

The paper draws from preliminary results of a conjoint qualitative research project started in 2017, based on numerous visits of both authors to Roşia Montană since 2010 and on interviews conducted with several entrepreneurs.

SOCIAL CAPITAL IS THE HIDDEN RESERVE FOR SMALL TOWNS?

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All-important socio-economic changes have impacted on every city as such changes may in fact begin in an emerging economy and are not necessarily limited to the most developed contexts. At the same time, small towns play a more important role than ever in local development. Most of the city researchers favour to analyzing big cities and agglomerations due to the accessibility and multitude of information. In correspondence with that, the studying of small towns can have a supplementary function among the other theories. The study aims to present the long-term developmental laws and characteristic features of small towns which entities strongly influence the economic, social and political life of Eastern and Central-Europe. The number of small towns in this area has permanently changed during the last centuries (market town development, urban laws of 1871), yet their portion increased mainly after the regime change in the early 1990s and the millennium in 2000. My paper applies the methodology of comparison; it investigates primarily the development and opportunities of countries with a significant small town network disposing of similar assets and structures. The factors which have relevant impacts on small town development potentials are: the geographic position, the historical development, and the emergence of civil society. Beside these aspects, local traditions, practices, special age-long agricultural activities, specialized knowledge or economic attitude (small firm production possibilities, special horticultural activities) are also relevant features. One solution for the small towns the social capital, which can use to improve the quality of life.

REGIONS AND MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES. EN EXERCISE OF HYPOTHESIS CONSTRUCTION.

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In this paper I change the perspective in which traditionally the scientific literature analysis the MNC's locational decisions. Academics are mostly interested in the determinants of the location's decision, while for policy makers the most important are the effects of the plant's presence for the regions. In my opinion, if we analyze the regions in which the MNC are located, we could add a new perspective to the location theories. Therefore I analyze the regions and countries in which the biggest part of the European automotive industry (Volkswagen, BMW, Daimler-Benz, Renault and PSA) has its plants, trying to construct a hypothesis regarding the regions common characteristic.