

ZAMFIR CĂTĂLIN, CACE SORIN (EDS.): *COVID-19 în România. Date, analize, evoluții și statistici*, Editura Expert, București, 2020, p. 295

2020 was a year that overturned the entire global society. The Sars-Cov2 virus quickly spread throughout the world, causing a global pandemic unprecedented in modern history, causing many social inequalities (Jora, 2020; Yang *et al.*, 2020). Scientists turned their attention to the pandemic as well, investing efforts in better understanding the causes and effects of what has been often termed as the “*new normal*” (Kiliçarslan *et al.*, 2020).

Seventeen sociologists and philosophers, mainly from the Research Institute for Quality of Life next to the Romanian Academy, but not restricted to, have joined forces to give light to a collective volume published under the care of Cătălin Zamfir and Sorin Cace (editors): “*Covid-19 in Romania. Data, analyses, evolutions and statistics*” (a. n.: my translation in English from the original presented in the title of this review). The volume is divided into six chapters that look at the Coronavirus pandemic from various socioeconomic aspects, with a focus on quality of life and standard of living.

The first chapter (Cătălin Zamfir, Elena Zamfir) starts (logically) with a brief introduction on the evolution of the pandemic worldwide, and then in Romania, comparatively looking at how quality of life in Romania and in other European states has been affected by pandemic-specific public health measures, such as lockdown or physical distancing.

The second chapter (Daniel Arpinte, Sorin Cace, Simona Mihaiu, Iulian Stănescu, Simona Maria Stănescu, Sebastian Țoc) analyzes public policies (health, economics etc.), in order to gain insights onto how social protection policies have been used throughout the pandemic and onto how their use has impacted upon the standard of living. The authors come to disquieting conclusions, but for which they suggest solutions to be put in place, in order to pave the way forward.

The third chapter (Mălina Voicu, Daniel Arpinte, Delia Bădoi, Alexandra Deliu, Simona Mihaiu, Simona Maria Stănescu, Cristina Tomescu) looks at demographic trends in Romania throughout the pandemic. The chapter analyzes the pressures of the pandemic on several socially and economically vulnerable groups, such as seniors or migrants, while also looking at the public policies meant to protect these groups in the given circumstances.

The fourth chapter (Bogdan Florian, Sebastian Țoc) deals with yet another sector challenged by the pandemic: the educational system. The analysis looks at aspects such as learning inequalities due to uneven access to the internet, the digital competencies needed in order to adapt to the new, online learning system, sanitary conditions in schools and other learning units etc.

The fifth chapter (Mariana Stanciu, Adina Mihăilescu, Cristina Humă) inspects the food crisis generated by the pandemic, as a result of the fragility of professional networks and supply chains due to traffic restrictions, export bans, or border closure policies.

Last but not least, chapter six concludes the volume with a philosophical vision that adds a new line of understanding to the previous five analyses. The author (Vasile Morar) looks at the moral and ethical impact pandemics have had throughout history, making a comparison with the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020. The author underlines that apart from the social and economical disturbances, this recent health crisis also has anthropological and ethical implications on humans, altering their habits, behaviors and values. In the face of such a damaging natural selection, the hope for humanity resides in human friendship.

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Vlad I. ROȘCA

FLAVIUS MIHALACHE, *Mediul rural între 1990 și 2020.* *Transformări și decalaje*, Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, 2020

Recent a apărut la Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană volumul cu titlul menționat, elaborat de către cercetătorul Flavius Mihalache, specializat pe domeniul respectiv.

Lucrarea conține studii inedite precum și dezvoltări ale unor demersuri de analiză sociologică publicate anterior în reviste.

În cuprinsul operei se regăsesc abordări în care se tratează ruralul românesc din perspectivele: structurii populației, a așezărilor umane și a teritoriului; reformei agrare și a transformării sectorului agricol; structurii ocupaționale a populației rurale; dezvoltării acestui mediu rezidențial; bunăstării subiective.

Reperul principal al acestui demers de cunoaștere este constatarea că în cele trei decenii s-au produs procese prin care au rezultat diferențieri marcante între localități, așa încât vechea identificare globală a ruralului nu mai este pe deplin funcțională. De fapt, sunt evidențiate trei perioade de timp, în interiorul cărora s-au produs schimbări cu semnificații aparte. Astfel, în primul deceniu, la începutul căruia s-a demarat reforma agrară, prin resituirea proprietăților agricole colectivizate sau naționalizate, dezvoltarea ruralului a stagnat, pentru că nu s-a intervenit pe măsura nevoilor ce au apărut, ajungându-se la fărâmițarea masivă a exploatațiilor, cu trecerea la agricultură de subzistență (p. 13).

Dintre țările membre UE, în anul 2013, în România suprafața medie a exploatațiilor era de 3,6 ha, mai mici fiind în Malta (1,2 ha) și Cipru (3,1 ha), dar mult mai extinse în Slovacia (80,7 ha); Marea Britanie (93,6 ha) și Republica Cehă (133 ha) (p. 62, utilizându-se ca sursă Eurostat).

În România erau 3,4 milioane exploatații agricole, adică 33% din cele existente în statele UE (p. 69).