing orientation towards a healthier lifestyle. Exercise and training facilities are, with some exceptions, insufficient and inappropriately equipped (the swimming facilities, for example).

In the field of youth, Prahova County Directorate for Youth and Sports organized, in 2013, 9 events on civic engagement, volunteering, culture, sports and tourism, and mobility, in collaboration with the following relevant NGOs: 'Viitorul Tinerilor' (The Future of the Youth) Association, 'Tinerii Voluntari' (Young Volunteers) Association, National Union of People with HIV-AIDS, 'Tineri VIP' (VIP Youth) Association, The National Association for Youth and Community Initiative, etc.

Associations of this type were also set up by certain educational institutions (e.g. the youth associations in the Nichita Stănescu High School, the Pedagogical High School, Mihai Viteazul High School, I.L. Caragiale High School, Economic High School, AIESEC association). Prahova County Council also supports the “Youth Forum – Prahova” initiative, now at its second edition.

Despite such initiatives, the number of events dedicated to young people and their leisure, information and socializing possibilities are relatively limited as compared with other growth poles, where the relevant associations are much more visible (e.g. Cluj-Napoca, which is the 2015 European Youth Capital, or Braşov, which hosted the 2013 European Youth Olympic Winter Festival).



1.7.4. Completed / ongoing projects

The projects that were carried out or are in progress during 2007-2013 programming period in the areas of heritage, culture, youth, and sports include:

- Rebuilding the Ploieşti Racecourse – an investment estimated at RON 60 million, co-financed from ROP 2007-2013;
- Extension and modernization of Olimpia Sports Hall – an approx. RON 20 million investment, made with funds from the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration / the National Investment Company;
- Modernization of Ilie Oană Stadium – an approx. EUR 20 million investments, made with funds from the local budget;
- Consolidation and restoration of the Palace of Culture – an approx. RON 10 million investment, carried out with funds from the Local Council’s budget;
- Rehabilitation and equipping of the building that will host the Children’s Section of Toma Caragiu Theatre – an approx. RON 3 million investment, made with funds from the local budget and sponsorships;
- Modernization and equipping of ‘Premiera’ Cinema – an approx. EUR 300,000 investment, made with funds from RADEF (‘România Film’ Autonomous Regie of Film Distribution and Exploitation);
- Restoration and consolidation of Nicolae Simache Clock Museum – an approx. RON 8 million investment, co-financed from ROP 2007-2013;
- Inauguration of Constantin and Ion Stere Memorial Museum in Bucov and of Crama 1777 (Winery 1777) in Valea Călugărească;
- Modernization of the Zoo – an approx. EUR 2.5 million investment, made with funds from the Ministry of Environment and the local budget;
- Consolidation and extension of the concert hall and balcony of Paul Constantinescu Philharmonic.

1.7.5. Conclusions – existing disparities, tendencies, needs, and areas of intervention

Culture and leisure

The concentration of historical monuments of national or local importance in Ploiești is lower than in other Romanian growth poles. However, the almost 200 existing monuments that belong to different styles and ages could be included in tourist circuits. Unfortunately, many of the valuable buildings, particularly those owned by private persons, are in a very poor condition and are subject to permanent aggressive actions, requiring urgent restoration, consolidation, and protection measures, especially since some of them are vulnerable to earthquakes.

Ploiești-Prahova area has a movable and intangible cultural heritage that is very rich and that visitors are insufficiently acquainted with. Measures to capitalize such heritage are required, for instance by an enhanced promotion of the tourism circuits that have already been designed at the local level (The Wine Road, The Princes' Road, The Fruit Road, etc.).

The Growth Pole has a diverse range of museums (history, archaeology, natural science, art museums, etc.), some of them being of national importance (the National Oil Museum), whereas others are unique in the country (Nicolae Simache Clock Museum). Although many of such museums are located in appropriate buildings, some of which have been recently rehabilitated (the Palace of Culture, the Clock Museum), further investments are required for the museums' modernization, equipping and promotion, including online.

The libraries in the Growth Pole are facing a dwindling interest in written culture, due to the growing use of online media and to a decline in school population, which entails a decrease in the number of active readers. The libraries generally have an obsolete infrastructure and book stock, which makes them unattractive to young readers. Therefore modernization works are required, along with diversification of provided services (e.g. Internet access and multi-media facilities), organization of events meant to promote the libraries' activity and to increase public awareness in that respect etc.

Although the Ploiești municipality has famous performing arts institutions, the shows and audiences have constantly declined in number in recent years due to the scarcity of staff and the lack of appropriate equipment that affect such institutions. For example, the Children's Section of Toma Caragiu Theatre had no space of its own in the past 5 years.

Although the number of cultural events is on the increase and some of them even carry high international standing (the Theatre Festival, the Jazg Festival, etc.), they are not included in a coherent calendar that covers all the categories of consumers and seasons of the year, and their scale is not large enough to trigger tourism.

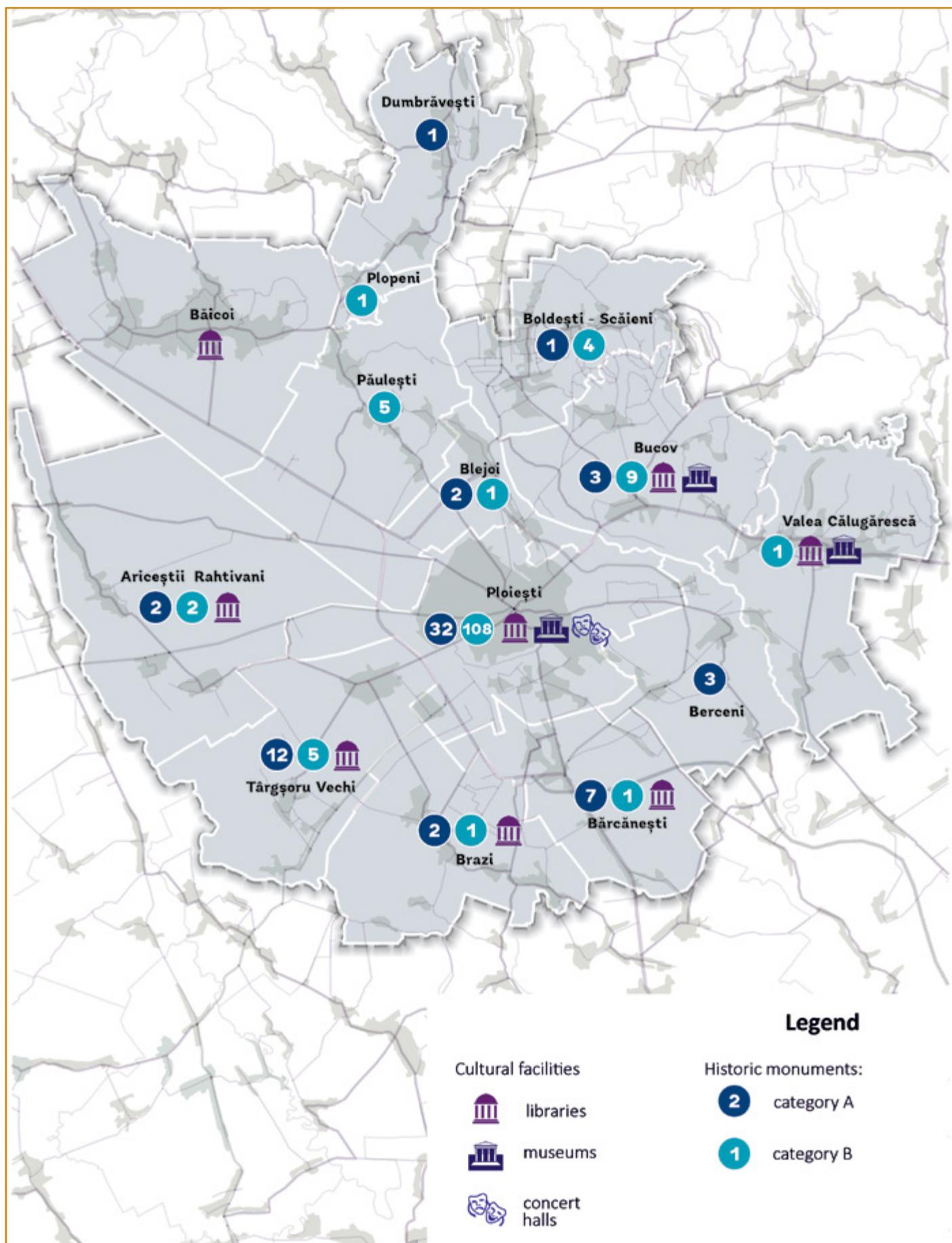
The cultural infrastructure in small towns and adjoining rural localities is poor; cultural events are only organized sporadically, for which reason the population's access to culture is much lower than in Ploiești municipality.

The cultural vitality of Ploiești municipality is much lower than in all the other growth poles, due to the population's social and economic structure and to the fact that Bucharest monopolizes the cultural life in the southern area of the country. The most significant weaknesses are the scarcity of specialized staff and the poor development of the creative and cultural industries, as well as of the activity carried out by relevant NGOs.

The local sports infrastructure has become more diverse and has been upgraded in recent years, as a result of public and private investments. The obsolete facilities that still exist and prevent the development of performance sports (e.g. the lack of modern training pools) have contributed to an increased interest in amateur sports. Just like for cultural infrastructure, the sports infrastructure and activity in the Growth Pole's localities are much less developed than in the municipality.

The sports clubs in the municipality, which cover most of the branches in the field and are financially supported by private investors and by the local authorities, have obtained very good results in international and national competitions, the most visible performances being achieved in football and basketball.

Map 110. Cultural facilities and historic monuments



ANNEX 1.7.1.

List of Historical Monuments (2010) in Ploiești Growth Pole

No.	LMI code	Name	Locality	Address	Dating from
1	PH-I-s-B-16113	Archaeological site in Ploiești, "Bloc 122" spot	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Bloc 122, Nord neighborhood	
2	PH-I-m-B-16113.01	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Bloc 122, Nord neighborhood	sec. VI - VII p. Chr.
3	PH-I-m-B-16113.02	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Bloc 122, Nord neighborhood	Latène
4	PH-I-m-B-16113.03	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Bloc 122, Nord neighborhood	Bronze Age, cultura Tei
5	PH-I-m-B-16113.04	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Bloc 122, Nord neighborhood	Neolithic, Cultura Boian, fața Bolintineanu
6	PH-I-s-B-16114	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	"Cuptoarelor street - Zăvoiuului street"	sec. IV - VII p. Chr.
7	PH-I-s-B-16115	Archaeological site in Ploiești, "Lotul Stelian Marinescu" spot	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Stelian Marinescu lot, on the right of Dâmbului creek, Pielari neighborhood	
8	PH-I-m-B-16115.01	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Stelian Marinescu lot, on the right of Dâmbului creek, Pielari neighborhood	sec. V - VII p. Chr.
9	PH-I-m-B-16115.02	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Stelian Marinescu lot, on the right of Dâmbului creek, Pielari neighborhood	sec. IV - V p. Chr.
10	PH-I-m-B-16115.03	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Stelian Marinescu lot, on the right of Dâmbului creek, Pielari neighborhood	Latène
11	PH-I-m-B-16115.04	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Stelian Marinescu lot, on the right of Dâmbului creek, Pielari neighborhood	Bronze Age
12	PH-I-m-B-16115.05	Necropolis	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Stelian Marinescu lot, on the right of Dâmbului creek, Pielari neighborhood	Bronze Age
13	PH-I-m-B-16117	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	East of Vinalcool (today S. C. Cramele Prahova S.A.), Polux neighborhood, Găgeni barrier	sec. V - VII p. Chr.
14	PH-I-s-B-16118	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	On the West bank of Dâmbu creek, Polux neighborhood	sec. V - VII p. Chr.
15	PH-I-s-B-16119	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	On the West bank of Dâmbu creek, Polux neighborhood	sec. V - VII p. Chr.
16	PH-I-s-B-16120	Tumuli	PLOIEȘTI municipality	"Punct termic", Minerva street	Hallstatt
17	PH-I-s-A-16121	Open-air market	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Civic Center, East of "Mercur" store	sec. XVII
18	PH-I-s-B-16127	Settlement (open-air market)	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Democrației street, Toma Caragiu street 10, Gh. Lazăr street, The Prahova County Museum of History and Archeology	sec. XVII - XVIII
19	PH-I-s-B-16122	"Bădești street" archaeological site, Ploiești	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Bădești Street	
20	PH-I-m-B-16122.01	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Bădești Street	sec. II - III p. Chr.
21	PH-I-m-B-16122.02	Necropolis	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Bădești Street	sec. II - III p. Chr.
22	PH-I-s-B-16123	Castrum	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Bădești Street	sec. II p. Chr.
23	PH-I-s-B-16124	Settlement	municipiul PLOIEȘTI	Bădești Street	sec. IX - X

No.	LMI code	Name	Locality	Address	Dating from
24	PH-I-s-B-16125	Archaeological site in Ploiești, "Str. Cornățel" spot	municipiul PLOIEȘTI	Cornățel Street	
25	PH-I-m-B-16125.01	Settlement	municipiul PLOIEȘTI	Cornățel Street	sec. V - VII p. Chr.
26	PH-I-m-B-16125.02	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Cornățel Street	4th - 5th century AC
27	PH-I-m-B-16125.03	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Cornățel Street	Latène
28	PH-I-m-B-16125.04	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Cornățel Street	The Bronze Age
29	PH-I-s-B-16126	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Cuptoarelor Street	3rd - 5th century AC
30	PH-I-s-B-16128	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Domnișori Street, 200 m north-east of Gara de Vest (the West Station)	Epipalaeolithic
31	PH-I-s-B-16129	Archaeological site in Ploiești, "Str. Lucernei" (Lucernei Street) spot	PLOIEȘTI municipality	The junction of Lucernei Street with Trifoiului Street	
32	PH-I-m-B-16129.01	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	The junction of Lucernei Street with Trifoiului Street	8th - 10th century
33	PH-I-m-B-16129.02	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	The junction of Lucernei Street with Trifoiului Street	6th - 7th century AC
34	PH-I-m-B-16129.03	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	The junction of Lucernei Street with Trifoiului Street	Bronze Age
35	PH-I-s-B-16130	Defensive ditch	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Luminișului Street	2nd century AC
36	PH-I-s-A-16131	Borough	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Matei Basarab Street	16th - 17th century
37	PH-I-s-B-16132	Necropolis	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Mihai Bravu Street "Sf. Nicolae" Vechi (St Nicholas Old) Church	16th - 17th century
38	PH-I-s-B-16133	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Mircea cel Bătrân Street, Dorobanți Neighborhood	2nd - 3rd century AC
39	PH-I-s-B-16134	Borough	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Mircea cel Bătrân Street, Dorobanți Neighborhood	16th - 18th century
40	PH-I-s-B-16135	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Mureșanu Andrei Street, Cina Neighborhood	3rd - 1st century BC
41	PH-I-s-B-16136	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Petuniei Neighborhood – Elementary School 30	Bronze Age, Tei culture
42	PH-I-s-B-16137	Necropolis	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Pielari Street	Early Bronze Age
43	PH-I-s-B-16139	Limes	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Râpelor Street Malu Roșu Neighborhood	4th century AC
44	PH-I-m-B-16141	Archaeological site in Ploiești, "Roșmarin Str." (Roșmarin Street) spot	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Roșmarin Street	
45	PH-I-m-B-16141.01	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Roșmarin Street	11th - 12th century
46	PH-I-m-B-16141.02	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Roșmarin Street	4th century AC
47	PH-I-m-B-16141.03	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Roșmarin Street	Hallstatt
48	PH-I-m-B-16141.04	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Roșmarin Street	Bronze Age
49	PH-I-m-B-16141.05	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Roșmarin Street	Eneolithic
50	PH-I-s-B-16142	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	The junction of Troienelor Street with Măgurii Street	Eneolithic, Gumelnița culture

No.	LMI code	Name	Locality	Address	Dating from
51	PH-I-s-B-16138	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Vuia Traian Street	6th - 7th century AC
52	PH-I-s-B-16143	Settlement	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Zorelelor Street	2nd century AC
53	PH-II-m-B-16232	George Papp House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Armoniei 1 Street	1880
54	PH-II-m-A-16233	"Maica Precista" (Immaculate Mother of God) Church	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Armoniei 3 Street	1820
55	PH-II-m-A-16234	Kogălniceanu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Armoniei 12 Street	late 18th century - early 19th century
56	PH-II-m-B-16235	Enache Cantacuzino House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	4 Bagdazar, doctor Street	1831
57	PH-II-m-B-16236	Constantin Ion și Maria Căpitănescu (Constantin Ion and Maria Căpitănescu) House, today the National Oil Museum	PLOIEȘTI municipality	8 Bagdazar, doctor Street	late 19th century
58	PH-II-m-B-16237	House, today company office	PLOIEȘTI municipality	16 Basarabilor Street	1900
59	PH-II-m-A-16238	Cițmaru Ileana și Oprescu Ioana (Cițmaru Ileana and Oprescu Ioana) House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	18 Basarabilor Street	1905
60	PH-II-m-A-16239	Composer Paul Constantinescu's house	PLOIEȘTI municipality	15 Bălcescu Nicolae Street	1873
61	PH-II-m-B-16240	Manolescu House, today the headquarters of S.C. IPIP S.A.	PLOIEȘTI municipality	19 Bălcescu Nicolae Street	late 19th century
62	PH-II-m-B-16241	Mănculescu House, today "Prestij" Restaurant	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Bobâlna Street	late 19th century
63	PH-II-m-B-16242	Narcis Dăscălescu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	4 Bobâlna Street	1895
64	PH-II-m-B-16243	Maxillofacial Section of "Boldescu" County Hospital	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Boldescu Street	1831
65	PH-II-m-B-16244	Amira House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	36 Buna Vestire Street	mid-19th century
66	PH-II-m-B-16245	Jilescu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	5 Caragiale Ion Luca Street	early 19th century
67	PH-II-m-A-16246	"Sf. Petru și Pavel" (Sts Peter and Paul) School, the first Middle School in Ploiești, today the County Museum of History and Archaeology	PLOIEȘTI municipality	10 Caragiu Toma Street	1865
68	PH-II-m-A-16247	The Palace of Justice, today the Palace of Culture	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Călin Cătălin, erou Street	1920
69	PH-II-m-B-16248	Manole Șerbănescu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	3 Constanței Street	second half of the 19th century
70	PH-II-m-B-16249	Octavian și Mihai Bellu (Octavian and Mihai Bellu) House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	6 Constanței Street	1875
71	PH-II-m-B-16250	Marcu Mihalache House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	9 Constanței Street	1886

No.	LMI code	Name	Locality	Address	Dating from
72	PH-II-m-B-16251	Av. Marinela Păunescu (Lawyer Marinela Păunescu) House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	12 Constanței Street	1889
73	PH-II-m-A-16252	Ilie Lumânăraru House with a shop	PLOIEȘTI municipality	16 Coșbuc George Street	1830 - 1840
74	PH-II-m-A-16253	Dr. Ion Popescu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	9 Decebal Street	1905
75	PH-II-m-B-16254	Gheorghe și Margareta Teodorescu (Gheorghe and Margareta Teodorescu) House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	25 Decebal Street	1900
76	PH-II-m-A-16255	Hagi Ivan Prodan Merchant's House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	2 Democrației Street	1785
77	PH-II-m-B-16256	House, today the headquarters of Ploiești Local Centre of "Spiru Haret" University	PLOIEȘTI municipality	17 Democrației Street	late 19th century
78	PH-II-m-B-16257	House, today the headquarters of "Alexandra" Humanitarian Organization	PLOIEȘTI municipality	19 Democrației Street	1890
79	PH-II-m-B-16258	Viorel Voiculescu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	23 Democrației Street	late 19th century
80	PH-II-m-B-16259	Romulus Filipescu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	24 Democrației Street	late 19th century
81	PH-II-m-A-16260	The Commerce Academy, today "I. L. Caragiale" National College	PLOIEȘTI municipality	98 Doja Gheorghe Street	1926 - 1936
82	PH-II-m-A-16261	Bell tower of "Sf. Ioan Botezătorul" (St. John the Baptist) Church - Monument to the Heroes of 1916-1918	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Piața Eroilor (Eroilor Square)	1923 - 1939
83	PH-II-m-B-20206	Former winery (cellar, entrance and staircase to the floor)	PLOIEȘTI municipality	2 Alea Gladiolelor	late 19th century - early 20th century
84	PH-II-m-B-16263	Dr. I. Cloaje House, today Bulevard Restaurant	PLOIEȘTI municipality	25 Golești Street	late 19th century
85	PH-II-m-A-16264	Hârlea Dragomira și Iliescu Roxana (Hârlea Dragomira and Iliescu Roxana) House, today "Star" Hotel-Restaurant	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Hasdeu Petriceicu Bogdan Street	early 20th century
86	PH-II-m-B-16265	Radu Constantin House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	7 Iașiului Street	1850
87	PH-II-s-B-16266	"Centrul istoric" (Historical Centre) urban site	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Independenței Blvd., delimitation according to the approved General Urban Plan	18th century - early 20th century
88	PH-II-m-A-16267	Ghiță Ionescu House, today "Ion Ionescu-Quintus" County Museum of Art	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Independenței Blvd.	1885
89	PH-II-m-B-16268	Dr. Constantin Vasiliu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	3 Independenței Blvd.	1900
90	PH-II-m-A-16269	Bell tower of "Sf. Gheorghe" - Vechi (St George - Old) Church	PLOIEȘTI municipality	4 Independenței Blvd.	1831 - 1832

No.	LMI code	Name	Locality	Address	Dating from
91	PH-II-m-B-16270	Matache Ștefănescu house, today bank office	PLOIEȘTI municipality	5 Independenței Blvd.	1900
92	PH-II-m-B-16271	"Sf. Petru și Pavel" (Sts Peter and Paul) High School, today "Mihai Viteazul" National College – the north side	PLOIEȘTI municipality	8 Independenței Blvd.	1875
93	PH-II-m-B-16272	Alexandru Radovici House, today HIPOCRAT 2000 Healthcare Clinic	PLOIEȘTI municipality	14 Independenței Blvd.	late 19th century
94	PH-II-m-A-16273	Radu Stanian House, later Constantinescu Bordeni House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	15 Independenței Blvd.	1850, 1930
95	PH-II-m-B-16274	C.G. Angelini House, today Ploiești Local Finance and Estate Management Public Department	PLOIEȘTI municipality	16 Independenței Blvd.	late 19th century
96	PH-II-m-A-16275	Scarlat Sc. Orăscu House, today Children's Medical Office of Ploiești Paediatric Hospital	PLOIEȘTI municipality	18 Independenței Blvd.	late 19th century, rebuilt in 1920
97	PH-II-m-B-16276	Toma Rucăreanu House, later Provian house, today "Mon Jardin" Restaurant	PLOIEȘTI municipality	19 Independenței Blvd.	late 19th century
98	PH-II-m-B-16277	Grigore Scorțeanu, Dimitrie Sfetescu House, later the headquarters of "Concordia" Oil Company, today Ploiești City Hall Administrative Office	PLOIEȘTI municipality	21 Independenței Blvd.	late 19th century
99	PH-II-m-A-16278	Ghiță Stoenescu House, today the headquarters of Alfa Medical Centre clinic	PLOIEȘTI municipality	27 Independenței Blvd.	1900 - 1910
100	PH-II-m-A-16279	Gheorghe Iosifescu House, today "VigoHotel"	PLOIEȘTI municipality	28 Independenței Blvd.	1935
101	PH-II-m-B-16280	The National Bank, today a branch office of B.C.R.	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Ionescu Tache Street	early 20th century
102	PH-II-m-B-16281	House, today "Vienna Cafe" Restaurant	PLOIEȘTI municipality	3 Ipătescu Ana Street	late 19th century
103	PH-II-m-A-16282	Avram Ergas Mamaciu House, today "Ciufulici" Children's Theatre – section of "Toma Caragiu" Theatre	PLOIEȘTI municipality	52 Kogălniceanu Mihail Street	1869 - 1870
104	PH-II-m-A-16283	C.C. Dobrescu House, today "I.L. Caragiale" Memorial Museum	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Kutuzov Street	late 18th century - early 19th century
105	PH-II-m-A-16284	Fiscal Administration's office, today Prahova County Court	PLOIEȘTI municipality	6 Lazăr Gheorghe Street	early 20th century
106	PH-II-m-B-16285	Inn, later a dwelling	PLOIEȘTI municipality	10 Maniu Iuliu Street	first half of 19th century

No.	LMI code	Name	Locality	Address	Dating from
107	PH-II-m-B-16286	House, today the headquarters of Prahova National Roads Section	PLOIEȘTI municipality	8 Maramureș Street	early 20th century
108	PH-II-m-B-16287	House, former bank office, today Angelo D'oro Hotel	PLOIEȘTI municipality	9 Maramureș Street	early 20th century
109	PH-II-m-A-16288	"Sf. Apostoli Petru și Pavel" – Domnească (Holy Apostles Peter and Paul - Princiary) Church	PLOIEȘTI municipality	63 Matei Basarab Street	1639, transformed in the late 19th century
110	PH-II-a-B-16289	Complex of "Sf. Nicolae" – Vechi (St Nicholas - Old) Church	PLOIEȘTI municipality	105 Mihai Bravu Street	late 16th century, late 17th century - early 18th century
111	PH-II-m-B-16289.01	"Sf. Nicolae" – Vechi (St Nicholas - Old) Church	PLOIEȘTI municipality	105 Mihai Bravu Street	late 16th century, rebuilt from 1983 to 1990
112	PH-II-m-B-16289.02	Foundations of outbuildings	PLOIEȘTI municipality	105 Mihai Bravu Street	late 17th century- early 18th century
113	PH-II-m-B-16289.03	Foundations of the bell tower	PLOIEȘTI municipality	105 Mihai Bravu Street	late 17th century- early 18th century
114	PH-II-m-B-16290	Tulea House, today the headquarters of Community Social Service Administration	PLOIEȘTI municipality	4-6 Poștei Street	1853
115	PH-II-m-B-16291	N. Pârvulescu House, today private doctor's practices	PLOIEȘTI municipality	35 Romană Street	1870
116	PH-II-m-B-16292	Dr. Dan Georgescu House, today company offices	PLOIEȘTI municipality	41 Romană Street	1850
117	PH-II-m-B-16293	Tiseanu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	43 Romană Street	second half of 19th century
118	PH-II-m-B-16294	House with a shop	PLOIEȘTI municipality	46-48 Romană Street	mid-19th century
119	PH-II-m-A-16295	Maria Dumitrescu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Simache Nicolae Street	1830
120	PH-II-m-A-16296	Luca Elefterescu House, today "Nicolae Simache" Clock Museum	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Simache Nicolae Street	1890, rebuilt in 1930
121	PH-II-m-B-16297	Marcela Pătârlăgeanu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	2 Simache Nicolae Street	early 20th century
122	PH-II-m-B-16298	Istrate Negulescu House, today the headquarters of a department of the Ministry of National Defence.	PLOIEȘTI municipality	1 Stadionului Street	second half of 19th century
123	PH-II-m-B-16298	Cantilli House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	3 Stadionului Street, 3A	second half of 19th century
124	PH-II-m-B-16300	Mareș Șerbănescu House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	14 Stadionului Street	1847
125	PH-II-m-B-16301	The House of Prahova Schoolteachers, today company offices	PLOIEȘTI municipality	8 Ștefan cel Mare Street	1925

No.	LMI code	Name	Locality	Address	Dating from
126	PH-II-m-B-16302	"Sf. Voievozi" (Saint Princes) Church having "Sf.Arhangheli Mihail și Gavriil" (Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel) and "Sf. Antonie cel Mare" (Saint Anthony the Great) dedication days	PLOIEȘTI municipality	23 Ștefan cel Mare Street	1820 - 1827, rebuilt from 1929 to 1931
127	PH-II-m-B-16303	Cacip House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	4 Ulierului Street	first half of 19th century
128	PH-II-m-B-16304	Petre Ulieru House	PLOIEȘTI municipality	7 Ulierului Street	early 19th century
129	PH-II-m-A-16306	School of Arts and Crafts, today the Directorate for the Public and Private Domain Administration	PLOIEȘTI municipality	32 Văleni Street	1886
130	PH-II-m-A-16306	Central Halls	PLOIEȘTI municipality	8 Zola Emile Street	1930 - 1935
131	PH-III-m-A-16863	Independence War Soldiers Memorial	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Piața 1 Decembrie 1918 (1 Decembrie 1918 Square) Gara de sud (Southern Station)	1897
132	PH-III-m-B-16864	First World War Heroes Memorial	PLOIEȘTI municipality	2 Eroilor Street, inside Bolovani cemetery	1957
133	PH-III-m-B-16865	Bust of writer Ion Luca Caragiale	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Independenței Blvd., in the park located in front of "Mihai Viteazul" National College	1952
134	PH-III-m-A-16866	"Maternitate" (Motherhood) Statue	PLOIEȘTI municipality	Independenței Blvd., in the green space on the eastern side of the boulevard	1960
135	PH-III-m-B-16867	Bust of Radu Stanian (former mayor of Ploiești)	PLOIEȘTI municipality	The junction between Independenței Blvd. and Bobâlna Street	1900
136	PH-III-m-A-16868	Statue of Liberty	PLOIEȘTI municipality	2 Republicii Blvd. to the north side of the park located in front of the Administrative Palace	1881
137	PH-III-m-B-16869	Bust of Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza	PLOIEȘTI municipality	10 Trei Ierarhi Street, inside the courtyard of Ali. Cuza High School	1959
138	PH-IV-m-A-16878	Bust of architect Alexandru M. Zagoritz	PLOIEȘTI municipality	14 Brezeanu Constantin Street, inside Viișoara cemetery	1923
139	PH-IV-m-B-16877	Cross commemorating the defeat of Pedestrian Mercenaries' Uprising	PLOIEȘTI municipality	10 Caragiu Toma Street, in the Lapidary Section of the County Museum of History and Archaeology; transferred from Valea Urloii locality, Urlați town	1655
140	PH-IV-m-B-16879	The house where writer I. A. Bassarabescu lived	PLOIEȘTI municipality	10 Ștefan cel Mare Street	late 19th century
141	PH-II-m-B-16362	Ruins of "Sf. Arhangheli Mihail și Gavriil" (Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel) Church	BOLDEȘTI-SCĂENI town	58A Unirii Street	1812
142	PH-II-m-A-16624	Rusescu House	SECIU locality; Boldești-Scăeni town	67	1826
143	PH-II-m-B-16625	"Sf. Treime" (Holy Trinity) Church	SECIU locality; Boldești-Scăeni town	375	18th century, rebuilt in 1802

No.	LMI code	Name	Locality	Address	Dating from
144	PH-III-m-B-16870	Theodor Diamant Memorial	BOLDEȘTI-SCĂENI town	Scăeni neighborhood , in front of the station	1977
145	PH-IV-m-B-16885	Stone memorial cross	BOLDEȘTI-SCĂENI town	3 Primăverii street, inside the courtyard of "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" (Dormition of the Mother of God) Church	1710
146	PH-I-s-B-16200	Fortress	PLOPENI town	Poiana "La Cetate" ("La Cetate" Glade ("Cetatea Fetii"))	6th - 5th century BC
147	PH-I-s-B-16159	Tumuli	BUDA village; ARICEȘTII RAHTIVANI commune	La Movilă	Latène
148	PH-II-m-A-16312	"Sf. Ilie", "Sf. Nicolae" (St Ilie, St Nicholas) Church	ARICEȘTII RAHTIVANI village; ARICEȘTII RAHTIVANI commune	587	1777
149	PH-II-m-A-16772	"Sf. Voievozi" (Saint Princes) church of former Târgșoru Nou monastery	TÂRGȘORU NOU village; ARICEȘTII RAHTIVANI commune	121	1857, destroyed in 1940, rebuilt in 1942
150	PH-IV-m-B-16912	Stone memorial cross	NEDELEA village; ARICEȘTII RAHTIVANI commune	47, in the courtyard of the Vocational School	19th century
151	PH-I-s-B-16205	Incineration necropolis	ROMÂNEȘTI village; BĂRCĂNEȘTI commune	On the premises belonging to the former CAP (Agricultural Production Cooperative)	Late Hallstatt, Ferigile - Bârsești culture
152	PH-II-a-A-16504	Ghighiu Monastery	GHIGHIU village; BĂRCĂNEȘTI commune	1A	1817, 1856 - 1866
153	PH-II-m-A-16504.01	"Izvorul Tămăduirii" (Healing Fountain) Big Church	GHIGHIU village; commune BĂRCĂNEȘTI	1A	1866
154	PH-II-m-A-16504.02	"Învierea Sfântului Lazăr" (Resurrection of Saint Lazarus) Small Church	GHIGHIU village; BĂRCĂNEȘTI commune	1A	1817
155	PH-II-m-A-16504.03	Hermitages (the south and west sides)	GHIGHIU village; BĂRCĂNEȘTI commune	1A	1856
156	PH-II-m-A-16504.04	Bell tower	GHIGHIU village; BĂRCĂNEȘTI commune	1A	1856
157	PH-II-m-A-16504.05	Surrounding wall	GHIGHIU village; BĂRCĂNEȘTI commune	1A	1856
158	PH-II-m-A-16771	Ruins of Brâncoveanu-Mavrocordat mansion	TĂTĂRANI village; BĂRCĂNEȘTI commune	NN	18th - 19th century
169	PH-II-a-A-16439	Complex of "Sf. Nicolae", "Sf. Eustație Plachida" (St Nicholas, St Eustace Placidus) Church	CORLĂTEȘTI village; BERCENI commune	NN	1792
160	PH-II-m-A-16439.01	"Sf. Nicolae", "Sf. Eustație Plachida" (St Nicholas, St Eustace Placidus) Church	CORLĂTEȘTI village; BERCENI commune	NN	1792
161	PH-II-m-A-16439.02	Bell tower	CORLĂTEȘTI village; BERCENI commune	NN	1792
162	PH-II-m-B-16358	Constantin Comăneanu Villa	BLEJOI village; BLEJOI commune	16	1909
163	PH-II-m-A-16359	"Sf. Nicolae", "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" (St Nicholas, Dormition of the Mother of God) Wooden Church (inside the cemetery)	BLEJOI village; BLEJOI commune	449 A	18th century

No.	LMI code	Name	Locality	Address	Dating from
164	PH-II-m-B-16571	Ruins of "Sf. Visarion" (St Visarion) Church	PLOIEȘTIORII village; BLEJOI commune	in the open field, east of "Sf. Dumitru" (Saint Demetrius) Church, near Cantilli mansion, premises belonging to the former CAP (Agricultural Production Cooperative)	17th – 18th century
165	PH-I-s-B-16150	Settlement	BĂTEȘTI village; BRAZI commune	Cantonul CFR 50 A (50 A Shed of the Romanian Railways Company)	5th - 7th century AC
166	PH-II-m-A-16364	Nicolau mansion	BRAZII DE SUS village; BRAZI commune	1 Orhideelor Street	first half of 19th century
167	PH-II-m-A-16757	"Sf. Treime" (Holy Trinity) Church	STEJARU village; BRAZI commune	79A Haiducilor Street, inside the cemetery, transferred from Misleanca forest	18th century
168	PH-I-s-B-16158	Settlement	BUCOV village; BUCOV commune	La Tioca, Rotari	9th - 10th century
169	PH-I-s-B-16168	Settlement	CHIȚORANI village; BUCOV commune	"Ferma 11" (11 Farm)	
170	PH-I-m-B-16168.01	Settlement	CHIȚORANI village; BUCOV commune	"Ferma 11" (11 Farm)	5th - 7th century AC
171	PH-I-m-B-16168.02	Settlement	CHIȚORANI village; BUCOV commune	"Ferma 11" (11 Farm)	Latène
172	PH-I-m-B-16168.03	Settlement	CHIȚORANI village; BUCOV commune	"Ferma 11" (11 Farm)	Bronze Age
173	PH-II-m-B-16377	Constantin Stere House, today the headquarters of a cultural foundation	BUCOV village; BUCOV commune	In the "Constantin Stere" Amusement Park -Bucov	1900
174	PH-II-α-A-16414	Complex of "Sf. Stelian" (St Stylianos) Church	CHIȚORANI village; BUCOV commune	NN	1797
175	PH-II-m-A-16414.01	"Sf. Stelian" (St Stylianos) church	CHIȚORANI village; BUCOV commune	NN	1797
176	PH-II-m-B-16414.02	Bell tower	CHIȚORANI village; BUCOV commune	NN	1797, rebuilt in the 19th century
177	PH-II-m-A-16820	"Sf. Nicolae" (St Nicholas) Wooden Church	VALEA ORLEI village; BUCOV commune	NN	17th century
178	PH-IV-m-B-16894	(Roadside) memorial cross	CHIȚORANI village; BUCOV commune	In Valea Orlei, opposite Grațielă Țintea house	1709
179	PH-IV-m-B-16895	Grave cross	CHIȚORANI village; BUCOV commune	Inside the old cemetery of "Sf. Stelian" (St Stylianos) Church	1843
180	PH-I-s-A-16208	The Roman Camp in Mălăiești	SFÂRLEANCA village; DUMBRĂVEȘTI commune	La Cetate	101 - 118 AC
181	PH-I-s-B-16198	The archaeological site in Păulești	PĂULEȘTI village; PĂULEȘTI commune	Holiday Camp	
182	PH-I-m-B-16198.01	Settlement	PĂULEȘTI village; PĂULEȘTI commune	Holiday Camp	5th - 7th century AC
183	PH-I-m-B-16198.02	Settlement	PĂULEȘTI village; PĂULEȘTI commune	Holiday Camp	4th - 5th century AC
184	PH-I-m-B-16198.03	Settlement	PĂULEȘTI village; PĂULEȘTI commune	Holiday Camp	Hallstatt
185	PH-I-m-B-16198.04	Settlement	PĂULEȘTI village; PĂULEȘTI commune	Holiday Camp	Neolithic
186	PH-I-s-A-16216	The archaeological site in Târgșoru Vechi	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	
187	PH-I-m-A-16216.01	Settlement	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	15th – 17th century

No.	LMI code	Name	Locality	Address	Dating from
188	PH-I-m-A-16216.02	Settlement	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	5th - 7th century AC
189	PH-I-m-A-16216.03	Necropolis	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	4th century AC
190	PH-I-m-A-16216.04	Settlement	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	2nd century AC
191	PH-I-m-A-16216.05	Necropolis	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	2nd - 3rd century AC
192	PH-I-m-A-16216.06	Settlement	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	Late Hallstatt, Ferigile - Bârsești culture
193	PH-I-m-A-16216.07	Settlement	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	Latène
194	PH-I-m-A-16216.08	Settlement	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	Bronze Age, Tei culture
195	PH-I-m-A-16216.09	Settlement	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	Neolithic, Boian culture
196	PH-I-m-A-16216.10	Settlement	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	Early Neolithic, Starčevo – Criș culture
197	PH-I-m-A-16216.11	Settlement	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 "La Mănăstire"	Eneolithic, Gumelnița culture
198	PH-I-s-B-16215	Settlement	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	540 B "La fosta moară", 500 m west of the mill	Bronze Age, Tei culture
199	PH-II-m-B-16773	"Sf. Arhangheli Mihail și Gavriil" și "Sf. Ierarh Nicolae" (Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel and Holy Hierarch Nicholas) Church of Prince Antonie's Turnu Monastery	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 inside Târgșor archaeological site	1669-1672, rebuilt on ruins from 1997 to 2001
200	PH-II-m-B-16774	Ruins of Biserica Albă (the White Church)	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 inside Târgșor archaeological site	1570
201	PH-II-m-B-16775	Ruins of the church of Mihnea Turcitul- Biserica Roșie (the Red Church)	TÂRGȘORU VECHI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	1 inside Târgșor archaeological site	late 16th century
202	PH-IV-m-B-16934	The two inscriptions over the old church's entrance	STÂNCEȘTI village; TÂRGȘORU VECHI commune	380 in the new church	16th century, 1720
203	PH-I-s-B-16226	Settlement	VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ village; VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ commune	Inside the orchard of Valea Călugărească Agricultural Vocational School	Hallstatt

ANNEX 1.7.2.

List of cultural events organized in Ploiești Growth Pole (2014)

MUNICIPALITIES	
PLOIEȘTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 January - Prahova County Culture Centre – “Mythos” Drama Centre: Dacă treci râul Selenei (If You Cross Selena’s River). Mihai Eminescu commemorative evening • 28 February - Prahova County Culture Centre– “Mythos” Drama Centre: Tinerețea lui Don Quijote (The Youth of Don Quixote). Show of readings from the work of Marin Sorescu • 9 March - Prahova County Culture Centre– “Mythos” Drama Centre : 19 trandafiri (Nineteen roses) - Fiction or Mythology? The Mircea Eliade Case • 15-20 March - Ploiești School of Arts - Recitals, concerts, dance and theatre performances, exhibitions organized by the students of Ploiești School of Arts • 21-31 March - Prahova County Culture Centre – “Mythos” Drama Centre: Nichita la Echinox (Nichita on the Equinox) Festival of Arts, 9th edition. Drama and dance shows, film galas, concerts and recitals, fine art and photography exhibitions, book and magazine launches, colloquia, creative and performing arts workshops • 12 May - Prahova County Culture Centre – “Mythos” Drama Centre: The First Major Choreography Revolution in Modern times: Martha Graham • June – Recitals, concerts, dance and theatre performances, exhibitions organized by the students of the Ploiești School of Arts • 18-23 August, Prahova County Culture Centre– “Mythos” Drama Centre: Open-air summer season of the “Mythos” Drama Centre (theatre performances, film screenings, recitals, creative and performing arts workshops) • 22 September, Prahova County Culture Centre – “Mythos” Drama Centre: Opening of the Fall Season of the “Mythos” Drama Centre • 21 October, Prahova County Culture Centre – “Mythos” Drama Centre: Myth, Mythical, Mythology – Session of communications, reports and documents • 5 November - Ploiești, Prahova County Culture Centre – Orion Parlour: Opening of the Prahova Folk Art Exhibition • 13 December - Prahova County Culture Centre – “Mythos” Drama Centre: Poetul ca și soldatul (The Poet, Like the Soldier). Nichita Stănescu commemorative evening • 15 - 21 December - Recitals, concerts, dance and theatre performances, exhibitions organized by the students of the Ploiești School of Arts
TOWNS	
BĂICOI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 January - Mihai Eminescu (164th anniversary of the writer’s birth). Narrations, book exhibitions, poetry recitation, literature and music shows • 24 January – Unification of Romanian Principalities – cultural and arts events • 31 January - Ion Luca Caragiale (162nd anniversary of the writer’s birth). Narrations, readings, performances • 3 March, Ion Creangă (177th anniversary of the writer’s birth) • 31 March, Nichita Stănescu (81st anniversary of the writer’s birth). Narrations, book exhibitions, performances, poetry recitation, poetry contests • Easter, as Seen by Children. Exhibition of drawings and decorated eggs • The Library – a Fountain of Knowledge. Educational partnership: readings, poetry recitation, art activities • 1 June, International Children’s Day. Complex events, shows, contests, exhibitions • 1-7 June – Theatre performances for kids • July – Local Talents. Exhibition of paintings and graphic arts by local artists • August - Let Us Know Each Other, Love Each Other and Respect Our Town. Photography exhibition • 20-26 September - Educație și comunicare prin teatru (Education and Communication through Theatre). Theatre for the Young and the Elderly. • October - Being Responsive to the Community’s Cultural Values and Spiritual Meanings. Meeting with the people of culture in the locality; Autumn in Băicoi. Show, folk songs and dances • 29, 30 November – The Childhood’s Dance. Competition • November - Culorile prieteniei (The Colors of Friendship) National Painting Contest, 5th edition • 17-31 December - Concerts of Romanian Christmas songs and traditions

<p>BOLDEȘTI-SCĂENI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 January- National Culture Day. Complex events – Culture House, Library • 24 January - Unification of the Romanian Principalities – cultural and arts events • 15 February – Lived History. Meeting with war veterans • 13 April – Palm Sunday and Easter Traditions • 9 May - Lucian Blaga (119th anniversary of the writer’s birth) • 21 May – World Day of Culture • 24 May - Teodor Diamant and the phalanstery in Scăeni. Symposium • 5 June – The Town’s Day. Complex event. Folk shows with the participation of the folk dance troupes in Leova town (Republic of Moldova) • 1-30 July – Painting camp in Seciu • 14 August - Dormition of the Mother of God. Music show with the local bands’ participation • 1 October – Painting exhibition • 19, 20 October – Autumn Festival, 6th edition. Complex event: exhibition, folk show, fair
<p>PLOPENI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 March - Nichita Stănescu (81st anniversary of the writer’s birth). Narrations, book exhibitions, shows, poetry recitation, poetry contests • 9 May – Independence Day of Romania, Europe Day • 1 June - International Children’s Day. Complex events, shows, contests, exhibitions • 1 June – Frunza de stejar (The Oak Leaf). Contest-festival for children • 15 August – National festival – Folk music contest • 15-17 August – The Town’s Days. Complex Events • 18-28 August - ”Vintilă Făcăianu” International Painting Camp; Nicolae Kruch” International Sculpture Camp; Vara în culori (Summer in Colors) Children’s Painting Camp • 20 September - ProMușica International Choral Music Festival • 10-25 December - Festival of Customs, Christmas Songs and Traditions • 17-31 December - Concerts of Romanian Christmas songs and traditions
COMMUNES/villages	
<p>ARICEȘTII RAHTIVANI</p>	
<p>BĂRCĂNEȘTI</p>	
<p>BERCENI Cartier Dîmbu Cătunu Corlătești Moara Nouă</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 January - Unification of Romanian Principalities - cultural and arts events • 9 May - Independence Day of Romania, Europe Day • 1 June - International Children’s Day. Complex events, shows, contests, exhibitions • 5 September - The Locality’s Day • 27 November - Nicolae Iorga (74th anniversary of the historian’s death) • 17-31 December – Concerts of Romanian Christmas songs and traditions • 26 December – Snowflakes Carnival
<p>BLEJOI Ploieștiori Tîntăreni</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 January- Mihai Eminescu (164th anniversary of the writer’s birth). Narrations, book exhibitions, poetry recitation, literature – music shows • 24 January - Unification of Romanian Principalities – cultural and arts events • 6 February – Fiu al satului (Son of the Village) Festival • March - Radu Tudoran – 60th anniversary of the publication of the Toate pânzele sus novel • May – Festival of Flowers. The Commune’s Days • 1 June, International Children’s Day. Complex events, shows, contests, exhibitions • 17 November – Autumn flowers. Painting exhibition

<p>BRAZI Braşii de Sus Băteşti Braşii de Jos Negoieşti Popeşti Stejaru</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 January- Ion Podoleanu (85th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 23 January- Alexandru Odobescu (180th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 24 January - Unification of Romanian Principalities – cultural and arts events • 28 January- Victor Eftimiu (125th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 12 February - Otilia Caşimir (120th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 20 February - Eugen Barbu (90th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 1-7 March - Ion Creangă” Days • 14 March - Alexandru Macedonski (160th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 17 March - Alecu Russo (195th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 7 April - Grigore Adam (100th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 10 April - Maria Banuş (100th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 14 April - Octav Pancu (85th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 20, 21 April – The Joy of the Resurrection. Exhibition of decorated eggs, drawings and greeting cards • 25 April - Camil Petrescu (120th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 1 May – International Workers’ Day. Sporting activities, music, dance, shows • 9 May - Independence Day of Romania, Europe Day • 17 May – International Day of Sport • 30 May - Vasile Alecsandri. Dumbrava roşie (The Red Grove) – 140th anniversary of the poem's publication • 1 June - International Children's Day. Complex events, shows, contests, exhibitions • 5 (18) June – Alexandru Raicu (100th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 12 (19) June - George Călinescu (115th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 2 July - Emil Gârleanu (100th anniversary of the writer's death); • 25 July - Ceşar Baltag (75th anniversary of the poet's birth) • 30 July - Alexandru O. Păstorel Teodoreanu (120th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 11 August - Panait Istrati (130th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 15 August – The Locality's Day. Village rural shows; Constantin Brâncoveanu (300th anniversary of the Prince's death) • 22 August - Elena Damian (90th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 8 September – International Literacy Day • 12 September - Ana Lupan (92th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 26 September - Mihail Sadoveanu. Viaţa lui Ştefan cel Mare (The Life of Stephen the Great). 80th anniversary of the book's publication • 2 October - Gheorghe Marin (85th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 5 October – World Teachers’ Day • 17 October - Ion Slavici. Mara” – 120th anniversary of the novel's publication • 6 November - Alexandru Mitru (100th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 14 November - Iulia Hasdeu (145th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 25 November - Ionel Pop (125th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 27 November - Nina Cassian (90th anniversary of the writer's birth) • 25 December - Vine, vine Moş Crăciun! (Look, Santa's Coming) Concert of traditional Christmas songs and folk show with the participation of the “Mlădiţele Braşilor” band
<p>BUCOV Bighiliu Chişorani Pleaşa Valea Orlei</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 January - Mihai Eminescu (164th anniversary of the writer's birth). Narrations, book exhibitions, poetry recitation, literature – music shows • 24 January - Unification of Romanian Principalities - cultural and arts events • 5 April - Când înfloresc castanii (When Chestnuts Are in Bloom). Dance contest • 9 May - Independence Day of Romania, Europe Day • 13 September –The Commune's Day. Complex event
<p>DUMBRĂVEŞTI</p>	
<p>PĂULEŞTI</p>	
<p>TÂRGŞORU VECHI Strejnic Stănceşti Zahanaua</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 January - Baptism of the Horses. House Race • 17 April – The Sacred Light. Art show • 1 June - International Children's Day. Complex events, shows, contests, exhibitions • 27 November - Nicolae Iorga (74th anniversary of the historian's death) • 22 December – The Magic of Christmas. Art show and drawings exhibition: Winter on Our Street

<p>VALEA CĂLUGĂREASCĂ</p> <p>Arva Coslegi Dîrvari Pantași Rachieri Radila Schiau Valea Largă Valea Mantei Valea Nicovani Valea Poienii Valea Popii Valea Ursoi Vîrfurile</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 January - Unification of Romanian Principalities - cultural and arts events • 31 January- Ion Luca Caragiale (162th anniversary of the writer's birth). Narrations, readings, shows • 9 May - Independence Day of Romania, Europe Day • 26-28 September – Feast of the Wine, 13th edition. Complex art event • 21 December - (auditorium of the "Gheorghe Ionescu Sisești" Agricultural College). Primum colindătorii (Carol Singers Are Welcome). Preserving Romanian Customs
---	---

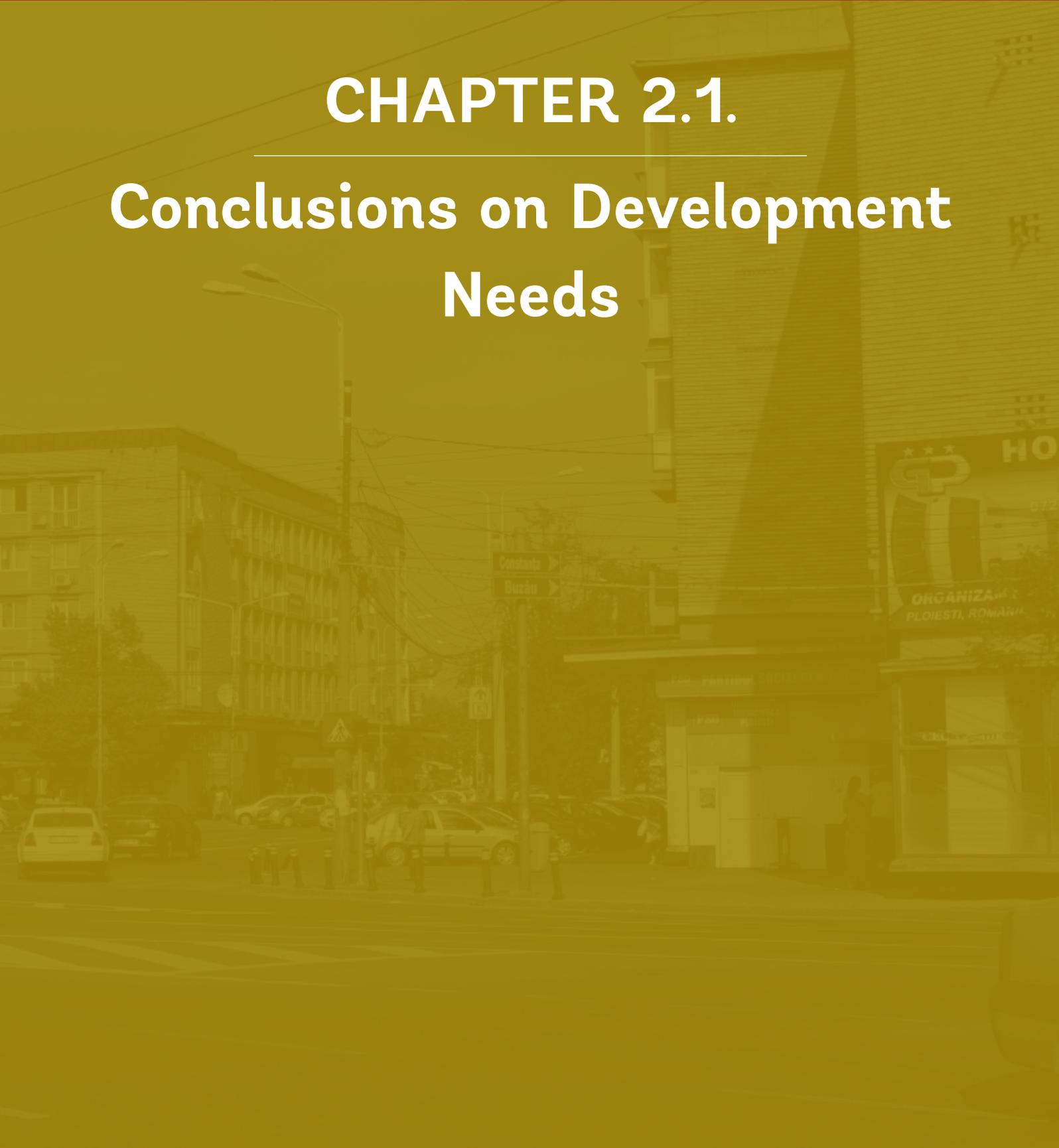
PART I: The Growth Pole's Profile

2

Territorial Diagnosis and Strategy Recommendations

CHAPTER 2.1.

Conclusions on Development Needs



2.1. Conclusions on Development Needs

2.1.1. The pyramid of development needs

The territorial diagnosis is based on the sectors of the current situation analysis, carried out in the previous chapter, underpinning the development needs, as identified by the citizens and by the private sector, based on Abraham Maslow's pyramid model that has been used in the social sciences for over 70 years.

Figure 100. Citizens' Pyramid of Needs

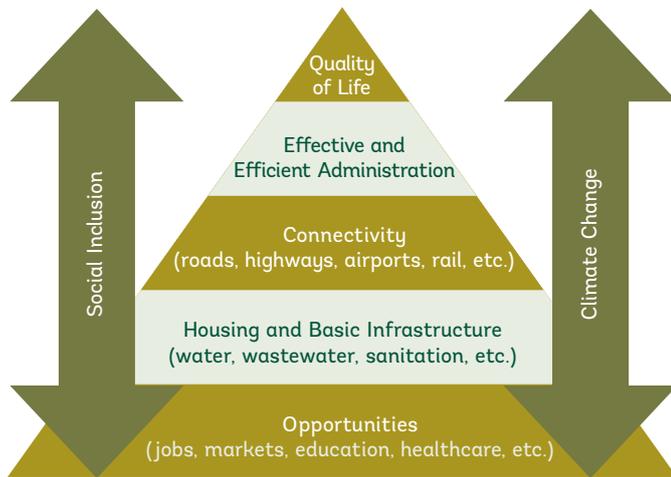
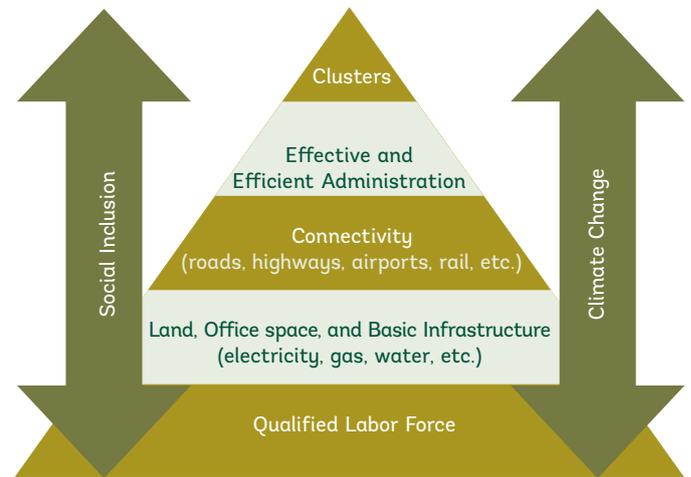


Figure 101. Private Sector's Pyramid of Needs



The citizens' pyramid of needs

A city's citizens are without a doubt its main constituent group. Citizens elect the mayor and the local council, and local authorities are directly responsible to them. The citizens' needs can largely be clustered in the following five categories: opportunities; housing and basic infrastructure; connectivity; effective and efficient administration; quality of life.

- 1. Opportunities.** The main attractions of cities are the opportunities they offer in terms of jobs, education, healthcare, and access to larger markets. Consequently, the development strategies have to identify ways to sustain economic development, attract the private sector, and generate business opportunities and jobs for people – both from outside and from within the city.
- 2. Housing and basic infrastructure.** One of the basic conditions for a city's offer is to meet the demands for housing and basic services (public utilities) in order to allow housing markets to function properly.
- 3. Connectivity.** Good connectivity means that people will have easier access to more opportunities in the area (e.g. it will be easier for them to find another job), while companies will have easier access to a larger labour pool and to larger markets.
- 4. Effective and efficient administration.** In their desire to get to work without a hassle, have clean streets and good quality services, be able to obtain licenses and permits easily, citizens require an efficient public administration, which responds to local needs effectively and keeps open communication channels, while engaging citizens in the process of decision-making.
- 5. Quality of life.** When the conditions at the bottom of the pyramid are met, the aspects relating to the quality of life are crucial aspects that determine citizens' decisions to settle in a city or another. These aspects imply attractive public spaces, good urban design, beautiful buildings, a thriving cultural life, entertainment opportunities, etc.

The private sector's pyramid of needs

The private sector is a city's source of economic dynamism, and an active local economy acts as a magnet for people. For the local authorities it is therefore important to identify ways to address some of the key needs of the private sector. These can be grouped in the following categories: qualified workforce; land and basic infrastructure; connectivity; effective and efficient administration; clusters.

1. Qualified workforce. The key source of a company's productivity lies in its people. It is people who think and design products and services, it is people who produce these products and services, and it is people who ultimately market and sell them. Thus, when a company decides where to locate, or when an entrepreneur decides where to start a business, the availability of qualified workforce is one of the first things they take into consideration.

2. Land, Office Space, and Basic Infrastructure. Every business requires a place from which to operate. Some companies simply rent or purchase an existent office space, while others require a new plot of land on which to develop their facilities. It is therefore important for local authorities to have a good grasp of the availability of office space (i.e. vacancy rates) and land parcels in the areas they administrate (e.g. brownfields or greenfields).

3. Connectivity. Connectivity is paramount to the private sector; it supports the access to workforce and to internal and external markets. Easy access to a qualified labor pool implies well-developed local and regional infrastructure, which allows easy commuting. Easy access to markets requires a modernized highway network, good airport, rail, and naval infrastructure, as well as the availability of a proper ICT (information and communication) infrastructure.

4. Effective and Efficient Administration. Private companies require both public policies and public infrastructure to function effectively. Some require that construction permits be made available on time, some may require a road connection to the major road infrastructure in the area, and others may require appropriate tax policies.

5. Clusters. As counterintuitive as it may sound, private companies need other companies in the same sector to be effective. The co-location of similar companies enables easier flow of ideas, seamless access to qualified workforce, and higher productivity driven by local competition.

Cross-cutting issues

In both pyramids, all these city development sectors have a **spatial dimension**, relating to the zoning of the territory, and a **demographic dimension**, influencing the population dynamics. In addition to these basic components of a city's pyramid of needs, there are a number of cross-cutting issues that should be taken into consideration in the process of decision-making at the city level – **social inclusion** and **climate change**.

a. The spatial dimension. As public or private investments take place on a plot of land, they influence the spatial development of the territory. Therefore, this dimension covers aspects such as the supply and demand of land, the advantages related to settling there, functional zoning and territorial expansion, which are critical for the development of cities, as well as for the cooperation between administrative units in the growth pole and the protection of the resources and natural heritage, etc.

b. The demographic dimension. The residents of a city across all age, gender, occupation, etc. groups are the essential condition of its existence. The way they evolve – naturally or as a result of the implementation of development-related decisions – is crucial for the future of the city. This dimension is reflected in the evolution and dynamics of the population, as well as in the way people are attracted or not by the city, based on the response to the needs identified in the two pyramids.

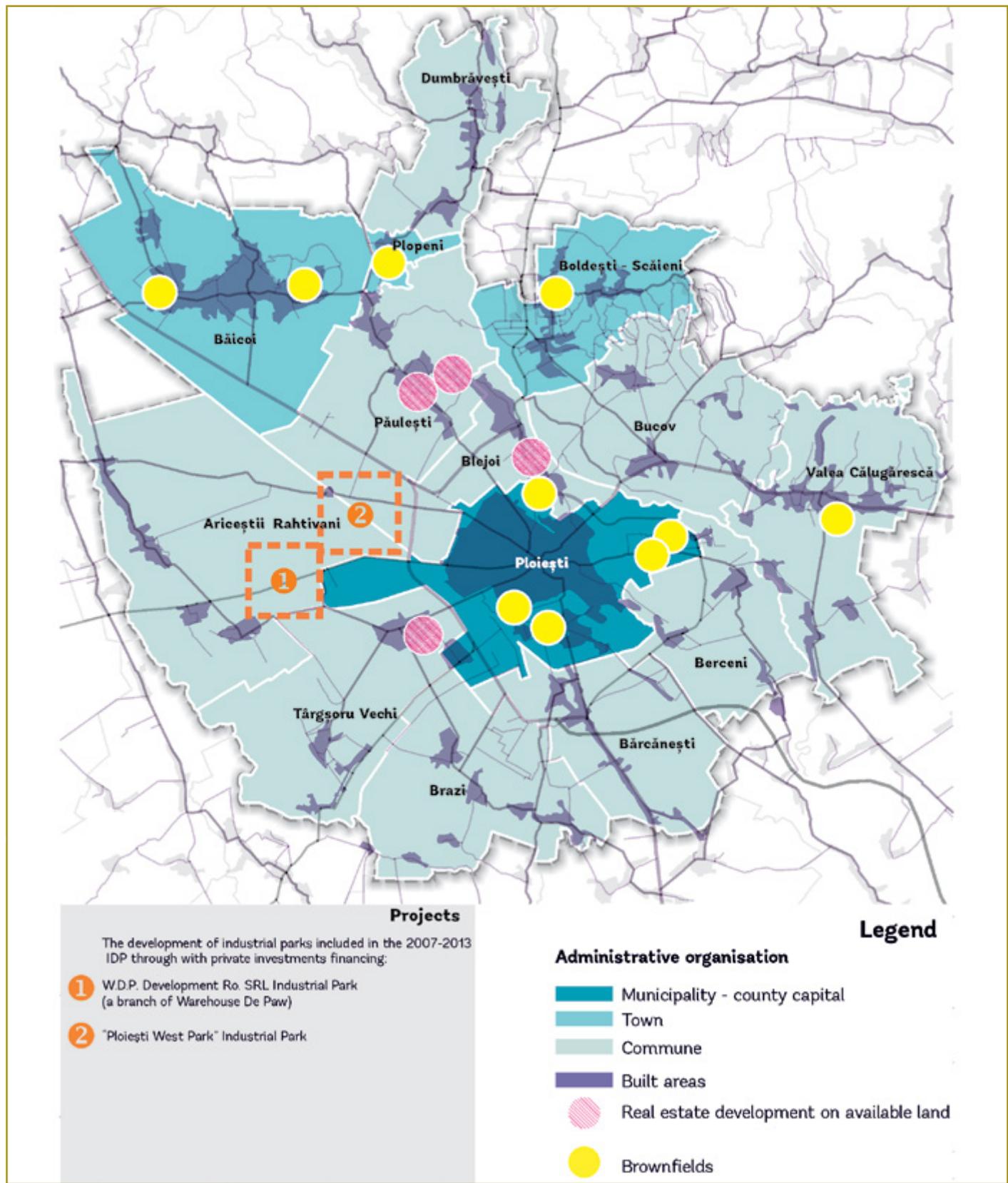
c. Social inclusion. Regardless of how developed a city is, it will always have to deal with social inclusion issues – i.e. there will always be a part of the local population that will be directly or indirectly discriminated. Actively promoting social inclusion not only helps achieve social desiderates, but it is also a critical tool for achieving economic goals.

d. Climate change. The more cities develop, the more they tend to pollute. In fact, cities are responsible for around 70% of global greenhouse gases emissions. Local authorities should therefore think their projects through the lens of climate change, assessing whether those projects help address climate change issues or whether they make them worse.

2.1.2. Sectoral diagnosis

Consequently, the territorial diagnosis examines all these issues in light of the conclusions of the previous chapter, focusing on the problems in the respective areas, as well as on the impact that the projects implemented during 2007-2014 may have on development trends, while making recommendations for their further consideration in the formulation process of the strategy.

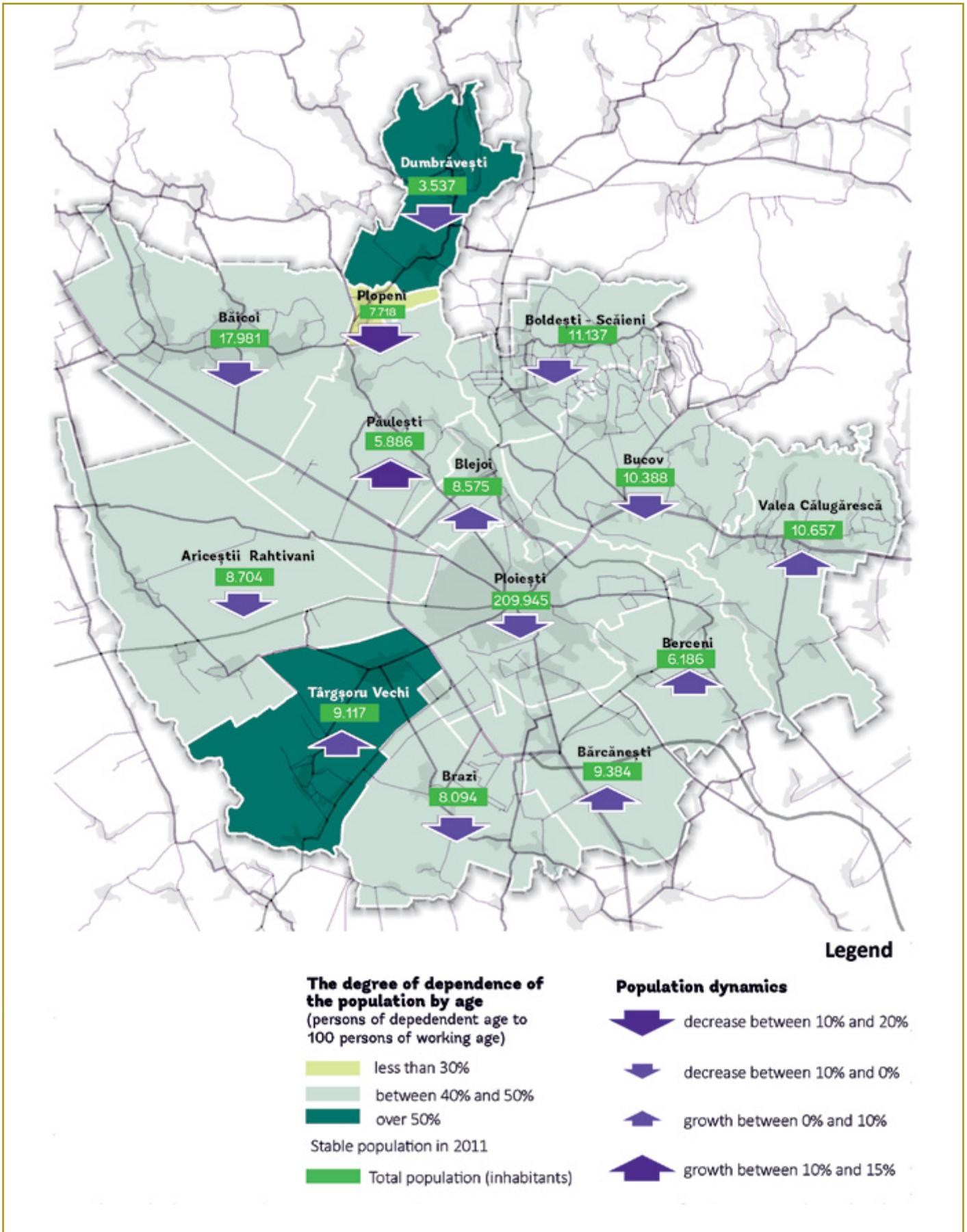
Map 111. Spatial development and zoning of the territory



1. Ploiești – Prahova Growth Pole is the largest urban agglomeration in the South Muntenia Region, consisting of a network of urban and rural territorial-administrative units (TAUs): three cities, one municipality, and 10 communes.
2. The growth pole territory is mainly rural, measuring 445.79 km², compared to 163.25 km² (urban territory). In terms of property type, 79.9% of the land is privately owned and 20.1% is in public ownership.
3. The territory covered by the town planning documentation is as follows:
 - 70.4% agricultural land, most of it being arable land (54.4%), and the rest mainly pastures and hayfields (9.7%), vineyards (3.6%), and orchards (2.6%);
 - Forests (9.1%);
 - Waters (2.2%);
 - Constructions (13.1%);
 - Means of communication (4.2%);
 - Degraded and unproductive land (0.9%).
4. Ploiești Growth Pole comprises several territorial-administrative units with a varied functional profile, determined by:
 - Agriculture, with added value from viticulture and fruit growing (the east-northeast area of the growth pole);
 - Road freight transport and pipeline transport;
 - Production and manufacturing activities involving mainly electronic and electric equipment for automobiles, mining equipment, clothing;
 - Trade and services – particularly engineering and consulting, financial services, operational in the central (mainly urban) area of the growth pole.

Key issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The reduction of the agricultural land area by 3.9% following the expansion of urban / rural build-up areas 2. Uncontrolled urban development usually on land with no public infrastructure, leading to additional environmental costs and public utilities operating costs 3. The existence of polluted industrial land / brownfield sites as a result of the reduction of activities on industrial platforms 4. Scarcity of green spaces and recreational zones
Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period	<p>The construction of dwellings on vacant land in Ploiești municipality, Păulești, and Blejoi communes with private financing</p> <p>The development of industrial parks included in the 2007-2013 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) with private financing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ploiești West Park” Industrial Park • W.D.P. Development Ro. SRL Industrial Park (a branch of Warehouse De Paw) <p>Drafting the General Urban Plans for the component TAUs and the Local Urban Plans for land development / function changes and urban regulations</p>
Development trends	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase in the number of requests for changing land functionality (through Zonal Urban Plans concerning changes of destination for municipal investments, lots for housing, accessibility, etc.) 2. Concentration of investments in areas with high accessibility by road and railway to industrial parks and shopping centers 3. Development in coordination with Bucharest-Ilfov region, by competing and cooperating with Bucharest and the locations available in Ilfov county
Strategy recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The recovery of polluted territories as a result of oil extraction and processing activities by decontaminating and converting them into construction land and green areas 2. Enlarging the surface of green zones and leisure zones 3. Protecting agricultural land, forests, and green areas against uncontrolled expansion of built-up areas through specific urban regulations 4. Developing logistics hubs in the south and east of the growth pole, thus ensuring the connectivity with the Corridors IV and IX in the European network TEN-T

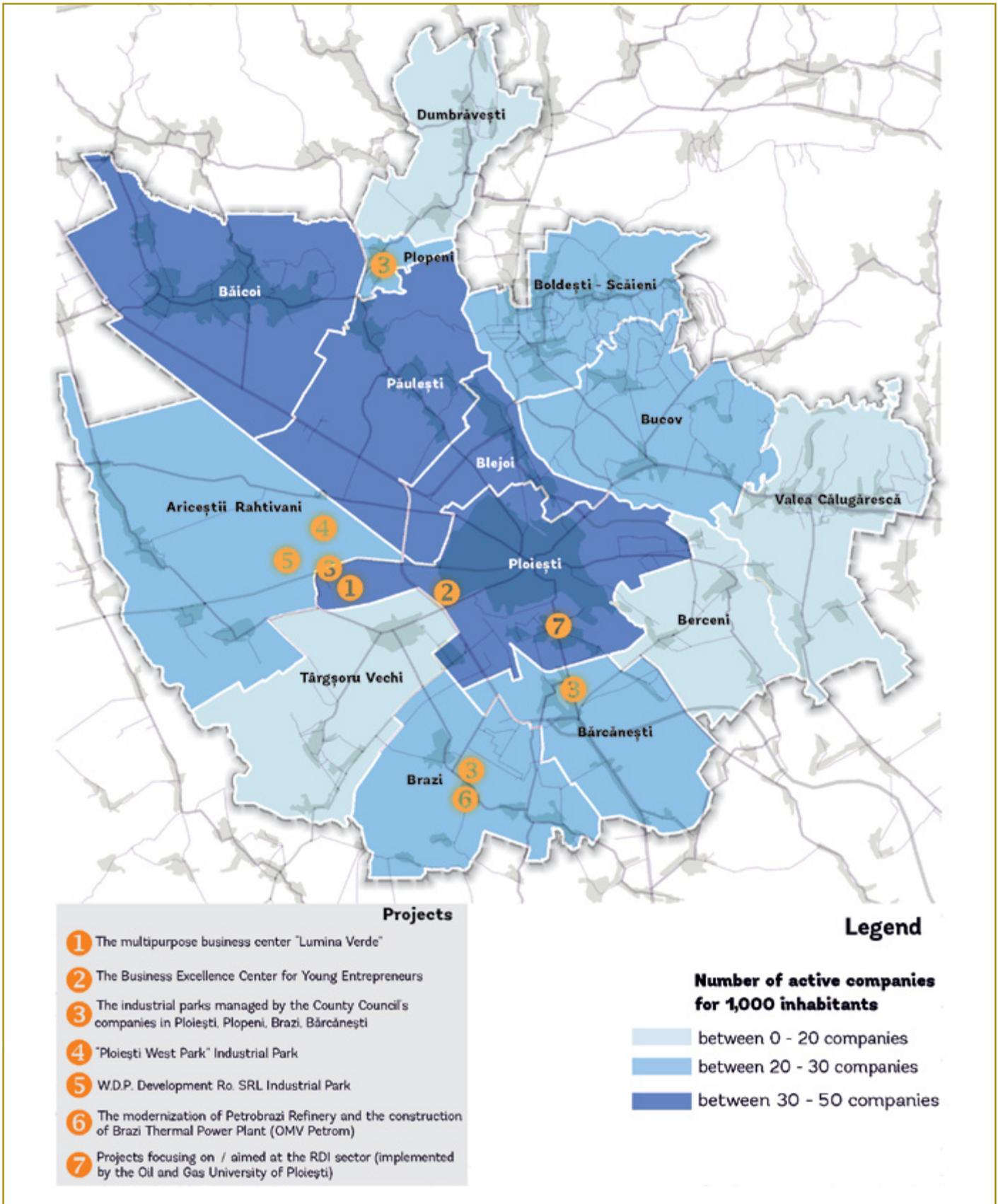
Map 112. Demographic dynamics



1. The growth pole has 327,309 inhabitants. The average density is 539 inhabitants/km². Between 2002 and 2011, the population of Ploiești municipality dropped by 9.7% and the population of the Growth Pole by 7.5%, both due to the negative natural growth and high levels of migration towards EU countries and Bucharest city.
2. Following a phenomenon of suburbanization, Păulești, Blejoi, Târgșoru Vechi, Bucov, and Bărcănești communes have recorded positive values due to the migration of the population from Ploiești and Plopeni towards these areas.
3. The structure of the population by age indicates an increasingly pronounced phenomenon of demographic aging. The degree of dependence of the population by age, expressed as a ratio between the elderly (over 60) and the young people aged up to 15 years, is 156%.
4. In Băicoi, Ploiești, Păulești, and Dumbrăvești, there is an increase in the share of old-aged population, which accounts for about a third of the total population in the growth pole.

Key issues	1. The negative demographic dynamics / constant process of reduction and aging of the population
Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Projects on increasing the growth pole's accessibility, included in the 2007-2013 IDP · Projects aiming at creating jobs through the development of industrial parks
Development trends	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase in the population density, up to 700 inhabitants/km in the north / north-west of the growth pole (in a positive development scenario) 2. Further attraction of a significant proportion of young people towards Prahova County, in particular from the rural areas 3. Increase in the share of people aged over 65 due to lower birth rates
Strategy recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing and improving healthcare and social services 2. Initiating and implementing active measures to increase competitiveness at the level of the workforce, largely depending on the capacity of the private sector and the Oil and Gas University of Ploiești to train specialists and to do research / development 3. Stimulating investments in infrastructure and transport in order to support labor mobility

Map 113. Economic structure



1. The economic profile of the growth pole is dominated by the following industries: electronics, electric power and equipment, services, and constructions. The effects of the economic crisis affected the construction and manufacturing industries, while in agriculture, energy, information and communications the number of companies has increased.

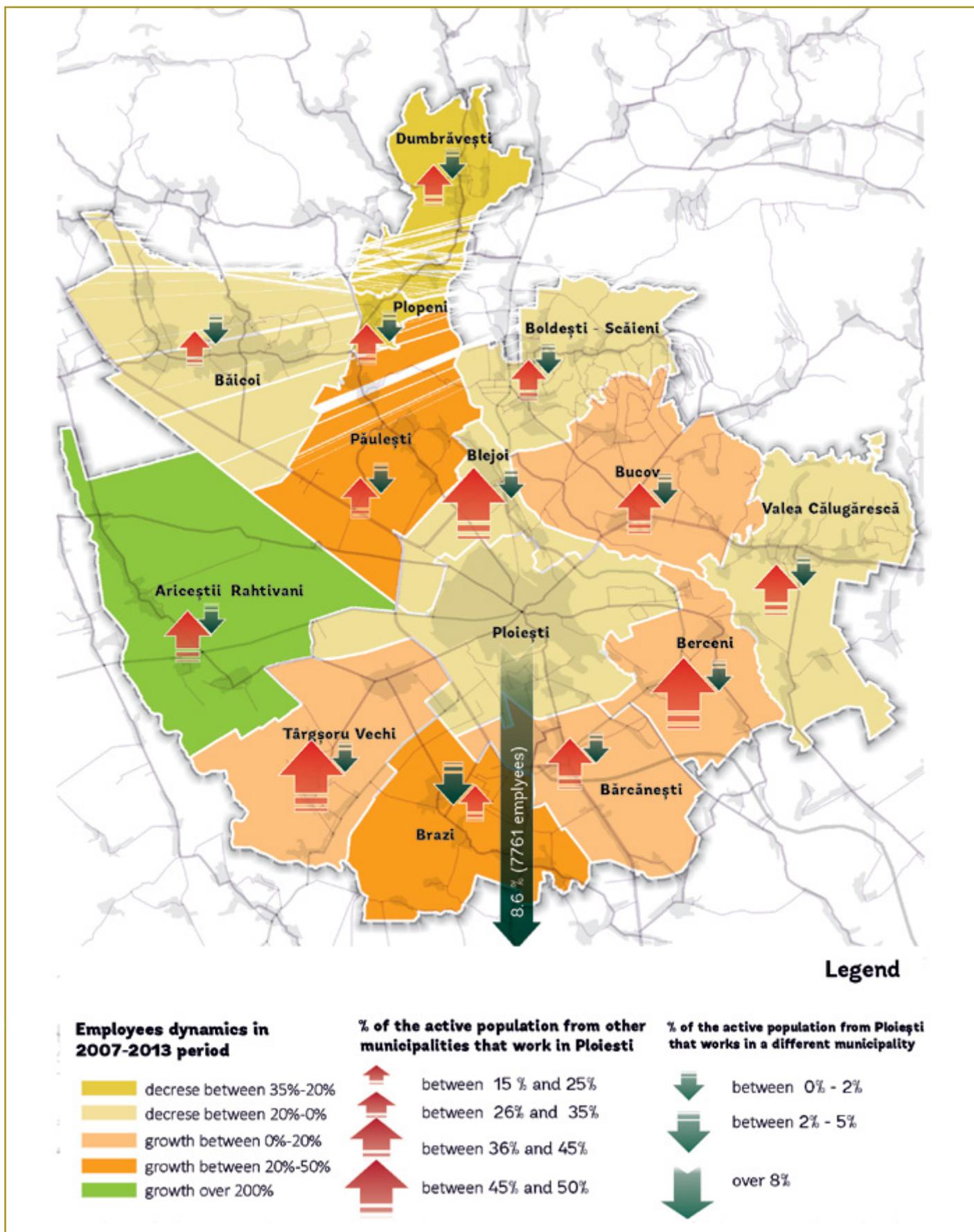
2. 64.6% of the active companies in Prahova County are found in Ploiești Growth Pole. The market structure comprises microenterprises (88.9%), SMEs (10.7%), and large companies (0.4%). Over the 2007-2013 period, the total of direct foreign investments was of EUR 470 million (capital contributions, amounts reinvested from the profit).

3. Locally, the business support infrastructure is well developed (the industrial parks area and the jobs created there place the pole on the first position). The 8 authorized industrial parks (4 publicly owned and 4 privately owned) have attracted investments of over EUR 500 million and have created 10,000 jobs.

4. Ploiești Growth Pole has important competitive advantages in the energy and extractive industries, as well as average competitive advantages in the manufacturing industry (petrochemistry, machinery and equipment, food and beverages), and transport and logistics.

Key issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A decrease by 13.9% in the number of active companies in Ploiești Growth Pole in the 2007-2013 period, due to the economic crisis 2. Reduced entrepreneurial development (number of enterprises/1,000 inhabitants) 3. The local economy is dominated by companies with foreign capital and a large part of the local economy is dependent on the oil market 4. The lack of functional business networks, supply chains, and innovative clusters 5. A decline in the local RDI sector, due to the underfunding of this field
Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period	<p>Projects for the development of business infrastructure – services and production through public and private investments, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The multipurpose business center “Lumina Verde” • The Business Excellence Center for Young Entrepreneurs • The industrial parks managed by the County Council’s companies in Ploiești, Plopeni, Brazi, Bărcănești • “Ploiești West Park” Industrial Park • W.D.P. Development Ro. SRL Industrial Park (a branch of Warehouse De Paw) • The modernization of Petrobrazi Refinery and the construction of Brazi Thermal Power Plant (OMV Petrom) <p>Projects focusing on the RDI sector (implemented by the Oil and Gas University of Ploiești):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitiveness pole to increase economic productivity through innovative use of virtual reality, in order to provide services for the essential infrastructures –CREVIS • Information technology for image promotion and management of information from graduates and businesses in order to adapt the management policy to socio-economic requirements • A regional center for determining performance and monitoring the technical condition of the tubular material used in the oil industry
Development trends	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of sectors with a potential for smart economic specialization, such as the oil and gas extraction and processing industry, the automotive industry, the machinery and equipment industry 2. The development of R&D activities in the field of renewable energy technology 3. The development of both the infrastructure and the transport and logistics services 4. The development of the ICT sector 5. The development of private initiatives concerning the consolidation of tourism infrastructure adapted to the features of the growth pole
Strategy recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The extension and specialization of the local business support infrastructure 2. Developing partnerships between private companies and education units 3. Supporting the production chain by facilitating the companies’ access to research results, technology, and human resources 4. Developing services according to market demand, focusing on the population, innovation / creativity, and tourism 5. Supporting business initiatives / local entrepreneurship

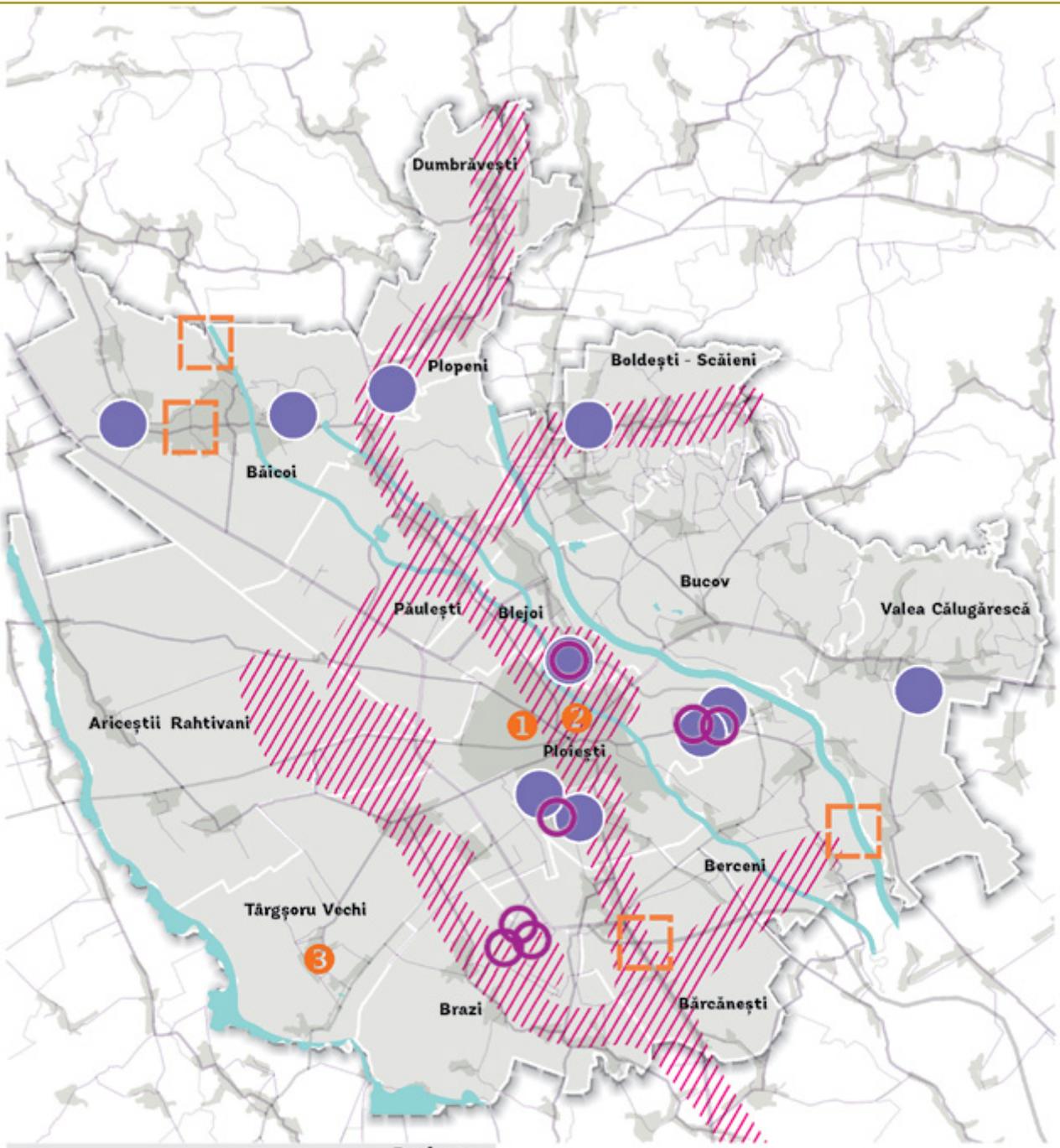
Map 114. Structure of the workforce



1. The 2011 census indicates that 46.1% of the population from Ploiești Growth Pole was active; 41.9% of the people were employed, and 4.2% were unemployed. In 2014 there was a 2.8% increase in the number of employees, compared to 2011. A percentage of 79% of the working population is active in the private sector, while 13% is employed in the public sector.
2. There is a negative trend in the number of employees in Ploiești municipality (-13%), Plopeni (-31.7%), and Dumbrăvești (-30.6%), while in other localities the trend is positive: Ariceștii Rahtivani (218%) Brazi (45%), Păulești (24%), Târgșoru Vechi, and Bărcănești (20% each).
3. The services sector provides 57% of all jobs, followed by the industry with 28%, agriculture and forestry – 8%, and the construction sector – 7%.
4. The total migration balance of Ploiești Growth Pole is negative, since 3,177 people changed their residence during 2007-2013, thus contributing by about 40% to the reduction in the number of inhabitants. Instead, Ploiești municipality attracts a significant number of commuters from the neighboring communes and towns (215 commuters at 1,000 inhabitants).

<p>Key issues</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shortage at the level of the workforce having completed secondary education 2. Low competitiveness – only 12% of the population is involved in activities with a higher level of pay (ICT, financial intermediation, scientific, technical and vocational activities, the extractive industry, energy) 3. Aging workforce 4. High percentage of the population employed in subsistence agriculture (in the communes around Ploiești municipality) 5. Massive migration of the workforce to Bucharest city, as well as a significant capacity for attracting the workforce from surrounding areas
<p>Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period</p>	<p>Projects aimed at business development by creating jobs (section 2.4)</p> <p>Projects aimed at the development of human resources (vocational training) and co-financed through the SOP HRD, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic tools for Employment in the Tourism Industry • Projects implemented by Oil and Gas University of Ploiești (vocational training, doctoral programs, teacher training programs, etc.) • Training for the labor market
<p>Development trends</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workforce development for the 18-25 age segment using the investments made in the 2007-2013 period (e.g. Center of Excellence for Young Entrepreneurs) 2. Coordinating education measures with labor market particularities 3. Reducing foreign immigration in terms of number / quantity
<p>Strategy recommendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reintroducing the technical and vocational education 2. Developing employment measures through advisory services for the elderly 3. Stimulating labor mobility at the regional level

Map 115. Environmental quality and pollution control



Projects

- 1 Projects for the rehabilitation, extension and modernization of the water and sanitation network, co-financed from the SOP Environment, as well as those implemented in Ploiești from APA NOVA's own funds
- 2 Projects for the rehabilitation of the tram transport infrastructure in Ploiești municipality and for the modernization of the street network, resulting in the reduction of the level of noise and air pollution
- 3 An IBRD+GEF+Prahova County Council Project on the Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control in Târgșoru Vechi

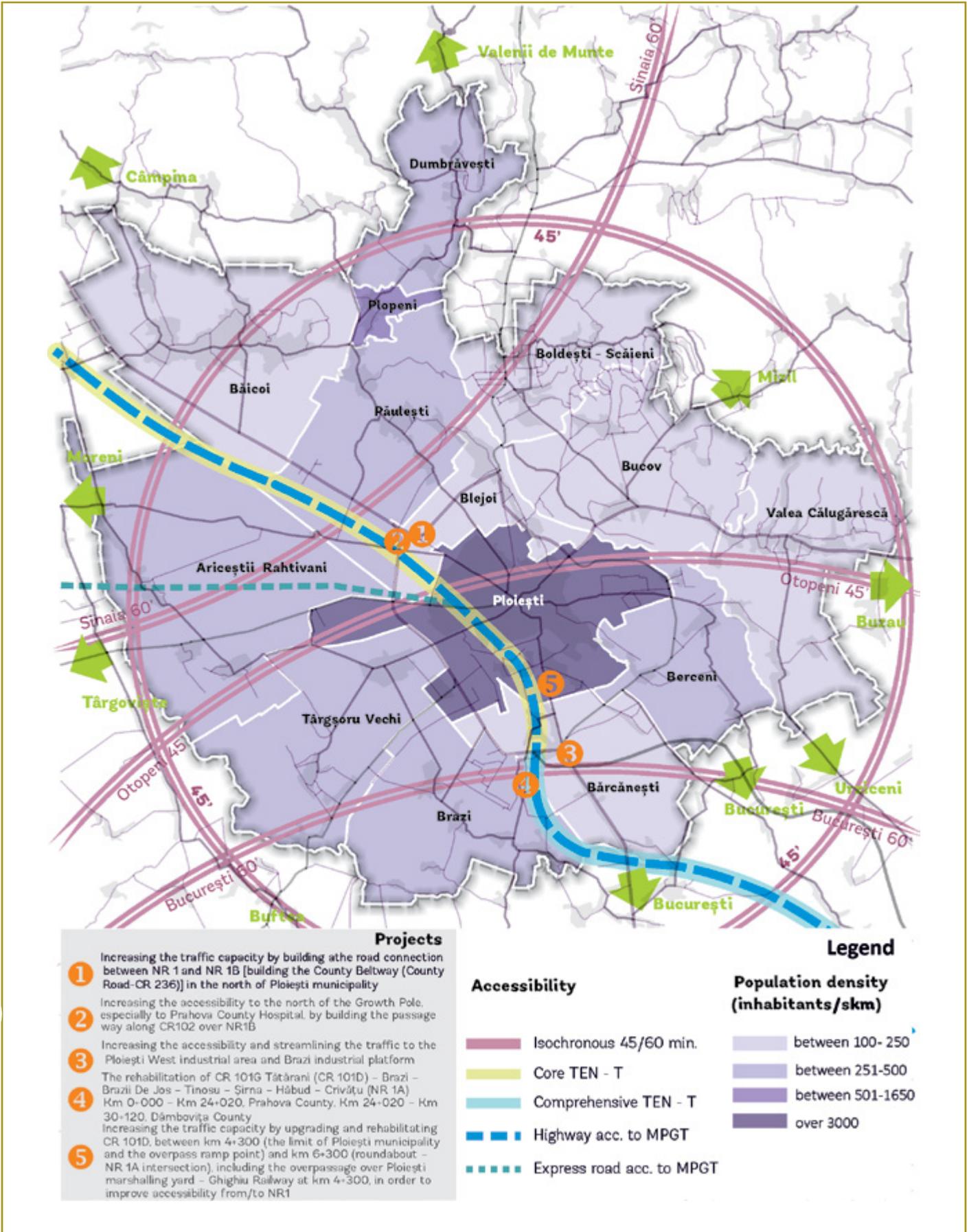
Legend

- brownfields
- industrial activities that have impact on the quality of the air
- areas affected by noise pollution
- landslides
- elevated risk of pollution on the rivers

1. Air quality has significantly improved in the growth pole in recent decades, due to the reduction of pollution from industrial activities and the decrease of emissions from electricity and heat production.
2. The pollution level of surface waters and groundwater has declined in recent years, reaching values below the maximum ones allowed.
3. There are no dangerous concentrations of pollutants in the soil samples collected.

<p>Key issues</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Air pollution and noise pollution caused by road transport, especially along the north-south axis, near the railway stations, in industrial areas and on the streets crossed by trams or open to heavy traffic 2. No sewerage system in some districts in urban centers and rural areas – a major risk of polluting surface waters and groundwater 3. The existence of more than 100 ha of contaminated sites as a result of economic activities, especially in the field of oil extraction and processing industry 4. The scarcity of woodland, especially in the south of the territory (in the plains)
<p>Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period</p>	<p>Projects for the rehabilitation, extension and modernization of the water and sanitation network, co-financed from the SOP Environment, as well as those implemented in Ploiești from APA NOVA's own funds by reducing the risk of water pollution</p> <p>Projects for the rehabilitation of the tram transport infrastructure in Ploiești municipality and for the modernization of the street network, resulting in the reduction of the level of noise and air pollution</p> <p>An IBRD + GEF + Prahova County Council Project on the Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control in Târgșoru Vechi</p>
<p>Development trends</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expanding the industrial parks and attracting new potentially polluting activities 2. Expanding the sewerage networks and reducing the risk of pollution of surface waters and of groundwater 3. Implementing the integrated waste management project and reducing the related risk of soil / water pollution
<p>Strategy recommendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recovering the polluted territories as a result of oil extraction and processing activities through decontaminating and converting them into construction land and green areas 2. Monitoring the operators holding Greenhouse Gas Emissions Permits for the operation of installations under the provisions of Law no. 278/2013 on industrial emissions

Map 116. Accessibility and mobility



1. Ploiești – Prahova Growth Pole is well connected to the road and rail traffic networks by national roads in good condition (DN 1 / E60 and DN 1B / E577, DN 1A, DN 72, DN 1D) and by the main railway Bucharest-Brașov and Bucharest-Bužău. On road corridors the journey takes less than 40 minutes inside the pole, while outside the pole is connected through a 60-minute isochronous line to Henri Coanda International Airport, Bucharest and the territorial-administrative units of tourist interest -Sinaia and Bușteni.
2. The road network has been continuously modernized inside the growth pole, due to substantial investment from various sources of funding, and the flow of road traffic has also increased (e.g. 30,000 - 40,000 vehicles per day).
3. Across Ploiești municipality there are 1.18 victims per accident, below the national average, which reaches 1.34 deaths/accident.

Key issues

1. The accessibility is limited by the lack of rapid transport links with Brașov, Bužău, and Târgoviște municipalities; the national roads connecting these urban poles record high traffic values, congestion, and accident risks
2. The road transport infrastructure inside the growth pole is in poor condition, causing traffic congestion, reduced mobility, and air pollution
3. There are no intermodal terminals to ensure quick transfer from one type of transport to another (rail, urban and interurban transport, bicycle and pedestrian, etc.)
4. There is no extensive traffic management system, especially at the level of penetration roads (from the north to the south and from the east to the west), and roads with limited transport capacity, due inclusively to the existence of intersections with inadequate geometry and facilities
5. There is no integrated transport system at the metropolitan (urban and interurban) level in terms of stations, transport schedules, and pricing
6. There are no parking spaces especially in areas with an increased flow of visitors / travelers
7. There are areas / districts with poor accessibility (e.g. Mitică Apostol district)



<p>Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period</p>	<p>Projects on increasing the growth pole accessibility, included in the 2007-2013 IDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increasing the traffic capacity by building a road connection between DN 1 and DN 1B (building the county beltway DJ 236) in the north of Ploiești municipality · Increasing the accessibility to the north of the Growth Pole, especially to Prahova County Hospital, by building the passage way along DJ 102 over DN 1B · Increasing the accessibility and streamlining the traffic to Ploiești West industrial area and Brazi industrial platform · The rehabilitation of DJ 101G Tătărani (DJ 101D) – Brazi – Brazii De Jos – Tinosu – Șirna – Hăbud – Crivățu (DN 1A) Km 0+000 – Km 24+020, Prahova county, Km 24+020 – Km 30+120, Dâmbovița county · Increasing the traffic capacity by upgrading and rehabilitating DJ 101D, between km 4+300 (the limit of Ploiești municipality and the overpass ramp point) and km 6+300 (roundabout – DN 1A intersection), including the passage over Ploiești marshalling yard – Ghighiu Railway at km 4+300, in order to improve accessibility from/to DN 1 <p>Projects aimed at increasing the mobility of public transport by rehabilitating the 101 and 102 tram routes, by performing works aimed at runways, stations adapted for people with disabilities, rolling stock, signaling, and automation elements</p> <p>Other smaller scale projects financed from the local budget comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the rehabilitation of Mihai Bravu Street, Republicii Blv., Ghighiului Street, South Railway Station's passage · street packages (including sidewalks) in the following districts - Bereasca, 9 Mai, Enăchiță Văcărescu, Malu Roșu, Moțoi, Râfov, Găgeni, Gheorghe Doja, Vega, Mitică Apostol, Peneș Curcanul, etc. · building parking areas on Republicii Blv. and Gh. Doja Street; building parking areas with green slabs in the northern, western, and central-southeastern areas · reconstructing the pavement of the Administrative Palace, the esplanade of the Cultural House of Syndicates, the pedestrian zones at Complex Nord and on Toma Caragiu Street · building the above-ground parking lot on Cuza Vodă Street
<p>Development trends</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased number of trips to the areas with logistics hubs / industrial parks and to the central area of Ploiești municipality 2. Improved access to the European transport network TEN-T 3. Extension of pedestrian zones in the central area and railway stations in Ploiești municipality and the development of bicycle traffic
<p>Strategy recommendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing the flow of traffic by building grade-separated crossings in the intersections with high traffic flow 2. Measures to improve traffic management inside the growth pole in order to reduce delays and accidents 3. The development and modernization of the fleet of (clean) public transport means inside the growth pole 4. The development of intermodality in the West and North Railway Stations in Ploiești municipality 5. Improving the monitoring systems for air pollution, particularly for CO₂ emissions 6. The further development of alternative forms of transport (e.g. bicycles) 7. Implementing measures to enlarge green spaces in high traffic areas



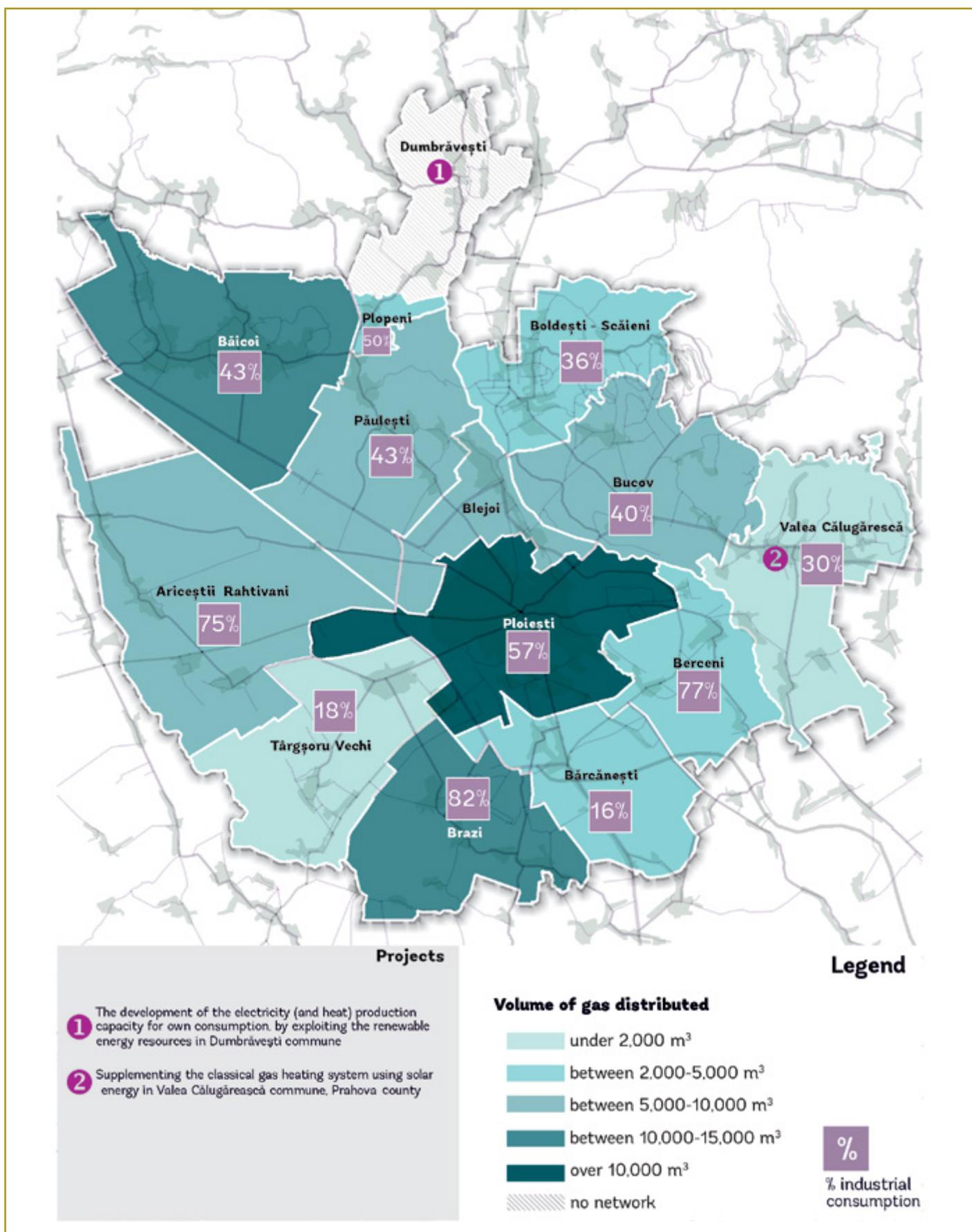
Energy and data connectivity

1. The territorial-administrative units composing the growth pole are connected to the natural gas and electricity distribution networks. In Brazi, the most modern natural gas-fired thermal power station in Romania started functioning.
2. Ploiești municipality is one of the most important energy centers in the country, pooling a series of conventional and renewable resources (solar energy, agricultural biomass, etc.).
3. The ICT sector developed in all areas of the city and in the rural and urban areas of the growth pole (62,053 landlines, of which 52,055 for individuals and 9,998 for legal persons).

Key issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The physical wear of the network and connecting pipes for natural gas, which need replacement and refurbishment 2. The wear of the electricity distribution network and the absence of an underground sewerage system
Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period	<p>Projects funded with the private funds of sector operators, aimed at replacing the existing networks by modern ones (replacing about 94 km of natural gas distribution network in Ploiești municipality), along with their expansion in urban and rural localities in the Growth Pole.</p> <p>Cogeneration projects included in the 2007-2013 IDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The development of electricity (and heat) production capacity for own consumption by exploiting the renewable energy resources in Dumbrăvești commune · Supplementing the classical gas heating system using solar energy in Valea Călugărească commune, Prahova county
Development trends	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing forms of renewable, clean energy in rural areas 2. Increasing the demand for Internet services and increasing the number of wi-fi spots in cities and attraction points for residents, tourists, and visitors
Strategy recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The continued development of measures concerning the use of unconventional energy resources 2. Measures for making the production of conventional energy more efficient and environment-friendly 3. Measures for increasing the research capacity in order to produce renewable energy



Map 117. Energy and data connectivity

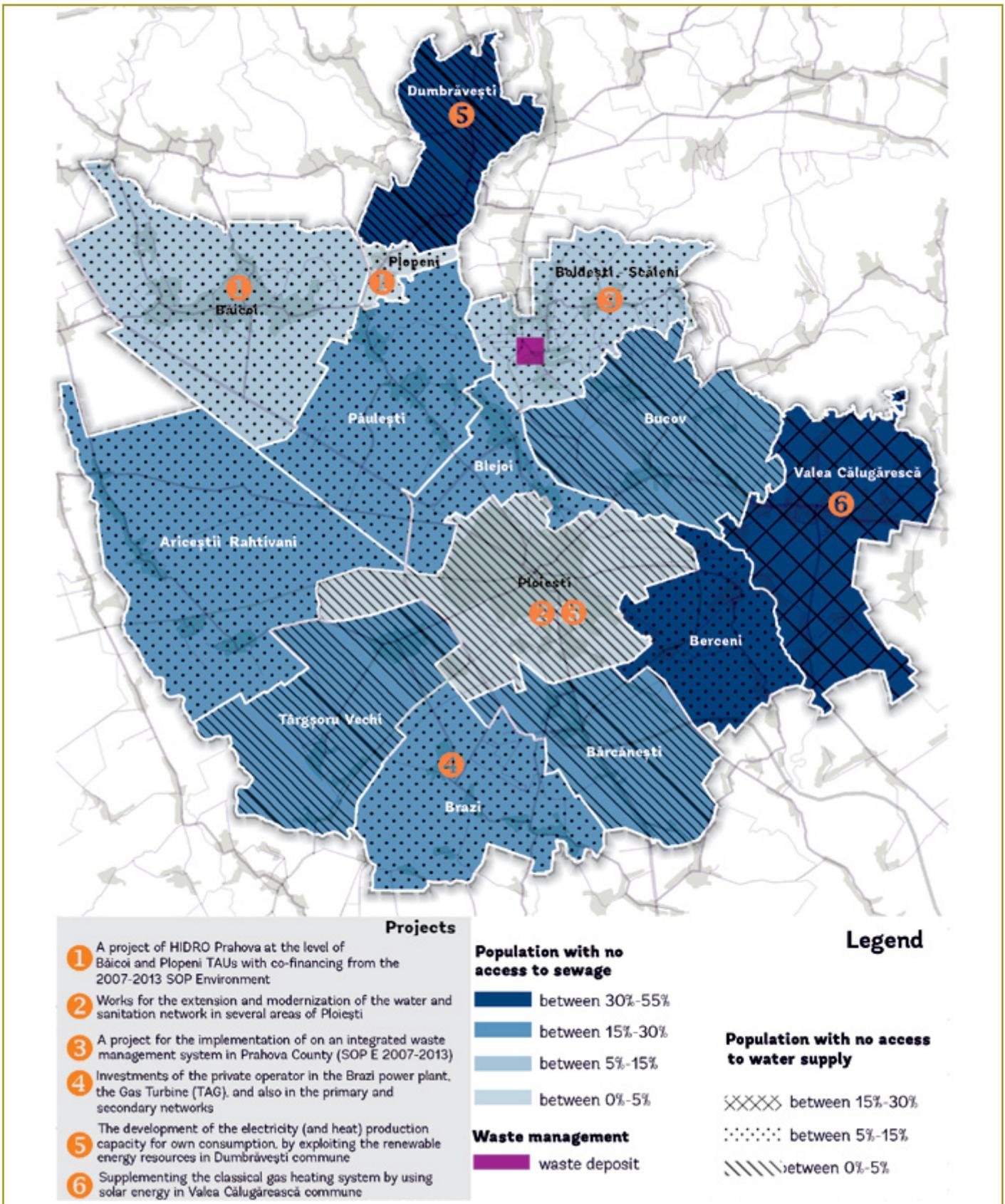


Public utilities

1. Most of the population in the growth pole has access to drinking water supply, since in recent years there have been major network expansions. Drinking water distribution services are provided by a number of different economic agents, state-owned or private.
2. The local heating system is one of the most developed in the country in terms of production capacities (including cogeneration), number of consumers, and supply price.

<p>Key issues</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The water supply and sanitation network in urban areas is old and there is no sewerage in Berceni, Dumbrăvești, and Târgșoru Vechi communes; in Bărcănești and Ariceștii Rahtivani the sewerage network measures 1-2 km 2. The absence of public water supply and / or sanitation systems in some urban districts (e.g. Mitică Apostol) 3. Significant losses (up to 25% of the energy amount produced) and additional costs in the district heating system
<p>Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period</p>	<p>Rehabilitation and modernization of the water and sanitation systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project of HIDRO Prahova at the level of Băicoi and Plopeni TAUs with co-financing from the SOP Environment 2007-2013 • Projects supported by the Government and by private operators, with funds allocated for the same purpose to the cities of Ploiești and Băicoi, and also to some of the rural localities • Works for the extension and modernization of the water and sanitation network in several areas of Ploiești (in the following districts: Bereasca, Mihai Bravu, Peneș Curcanul, Malu Roșu, Gh. Doja, Râfov, Găgeni) <p>Waste management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project for the implementation of an integrated waste management system in Prahova County (SOP Environment 2007-2013), which includes the construction of transfer plants (Boldești-Scăeni), sorting plants (Boldești-Scăeni), waste composting plants (Boldești-Scăeni), mechanical and biological treatment plant (Ploiești), as well as the greening of the former inadequate storehouse in Ploiești and the purchase of equipment and vehicles for waste collection. <p>Heating system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment of the private operator in the Brazi power plant, the Gas Turbine (TAG), and the primary and secondary networks <p>Thermal energy cogeneration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of electricity (and heat) production capacity for own consumption by exploiting the renewable energy resources in Dumbrăvești commune • Using solar energy to produce hot water in the protection units for children and adults with disabilities within Prahova Directorate General for Social Assistance and Child Protection • Using solar energy to produce hot water in county medical units, which are under the public domain of Prahova county • Supplementing the classical gas heating system by using solar energy in Valea Călugărească commune, Prahova county • Using solar energy to produce hot water in the medical and social assistance unit in Boldești-Scăeni • Using solar energy to produce hot water in the local healthcare units of Băicoi City Hospital – main building, the city hospital, the building of the Annex no. 8, Unirii street.
<p>Development trends</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementing the Water and Sanitation Master Plan of the County, which stipulates investments in the areas not covered by public utility networks, with co-financing from European and national programs to achieve the targets set by the EU Directives in the field until 2018 2. Implementing the project regarding the integrated waste management system in Prahova, financed with EU funds under the SOP Environment 2007-2013

Map 118. Public utilities



Strategy recommendations

1. The modernization and extension of water supply and sanitation networks in all localities of the growth pole
2. Raising awareness at the population level concerning selective waste collection

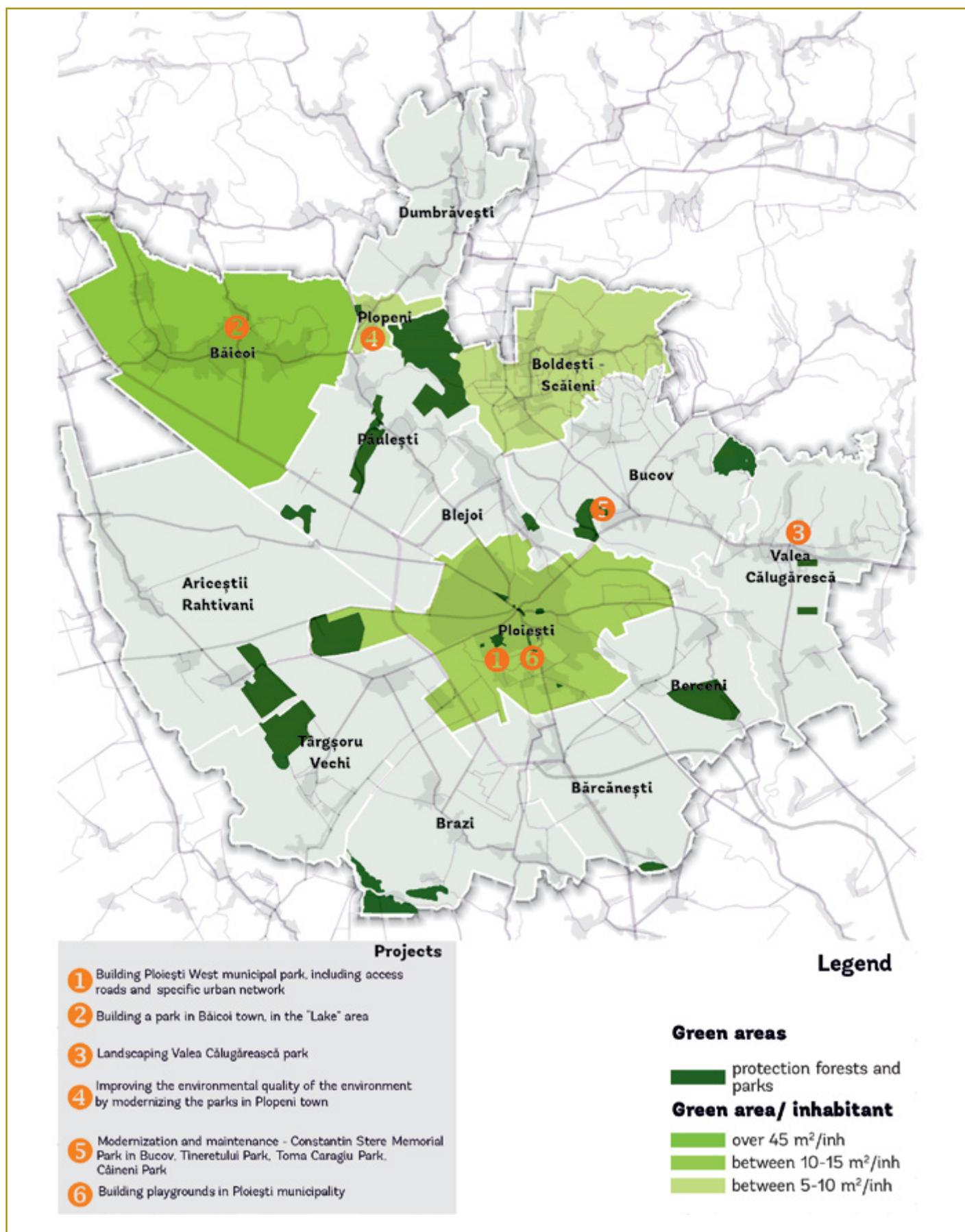
Public space

1. Most public spaces are concentrated in the center of Ploiești, being arranged around objectives of public interest, including in front of the railway stations.
2. The green areas are dispersed around the growth pole and comprise: (a) green areas along the street network; (b) squares and landscaped green areas between the blocks; (c) parks and public squares; (d) recreational and sports parks.
3. The public lighting services in the component localities are provided either by private companies to which the management of these services was delegated by concession, or by the local public authorities and ELECTRICA.

Key issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unattractive public spaces in all localities of the growth pole, absence of pedestrian zones, squares and meeting places 2. Absence of public environmental / architectural lighting 3. Shortage of green and recreational spaces
Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period	<p>Projects for the building, modernization, and maintenance of green spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Ploiești West municipal park, including access roads and specific urban network • Building a park in Băicoi town in the “Lake” area • Landscaping Valea Călugărească park • Improving the quality of the environment in Plopeni town by modernizing the parks • Modernization and maintenance – Constantin Stere Memorial Park in Bucov, Tineretului Park, Toma Caragiu Park, Căineni Park <p>Building playgrounds in Ploiești municipality (Cameliei street, Mărășești, Sports Hall, Bucharest Blv., Arboretum, Cibinului street, Mihai Bravu street, Malu Roșu area, Modern Park, Republicii Blv., etc.)</p>
Development trends	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The renovation and thermal rehabilitation of public buildings, with impact on the need for rehabilitating the central public space or the space between blocks 2. The development of intermodal terminals – impacting the public space around the railway stations 3. The recovery of polluted land and its conversion into green areas
Strategy recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing new green, sports, and leisure areas, covering a minimum of 200 ha, in order to comply with the European standards 2. Expanding the public lighting system by implementing innovative solutions (LED technology or the dosage of light intensity)



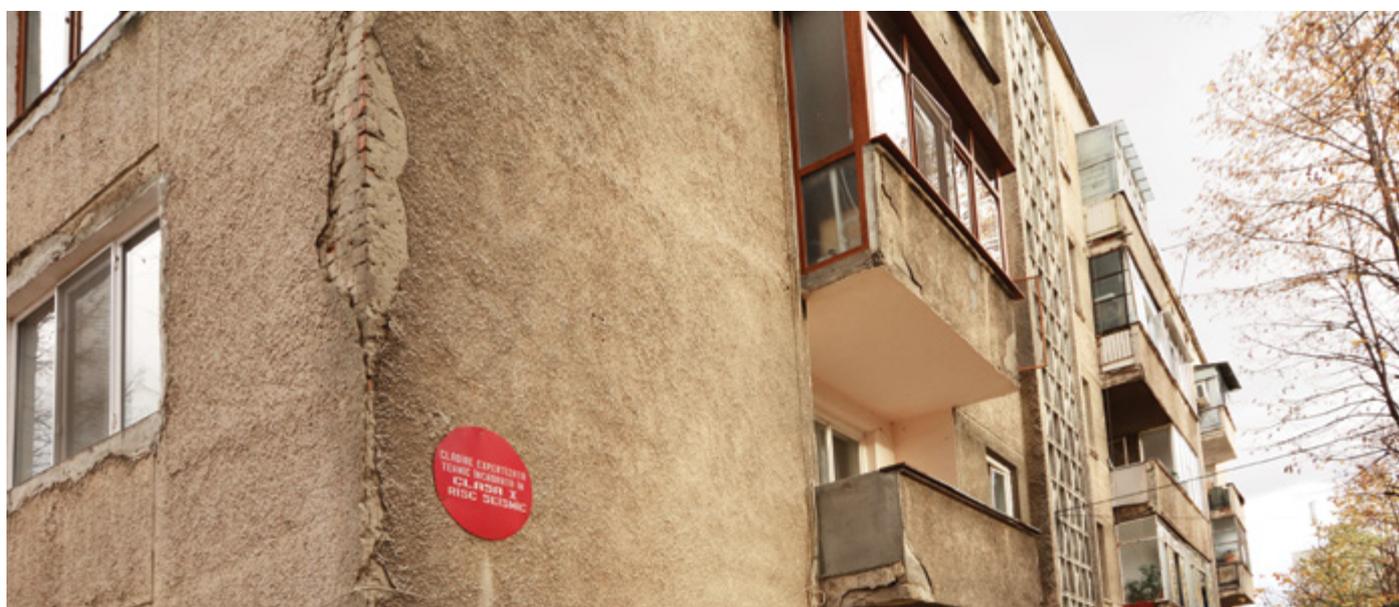
Map 119. Public space



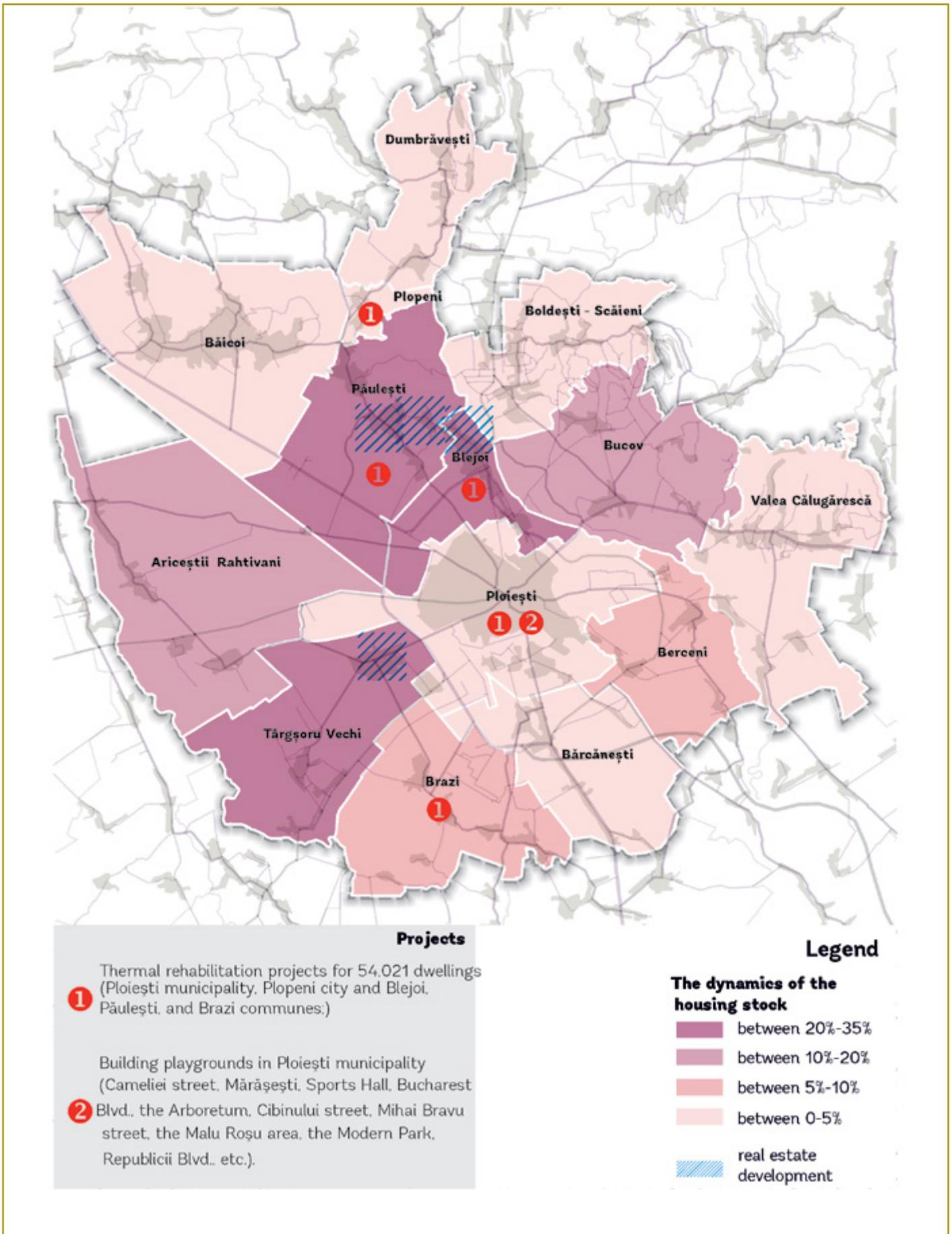
Housing

1. The dynamics of the housing stock over the 2007-2013 period reflects a phenomenon of suburbanization, with expansions between 10.4% and 31.9% in Blejoi, Târgșoru Vechi, Păulești, Bucov, and Ariceștii Rahtivani.
2. In Ploiești municipality, about 10.1% of the dwellings are secondary, especially those situated in apartment blocks; many people actually live in surrounding rural areas.
3. Drinking water is supplied to 96.7% of the households in Ploiești Growth Pole – 92.9% get drinking water from the public network and 3.8% from their own systems. Of these, 6.6% do not have a water supply installation inside the household, but only in the building or outside it (according to the 2011 census).

<p>Key issues</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of dwellings without water and without sanitation is relatively large, especially in Berceni, Dumbrăvești, and Valea Călugărească communes 2. 836 households are not connected to the electricity grid (0.6% of the total housing stock) 3. The average age of residential buildings exceeds 50 years; 65.5% of these buildings were built before the 1977 earthquake and have a high seismic risk 4. Only a limited number of apartment blocks have renovated heating systems or are consolidated against earthquakes 5. The unattractive public space between the blocks 6. The absence of a social housing stock
<p>Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction of new dwellings – a total of 4,144 dwellings were finalized in Ploiești Growth Pole, of which 1,270 (30.6% of the total number) in Ploiești municipality, and nearly 3,000 in the neighboring localities (of these, only 228 were built with public funds, namely those provided by the National Housing Agency) • Thermal rehabilitation projects for 54,021 dwellings (Ploiești municipality, Plopeni city, Blejoi, Păulești, and Brazi communes; more than 40% of the housing units have upgraded heating systems) • Building playgrounds in Ploiești municipality (Cameliei street, Mărășești, Sports Hall, Bucharest Blv., Arboretum, Cibinului street, Mihai Bravu street, Malu Roșu area, Modern Park, Republicii Blv., etc.)
<p>Development trends</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extending the urban infrastructure by implementing the County Master Plan for Water and Sanitation 2. An increased demand for social housing
<p>Strategy recommendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The modernization and extension of the water supply and sanitation networks in all localities of the growth pole 2. The seismic evaluation of the buildings constructed before the 1977 earthquake 3. The thermal rehabilitation of the blocks situated on major traffic arteries 4. Developing the public spaces between the blocks



Map 120. Housing

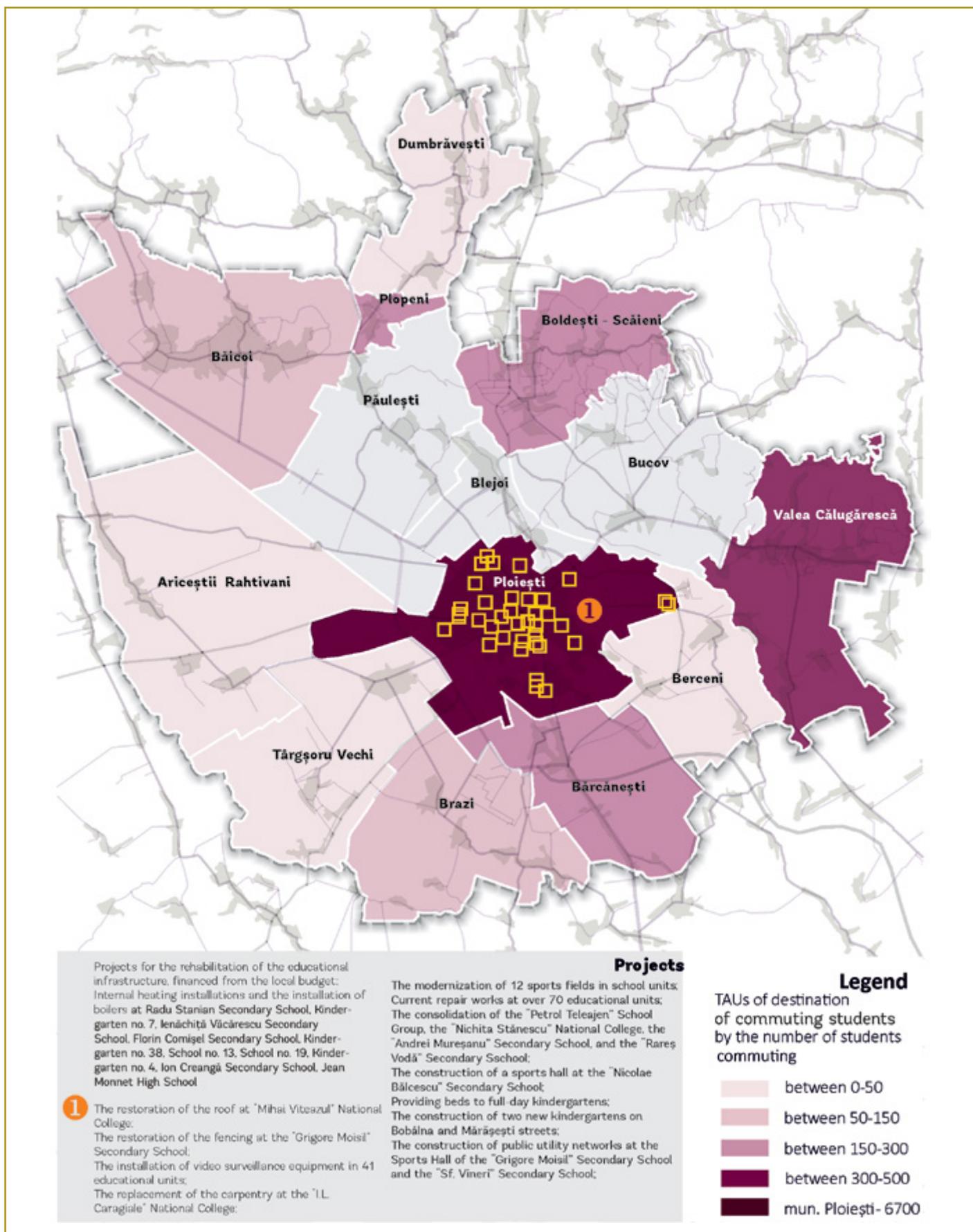


Education

1. The local educational infrastructure has steadily improved in recent years due to investments from various sources of financing, including from European funds.
2. The dropout rate remains below the average at the regional and national level, but still records high values in the case of vocational education and in the case of students coming from rural areas and Roma families.
3. The number of commuting students is high: 6,700 students in Prahova county – especially from a 30 km (maximum) radius – study in Ploiești municipality.
4. The only higher education institution is Oil and Gas University (with a total of 8,000 students in 2013/2014).
5. The offer of continuous professional training courses at the local level is diverse and covers a large number of occupations for people with secondary and higher education; the providers are public institutions, NGOs, and private companies.

Key issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The deficiencies in the educational infrastructure related to the condition of the buildings and their energy efficiency, the provision of furniture, equipment, sports infrastructure 2. The low number of students due to migration to other university centers.
Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period	<p>A project for the rehabilitation of the educational infrastructure, financed from the local budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal heating installations and the installation of boilers at Radu Stanian Secondary School, Kindergarten no. 7, Ienăchița Văcărescu Secondary School, Florin Comișel Secondary School, Kindergarten no. 38, School no. 13, School no. 19, Kindergarten no. 4, Ion Creangă Secondary School, Jean Monnet High School • The restoration of the roof at Mihai Viteazul National College • The restoration of the fencing at the Grigore Moisil Secondary School • The installation of video surveillance equipment in 41 educational units • The replacement of the carpentry at I.L. Caragiale National College • The modernization of 12 sports fields in school units • Current repair works at over 70 educational units • The consolidation of Petrol Teleajen School Group, Nichita Stănescu National College, Andrei Mureșanu Secondary School, and Rareș Vodă Secondary School • The construction of a sports hall at Nicolae Bălcescu Secondary School • Providing beds to full-day kindergartens • The construction of two new kindergartens on Bobâlna and Mărășești streets • The construction of public utility networks at the Sports Hall of Grigore Moisil Secondary School and Sf. Vineri Secondary School <p>Projects for human resources development (vocational training) co-financed through the SOP HRD (section 2.5.)</p>
Development trends	Reduction in the number of students due to negative demographic outlook
Strategy recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development and modernization of the educational infrastructure in terms of equipment and endowment 2. The development of public transport for commuting students 3. The development of the post-secondary / vocational education system

Map 121. Education

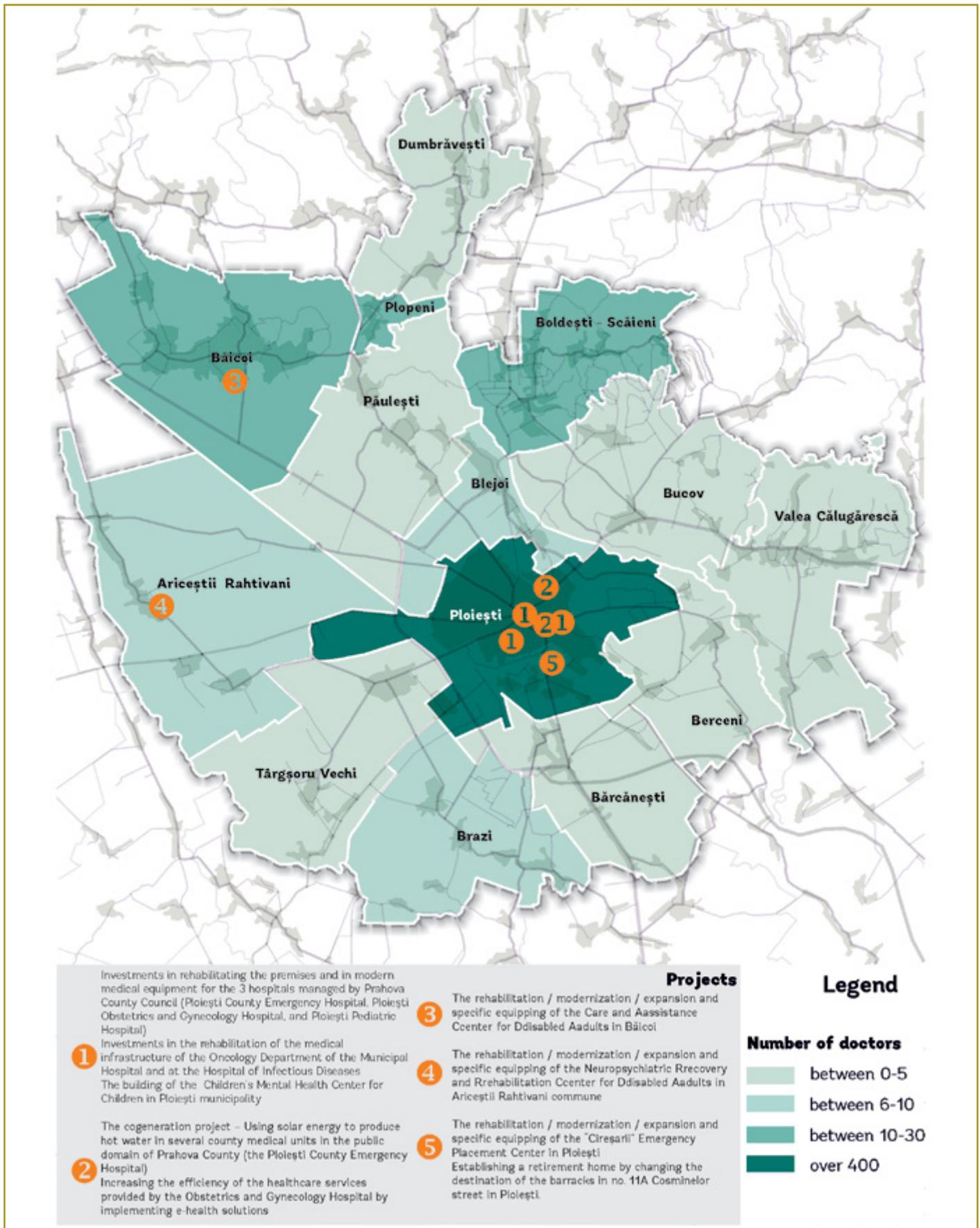


Healthcare and Social Services

1. The network of public medical units is complex, comprising hospitals with unique specializations in the county and serving over 700,000 inhabitants.
2. The number of admissions to local hospitals decreased by 20% compared to 2007, since patients started shifting to ambulatory care services and the public health network underwent restructuring.
3. In Ploiești municipality, the recipients of social benefits represent about 7% of the population, including persons receiving benefits for serious disabilities, personal assistants of people with serious disabilities, households benefiting from municipal aid for heating, persons benefiting from food support through the PEAD Programme, pensioners with an income below 400 lei/month, the unemployed, and the recipients of the guaranteed minimum income.

<p>Key issues</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poor health infrastructure (including buildings which are unfit for the provision of quality medical services) 2. Insufficient capacity and inadequate medical equipment endowment at the ambulatory care units that are integrated into hospitals 3. No category I or II medical units to provide a wide range of quality medical services 4. Chronic shortage of medical staff due to external and internal migration of the specialized staff
<p>Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period</p>	<p>Health infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investments in rehabilitating the premises and modern medical equipment for the 3 hospitals managed by Prahova County Council (Ploiești County Emergency Hospital, Ploiești Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital, and Ploiești Pediatric Hospital) • Investments in the rehabilitation of the medical infrastructure of the Oncology Department of the Municipal Hospital and at the Hospital of Infectious Diseases • Building the Mental Health Center for Children in Ploiești municipality • The cogeneration project – Using solar energy to produce hot water in several county medical units in the public domain of Prahova County (Ploiești County Emergency Hospital) • Increasing the efficiency of the healthcare services provided by the Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital through the implementation of e-health solutions • Developing the medical IT system through e-health services for the benefit of Prahova County residents <p>Projects regarding the social service infrastructure, co-financed through the ROP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rehabilitation / modernization / expansion and specific equipping of the Care and Assistance Center for Disabled Adults in Băicoi • “A chance for a new sunbeam” (“O șansă pentru o nouă rață de soare”) – The rehabilitation / modernization / expansion, and specific equipping of the community services complex “Rață de Soare” • The rehabilitation / modernization / expansion and specific equipping of the Neuropsychiatric Recovery and Rehabilitation Center for Disabled Adults in Aricești Rahtivani commune • The rehabilitation / modernization / expansion and specific equipping of the Cireșarii Emergency Placement Center in Ploiești • Establishing a retirement home by changing the destination of the barracks in no. 11A, Cosminelor street in Ploiești
<p>Development trends</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The pressure on the network of local medical facilities due to aging population and insufficient prevention measures 2. The development of the private sector by providing quality medical services 3. An increase in the number of people at risk of social exclusion (dependent elderly people, homeless people, children with parents working abroad, the disabled, etc.)
<p>Strategy recommendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modernizing and expanding the medical infrastructure 2. Facilitating the access to health services for the population in communes 3. The involvement of NGOs in providing social services

Map 122. Healthcare and Social Services

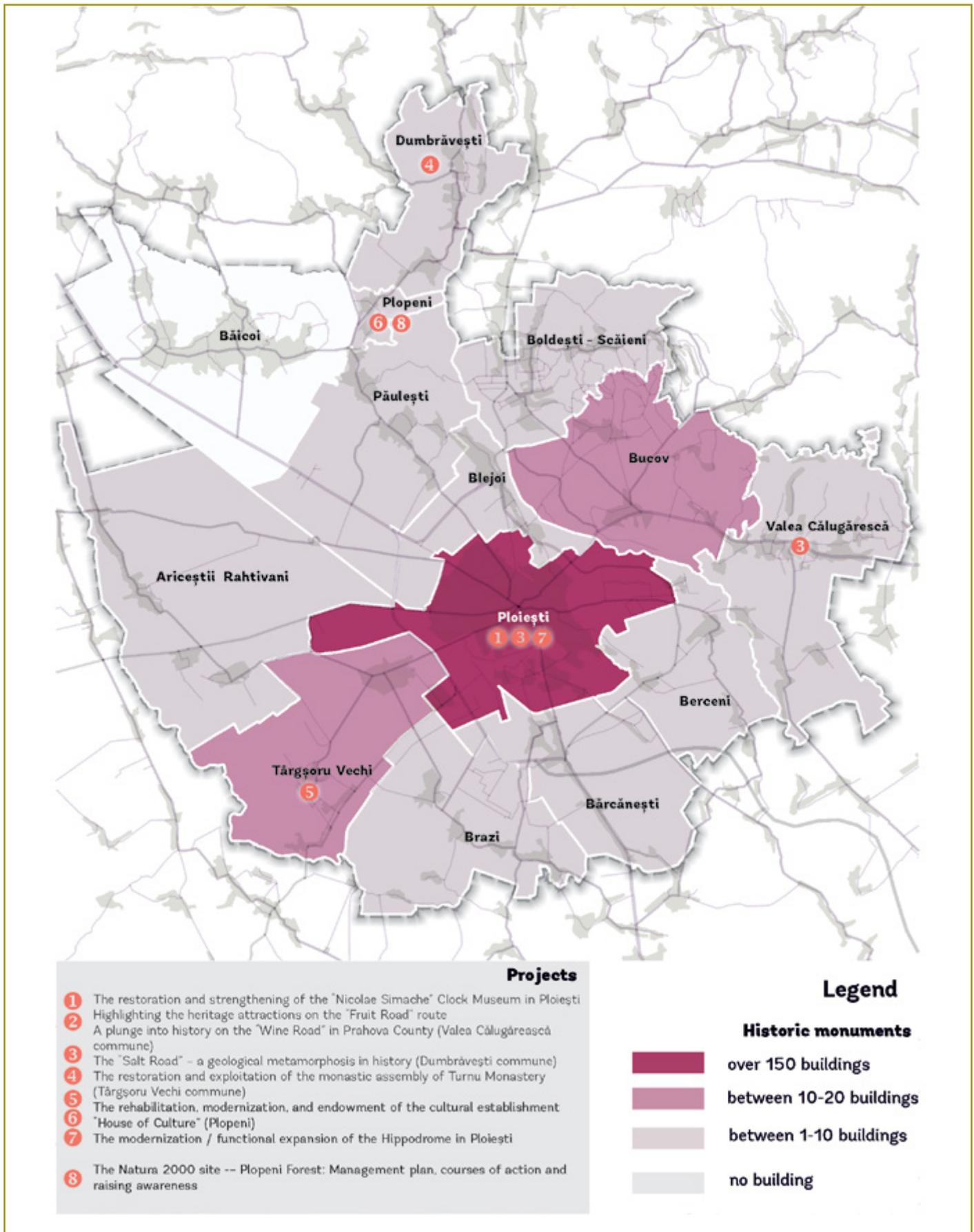


Culture and Recreation

1. Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole has a rich cultural heritage – 193 historical monuments (according to the 2010 List of historical monuments), of which 63 of national interest.
2. The movable cultural heritage encompasses nearly 1,000 assets with historical, archaeological, historical and documentary, artistic, ethnographic, scientific, and technical value and is found in the museums in the area and at Nicolae Iorga County Library.
3. The natural heritage consists of a series of areas with protection status established by the General Urban Plan of the communes and of Plopeni Forest (a protected area of community interest – SCI, with an area of 91 ha).
4. The local sports infrastructure has been diversified and modernized in recent years through public and private investments; thus, the sports clubs in the city have achieved great results.

Key issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advanced degradation of some historical monuments subject to continuous aggression 2. Poor cultural infrastructure in small towns and neighboring rural localities, since relevant events are organized sporadically 3. Old and outdated sports facilities, hindering the development of performance sports (e.g. modern swimming pools for training)
Relevant projects over the 2007-2014 period	<p>Projects concerning the cultural and historical heritage and recreational activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The restoration and strengthening Nicolae Simache Clock Museum in Ploiești • Highlighting the heritage attractions on the Fruit Road route • A plunge into history on the Wine Road in Prahova county (Valea Călugărească commune) • The Salt Road – a geological metamorphosis in history (Dumbrăvești commune) • The restoration and exploitation of the monastic assembly of Turnu Monastery (Târgșoru Vechi commune) • The rehabilitation, modernization, and endowment of the House of Culture (Plopeni) • The modernization / functional expansion of the Hippodrome in Ploiești <p>A project on the protection of the natural heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Natura 2000 site – Plopeni Forest: management plan, courses of action and raising awareness
Development trends	Continuous pressures on the natural and built heritage – localization of economic activities, expanding the built-up areas of settlements, transport infrastructure, etc.
Strategy recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restoring, strengthening, and protecting the built (urban and rural) heritage 2. Protecting the natural heritage 3. Promoting the cultural heritage and events in order to attract visitors 4. Developing the cultural infrastructure in communes 5. Developing the sports infrastructure (swimming pool)

Map 123. Culture and Recreation



2

Territorial Diagnosis and Strategy Recommendations

CHAPTER 2.2.
SWOT Analysis

2.2. SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Justification
A great geographical position to attract investments	<p>The Growth Pole is just 60 km away from Bucharest municipality, Romania's capital city and one of the largest cities in Southeast Europe, with a market of nearly 3 million consumers, the main administrative, economic, academic, cultural, and medical center and transport hub in the country.</p> <p>Ploiești Growth Pole is an integral part of an urban system with a population of over 4 million people, generating about 50% of the national GDP, along with Bucharest and Târgoviște municipalities, and is part of the development Axis Brașov-Ploiești-Bucharest-Giurgiu, the most important transport and development corridor of Romania.</p>
The polarizing role in the county and in the region	<p>Of all the growth poles in Romania, Ploiești municipality has the greatest capacity to attract the workforce and the population from the surrounding area (215 commuters and 97 new residents for 1,000 people).</p> <p>Ploiești Growth Pole concentrates 44% of the population in Prahova county and over 70% of the total turnover generated at county level. In addition, the schools in the municipality attract nearly 7,000 pupils and students from the other localities in Prahova and the medical units have unique specializations at the county level. Also, there are a number of local institutions that provide services for the entire region (Oil and Gas University, the Regional Postal Directorate, the Regional General Directorate of Public Finances, etc.).</p>
The tradition in the extractive and energy sectors	<p>The economic development of the municipality is closely linked to the advance of the hydrocarbons extraction and processing industry. In 1857, the first refining facility in the world was founded here. Four refineries with a processing capacity of over 10 million tons/year were built at the local level, and three of them are currently operational.</p> <p>At present, about 6,000 people are still employed directly in the extraction and processing of hydrocarbons, representing less than 5% of the total employed population. All related services and activities included, the number of employees directly or indirectly dependent on the oil sector reaches about 20% of the local workforce.</p> <p>The natural gas-fired thermal power station in Brazi, inaugurated in 2011, is one of the most modern in Europe and can generate up to 10% of Romania's energy needs. The area also has the most important cogeneration capacities in the country.</p>
A solid network of industrial parks	<p>In Ploiești Growth Pole, there are 8 industrial parks, 4 of which are public and 4 private. They rank first nationwide in terms of the occupied area (800 ha) and the number of jobs (10,000). In addition, they represented the main advantage in attracting direct foreign investments amounting to EUR 500 million.</p>
High accessibility/connectivity	<p>Ploiești municipality has direct access to two roads in the central TEN-T road network, DN 1 / E 60 (the highest traffic in the country, with an average of over 30,000 vehicles/day) and DN 1B / E 577, which ensures access to the most important areas in Romania: the capital city and Muntenia, Moldavia, and Transylvania. Recently, the A3 highway section linking Ploiești to Bucharest was opened.</p> <p>The railway network is dense, Ploiești municipality being one of the most important railway junctions in Romania, located at the intersection of the main railways 300 (recently upgraded) and 500, linking Transylvania and Muntenia, Bucharest and Moldavia. The routes Bucharest-Ploiești-Brașov and Bucharest-Ploiești-Buzău are the most traveled in Romania, with more than 8,000 passengers per day.</p> <p>Ploiești municipality is just 45 km away from Henri Coandă International Airport – Otopeni-Bucharest, the most important in Romania, with an annual average of more than 7 million passengers and with domestic and international routes to the most important cities in Europe and in the Near and Middle East.</p>
The availability of land for spatial development	<p>The total administrative area of Ploiești Growth Pole is 609 km², of which 70.4% is represented by agricultural land, mostly located in the rural localities around Ploiești. 73.5% of the land is, on the other hand, situated outside the development boundary.</p> <p>The industrial areas, built mostly during the communist period, occupy 1,458 ha only in the municipality, being largely abandoned and having the potential to be repurposed for the expansion of residential, commercial, planted areas, etc.</p>

Strengths	Justification
The increased efficiency of public utility services provided under PPPs	<p>The services providing and distributing drinking water and sanitation, and those providing and distributing heat in a centralized system have been leased to private operators since the late 1990s, even if part of the network investment obligations remained among the responsibilities of the local and county authorities.</p> <p>APA NOVA and DALKIA TERMO PRAHOVA provide quality services at much lower prices than in most urban localities in Romania (by 45% for drinking water, which is the lowest supply price for all poles of growth in terms of thermal energy). Moreover, the funds allocated by the municipality to subsidize the heat supplied to the population are insignificant compared to other similar-sized cities in Romania.</p> <p>Private operators have invested tens of millions of euros in networks, equipment, and the implementation of new (including on-line) services, labor productivity being double compared to the public operators in the county and in the country.</p>
The high volume of direct foreign investments	<p>The number of companies with foreign capital in Prahova county increased by 42.8% and the subscribed capital by 165% between 2007 and 2013. Over 80% of these companies are located in Ploiești Growth Pole; some of them are worldwide or European market leaders in their fields (e.g. COCA COLA, UNILEVER, LUFKIN, etc.).</p> <p>Prahova county ranks 11th nationally in terms of the number of companies established by foreign investors and 8th in terms of the value of the subscribed capital.</p>
Weaknesses	Justification
Reduced mobility especially at the level of penetrating roads	<p>The national roads ensuring the access to Ploiești Growth Pole have recorded some of the highest traffic averages in Romania (DN 1 – 25,000/40,000 vehicles/day; DN 1B – 22,000; DN 1A – 6,000/15,000; DN 72 – 12,000). Over 38,000 employees and nearly 7,000 children and students commute to the city every day.</p> <p>The biggest traffic flows enter the city through the following penetration roads: north-south (Republicii Boulevard, Independenței Boulevard, Bucharest Boulevard), west (Ștrandului Street, Gheorghe Doja Street) and east (Gh. Gr. Cantacuzino Street). The highest numbers of accidents are recorded on these roads, some of them with victims.</p>
The low energy efficiency of public and residential buildings	<p>In 2011, only 40.8% of the dwellings in Ploiești Growth Pole were rehabilitated, that percentage rising to 44.8% in the case of Ploiești municipality. On the other hand, only 59.1% of the dwellings have insulated glazing.</p> <p>Most of the housing stock is about 50 years old, and over 30% of the walls of the dwellings are made of precast concrete, which is energetically inefficient. This is the case for nearly 3,000 apartment blocks built during the communist period. Public buildings are in a similar situation, even though some health and educational institutions have benefited from thermal rehabilitation works.</p> <p>Analyses have indicated the existence of urban heat islands in the municipality, located mainly in the central area and in the large collective housing complexes in the north and west sections of the city, which hosts buildings with a high level of heat transfer.</p>
Not enough public spaces	<p>Forests occupy only 9.1% of the administrative territory of Ploiești Growth Pole, three times less than the national average.</p> <p>In Ploiești municipality, the green and recreational areas occupy only 2% of the built-up area, a great deal smaller than the built areas. The average green area/capita is about 7 square meters/inhabitant, compared to an average of about 20 m² in the other growth poles in Romania and to the international standards of 25-30 m²/inhabitant.</p> <p>Except for Bucov Park and Tineretului Park, the other planted areas in the city are small and scattered.</p>
The existence of brownfield sites, including contaminated sites	<p>The critical areas – due to soil degradation – in the Growth Pole total an area of 132.13 ha, of which around 100 ha are sites contaminated following oil extraction activities and oil waste storage. They are located mostly in Ploiești, Valea Călugărească, Boldești-Scăeni, and Băicoi.</p> <p>The industrial areas in Ploiești municipality, built mostly during the communist period, occupy 1,458 ha only in Ploiești municipality, being largely abandoned and posing major environmental risks, due to their economic profile (the petrochemical industry, the machine building industry). Among the targeted areas with a reconversion potential are included: Astra Română Refinery (the north and south premises), Upetrom 1 Mai platform (partially), Grivco platform, Teleajen platform (partially), Dorobanțul platform.</p>

Weaknesses	Justification
A high demographic decline and an aging population	<p>Between 2002 and 2011, the population of Ploiești city decreased by 9.7% and that of the Growth Pole by 7.5%, due to the negative natural growth, internal and external migration, which affected about 10% of the resident population in the area.</p> <p>The demographic aging phenomenon in the Growth Pole is more pronounced than in other similar-sized cities in Romania, the ratio of elderly to young people is 156%. Compared to the previous census (in 2002), the share of young population decreased by over one percentage point, while the elderly population increased by 4.6 points, a trend that will continue in the future, amid rising life expectancy.</p>
Unattractive public spaces and leisure areas	<p>The public spaces in Ploiești municipality are small in size and in batches, being mostly located in the central area (the esplanades and the pedestrian areas around the House of Culture and the Administrative Palace).</p> <p>Despite some public investments already completed (the Sports Hall, Ilie Oană Stadium, Bucov Park, Tineretului Park, etc.) or under implementation (the Hippodrome) and some private ones, the recreational infrastructure in the Growth Pole remains restricted, old and outdated (e.g. Vega swimming pool). Also, the natural resources in the area are insufficiently exploited (e.g. Băicoi balneary resources).</p>
The existence of marginalized areas / districts	<p>In 2011, in Ploiești municipality, 11,504 people were living in underprivileged areas in terms of housing, 6,907 people were living in disadvantaged areas in terms of employment, and 13,905 people were living in disadvantaged areas in terms of human capital. On the other hand, 5,130 people (23% of which are Roma and 30% children) live in marginalized urban areas.</p> <p>The most socially vulnerable areas identified in Ploiești municipality are those in the periphery and located mostly in the south and east of the city: Mimiu, Râfov, Pictor Rosenthal, Moțoi, Bereasca.</p>
Low cultural vitality	<p>In terms of cultural vitality, in 2010, Ploiești municipality ranked 18th nationally, behind all other growth poles - municipalities, and also behind other county capitals in South Muntenia Region, such as Târgoviște and Pitești. The biggest deficiencies identified in the local cultural sector concern the scarce human resources and the insufficient activity of the NGO sector in the field. The share of the creative and cultural industries is up to 50% lower compared to the other growth poles.</p> <p>In the past seven years and except for cinemas, the cultural consumption significantly decreased (by 29.1% at the level of entertainment institutions). In addition, the number of organized cultural events is low compared to other cities with a similar size.</p>
The wear of the technical urban infrastructure and of the street network and the disparities between the localities in the growth pole	<p>83.2% of the road network in the urban localities of Ploiești Growth Pole was modernized; Băicoi has the highest number of unpaved streets, small towns being the most disadvantaged in this regard. In the rural areas, over 50% of the local roads are not modernized. In addition, even some modernized streets and sidewalks are in an advanced state of degradation.</p> <p>In Ploiești municipality there is a total of 65 streets that do not have a water supply network (or they have only a partial one), and 218 without a sanitation system or with a partial one. However, the worst situation is in the rural areas of the Growth Pole - three of them (Berceni, Dumbrăvești, Târgșoru Vechi) do not have a public sanitation network, but only individual solutions implemented by the owners.</p> <p>The water and sanitation network, including the wastewater treatment plant in Ploiești, is in an advanced level of wear and tear due to its age and its small dimensions; it is not subject to investments made from non-refundable grants, as is the case of Băicoi and Plopeni towns.</p>
The limited interest in public transport	<p>Although the number of passengers using public transport means increased by 12.1% in the 2007-2013 period, only about 30% of the daily trips of Ploiești residents are covered by the public transport – one of the lowest percentages of all growth poles and among similar cities in Eastern Europe.</p> <p>The fleet of the passenger transport company (TCE) is extremely old (9-40 years), generating high costs of maintenance, long waiting times in the stations, and endangering passenger safety. Also, vehicles do not generally have air-conditioning and facilities for the disabled, which negatively affects passenger comfort. Another problem is the absence of a modern e-ticketing and passenger information system.</p>

Weaknesses	Justification
The poor development of the tertiary sector	<p>The manufacturing industry has remained the main employer in the Growth Pole, with a share of 24% of the total employed population, followed by trade (17%), agriculture (8%), constructions and transport (7% each), all of which are low added value activities.</p> <p>The activities with high added value and a higher level of pay (ICT, financial intermediation, scientific, technical and professional activities) do not employ more than 9% of the population, which explains the fact that the wages in the area are kept at a lower level than in other growth poles in Romania, with a more favorable economic structure.</p>
A shortage of qualified middle- and high-skilled workers	<p>About 35,000 people residing in Ploiești Growth Pole (10% of the total population) have migrated in the past two decades to other areas in Romania (especially to Bucharest) and to other countries; most of them are skilled persons, having graduated from high school and university (the "brain-drain" phenomenon). Therefore, the unemployment rate dropped to about 5-7%.</p> <p>The number of students in the public technical and vocational education system decreased by 89.7% compared to 2007, most middle school graduates choosing technological high schools, where (generally) less than 40% of graduates obtain the baccalaureate diploma. The number of participants in professional training programs also remains low. In this context, most companies opt for qualification at the workplace and for the recruitment of personnel from other localities in the county.</p>
The poor health infrastructure and the lack of specialized staff	<p>Ploiești Growth Pole has no category I or category II medical units, which are typically located in university centers (Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iași). For this reason, a large number of patients in the area requiring more complex consultations and interventions are turning to university clinics in the capital city. The local medical infrastructure is generally old and outdated, despite the investments made in recent years; the Pediatric Hospital or the "Buna Vestire" Section of the County Hospital do not have adequate premises. All hospital units in the area require new quality medical equipment, as do the ambulatory care units integrated into hospitals.</p> <p>Compared to 2007, the number of hospital beds in the public sector decreased by 9%, due to restructuring, which was only partially offset by the development of the private sector. Public health units (e.g. the Emergency Care Unit or the Ambulance Service) are facing an acute crisis of doctors and nurses (30-70% of the full-time positions), due to the migration to private establishments, and to the migration to other medical centers in the country or abroad. The life expectancy of the population is 75 years, 5 years below the EU-28 average and below the level recorded in other growth poles.</p>
Noise and air pollution caused by traffic	<p>In 2013, at the manual measuring stations in Ploiești, there were recorded higher values than the maximum permissible concentrations of total suspended particulates (PM 10), sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, the main cause identified being the intense car traffic.</p> <p>During 2011, in the case of 68.71% of the number of measurements for noise pollution, the recorded values were higher than the maximum permissible limits. In Ploiești, the recorded values exceeded 75 or even 80 decibels on the North-South axis, near the railway stations, in industrial areas and on the streets traveled by tram or open to heavy traffic.</p>
Poor RDI infrastructure and limited technology transfer	<p>Seen in the national context, the research, development and innovation (RDI) activity in Ploiești Growth Pole is underdeveloped, being dominated by the public sector. The specialization areas of the RDI units at the local level are closely linked to the area's economic profile, which is oil extraction and processing, oil equipment, and viticulture.</p> <p>The local traditional research and design institutes (IPCUP, ICERP, IC-DVV) have significantly restricted or even ceased their activity in recent years due to reduced state budget allocations for RDI activities, and also due to the development of such sections in private companies. The Oil and Gas University has 13 research centers and a business and technology incubator, but their work is still little known to the business environment and limited in relation to its potential.</p> <p>In terms of the expenses triggered by the RDI activity, Prahova county is far below the national and regional average, with less than 0.2% of the GDP, more than 10 times below the target assumed by Romania through the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement. According to AD ASTRA statistics, Ploiești ranks last among the growth poles in terms of scientific output, materialized in published scientific articles.</p>

Weaknesses	Justification
Limited alternatives for non-motorized transport	<p>Ploiești municipality has only one properly fitted bicycle trail, about 3 km long, on the north - south axis, which is often unusable because of illegally parked cars, to which are added some facilities for roller skaters and bicycles in the Tineretului Park.</p> <p>Exclusively pedestrian areas are extremely limited and concentrated in the central area (the Civic Center Esplanade, Unirii Street, Toma Caragiu Street, Griviței Street, etc.); they are not integrated. The sidewalks of some streets are degraded and do not ensure the safe movement of citizens. In addition, some modernized streets in neighborhoods at the periphery lack sidewalks.</p>
No integrated spatial planning at growth pole level	<p>No metropolitan territorial zonal development strategy was approved in the metropolitan area at the growth pole level, in accordance with Law no. 350/2001; it will be developed concurrently with the updating of the General Urban Plan of Ploiești municipality.</p>
The poor development of entrepreneurship and of associative business structures (clusters)	<p>In the 2007-2013 period, the number of active companies in Ploiești Growth Pole decreased by 13.9%, above the regional (-11.1%) and national (-12.6%) average, due to the economic crisis. The number of newly established companies fell steadily after 2008, reaching the minimum of the range in 2014. However, the number of suspensions and removals from the trade registry rocketed in 2009 and 2010.</p> <p>In terms of entrepreneurial dynamics, expressed by the number of active businesses per 1,000 residents (42.7), Ploiești municipality has the weakest performance of all the 8 Romanian growth poles; the local economy is dominated by large companies with foreign capital, to the detriment of a solid local class of entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Also, there is no functional local agricultural, industrial or services cluster, unlike all other growth poles, which have up to 10 such associative structures.</p>
No intermodal transport infrastructure	<p>Despite attracting more than 45,000 commuting employees and students daily and despite having a relatively extensive public transport system (2 tram routes, 2 trolley routes, and 41 bus routes) and 4 functional railway stations and 2 flag stations, these are not integrated into a coherent transport system, through appropriate intermodal facilities.</p> <p>As well, the interurban transport services provided by various private operators, in the absence of a metropolitan operator, are not integrated in terms of the stations, traffic schedules and prices with the public transport system inside the municipality.</p>
A shortage of parking spaces	<p>The total number of vehicles registered in Ploiești is approximately 50,000 and the total number of parking spaces is only 25,000, of which only 1,100 are chargeable and mostly located in the central area. In these circumstances, drivers park illegally on the roads, sidewalks, green spaces, reducing mobility and endangering the safety of road users.</p>
The absence of an underground conduit system for overhead cables	<p>Of the total electricity transmission lines, only 16.6% are underground (underground power lines), the rest being overhead (overhead power lines). In addition, there are the cables of various transport operators, for public lighting, telecommunications, etc. The lack of an underground conduit system for overhead lines of all kinds is one of the most pressing issues facing Ploiești municipality, also affecting the façades of apartment blocks and of buildings with a clear architectural value, making the city look unsightly.</p>
The existence of several built heritage attractions in poor conservation condition	<p>In Ploiești Growth Pole, there are 193 listed historic monuments, of which 65 are of national interest. While the heritage buildings in which operate public institutions are in a relatively good state of conservation (except for the Central Hall - a symbol of the city), the private residential buildings are, in most cases, in a precarious state. They need consolidation works for the supporting structure and works for cleaning and repairing the façades.</p>
Uncontrolled waste storage	<p>Despite the existence of public or private waste disposal operators in all localities of the Growth Pole and despite ceasing to deposit waste in non-compliant urban and rural landfills, there are still areas strongly affected by the phenomenon of uncontrolled storage, such as the southeastern beltway of Ploiești municipality.</p>

Opportunities	Justification
The proximity to Bucharest – the relocation of economic activities	<p>Ploiești Growth Pole is situated just 60 km away from Bucharest, the areas of influence of the two cities being virtually annexed. This is the main area of economic concentration and development of Romania, and the main market for goods and services, totaling around 3 million consumers.</p> <p>Accordingly, about 10% of the workforce in Ploiești commute to Bucharest and Ilfov, and many companies serving the Bucharest market or the national market have decided to locate or relocate to Ploiești, which is becoming more and more a logistics center of the capital city (see the case of the storehouses of the large commercial networks).</p>
The availability of funding for integrated urban development (ROP)	The 2014-2020 ROP has a total estimated budget of EUR 6.3 billion, of which about EUR 3 billion only for urban development; the growth poles designated for the 2007-2013 period may continue to benefit from additional allocations for integrated measures.
The development of the major transport infrastructure	For the 2014-2020 period, the General Transport Master Plan stipulates for the Ploiești area massive investment in the expansion and modernization of the transport infrastructure, such as building the Ploiești-Brașov highway, with further connections to the urban poles in Transylvania and with a connection to the major transport network in Central and Western Europe, the completion of the modernization of the pan-European Corridor IV, and the expansion and modernization of Henri Coandă Bucharest-Otopeni International Airport.
The exploitation of the natural resources in the region (agriculture, livestock, energy, tourism)	<p>Currently, about 70.4% of the total Growth Pole administrative area is covered by fertile farmland. The area also has a competitive advantage in viticulture and horticulture, which are practiced on about 4,000 ha.</p> <p>Also, the potential for energy production from renewable resources is very high: solar (over 1,300 kWh/m²/year), wind (4 m/s), micro hydropower, agricultural and woody biomass, biogas, etc.</p> <p>Ploiești is situated halfway between the two most important tourist poles of Romania – Bucharest city and Prahova Valley / Brașov, therefore it has a potential for developing transit tourism, business and events, cultural and oenological tourism, since there are already several tourist routes at county level.</p>
Threats	Justification
High seismic risk	<p>As of 2011, 65.5% of the buildings (including over 100 blocks) were build before the 1977 earthquake, therefore were not designed to withstand earthquakes of great magnitude, especially since Ploiești is located in an area with the highest exposure to seismic risk (compared to the rest of Romania), along with Buzău and Focșani municipalities (0.3 g for Mean Recurrence Interval = 100 years).</p> <p>Although the procedure for the evaluation of buildings with seismic risk started 20 years ago, so far only 49 blocks have gone through this procedure; 31 were classified as Class I risk, some being a danger to the public and 18 were classified under Classes II-IV. Of these, only one has been rehabilitated through a program of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration.</p>
Climate change	<p>Climate change is the greatest environmental threat facing humanity. The past decade has included nine of the warmest ten years in recorded history.</p> <p>Locally, these global phenomena are worsened by the existence of urban heat islands, accentuated by the low energy efficiency of the buildings, the high values of road traffic pollution, the scarcity of green and planted spaces, etc.</p>
Local economic vulnerability to external shocks (the crisis)	<p>About 20% of the local workforce is directly or indirectly involved in the delivery of products and services for the oil and energy industry. In 2014, oil prices reached the lowest level in almost six years, and the price of gasoline is also at an unprecedented minimum. In this context, it is expected that the companies in the sector reduce investments for development.</p> <p>On the other hand, Romania's hydrocarbon resources will be exhausted in the following 30-40 years, and the extraction activities will migrate to the Black Sea, where there are processing and transportation facilities.</p>
The proximity of Bucharest – widening the development gap between Ploiești and Bucharest	<p>The GDP per capita at current prices in Prahova county was, in 2011, nearly three times lower than that registered in Bucharest. Also, the average net wage was, in the year 2013, lower by 33%, the economic development gaps increasing every year.</p> <p>In this context, over 5% of the Ploiești Growth Pole population has migrated to Bucharest only in the past two decades, a phenomenon that particularly attracted young and highly skilled people and, most likely, will continue in this way until 2020, having negative effects on Ploiești and its area of influence.</p>

CHAPTER 2.3.

Conclusions on the Integrated Diagnosis and Intervention Areas



2.3. Conclusions on the integrated diagnosis and intervention areas

The sector analysis that was made in the previous sections has highlighted a number of issues and trends with an impact on the future of the growth pole. Taking into account the pyramids of needs of the citizens and of the private sector, the impact of sectoral projects is summarized in the following tables:

Table 35. Impact of sectoral projects on citizens' needs

	Economy	Workforce	Environmental quality	Accessibility/mobility	Energy/IT	Public utilities	Public space	Housing	Education	Healthcare/social assistance	Culture/recreation
Opportunities											
Housing infrastructure											
Connectivity											
Quality of life											

Table 36. Impact of sectoral projects on the needs of the private sector

	Economy	Workforce	Environmental quality	Accessibility/mobility	Energy/IT	Public utilities	Public space	Housing	Education	Healthcare/social assistance	Culture/recreation
Workforce											
Land for offices											
Connectivity											
Clusters											

Also, the measures that will be taken in the 2007-2014 period will have a major impact on the spatial development of the territory and on population dynamics, as they will play an important role in relation to cross-cutting issues – social inclusion and climate change.

Table 37. Impact of sectoral projects on cross-cutting issues

	Economy	Workforce	Environmental quality	Accessibility/mobility	Energy/IT	Public utilities	Public space	Housing	Education	Healthcare/social assistance	Culture/recreation
Population dynamics											
Spatial development											
Connectivity											
Clusters											

At the same time, integrating the sectoral aspects (in the table below) demonstrates the influence that the projects implemented in one area have on related fields and, hence, the potential multiplying effect on the development of the growth pole.

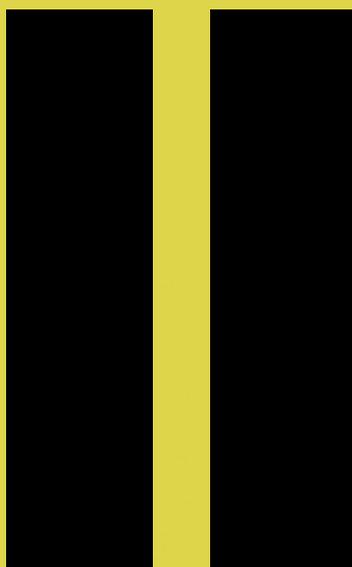
Table 38. Impact of sectoral projects on related sectoral areas

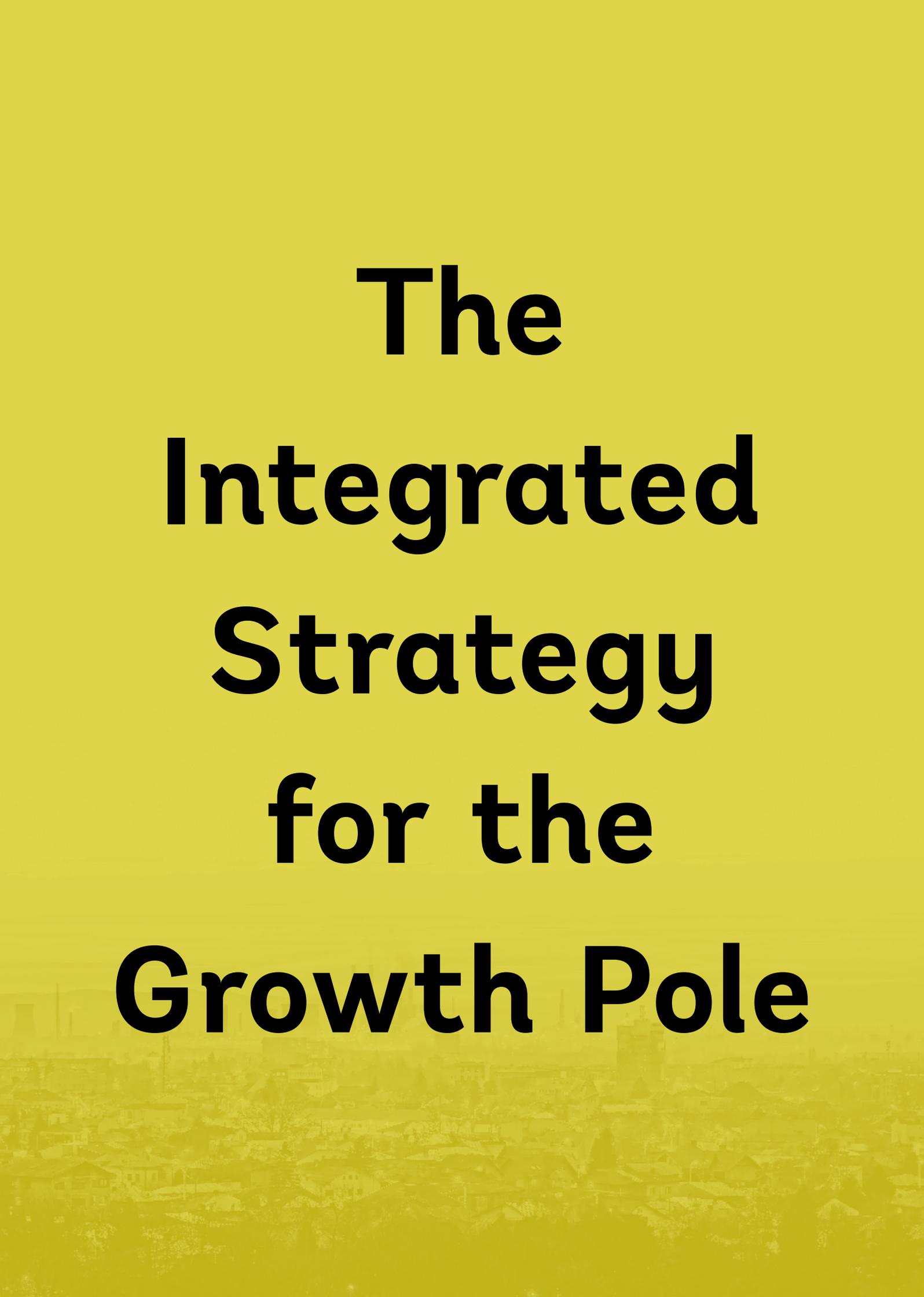
	Economy	Workforce	Environmental quality	Accessibility/mobility	Energy/IT	Public utilities	Public space	Housing	Education	Healthcare/social assistance	Culture/recreation
Economy	++	++	+	++	++	+			+	+	+
Workforce	++	++		++	++				++	+	+
Environmental quality	+/-		++	+	++	++	++	++	+	+	++
Accessibility	++	++		++	+				+		+
Energy/IT	+	+		+	++	++		++	+	++	+
Public utilities						++		++	+	++	+
Public space			+	+	+		++	++			+
Housing			++	+	++	++	++	++			
Education	+	++		++		+			++		+
Healthcare/social assistance			+			+				++	
Culture/recreation			+	+			++		+		++

Following the corroboration of the results of the analysis concerning the relationships established between the sectoral areas with the strengths and weaknesses of the SWOT analysis, a series of conclusions could be drawn and some priority areas of intervention be identified for the strategy design:

- The cross-cutting issues are identified as development risks – the climate changes possibly triggered by the development of productive economic activities, as well as social inclusion, by not addressing the marginalized areas of Ploiești municipality. These issues will have to be taken into consideration in the identification and selection of the projects for the 2014-2020 period.
- Spatial planning at the growth pole level and demographic dynamics are identified as weaknesses. There is no land-use plan at the metropolitan level and although there are land reserves, their development must be based on specific urban regulations that protect the resources.
- The projects completed in almost all areas during the 2007-2014 period responded to the citizens' need for employment opportunities and to the private sector's need for skilled labor. They covered infrastructure, energy efficiency and cogeneration works, areas which generated jobs and thus boosted the development of the economic sector.
- The investments made in accessibility and mobility had a positive impact on economic development / on attracting investments – especially foreign investments – and on labor migration. They also had an influence on reducing road traffic pollution in the center of Ploiești city, on school migration and on the accessibility of marginalized areas and leisure areas. In addition to these projects, some measures are necessary to improve public transport in the growth pole.
- Also in terms of connectivity, energy and cogeneration projects have a multiplying effect on the economy, as well as on the rehabilitation of the educational, medical, and social infrastructure, with a positive impact on climate change.
- The investments in public utilities have failed to meet the needs of the citizens in all component TAUs. Extending the water supply and sanitation networks is a priority for Berceni, Dumbrăvești, and Valea Călugărească, and for other places where demand is not covered.
- The projects implemented mainly by the Oil and Gas University in the field of human resources development (SOP HRD funds) are not reflected in the development of local entrepreneurship in the excellence field of the oil extraction and processing industries or in the RDI sector.
- The investments in culture and recreation have failed to highlight the existing built and natural heritage and to generate related cultural and tourism activities. Future interventions are needed in this area, in conjunction with actions for the remediation of contaminated soil and with a policy for green areas.

Part



The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a city, likely a coastal or industrial area, with numerous buildings and structures. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter. The text is centered and reads:

**The
Integrated
Strategy
for the
Growth Pole**

PART II: The Integrated Strategy for the Growth Pole



Development Vision and Objectives

Development Vision and Objectives

According to the Integrated Urban Development Plan 2007-2013 (IUDP 2007-2013), the development vision for 2025 of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole has taken into account “the role of the Growth Pole in establishing territorial partnerships in view of consolidating its comparative advantage conferred by its localization between the pan-European TEN-IV and TEN-IX corridors and in view of developing competitive advantages by harnessing localization factors in support of its inhabitants, business environment, and academia”.

For the period 2008-2025, the vision drafted in 2009 has supported the community orientation towards permanent knowledge and performance, as a form of adaptation to the challenges brought forward by technological competition. Building on natural resources and their traditional exploitation, the growth pole has set out the objective of strengthening a community whose knowledge gained so far is the essential basis for its future development.

The vision has outlined two major lines of intervention: (a) the first line deals with redefining the corporate role of Ploiești municipality at the regional level, while (b) the second line is related to the development of neighbouring localities, which should become more attractive as living places and economic areas thanks to their progress and endowment.

In support of the vision, the investments carried out under IUDP 2007-2013 primarily targeted aspects related to the accessibility and connectivity of the growth pole to the major European transport network, as well as aspects related to equipping the technical, public utility, education, and healthcare infrastructures, in order to eliminate disparities between the municipality and its area of influence. Furthermore, a series of projects have indirectly contributed to these objectives:

- Projects aiming to support the business infrastructure, attract private investment and create job opportunities
- Projects for the use of renewable energy resources
- Projects aiming to strengthen human resources capacity in areas of interest for the labour market

In addition to the investments carried out between 2007 and 2014, the public agenda for the period 2014-2020 includes further elements of social and territorial cohesion (through urban regeneration initiatives in disadvantaged areas) and competitiveness (by improving the quality of life). Even though for the next programming period the structure of the vision remains unchanged, its content should adapt to the transformations registered in the economic and spatial dynamics of the growth pole, while continuing the main line of development, focusing on territorial cooperation between the territorial-administrative units in order to mobilize human and material resources.

Consequently, the review of the vision’s content will have to take into account the following areas for which growth could simultaneously be pursued:

- A pole of economic concentration dominated by clean productive activities and energy co-generation
- A business partner — competitive for investors
- An attractive and comfortable place to live in for all inhabitants from its component localities
- A knowledge-based community where human strength and knowledge constitute the driving force of the growth pole

Urban and knowledge infrastructure, improved through projects implemented in the 2007-2014 period, have laid the foundation for the development of a strong local / metropolitan economy with jobs that generate added value in the 2025 timeframe. The functioning of a mature, attractive, and competitive economy will support the sustainable development of the territory, as well as the social cohesion of the inhabitants of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole.

Development Vision

The Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole — a knowledge-based community, open to partnerships in the complex fields of sustainable exploitation of resources and quality of life improvement for all its inhabitants.

Even if the development vision is accepted at the metropolitan level, it is still creating priority areas and differentiated responsibilities for the municipality of Ploiești and its neighbouring towns and communes:

- (a) The municipality of Ploiești will have to strengthen its polarizing role in the region, but also to make the best use of its competitive advantages gained between 2007 and 2014, as well as to make progress with respect to value-adding aspects such as urban regeneration or the development of cultural and recreational infrastructures, among others.
- (b) The neighbouring localities shall make efforts towards the completion of works in the field of technical, public utility and public transport infrastructures, while continuing the process of improving localization factors in order to tackle demographic decline and to attract new residents.

In terms of increasing territorial cohesion and the efficiency in the use of natural and land resources, the partners of the growth pole will have to coordinate economic and social development with the aim of adopting joint decisions on the selection, localization, and implementation of development projects between 2014 and 2020; these projects should lead to enhancing the efforts and maximizing the multiplying effects.

Strategic Objectives

IUDP 2007-2013 has set out three strategic objectives, each supported by a series of sectoral objectives, as follows:

Strategic objective A

Supporting the sustainable economic development, integrated through innovative energies and technologies in Ploiești Growth Pole

- **Sectoral objective A1:** Supporting investments in green technologies, cutting-edge manufacturing industry, energy efficiency technological solutions, alternative energies and their associated infrastructure;
- **Sectoral objective A2:** Active involvement of the research sector in the development of new products and technologies;
- **Sectoral objective A3:** Supporting the development of economic activities in the Growth Pole area.

Strategic objective B

Sustainable territorial development by improving the urban infrastructure and the functional relations between rural and urban areas and the economic-industrial area within Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole

- **Sectoral objective B1:** Establishing connections with the European road network and developing modern infrastructures for the access to economic areas, industrial parks / platforms and other functional areas, while developing efficient and clean urban transport in the Growth Pole area;
- **Sectoral objective B2:** Protecting the environment and human health through the provision of quality public services;
- **Sectoral objective B3:** Enhancing the natural, traditional, cultural, and historical heritage, as well as tourism and recreational area planning; support environmental protection actions and the development of green areas.

Strategic objective C

Human capital development by ensuring equal access for all the inhabitants of the Growth Pole

- **Sectoral objective C1:** Improving the quality of the social infrastructure through investments in the benefit of disadvantaged groups, as well as supporting their reintegration into society;
- **Sectoral objective C2:** Human resource development through increasing the quality of the education and training infrastructure;
- **Sectoral objective C3:** Developing healthcare infrastructure by ensuring professional medical care in modern and properly equipped facilities;
- **Sectoral objective C4:** Increasing the operational capacity of the administration through knowledge management and the use of innovative technologies.

The results of the diagnosis together with the SWOT analysis and the development priorities of the South Muntenia Region¹ lead to the formulation of an active development scenario based on the tandem between strengths and opportunities, in order to build on the results achieved in the 2007-2014 period in the field of accessibility and with respect to the technical, public utility, education, and healthcare infrastructures. The transition to a new development phase by enhancing the strengths and by developing areas that generate added value are reflected in the wording of the strategic and sectoral objectives, as follows:

Strategic objective A: Supporting sustainable economic development, integrated through innovative energies and technologies

- Sectoral objective A1: Support sustainable economic development
- Sectoral objective A2: Support the SME sector, entrepreneurship and business creation

Strategic objective B: Sustainable territorial development by improving urban infrastructure and relations among functional areas

- Sectoral objective B1: Improve territorial connectivity
- Sectoral objective B2: Protect energy resources and the quality of natural and built environment

Strategic objective C: Human capital development by ensuring equal access to quality public services for all citizens

- Sectoral objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services
- Sectoral objective C2: Increasing the capacity of Local Public Authorities

Development Programs

Strategic objective A

Supporting sustainable economic development, integrated through innovative energies and technologies

- Sectoral objective A1: Supporting sustainable economic development
 - Program for the enlargement / development of industrial parks
 - Program to support RDI activities
- Sectoral objective A2: Supporting the SME sector, entrepreneurship and business creation
 - Support program for SMEs and business creation
 - Support program for agricultural activities
 - Development program for the tourism infrastructure

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE B

Sustainable territorial development by improving urban infrastructure and relations among functional areas

- Sectoral objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity
 - Program to increase accessibility throughout the growth pole (bypass routes, passages, intersections)
 - Program for clean public transport
 - Program for multimodal terminals
 - Program for parking planning
 - Program for road upgrading and repairing
 - Program for traffic safety
- Sectoral objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of natural and built environment
 - Program for heat / gas supply
 - Program for increasing the energy efficiency of buildings
 - Program for water supply and sewage systems
 - Program for land reclassification / brownfields
 - Program for the rehabilitation of buildings subject to seismic risks

¹(1) Sustainable development of regional and local infrastructure, (2) Sustainable urban development, (3) Increasing the competitiveness of the regional economy in the long term. (4) Environmental protection and increased energy efficiency. (5) Supporting education and employment, (6) Supporting healthcare and social protection services, (7) Rural development and agriculture



- Program for the rehabilitation of built heritage
- Program for the rehabilitation of public areas situated among residential buildings, as well as of playgrounds
- Program for parks and green areas
- Program for the rehabilitation and construction of cultural facilities
- Program supporting trade / agri-food markets
- Program for the rehabilitation and construction of sports / recreational facilities
- Program for public lighting, electrical networks and IT
- Program supporting the production of alternative energy

Strategic objective C:

Human capital development by ensuring equal access to quality public services for all citizens

- Sectoral objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services
 - Social infrastructure program
 - Program for the rehabilitation and extension of school infrastructure
 - Program for nurseries and kindergartens
 - Healthcare infrastructure program
 - Program supporting education and employment
 - Program for town halls and other public function establishments
 - Program for residential construction
 - Education programme for safety and emergency situations
- Sectoral objective C2: Increasing the capacity of Local Public Authorities
 - Program for communication and transparency in decision-making
 - Program for improving the performance of the public administration

The correlation between the sectoral objectives and the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, as well as the priorities of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 is presented in the following matrix.



Table 39. Matrix of the correlation between the Growth Pole development objectives and the EU policy documents

EU policy documents and priorities		The Europe 2020 Strategy											
		OT1	OT2	OT3	OT4	OT5	OT6	OT7	OT8	OT9	OT10	OT11	
Promoting polycentric and balanced territorial development Encouraging integrated development in cities, rural and specific regions Territorial integration in cross-border and transnational functional regions Ensuring global competitiveness of the regions based on strong local economies Improving territorial connectivity for individuals, communities and enterprises Managing and connecting ecological, landscape and cultural values of regions	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector and the fisheries and aquaculture sector	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	Promoting sustainable transport systems and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility	Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty	Investing in education, skills and lifelong learning	Enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration		
	Sectoral objective A1: Supporting sustainable economic development		Sectoral objective A2: Supporting the SME sector, entrepreneurship and business creation	Sectoral objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of natural and built environment		Sectoral objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services		Sectoral objective C2: Increasing the capacity of Local Public Authorities					
	Sectoral objective A1: Supporting sustainable economic development Sectoral objective A2: Supporting the SME sector, entrepreneurship and business creation		Sectoral objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity		Sectoral objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of natural and built environment								
	Sectoral objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of natural and built environment												
Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020													

Table 40. Matrix of the correlation between the Growth Pole development objectives and the national policy documents

Strategic objectives / IUDP sectoral objectives	Specific objectives RTDS 2035	Priority axes / OP priorities		
		ROP 2014-2020	LI OP 2014-2020	COMP OP 2014-2020
<p>Strategic objective A: Supporting sustainable economic development, integrated through innovative energies and technologies</p> <p>Sectoral objective A1: Supporting sustainable economic development</p> <p>Sectoral objective A2: Supporting the SME sector, entrepreneurship and business creation</p>	<p>S.O. 3.1: Developing specialized and intelligent urban centres with international pole vocation, and their efficient connection to the European urban network</p>	<p>P.A. 1: Promoting technological transfer P.A. 2: Improving competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises P.A. 7: Diversifying local economies through sustainable tourism development</p>	<p>P.A. 6: Promoting clean energy and energy efficiency in order to support a low-carbon economy</p>	<p>P.A. 1: Research, technological development and innovation (RDI) in support of economic competitiveness and business development</p> <p>P.A. 2: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for a competitive digital economy</p>

Activities at national level			Development priorities of the RDP SOUTH MUNTENIA 2014-2020	Development priorities of the CDP PRAHOVA 2014-2020
HC OP 2014-2020	AC OP 2014-2020	NRDP 2014-2020		
<p>P.A. 3: Employment for all</p> <p>P.A. 6: Education and competences</p>		<p>P1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas</p> <p>P2: Enhancing farm viability and the competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative agricultural technologies as well as the sustainable management of forests</p> <p>P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture</p> <p>P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low-carbon and climate resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors</p> <p>P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas</p>	<p>P3: Increasing the competitiveness of the regional economy in the long term</p> <p>P5: Supporting education and employment</p> <p>P7: Rural development and agriculture</p>	<p>P1: Sustainable development of local and county-level infrastructure, including tourism infrastructure</p> <p>P3: Developing the business support infrastructure, increasing economic competitiveness</p> <p>P7: Rural development</p>

Table 40. Matrix of the correlation between the Growth Pole development objectives and the national policy documents (continued from previous page)

Strategic objectives / IUDP sectoral objectives	Specific objectives RTDS 2035	Priority axes / OP priorities		
		ROP 2014-2020	LI OP 2014-2020	COMP OP 2014-2020
<p>Strategic objective B: Sustainable territorial development by improving urban infrastructure and relations among functional areas</p> <p>Sectoral objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity</p> <p>Sectoral objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of natural and built environment</p>	<p>S.O. 1.1: Developing an efficient and diversified transport network capable to ensure the management of flows of people and goods generated by the economic exchanges between the national territory and the European markets</p> <p>S.O. 1.2: Developing and expanding port and airport infrastructures, as well as their connection with the national urban centres in order to consolidate Romania's position as regional logistic hub</p> <p>S.O. 1.3: Enhancing the energy transport infrastructure and its connection to pan-European projects with regional and national impact</p> <p>S.O. 2.1: Ensuring a fully-fledged infrastructure of public utilities for urban and rural localities</p> <p>S.O. 2.2: Ensuring increased accessibility at a territorial level and efficient connectivity between large cities and the functional urban area</p> <p>S.O. 2.3: Increasing the attractiveness of urban and rural spaces by improving residential functions, developing quality public spaces and a number of transport services adjusted to local needs and specific conditions</p> <p>S.O. 3.2: Fostering the development of functional urban areas around the cities with a polarizing role throughout the territory</p> <p>S.O. 3.3: Strengthening the role of rural areas with polarizing potential in order to ensure increased accessibility of the rural population to services of general interest</p> <p>S.O. 3.4: Supporting the development of urban systems and the development axes throughout the territory by providing territorially integrated interventions</p> <p>S.O. 4.1: Heritage protection and the promotion of natural capital recovery measures</p> <p>S.O. 4.2: Protecting and rehabilitating the built heritage in order to preserve the national identity and to increase the attractiveness of cultural spaces with great tourism potential</p> <p>S.O. 4.3: Reducing the vulnerability of areas subject to natural hazards</p> <p>S.O. 4.4: Ensuring a balanced development of the rural and urban environment by protecting agricultural land resources and limiting the expansion of built-up areas of towns</p>	<p>P.A. 3: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors</p> <p>P.A. 4: Supporting sustainable urban development</p> <p>P.A. 5: Conservation, protection and sustainable exploitation of cultural heritage</p> <p>P.A. 6: Improving the road infrastructure of regional and local importance</p>	<p>P.A. 1: Improving mobility through the development of the TEN-T network and of the subway service</p> <p>P.A. 2: Developing a high-quality, sustainable and efficient multimodal transport system</p> <p>P.A. 3: Developing the environment infrastructure in terms of efficient resource management</p> <p>P.A. 4: Protecting the environment through measures aiming at the preservation of biodiversity, air quality monitoring and the de-contamination of historically contaminated sites</p> <p>P.A. 5: Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management</p> <p>P.A. 6: Promoting clean energy and energy efficiency in order to support a low-carbon economy</p> <p>P.A. 7: Increasing energy efficiency of the centralized heating systems in the selected towns</p> <p>P.A. 8: Intelligent and sustainable transport systems for electricity and natural gas</p>	

Activities at national level			Development priorities of the RDP SOUTH MUNTENIA 2014-2020	Development priorities of the CDP PRAHOVA 2014-2020
HC OP 2014-2020	AC OP 2014-2020	NRDP 2014-2020		
		<p>P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry</p> <p>P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors</p>	<p>P1: Sustainable development of local and regional infrastructure</p> <p>P2: Sustainable urban development</p> <p>P4: Environmental protection and increased energy efficiency</p> <p>P7: Rural development and agriculture</p>	<p>P1: Sustainable development of local and county-level infrastructure, including tourism infrastructure</p> <p>P2: Sustainable urban development</p> <p>P4: Environmental protection and increased energy efficiency</p> <p>P7: Rural development</p>

Table 40. Matrix of the correlation between the Growth Pole development objectives and the national policy documents (continued from previous page)

Strategic objectives / IUDP sectoral objectives	Specific objectives RTDS 2035	Priority axes / OP priorities		
		ROP 2014-2020	LI OP 2014-2020	COMP OP 2014-2020
<p>Strategic objective C: Human capital development by ensuring equal access to quality public services for all citizens</p> <p>Sectoral objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services</p> <p>Sectoral objective C2: Increasing the capacity of Local Public Authorities</p>	<p>S.O. 3.1: Developing specialized and intelligent urban centres with international pole vocation, and their efficient connection to the European urban network</p> <p>S.O. 2.4: Providing quality social services by ensuring a diversification of these services throughout the territory and improving access of the population</p> <p>S.O. 5.1: Strengthening the capacity of multi-level governance structures and diversifying the forms of cooperation of the public administration structures</p> <p>S.O. 5.2: Strengthening spatial planning instruments and institutions involved in the management and design of territory development processes (or territorial planning processes)</p> <p>S.O. 5.3: Strengthening cooperation and planning capacity at cross-border and transnational levels</p>	<p>P.A. 4: Supporting sustainable urban development</p> <p>P.A. 8: Developing the healthcare and social infrastructure</p> <p>P.A. 9: Supporting the economic and social regeneration of communities in disadvantaged urban areas</p> <p>P.A. 10: Improving the educational infrastructure</p>		

Activities at national level			Development priorities of the RDP SOUTH MUNTENIA 2014-2020	Development priorities of the CDP PRAHOVA 2014-2020
HC OP 2014-2020	AC OP 2014-2020	NRDP 2014-2020		
<p>P.A. 1: Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)</p> <p>P.A. 2: Improving the situation of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)</p> <p>P.A. 3: Employment for all</p> <p>P.A. 4: Social inclusion and combating poverty</p> <p>P.A. 5: Community-led local development</p> <p>P.A. 6: Education and competences</p>	<p>P.A. 1: Accessible and transparent public administration and judicial system</p> <p>P.A. 2: Accessible and transparent public administration and judicial system</p>	<p>P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas</p>	<p>P2: Sustainable urban development</p> <p>P5: Supporting education and employment</p> <p>P6: Supporting the healthcare and social protection systems</p>	<p>P5: Human resources development, supporting education and employment</p> <p>P6: Supporting the healthcare and social protection systems</p>

PART II: The Integrated Strategy for the Growth Pole



Project Portfolio

Project Portfolio

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
Prahova County Council (CC)					
Sectorial objective A1: Supporting a sustainable economic development					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: industrial parks					
1.	Extention / development of industrial parks that are under the administration of the public sector	Ploiești, Brazi, Plopeni	Prahova County Council (CC) (partnerships with TAUs)		Prahova County Council Strategy
2.	Modernization and extention of existing infrastructure - roads and utilities at Bărcănești Industrial Park	Bărcănești	Prahova CC	SF 2014	
AREA OF INTERVENTION: RDI activities					
3.	Regional park for R&D activities in the sector of clean technologies - Development / extention / modernization of the Oil and Gas University (UPG) Ploiești and its endowment with infrastructure for RDI and technological transfer	Ploiești	UPG		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
4.	Center for technological transfer and elaboration of new educational products regarding the energy sector	Ploiești	UPG		
Sectorial objective A2: Supporting the SME sector, entrepreneurship, and business start-up					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: agricultural activities					
5.	Promoting local products in Prahova County through the establishment of a Center for Information in Ploiești and the set-up of a website for the promotion of Prahova County producers (crafts, handicrafts, organic farming, beekeeping, furniture, accommodation and bio services)	Ploiești	Prahova CC	Project idea	Strategy of Prahova CC
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: accesibility and mobility					
6.	Bypass between DN 1 and DN 72 + discharge node A3	Ploiești, Ariceștii Rahtivani, Blejoi, Păulești, Brazi	Prahova CC	Traffic assessment, approval of the Zonal Urban Plan (ZUP)	Strategy of Prahova CC
7.	Rehabilitation and development of county roads (DJ 100F, DJ 100E, DJ 215) by restoring the asphalt, building bike lanes, sidewalks and ditches (DJ 100F, section of Independence Street, from Gladiolelor Street to Găgeni Canton, DJ 100E, DJ 215)	Băicoi DJ 100F =10km DJ 100E= 5,3km DJ 15=6,13km	Prahova CC		Update of Băicoi Strategy

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
8.	Modernization and rehabilitation of the county roads identified under Priority no. 1 of Sud Muntenia Region – regional routes 2 and 3 – section Prahova - DJ 720	Prahova CC	Prahova CC		
9.	Rehabilitation of DJ 100F between Băicoi and Boldești-Scăeni	Băicoi, Boldești-Scăeni	Prahova CC		Local Strategies
10.	Modernization of DJ 129 (plus upgrading road verges and building bike lanes)	Târgșoru Vechi	Prahova CC		Local Strategies
AREA OF INTERVENTION: clean public transport					
11.	Building a public transport line linking the localities of the Growth Pole	TAU PC	IDA PC		
12.	Building bike lanes at the level of Ploiești Growth Pole / Developing new continuous routes - bike lanes on the access roads of the city, and integrating the existing ones in a municipal network	TAU PC	Prahova CC	Project idea	TRACE P3
AREA OF INTERVENTION: traffic safety					
13.	Increasing road traffic safety on DN 1 / E60 in Prahova County		County Police Inspectorate, Prahova		Investments Plan (County Police Inspectorate)
14.	Safe Ploiești – implementing a monitoring system of all access routes in Ploiești and the largest intersections		County Police Inspectorate, Prahova		
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: thermal energy / gas supply					
15.	Modernizing the primary thermal network of SACET Ploiești:				Strategy Prahova CC TRACE P2
16.	a. M. Bravu zone, artery IV Center (between “Upetrom” and M. Viteazul Marketplace), 9–Mai zone, artery I+III West (between M. Viteazul Marketplace, “Cablul Românesc” area and Ploiești Emergency Hospital), artery III West (between CFR passage zone “West Railway” and Aurora Marketplace), artery I West (between CMZ West zone and Domnișori Street), section of artery VI (Torcători Street)	Ploiești	Partnership Prahova CC + Ploiești Local Council (+Veolia Energie PH)		
17.	b. Artery CET Brazi – Platform F25 (Dn 1000,900,2x700mm)				
18.	c. Surface area of artery I West (between CFR passage zone “West Railway” and Ploiești Emergency Hospital); surface area of artery II South (between West Railway and Upetrom)				
19.	d. Section of artery IV Center				
20.	Modernizing the secondary thermal network corresponding to PT 43, SACET Ploiești	Ploiești		Partnership Prahova CC + Ploiești Local Council (+Veolia Energie PH)	
21.	Rehabilitating the Chimney no. 2 corresponding to the stage 2 x 105 + 1 x 50 MW	CET Brazi	Partnership Prahova CC + Ploiești Local Council (+Veolia Energie PH)		
22.	Refurbishment of Boiler no. 5	CET Brazi	Partnership Prahova CC + Ploiești Local Council (+Veolia Energie PH)		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: built heritage					
23.	Putting in value the Art Museum of Ploiești	Ploiești	Prahova County Art Museum “Ion Ionescu-Quintus”		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
24.	Restoration, consolidation, rearrangement of "Paul Constantinescu" Memorial Museum (the house of the musician Paul Constantinescu) - Ploiești	Ploiești	Prahova CC	Project idea	
25.	Rehabilitation of the historical and cultural area of Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	Partnership Prahova CC + Dumbrăvești		Strategy Prahova CC
26.	Restoration and sustainable valorization of the cultural heritage, and development / modernization of related infrastructure	Dumbrăvești	County Museum of History and Archeology		
27.	Modernization of the access road towards the "Castrul Roman" 101-118 and "Băile Romane" archaeological site and its conservation in view of introducing it in the touristic circuit	Dumbrăvești	Partnership MC and CCP	FS/PT 2011	Strategy of Dumbrăvești
28.	Preserving the "Neolithic Settlement - Râpa Mălăeștii de Jos point" archaeological site in view of introducing it in the touristic circuit	Dumbrăvești	Partnership MC and CCP		Strategy of Dumbrăvești
29.	Archaeological and Museum Park "Castrul Roman" - harnessing its scientific, educational, and touristic value	Târgșoru Vechi	County Museum of History and Archeology		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
30.	Regularization and ecologization of Dâmbu creek bed	Ploiești, Băicoi	Romanian Waters, Prahova CC, partnerships with LPAs		
31.	Developing, modernizing and extending the water and sewerage system in Prahova County - stage II	Prahova County	IDA Water and Prahova CC	Master Plan stage II	Master Plan stage II
AREA OF INTERVENTION: parks and green areas					
32.	Rehabilitation of "Constantin Stere" recreational park	Ploiești – Bucov	IDA PC	F.S. 2015-2016	Strategy Prahova CC
33.	Rehabilitation and development of forest belts for protecting national roads and railways		Prahova Forestry Inspectorate		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: waste management					
34.	System of integrated waste management in Prahova County - Zone 2: Phase 2 - mechanical and biological treatment plant in Ploiești, and equipment	Ploiești	IDA Waste + Prahova CC	Master Plan stage II	Master Plan stage II
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: health infrastructure					
35.	County Emergency Hospital Ploiești - improving the energy efficiency of the building	Ploiești	Prahova CC	F.S. 2015	Strategy Prahova CC
36.	County Emergency Hospital Ploiești - rehabilitating / extending / modernizing / endowing the Emergency Unit	Ploiești	Prahova CC	F.S. 2015	Strategy Prahova CC
37.	Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital Ploiești - improving the energy efficiency of the building	Ploiești	Prahova CC	F.S. 2015-2016	Strategy Prahova CC
38.	Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital Ploiești - rehabilitation / modernization / equipping of the ambulatories' infrastructure; establishing and endowing with infrastructure an Emergency Room	Ploiești	Prahova CC	Project idea	Strategy Prahova CC

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
AREA OF INTERVENTION: education and employment					
39.	Projects for increasing the activation of the inactive population, the involvement of the County Employment Agency (AJOFM) in underemployment, youth employment, etc.		AJOFM Prahova		Strategy of AJOFM
AREA OF INTERVENTION: education for emergency situations and safety					
40.	Creating a center for information, training and awareness regarding the behavior in emergency situations and natural disasters, arising from climate change and natural disasters		Prahova County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations		
41.	Crearea unui centru de formare și pregătire continuă a personalului paramedical din cadrul SMURD Creating a center for training and continuous training of SMURD paramedical staff		Prahova County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations		
42.	Creating an integrated county dispatch SMURD - County Ambulance Service	Bărcănești	Prahova CC	Analisis plan and risk coverage / F.S. 2015	Strategy of Prahova CC
43.	Participation in improving the urban environment through the functional conversion and reuse of land adjacent to the building located in Ploiești, 3, Ghihiului Street, and belonging to the Gendarmerie Inspectorate Prahova (IJP), as a recreational area for military personnel (sports fields, bicycle lanes, playgrounds for children, etc.)	Ploiești			
44.	Increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in the building belonging to the Gendarmerie Inspectorate in Ploiești city, Prahova County	Ploiești			
45.	Establishing a modern center of physical and tactical training for all relevant institutions involved in providing / maintaining public security (at the logistics base of IJP in Tătărani)	Bărcănești (Tătărani)	County Police Inspectorate		
46.	Construction of an overground detention place at the logistics base of IJP in Tatarani	Bărcănești (Tătărani)	County Police Inspectorate		
Sectorial objective C2: Increasing the capacity of LPA					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: marketing and promotion					
47.	Industrial heritage of Prahova County – history, informatised accounts, perspectives	Ploiești	County Directorate for Culture, Prahova		
Ploiești LPA (Operational budget: 289 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective A2: Supporting the SME sector, entrepreneurship, and business start-up					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: support for SMEs and buiness start-ups					
1.	Establishing an information office for business start-up	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
2.	Business incubator by rehabilitating the built facilities in partnership with the private sector	Ploiești	Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: agricultural activities					
3.	Rehabilitation, expansion, and modernization greenhouses in 81, Mircea cel Bătrân Street, Ploiești	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
4.	Cleaning and greening the land area of 10 ha in T35A493 and its reintroduction in the agricultural circuit	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: tourism infrastructure					
5.	Marketing activities and tourism advertising in a project that may include the cultural attractions of Ploiești Municipality	Ploiești	"Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești	Project idea	
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: accessibility and mobility					
6.	Ensuring accessibility in Ploiești South industrial zone and in the university campus by developing a road passage over CF South Station - Restoration of the bridge that connects the Southern area of Ploiești Municipality (towards Mimi) - Marin Mehedinteanu Street and Depot Street, necessary for the takeover and streamlining of traffic in the South of the city	Ploiești	Ploiești - RASP Ploiești	Technical design and execution details finalized in 2006 for the rehabilitation of the existent bridge	Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
7.	Increasing accessibility in the Eastern part of Ploiești towards the Pan-European Corridor TEN-IX by making a road passage over the railway, in the SE of the city	Ploiești	Ploiești	F.S. completed in July 2003	Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
8.	Ensuring traffic mobility through the extension of the road and public transport link between South Station and West Station (Liberty Street), including the rehabilitation of the markets located on the public domain in the rail stations	Ploiești	Ploiești	F.S. being updated	Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
9.	South Station - North Station: Developing access routes from the South area towards Bereasca district and North Station along the Dambu stream (including related art works, Râfov passage, bridges over Dambu stream)	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2026
10.	Complete circulation ring road no. III, South Station - Dambu section	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
11.	Complete circulation ring road no. III, Bucov Barrier - Găgeni section	Ploiești	Ploiești		
12.	Overground passage, Laboratorului Street	Ploiești	Ploiești		
13.	Developing the intersection between Ștrandului Street with NE ring road, DN 1B	Ploiești	Ploiești	F.S.	LCD 38/10.02.2014
14.	Road infrastructure development in the following locations: Gh. Cantacuzino Str. in the CFR passage area "High Bridge" through its enlargement to 4 lanes, the rehabilitation of Gh. Cantacuzino Str. on the Western highway - city limit section, including intermodal terminal	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
15.	Modernizing Ștrandului Street, section between the exit of Bucov passage and Ploiești Municipality roadway, including the set-up of a roundabout on Ștrandului Street / DN 1B	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
16.	Traffic streamlining on the extension of Libertății Street	Ploiești	Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: clean public transport					
17.	Implementing measures from CIVITAS projects (pedestrianize and control traffic in the central area) and developing bike lanes on the priority routes from the mobility plan	Ploiești	Ploiești		TRACE P3 mobility plan
18.	Extending the trolleybus network on the following directions: South Station – Hippodrome, extendible up to Bărcănești High School; Hale – Bereasca – C.Stere Park (Bucov), extendible up to Bucov; High Bridge – Ploiești Industrial Park, extendible up to Ploiești West Park; County Hospital – Păulești Park, extendible up to Plopeni	Ploiești	S.C Transport Călători Express S.A.		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025, TRACE P4
19.	Modernizing / renewing the fleet of autovehicles with electric traction (tramways = 25 units, trolleybuses = 21 units)	Ploiești	S.C Transport Călători Express S.A.		
20.	Implementing the traffic management system, including ticketing for local transport: purchase of automatic ticket machine (min. 50 units); purchase of validator machines mountable in autovehicles (approx. 780 units); modernizing the centers for issuing / charging cards (13 spots);	Ploiești	S.C Transport Călători Express S.A.		
21.	Modernizing / renewing the bus fleet (85-90 units)	Ploiești	S.C Transport Călători Express S.A.		TRACE P4
22.	Modernization of local public transport stations: mounting large roofS., lighting, free internet system, information boards for travelers, etc. (approx. 200 pieces)	Ploiești	S.C Transport Călători Express S.A.		
23.	Modernisation / reconditioning of the material and technical basis of the of the public transport production system: consolidation / thermal rehabilitation of both workshops for repairing / maintaining / painting cars, and stores for replacement parts, located in Ploiești, 88, Găgeni Street, including tram depot; replacing the heating / ventilation system of the workshops and headquarter in Ploiești, 88, Găgeni Street, including tram depot; building covered / half-sheltered parking spaces at the headquarters in Ploiești, 88, Găgeni Street, including tram depot; endowment with tools, devices and specialized equipment for diagnosis and repair of diesel, LPG, and electric vehicles	Ploiești	S.C Transport Călători Express S.A.		
24.	Finishing tram infrastructure	Ploiești	Ploiești		Mobility plan

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
AREA OF INTERVENTION: multimodal terminals					
25.	Increasing mobility in traffic by building the Northwest multimodal terminal, including parking spaces for cars and bicycles (the County Hospital area)	Ploiești	Ploiești	F.S. currently under elaboration; traffic study	Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
26.	Park & ride at West Station	Ploiești	Ploiești		Mobility plan
27.	Rehabilitating the passenger car transport terminal in the Southern area	Ploiești	Ploiești	Project proposal	Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
AREA OF INTERVENTION: parking development					
28.	Establishing truck parkings	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
29.	Developing parking spaces in the areas surrounding the Central Markets, Prahova Hotel, South Station, West Station	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
30.	Building overground parking S+P+5 (in the historical monuments protection area, according to the Law no. 422/2001 on historical monuments)	Ploiești	SC Hale si Piete SA		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: road upgrading / repairing					
31.	Upgrading access roads - the entrances to Ploiești city / rehabilitation / modernization of street infrastructure, with priority given to the streets entrances to the city and to the suburbs, including sidewalks, squares, parallel parking, intersections, roundabouts	Ploiești	RASP Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
32.	Modernization of the street structure in Mitică Apostol district	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate	Starting Order for field studies, the documentation for sewage is in place	Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
33.	Modernization of the street structure in Pictor Rosenthal district	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate	Starting Order for field studies	
34.	Modernization of the street structure in Rafov district	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate		
35.	Modernization of the street structure in Vega colon	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate	The legal status of the land is not clear; no Starting Order	
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: improving the energy efficiency of the buildings					
36.	Improving the efficiency of energy consumption in public buildings	Ploiești	Ploiești		TRACE P5

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
37.	Energy rehabilitation of residential buildings	Ploiești/ West Ploiești district	Ploiești	The existing documentations should be updated; completed technical designs, but no requests from homeowners associations	Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
38.	Improving the thermal insulation of the building envelope (exterior walls, windows, carpentry, upper floor, floor above the basement, etc.) - "Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești	Ploiești	"Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești		
39.	Implementation of energy management systems aimed at improving energy efficiency and at monitoring energy consumption in the institution - "Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești	Ploiești	"Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești		
40.	Replacing fluorescent and incandescent lighting luminaires with energy efficient and long-life lamps - "Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești	Ploiești	"Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
41.	Rehabilitation and development of the drinking water system in coordination with the Master Plan for drinking water supply, developed by Apa Nova Ploiești, with priority in Apostol, Mimi, Râfov, and Bereasca districts (network rehabilitation, network expansion, pump station rehabilitation in Găgeni-North)	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
42.	Ensuring safety and protection of water sources, namely the establishment of sanitary protection zones	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
43.	Expansion / modernization of sewerage treatment plant - Implementing the EC directive on the use of sludge from treatment plants	Ploiești	Ploiești		
44.	Execution watering systems in the following parks: Mihai Viteazul Dendrological Park, Melc South Park, Civic Center Public Garden (Nichita Stănescu area), Camelia Public Garden (McDonalds Park), West 1 Public Garden, Modern Park, Aurora Park	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
45.	Developing the banks of Dâmbu creek, building new bridges over Dâmbu creek, developing traffic arteries on the banks of the creek	Ploiești	Ploiești	Project proposal	Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
46.	Restoration and upgrading of toilets and infrastructure (asphalting the alleys, water and sewage installations, lighting installations, landfill) in Vișoara, Bolovani, Eternitatea, Mihai Bravu cemeteries	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
AREA OF INTERVENTION: converting lands / brownfields					
47.	Functional reconversion of industrial areas and degraded lands (brownfields) – Industrial South, Grivco, Upetrom, UZUC, Lukoil	Ploiești	Uncertain property, hindering the establishment of the project initiator		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
AREA OF INTERVENTION: seismic risk buildings					
48.	Inventorying seismic risk buildings and developing an action plan for the rehabilitation of earthquake damaged buildings	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
49.	Rehabilitation / strengthening of the public buildings that risk to collapse	Ploiești	Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: built heritage					
50.	Rehabilitation of monument buildings of category A and B	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
51.	Refurbishment, restoration, consolidation, repartitioning of the building located on 16 Independence Boulevard, Ploiești, and transforming its garret into an attic	Ploiești	Ploiești		
52.	Refurbishment, restoration, consolidation, repartitioning of the building located on 33 Democracy Street, Ploiești (Marriage House), and transforming its garret into an attic	Ploiești	Ploiești		
53.	Rehabilitation and upgrading of the fountain of the Administrative Palace	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
54.	Reabilitare, refacere, modernizare, capele cimitire Eternitatea, Mihai Bravu Rehabilitation, reconstruction, modernization of chapels at Eternitatea and Mihai Bravu cemeteries	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
55.	Expanding the administrative building of Bolovani	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
56.	Modernization of the Central Markets (Halele Centrale) building - historical and architectural monument, included in the list of historical monuments of exceptional national interest	Ploiești	SC Hale si Piete SA		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public space, space between blocks, playgrounds					
57.	Rehabilitation of spaces between blocks, mainly in the district of Ploiești West I and II	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
58.	Landscaping of the historical-pedestrian area in Ploiești Municipality	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
59.	Building a pedestrian alley on 5 Anton Pann Street	Ploiești	“Paul Constantinescu” Philharmonic, Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: parks and green areas					
60.	Protection and monitoring of trees included in the list of nature monuments and planting trees and shrubs in areas with no vegetation	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
61.	Planting forest protection belts on the Eastern and Western ring roads of Ploiești Municipality	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
62.	Reconfiguring green spaces and rehabilitating and modernizing the infrastructure of Tineretului Park	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
63.	Endowment with toilets in Tineretului Park	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
64.	Endowment with urban furniture and landscaping (walkways, pergolas) for the following parks: Bucov Barrier Public Garden, South Station Public Garden, West 1 Public Garden, Camelia Public Garden	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
65.	Photovoltaic Park in Ploiești Municipality	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
66.	Execution and installation of artistic elements (Landart) on specific themes of Ploiești in the parks of the city	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: cultural units					
67.	Creating a cultural /scientific park by relocating / arranging the seat of the Oil Museum	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
68.	Turning municipal libraries into information centers with internet connection	Ploiești	Ploiești		
69.	Developing a route with galleries and exhibitions in the central area of the Municipality, in the territory bounded by "Nichita Stănescu" Park, "Toma Caragiu" Theatre, and the Central Markets (Halele Centrale)	Ploiești	Ploiești		
70.	Consolidating and expanding the concert hall of the "Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești / including indoor and outdoor facilities	Ploiești	Ploiești	Auction organized in 2009	
71.	Polivalent (multifunctional) hall at Patria Cinema	Ploiești	Ploiești	Modernized in 2011	
72.	Rearrangement by extension and stacking the building situated in 14 Independence Boulevard, Ploiești (Puppet Theatre)	Ploiești	Puppet Theatre		
73.	Extending and equipping "Toma Caragiu" Theatre	Ploiești	"Toma Caragiu" Theatre, Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: commerce / agrifood markets					
74.	Rehabilitation and expansion of agrifood markets in district centers	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
75.	Revitalization of street commerce in the pedestrian zone of the center	Ploiești	Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: sports / leisure facilities					
76.	Promoting and supporting the creation of sports and recreation centers in the highly populated districts of the city, in partnership with the school network by building sports facilities in green and interstitial district areas (panels basketball, tracks for running, rollers, skates, etc.)	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
77.	Rehabilitation and consolidation of Vega swimming pool	Ploiești	Municipal Sports Club	Technical expertise and documentations of approval for intervention works (D.A.L.I.), LCD for approving indicators (132/27.04.2011); land under discussion with Rompetrol	
78.	Developing recreation areas in the Northern district (Camelia Street, Bl D1, in front of "Nichita Stănescu" High School), the Western district (Iezerului Street), and the "May 9th" (Somes Alley, Bl 9C, "May 9th" Market, Prislop Alley)	Ploiești			
79.	Building a covered swimming pool - Proposed location: inside the sports complex "Vointa" - Conpet	Ploiești	Municipal Sports Club		
80.	Building a speed skating track - Proposed location: inside Ploiești Hippodrome	Ploiești	Municipal Sports Club		
81.	Construction of outdoor running track - Proposed location: inside the Municipal West Park	Ploiești	Municipal Sports Club		
82.	Construction of accommodation facilities for athletes legiTimișed at CSM Ploiești, residing in other localities - Proposed location: inside Ploiești Hippodrome	Ploiești	Municipal Sports Club		
83.	Construction of a 6,000-seat polyvalent hall - Proposed location: inside Municipal West Park	Ploiești	Municipal Sports Club		
84.	Building an indoor ice rink, functional inclusively during summer, for the training of the speed skating section of the Municipal Sports Club, Ploiești - Proposed location: inside the Municipal West Park	Ploiești	Municipal Sports Club		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public lighting, electrical networks, and IT					
85.	Expanding LED lighting	Ploiești	Ploiești		TRACE P6
86.	Introducing underground conduits (burying cables)	Ploiești	Ploiești		
87.	Installing WI-FI in the following locations: Tineretului Park, Mihai Viteazul Dendrological Park, Aurora Park, Liberty Park, OZN Park, West 1 Public Garden	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
88.	Video monitoring in the following locations: Tineretului Park, Mihai Viteazul Dendrological Park, Aurora Park, Liberty Park, OZN Park, Bucov Barrier Public Gardem, South Station Public Garden	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
89.	Video monitoring for all paid parkings in Ploiești Municipality	Ploiești	SGU Ploiești		
90.	Upgrading power supply stations for trams / trolleys (4 stations)	Ploiești	S.C Transport Călători Express S.A.		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
91.	Installing a professional and high quality sound system in the concert hall of the "Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești	Ploiești	"Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești		
92.	Installing a WI-FI system inside "Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic (entrance hall, side hall, offices, classrooms)	Ploiești	"Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești		
93.	Installation of screens, monitors, and provision of technical equipment needed for supporting conferences, symposia, workshops, etc. - "Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești	Ploiești	"Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești		
94.	Implementing a video monitoring system for the North-South Axis of Ploiești Municipality	Ploiești	Local Police, Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: alternative energy					
95.	Design and installation of solar panels for hot water at Olimpia Sports Hall	Ploiești	Municipal Sports Club	Energy audit certificate	
96.	Using renewable energy sources to ensure thermal energy demand for heating and preparing hot water for consumption - "Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești	Ploiești	"Paul Constantinescu" Philharmonic, Ploiești		
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: social infrastructure					
97.	Modernizing "Cosminele" residence	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
98.	Modernizing social canteens	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
99.	Modernizing orphanages	Ploiești	Ploiești		
100.	Ensuring access to public buildings (ramps, elevators) for persons with physical disabilities	Ploiești	Ploiești		
101.	Construction of buildings with integrated social functions (housing, social services) in the district of Bereasca	Ploiești	Ploiești		
102.	Establishing of networks of home social services	Ploiești	Ploiești		
103.	Rehabilitation of the social housing block in 13, Rafinorilor Street	Ploiești	Ploiești		
104.	Urban regeneration / CLLD in Mimiș and Bereasca districts	Ploiești	Ploiești		
105.	Day care center for people in difficulty	Ploiești	ASSC		
106.	Protected workshops	Ploiești	ASSC		
107.	Temporary hosting center	Ploiești	ASSC		
108.	Center for prevention and combating domestic violence	Ploiești	ASSC		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
109	Construction of concert hall, workshops and gym at "Carmen Sylva" Art High School	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate	D.U.P., F.S., T.D. + CS + E.D. + Technical documentation for obtaining building permits (2007-2008)	Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
110	Construction of a school campus at "Virgil Madgearu" Economic College	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate	D.U.P., F.S., T.D.; E.D.; Technical documentation for obtaining building permits, tender specifications (2008)	
111	Building PEGAS pre-university campus	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
112	Modernization of sports halls in the following school units - "I. A. Bassarabescu" School, "Nicolae Simache" School, "Nicolae Iorga" School; "Apostol Andrei" School; "H. M. Berthelot" School; "I. L. Caragiale" National College, "Nichita Stănescu" National College	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate		
113	Extending the building of "Al. I. Cuza" National College	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate		
114	Modernizing lyceum units - 6 high schools	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate		
115	Modernizing gymnasium units - 8 schools	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate		
116	Extending the building of "Grigore Moisil" School	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate		
117	Extending the building of "Sfantul Vasile" School	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate		
118	Rehabilitating the annex to "Mihai Viteazul" National College - 2 Journalist Gabi Dobre Street	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate	Technical expertise, geotechnical study, DALI (2011)	

AREA OF INTERVENTION: nurseries and kindergartens

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
119	Building a kindergarten with normal schedule on Strunga Alley (6 groups)	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate	F.S., Technical documentation for obtaining building permits, T.D., E.D., (2011) Tender specifications – C.A. issued and extended, expired	Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
120	Building a kindergarten with normal schedule on 20, Trestioara Street	Ploiești	Ploiești	F.S.; Technical Design auctioned, builder designated	
121	Building a kindergarten with extended schedule on Petrolului Boulevard (8 groups)	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate	F.S.; T.D, E.D., Technical documentation for obtaining building permits, for every field: instalations (central heating, water connection, channel connection, construction, fire safety scenario)(2011)	Ploiești (LCD 288/24.07.14)
122	Modernization of preschool units - 5 kindergartens	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate		
123	Modernization of ante-preschool units - 3 nurseries	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate		
124	Building a kindergarten in 36 Poștei Street	Ploiești	Technical and Investment Directorate		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: health infrastructure					
125	Rehabilitation / modernization (buildings and equipment) of specialty ambulatories and facilitate access for people with physical disabilities	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
126	Rehabilitation / modernization (buildings and equipment) of Contagious Diseases Hospital	Ploiești	Ploiești		
127	Rehabilitation / modernization (buildings and equipment) of Municipal Hospital no. 1 - Schuller	Ploiești	Ploiești		
128	Extending and modernizing the building of the Paediatric Hospital	Ploiești	Ploiești	F.S. under elaboration	Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
129	Endowing with equipment the Radiotherapy Center (accelerator and annexes) - year 2016 (Municipal Hospital, Ploiești)	Ploiești	Municipal Hospital, Ploiești	F.S.	
130	Building a Radiotherapy Center - year 2015 (Municipal Hospital, Ploiești)	Ploiești	Municipal Hospital, Ploiești	F.S.	
131	Constructing a day hospitalization building – year 2017 (Municipal Hospital, Ploiești)	Ploiești	Municipal Hospital, Ploiești		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
132	MRI equipment - year 2018 (Municipal Hospital, Ploiești)	Ploiești	Municipal Hospital, Ploiești		
133	Rehabilitating the facade and cover of the Building A (Department of Internal Medicine and specialty ambulatory) - year 2015 (Municipal Hospital, Ploiești)	Ploiești	Municipal Hospital, Ploiești		
134	Consolidating and refunctionalizing the Building A (Oncology Department - stage II) - year 2018 (Municipal Hospital, Ploiești)	Ploiești	Municipal Hospital, Ploiești		
135	Thermal rehabilitation of the Rheumatology Department - Building V - year 2016 (Municipal Hospital, Ploiești)	Ploiești	Municipal Hospital, Ploiești		
136	Thermal Rehabilitation of the Recovery Section - Physical medicine and balneology (Building K) - Year 2016 (Municipal Hospital, Ploiești)	Ploiești	Municipal Hospital, Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: City Halls and other public function premises					
137	Building City Hall premises	Ploiești	Ploiești	F.S. - July 2004	Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
138	Consolidation and facade restoration of the building in which the Local Police of Ploiești works, located on 21, Independence Boulevard	Ploiești	Local Police, Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: housing construction					
139	Completing the Eden district (36 residences for doctors)				
Sectorial objective C2: Increasing the capacity of LPA					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: communication and decisional transparency					
140	Integrated digital communications network for activities related to the local administration, public order, and emergency management	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
141	Informing the population on urban projects and related urban planning regulations	Ploiești	Ploiești		
142	Monitoring the implementation of major investment projects covered by funds from the public budget by mounting a video camera	Ploiești	Ploiești		
143	Connecting the city halls and the subordinated public institutions to a coordinated system of public-interest data	Ploiești	Ploiești		
144	Informing individuals and businesses about local taxation	Ploiești	Ploiești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: improving the performance of public administration					
145	Implementing a system of performance indicators in the institutions providing public services	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
146	Drafting the Strategy and Action plan in the energy efficiency sector	Ploiești	Ploiești		TRACE P1
147	Strengthening the capacity of the local administration to manage projects financed from structural funds	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
148	Strengthening the capacity of the local administration to conclude partnerships	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
149	Implementing a property evaluation system for a real taxation of properties, according to the market value	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
150	The implementation of mechanisms to streamline public spending and boost local tax collection	Ploiești	Local Public Finance Department		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
151	Continuous training courses and improving the professional qualification of employees working in the Local Police, Ploiești	Ploiești	Local Police, Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
152	Providing uniforms, weapons and police protection means, vehicles, office equipment and furniture - Local Police, Ploiești	Ploiești	Local Police, Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
AREA OF INTERVENTION: marketing and advertising					
153	Elaboration of Ploiești Municipality investment guide	Ploiești	Ploiești		Ploiești Strategy 2007-2025
Ploiești LPA (Operational budget: 289 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective A1: Supporting a sustainable economic development					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: industrial parks					
1	Attracting investment in green energy sector	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: agricultural activities					
2	Rehabilitation of Leaotu Vechi irrigation canal for agriculture	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: road upgrading / repairing					
3	Upgrade and restoration of access roads and agricultural exploitation roads	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: thermal energy / gas supply					
4	Extending gas supply	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
5	Extending the water and sewerage networks (Ariceștii Rahtivani and Nedelea localities)	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: built heritage					
6	Rehabilitating Sf. Nicolae Church in Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public space, space between blocks, playgrounds					
7	Building parks and playgrounds for children	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: cultural units					
8	Rehabilitation of cultural center in Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public lighting, electrical networks, and IT					
9	Extending the public lighting	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
10	Building a sports hall in Ariceștii Rahtivani village	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: nurseries and kindergartens					
11	Building a kindergarten for 50 children	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
AREA OF INTERVENTION: health infrastructure					
12	Building a micro-polyclinic in Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani	Ariceștii Rahtivani		
Băicoi LPA (Operational budget: 14 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective A1: Supporting a sustainable economic development					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: industrial parks					
1	Building a 6 ha industrial park in the western part of the city, with access to DN 1 and to the ring road / Livada industrial park	Băicoi	Băicoi		
Sectorial objective B1: improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: accessibility and mobility					
2	Increasing accessibility to and from Băicoi city through the construction of a suspended passage over DN 1, at the intersection with DJ 215	Băicoi	Băicoi	F.S. under elaboration	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
3	Building a ring road for Băicoi city - 6 km	Băicoi	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
4	Increasing accessibility and consolidating traffic safety - setting up a roundabout at the intersection between DJ 100F and DJ 215 - Liliesți Center	Băicoi DJ 100F (Republicii Str. and Independenței Str.) DJ 215 (Infratirii Str. and Dorobanți Str.)		F.S. under elaboration	Updated Strategy
5	Increasing accessibility - roundabout at the intersection between DN 1 and DJ 720	Băicoi - Florești commune	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
6	Increasing accessibility - passage over DN 1 at the intersection with DC 8A	Băicoi	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
AREA OF INTERVENTION: road upgrading / repairing					
7	Rehabilitating interior streets in Băicoi city, affected by public utilities works (water and sewerage)	Băicoi	Băicoi		Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
8	Rehabilitation and improvement of the communal road DC 8A by restoring the asphalt, bike lanes, developing sidewalks and gutters - DC 8A - section between Mihai Viteazul Street and DN 1)	Băicoi	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
9	Modernizing agricultural exploitation roads in view of ensuring access	Băicoi	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
10	Rehabilitation / reconstruction of bridges and culverts, and arranging a pedestrian area along Dambu creek after its regularization	Băicoi - Dâmbu and Țința Districts L=5km	Băicoi	Drawing topographic support	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
AREA OF INTERVENTION: traffic safety					
11	Purchase of equipment for snow removal and for the maintenance of street cleaning	Băicoi	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: improving the energy efficiency of the buildings					

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
12	Energy rehabilitation of district blocks (40 blocks)	Băicoi	Băicoi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · F. S. approved by LCD 23/26. 03.2012 · Energy audit · Technical expertise 	Updated Strategy
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
13	Water storage tank – capacity of 5000 c.m.	Băicoi	Băicoi		
14	Rainwater drainage and sewage works	Băicoi	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
15	Expansion and modernization of drinking water distribution network and sewerage network in Dambu, Tufeni, and Tintea	Băicoi	Băicoi		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: converting land / brownfields					
16	The restoration of land polluted with petroleum products and its reintegration into the agricultural / industrial circuit	Băicoi	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
17	Greening polluted land in the area of Lake Park and turning it into recreational green space - improving Caragiale Dendrological Park	Băicoi - 87, Republicii Str. Surface = 118,997 m ²	Băicoi	F.S. approved by LCD 64/25. 05.2015 T.D., E.D.	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
AREA OF INTERVENTION: seismic risk buildings					
18	Expert appraisal / retrofitting of public buildings against seisms	Băicoi	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public space, space between blocks, playgrounds					
19	Rehabilitation private apartment blocks in the areas of Liliști and Schela, as well as in the zone of the homes for singles	Băicoi	Băicoi		
20	House infrastructure consolidation and recovery at 64-66 Lăcrămioarelor Street, affected by landslides	64-66 Lăcrămioarelor Street	Băicoi	Topographical support, geotechnical study, technical expertise	Updated Strategy
21	Infrastructure consolidation and recovery in the area of Gladiolelor Street, affected by landslides	Gladiolelor Street	Băicoi	Topographical support, geotechnical study, technical expertise	Updated Strategy
AREA OF INTERVENTION: cultural units					
22	Building a cultural, social, and multifunctional center	Băicoi	Băicoi	F.S. under elaboration	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
23	Rehabilitation, modernization, and endowment of Liliști cultural center	4 Dorobanți Street			Updated Strategy
AREA OF INTERVENTION: sports / leisure facilities					
24	Building a school sports hall for the General School Unit no. 3 (with I-VIII classes), Liliști	School no. 3 from Liliști, 2 Progresul Street		Topographical support, geotechnical study	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
25	Building a swimming pool for national and international competitions	Constantin Cantacuzino School Group, 111 Republicii Street		Topographical support, geotechnical study	Updated Strategy
26	Rehabilitation, modernization, and endowment of Liliești sports complex	4 Dorobanți Street		Identified location	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
27	Rehabilitation, modernization, and endowment of Tufeni sports complex	1 Câmpului Street		Identified location	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
28	Development and promotion of the recreational potential of the salt lakes area and the Stelii Valley baths - accommodation places, sewerage network, and treatment plant	Salt Lakes - Livele area; "Stelii Valley" Baths, 168 Independenței Street	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public lighting, electrical units, and IT					
29	Stimulating the production of electricity by placing solar lamps for public lighting on the main thoroughfares of Băicoi city	Băicoi DJ 100F DJ 100E DJ 215	Băicoi		Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
30	Introducing urban networks in the underground	Băicoi DJ 100F DJ 100E DJ 215	Băicoi	F.S. for DJ 100F	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
AREA OF INTERVENTION: alternative energy					
31	Introducing advanced technologies in the urban heating system; developing equipment that uses non-conventional sources for green energy production in public buildings (town hall, schools, kindergartens)	Băicoi	Băicoi		Updated Strategy
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
32	Gym enlargement and rehabilitation, sports field development, the fencing of "Constantin Cantacuzino" Technological High School in the city of Băicoi, Prahova County	Constantin Cantacuzino School Group, 111 Republicii Street	Băicoi	F.S. approved	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
33	Repairing covers, interior finishing works, sports hall, developing a sports field, fencing "Dumitru Ghenoiu" School, Building A, 19 Unirii Street, Băicoi city, Prahova County	19 Unirii Street	Băicoi	F.S. approved	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
34	Extending, rehabilitating, and modernizing Building C1 - "Dumitru Ghenoiu" School, Building Wing B, 16 Viilor Street, Băicoi city, Prahova County	16 Viilor Street	Băicoi	F.S. approved	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
35	Extending by building afterschool premises, rehabilitating and fencing the Secondary School in Liliești, 2 Progresul Street, Băicoi city, Prahova County	2 Progresul Street	Băicoi	F.S. approved	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
36	General repairs and upgrading at the Tintea School with classes I-VIII in Băicoi city, Prahova county	Independenței Street	Băicoi	F.S. approved	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
37	Rehabilitation / modernization / consolidation / endowment / change of destination of the former Liver Hospital, turning it into Arts and Crafts School	8 Unirii Street		Topographical support, geotechnical study, technical expertise	Updated Strategy
AREA OF INTERVENTION: health infrastructure					
38	Thermal rehabilitation / expansion with integrated ambulatory and emergency room / modernization / strengthening the C2 and C3 Wings / Change of roofing at C1 Wing / parking lots and recreation space for the sick, walkways, lighting / construction of ambulance garage	Băicoi - 1 Spitalului Alley	Băicoi	F.S. under elaboration	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
39	Modernizing / developing / endowing the medical dispensary in Liliești	Liliești medical dispensary, 291 Republicii Street			Updated Strategy
40	Thermal rehabilitation / consolidation / modernization / development / endowment of the medical dispensary in Țintea	Țintea medical dispensary, 167 Independenței Street			Updated Strategy
AREA OF INTERVENTION: City Halls and other public function premises					
41	Extension, modernization, and energy rehabilitation of Băicoi City Hall	21 Unirii Street	Băicoi		
42	Constructing and endowing a new building for Băicoi City Hall, with P+1 height regime	8 Unirii Street	Băicoi	F.S. under elaboration	Sustainable Development Strategy of Băicoi City 2014-2020
Bărcănești LPA (Operational budget: 5.5 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
1	Connections to the water system	Bărcănești	Bărcănești		
2	Building a sewerage system and a treatment plant	Bărcănești	Bărcănești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: cultural units					
3	Building a cultural center	Bărcănești	Bărcănești		
Berceni LPA (Operational budget: 3.5 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: clean public transport					
1	Developing bike lanes, DJ 139	Berceni	Berceni		
2	Placing minibus stations	Berceni	Berceni		
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: sports / leisure facilities					
3	Polyvalent hall in Berceni commune	Berceni	Berceni		
4	Building a sports hall based on public-private partnership	Berceni	Berceni		
5	Modernization of sports complex, construction of communal stadium	Berceni	Berceni		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
6	F.S. / T.D. for building a sports field in Dâmbu	Berceni	Berceni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: cultural units					
7	Cultural centers rehabilitation	Berceni	Berceni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: thermal energy / gas supply					
8	Natural gas supply in Berceni commune	Berceni	Berceni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
9	Water supply in Tineretului Street, Berceni	Berceni	Berceni		
10	F.S. / T.D. water in Moara Nouă locality	Berceni	Berceni		
11	Sewerage, culverts, dale ditches, and sidewalks in Berceni commune	Berceni	Berceni	F.S / T.D.	
12	Execution of rainwater disposal channels	Berceni	Berceni	F.S / T.D.	
13	Drilling for water well in Berceni - Dâmbu	Berceni	Berceni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public lighting, electrical networks, and IT					
14	Mounting an electrical transformer in Corlățești, Cătunu	Berceni	Berceni		
15	Extending the electrical network in Rafinăriei Street	Berceni	Berceni		
16	Extending the public lighting in Berceni commune	Berceni	Berceni		
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
17	Paving school yards	Berceni	Berceni		
Bleji LPA (Operational budget: 11.1 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: accessibility and mobility					
1	Building a road linking DJ 156 to DN 1B	Bleji	Bleji		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: road modernization / repair					
2	Upgrading communal roads, including intersections and bike lanes	Bleji	Bleji		
Sectorial objective B2: Protejarea resurselor energetice si a calitatii mediului natural si construit					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
3	Developing and adapting the sewerage network, including own treatment plant	Bleji	Bleji		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: parks and green areas					
4	Developing green areas / parks	Bleji	Bleji		
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
5	School upgrade (demolition and reconstruction)	Bleji	Bleji		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: City Halls and other public function premises					
6	Building new premises for the City Hall	Bleji	Bleji		
Boldești-Scăeni LPA (Operational budget: 9.6 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective A2: Supporting the SME sector, entrepreneurship, and business start-up					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: support for SMEs and business start-ups					
1	Direct support for microenterprises (processing activities of agricultural and forestry products)	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
2	Access to credit: guarantee funds (of companies' contributions)	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
3	Entrepreneurial consulting (courses, consultancy centers for project applications)	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: agricultural activities					
4	Developing the processing infrastructure for agri-food products	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: touristic infrastructure					
5	Creation, development, and modernization of tourism infrastructure for harnessing natural resources and increasing the quality of tourism services	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: road upgrading / repairing					
6	Placing crosswalk, passenger stations, and storage lanes on DN 1A	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
7	Extending and upgrading sewerage networks	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
8	Extending and upgrading treatment plant	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: seismic risk buildings					
9	Consolidation of residential building on Podgoriei Street	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: parks and green areas					
10	Afforestations	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: alternative energy					
11	Renewable energy (harnessing renewable energy resources, upgrading central heating, renewable fuel)	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
12	Residential buildings for the youth, for rent, 24UL (2 sections)	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
13	Rehabilitating / modernizing / developing and endowing social services infrastructure	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: education and employment					
14	Improving the access and participation of vulnerable groups to the education system and labor market	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
15	Promoting equal opportunities in the labor market	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
16	Transnational initiatives on the inclusive labor market	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
17	Training and support for enterprises and employees in view of promoting adaptability	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
18	Developing and implementing active employment measures	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
19	Promoting long-term sustainability in rural areas in terms of HR development and employment	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
Sectorial objective C2: Increasing LPA capacity					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: improving the performance of public administration					
20	Capacity development to improve the service performance of local administration	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
21	Improving decision-making at the administrative and political level	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
22	Developing and improving electronic public services	Boldești-Scăeni	Boldești-Scăeni		
Brazi LPA (Operational budget: 18 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: built heritage					
1	Restoring and arranging Nicolau mansion, Brazi de Sus village	Brazi	Brazi	Application rejected by MA ROP 2007-2013	
AREA OF INTERVENTION: sports / leisure facilities					
2	Construction of a pool complex , swimming pools, physical therapy pools, annexes, Brazi de Sus village	Brazi	Brazi		
Bucov LPA (Operational budget: 7.8 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
INTERVENTION AREA: accessibility and mobility					
1	Building a ring road for Bucov commune	Bucov	Bucov		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: road upgrading / repairing					
2	Road upgrading / setting up interections / roundabouts	Bucov	Bucov		
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
3	Extending sewerage network	Bucov	Bucov		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: parks and green areas					
4	Landscaping Bucov Park	Bucov	Bucov		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public lighting, electrical networks, and IT					
5	Upgrading public lighting (extending LED network)	Bucov	Bucov		
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
6	Upgrading and extending school	Bucov	Bucov		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: housing construction					
7	Developing a residential district for youth	Bucov	Bucov		
Dumbrăvești LPA (Operational budget: 2.5 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective A2: Supporting the SME sector, entrepreneurship, and business start-up					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: agricultural activities					
1	Development and modernization of fairs and agri-food markets - Arranging areas for organizing weekly fairs with products from the citizens' households	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
AREA OF INTERVENTION: tourism infrastructure					
2	Building tourist base – fishery basins and recreation basins	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
3	Developing accommodation and leisure places for historical tourism - public-private partnership	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: clean public transport					
4	Establishing a public transport route on DJ 102 - DC 16 - DN 1 administrative center - Sfârleanca, Fundeni, and Faget villages	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
5	Placing waiting stations for public transport - DJ 102 sector	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: road upgrading / repairing					
6	Upgrading communal and village roads	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	F.S./T.D. 2009-2011	
7	Building a bridge over Vărbilău creek for car and pedestrian traffic – Mălăeștii de Sus village	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	Hydro-geotechnical assessment	
8	Building a bridge over Vărbilău creek for car and pedestrian traffic – Sfârleanca village	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	Hydro-geotechnical assessment	
9	Building sidewalks along along DJ 102 Ploiești – Slănic (Dumbrăvești commune)	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
10	Developing rainwater ditches along DJ 102 Ploiești – Slănic (Dumbrăvești commune)	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
11	Improving roads from outside locality limits	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	F.S./T.D. 2011	
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: thermal energy / gas supply					
12	Establishment of supply and distribution system for natural gas in the locality	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	F.S./T.D. 2010	
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
13	The establishment of public wastewater - sewage and treatment plant - Mălăeștii de Sus village	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	F.S./T.D. 2008	
14	Ensuring capacity and autonomy with respect to drinking water supply at European standards - drilling wells, storage and water treatment plants	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
15	Establishing wastewater and sewage public network and water treatment plant - Dumbrăvești, Mățăeștii de Jos, and Găvănel villages	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
16	Establishing wastewater and sewage public network and water treatment plant – Plopeni village	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
17	Establishing wastewater and sewage public network and water treatment plant – Sfârleanca village	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: waste management					
18	Development of selective waste collection service and implementation of an awareness program	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
AREA OF INTERVENTION: converting lands / brownfields					
19	Greening contaminated land after closing Plopeni landfill and reintroducing it in the natural circuit by planting trees	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public space, space between blocks, playgrounds					
20	Landscaping the civic center – placing a heroes monument	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: parks and green areas					
21	Extending green areas through afforestation of less productive and landslide risk lands - 12 ha in Mălăești area	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
22	Environmental improvement through landscaping the park in Găvănel village	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	F.S./T.D. 2010	
AREA OF INTERVENTION: cultural units					
23	Rehabilitating the building of the former school in Mălăești de Sus and converting it into festivity hall and village museum	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
24	Improving the history and archeology museum section in Slănicului Valley with “Decebal and the six generals” statuary group	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
25	Landscaping outside areas around the cultural center – scene, benches, walkways, lighting, service areas for outdoor cultural activities	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
26	Restoring the historical path of the Salt Route	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	F.S. 2010	
AREA OF INTERVENTION: commerce / agri-food markets					
27	Building agri-food market	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: sports / leisure facilities					
28	Building sports hall in Plopeni village	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
29	Building a multifunctional sports field in Dumbrăvești village	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public lighting, electrical networks, and IT					
30	Modernization and extension of the public street lighting system	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: alternative energy					
31	Increasing the production of renewable energy by installing solar panels on public institutions in the commune	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
32	Creation of new electricity production capacities for supplying the public street lighting system	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	F.S./T.D. 2011	
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
33	Building a sports hall for the school in Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	F.S./T.D. 2009	
34	School extension in Plopeni village - computer science lab, library, reading room, medical unit	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
35	School extension in Dumbrăvești village - computer science lab, library, reading room, medical unit	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: nurseries and kindergartens					
36	Improving playgrounds and recreation places at the kindergartens in the locality	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
AREA OF INTERVENTION: health infrastructure					
37	Extending, upgrading and endowing Dumbrăvești dispensary – medical office, dental office, pharmacy	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: City Halls and other public function premises					
38	Building and equipping Locality Hall premises	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	F.S./T.D. 2011	
AREA OF INTERVENTION: housing construction					
39	Establishing ANL housing complex - statuary group - archeology museum section in Slănic Valley and complementary buildings	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	ZUP 2010	
40	Housing for the youth, for rent - ANL (180 units)	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești	F.S.	
Education programme regarding emergency and safety situations					
41	Establishment of operational base for the emergency service - endowing it with firefighting and snow removal equipment	Dumbrăvești	Dumbrăvești		
Păulești LPA (Operational budget: 6.7 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: road upgrading / repairing					
1	Sidewalk repairing in Păuleștii Noi – Găgeni, along DJ 102, on a length of 4,841.2 m	Păulești	Păulești		
2	Upgrading DS 2236 (extension on Zootehniei Street), Păulești village	Păulești	Păulești		
3	Building sidewalk in Găgeni village, along DJ 102, along DJ 102 – Păulești Church, DJ 201 – Găgeni Church – center, DJ 102 – bridge over Stramba in Cocoșești village	Păulești	Păulești		
4	Upgrading DC 138, Păuleștii Noi – Cocoșești, on a length of 1670 m	Păulești	Păulești		
5	Bulding exploitation routes	Păulești	Păulești		
6	Purchase and installation of street pumps along DJ 102	Păulești	Păulești		
7	Implementing a project for upgrading and maintaining roads in all villages	Păulești	Păulești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: traffic safety					
8	Extending and upgrading the video monitoring system in the entire locality	Păulești	Păulești		
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
9	Household sewerage in Găgeni village	Păulești	Păulești		
10	Extending the household water system in Păulești commune	Păulești	Păulești		
11	Introducing water supply network in the household area (Păulești, Cocoșești, Găgeni)	Păulești	Păulești		
12	Extending the sewerage network and execution of branchings in the entire commune	Păulești	Păulești		
13	Design and execution of sewerage in Intex settlement	Păulești	Păulești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: parks and green areas					
14	Landscaping and endowment of parks in all the villages	Păulești	Păulești		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
AREA OF INTERVENTION: cultural units					
15	Purchasing T. Socolescu building and turning it into a memorial house	Păulești	Păulești		
16	Equipping multi-functional room in Cocoșești village	Păulești	Păulești		
17	Building chappel in Păulești Church	Păulești	Păulești		
18	Developing events hall at the Church in Găgeni	Păulești	Păulești		
19	Repair and upgrade works at the Church in Cocoșești	Păulești	Păulești		
DOMENIUL DE INTERVENTIE: sports / leisure facilities					
20	Execution of mini-football field in Găgeni village	Păulești	Păulești		
21	Upgrading the sports base in Păulești	Păulești	Păulești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public lighting, electrical networks, and IT					
22	Extending public lighting in the commune and in newly built areas	Păulești	Păulești		
23	Upgrading and extending electrical networks, mounting transformer points in every village	Păulești	Păulești		
24	Wireless internet in the commune's central park	Păulești	Păulești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: alternative energy					
25	Installing photovoltaic panels on public institutions	Păulești	Păulești		
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
26	Building school wing with 3 classrooms	Păulești	Păulești		
27	School hall for physical education and sports	Păulești	Păulești		
28	Building school wing (3 classrooms and annexes) at Păulești school	Păulești	Păulești		
29	School hall for physical education and sports in Păulești	Păulești	Păulești		
30	Repair and upgrade works at the school sports fields in the commune	Păulești	Păulești		
31	Building a school wing with 2 classrooms at Găgeni school	Păulești	Păulești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: nurseries and kindergartens					
32	Developing a kindergarten with extended programme	Păulești	Păulești		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: housing building					
33	Building residential complex in partnership with ANL	Păulești	Păulești		
Sectorial objective C2: Increasing the capacity of LPA					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: marketing and advertising					
34	Advertising programme for Păulești commune for supporting the tourism sector and attracting investors	Păulești	Păulești		
Plopeni LPA (Operational budget: 7.4 million EUR)					
Sectorial budget B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: improving the energy efficiency of the buildings					
1	Thermal rehabilitation of housing blocks (after the establishment of associations of owners)	Plopeni	Plopeni		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
2	Rehabilitating the sewerage network	Plopeni	Hidro Prahova		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: converting lands / brownfields					
3	Development of the plant's land (brownfield)	Plopeni	Plopeni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public lighting, electrical networks, and IT					
4	Extending and upgrading the public lighting	Plopeni	Plopeni		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: alternative energy					
5	Execution of works supplementing traditional heating systems with systems that use solar energy	Plopeni	Plopeni		
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
6	Rehabilitation, consolidation, expansion, and modernization of "Carol I" School with classes I-VIII	Plopeni	Plopeni		
7	Rehabilitation, consolidation, expansion, modernization of Plopeni School Group	Plopeni	Plopeni		
8	Developing a sports hall at the school and a sports field at the high school	Plopeni	Plopeni		
Târgșoru Vechi LPA (Operational budget: 4.8 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective A1: Supporting the development of a sustainable economy					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: industrial parks					
1	Establishing Târgșoru Vechi industrial park	Strejnicu village	Târgșoru Vechi	Project idea	
Sectorial objective A2: Supporting the SME sector, entrepreneurship, and business start-up					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: agricultural activities					
2	Rehabilitation of irrigation canal - Leaotu Vechi	Târgșoru village	Târgșoru Vechi	Project idea	
3	Attracting private investment for still water bottling	Târgșoru Vechi	Târgșoru Vechi		
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: road upgrading / repairing					
4	Upgrading local roads in Târgșoru Vechi commune - 7.8 km	Strejnicu, Târgșoru Vechi, and Stăncești	Târgșoru Vechi	F.S. and T.D.	
5	Sidewalk construction in Strejnicu village	Strejnicu village	Târgșoru Vechi	F.S. and T.D. / 2011	
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: thermal energy / gas supply					
6	Extending the natural gas distribution network	Strejnicu, Târgșoru Vechi, and Stăncești	Târgșoru Vechi		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
7	Building sewerage network (+treatment plant) in 3 villages (Tg. Vechi, Stăncești, Zahanaua)	Târgșoru Vechi	Târgșoru Vechi	F.S. and T.D. / 2012	
8	Extending the sewerage network in Strejnicu village	Târgșoru Vechi	Târgșoru Vechi	Project idea	

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
AREA OF INTERVENTION: cultural units					
9	Construction of recreation park	Strejnicu village	Târgșoru Vechi	Project idea	
10	Construction of a polyvalent hall	Târgșoru Vechi	Târgșoru Vechi	F.S. and T.D. / 2014	
11	Setting up a cultural center in Strejnic	Târgșoru Vechi	Târgșoru Vechi		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: sports / leisure facilities					
12	Building a track for the Aeroclub	Târgșoru Vechi	Târgșoru Vechi		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public lighting, electrical networks, and IT					
13	Extending the electrical network	Strejnicu, Târgșoru Vechi, and Stăncești	Târgșoru Vechi		
14	Extending and upgrading the public lighting system	Târgșoru Vechi	Târgșoru Vechi		
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
15	Building new schools	Târgșoru Vechi	Târgșoru Vechi		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: housing building					
16	Building housing units (400 lots on the public pasture – approved ZUP)	Târgșoru Vechi	Târgșoru Vechi		
Valea Călugarească LPA (Operational budget: 5.6 million EUR)					
Sectorial objective A2: Supporting the SME sector, entrepreneurship, and business start-up					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: agricultural activities					
1	Conacul Matak Superior harnessing and advertising of traditional wines from Valea Călugarească through the oeno-touristic location Matak Mansion	Valea Călugarească	ICDVV Valea Călugarească		
Sectorial objective B1: Improving territorial connectivity - TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY SECTOR					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: road upgrading / repairing					
2	Upgrading local roads	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	T.D. in 2014	
3	Upgrading the communal road in the northern part of the commune, on the "Wine Route", 10 km	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		
4	Building sidewalks in all the villages of the commune	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	T.D. in 2014	
Sectorial objective B2: Protecting energy resources and the quality of the natural and built environment					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: thermal energy / gas supply					
5	Establishing gas distribution network in Coslegi, Radila, Pantăgi, and Dârvari - 20 km	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	F.S. under elaboration	
AREA OF INTERVENTION: water supply and sewerage					
6	Modernizing, expanding, and rehabilitating the water supply system	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	T.D. in 2014	
7	Establishing a water supply system in Dârvari, Coslegi, Radila villages	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	T.D. in 2014	
8	Upgrading the treatment plant	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		

No.	Project title	TAUs concerned	Project Initiator	Maturity degree documentation/ drafting time)	Strategic document in which it is included
9	Establishing a sewerage network in Coslegi, Radila, Pantați, and Dârvari villages - 10 km	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public space, space between blocks, playgrounds					
10	Developing green areas and playgrounds for children	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: cultural units					
11	Upgrading and rehabilitating the cultural center in Dârvari	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	T.D. in 2015	
12	Upgrading and rehabilitating the cultural center in Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	T.D. in 2014	
AREA OF INTERVENTION: sports / leisure facilities					
13	Upgrading and rehabilitating "Chimistul" sports complex	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: public lighting, electrical networks, and IT					
14	Extending and upgrading public lighting	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		
15	Extending the electricity network in areas without electricity	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: alternative energy					
16	Developing new production capacity of electricity through harnessing solar renewable energy resources	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	F.S. in 2010	
Sectorial objective C1: Increasing the quality of public services					
AREA OF INTERVENTION: social infrastructure					
17	Rehabilitating and upgrading the Residential Center for singles no. 2 (S+P+4F) and turning it into a social housing center	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	F.S. and T.D. in 2013	
AREA OF INTERVENTION: school infrastructure					
18	Building a sports hall at the Valea Călugarească General School with cls.I-VIII	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească	T.D. in 2010	
19	Rehabilitating 3 schools, 1 kindergarten, and 1 nursery	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		
AREA OF INTERVENTION: health infrastructure					
20	Building a human dispensary in Pantați village	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		
21	Rehabilitating and modernizing human dispensary in Nicovani village	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		
22	Rehabilitating and modernizing human dispensary in Rachieri village	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		
23	Rehabilitating and modernizing human dispensary in Dârvari village	Valea Călugarească	Valea Călugarească		

PART II: The Integrated Strategy for the Growth Pole



Recommendations for Improving the Institutional Framework at the Level of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole in the 2014-2020 Programming Period

Recommendations for improving the institutional framework at the level of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole in the 2014-2020 programming period

5.1. Background

Growth poles are development engines for a particular region, as outlined in the World Bank's Growth Poles Report, quoted in the Partnership Agreement as well. Growth Poles Policy – initiated in the 2007-2013 programming period – contributed significantly to the implementation of sustainable urban development and regional development concepts in Romania, and it should be continued and extended in the current programming period, while integrating the lessons learnt from the previous period and setting up development of appropriate coordination and implementation mechanisms.

This view is also shared by the Ministry of European Funds, which mentions in the Reply Note no. 568 / 03.14.2014, addressed to the President of "Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole IDA", that "the growth poles' experience and activity will continue in 2014-2020" under a ROP Priority Axis dedicated to sustainable urban development (Priority Axis no. 4 of the ROP). This axis will offer the possibility that the growth poles finance their integrated urban development strategies by "establishing a mechanism for the correlation of operational programmes in view of optimal processing of projects that are part of such a strategy".

As well, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration mentions in the Reply Note no. 15 379 / 10.03.2014, addressed to the President of "Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole IDA", that the integrated urban development strategies will focus on "solving economic, environmental, climate, and social issues in cities", while taking into account "the implementation at the level of the Partnership Agreement of a mechanism for the correlation of the ROP 2014-2020 with other operational programmes in order to ensure complementarity through prioritizing at the funding level of the other operational programmes the projects that are part of integrated urban development strategies".

In its position on the development of the Partnership Agreement and Programmes in Romania for the 2014-2020 period (Ref. Ares (2012) 1240252/19/10/2012), the European Commission states that "the support given in 2007 to the 7 growth poles must be continued and expanded" and that "an appropriate level of delegation of management in order to assess requirements and institutional capacities should be considered". The Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Factsheet mentions, in turn, that the various challenges that urban areas are confronted with require an integrated approach to urban development. Partnership agreements and operational programmes should establish the arrangements for ensuring an integrated approach regarding the use of ESI funds for the sustainable development of urban areas in the broader context of regional development. These investment priorities could be incorporated into the integrated urban development strategies of urban areas (Article 7 of the Regulation on ERDF), which could be accompanied by actions supported by the ESF under its investment priorities (Article 3 of the Regulation on ERDF).

The implementation of sustainable urban development strategies involves a certain degree of delegation to urban authorities [Article 7 (4) and (5) of the Regulation on ERDF]. Given that sustainable urban development interventions can cover different types of cities and urban areas, as defined by Member States, this instrument allows the funding of district-level or sector-level integrated actions up to level of functional areas, such as urban regions or metropolitan areas, including neighboring rural areas. These provisions basically continue the recommendations included in the Toledo Declaration, which promotes an integrated approach towards urban regeneration and revitalization based on multiple criteria, integrated management, participatory governance, and an urban-scale approach of the area.

EU Regulation no. 1303/2013 states in Article 36 that "Member States and the Managing Authorities can designate one or more intermediate bodies, including local authorities, regional development bodies or NGOs, to manage and implement an ITI under the fund-specific rules".

In addition, EU Regulation no. 1301/2013 states in Article 7 that ERDF supports urban development through “strategies setting out integrated actions to tackle economic, social, climate, demographic, and environmental challenges affecting urban areas, taking into account the need to promote ties between urban and rural areas”. Sustainable urban development can be achieved through integrated territorial interventions or an operational programme with a dedicated priority axis. Furthermore, each Member State shall establish in its Partnership Agreement, the principles of selection of urban areas where integrated actions have to be implemented for a sustainable urban development, as well as the indicative annual allocation for these actions at national level. In either scenario, at least 5% of ERDF resources allocated at national level under the objective regarding investments for growth and jobs should be assigned to integrated actions for sustainable urban development, where cities, sub-regional or local bodies responsible for implementing sustainable urban strategies (“urban authorities”) have to perform tasks related to at least the selection of operations in accordance with Article 123 (6) of EU Regulation no. 1303/2013 or, where applicable, in accordance with Article 123 (7) of that Regulation. Subsequently, the MA shall establish, after consultation with the urban authority, the scope of tasks to be performed by urban authorities and related to the management of integrated actions for sustainable urban development. At the initiative of the Commission, the ERDF may support innovative actions in the field of sustainable urban development in accordance with Article 92 (8) of EU Regulation no. 1303/2013.

Regulation no. 1304/2013 states in Article 12 that the ESF can support local development strategies at the community level in urban and rural areas, as provided for in Articles 32, 33, and 34 of EU Regulation no. 1303/2013, as well as territorial pacts and local initiatives for employment, including young people employment, education and social inclusion, alongside with Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI), as referred to in Article 36 of EU Regulation no. 1303/2013. Complementing ERDF interventions, as provided for in Article 7 of EU Regulation no. 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the ESF may support sustainable urban development through strategies setting out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental, and social challenges affecting urban areas identified by Member States based on the principles set out in their respective Partnership Agreements. The Partnership Agreement with Romania (Romania 2014RO16M8PA001.1.2) underlines at Section 1A that Romania’s polycentric structure and uniform distribution of urban areas represent an advantage, “the role of urban areas in generating and sustaining economic growth being recognized by designating the most important cities as growth poles”. The Partnership Agreement also mentions that, although cooperation between urban and peri-urban areas for the development of initiatives and public services has been limited due to political divergences, besides the ineffective coordination of strategic projects at regional / county level, the basic principle of growth poles policy is correct and this approach should continue in the 2014-2020 programming period, and its funding should ensure coordination between financing sources.

An important contribution to overcoming these obstacles could have the Functional Working Group for New Approaches, subordinated to the Ministry of European Funds and mentioned in Section 1B of the same Partnership Agreement, and having the role to “harmonize approaches, guide and strengthen capacities, coordinate networks, correlate and prioritize investments, so that interventions from different thematic objectives and programmes jointly contribute to strategic development objectives of the territories concerned”.

The Partnership Agreement states in section 3.1.3./1131 that “the structure for growth poles coordination will be maintained in order to ensure a better connection and correlation between ESI funds and local development strategies and, at the same time, will try to support the improvement of the administrative capacity”.

The final evaluation report “Impact Assessment of Priority Axis 1: Supporting the sustainable development of cities – urban growth poles”, conclusion no. 7 recommended that “in the coming period, local authorities should consider strengthening the administrative capacity of local human resources in terms of planning and management of local development strategies. It is also recommended that the role of growth poles’ coordinator at the regional level be increased”, given the fact that, during 2007-2013, the integrated approach to growth poles was better than the approach corresponding to urban development poles and urban centers, which were also supported by Priority Axis 1 of the ROP. The same highlights that the following two functions of the growth pole coordinator were particularly positive and efficient:

- **Function of integration between public and non-public actors**, i.e. leaning to connect the interests of the local stakeholders involved in the Growth Pole and to promote cooperation and coordination;
- **Facilitation function**, implemented particularly in the case of public actors, i.e. the coordinator’s role of mediation between central and local authorities involved in the development and implementation of IDP.

However, the report recommends the assessment of growth poles coordinators' role in terms of three distinct types of activities, namely:

a. **Transversal activities**, namely providing technical assistance for IUD Strategy (advocacy, monitoring, technical support for public authorities involved in the GP, mediation between Management Authority and Intermediate Bodies);

b. **Preparation for submission of projects**, i.e. support in terms of project analysis, technical assistance in the selection, evaluation, and contracting phase (compliance and eligibility of projects); development of the project assessment report;

c. **Implementation phase**, meaning assisting beneficiaries on all questions / requests arising during this stage.

In the 1st Key Area of Intervention of the Priority Axis no. 1.1 pertaining to TAOP 2007-2013, it is emphasized that support was provided for the "functioning of the office/cabinet of the pole coordinator, which represents a horizontal coordination mechanism of the structural instruments' interventions for growth poles". In the same vein, TAOP 2014-2020 "aims to support horizontal issues for all OPs under the ESIF" and may finance "measures regarding horizontal issues for ERDF, CF, and ESF beneficiaries". Based on the recommendations mentioned in the Position Paper of the European Commission services with reference to the preparation of the Partnership Agreement and operational programmes in Romania for the 2014-2020 period, integrated and efficient technical assistance should be intensified, diversified, and channeled to support ESIF major beneficiaries under the form of helpdesk-type customized guidance, dissemination of standardized and simplified documents, etc.

Within the ROP 2014-2020, Priority Axis no. 12 explicitly provides for the financial support of urban poles coordinators' structures in order to provide assistance to urban authorities (eg. for the provision of guidelines, best practices guides in matters of sustainable and integrated urban development etc.). The document notes that "direct support to both potential beneficiaries and actual beneficiaries is a precondition for the smooth implementation of the operational programme. For these reasons, extending the framework for direct support will be considered". As well, "pole coordinators will have broader responsibilities in view of providing support to urban authorities that will implement activities corresponding to the integrated urban development axis". The programme mentions that "in order to contribute to a polycentric development at national level, the support for the development of major urban centers and urban functional areas will be promoted, alongside with the strengthening of highly urbanized areas, while ensuring optimal basic services to serve medium-sized and small cities". Their differentiated treatment and the identification of priorities in accordance to needs and local development potential are necessary.

Since the selected thematic objectives for the urban development axis do not cover all key areas for the promotion of a sustainable and comprehensive urban development, projects that are part of integrated urban development strategies will be financed with priority under other priority axes of the ROP or other operational programmes. This will be achieved through the investments correlation mechanism provided for in the Partnership Agreement. The principles of selection of urban areas for the promotion and implementation of integrated actions for sustainable urban development will include "promoting an integrated approach to local development (integrated and interconnected strategies, mobilizing local partnerships, pooling resources from all sources of financing, socio-economic local impact, especially given the surrounding areas and the urbanization process, etc.)". The mechanism of fund allocation under Priority Axis 4 of the ROP 2014-2020, which is based on predetermined indicative allocations for each county capital, is "needed, on the one hand, for providing a stable and predictable base to encourage planning and ensure the integrated nature of the investments, and, on the other hand, for avoiding the relatively low performance of the urban development approach for the 2007-2013 programming period, resulting from low motivation, significant delays in the preparation of urban development plans and the implementation of related projects, and lack of real integration of investments".

During the implementation of this project, the World Bank team made several proposals for a possible institutional architecture at the growth pole level. These proposals were discussed with representatives of MA ROP, MEF, South Muntenia RDA, Prahova County Council, and the local authorities of Ploiești municipality. The recommendations in the sections below represent a summary of these discussions. These recommendations have also implied a continuous refinement of the initial proposals, given that, at the time of this report, the national and regional mechanisms for the implementation of Axis 4 "Sustainable Urban Development" of the ROP 2014-2020 are not established yet.

5.2. Establishment and operation of the Urban Authority at the level of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole

In accordance with the provisions of Article 7 (4) of the ERDF Regulation no. 1301/2013, it is mandatory to involve the bodies who implement the Integrated Urban Development Strategy (IUDS) in the context of sustainable urban development in the implementation and management of urban development funds. This implies that the Managing Authority for the ROP may delegate tasks concerning the management and implementation of specific activities to the bodies ("Urban Authorities") who implement urban development; it is mandatory to delegate at least the duty of selecting the operations (projects).

In accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation and considering the method of implementing sustainable urban development, both through the 2007-2013 ROP – where Ploiești was selected as a growth pole with financial pre-allocation under Priority Axis no. 1, and through the 2014-2020 ROP – where the eligible beneficiaries are the county seats, the county councils or the IDAs formed around them –, the Urban Authority would most likely be established at the level of Ploiești Municipality, with the involvement of appointed members of the Prahova County Council and of the "Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole" IDA. Attracting the County Council and the IDA into this structure is essential for representing the interests of all component TAUs of the association and for ensuring its organizational sustainability.

It is recommended that the Urban Authority should include the following categories of experts (this will vary according to the MA-ROP's final decision on this matter):

- 8 representatives of Ploiești Municipality, nominated by order of the mayor, from various structures of the institution;
- 3 representatives of the "Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole" IDA – nominated by order of the legal representative of the IDA;
- 2 representatives of Prahova County Council, nominated by order of the president.

The World Bank proposal on the structure of Ploiești Urban Authority, based on the analysis of the organizational chart of the institutions concerned, is as follows:

Figure 102. The proposed structure of the Ploiești Urban Authority



Optionally, the following people can be invited as observers to the activities of Ploiești Urban Authority: representatives of the legal and procurement departments of the Municipality, of its subordinated units (e.g. hospitals, schools, Urban Management Services, etc.), of the public transport operators, of the utilities operators, of the sectoral IDAs (water and sanitation, waste management) and of the Urban Development Support Structure (UDSS). The members of the Urban Authority will be technical experts (officials / local elected representatives will be excluded).

By delegating the project selection function, Ploiești Urban Authority will be part of the management and control system of the 2014-2020 ROP and will act as a secondary intermediate body, functioning as an economic and technical selection committee. In this context, it will enter into an agreement for the delegation of functions with the MA ROP, and the members of the Urban Authority shall receive support from the Managing Authority (or the consultants selected by it) in order to develop the project selection capacity, through training and information actions. However, the delegation of functions to the Urban Authority will not be accompanied by funds for its operation; such funds will be provided by the municipality / County Council / IDA. The World Bank has proposed the assignation of several monitoring functions for the Urban Authority, in order to ensure a permanent involvement throughout the entire implementation period, and in order to allow the offer of bonuses for working on European projects.

Designating Ploiești Urban Authority as a secondary intermediate body and, thus, including it into the management and control system of the 2014-2020 ROP requires a procedure enabling the Authority to perform the functions delegated by the MA ROP (project selection / prioritization). Meanwhile, supervisory procedures will exist at MA ROP level for the function delegated to the Urban Authorities.

In addition, the "Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole" IDA will also have the status of potential beneficiary for certain investment priorities under the Priority Axis no. 4 of the 2014-2020 ROP. In this regard, the Mayor of Ploiești will ensure both the involvement of various Municipality directorates and departments in the Urban Authority and the observance of the principle requiring separation of functions, in that the members of the Urban Authority will not be allowed to both prioritize and implement the same projects, according to Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation. A delegation agreement will be signed to this purpose between Ploiești Municipality and the MA ROP, with clear procedures for carrying out the delegated functions.

The actual activity of the Urban Authority will be to develop a supporting document for the financing of interventions from the 2014-2020 ESIF, based on the Integrated Urban Development Strategy of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole for the 2014-2020 period. The document will include an extensive list of strategic projects and project files, developed with technical assistance from the World Bank, which will be made available to the Authority by the Growth Pole Coordinator's Office.

The document will be structured as follows:

- a) A brief description of the approach proposed for the use of ESI funds in the 2014-2020 period:** explaining how the projects / areas considered for funding under the 2014-2020 ESIF fall within the Integrated Urban Development Strategy (IUDS) of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole 2014-2020. It will also explain whether the projects / areas for which funding is requested from the 2014-2020 ESIF are integrated at local or sectoral level (projects integrated from ESIF or integrated with other projects financed or considered for funding under the integrated local development strategy).
- b) The operational budget for the 2014-2023 implementation period:** the operational budget for the identified metropolitan area TAU/IDA will be drafted based on a methodology proposed by the World Bank (about 420 million EUR for the 2014-2023 period in the case of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole).
- c) The shortlist of priority projects for the 2014-2023 period:** preparing a list of projects for 2014-2023, whose beneficiaries are the Local Public Authorities and whose estimated value is at least twice the operational budget of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole for 2014-2023, i.e. 2×420 million EUR = 840 million EUR.
- d) Explaining the methodology for prioritizing the projects and justifying how they were selected:** prioritization of the projects should consider the available sources of funding (with a preference given to projects that can be financed from European funds) and an integrated approach (either at local level – for example, a particular neighborhood or region of Ploiești city, or at sectoral level – for example, mobility).

e) The list of priority projects eligible under Axis 4 of the 2014-2020 ROP: a list of priority projects will be identified, which could be supported by the indicative pre-allocation for Ploiești city (previously communicated by the MA ROP. The World Bank proposed that Ploiești Growth Pole should receive an indicative pre-allocation of 41.95 million EUR), in accordance with the investment priorities covered under this axis. A reserve list of projects will also be identified with a total estimated value equal to maximum 50% of the amount allocated under Axis 4 of the ROP for Ploiești and in accordance with the investment priorities covered under this axis.

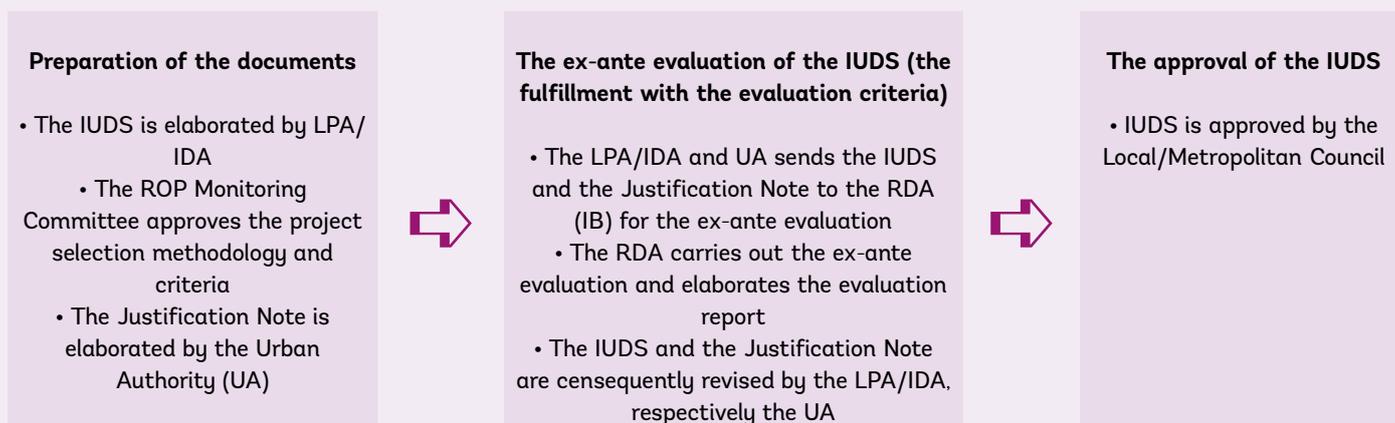
f) The list of priority projects / priority areas eligible under other priority axes of the 2014-2020 ROP or other Operational Programmes: according to the provisions of the Partnership Agreement, they will be financed with priority under other priority axes / other operational programmes, through a mechanism of matching and prioritizing the investments set out in the Partnership Agreement.

g) The institutional framework for the selection / implementation and monitoring of priority projects: providing information on Ploiești Urban Authority, on the structure(s) and actors responsible for the implementation of the priority projects in the 2014-2020 ESIF Supporting Document, including the composition of the Project Implementation Unit for each priority project (it is recommended that there be a manager for every 10-15 million EUR), and project monitoring.

Specifically, starting from the unique prioritization methodology adopted by the Monitoring Committee of the Regional Operational Programme (MC ROP) for all county seats and from the project list included in the Integrated Urban Development Strategy (IUDS) of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole for 2014-2020, each member of the Urban Authority will apply the criteria from the prioritization methodology and will obtain an individual ranking of priority projects; the final results will be obtained by totaling the scores given by each expert, a task that will be performed by a secretary elected by the members. Based on the final score, various lists of projects will be drafted, to make up the Supporting Document for the financing of 2014-2020 ESIF interventions. One of them will include the eligible projects for the Priority Axis no. 4 of the 2014-2020 ROP. This will include projects amounting to 150% of the indicative financial pre-allocation communicated by the MA ROP for Ploiești city. Additionally, the projects proposed for funding under Priority Axis no. 4 will have to meet at least two thematic objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, and at least one of them must target the reduction of CO₂ emissions.

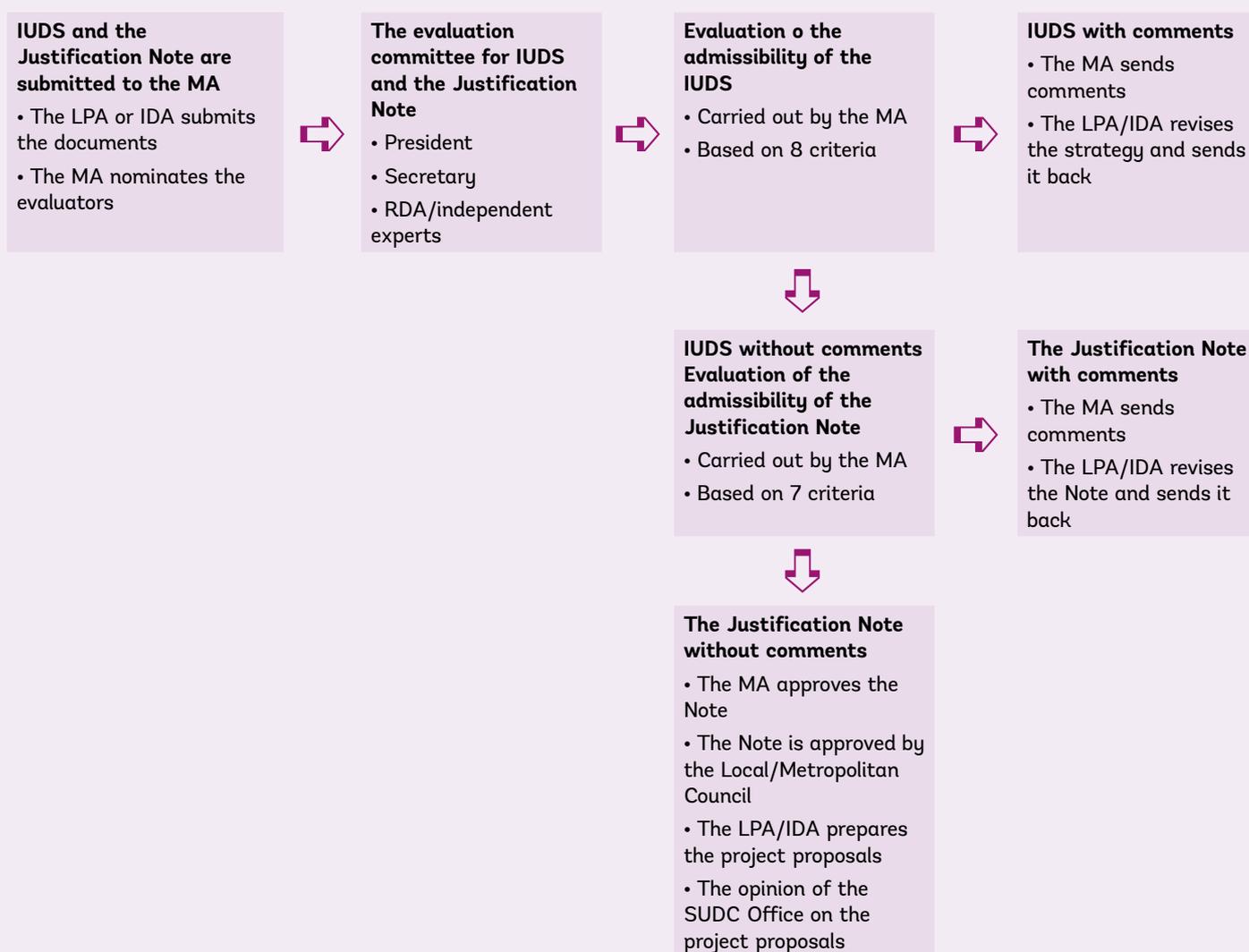
Once the Urban Authority has completed the Supporting Document, it will send it, together with the Integrated Urban Development Strategy of Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole for 2014-2020, to the South Muntenia RDA, acting as intermediate body, in order to perform an ex-ante evaluation of the documents to ensure their internal and external consistency, and to check the fulfillment of the minimal admissibility criteria in the grid used by the MA ROP.

Figure 103. The preparation of the IUDS and Justification Note for the 2014-2020 ESIF-funded interventions



After the South Muntenia RDA has submitted the ex-ante evaluation report, the two documents will be amended accordingly, if there are comments, and the supporting IUDS will be approved by the ruling body of the „Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole” IDA and by each component TAU.

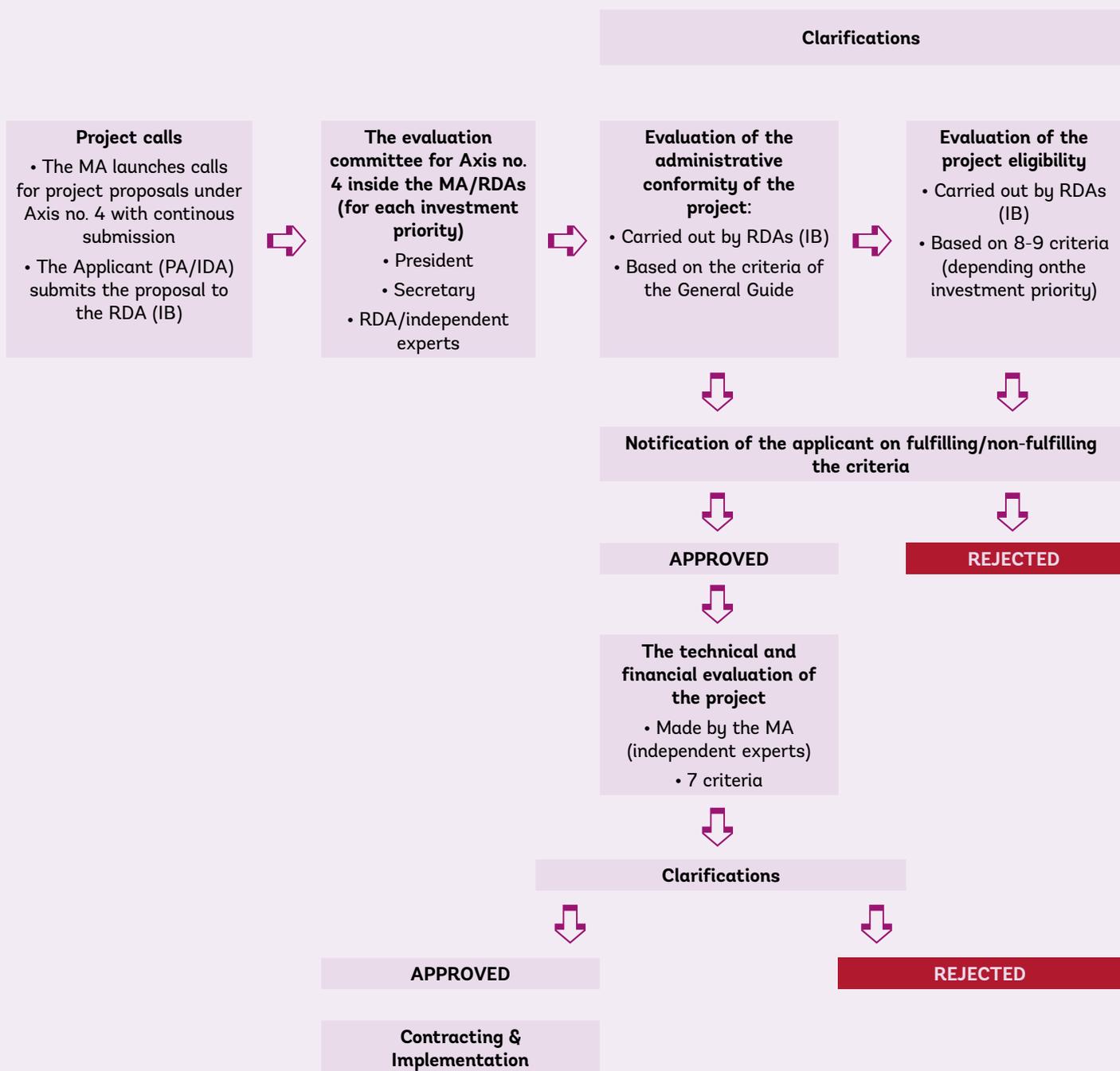
Figure 104. The evaluation of the IUDS and Justification Note for the 2014-2020 ESIF-funded interventions



After their approval by the IDA and the component TAUs, the IUDS and the Supporting Document will be submitted to the MA ROP for simultaneous assessment (to ensure the internal consistency of the two documents), preferably by a joint selection committee – for example the Operational Working Group for New Approaches, subordinated to the Ministry of European Funds. This option is preferable because the two documents will include projects that can be funded from various operational programmes and other sources of funding, and therefore should be designed and evaluated in an integrated manner. If during the evaluation there will be requests for amendments to the documents or clarifications from the evaluators, they will be operated by the Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole IDA and by the Urban Authority.

The final version of the Supporting Document will be approved by the ruling body of the “Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole” IDA and by the MA ROP, the next step being the actual preparation of the individual projects prioritized in the document. The process of evaluating, selecting, and contracting individual projects will be similar to the one in the 2007-2013 period, at least for the ROP Priority Axis no. 4; the duties will remain entirely with the MA ROP, which will delegate part of them to RDAs and to contracted external evaluators.

Figure 105. The evaluation of the IUDS and Justification Note for the 2014-2020 ESIF-funded interventions



5.3. Strengthening the administrative capacity of Ploiești Municipality to prepare and implement investment projects

At the level of Ploiești Municipality there is a Directorate of International Relations, under which there is a Project Managers Department, with a total of 10 full-time positions in the organizational chart, dedicated to the management of preparations and implementation; only part of these positions are filled. In the context of the financial crisis, the recruitment of staff in the local public administration was prohibited and the salaries were reduced by 25 %; however, in recent years, the salaries have been restored to the initial amount. The municipality implements a relatively large number of projects with a small number of project managers, each managing 1-3 projects. They are poorly paid, given that the 75 % salary bonus for the staff involved in the implementation of EU funds is granted only at central government level, while at local level it amounts to 30-60%, according to salary classes, depending on the number of projects each expert is involved in.

Given that Ploiești city has an operating budget of over 250 million EUR for the 2014-2023 period, we propose a functional review of the existing structures in the municipality and the establishment of Ploiești Municipality Programs Directorate, made up of:

- 1 manager;
- 25 project managers;
- 3 public procurement experts;
- 3 financial management experts;
- 1 legal professional;
- 2 engineers – civil constructions, public utilities;
- 1 architect-town-planner.

Ploiești Municipality Programs Directorate should have at least the following duties:

- drafting tender specifications;
- drafting service provision and development contracts;
- organizing project-themed competitions;
- solving public procurement issues;
- project management;
- post-implementation monitoring;
- urban planning and territorial development;
- solving legal issues;
- financial management.

The World Bank proposed the following short- and medium-term solutions to strengthen the capacity of the program implementation / project management directorates, which is particularly necessary, whereas the newly established Urban Authorities will make redundant a significant number of municipality staff, due to the application of the principle of function segregation:

- a functional analysis of the existing program implementation directorates / departments, in order to adapt their staff to the operational budget (financial potential for investments) of the city;
- including staff expenses into the category of eligible expenditures for investment projects financed from European funds, particularly in the case of the ROP;
- outsourcing some of the project implementation tasks to better paid external experts, in order to relieve their own staff, under the newly approved Law no. 64/2015;
- increasing the salary bonuses to 75% for the staff involved in implementing EU-funded projects and also for the members of the Urban Authorities;
- granting bonuses / related salary classes to the staff involved in the implementation of EU funded-projects and to the members of the Urban Authority, who will no longer have the right to engage in the project implementation units of the selected projects, according to the provisions of Article 7 of the ERDF Regulation.

5.4. Establishment of the South Muntenia Ploiești Urban Development Support Structure (by reorganizing the Ploiești Growth Pole Coordinator's Office)

The Ploiești Growth Pole Coordinator's Office had a sound activity in the 2007-2013 programming period, being very supportive to the beneficiaries of ROP funds and other funds. This success is the result of continuous development of the institutional capacity, despite the reduced number of employees, and the higher flexibility in recruiting, training and properly remunerating its own staff, compared to the local public administration sector. From this point of view, in order to meet the objectives undertaken by Romania in the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement and in ROP 2014-2020 document approved by the European Commission, it is necessary to maintain these structures and staff – who already have a solid experience in working with local actors and in liaising with central level authorities.

The recommendation of the World Bank is to keep and reorganize these structures, bearing in mind the following specific objectives:

- tackling the problems related to sustainable urban development for all county seats / IDAs in the region – in the case of the South Muntenia development region, the county seats are: Ploiești, Pitești, Târgoviște, Călărași, Giurgiu, Slobozia, and Alexandria. Ideally, the management structure of the pole coordinator's office should remain within the growth pole (which has a polarizing role for the rest of the region and where there is a core of already trained and experienced staff, who could immediately take over the tasks related to the new programming period), with representatives or local offices established in every county seat of the region. As such, it will require strengthening the operational capacity of the existing office by hiring additional qualified staff and providing them with continuous training, as well as the adoption by the MA ROP of working procedures for the CDUS;
- taking over some helpdesk tasks to assist the beneficiaries in the project design, implementation, and monitoring. The South Muntenia Ploiești UDSS could help, inter alia, with the drafting of specifications and contracts (two stages of the public procurement process that were deficient in the 2007-2013 financial period) for the projects that have been approved for European funding (irrespective of the funding source);
- organizing an exchange of experience between the various county seats in the region and in Romania;
- the South Muntenia Ploiești UDSS will be part of the South Muntenia RDA structure, but its responsibilities will be distinct from those of the IB ROP within the Agency. In this context, it is advisable that the MA ROP and the South Muntenia RDA should conclude different agreements for the delegation of functions to the two sub-structures that have a different track record and different operational characteristics and functions;
- the funding of the South Muntenia Ploiești UDSS, according to 2014-2020 ROP document, will be provided from Priority Axis no. 12 – Technical Assistance for the 2014-2020 ROP. Given the proposal that the UDSS should support the beneficiaries in the implementation and correlation of all projects listed in the 2014-2020 ESIF Supporting Document, we recommend that such activities should be funded by signing a quadripartite agreement between the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (MRDPA) – MA ROP, the Ministry of European Funds – MA TAOP (Technical Assistance Operational Programme), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – MA PNDR (National Rural Development Programme), and the RDAs. Nevertheless, such a document should ideally include all the management authorities which will implement projects at the growth pole's level (MA-COP, MA-ACOP, MA-LIOP).

The responsibilities of the South Muntenia Ploiești UDSS at the level of the 7 county seats in the region could include:

1. Supporting the development / updating / modification of the programming documents related to the implementation of sustainable urban development in the 2014-2020 period

Approving the Integrated Urban Development Strategy (IUDS) for the 2014-2020 programming period and the Supporting Document for the financing of interventions from the 2014-2020 ESIF, previously granting support to the intercommunity development associations / county seats in drafting and updating these documents.

2. Supporting the Urban Authorities in fulfilling their responsibilities:

- a) Supporting the creation, accreditation, and functioning of the Urban Authorities, including the implementation of the annual recommendations of the audit missions.
- b) Supporting the drafting of the Urban Authorities' internal working procedures for the function delegated by the MA ROP.
- c) Supporting the Urban Authorities in implementing the power delegation agreements concluded between MA ROP

and the Urban Authorities.

d) Participating, whenever necessary, in the meetings organized by the Urban Authority for following up, coordinating, and correlating the projects listed in the 2014-2020 ESIF Supporting Document, along with Authority members, project managers, consultants, builders, and site supervisors.

3. Supporting the monitoring of the Supporting Document for the funding of interventions from the 2014-2020 ESIF

Drafting periodic monitoring reports (quarterly / half-yearly / yearly, as applicable) or ad hoc briefings on the implementation of the Supporting Document for the financing of interventions from the 2014-2020 ESIF, including for priority projects (e.g. project status, compliance with the schedule for drafting / submitting related projects, etc.).

4. Supporting the implementation / monitoring of priority funding projects related to the Supporting Document for the financing of the interventions from the 2014-2020 ESIF

a) Preparing approval (pre-verification) reports for the priority projects listed in the Supporting Document for the financing of interventions from the 2014-2020 ESIF before submitting them to the MA/IB.

b) Monitoring the progress of priority projects, as well as the achievement of the indicators undertaken in these projects, and supporting the beneficiaries' implementation of the projects included in the Supporting Document for financing the interventions from the 2014-2020 ESIF.

c) Participating in monitoring visits, as an observer.

5. Providing support for the implementation of sustainable urban development during 2014-2020

a) Providing a link between the local public authorities or the intercommunity development association formed at county seat level and the other managing authorities and bodies at the level of the other operational programmes funded by the EU between 2014 and 2020, by providing information, organizing meetings, participating in discussions and and work-groups coordination at national level.

b) Disseminating information among the relevant actors at the level of the intercommunity development associations / county seats regarding calls for projects / financing opportunities under the 2014-2020 ESIF;

c) Establishing a relationship of permanent cooperation and consultation with the local authorities or the intercommunity development association established at county seat level.

d) Contributing to / running promotion and information campaigns on the concept of sustainable urban development during 2014-2020.

e) Performing any other duties arising from the provisions of the documents relating to sustainable urban development.

5.5. Strengthening inter-institutional cooperation and the cooperation of associative structures in Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole

The “Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole” IDA, although it was established as early as 2009, has a poor institutional capacity. As we have indicated in the previous sections, during the 2007-2013 programming period this associative structure was rather an artificial vector of investment, designed to attract grants available in the 2007-2013 period under Priority Axis no. 1 of the ROP, without providing other services to its 15 members or to the Prahova County Council. On the other hand, the applicant for most of the investments financed under this axis was Ploiești municipality, even though most of the projects (such as those in the field of mobility – e.g. road passages) impacted or served the metropolitan area. In this context, several TAUs that were members of the association chose to no longer pay the membership fee and expressed their desire to leave this associative structure, being more attracted to the Local Action Groups, which provided direct benefits in the form of grants, albeit of very little value.

In this context, in order to ensure the institutional sustainability of the “Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole” IDA in the 2014-2020 period, urgent action is needed to develop the institutional capacity of the executive apparatus of the association, through measures such as:

- developing and communicating to the members a concrete action plan for 2014-2020, in order to keep them in the associative structure;
- joining the Romanian Federation of Metropolitan Areas and Urban Agglomerations and getting actively involved in its activities, including through exchanges of experience with the functional metropolitan areas in Romania (e.g. Oradea, Constanța, Baia Mare, or Iași);
- preparing and implementing projects that benefit from grants (e.g. under the Competitiveness Operational Programme, the Human Capital Operational Programme, INTERREG, etc.) for strengthening its own institutional capacity (e.g. training courses, equipment provision, etc.) and providing services to its members (e.g. by organizing information and training sessions, by assisting them in drafting the strategic and spatial planning documents, by joint databases, by promoting tourism and culture, environment, energy efficiency, ICT, etc.);
- involving the IDA members in the Urban Authority in order to ensure representation of all members' interests in the prioritization of investment projects at Ploiești Growth Pole level;
- changing the name of the association into “Ploiești Metropolitan Area” IDA, in order to avoid any semantic confusion and to clearly highlight its purpose.

In the medium term, with the amendment of the legislation on land and urban planning, and of the legislation on the organization, operation and financing of the local administration, the Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole IDA could expand its scope to cover areas such as: land use planning and urban planning, by developing and adopting the Land Use Plan for the Regional Metropolitan Area (updating the existing Land Use Plan for the Inter-Communal and City Territory); preparing and implementing projects supported by grants (currently constrained, in terms of infrastructure, by ownership and subsequent operation issues); or even providing specialized consultancy services for its member TAUs (preparing tender specifications, contracts, assistance during implementation, support for attracting investors, etc.), operating as a genuine Metropolitan Development Agency.

Another major concern in Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole is **public transport**, which is set out in detail in the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan of the Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole, developed with the support of the MRDPA and the EBRD, to be completed in 2015. Currently, at pole level, there is no metropolitan public transport operator; such services are provided in Ploiești by a public operator whose sole shareholder is the municipality. In the localities of the peri-urban area, the services are provided by various private operators which have obtained transport licenses that are generally valid until 2019. Moreover, such operators were not selected in accordance with the EU Regulation no. 1370/2007, which requires a public services contract (a template for such a contract was already developed by the EBRD), but in accordance with the national law of that time, which was not completely in line with that Regulation.

Therefore, if all member TAUs of the Ploiești-Prahova Growth Pole IDA and other localities in Prahova county express their consent, procedures must be launched for the establishment of a **Ploiești Transport Metropolitan IDA**, with a view to conclude – by the year 2019 – a public service contract with a metropolitan operator, on the basis of the transport program which will be developed and adopted. The latter will be in line with Regulation no. 1370/2007 and will set out the obligations of both the transport operator and of the member TAUs, in terms of compensation (subsidies) provided to the operator, given that not all routes tendered for will be profitable.

Subsequently, the duties of this IDA can be extended, following the model proposed for the Bucharest-Ilfov region and according to the legislative changes at national level, so as to include other powers:

- parking lot management in the member TAUs;
- supervising the taxi trade;
- operation and maintenance of the transport model developed under the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan;
- management of a metropolitan railway transport system;
- mobility planning at the level of the Metropolitan Area.

Finally, a priority in terms of interinstitutional cooperation in Prahova County is the continuation of efforts to **attract investors**. Prahova county has the largest area of authorized industrial parks in Romania; the local authorities – especially the Prahova County Council – have invested significant amounts in their development, and their success in attracting investors is unique nationwide. However, the recent years have seen a reduction in investor interest in the county’s public industrial parks; a case in point in this regard is the new industrial park in the county – located in Bărcănești –, which was established two years ago and has no clients at all.

Therefore, it is recommended to establish and properly financially support an **Investor Relations Office**, either at the level of Prahova County Council or at the level of S.C. PLOIEȘTI INDUSTRIAL PARC S.A., a company managing the industrial parks subordinated to the County Council; this Office should perform the following functions:

- upon request, assisting potential investors with all necessary information for starting a business in Prahova county and providing support during the implementation phase (identification of land, assistance in obtaining approvals, agreements and permits, providing access and utilities – in partnership with the owners of the utility networks, staff recruitment agencies, etc.);
- proactively approaching investors by organizing business delegations within the country and abroad, cooperating with foreign embassies, with commercial and state banks, organizing investment forums, participating in specialized fairs and exhibitions, etc.;
- cooperating with other structures at national, regional, county, and local level who have duties / powers in attracting investors (government agencies, RDAs, universities, chambers of commerce, etc.);
- developing and distributing materials promoting the county as an investment destination;
- call-center services for existing and potential investors;
- organizing jobs fairs and vocational training courses for professions that are in demand, in partnership with schools and accredited training units;
- etc.

