
ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE AND PLACE OF THE HANDICRAFT COOPERATION IN ROMANIA DURING THE CENTRALIZED PERIOD

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Abstract

The genesis of the emergence and evolution of craftsmanship co-operation in Romania has its roots very deep. It has emerged and strengthened over time, always representing a component of the economic structure in our country, offering jobs and capitalizing on local financial and financial resources. In the super-centralized period of Romania, the co-operation in general and the craftsmanship, in particular, had an important evolution. It was the only economic and social segment that was not state-owned and based on the limited, co-operative joint ownership. The boom of craftsmanship cooperatives was so great that in 1959 a number of craft cooperatives, the most developed ones, were transformed into state-owned enterprises. We can say that „it was a process of nationalization of craftsmanship cooperatives”, with all the resulting consequences. During the period under review, there were a large number of co-operatives on which there were co-workers, co-workers and employees.

Handicraft cooperatives during the period of time had an important contribution to the formation of the Social Product (the form of national evidence in the material production method).

Keywords: *handicraft cooperative, cooperative, cooperator, units for serving the population, centralized economy*

JEL classification: *J21, P13*

Introduction

The authors carry out an extensive study on the evolution of craft cooperatives during the centralized economy. On the basis of synthetic tables prepared by taking over the data from the statistical yearbooks corresponding to the time, it is highlighted the evolution of this sector of activity. Data on the number of craft cooperatives, the number of co-operatives, as well as the territorial structure (regional or county) are then exposed. Positive evolution and growth in both urban and rural areas are noted.

To highlight some aspects of the evolution of craftsmanship co-operation throughout the 45-year period, the authors also recourse to analyzes at shorter intervals. The article includes a large number of tables and graphical representations that make the study easier to interpret and understand.

Literature review

Anghelache (2018) conducted an extensive study of the emergence of the cooperative system in Romania and its evolution from the Great Union to the present. Anghelache, Anghel and Marinescu (2018), and Anghelache and Anghel (2018) have analyzed the evolution of craftsmanship in the last hundred years. Anghelache (2018) studied the importance of craft cooperatives as well as of the entire national co-operative system in the economy of a country. Bontems and Fulton (2009) conducted a comparative analysis between cooperatives and commercial companies. Borgen (2004) addressed aspects of motivation in co-operative organizations. Novkovic (2008) highlighted the specificities of cooperatives. Torres Pérez (2016) emphasized the collaborative economy.

Research methodology, data, results and discussions

The analysis of the evolution of craftsmanship cooperatives until 1964, based on the data from the 1965 statistical yearbook, because in 1959 there was a slump in the number of co-operative cooperatives, by transforming some of them into industrial enterprises state.

We find that, after 1959, the evolution of the craft cooperative activity was somewhat stagnant as a number of cooperatives, population service units, the number of total co-operatives and the number of cooperatives in the population service units.

Number of cooperatives and units for serving the population in the period 1950-1964

Table 1

Year	Cooperatives		Units for serving the population	
	Absolute value	Rate of change*	Absolute value	Rate of change*
1950	568	-	2 127	-
1951	642	13.03	2 854	34.18
1952	679	5.76	4 859	70.25
1953	637	-6.19	5 205	7.12
1954	657	3.14	5 361	3.00
1955	637	-3.04	5 549	3.51
1956	637	0.00	6 168	11.16
1957	650	2.04	7 372	19.52
1958	638	-1.85	8 227	11.60
1959**	356	-44.20	9 257	12.52
1960	345	-3.09	10 463	13.03
1961	323	-6.38	11 109	6.17
1962	321	-0.62	12 067	8.62
1963	317	-1.25	11 084	-8.15
1964	303	-4.42	10 974	-0.99

Note: * Own calculations

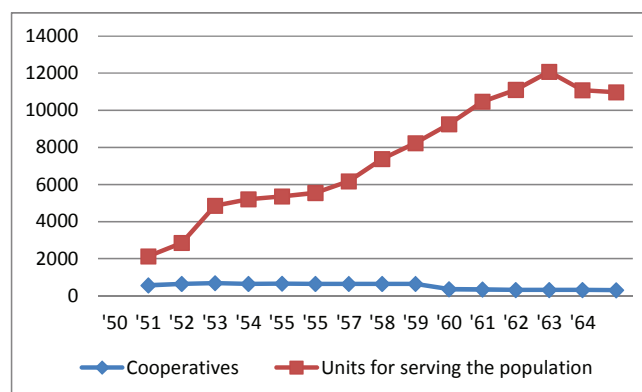
** During 1959, some cooperative industrial units turned into state-owned enterprises.

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RPR, 1965.

Own systematization.

Evolution of the number of cooperatives in the period 1950-1964

Figure 1



Source: own representation.

It notes that after 1959, the number of co-operatives increased, reaching in 1964 to 121,228 people, of whom 82,018 acted in the field of serving of the population.

Number of cooperators members, during the period 1950-1964

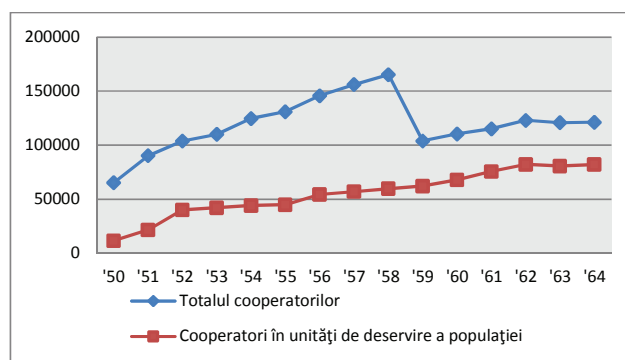
Table 2

Year	Cooperators		
	Total	in units for serving the population	
		Absolute value	Share (%)*
1950	65 304	11 601	17.76
1951	90 320	21 645	23.96
1952	103 789	40 048	38.59
1953	110 078	42 125	38.27
1954	124 733	44 097	35.35
1955	130 985	44 878	34.26
1956	145 694	54 328	37.29
1957	156 130	56 951	36.48
1958	165 249	59 805	36.19
1959	104 000	62 126	59.74
1960	110 416	67 895	61.49
1961	115 257	75 713	65.69
1962	122 976	82 195	66.84
1963	120 815	80 627	66.74
1964	121 228	82 018	67.66

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RPR, 1965.
Own systematization. Own calculations.

The evolution of the number of cooperators during the period 1950-1964

Figure 2



Source: own representation.

We continued the analysis of the craft cooperative structure during the period 1960-1964, starting from the fact that the year 1959 was a moment of inflection, we were concerned about the further evolution of the population service units, the number of cooperators, which we present in Table 3.

**The units for serving the population pe activități,
during the period 1960-1964**

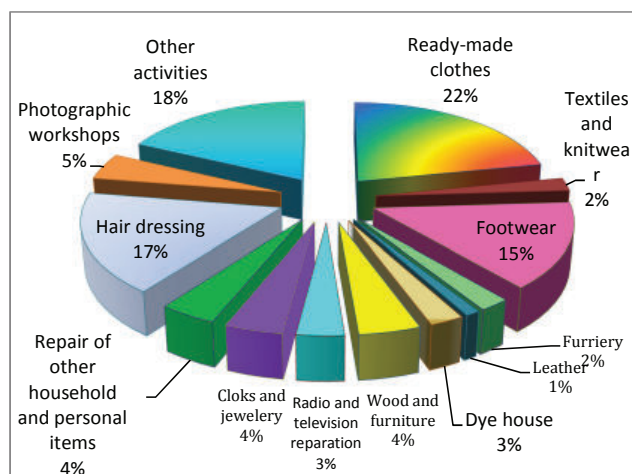
Table 3

Types of activities	1960	1964
Ready-made clothes	2 113	2 396
Textiles and knitwear	105	242
Footwear	2 031	1 611
Furriery	205	238
Leather	80	112
Dye house	241	265
Wood and furniture	321	481
Radio and Television Repairs	318	371
Clocks and watches and jewelery	356	452
Repair of other household and personal items	288	450
Hair dressing	1 920	1 887
Photographic workshops	579	499
Other activities	1 906	1 970
Total	10 463	10 974

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RPR, 1965.
Own systematization.

The structure of population service units by activity in 1964

Figure 3



Source: own representation.

**The number of cooperators in units for serving the population
during the period 1960-1964**

Table 4

Types of activities	1960		1964	
	Absolute value	Share (%)*	Absolute value	Share (%)*
Ready-made clothes	20 303	29.90	24 613	30.01
Textiles and knitwear	537	0.79	2126	2.59
Footwear	13 621	20.06	12 067	14.71
Furriery	980	1.44	1289	1.57
Leather	367	0.54	569	0.69
Dye house	918	1.35	1 321	1.61
Wood and furniture	2 662	3.92	4 664	5.69
Radio and Television Repairs	992	1.46	1343	1.64
Clocks and watches and jewelry	1 050	1.55	1 488	1.81
Repair of other objects of use	1007	1.48	1 895	2.31
Hair dressing	16 579	24.42	19 246	23.47
Photographic workshops	2181	3.21	2 440	2.97
Other activities	6 693	9.87	8 957	10.92
Total	67 895	100.00	82 018	100.00

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RPR, 1965.

Own systematization. *Own calculations.

We then analyzed the structure of craftsmanship cooperatives across the 16 regions and the two cities, Bucharest and Constanta, during the period 1955-1964. We followed this longer timeframe in order to have a clearer picture of how the activity evolved in craftsmanship cooperative.

**Cooperativele meșteșugărești pe regiuni, during the period 1960-1964
(the end of the year)**

Table 5

The Region	Year	Cooperative	Units for serving the population
Argeș Region	1960	13	384
	1964	12	458
Bacău Region	1960	16	564
	1964	14	586
Banat Region	1960	31	1068
	1964	30	1143
Brașov Region	1960	36	966
	1964	30	977
București Region	1960	10	361
	1964	10	350
Cluj Region	1960	21	584
	1964	19	658
Crișana Region	1960	18	404
	1964	16	396

The Region	Year	Cooperative	Units for serving the population
Dobrogea Region	1960	8	273
	1964	7	215
Galați Region	1960	24	660
	1964	18	640
Hunedoara Region	1960	12	409
	1964	11	568
Iași Region	1960	14	319
	1964	13	413
Maramureș Region	1960	16	475
	1964	14	546
Mureș-Hungarian Autonomous Region	1960	20	510
	1964	17	508
Oltenia Region	1960	21	477
	1964	20	582
Ploiești Region	1960	23	818
	1964	20	766
Suceava Region	1960	15	463
	1964	12	420
Bucharest City	1960	41	1 428
	1964	33	1 161
Constanta City	1960	6	300
	1964	7	287

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RPR, 1965.
Own systematization.

In table 5 we presented the structure of craft cooperatives by regions, during the period 1960-1964. This table lists the number of cooperatives and units for serving the population.

Numărul cooperatorsilor pe regiuni, during the period 1960-1964 (the end of the year)

Table 6

The Region	Year	Cooperators	
		Total	in units for serving the population
Argeș Region	1960	3 116	2 440
	1964	3 768	2 835
Bacău Region	1960	3 261	2 672
	1964	3 485	3 013
Banat Region	1960	9 474	6 501
	1964	10 560	8 113
Brașov Region	1960	10 676	5 778
	1964	10 826	6 980
București Region	1960	2 702	1 930
	1964	3 078	2 113

The Region	Year	Cooperators	
		Total	in units for serving the population
Cluj Region	1960	7 762	4 475
	1964	7 468	5 170
Crişana Region	1960	4 343	2 449
	1964	5 041	2 899
Dobrogea Region	1960	2 163	1 376
	1964	2 501	1 532
Galaţi Region	1960	5 691	3 521
	1964	6 204	4 535
Hunedoara Region	1960	3 077	2 511
	1964	3 902	3 605
Iaşi Region	1960	2 897	2 214
	1964	3 260	2 701
Maramureş Region	1960	3 519	2 349
	1964	4 161	3 085
Mureş-Hungarian Autonomous Region	1960	5 859	3 415
	1964	6 853	4 486
Oltenia Region	1960	5 650	3 077
	1964	6 031	3 999
Ploieşti Region	1960	8 377	5 495
	1964	9 385	6 098
Suceava Region	1960	2 553	2 035
	1964	2 512	2 156
Bucharest City	1960	27 007	13 647
	1964	29 577	16 347
Constanta City	1960	2 289	1960
	1964	2 616	2 351

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RPR, 1965.

Own systematization.

Table 6 shows the number of cooperative members per region and the two types of cooperatives between 1960 and 1964.

We continue the analysis with the interpretation of data on craft workshops and small private industry, as it evolved between 1960 and 1964, on the branches of the national economy as well as on the regions of Romania during this period of time. The data are found in 7.

Number of units in craft workshops and small private industry by branches during the period 1960-1964

Table 7

Branch	1960	1964
Metalworking	11106	3 426
Chemistry	1004	448
Woodworking	16 575	8 657
Textiles	1603	1002
Ready-made clothes	28 927	13 325
Leather, footwear	9 574	5 008
Food	10 153	3 681
Total	84 974	38 724

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RPR, 196
Own systematization.

Population employed in craft workshops and small private industry by branches in the years 1960-1964

Table 8

Number persons

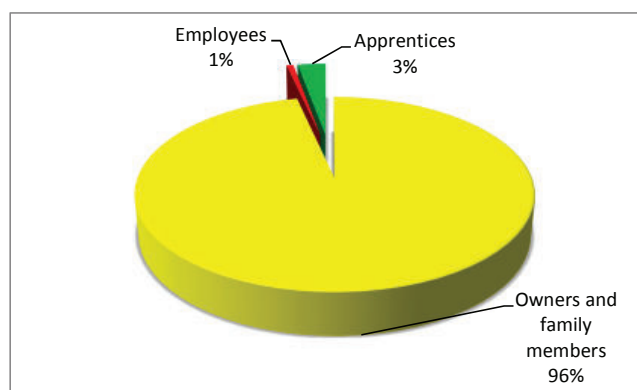
	Years	Owners and family members	Employees	Apprentices	Total
Metalworking	1960	11355	33	307	11 695
	1964	3 521	-	32	3 553
Chemistry	1960	1 174	51	37	1 262
	1964	516	-	16	532
Woodworking	1960	17 196	261	1009	18 466
	1964	8 896	-	195	9 091
Textiles	1960	1 720	27	17	1764
	1964	1 073	-	0	1079
Ready-made clothes	1960	29 339	60	1 087	30 486
	1964	13 489	-	260	13 749
Leather, footwear	1960	9 704	57	75	9 836
	1964	5 055	-	14	5 069
Food	1960	10 946	110	18	11 074
	1964	3 991	-	4	3 995
Total	1960	88 057	615	2 567	91 239
	1964	40 054	-	533	40 587

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RPR, 1965.
Own systematization.

Table 8 shows the occupied population in the craft workshops and the small private industry by branches in the period 1960-1964. The occupied population is structured on owners and family members, employees, apprentices. The situation is also on the whole.

Share of occupied population in craft workshops and small private industry by branch in 1960

Figure 4

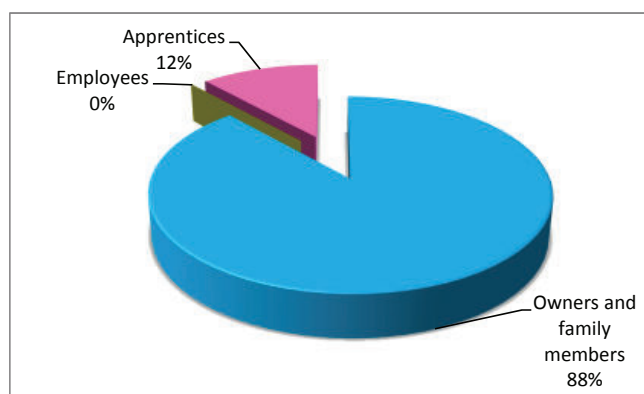


Own representation.

In diagram of structure 4 and 5 there is a graphical representation of the population employed in craft workshops and small private industry by branches in 1960 (Figure 4) and 1964 respectively (figure 5).

Share of occupied population in craft workshops and small private industry by branch in 1964

Figure 5



Source: own representation.

Table 9 shows the number of units in craft workshops and the small private industry, from 1960 to 1964, by regions of the country.

**Numărul unităților din ateliere meșteșugărești
și mica industrie particulară, pe regiuni, during the period 1960-1964**

Table 9

The region	1960	1964
Arges Region	6 092	2 196
Bacău Region	6 283	2 080
Banat Region	5 900	3 114
Brasov Region	4 998	2 079
Bucharest Region	5191	3 534
Cluj County	5 406	3 533
Crișana Region	4 677	2 152
Dobrogea Region	1 383	534
Galati Region	4 440	2 084
Hunedoara Region	3 332	1981
Iasi Region	3 846	970
Maramureș Region	2 564	1 018
Mureș Region - Hungarian Autonomy	3 683	1897
Oltenia Region	8 491	2 577
Ploiesti Region	8 886	3 457
Suceava Region	4 229	2 515
Bucharest City	5 132	2 793
Constanta City	435	210
Total	84 974	38 724

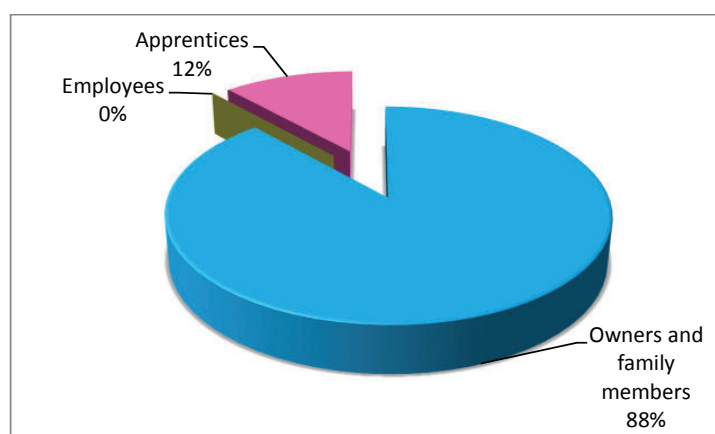
Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RPR, 1965.

Own systematization.

Figure 6 shows, based on the data in Table 6.21, the structure of the number of units in the craft workshops and the small private industry, in 1964.

The structure of the number of units in craft workshops and small private industry, by region, in 1964

Figure 6



Source: own representation.

Table 10 presents data on owners and family members, employees, apprentices and their total in the 1960s and 1964s. The data is structured by region.

Population employed in handicraft workshops and small private industry by region, during the period 1960-1964

Table 10

Region	Year	Owners and family members	Employees	Apprentices	Total
Argeş Region	1960	6 178	30	47	6 255
	1964	2 267	-	22	2 289
Bacău Region	1960	6 488	45	87	6 620
	1964	2 108	-	11	2 119
Banat Region	1960	6 246	61	255	6 562
	1964	3 281	—	75	3 356
Braşov Region	1960	5 181	27	279	5 487
	1964	2 153	-	46	2199
Bucureşti Region	1960	5 277	21	180	5 478
	1964	3 659	-	81	3 740
Cluj Region	1960	5 569	28	134	5 731
	1964	3 624	-	58	3 682
Crişana Region	1960	5 050	118	179	5 347
	1964	2 230	-	36	2 266
Dobrogea Region	1960	1 398	-	67	1 465
	1964	540	-	11	551
Galaţi Region	1960	4 531	15	96	4 642
	1964	2119	-	18	2 137
Hunedoara Region	1960	3 471	14	53	3 538
	1964	2180	-	18	2 198

Region	Year	Owners and family members	Employees	Apprentices	Total
Iași Region	1960	3 889	5	44	3 938
	1964	980	-	4	984
Regiunea Maramureș	1960	2 658	14	47	2 719
	1964	1 070	-	12	1 082
Mureș Region - Hungarian Autonomy	1960	3 996	40	245	4 281
	1964	2 045	-	54	2 099
Oltenia Region	1960	8 700	53	307	9 060
	1964	2 634	-	17	2 651
Ploiești Region	1960	9 357	45	226	9 628
	1964	3 587	-	44	3 631
Suceava Region	1960	4 293	5	82	4 380
	1964	2 548	-	9	2 557
Bucharest City	1960	5 334	79	220	5 633
	1964	2 818	-	16	2 834
Constanta City	1960	441	15	19	475
	1964	211	-	1	212
RPR	1960	88 057	615	2 567	91 239
	1964	40 054	-	533	40 587

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RPR, 1965.
Own systematization.

• **The evolution of the handicraft cooperatives system in Romania, during the period 1965-1969**

Based on the data from the statistical yearbook of the Socialist Republic of Romania from 1970, we analyzed the activity of the craft cooperative activity by 1965, 1966, 1967 and then until 1969.

We carried out the analysis of the structure and evolution of the craftsmanship cooperative by branches of activity, between 1965 and 1969, as well as by the counties, now in 1969.

The number of cooperatives and units for serving the population, during the period 1965-1969

Table 11

Year	Cooperatives		Units for serving the population	
	Absolute value	Rate of change *	Absolute value	Rate of change *
1965	302	-	11100	-
1966	301	-0.33	10 953	-1.32
1967	305	1.33	10 798	-1.42
1968	354	16.07	11 685	8.21
1969	393	11.02	12175	4.19

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RSR, 1970.

Own systematization.

*Own calculations.

Tables 11 and 12 include the data on the number of cooperatives and population service units during the period 1965-1969 (Table 11), respectively the number of cooperators during the same period (Table 12).

Number of cooperators members, during the period 1965-1969

Table 12

Year	Cooperators (total)		of which: in units for serving the population		
	Absolute value	Rate of change (%) [*]	Absolute value	Share (%) [*]	Rate of change (%) [*]
1965	128 534	-	83 930	65.30	-
1966	136 462	6.17	85 657	62.77	2.06
1967	146 426	7.30	87 148	59.52	1.74
1968	156 443	6.84	90 660	57.95	4.03
1969	172 158	10.05	93 636	54.39	3.28

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RSR, 1970.

Own systematization.

^{*}Own calculations.

We also conducted the analysis based on the data we had on the evolution of non-cooperative craft workshops and the small private industry. Here, the term uncooperative handicraft workshop takes into account the attempt made during the period 1965-1969 to approve private sectors in the national economy, even if it was “centralized”.

The number of units in the non-cooperative factories and the small private industry, by branches, during the period 1965-1969

Table 13

Branches	1965	1969
Metalworking	3 801	3 792
Chemistry	508	279
Woodworking	8 708	6 546
Garments and textiles	14 309	8 741
Leather, Footwear	5192	3 420
Food	4 620	1 5 244
Total	40 756	30 750

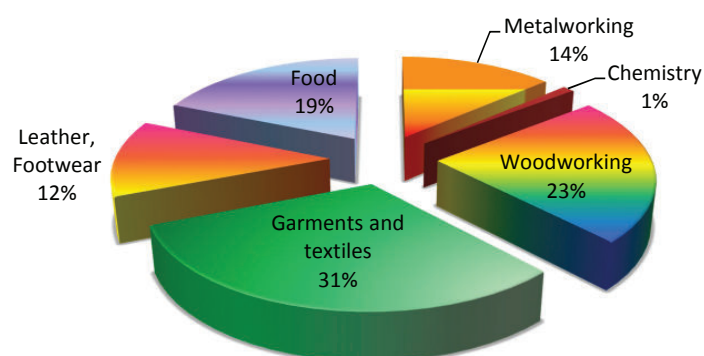
Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RSR, 1970.

Own systematization.

Table 13 shows the number of units in the non-cooperative craft workshops and the small private industry by branches, during the period 1965-1969, and in Figure 6.14 the structure is replicated by means of a diagram.

The structure of the number of units in non-cooperative workshops and small private industry by branches in 1969

Figure 7



Source: own representation.

The population employed in non-cooperative workshops and small private industry, by branches, during the period 1965-1969

Table 14

	Year	Owners and family members	Employees	Apprentices	Total
Metalworking	1965	3 903	-	35	3 938
	1969	3 949	-	63	4 012
Chemistry	1965	586	-	4	590
	1969	336	-	5	341
Woodworking	1965	9 021	-	182	9 203
	1969	6 961	-	239	7 200
Garments and textiles	1965	14 574	-	242	14816
	1969	9 015	-	196	9 211
Leather, Footwear	1965	5 237	-	14	5 251
	1969	3 467	-	11	3 478
Food	1965	5160	-	1	5161
	1969	5 780	-	6	5 786
Total	1965	42 402	-	483	42 885
	1969	32 600	-	523	33123

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RSR, 1970.

Own systematization.

We conducted an analysis of the non-cooperative craft workshops, but in reality, they were a “sister” with the craftsmanship in the production cooperatives. This was an attempt to transform the cooperative property into private property, with the effects that were subsequently not accepted by the structure of thinking of the staged period.

• **The evolution of the handicraft cooperatives in the counties in 1974**

Based on data from the statistical yearbook of RSR in Year 1975, we continued to present the data on the Romanian craftsmanship cooperatives, by counties, taking into account the units serving the population, the cooperative units, the cooperatives in total, out of which in serving the population.

In the continuation of the study we considered some indicators (number of cooperatives and Units for serving the population) that we analyzed for the period 1970-1974. The data are shown in table 15.

**Indicators of handicraft cooperatives system
during the period 1970-1974 (the end of the year)**

Table 15

Year	Cooperatives	Units for serving the population	Cooperators	
			Total	in units for serving the population
1970	409	12 399	195 236	102 040
1971	436	12 714	218 396	105 325
1972	452	12 689	242 895	106 215
1973	357	12 936	263 198	109 796
1974	378	12 973	266 478	115 708

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RSR, 1975.

Own systematization.

Table 16 shows the number of cooperative craft cooperatives and the number of cooperatives by activity in the 1970s and 1974s.

**Units of the craftsmen cooperatives serving the population and
cooperatives, by activity, during the period 1970-1974**

Table 16

Year	1970	1970	1974	1974
	Number of units	Cooperators (persons)	Number of units	Cooperators (persons)
Ready-made clothes	2 233	26 060	2 431	31 814
Textiles and knitwear	389	3 916	409	5 228
Footwear	1 588	11 484	1495	11105
Furriery	311	1635	393	2 492
Leather	177	986	203	1 662
Laundry, dry cleaners and chemical dyes	362	2 014	469	2 713
Wood and furniture	527	5 175	553	6 023
Radio and television repairs	535	1 980	650	2 470
Clocks and watches and jewelry	561	1915	687	2 361
Repair of other household and personal items	765	5 259	788	6 298
Hair dressing	1 886	20 628	1958	19 959
Photographic workshops	540	2 250	561	2 141
Other activities	2 525	18 738	2 376	21 437
Total	12 399	102 040	12 973	115 703

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RSR, 1975. Own systematization.

The structure by region of the cooperative units and the number of cooperators is presented in table 17.

Handicraft cooperatives, by counties, in 1974 (the end of the year)

Table 17

County	Cooperatives	Units for serving the population	Cooperators	in units for serving the population
			total	
Alba	11	330	5193	2193
Arad	12	466	7 320	3 565
Argeş	8	320	7 870	2 583
Bacău	9	343	5 419	2 654
Bihor	15	351	11 293	3 545
Bistrita-Năsăud	5	99	1 645	938
Botoşani	5	161	2 320	1197
Braşov	13	429	7 748	3 729
Brăila	7	351	6 695	2 906
Buzău	5	192	4 343	2 120
Caraş-Severin	5	284	2 207	1564
Cluj	16	458	12 844	5 006
Constanta	13	475	7 387	4 498
Covasna	6	138	2 619	840
Dâmboviţa	8	212	5 512	1849
Dolj	12	418	7 342	3 622
Galaţi	8	335	6 369	3 329
Gorj	7	164	4 096	1485
Harghita	9	207	5 365	1750
Hunedoara	9	502	4 375	3 082
Ialomiţa	5	181	2 237	1379
Iaşi	8	307	5 514	3 082
Ilfov	6	207	4 044	1182
Maramureş	12	406	6 647	2 743
Mehedinţi	4	171	2 553	1245
Mureş	17	427	11889	4174
Neamţ	8	242	6121	2 248
Olt	6	243	3140	1992
Prahova	12	511	12 208	4 443
Satu Mare	10	285	6179	2 376
Sălaj	5	128	2 521	962
Sibiu	14	354	9104	3 091
Suceava	11	326	5 718	2 064
Teleorman	7	181	3 862	1554
Timiş	15	567	12 407	5 428
Tulcea	5	160	3 645	1272
Vaslui	4	167	2 476	1388
Vâlcea	7	252	3 616	1895
Vrancea	7	235	2 777	1744
Bucharest Municipality	32	1 388	41 858	18 986
Total	378	12 973	266 478	115 703

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RSR, 1975.

In other tables we showed the evolution of crafts cooperative activity and cooperative cooperatives as a development in terms of the number of cooperatives and cooperators.

• **The evolution of handicraft cooperatives in the period up to 1980**

We used the data from the statistical yearbook of RSR published in 1981, which gives data on craftsmanship cooperatives of this period, craftsmanship cooperatives and cooperative craftsmanship in counties of the country.

In Table 6.32 we presented, for the period 1975-1980, the evolution of the number of cooperative craftsmen entities, in the two forms: cooperatives and units for serving the population.

Table 18. Number of entities in the handicraft cooperative during the period 1975-1980

Year	Cooperatives		Units for serving the population	
	Absolute value	Rate of change (%)*	Absolute value	Rate of change (%)*
1975	395	-	13 200	-
1976	406	2.78	13 375	1.33
1977	410	0.99	13 526	1.13
1978	420	2.44	13 838	2.31
1979	431	2.62	14 159	2.32
1980	442	2.55	14 725	4.00

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RSR, 1981.

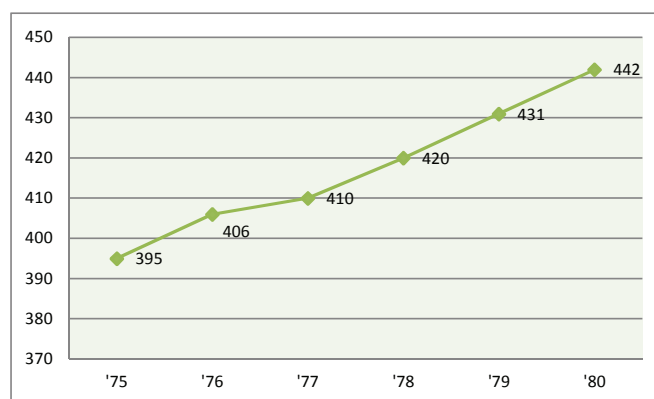
Own systematization.

*Own calculations.

Figure 8 shows the dynamics of the number of craft cooperatives in the period 1975-1980.

**Evolution of the number of handicraft cooperatives
during the period 1975-1980**

Figure 8



Source: own representation.

The staff of the handicraft cooperatives system during the period 1975-1980

Table 19

Year	Cooperators total	Workers in units for serving the population
1975	279 040	121 417
1976	298 400	121 879
1977	304 111	122 284
1978	316 148	131 087
1979	329 160	135 076
1980	337 211	138 220

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RSR, 1981.

Own systematization.

The number of co-workers and workers (employees) is shown in Table 6.33. The data are for the period 1975-1980.

Table 20. Units of handicraft cooperatives for serving the population, by activity, during the period 1975-1980

Year	1975	1975	1980	1980
	Number of units	Workers (persons)*	Number of units	Cooperators (persons)*
Ready-made clothes	2 460	32 764	2 769	34 968
Textiles and knitwear	429	5 854	599	9 431
Footwear	1 548	11 290	1334	10 460
Furriery	407	2 500	505	3 578
Leather	210	1729	291	2 057
Laundry, dry cleaners and chemical dyes	490	2 865	557	3 363
Wood and furniture	537	6118	647	7 509
Radio and television repairs	688	2 707	735	3 401
Clocks and watches and jewelry	705	2 624	749	3 371
Repair of other household and personal items	811	7 092	1014	9 387
of which maintenance and auto-moto repairs	178	3 657	253	5 456
Hair dressing	1971	19 940	2 093	20 969
Photographic workshops	586	2 366	555	2 613
Other activities	2 358	23 568	2 877	27 113
Total	13 200	121 417	14 725	138 220

* workers in population serving units.

Source: National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook of RSR, 1981.

Own systematization.

Table 20 presents the situation on cooperative units and types of activity for the years 1975 and 1980.

We must not forget that, during the period, the activity in the craft cooperative sector influenced its evolution, depending on certain decisions, laws that were imposed during this period of time.

On the whole, referring only to this sector of activity, we can conclude that it has always been a useful, beneficial activity within the structure of the national economy. This is even more obvious in the context of a brief analysis of the other branches of Romanian co-operative activity, namely credit and, above all, consumption.

Conclusion

The study underlying this article highlights that this craft cooperative sector has played an important role in the economy of the country during the period of the stagnated economy. It represented a well-defined economic and social sector with well-established co-operatives, with a large number of cooperators and employees.

Craft production was also well represented externally through exports. The craft cooperative also had a specialized foreign trade enterprise.

Since its inception, craft cooperative has been a sector of the national economy that harnesses local resources and offers jobs. The same situation is

currently, especially in the context of unemployment, the lack of jobs or the low level of investment.

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