

**Long term care, spatial planning and public policy in Central and Eastern Europe
Eastern-European Ageing Societies in Transition (EAST)
Workshop in Budapest (Hungary)**

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th June 2016

**Home care of aged people in Romania
Legislation, institutions, inequalities in access to home care
service**

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In 2015 in Romania there are living 3.300.000 persons over 65 years from whom 27,5 % are under sever poverty risk. Ageing of the population is higher in rural settlements, in 2012 the rate of population over 65 years was 18,3 % in the country, in rural areas 19,4 % (in urban areas 13,4 %).

- ▶ In 2011 the number of beneficiaries of home care was 41.558 persons. There is missing a national register of home care service.
- ▶ Legislation : Law nr 17/2000 is making definition of aged person : is a person who has the age of retirement indicated by law. Aged people has the right to have access to social assistance depending by socio-medical situation and economic resources of the person or family.

Aged person is beneficiary of social care in the following situations:

- ▶ Has no family,
- ▶ Has no home
- ▶ Aged person is beneficiary of social care in the following situations :
- ▶ Has and has no possibility to assure living conditions by own resources;
- ▶ Has no own financial resources, or the existing resources are not sufficient for own care;
- ▶ Can't make alone housekeeping, or need specialized care;
- ▶ Can't assure socio-medical needs being sick (physical or psychological diseases).

New legislation was added in the reform of health care system by the Law nr. 95/2006 and HG 400/2014 to develop the medical care system at home.

- ▶ Evaluation of needs of aged persons is made by a social and medical examination, living conditions, level of income, family background.

Types of home care service :

- ▶ Social assistance, is offered by public institutions and NGOs, who have recognized activity the social assistance.
- ▶ Social service and socio-medical service is made free of charge for persons with low financial resources (determined by law) and making payment, depending by the type of need and level of income of the person. Types of service and price is determined by the local council.
- ▶ Medical service at home, based on medical assurance.
- ▶ Organizer of social service and socio-medical and medical services is the local council, directly or by making convention with an NGO, church unit, physical or juridical person.

- ▶ It was developed the occupation of home carer by organizing of courses of qualification with duration of 6 months by Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Work, Family, Social Protection and Aged people.
- ▶ There were identified on site : <http://seniorinet.ro> 332 units in 2014, and 394 units in 2015 in the whole country making service of care at home, from which 126 units are in rural settlements. There were 158 public units and 206 NGO units in 36 counties. In 6 counties this service is missing. (map)

Harta Furnizorilor de Servicii de Ingrijire la Domiciliu



There are three types of units making home care :

- ▶ 1. Public units (service made by local authority or county level authority)
 - ▶ 2. Private units (commercial units or authorized persons)
 - ▶ 3. Private nonprofit units (NGOs and cult organizations)
- ▶ Identification of aged persons who need home care service is realized by the family, relatives, family doctor or neighbor.

Duration of home care :

- ▶ - six months,
- ▶ - twelve months,
- ▶ - from one to three years,
- ▶ - over three years.
- ▶ - long term care is not regulated and implemented in Romania.

The work program of home carers : 8 hours/day and only 3,8 % of NGOs are making 24 hours service.

Beneficiaries of home care service by type of unit and type of residence, number of persons :

▶ Type of unit	Urban	Rural	Total
▶ Public units	897	224	1121
▶ NGOs	1549	1469	3018

- ▶ NGO units has more developed network in urban and rural residences then public units. In some regions public units are missing.

Public units' financial resources :

- ▶ -local budget 92,3 %
- ▶ -donations 30,8 %
- ▶ - state budget 23,1 %
- ▶ -external funds 7,7 %

Private units' financial resources :

- ▶ donations 85,5 %
- ▶ local budget 50,0 %
- ▶ state budget 58,3 %
- ▶ external funds 41,7 %

The quantum of month contribution for a single person in

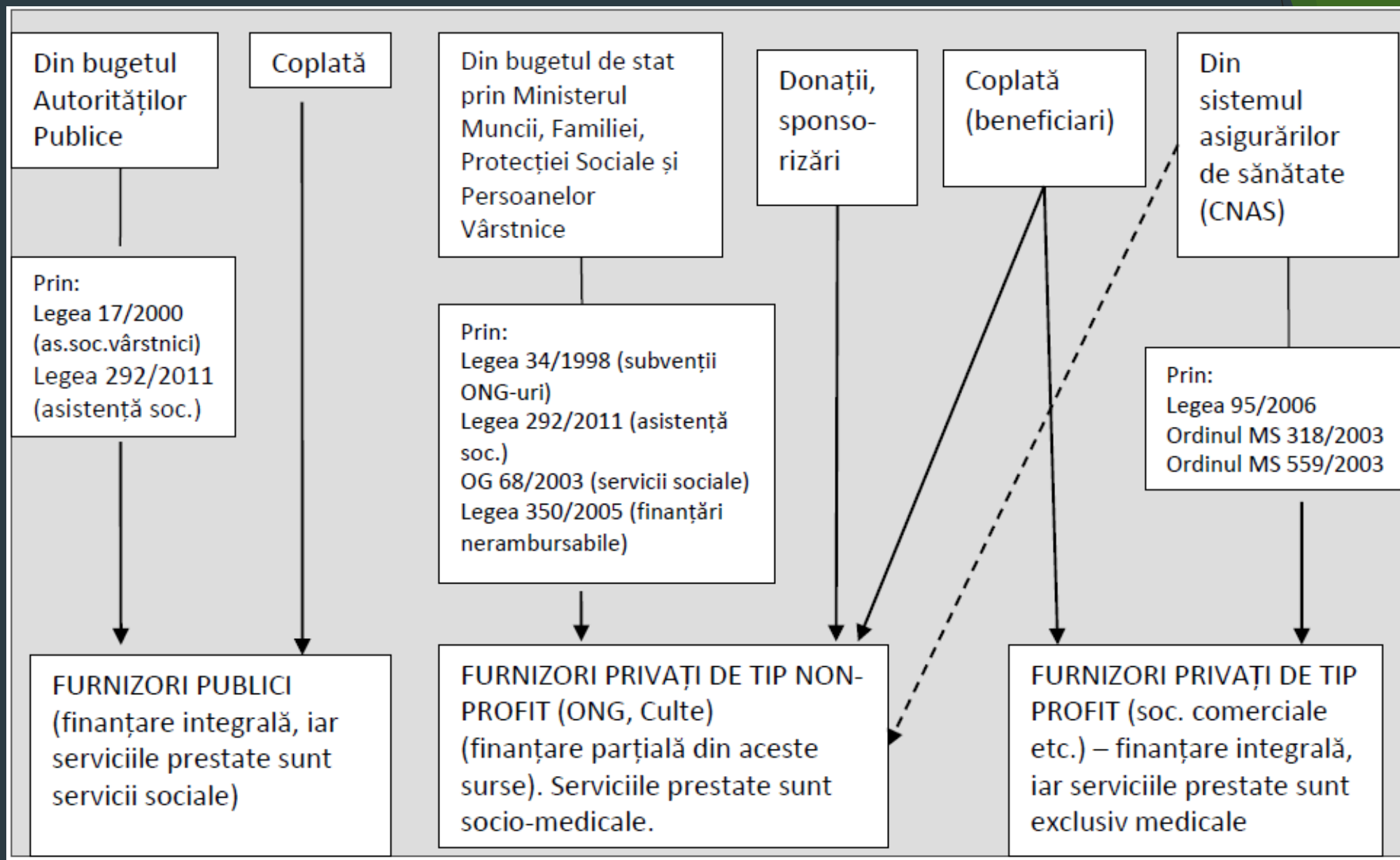
- ▶ public units : 152 RON in 2014 (34,5 euro)
- ▶ NGOs units : 348 RON in 2014 (79 euro)

- ▶ 63,7 % of long term care beneficiaries have income under 796 RON (176,8euro)/month.

- ▶ Inequalities of home care are generated by lack of home care services in rural areas. The map is showing 6 counties (Calarasi, Gorj, Giurgiu, Ialomita, Mehedinti, Valcea) where home care service units are missing at all. Rural units are developed in Harghita county (57 units), Covasna county (9 units), in Mures county (24 units).
- ▶ Seniorinet is a platform of 58 NGOs, founded by a Swiss organization, which is making important steps for development of home care service.

The financial resources of home care are :

- ▶ - public,
- ▶ - payment of medical assurance system,
- ▶ - partial payment of beneficiaries.



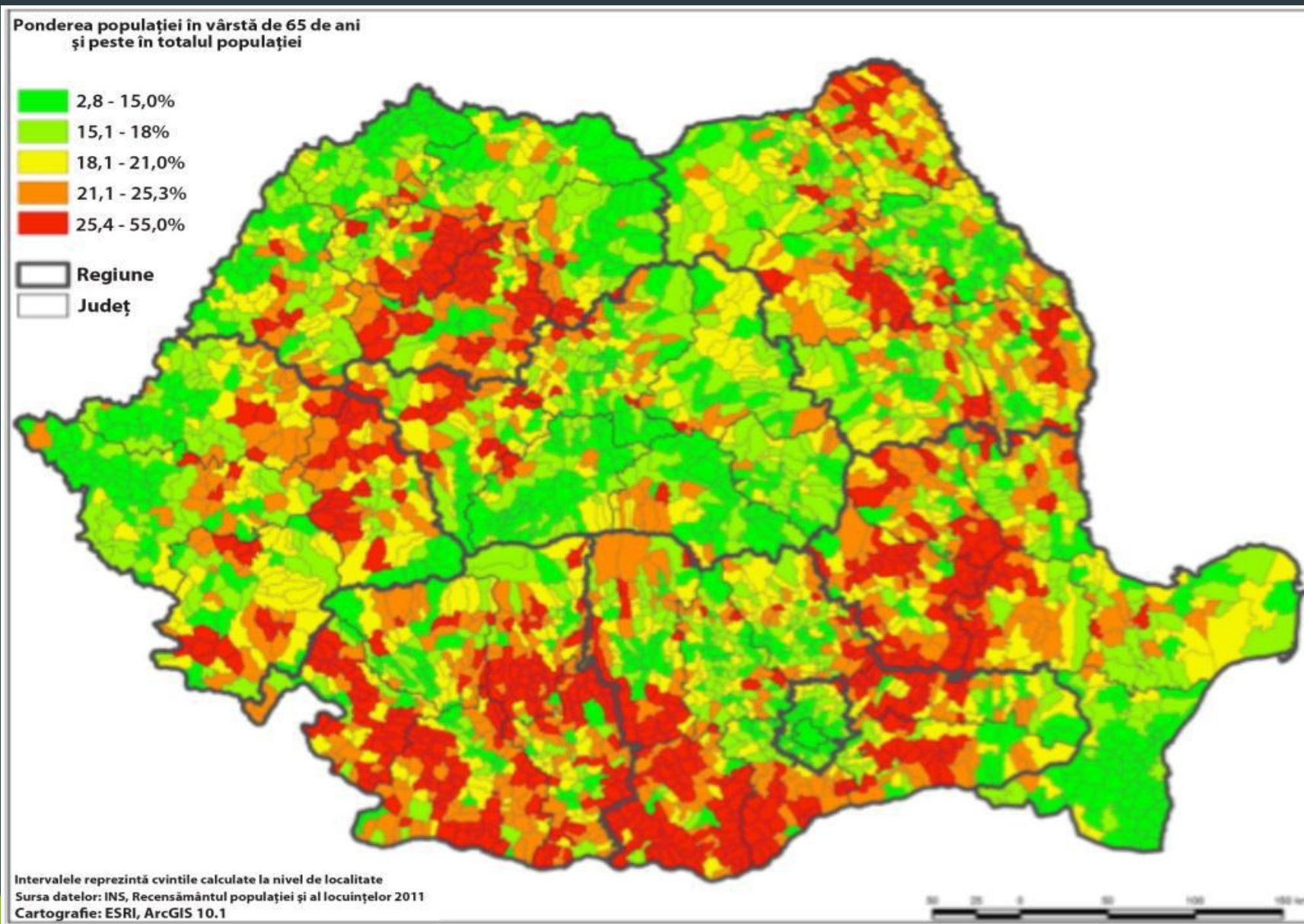
Beneficiaries of home care, type of unit, gender, age

	Age	Under 59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	Total
Public unit	M.	31	42	34	36	71	72	75	361
	F.	56	112	89	137	205	164	140	903
	Total	87	154	123	173	276	236	215	1264
Public unit	M.	55	61	88	153	130	140	73	700
	F.	85	147	292	422	406	425	272	2049
	Total	140	208	380	575	536	565	345	2749

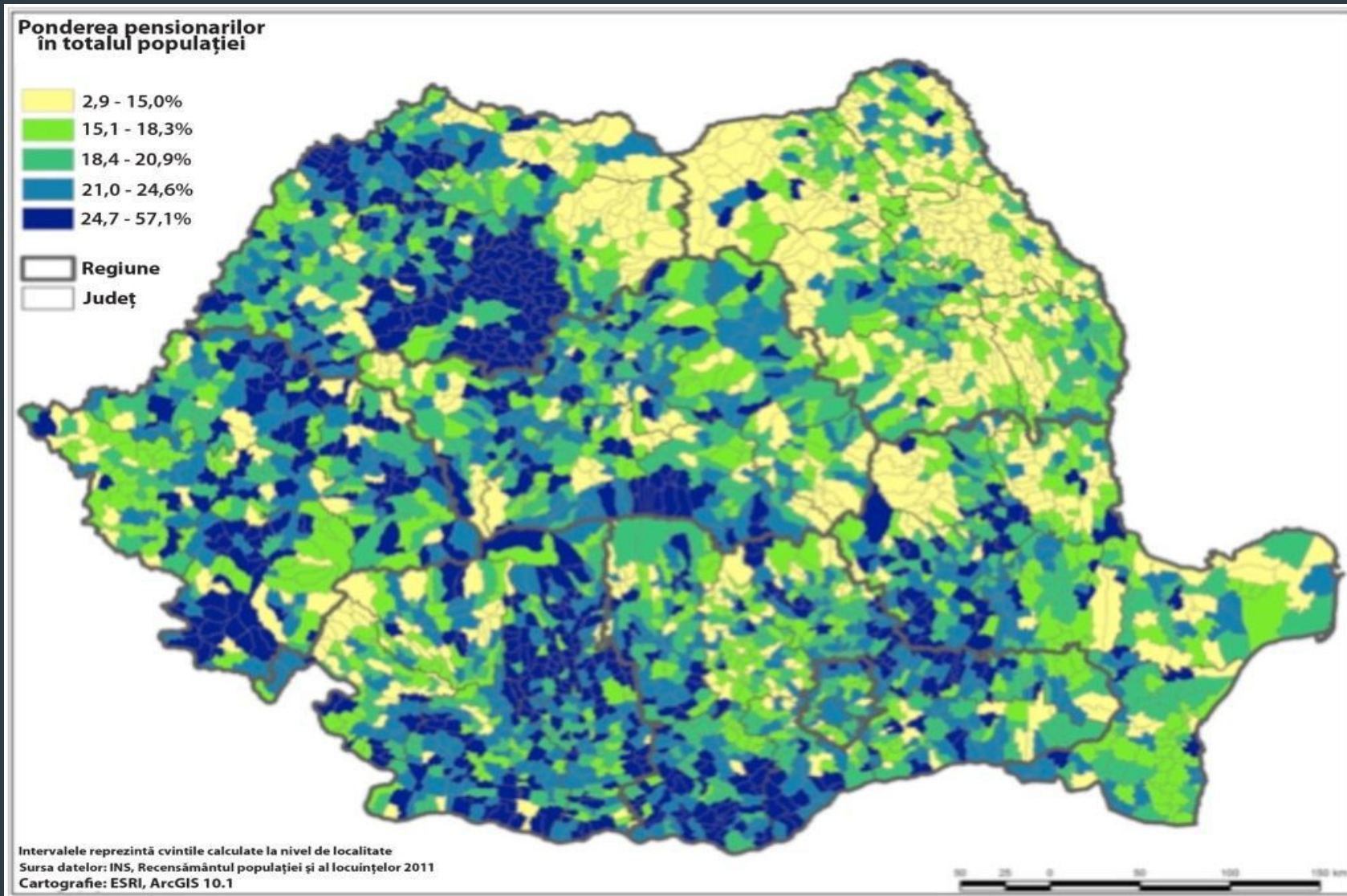
Social service rate by type of unit

Social service	Public unit	Private unit
1. Legal consultancy	50.0%	26.9%
2. Administrative consultancy	57.1%	34.6%
3. Physiological consultancy	64.3%	42.3%
4. Prevention of marginalisation	92.9%	73.1%
5. Readaptation of physical and psychological capacity	21.4%	73.1%
6. Food preparation	64.3%	57.7%
7. Help in household	85.7%	96.2%
8. Participation in cultural/sport actions	64.3%	50.0%
9. Adaptation of home	42.9%	42.3%
10. Others	49.9%	30.8%

The rate of population aged over 65 years in the whole population



The rate of pensioners in the whole population



- ▶ The Romanian national service for care of aged people with a higher grade of dependency is not unifying the criteria of quality promoted on European level :
- ▶ The number of them is under the needs, the rural areas and small towns are missing the service;
- ▶ There are hard accessible, there is lack of qualified personnel;
- ▶ The real cost of service (long term care) is expensive for the level of incomes of families ;
- ▶ There are no centralized data at national level for strategic plan of this sector;
- ▶ Those services which are not beneficiaries of partial payment from the beneficiaries are at high risk of sustainment.

The main problems mentioned by the SenioriNet platforme are :

- ▶ Home care service geographic extention is unequal at national level, there are counties with whole cover (Harghita, Mures, Covasna), other counties where is missing completely (Valcea, Calarasi, Buzau, Giurgiu, Ilfov);
- ▶ There is low interest of political factor for development of home care service,
- ▶ The local authorities has low capacity to solve social needs by social services,
- ▶ Local authorities has reduced financial resources,
- ▶ Low number or missing private units of socio-medical services for home care.

Difficulties in activity :

- ▶ Lack of financial resources,
- ▶ Lack of personnel,
- ▶ Workload of carers,
- ▶ Weak implication of family doctors,
- ▶ Lack of geriatric doctors,
- ▶ Lack of medicaments.

Recommendations made by SenioriNet platform

Development of private units for social and medical services of home care,

- ▶ Implication of county councils for development of home care service at rural settlement,
- ▶ To stimulate local authorities at local level offering annually bonus for those authorities who support development of home care service.

References :

- ▶ www.SenioriNet.ro
- ▶ [www. Cnpv.ro](http://www.Cnpv.ro)
- ▶ Raport Banca Mondiala, Viata lunga, activa in forta, Promovarea imbatranirii active in Romania. Reteaua pentru dezvoltarea umana, regiunea Europa, Asia Centrala, 2014

Thank you for your attention!