
SOME SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS REGARDING THE EVOLUTION OF COOPERATION LATELY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CRISIS

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Abstract

Cooperation is an important component of the national economy, recognized by the international alliance of cooperatives and therefore, in certain periods of time, this sector of activity has made an important contribution to the economic and social evolution of Romania, especially in very difficult times, such as the two world conflagrations, the great crisis 1929-1933, but also the more recent crises from 2008-2011 and now of the disastrous pandemic and financial-economic crisis.

The cooperation will permanently represent a sector of activity in which the local capital and coordinated by the Central Union of the Cooperation of each field of the use of labour and local resources are capitalized. However, the economic and financial crisis imposes some difficulties as credit has become rarer due to the very high cost. In another respect, the possibility of using labour specific to this area is much more delicate. However, through the efforts in front of the cooperative sector, it has been possible, one by one, to obtain results, which still alleviate the very difficult situation of the Romanian economy in general.

In this respect, consumer, credit and agricultural cooperation has evolved under legislation adopted after 1990, at a fairly good pace under free market conditions. Craft cooperation has also played a significant role and continues to play a role in the local use of labour resources, opportunities to carry out activities useful to cooperative communities in the first place, but on the other hand and the entire population of these areas.

The units of craft cooperation and other forms of co-operation have perhaps more clearly withstood the current effects of the economic and financial crisis, because through their own sources, existing co-operative credit and the capitalization of labour resources they have been able to fulfil more well the tasks they set themselves.

Regarding the craft cooperation in Romania in the period 2014-2019, visible progress was obtained, which are represented by relevant statistical indicators. It is more difficult to analyse the evolution in 2020 and the first

almost three months of 2021 because the pandemic crisis, which also triggered the economic and financial crisis, have left their mark here, perhaps to a lesser extent than in the Romanian economy as a whole faster programs and more convincingly implemented by the management of the cooperation in general, but of the craft one mainly. I say craft cooperation because it is part of creating goods and services for the local population in the first place, but also for the wider population in other words. It is the element of cooperation that is absolutely necessary and perhaps in the conditions we are talking about.

Keywords: Cooperation, sectors of activity, national economy, economic and social results, evolutions, effects, crises.

JEL classification: L10, L11

Introduction

The analysis of the evolution of cooperation in Romania in the context of the coronavirus and financial-economic crisis started from a study conducted over time, materialized in 2018, in a stand-alone work on multiple levels, but now accentuated by finding the latest developments in the cooperative system our country in the last three years, especially in the context in which this sanitary and economic-financial crisis has affected the Romanian economy and society.

One by one, this study analysed the evolution of consumer cooperation, then of credit cooperation and last but not least of agricultural cooperation in Romania. This analysis was made in the context of the free market, but I did not shy away from pointing out the aspects resulting from the disastrous effects of the pandemic and economic and financial crisis. So, in this sense, the results were somehow attenuated, but through the way of organization it was managed to better substantiate the measures that need to be taken and taken.

Furthermore, the study revealed the most significant elements of the evolution of craft cooperation in Romania in the very short period after 2018, but based on the extensive study conducted over another four years 2013-2017, which followed the economic crisis launched in 2008-2011.

The craft cooperation in Romania is structured in territorial profile, has units producing goods and providing services for the population, thus ensuring maintenance of the level of results, which are easy to identify. Also, the craft cooperative system includes a whole network of pre-university education and professional training, as well as an evolution of university study programs through the only university of its kind existing in Romania, respectively Artifex in Bucharest.

Some shortcomings and failures were also reported, due to the effects generated by the economic and financial crisis, which in turn broke out as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The next period after 2020 and even 2021 is uncertain in terms of the possibility of control internally, but also globally, the evolution of this pandemic crisis, which will not only have effects on the economic and social results in Romania. And last but not least, we must remember that this crisis will inevitably lead to a reset of all humanity. There are many appreciations, many speculative, others not to be taken into account, but against this background there is a lack of socialization, an insufficient conditionality in building the man of the XXI century. The state of each nation is in balance. New settings are made in terms of population structure by income.

The crisis is slowing down the level of real education and training of future specialists. This will have a devastating effect in the coming periods. Measures are also being taken in the cooperation system and those must be amplified to ensure at least for the own units of pre-university education and vocational training, as well as for university education conditions as close as possible to reality, so that knowledge, skills are well assimilated by the generation young.

The article is written based on certain data, which existed until 2018, and what we have set out in the abstract, introduction and conclusions are to complete the current trend and the perspective of the evolution of the activity of the cooperative sector in Romania.

Literature review

The aspects regarding the evolution of the cooperative system in a state in normal conditions and of economic, financial, social crises were approached by a series of economic analysts and researchers in the field. Thus, Anghelache C. (2018) approaches the cooperative system as a certain component of economic and social development and at the same time a determined component of Romania's economic growth. Regarding the position of the Romanian cooperation in the economic evolution of the country, they are treated in their works by Anghelache C., Anghel M.G. (2017) and Novkovic S. (2008). Also, the resilience of the cooperative business model in times of crisis are addressed in their work by Birchall J., Hammond-Ketilson L. (2009) and Roelants B., Dovgan D., Eum H., Terrasi E. (2012). Bonteffis P., Fulton M. (2009) addresses the issue of organizational structure and cost redistribution within cooperatives and firms owned by investors. Borzagd C., Bodini R., Carini C., Depedri S., Galera G., Salvatori G. (2014) analyse the effect that the activity of social cooperatives and social enterprises has on the evolution of the European Union, and the aspects related to the cooperation between states is analysed by Mazzarol T, Soutar G., Limnios E. (2012). Torres Perez F. (2016) is concerned with the position of cooperatives between state control and the market economy.

Methodology, data, results and discussions

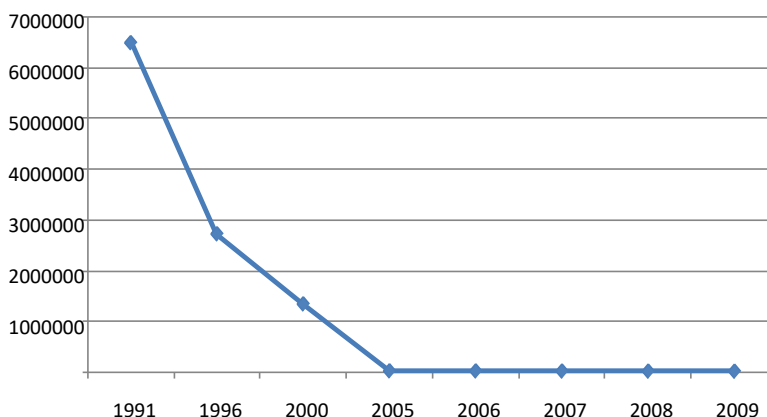
• *The evolution of the system of consumer, credit and agriculture cooperatives in Romania*

The consumer cooperative system is a component of the national economy recognized by the International Alliance of Cooperatives, the organization to which it belongs. The system of consumer cooperatives consists of the first and second consumer cooperative society and their associations at county and national level.

The functioning framework of the consumer cooperatives system is ensured by Law no. 1/2005 on the organization and functioning of the cooperative system, which at its entry into force required an extensive administrative process to adapt the existing structures to the new requirements. In terms of membership, it fell from 6,500,000 members in 1991 to 27,823 in 2009.

Evolution of the number of members of the consumer cooperative system

Figure 1



According to CENTROCOOP data, presented on the organization's website, in 2007 there were 38,177 active members who cooperated.

The number of consumer cooperatives in 2007, according to CENTROCOOP, was 1,073. These consumer cooperatives are mainly active in rural areas. Of these, 1,009 are associated in the 41 county unions, 3 cooperative societies are directly associated with the national union and 61 consumer cooperative societies have not shown their intention to join any associative structure.

Centrocoop has also set up companies through which they can carry out economic activity, as they are set up as a non-profit organization.

The companies to which Centrocoop holds majority capital are: SC COMPRODCOOP SA; PENCOOP TIMISOARA; IOMCOOP SIBIU; IAȘIMCOOP IAȘI; PRODCOOP FOCȘANI; PRODCOOP GALATI; SC COVCOOP SRL SF.GHEORGHE; PRODALCOOP TÂRGOVIȘTE; SICOOP ORADEA; JECO TRADING; INDCOOP CLUJ; COOPINTEX Bleeding.

There are seven school groups in Box 1 in the Consumer Coordination System.

School groups in the consumer cooperative system

Box 1

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The school group of the Alba Iulia consumer cooperatives system▪ The school group of the consumer cooperatives system Constanța▪ The school group of the Botoșani consumer cooperatives system▪ The school group of the Vaslui consumer cooperatives system▪ The school group of the Bistrița consumer cooperatives system▪ The school group of the Sibiu consumer cooperatives system▪ The school group of the Sf. Gheorghe consumer cooperatives system. |
|--|

During the communist period, we witnessed an artificial growth of the consumer cooperative sector, which, in rural areas, had a monopoly on trade and services. We are talking about artificial growth, because people were in one way or another forced to become members to benefit from food and more. Thus, all young people, at the age of 18, became cooperating members.

If there were shops and services in rural areas, there were areas for storage and processing of agricultural products purchased from members in the urban area. This purchasing system allows rural residents to capitalize on their production, the products being taken directly from the household.

After 1989, the system of consumer cooperatives declined sharply. This decline began with the obligation to distribute basic goods at state-imposed costs (1990-1992) then continued in the period of inflation, where governments did not allow changes in store prices, and decapitalization and VAT destroyed the system of direct purchase of animal and vegetable products from members.

According to INS data, the period 2000-2009 shows a slight increase in the number of consumer cooperatives in 2000-2005 (from 874 to 941), followed by a gradual decrease of 894 entities (Table 1).

Number of consumer cooperatives

Table 1

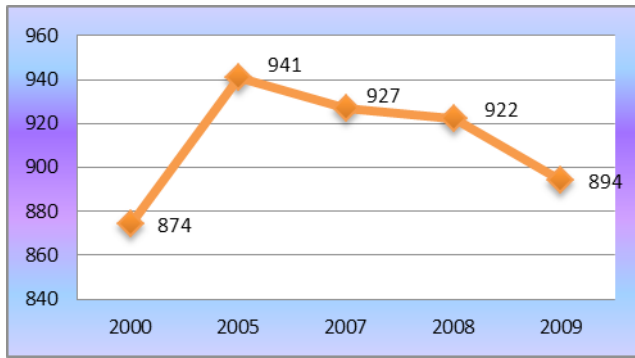
Year	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009
Number	874	941	927	922	894

Source: Petrescu (coordinator), 2011

The data in Table 1 are plotted in Figure 2.

Evolution of the number of consumer cooperatives in 2000-2009

Figure 2



Data on the evolution of the system of consumer cooperatives in the period 2000-2009 show an increase in most economic indicators, having a direct effect on their degree of performance. Expressed in constant prices, the values of the financial indicators of consumer cooperatives increased between 13.2% (revenues from the sale of products) and 74.4% (other financial revenues).

Table 2 shows the evolution of key financial indicators.

Evolution of the main financial indicators of consumer cooperatives in the period 2000-2009 (thousand lei)

Table 2

	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2009 /2000
Fixed assets	131932112	119693356	148888709	154816033	151027781	14.5
Production sold	65901845	61713423	67853449	77357878	84833845	28.7
Net turnover	476637671	601282108	587063203	613533259	549661449	15.3
Revenue from the sale of products	410735826	528990883	512309136	529426272	464799027	13.2
Operating income	488470936	650859636	650575176	660735165	589004195	20.6
Interest income	714765	601982	475582	853994	1246510	74.4
other incomes	154424	521068	682112	392986	470618	204.8
Total income	505303165	652443723	651810505	662484146	591473959	17.1
Expenditure on raw materials and consumables	1182142	1453865	1571628	1640584	1532755	29.7
Staff costs	80460053	103795852	115478839	121629583	117428660	45.9
Expenditure on goods	327813944	429533891	412250397	424641766	373344200	13.9
Expenses with other taxes, fees, payments	8851789	5372897	5264701	5559099	5390236	-39.1
Expenses with external benefits	21486748	27861749	33400828	30547488	25666728	19.5
Financial expenses	3327882	2045057	2091273	2502261	2930374	-11.9
Total expenses	499302496	641401170	640663651	652237528	584871350	17.1
net income	747069	849054	660196	930515	1378362	84.5

Source: Petrescu (coordinator), 2011

The same upward trend is found in the performance of consumer cooperatives. Thus, the net profit attributed to the turnover of 1000 lei or the total expenses of 1000 lei registered an increasing trend (by 0.9%), due not to the improvement of the primary indicators, but especially to the different dynamics of the change of the net profit, the turnover and total expenses (Table 3).

Financial performances of consumer cooperatives in Romania in the period 2000-2009

Table 3

	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2009/ 2000
Operating income / Total income (%)	96.7	99.8	99.8	99.7	99.6	2.9
Financial income / total income (%)	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Commodity expenditure / total expenditure (%)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0
Personnel expenses / total expenses (%)	16.1	16.2	18.0	18.6	20.1	4.0
Expenditure on goods / Total expenditure (%)	65.7	67.0	64.3	65.1	63.8	-1.8
Expenses with taxes, fees / total expenses (%)	1.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	-0.9
Financial expenses / total expenses (%)	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	-0.2
Net Profit / CA \$ 1,000.	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.5	2.5	0.9
Net profit / 1000 lei total expenses	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.4	2.4	0.9

Source: Petrescu (coordinator), 2011

Classification of consumer cooperatives by areas between 2000 and 2009

Table 4

Consumer cooperatives	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009
3.00 C - Manufacture	3.3%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.4%
6.00 F - Construction	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
7.00 G - Trade ...	92.2%	92.8%	92.4%	92.4%	92.1%
8.00 H - Transport and storage	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
9.00 I - Hotels and restaurants	2.3%	1.9%	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%
10.00 J - Information and communications	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
12.00 L - Real estate transactions	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%
13.00 M - Professional, scientific activities	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
14.00 N - Administrative service activities	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
19.00 S - Other service activities	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%

Source: Petrescu (coordinator), 2011

At territorial level, in 2009 compared to 2000, there is an oscillating trend of the number of consumer cooperatives, with a variation range of -50% (Teleorman) and + 17.6% (Alba). However, in most counties we find a return of the number of active consumer cooperatives.

In 2010, 17 counties regrouped 61.5% of consumer cooperatives. In other words, the 17 counties had a number of consumer cooperatives ranging from 25 to 47, their distribution being highlighted in Chart 1. If we look at the distribution by development regions (Table 5), we can see that most consumer cooperatives consumption are found in the region North-East - 158, followed by North-West - 153, Centre - 148, South Muntenia - 112, South-East - 112, West - 106, South-West - 77, Bucharest-Ilfov - show the distribution consumer cooperatives in the area of residence that 74% of them are in rural areas and 26% in urban areas (Table 6).

Evolution of the number of consumer cooperatives at regional level in 2000-2009 (number)

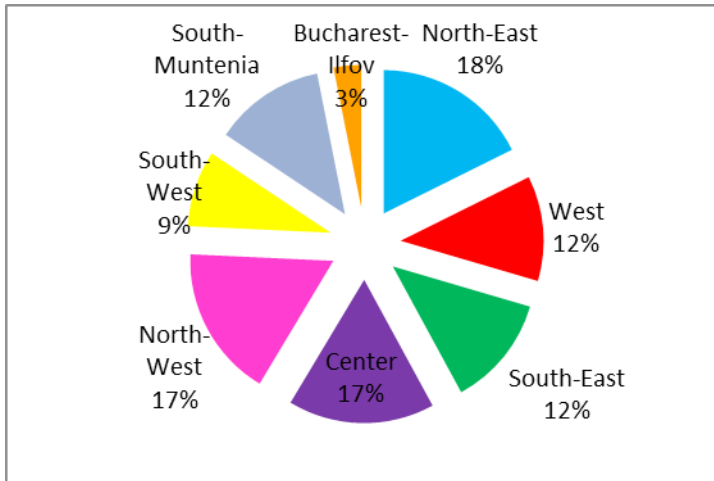
Table 5

	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009
NORTH EAST	138	161	160	159	158
West	96	107	108	109	106
South East	120	118	115	114	112
Center	152	152	149	147	148
northwest	121	156	158	159	153
Southwest	74	82	82	81	77
South-Muntenia	145	135	125	123	112
Bucharest-Ilfov	28	30	30	30	28

Source: Petrescu (coordinator), 2011

Distribution of the number of consumer cooperatives at regional level in 2009

Figure 3



Evolution of the number of consumer cooperatives by area of residence in 2000-2009

Table 6

	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009
Rural	666	703	689	687	665
Urban	208	238	238	235	229

Source: Petrescu (coordinator), 2011

The above analysis can be complemented by a series of information published by the National Institute of Statistics on FEDERALCOOP federations of consumer cooperatives, which recorded a decrease in the number of units in 10 years, from 30 in 2000 to 28 in 2009. FEDERALCOOP are second class cooperatives that focus on representing the economic interests of member cooperatives.

Performance indicators (productivity, profitability) were continuously assessed in the period 2000-2009, labour productivity with very high increases being 79.2% on profit and 64.8% on turnover.

**Financial performance of FEDERALCOOP federations in Romania in
2000-2009**

Table 7

	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2009/ 2000
Operating income / Total income (%)	90,1	99,1	99,3	99,1	98,4	8,3
Financial income / total income (%)	0,1	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,1
Commodity expenditure / total expenditure (%)	5,0	5,4	5,4	7,7	4,7	-0,3
Personnel expenses / total expenses (%)	17,7	24,5	22,6	30,0	25,1	7,4
Expenditure on goods / Total expenditure (%)	36,7	50,0	52,1	52,8	70,3	33,6
Expenses with taxes, fees / total expenses (%)	1,6	0,0	1,3	1,5	1,7	0,1
Financial expenses / total expenses (%)	0,9	0,5	0,7	0,6	0,6	-0,3
Net Profit / CA \$ 1,000.	9,7	5,1	6,1	7,5	10,6	0,9
Net profit / 1000 lei total expenses	7,9	4,3	5,3	6,8	9,3	1,4
CA / employee (lei / employee)	30114,5	44076,6	59275,9	50587,6	49623,2	64,8
Net profit / employee (lei / employee)	292,6	226,5	358,9	380,1	524,6	79,2

Source: Petrescu (coordinator), 2011

CENTROCOOP at the level of 2009 has representation at the level of each county and at national level. There is an increase in revenue, expenditure and fixed assets over the period 2005-2009. The decrease is recorded for intangible assets and financial assets (Table 8).

**Evolution of the main financial indicators of CENTROCOOP in the
period 2005-2009**

Table 8

Indicator / Year	2005	2007	2008	2009	2009 /2005
Total CENTROCOOP number	31	41	36	42	
Fixed assets - total	19795545	35516161	18918863	19403633	-1.98
Total income	6074587	23686059	14194547	14940080	145.94
Total expenses	4233562	21914757	13878372	15232329	259.80
Intangible assets	7724	472298	7605	3552	-54.01
Tangible fixed assets	11328628	22808396	15858074	15862120	40.02
Financial goods	8459193	12235467	3053184	3537961	-58.18

Source: Petrescu (coordinator), 2011

The activity of the consumer cooperative system has been good, especially in rural areas, the consumer cooperative system reducing the number of localities where activities take place, but increasing the value of financial indicators.

Evolution of the network of the system of consumer cooperatives on average (number of localities)

Table 9

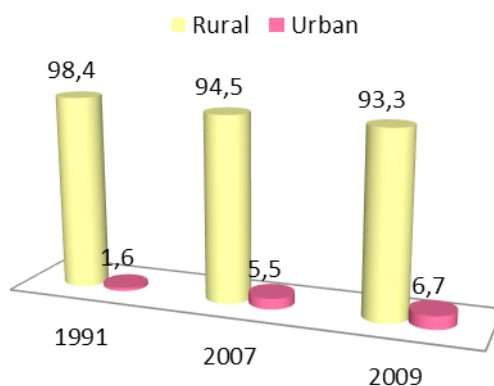
Residence environment	Year			
	1991	2007	2009	2009/1991 (%)
Rural	15688	3706	3338	-78.7
Urban	257	216	241	-6.2
Total	15945	3922	3579	-77.6

Source: Petrescu (coordinator), 2011

In the total network of the consumer cooperative system, the period 1991-2009 is characterized by the reduction of the share of rural localities in the total network by 5.1%, which is also taken over by the urban environment, which increased the share of localities carrying out cooperation activities, see Figure 4.

Evolution of the structure of the network of cooperative consumers on average in the total network, 1991-2009 (%)

Figure 4



It is interesting that the system of consumer cooperatives ensures the takeover by rural households of large quantities of agricultural products, with revenues of 1.4 million lei (2000).

Table 10 shows the elements that make up the turnover of the consumer cooperative system.

Turnover at the level of the consumer cooperatives system in 2016

Table 10

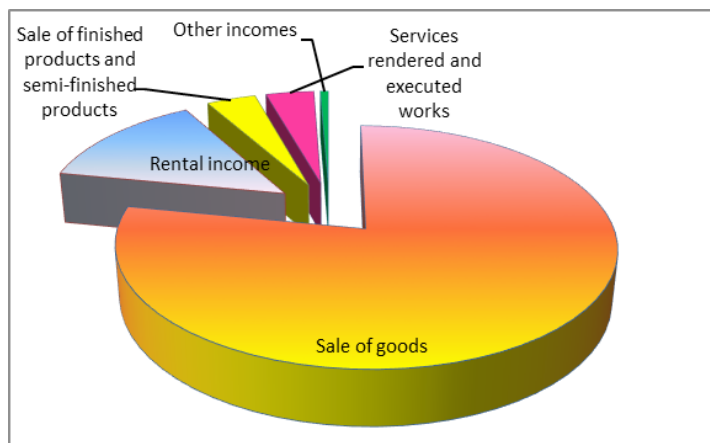
Nr.	Components in turnover	Weight (%)
1	Sale of goods	78,08
2	Income from rent	13,68
3	Trade in finished and semi-finished products	3,5
4	Services rendered and works performed	3,76
5	Other incomes	0,63
	Total	100,00

Source: Data processed by the authors

The largest share in turnover was the sale of goods, respectively 78.08%. The data are plotted in Figure 5.

The structure of turnover at the level of the consumer cooperatives system in 2016

Figure 5



Number of units owned by the consumer cooperative in the Trade, catering and supply sector in 2009-2012

Table 11

Year	Number
2009	6621
2010	6495
2011	6404
2012	6199

Source: Data processed by the authors

In the following, we present the number and structure of the units owned by the system of consumer cooperatives in the Trade, catering and procurement by unit categories sector in 2012.

Number of units owned by the consumer cooperative in the Trade, catering and supply sector, by type of units in 2012

Table 12

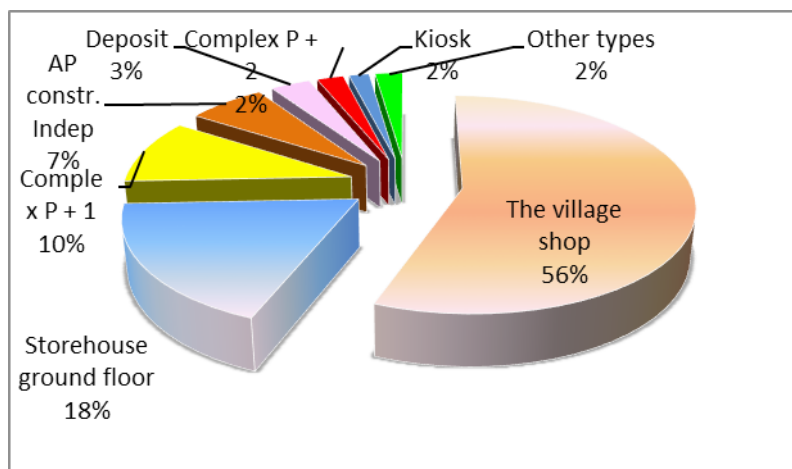
No.	Number of units		Category
	Absolute value	Weight (%)	
1.	3469	55.96	The village shop
2.	1140	18.39	Ground floor storage
3.	602	9.71	Complex P + 1
4.	399	6.44	AP constr. Indep
5.	205	3.31	Deposit
6.	138	2.23	Complex Gf + 2
7.	104	1.68	Kiosk
8.	142	2.29	Other types
9.	6199	100.00	Total

Source: Data processed by the authors

The highest number of units is registered in the village store category, with a share of 56%. In second place, at a great distance, is the block ground floor store type (18%). These data, as well as the weights of other unitary forms are presented in Figure 6.

Structure of units owned by the system of consumer cooperatives - Trade, catering and public procurement sector, in 2012

Figure 6



Another aspect of the analysis of the developed area expressed in sqm and land area (sqm) the data being presented in the following table (13).

**Area analysis criteria for the Trade, Public Food and Procurement
sector in 2009-2012**

Table 13

Year	Developed built area (sqm)	Land area (sqm)
2009	1685029	3908919
2010	1649522	3846290
2011	1615153	3798632
2012	1566201	3720286

Source: Data processed by the authors

The analysis is deepened by studying the indicators that characterize the activity of the system of consumer cooperatives in the Production - Services sector in the period 2009-2012. In this sense, data on the number of units (table 14) are presented, as well as the built area and the land area (sqm) in table 15.

**Number of units owned by the consumer cooperative in the Production -
Services sector in the period 2009-2012**

Table 14

Year	Number
2009	397
2010	397
2011	397
2012	382

Source: Data processed by the authors

**Surface analysis criteria for the Production - Services sector in the
period 2009-2012**

Table 15

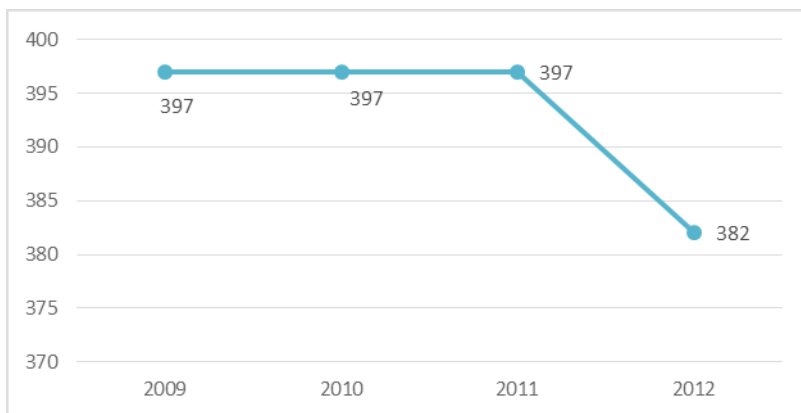
Year	Developed built area (sqm)	Land area (sqm)
2009	164019	478473
2010	162329	474998
2011	153264	425486
2012	142491	395784

Source: Data processed by the authors

For a better understanding, the data presented in these two tables are graphically represented in Figures 7 and 8.

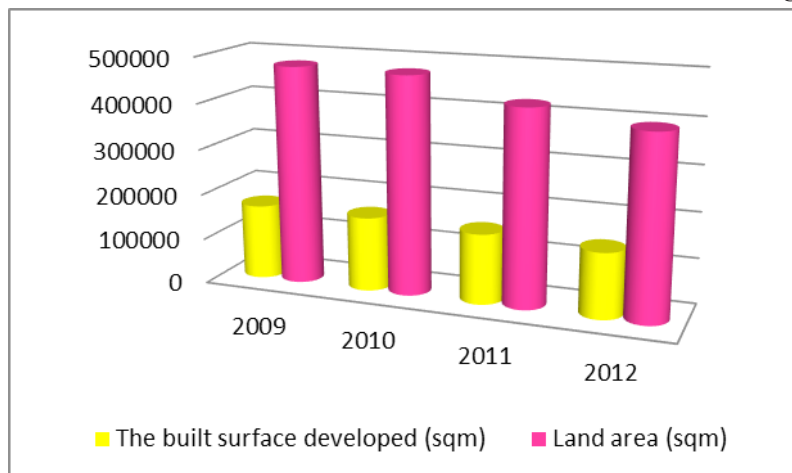
Evolution of the number of units owned by the system of consumer cooperatives in the Production - Services sector in 2012

Figure 7



Evolution of the area of Production-Entertainment units, in the period 2009-2012

Figure 8



A similar analysis is performed on the tourist units, respectively aspects regarding the number and structure of the units, as well as the analysis of the surface of the tourist units.

Tourist units in 2012

Table 16

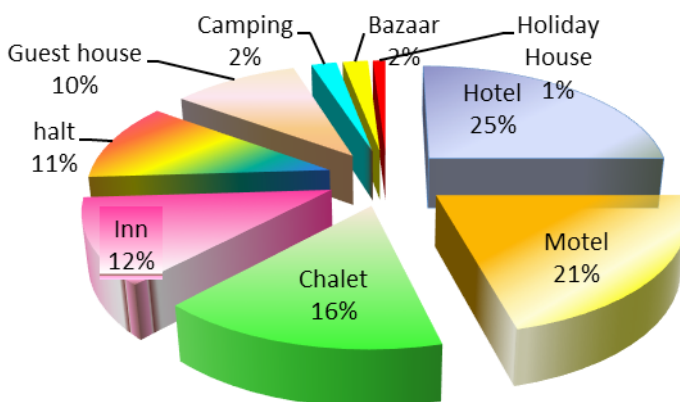
No.	Unit type	Weight (%)
1.	Hotel	25
2	Motel	21
3.	Chalet	16
4.	Inn	12
5.	stop	11
6	Guest house	10
7.	Camping	2
8.	Bazaar	2
9.	Holiday House	1
	Total	100.00

Source: Data processed by the authors

In the total number of units, by categories of units, the largest share is held by the Hotel category (25%), followed by Motel (21%) and Chalet (16%). The data are shown in Figure 9

Structure of tourist units in 2012

Figure 9



Half of the areas of the tourist units are intended for accommodation.

Criteria for the analysis of the surface of tourist units

Table 17

Types of activities		Legal nature		Use	
Accommodation	50%	Concession	65%	Own administration	58%
Public catering	42%	Property	34%	rent	30%
Other activities	8%	Other situations	1%	In conservation	12%
Total	100%	Total	100%	Total	100%

Source: Data processed by the authors

The decline of the system of consumer cooperatives has had and has repercussions on the capitalization of local production, consumer cooperatives being, in many cases, the only local agricultural production points.

• ***The evolution of the system of credit and agricultural cooperatives in Romania in free market conditions***

In 1990, the consumer and credit cooperative was structurally and organizationally structured. However, in the context of the transition to a market economy, it was necessary to adopt a number of new organizational and content measures designed to help adapt as quickly as possible to the requirements of the new economic and social structures.

The system of consumer and credit cooperatives carries out activities related to: retail trade; public Alimentation and tourism; Wholesale; industrial production and service provision; the purchase of agri-food products from the population and agricultural units; export and import; investment design and execution; granting loans to cooperating members; staff training and development; advertising; cultural-educational, sports and recreational activity. By Law no. 227/2007 for the approval of GEO no. 99/2006 on credit institutions and capital adequacy, credit cooperatives are Romanian legal entities, autonomous associations, which carry out activities specific to credit institutions. The central body of credit cooperatives promotes the interests of credit cooperatives and has the following attributions: representing the economic, financial, legal, socio-cultural interests of credit cooperatives in relation to the National Bank of Romania; monitoring and ensuring the cohesion and proper functioning of the entire network; supervision of affiliated credit unions; guaranteeing the obligations of credit unions; reporting data and information requested by the National Bank of Romania; ensuring the management of available network resources.

According to the Law on Agricultural Cooperatives, the agricultural cooperative is an autonomous association of natural and / or legal persons, as the case may be, a private legal entity established on the basis of free consent expressed by the parties, in order to promote the interests of cooperative members. Cooperativa Agricolă is an autonomous association with an unlimited number of members, with variable capital, which carries out an economic, technical and social activity to provide goods, services and jobs exclusively or mainly to its members.

The agricultural cooperative includes cooperatives, legal entities by fields and branches of activity, such as: agricultural cooperatives; agricultural cooperatives for purchases and sales; agricultural cooperatives for processing agricultural products; agricultural cooperatives and agricultural cooperatives;

agricultural cooperatives for the exploitation and management of agricultural, forestry, fish and zootechnical lands; agricultural cooperatives for financing.

In the period after December 1989, the cooperative system took on a new form and was consolidated on a new basis. Thus, in the period 2000-2008, before the onset of the economic and financial crisis, there was a momentum, followed by a decline.

Regarding the evolution of the credit union system, although it has diminished its activity, it remains an important pillar in rural areas. As regards the connection with the external, Community or non-Community market, they have never had a concrete activity to be able to carry out analyses.

Agricultural cooperatives were abandoned in 1990, and are now trying to return to similar forms, specific to the present moment. The specific element of this stage is the important element of new types of agricultural cooperatives.

• ***General landmarks regarding the significant aspects of the evolution of the craft cooperation in Romania in the period 2014-2018***

The Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craftsmen's Cooperation 2018 states: A priority objective consistently pursued by the developers was to ensure the maintenance of a high credibility of the information provided. Under difficult conditions caused by the current economic context, craft cooperatives and their associative structures continue to ensure their market maintenance and to achieve a wide range of consumer goods, industrial products and services validated by the market. Despite numerous legislative changes, at the level of craft cooperative entities, jobs for people with disabilities are still offered, both in protected cooperatives, specially authorized, and in other cooperative societies.

The author considers that the Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craftsmen's Cooperation of 2018, which was studied and, in essence, used in this paper, is a guide for designing economic and financial indicators in the production and investment programs of associate members and for substantiating some works aimed at promoting and defending the economic, production and commercial interests of craft cooperative entities and cooperative members.

The society of footwear craftsmen was the first to be founded in 1879, in Bucharest. Craft cooperatives have teamed up to increase the level of competitiveness. Thus, in 1951, the National Union of Craftsmen's Cooperatives (UCECOM) was established, with the role of representing, at national and international level, the craftsmen's cooperative entities. Subsequently, in 2006, UCECOM was reorganized based on Law no. 1/2005

on the organization and functioning of the cooperation.

We emphasize that, in accordance with the provisions of the statute, UCECOM is established to ensure the representation and defence of the interests of cooperators and associated members, directly or indirectly, in relations with public administration, state authority, other natural and / or legal persons, public or private, with similar international bodies as well as to support and promote cooperative principles.

According to the statutory provisions, UCECOM acts for:

- promoting and defending the interests of the associated cooperative societies and of the cooperating members in the relations with the public administration, natural persons or public or private legal persons;
- promoting and defending the economic interests of the associated members, at local, national or international level;
- protection of associated cooperative societies for the development of their patrimony;
- representing the interests of cooperators at national and international level, in relations with cooperative organizations and with domestic and international bodies;
- information, documentation, training and professional development, development of promotional actions for specific services and products and other common actions, specific to the field in which the associated cooperative societies operate;
- carrying out social, cultural, technical-scientific, sports, charity or humanitarian activities;
- carrying out activities according to the decisions of the National Council, according to the laws in force.

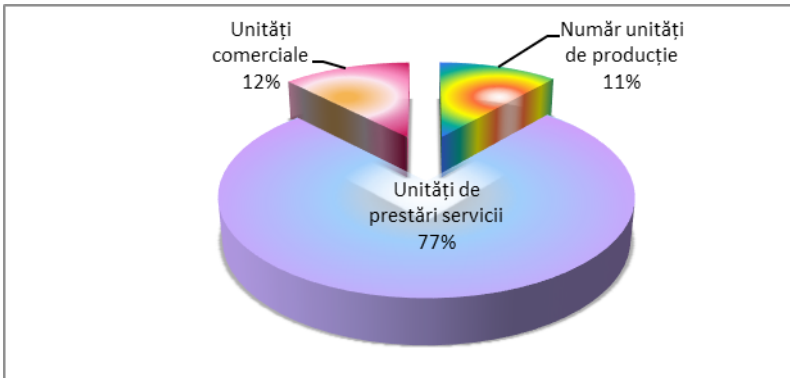
The statute stipulates that the management, administration and control bodies of the National Union of Craftsmen's Cooperation are: management (Congress and National Council); Administration (Board of Directors) and Control (Board of Auditors).

From the data contained in the national statistical yearbooks or of the National Union of Craft Cooperatives, in 2018, there were associated (directly or indirectly) 466 cooperative entities operating in urban areas (429 craft cooperative societies, 22 county unions and 15 trade associations' cooperatives). 11,400 people are registered in the cooperative sector (87% of them have a double quality, respectively associated with capital as cooperative shareholders and employees of their own cooperatives).

In the system of craft cooperation there are 2,020 units, of which 230 production, 1,543 services and 247 commercial.

Structure of craft units

Figure 10



Craft cooperative societies offer decent jobs and staff with disabilities there are 176 people, employed in 33 craft cooperative societies. Craft cooperation companies operate in the fields of production, services and trade.

Almost all cooperative societies associated with the National Union of Craft Cooperatives are included in the category of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Through the activity carried out, the craft cooperation companies offer to the market industrial and consumer goods and services addressed to the population and to the other economic agents.

The National Union of Craftsmen's Cooperation established the technical-scientific and socio-cultural Foundation of the Artifex craftsmen's cooperation which carries out activity in the cultural, educational and scientific field. The technical-scientific and socio-cultural foundation of the Artifex craft cooperation includes Artifex University of Bucharest, with two faculties offering undergraduate and master's degree programs: Faculty of Finance and Accounting, with the fields of Finance and Accounting) and the Faculty of Management, Marketing, with the fields of Management, Marketing, respectively Business Administration. Also, the Technical-scientific and socio-cultural Foundation of the Artifex craft cooperation also includes: a National Institute of Cooperative Studies and Research, a Cultural-scientific and leisure Center, an Artifex Training, Development and Professional Promotion Agency, a Training Center medical assistance, analysis and practice Artifex, Artifex Publishing House, as well as the National Library of the Artifex craft cooperation.

Spiru Haret Pre-University Education Foundation comprises 11 educational units of the craft cooperation, each with its own Centres for

qualification and professional reconversion of adults, operating in Bucharest, Arad, Baia Mare, Brăila, Breaza, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, Craiova, Iași, Ploiești and Timișoara.

The Arbitration Court attached to UCCECOM provides institutionalized arbitration and ad-hoc arbitration, having jurisdiction in resolving property and civil disputes.

• ***Analysis of the evolution of pre-university education and vocational training units***

In the craft cooperation sector there are 11 vocational education units (arts and crafts schools, level 3 qualification), at which in the 2017-2018 school year, a number of 491 students graduated.

Number of graduates of vocational schools in the period 2014-2018

Table 18

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	21	38	65	90
2	Baia Mare	21	14	14	19
3	Brăila	0	0	0	0
4	Breaza	26	12	24	16
5	București	0	0	122	95
6	Cluj	0	0	17	14
7	Constanța	0	0	14	37
8	Craiova	0	0	52	80
9	Iași	39	15	40	27
10	Ploiești	0	0	57	68
11	Timișoara	0	0	30	45
	Total	107	79	435	491

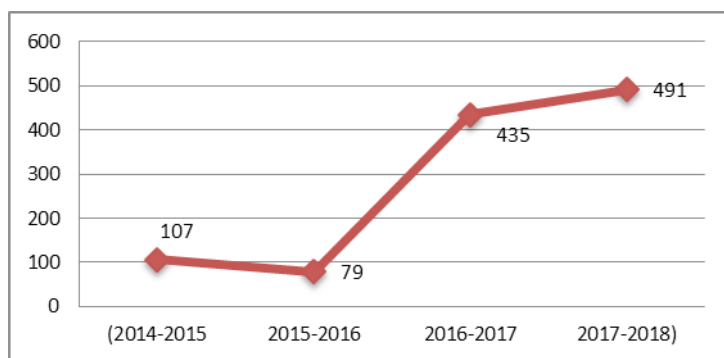
Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craft Cooperation 2018, p. 11.

We find that in the last four school years 107 students have graduated (2014-2015), 79 students (2015-2016), 435 students (2016-2017) and 491 students (2017-2018). They immediately stepped into the field of work, being professionally specialized in the activities for which they were prepared. Many of them continue high school.

Figure 11 shows the evolution of the number of graduates of vocational schools, in the period 2014-2018.

Evolution of the number of graduates of vocational schools in the period 2014-2018

Figure 11



Based on the data and graphical representations presented, it is observed that, during the analysed period, a high share of vocational school graduates was registered in the last two school years.

Share of the number of graduates of vocational schools per educational unit, in the period 2014-2018

Table 19

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	19,63	48,10	14,94	18,33
2	Baia Mare	19,63	17,72	3,22	3,87
3	Brăila	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
4	Breaza	24,30	15,19	5,52	3,26
5	București	0,00	0,00	28,05	19,35
6	Cluj	0,00	0,00	3,91	2,85
7	Constanța	0,00	0,00	3,22	7,54
8	Craiova	0,00	0,00	11,95	16,29
9	Iași	36,45	18,99	9,20	5,50
10	Ploiești	0,00	0,00	13,10	13,85
11	Timișoara	0,00	0,00	6,90	9,16
	Total	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

Source: Data processed by the authors

Table 19 presents the structure of vocational school graduates by each educational unit, in the period 2014-2018. In all the four schoolchildren, the units from Arad, Baia Mare, Breaza and Iași have a high share. In the last two school years we have seen an increase in the number of graduates of vocational schools in Bucharest, Craiova and Ploiești, as well as Cluj-Napoca and Timișoara.

Structure of the number of graduates of vocational schools, in the school year 2017-2018, by locality

Figure 12

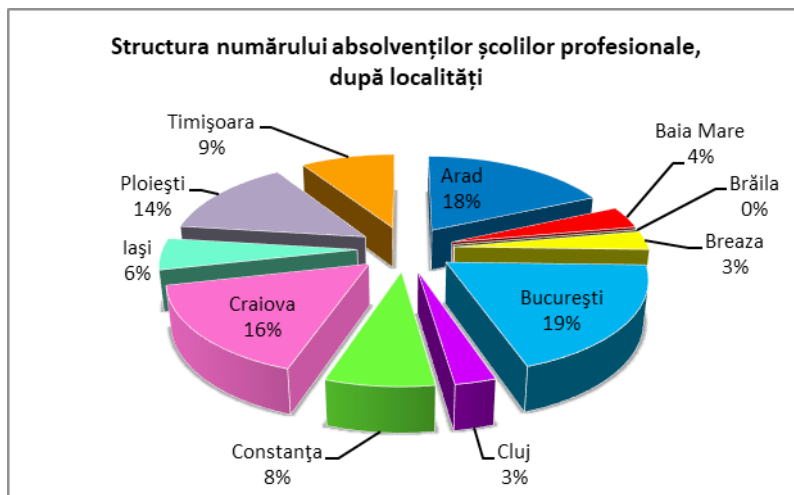


Figure 12 shows, much more suggestively, the structure of vocational school graduates in the 2017-2018 school year, depending on localities.

Chain change index of the number of graduates of vocational schools indicator (%)

Table 20

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	-	180,95	171,05	138,46
2	Baia Mare	-	66,67	100,00	135,71
3	Brăila	-	-	-	-
4	Breaza	-	46,15	200,00	66,67
5	București	-	-	-	77,87
6	Cluj	-	-	-	82,35
7	Constanța	-	-	-	264,29
8	Craiova	-	-	-	153,85
9	Iași	-	38,46	266,67	67,50
10	Ploiești	-	-	-	119,30
11	Timișoara	-	-	-	150,00
	Total	-	73,83	550,63	112,87

Source: Data processed by the authors

In order to reveal the evolution of the number of graduates of vocational schools, tables 20 and table 21 show the index of chain-based change and the rate of change based on chain.

Chain change rate of the number of graduates of vocational schools indicator (%)

Table 21

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	-	80.95	71.05	38.46
2	Baia Mare	-	-33.33	0.00	35.71
3	Brăila	-	-	-	-
4	Breaza	-	-53.85	100.00	-33.33
5	București	-	-	-	-22.13
6	Cluj	-	-	-	-17.65
7	Constanța	-	-	-	164.29
8	Craiova	-	-	-	53.85
9	Iasi	-	-61.54	166.67	-32.50
10	Ploiești	-	-	-	19.30
11	Timișoara	-	-	-	50.00
	Total	-	-26.17	450.63	12.87

Source: Data processed by the authors

At the level of high school education (qualification level 4), there were 11 high schools, where, in the 2017-2018 school year, 590 students graduated.

Number of high school graduates (qualification level 4), in the period 2014-2018

Table 22

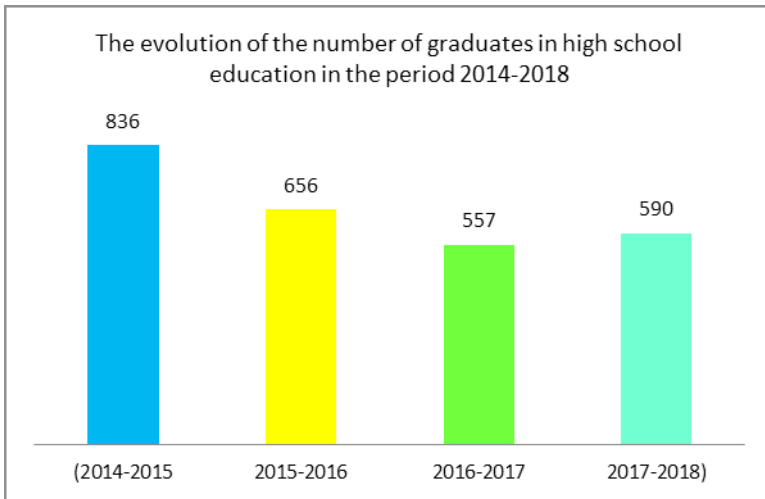
No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016- 2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	70	24	0	0
2	Baia Mare	92	93	83	87
3	Brăila	25	20	0	21
4	Breaza	19	21	0	26
5	București	207	135	111	146
6	Cluj	50	36	39	24
7	Constanța	14	24	0	41
8	Craiova	160	130	127	100
9	Iasi	11	8	38	13
10	Ploiești	86	62	55	22
11	Timișoara	102	103	104	110
	Total	836	656	557	590

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craft Cooperation 2018, p. 12.

High schools in Bucharest, Craiova, Baia Mare and Constanța have the highest share of high school graduates.

Evolution of the number of graduates in high school education, in the period 2014-2018

Figure 13



The evolution of the total number of high school graduates is presented graphically in figure 13. From the study of the graphic representation it is found that, compared to the school year 2014-2015, when 836 graduates were registered, their number decreased to 590 graduates in the school year 2017-2018.

Share of the number of graduates in high school education (qualification level 4), in the period 2014-2018

Table 23

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016- 2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	8,37	3,66	0,00	0,00
2	Baia Mare	11,00	14,18	14,90	14,75
3	Brăila	2,99	3,05	0,00	3,56
4	Breaza	2,27	3,20	0,00	4,41
5	București	24,76	20,58	19,93	24,75
6	Cluj	5,98	5,49	7,00	4,07
7	Constanța	1,67	3,66	0,00	6,95
8	Craiova	19,14	19,82	22,80	16,95
9	Iasi	1,32	1,22	6,82	2,20
10	Ploiești	10,29	9,45	9,87	3,73
11	Timișoara	12,20	15,70	18,67	18,64
	Total	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

Source: Data processed by the authors

Table 23 contains relative data on the share of high school graduates in the total registered.

Structure of the number of graduates in high school education, in the 2017-2018 school year, by locality

Figure 14

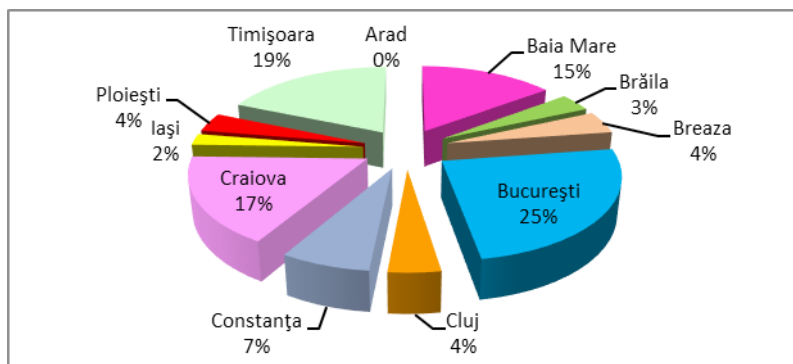


Figure 14 shows the structure diagram of the number of graduates in high school education, by locality.

Chain-based change index of the indicator number of high school graduates (%)

Table 24

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	-	34,29	0,00	-
2	Baia Mare	-	101,09	89,25	104,82
3	Brăila	-	80,00	0,00	-
4	Breaza	-	110,53	0,00	-
5	București	-	65,22	82,22	131,53
6	Cluj	-	72,00	108,33	61,54
7	Constanța	-	171,43	0,00	-
8	Craiova	-	81,25	97,69	78,74
9	Iași	-	72,73	475,00	34,21
10	Ploiești	-	72,09	88,71	40,00
11	Timișoara	-	100,98	100,97	105,77
	Total	-	78,47	84,91	105,92

Source: Data processed by the authors

Also, in tables 24 and 25 are presented the index of chain-based change of the number of high school graduates, respectively the rate of chain-based change of the same indicator.

Chain-based rate of change of the indicator number of high school graduates (%)

Table 25

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	-	-65,71	-100,00	-
2	Baia Mare	-	1,09	-10,75	4,82
3	Brăila	-	-20,00	-100,00	-
4	Breaza	-	10,53	-100,00	-
5	București	-	-34,78	-17,78	31,53
6	Cluj	-	-28,00	8,33	-38,46
7	Constanța	-	71,43	-100,00	-
8	Craiova	-	-18,75	-2,31	-21,26
9	Iași	-	-27,27	375,00	-65,79
10	Ploiești	-	-27,91	-11,29	-60,00
11	Timișoara	-	0,98	0,97	5,77
	Total	-	-21,53	-15,09	5,92

Source: Data processed by the authors

In the craft cooperative sector, there is also post-secondary education and foremen in six educational centres.

At the level of post-secondary education, in the school year 2017-2018 a number of 364 graduates was registered (table 26).

Number of graduates in post-secondary education level 5 qualifications - post-secondary school, in the period 2014-2018

Table 26

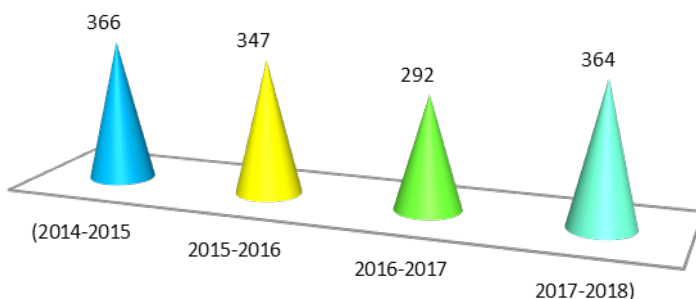
No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Baia Mare	73	44	34	26
2	București	221	173	133	188
3	Cluj	0	37	36	35
4	Constanța	6	7	6	10
5	Craiova	66	26	25	26
6	Timișoara	0	60	58	79
	Total	366	347	292	364

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craftsmen's Cooperation 2018, p. 12. Own systematization

Next, we presented graphically, in figure 15, the evolution of the number of graduates of post-secondary education, in the period 2014-2018.

Evolution of the number of graduates in post-secondary education, during 2014-2018

Figure 15



In table 27 we summarized the data on the share of the number of graduates in post-secondary education, in the period 2014-2018.

Share of the number of graduates in post-secondary education (qualification level 5), in the period 2014-2018

Table 27

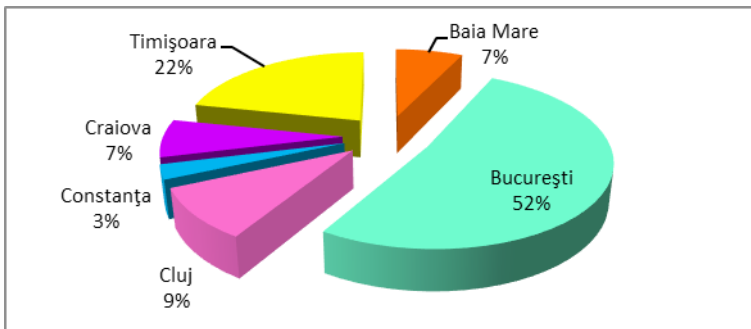
No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016- 2017	2017-2018
1	Baia Mare	19,95	12,68	11,64	7,14
2	București	60,38	49,86	45,55	51,65
3	Cluj	0,00	10,66	12,33	9,62
4	Constanța	1,64	2,02	2,05	2,75
5	Craiova	18,03	7,49	8,56	7,14
6	Timișoara	0,00	17,29	19,86	21,70
	Total	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

Source: Data processed by the authors

Figure 16, structure diagram, reveals easier to interpret, the share of each high school in the total number of graduates of post-secondary education in the academic year 2017-2018.

Structure of the number of graduates in post-secondary education, in the school year 2017-2018, by locality

Figure 16



To complete the study, in tables 28 and 29, we presented the index of change based on the number of graduates in post-secondary education, respectively the rate of change based on the number of graduates of post-secondary education, calculated by the author.

Chain-based change index of the indicator number of graduates in post-secondary education (%)

Table 28

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Baia Mare	-	60,27	77,27	76,47
2	București	-	78,28	76,88	141,35
3	Cluj	-	-	97,30	97,22
4	Constanța	-	116,67	85,71	166,67
5	Craiova	-	39,39	96,15	104,00
6	Timișoara	-	-	96,67	136,21
	Total	-	94,81	84,15	124,66

Source: Data processed by the authors

Chain change rate of the indicator number of graduates in post-secondary education (%)

Table 29

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Baia Mare	-	-39,73	-22,73	-23,53
2	București	-	-21,72	-23,12	41,35
3	Cluj	-	-	-2,70	-2,78
4	Constanța	-	16,67	-14,29	66,67
5	Craiova	-	-60,61	-3,85	4,00
6	Timișoara	-	-	-3,33	36,21
	Total	-	-5,19	-15,85	24,66

Source: Data processed by the authors

Also in the same period of time, they worked in two education centres of the craft cooperative sector and foremen's courses, in the 2017-2018 school year registering 22 graduates, respectively 15 in Bucharest and 7 in Constanța.

An important concern was also to organize professional training (conversion) courses in all 11 educational centres operating in the craft cooperation sector. Thus, in the 2014-2015 school year, 2,266 graduates were registered, in 2015-2016, 2,404 graduates, in 2016-2017, 1,754 graduates, and in the 2017-2018 school year there were 1,637 graduates.

Number of graduates of adult vocational training courses, in the period 2014-2018

Table 30

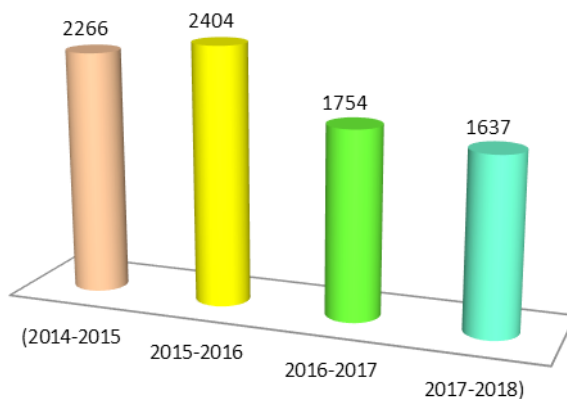
No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	97	104	49	45
2	Baia Mare	226	265	165	106
3	Brăila	128	90	90	71
4	Breaza	18	16	6	17
5	București	225	159	153	161
6	Cluj	143	75	50	122
7	Constanța	65	49	35	30
8	Craiova	345	145	151	75
9	Iași	305	514	252	345
10	Ploiești	130	155	177	154
11	Timișoara	584	832	626	511
Total		2.266	2.404	1.754	1.637

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craft Cooperation 2018, p. 13.

Table 30 presents data on the number of graduates of vocational training courses for adults, in the period 2014-2018, and Figure 17 graphically presents these data.

Evolution of the number of graduates of adult vocational training courses, in the period 2014-2018

Figure 17



Also, the weights of the number of graduates of adult training courses in the period 2014-2018 were calculated and presented in table 31, and figure 18 expresses the structure of the number of graduates of these courses in the school year 2017-2018.

Share of the number of graduates of adult vocational training courses, in the period 2014-2018

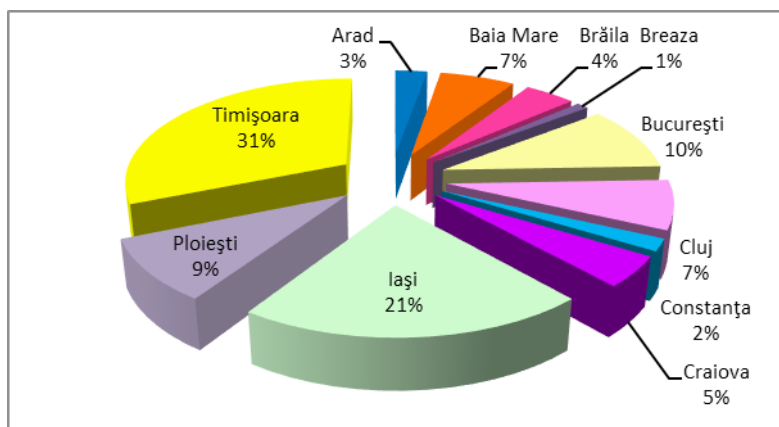
Table 31

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016- 2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	4,28	4,33	2,79	2,75
2	Baia Mare	9,97	11,02	9,41	6,48
3	Brăila	5,65	3,74	5,13	4,34
4	Breaza	0,79	0,67	0,34	1,04
5	București	9,93	6,61	8,72	9,84
6	Cluj	6,31	3,12	2,85	7,45
7	Constanța	2,87	2,04	2,00	1,83
8	Craiova	15,23	6,03	8,61	4,58
9	Iași	13,46	21,38	14,37	21,08
10	Ploiești	5,74	6,45	10,09	9,41
11	Timișoara	25,77	34,61	35,69	31,22
	Total	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

Source: Data processed by the authors

Structure of the number of graduates of adult vocational training courses, in the 2017-2018 school year, by locality

Figure 18



At the same time, the chain-based change index of the number of graduates of adult vocational training courses (Table 32) and the rate of chain-based change of the same indicator (Table 33) were calculated.

Chain change index of the indicator number of graduates of adult vocational training courses (%)

Table 32

No. crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	-	107,22	47,12	91,84
2	Baia Mare	-	117,26	62,26	64,24
3	Brăila	-	70,31	100,00	78,89
4	Breaza	-	88,89	37,50	283,33
5	București	-	70,67	96,23	105,23
6	Cluj	-	52,45	66,67	244,00
7	Constanța	-	75,38	71,43	85,71
8	Craiova	-	42,03	104,14	49,67
9	Iași	-	168,52	49,03	136,90
10	Ploiești	-	119,23	114,19	87,01
11	Timișoara	-	142,47	75,24	81,63
	Total	-	106,09	72,96	93,33

Source: Data processed by the authors

Rate of change based on the chain of the indicator number of graduates of adult vocational training courses (%)

Table 33

No. Crt.	Educational establishment	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1	Arad	-	7,22	-52,88	-8,16
2	Baia Mare	-	17,26	-37,74	-35,76
3	Brăila	-	-29,69	0,00	-21,11
4	Breaza	-	-11,11	-62,50	183,33
5	București	-	-29,33	-3,77	5,23
6	Cluj	-	-47,55	-33,33	144,00
7	Constanța	-	-24,62	-28,57	-14,29
8	Craiova	-	-57,97	4,14	-50,33
9	Iași	-	68,52	-50,97	36,90
10	Ploiești	-	19,23	14,19	-12,99
11	Timișoara	-	42,47	-24,76	-18,37
	Total	-	6,09	-27,04	-6,67

Source: Data processed by the authors

• Analysis of the evolution of university study programs

Within the university education, there is the Artifex University of Bucharest, authorized to operate since 1992 and accredited by Law no. 133/2005 establishing as an entity the national education system.

Situation of licensed students and graduates of the Faculty of Finance and Accounting, by total and undergraduate university programs, in the period 2015-2018

Table 34

Academic year	Graduates category	Finance and Banks	Accounting and Management Information Systems	University of Finance & Accounting
2015-2016	Graduates	47	45	92
	Licensed	41	25	66
2016-2017	Graduates	18	26	44
	Licensed	18	24	42
2017-2018	Graduates	30	52	82
	Licensed	30	50	80

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craft Cooperation 2018, p. 14. Own systematization.

Situation of licensed students and graduates of the Faculty of Management - Marketing, by total and undergraduate programs, in the period 2015-2018

Table 35

Academic year	Graduates category	Management	Marketing	Economy of trade, tourism and services	Management - Marketing
2015-2016	Graduates	120	79	59	258
	Licensed	114	75	57	246
2016-2017	Graduates	84	63	49	196
	Licensed	82	61	46	189
2017-2018	Graduates	123	74	56	253
	Licensed	120	70	56	246

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craft Cooperation 2018, p. 14. Own systematization

The situation of graduates in total and by structure is presented in tables 34 and 35, for the last three academic years, and in figure 19 are graphically represented the evolutions of the number of graduate and graduate students, in the period under analysis.

Evolution of the number of graduate and bachelor students, in the period 2015-2018

Figure 19

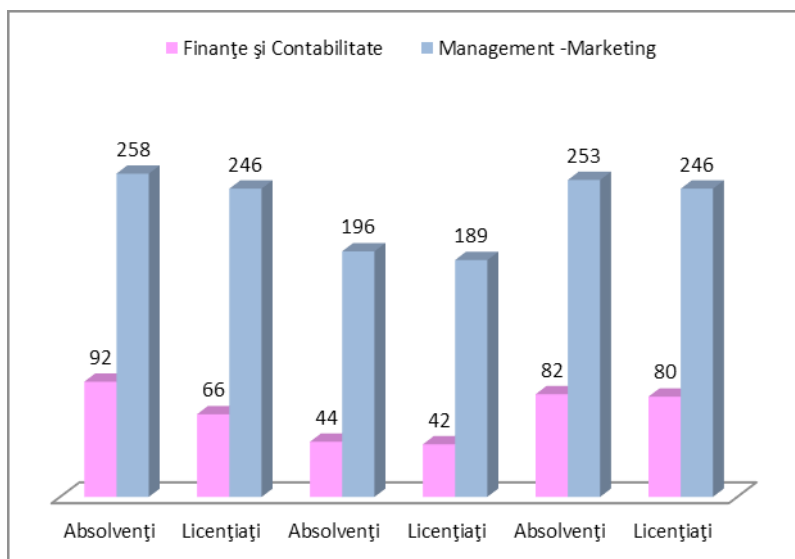


Table 36 presents the centralized situation regarding the number of graduates and the number of licensed students of undergraduate university study programs, in the period 2015-2018, within the Artifex University of Bucharest.

Number of graduates and graduate students of Artifex University of Bucharest, undergraduate programs, in the period 2015-2018

Table 36

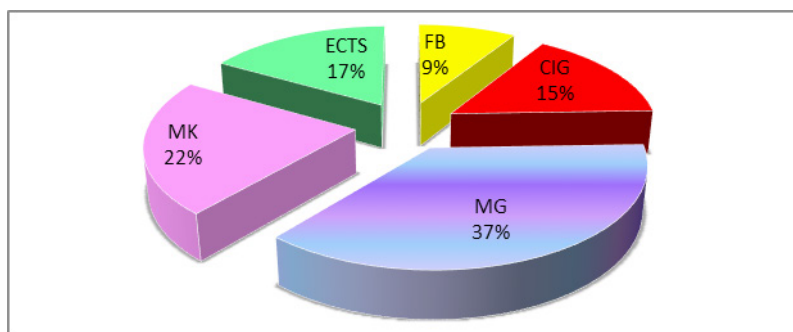
Academic year	Graduates	Licensed
2015-2016	350	312
2016-2017	240	231
2017-2018	335	326

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craft Cooperation 2018, p. 14. Own systematization

Figure 20 shows by structure diagram, the number of graduates of undergraduate programs in the academic year 2017-2018.

Structure of the number of graduates of undergraduate programs in the academic year 2017-2018

Figure 20



At the same time, within the Artifex University of Bucharest there are eight master's degree programs, of which in the last two years there have been five programs. The number of graduate students of the master's programs was 116, in the academic year 2016-2017 and 123 in the academic year 2017-2018.

Number of graduates of the dissertation exam at the master's degree programs, in the Faculty of Finance and Accounting, during 2016-2018

Table 37

Academic year	Graduates category	Study program	
		Financial-banking management and insurance	Management of the financial-accounting information system
2016-2017	Graduates	13	19
	With dissertation exam	12	17
2017-2018	Graduates	14	21
	With dissertation exam	10	16

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craftsmen's Cooperation 2018, p. 15. Own systematization

Tables 37 and 38 present the situation of graduates of the dissertation exam for master's degree programs in the period 2016-2018.

Number of graduates of the dissertation exam at the master's degree programs, in the Faculty of Management-Marketing, during 2016-2018

Table 38

Academic year	Graduates category	Study program		
		Organizational management	Marketing and business communication	Business administration in trade, tourism and services
2016-2017	Graduates	33	32	19
	With dissertation exam	33	30	18
2017-2018	Graduates	54	24	22
	With dissertation exam	53	24	20

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craftsmen's Cooperation 2018, p. 15. Own systematization

The centralized situation at the level of Artifex University of Bucharest regarding the number of graduates of the dissertation exam at the master's degree programs is presented in table 39.

Number of graduates and dissertation graduates of the Artifex University of Bucharest, in the master's degree programs, during 2016-2018

Table 39

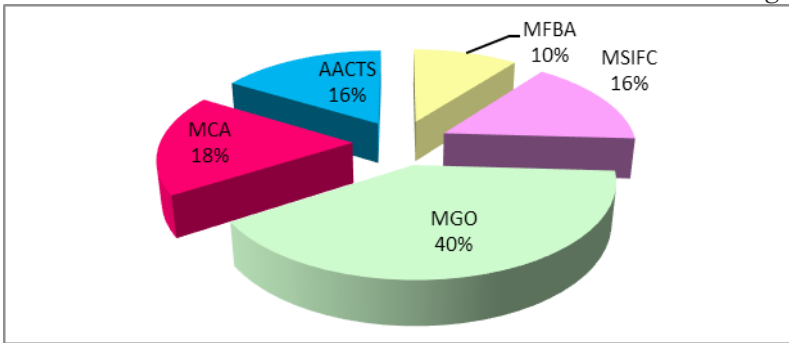
Academic year	Graduates	Graduates with dissertation exam
2016-2017	105	116
2017-2018	135	126

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Craftsmen's Cooperation 2018, p. 15. Own systematization

The structure of the number of master's graduates, in the academic year 2017-2018, is presented in figure 21.

Structure of the number of master's degree graduates, in the academic year 2017-2018, by type of master's degree program

Figure 21



• Entities operating in the craft cooperation

We specify that, in 2018, UCECOM is the sole founder or majority shareholder in the following entities:

- Artifex National Technical-Scientific and Social-Cultural Foundation of the Craftsmen's Cooperation;
- Spiru Haret Pre-University Education Foundation of the Crafts Cooperative, which includes 11 pre-university education units of the craft cooperation, namely: 10 UCECOM Spiru Haret technological high schools (Arad, Baia Mare, Brăila, Breaza, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, C Timișoara) and UCECOM Spiru Haret College Bucharest;
- SC Hefaistos-CM SA (Hotel Hefaistos Sovata and Mamaia);
- SC SADCOS SA;
- Gazeta Viața CM.
- The following entities also operate in the craft cooperative system:
- Arbitration Court attached to UCECOM;
- Professional Association of Manufacturers of Garments, Textiles and Knitwear from the Craft Cooperative - APCT-CM;
- Professional Association of Manufacturers of Furniture and Various Wooden Items from the Craft Cooperative - APM-CM;
- Professional Association of Producers of Folk Art, Crafts and Artistic Crafts from the Craft Cooperation - ROMARTIZANA - APPAP-CM;
- National League of Organizations with Disabled Personnel from the Craft Cooperative.

At the end of the analysis of the evolution of the cooperative entities, a study was carried out regarding the number of cooperative entities distributed

by counties (absolute and relative data are presented in table 40, and the structure in figure 22).

Number of cooperative entities distributed by counties

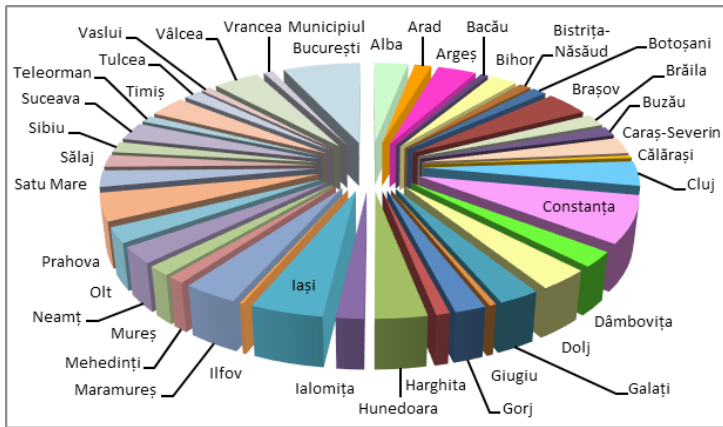
Table 40

No. crt.	County	Number of cooperative entities	Weight (%)*
1	Alba	14	3,05
2	Arad	7	1,53
3	Argeş	16	3,49
4	Bacău	3	0,65
5	Bihor	11	2,40
6	Bistriţa-Năsăud	5	1,09
7	Botoşani	6	1,31
8	Braşov	18	3,92
9	Brăila	9	1,96
10	Buzău	7	1,53
11	Caraş-Severin	12	2,61
12	Călăraşi	2	0,44
13	Cluj	18	3,92
14	Constanţa	34	7,41
15	Dâmboviţa	11	2,40
16	Dolj	15	3,27
17	Galaţi	12	2,61
18	Giurgiu	2	0,44
19	Gorj	9	1,96
20	Harghita	4	0,87
21	Hunedoara	15	3,27
22	Ialomiţa	8	1,74
23	Iaşi	21	4,58
24	Ilfov	1	0,22
25	Maramureş	16	3,49
26	Mehedinţi	5	1,09
27	Mureş	7	1,53
28	Neamţ	12	2,61
29	Olt	11	2,40
30	Prahova	20	4,36
31	Satu Mare	12	2,61
32	Sălaj	9	1,96
33	Sibiu	8	1,74
34	Suceava	13	2,83
35	Teleorman	5	1,09
36	Timiş	15	3,27
37	Tulcea	7	1,53
38	Vaslui	4	0,87
39	Vâlcea	19	4,14
40	Vrancea	4	0,87
41	Municipiul Bucureşti	32	6,97

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the National Union of Handicraft Cooperation 2018, pages 22-89, the data are systematized by the author

The structure of cooperative entities by counties, in 2017

Figure 22



The study of the data in table 40 and figure 22 shows the situation, in fact, existing in 2017 regarding the territorial distribution, by counties, of the craft cooperation entities. It turns out that most entities are in Bucharest (32), Constanța (34), Iași (21), Prahova (20), Vâlcea (19), Brașov (18), Cluj (18), Argeș (16) counties, Maramureș (16), Dolj (15) and Hunedoara (15). It can be seen that the 11 counties, together with the Municipality of Bucharest, own 51.65% of the total craft entities in Romania, being strong centres of craft cooperation.

Conclusions

The vast material that was the basis of the research and the identification of the evolution trends of the Romanian cooperation in the context of the current pandemic and economic-financial crisis, determines a synthesis in some conclusions that emerged. First of all, the cooperative system in Romania is a necessary one, which must be consolidated and developed in the next period. Consumer, credit and craft cooperation must not give up this rather hostile and difficult environment in maintaining its position and seek to develop the use of resources locally in terms of the development of craft cooperation in particular.

The craft cooperation has its own evolutionary bed, but it must develop in a market in which to re-enter in full capacity the fundamental law of the relationship between supply and demand. The cooperative system can offer more locally, especially in the current conditions when the activities of large malls, shops and so on are restructured.

At the local level, the craft cooperation can intensify its activity of making some goods and creating specific services to help fill the needs of the population demand at the local level. On the other hand, the cooperation must be more actively engaged in capitalizing on the resources that still exist locally in order to consolidate and be able to impose a trend of evolution in the next period.

We can appreciate that just as it understands the world, European or Romanian economy and the activity of the Romanian cooperation on its multiple sectors is alarmingly affected by the effects of the pandemic and economic-financial crisis. The need to re-establish these development programs is absolutely necessary in order to avoid that the cooperation is also adversely affected by the effects of the economic and financial crisis.

One conclusion concerns cooperation in agriculture. According to the Land Fund law, which led to the collapse of the system, although we do not like it, we must accept the way agricultural areas are organized. The re-ownership, privatization, transfer or re-possession of the previous properties did not have the best effect and in many circumstances this led to land reclamation, lack of irrigation, fertilization, mechanized works and all the others, which are part of the agrotechnics that must be to promote it. Only now is there an attempt to suggest the granting of subsidies, other aid, for the reappearance of agricultural associations, not only on the basis of a lease, but also on the basis of the will of the small property owner in agriculture, so that they are favorable, to capitalize on the fertility of the Romanian soil in order to produce the entire range of agri-food products that the country needs.

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