

Measuring social progress in European regions and cities. Bucharest-Ilfov Region case

#EURegionsWeek



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BIRDA - Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency

- 1999 – founded as non-profit NGO for public utility
- 2004 – up date regional development law
- 2007-2020 – intermediate body for REGIO



163 Mihai Eminescu Street, Bucharest

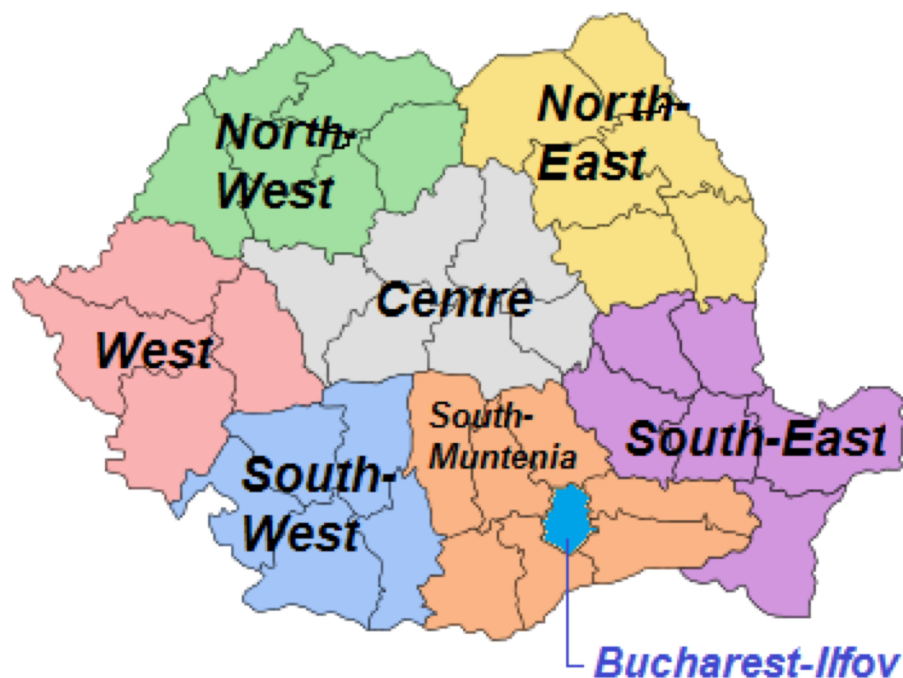
BIRDA provides specific services to the local public administration as well as to the private sector for the development of the Bucharest-Ilfov Region



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Regional development system



**ROMANIA - 8 NUTS 2 regions for
socio-economic development
Law nr. 315 / 2004**

**Following the principles of EU
regional development and
cohesion policy**

CDRBI – decisional body

BIRDA – executive body

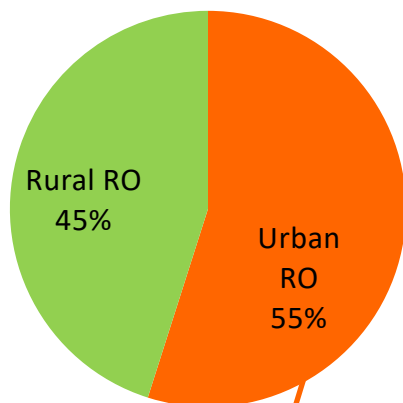


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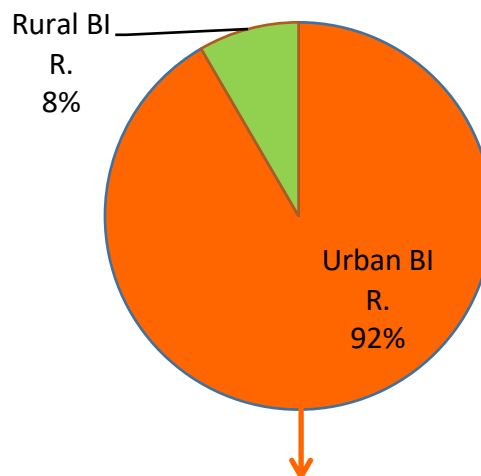
Urbanization data

**Total Romania: 21.35
million inhabitants**



Bucharest 17.6% of
urbanized population
in RO

**Total BI Region: 2.25
million inhabitants**



Bucharest Capital City
8 cities
32 communes
91 villages

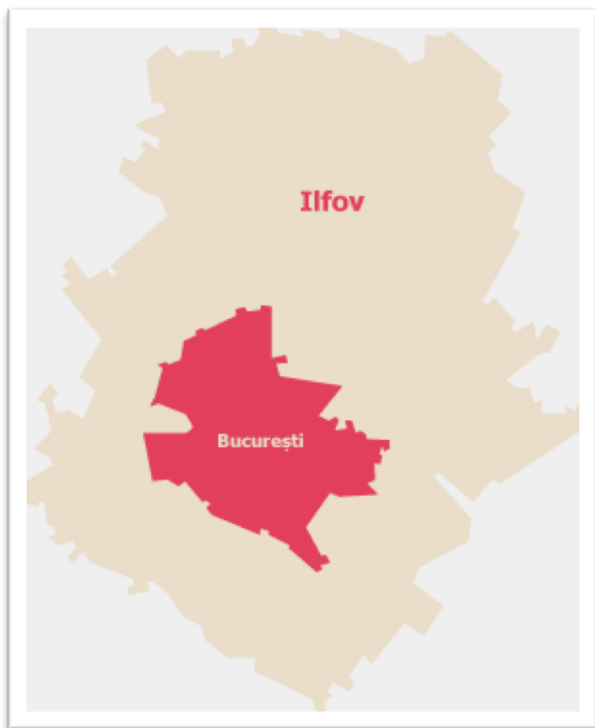
Source: 2011, Population and housing Census



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Bucharest-Ilfov Region data



- 144% GDP/capita (PPS) of EU28 average, while Romania is at 62% of EU28
- 229% GDP of the Romanian national average (decreasing*)
- 60,3% of the total national FDI (increasing*)
- 20% of the total national SMEs (decreasing*)
- Less than 1% of the Romania surface, but more than 11% of the population
- Ranked 11th in the world (1st in the EU) on Tom Tom Traffic Index (congestion level 48%)

*) 2018-2019, from the previous year



Bucharest-Ilfov SPI

- One of the ten regions in the DG Regio pilot project “Measuring What Matters to EU Citizens” (<https://eu-spi.eu/>)
- February 2016: BI ranked 255 out of 272 regions for SPI and 50/272 for GDP PPP per capita (data from 2011)*
 - Bucharest-Ilfov GDP: €30,700, Romania GDP: €12,812.50
 - Bucharest-Ilfov SPI (the best performance in RO): 2 indicators neutral, 10 indicators underperforming
- 2019**: Romania SPI rank 45/149, Romania GDP PPP per capita rank 45/149 with \$24,544 (€22,418,24)
 - Romania SPI: 8 indicators “Performing within expected range”, 4 indicators underperforming

=> Improvement of the SPI at regional level

*) https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/maps/social_progress

***) Social Progress Imperative <https://www.socialprogress.org/?tab=2&code=ROU>



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BI Strengths / Weaknesses

Strengths

- Access to basic knowledge
- Access to Advanced Education
- High speed Internet

Weaknesses

- Congested traffic
- Social exclusion and fragmentation
- Disparities between the capital and the surrounding Ilfov county (education, sanitation, health, IT/telecom infrastructure)



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Shelter / Housing

- This thematic area faces significant challenges in Romania, respectively Bucharest-Ilfov region.
- **Bucharest-Ilfov** ranks on the position of 263 out of 272 in the field of shelter, showing negative results in terms of costs of housing, satisfaction with housing, overcrowding and lack of adequate heating
- EU owner-occupied dwellings – Romania 96.8% (1st rank) to Germany (51,4%) of population
- Living in overcrowded dwellings: 15 % of the EU population; the highest rate among the Member States was in Romania (47.0 %) *Eurostat, June 2019*



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Shelter / Housing

- During the communist period the Capital City was a magnet for industrial development and workforce
- Entire neighborhoods were built near industrial platforms:
 - 1960s – 1800 blocks of flats
 - 1970s – 3000 blocks of flats (65% more)
 - 1980s – 2600 blocks of flats
 - 1990s – <800 new blocks of flats
- the population has doubled in five decades
- Today: 65% of the population (1,5 million) lives in apartments





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Legislation framework and public policies

- Regions have no decision-making power in general, not in the governance structure of housing policies
- Some programmes at national level (Ministry of Regional Development and the National Agency for Housing)*:
 - a programme for building new housing stock for the socially disadvantaged young persons (18-35 years old), destined to be rented
 - “*The first house*” programme, which offers loan guarantees to persons buying a house or an apartment for the first time
 - *the National Programme on Social Housing*, which supports city halls in building social houses, based on the local needs identified by city councils / county councils
 - a programme supporting housing construction through guarantees of mortgage loans
 - a programme for building social housing targeting the tenants evacuated from nationalised buildings.

*) *Technopolis Group EU SPI Study*



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Axis 3 Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Urban Mobility 299.986.174

Axis 5 Cultural heritage and urban regeneration 40.771.278

Axis 6 County roads 13.297.873

**Axis 9 Local development under the responsibility of the
community 11.820.332**

Axis 10 Educational Infrastructure 53.191.488

Total (million Euros) 419.067.145



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•Investment Priority 3.1 A: Energy efficiency of housing buildings

Eligible activities:

- a. thermal rehabilitation of the envelope
- b. thermal rehabilitation of the heating system/warm consumption water supply system
- c. the installation of alternative systems of energy generation from renewable sources
- d. other activities that lead to energy efficiency

Assigned value for BI region: 99.4 million Euro



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1.004
rehabilitated
blocks



BUCHAREST-ILFOV REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Intermediary Body for Regional Operational Programme

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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