

METHODS FOR DETERMINING THE COMMUNITY TO ACCEPT THE EU RULES REGARDING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE URBAN AREAS

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ABSTRACT: *This paper aims to detail some aspects of European standards relating to the quality of life in the urban space from the Jiu Valley. Thus, we wanted to discover what will be the attitude of Lupeni's citizens, one of the six regional administrative units that make up the Jiu Valley, and especially the ways the authorities have, to determine the acceptance of these new rules.*

KEY WORDS: *rule; attitude; quality of life; occupation*

JEL CLASSIFICATION: *Z10*

1. THE AREA AND THE METHODOLOGY OF THE RESEARCH

The research was conducted in the city of Lupeni during the 19th to 26th of March 2008, being taken into consideration the citizens with legal forms from this city, so the views expressed must belong to people who know very well this area.

Questionnaire-based survey instrument applied by trained operators that have sociology and social studies. The sample is composed on the basis of the related quotas (sex, age, street), and reaches a volume $n = 600$ people.

The completion of the quotas was made, as possible at random, element that improved the results and included them within the allowed limits in all socio-human research.

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2. THE ATTITUDE OF THE CITIZENS REGARDING THE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY FOR SACRIFICE AND THE COMPANION ANIMALS IN THE URBAN SPACE

We start our analysis and interpretation on how to determine the community of Lupeni to accept the EU directives regarding the quality of life in the urban space, stating that we didn't consider all the dimensions that may result from the operational concept of "quality of life in the urban areas". This concept is much broader and involves dimensions that relate to the cultural quality of life, educational opportunities and achievements of people, to its state of health, leisure opportunities etc.

What we were particularly interested in the present study, was limited to the following aspects:

1. The interdiction by the EU directives, through the appearance of a law on veterinary-sanitary standards in the urban space, regarding the raising of only pets and not those animals which will be sacrificed. This law will profoundly affect the way of life of the six regional administrative units of the Jiu Valley, because in this area there are many animal breeders. The impact of the law on the collective mental will be a highly presented one by the mass media through the situations it will create;

2. The highly increasing of the green spaces, within two years (another EU directive for the Jiu Valley). In this way, actions must be initiated in order to correlate the reality with the environment protection law. There will be big problems on the determination of people, especially those who are land owners to sell certain spaces in order to be processed in parks, gardens, playgrounds, forest selvages etc.

3. The functioning interdiction of the toilets and bathrooms which are not connected to the city sewage systems, including individual household connections to drinkable water. Any determination of the citizens to build individual septic tanks and decanters in order to protect the environment.

We begin the analysis and the interpretation of the collected data from the field showing the point of view of the citizens across the city of Lupeni, how is currently received the occupation of some of their fellow citizens (animal husbandry) in the zoo technical domain.

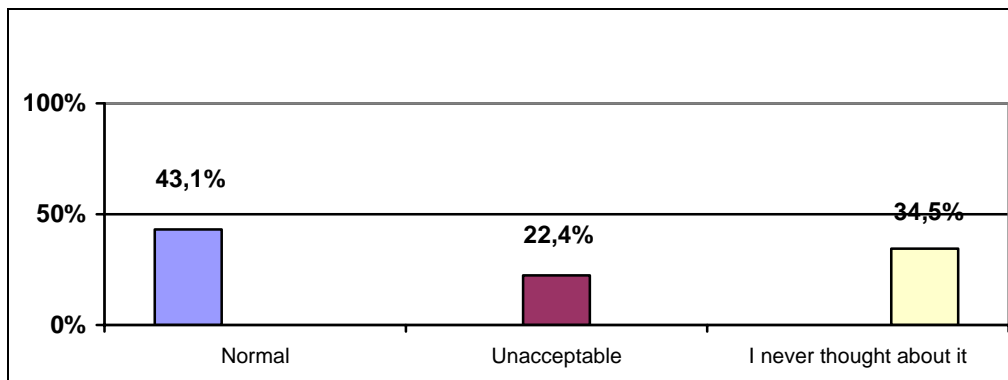


Figure 1. Livestock slaughtered in the city is a concern ...

Although it may appear somewhat anachronistic, the animal husbandry is seen by much of the population of Lupeni (43.1%) as a normal job, not different from other occupations that are found in the area. It is true that there is a very important segment of the same population (22.4%) who acted categorically against the animal husbandry for sacrifice in the urban area, or nearby, qualifying such a concern as unacceptable. Because we have already defined the extremes, let's pay attention to a substantial percentage of our respondents (one third) who declare that they were never concerned with this issue, for them, the animal husbandry is an activity which is not included in their daily ``agenda``.

It is still an important part of the population which after these directives can be "radicalized" within the meaning of polarization in one or other of the extremes. It is understood that an important growth of those who sustain that this type of occupation is a normal one, will make it very difficult to apply the future EU regulations, certain oppositions being predictable, and for this reason a strategy with objective arguments must be thought in good time in order to convince the population to apply these regulations. Just because we mentioned the thinking of some early action measures, that the rules and EU directives must be applied in the shortest time, we will present on each response option (where the result is interesting from the sociological point of view) the influence of the personal variables age, gender, education, etc. In this case we can certainly say that the animal husbandry is more tolerantly considered with the increasing of the age limit. In other words, the more they age, the persons tend to accept it as a normal occupation. However, there is no influence of gender regarding the responses the subjects give. There is almost an overlap in their responses, the differences being minima, of maximum 1-2 percent. In this way, we can say that both men and women in proportions that reach 42-43%, consider such a job (in town) as normal.

The studies have a direct influence on the agreement with such an occupation in the urban areas. More specifically, the more the training level increases, the lower is the perception of this activity as normal. Although we had expected that the residing area of the subjects (in blocks or in houses) to have a strong differentiation action of the inhabitants from the point of view of the given answers, knowing that the area of residence influences the mentality, in the present research the theory was not fully confirmed. And those who live in blocks (43%) and those who live in houses (50%) agree with the normality of such an occupation in the urban area. However 22.7% of those living in blocks define this occupation as unacceptable in a city, unlike those living in houses, which even 1% does not provide such a response. However, there is a strong correlation between a last (or present) state of fact and the way the subjects perceive this type of occupation. Thus, it appeared that those who have raised animals for sacrifice agreed in a proportion of two thirds with such practice, compared to only 29% of those who hadn't raised any animals and who believe that such activity is normal in the city. For a better understanding of the way we have divided the community, it should be mentioned that from the point of view of the questionnaire's construction technique, we used what it is called the ``filtering responses``. In this way we have divided the initial collectivity into three sub-collectivities that resulted from the received response.

In the first new resulted sub-collectivity and the most important one, of the subjects who in one way or another agree with the animal husbandry for sacrifice in the urban areas by accepting this occupation as a normal one, a certain hierarchy of the reasons was installed, which they bring in order to support their opinion. Let's note that the most important reason is that of a minimum of urban comfort, or in other words in the opinion of many citizens from Lupeni, any activity is allowed as long as it does not affect in any way (in a negative way of course) the way of life of others (48.5%). A set of motivations follows, which carefully analyzed lead to the conclusion that including the argument "to raise and sacrifice animals in favorable conditions" (30.3%) can be added to that minimum of urban comfort mentioned above.

Let's remark, not without astonishment, that the idea of tradition of animal husbandry in this area doesn't include a quite large number of subjects, element that helps the authorities on the one hand, but on the other hand indicates a "break" with the past and this "break" unfortunately manifests itself in other areas of concern not only in the subject of the present study. We detail the analysis by presenting the correlations that we have done for this aspect and that can help us in interpreting the situation. We determined that with the increasing of the age, it prevails as a reason in accepting this occupation that minimum of comfort that we have already discussed, but for the young persons, arguments of legal nature prevail, translated in zoo technical rules: "if they raise and sacrifice them in an optimal way, nobody can interdict them." We also determined that women (52.2% of them) in comparison with men (44.4%) give more importance to the fact that this activity is not disturbing for others. Even if the difference is not large, it nevertheless indicates a way of thinking that must be taken into account in the future. From the perspective of instruction, there are no differences; regardless the educational level, the main reason for supporting this activity as a normal one consists in not disturbing the others. The same argument holds true for the correlations with the building in which they live (in a block or in a house) or if they have ever raised animals for sacrifice.

In the second (sub) community, of those who pronounced categorically against such activities in the urban area, an argument that is related to what we might call urban civilization, and which normally doesn't match with the specific preoccupations of the rural area. Furthermore, the following arguments refer specifically to this occupation as indissolubly linked to the rural world. Moreover, there are reasons of animal protection and almost one third of the respondents think that animals from the urban areas live much worse than those who live in the rural areas. It's a rational consideration and we appreciate that must be the strong argument for establishing the public campaign to support the new EU directives on this line. Considering the common reference to the rural area we can reunite the subjects that give it as a motivation of inaccessibility of such an occupation in the city, through the conditions offered in relation to town, so almost 60% of those forming the second sub collectivity have in mind the so-called "animal rights". Although this sub collectivity is about half compared with the first one, we will present, however, the elements that result from the correlations. We do this because on the basis of the arguments made by them, and detailed on different variables, the strategy for determining the population to accept the future EU rules related to raising of animals in the urban area can be built. And those

conditions are encountered only in the rural areas. We mustn't however neglect the motivation, being singular, it includes the largest number of subjects, and it demonstrates that young people are more critical than older people, considering this type of activity as one that indicates a lack of civilization. A similar situation with the one encountered on the category of age is found in the case of analyzing this response on the category of gender. In the case of the studies the lack of civilization is more and more announced in a vehemently way in the same time with the increasing of the education level, but the above mentioned merging remains valid, that of the consideration regarding the ensuring of the optimal conditions for raising and sacrificing the animals, which cannot be held but only in the rural areas.

Absolutely interesting is the motivation brought by those who have raised animals, a ratio of almost two thirds appreciate that the fact of raising animals in urban areas is a lack of civilization. We would have expected another response, but from those who have never been "caught" in such an occupation. There is a change of mentalities, an evolution of them. We must specify that we are still in the presence of the second (sub) collectivity, the received responses being valid only in the case of those who compose it. We wanted to see if in their case, who oppose, the possibility to change their option is true or not, if someone brought a legal argument: only one third of them would remain categorically opposed to raising animals, opposing with all the available arguments. A little over half would passively accept the new rules and almost 14% agree to involve themselves in such an activity. In this way we demonstrated that the rules have an undeniable influence in the social body. Their influence remains valid in the opposite direction, discouraging those who have such occupations in urban areas. So, a new marking point in the strategy of persuading people is that of the norm in relation to tradition and customs. In detail, the situation is as follows: regardless of age, the subjects accept the norm and obey it, even if they disagree. The highest degree of acceptance and submission to such legislation is found in the category of people with higher education, 60.9% of them agreeing to comply even if they do not agree, compared with only 28.9% of those who have only eight classes. People with higher education are vectors of influence in the community, their behavior being a model for the others.

From this moment until the end of the study the collectivity is reunified, the considerations being generally available, except the detailed analysis of the variables (gender, age, education, etc.) where there is a logical differentiation of group / the category of the subjects: male / female, youth / adults / elderly, etc.

And from this point of view, of the time period needed to change a habit or a tradition, people are proving extremely connected to reality, being aware that stopping a practice that has lasted for years, decades practically cannot be done at once. Over 70% of the citizens agree that the effort to persuade those involved in such activity is a laborious one, which will extend from one year to several years. The awareness of this effort is supported by the interviewed subjects regardless of the age category they belong. The same awareness is manifested in the gender groups, men and women thinking in the same way, but also in the categories of education, in the fact they live in houses or blocks. Those who previously had farming as occupation or they still have it, think that it will take a long time to convince people to a higher proportion than those

who have never made from this activity a principal or collateral occupation, but in any case an income bringer. The main idea that can be drawn from here is that the future strategy for determining the citizens' acceptance of the EU rules regarding the raising of the animals for sacrifice in the urban areas, must be a comprisable one and have the minimum time limit a year.

Definitely, there will always be people who oppose certain initiatives of the administration or those that are executed by the local administration, this time as a relay station of the central administration. That is why we chose to probe the public opinion on this issue and to determine which solutions would be most relevant in such a case. We started from the premise that if not all, at least some of those engaged in animal husbandry earn their daily money largely due to this occupation. Nearly half of those interviewed believe that by eliminating a source of income, and especially if it is the only one, people should find jobs. Obviously the new jobs must be adjusted to their level of training; in other words, in order to avoid a wrong employment policy, as it happened after the mining layoffs in 1997 (when many of the few offered jobs required computing technique operator courses) it's necessary that the alternatives of employment to be known in advance, so that the authorities to convince not only through legal arguments, but especially by seriousness. We remark certain hardness, the other half of the population think that they should be compensated in an amount equivalent to the value of the animals they raised or simply to prohibit them such a practice, without mentioning anything about another job. It comes somewhat in contradiction with the fact that this process is one that takes time as we have seen, involving a series of well-known people in the community, just to avoid excesses.

It is interesting to see who are the most drastic citizens in expressing their opinions, which are the elements that characterize them. The idea of simply prohibiting such work tends to increase with education, but it isn't at a high level, however we remember it as a trend. It's the same thing in the case of age, the most categorical group being with the limits between 18 to 25 years, almost one quarter of them being supporters of the rapid prohibition, without providing a job. One of the most difficult problems to solve in the Jiu Valley, not just in the city of Lupeni, is the quality standard of living. It is good to know that the last decade has been marked by many economic reforms, (we refer to the Jiu Valley area) which unfortunately led mostly to the restructuring of the staff without replacing any new capacity of the abolished mining exploitations. Ten years after the important changes in 1997, the population of Lupeni is concerned with major phenomena such as *poverty* and *unemployment* at a higher level than that of 1999, as it resulted from another research that we call because the economic element has the priority this time. The comparison between the two temporal moments suggests that the state of the material life of people in this area has not even met stagnation, but a significant worsening. We consider that the worsening is an important one, not because there was an increase of those who were affected by these phenomena, but rather that it occurred due to the population decrease of the Jiu Valley (about 30,000 people in the past decade), trend that ought to facilitate the finding of a job in an easier way and to relieve the authorities from the pressure. The authorities had been previously forced to deal more with the developing of the social programs than with the economic development projects for the Jiu Valley.

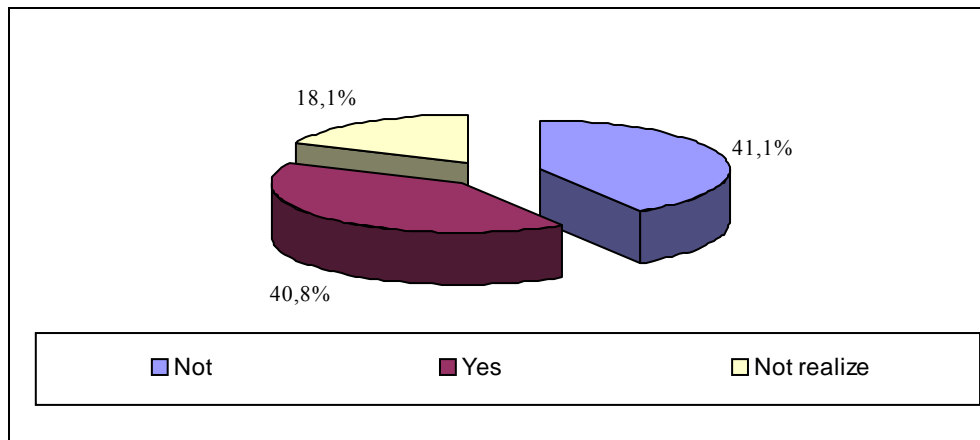


Figure 2. EU directive will negatively influence the city's economy?

And for this reason, the fact that 40.8% of the respondents are convinced that the EU directive to ban the raise of animals for sacrifice in the urban areas will negatively affect the economic status of Lupeni, must raise major questions for the local administration. Both from the perspective of the application of this directive, i.e. convincing people, especially from the perspective of labor absorption who leaves from a formal sector that it cannot be said that it exists, but it works in the underground. At least at the conscience level of many of those interviewed by us. It results from here a new element of strategy: if at the level of the collective mental is presented a wrong idea, like the previous one, then it must be involved in its dismantling as quickly as possible, using official statistical data which cannot be countered. However, if it is true, having economic fundamentals, it is necessary to develop a list of concrete visible actions, the disappointment of the government's assurance from the years 1997-1998 is fresh in the minds of the inhabitants even now, when although, jobs were promised, they weren't established.

Surprisingly or not, the link of the expressed opinions about the economic damage of the city with different variables considered are not so conclusive, existing a relatively equal distribution of the responses, that makes any category of age, education or gender not to emphasize in any way. The only attribute that definitely has an influence is that whether in a moment or another, the subjects were involved in animal husbandry. The difference between the expressed opinions is more than 20 percent, those who were breeders considering that the EU directive will undoubtedly affect in a negative way the economic status of the city. Although the chances of a situation in which investors are willing to invest large sums of money towards the establishment of a farm near Lupeni are minimal, there are many people who would agree with the breaching of the EU rules if the investments created new jobs. By "many people" we understand not less than half of those who were included in the study. It's not surprising only the availability of the subjects to evade legal provisions that acts throughout the EU, but also the passivity with which more than one third of the respondents would face such a reality. It remains only 12.8% of the respondents

who would oppose, without agreeing with any modality in which this hypothetical situation would materialize.

Once again the variables crossing gives us a series of elements that "would have dropped" during the primary processing of the data, i.e. the determining of the frequency with which certain responses manifest, from here it results only the share which every response has in the total of the variants. We succeeded in this way to determine that the subjects regardless of age group mostly agree with the establishment of farms, even if it contravenes the EU rules, provided that from such investments it would result new jobs. Also, men are more open to such an idea, women having a certain reticence. It is possible that this type of reticence to be generated by the fact that generally, the work in such places is done by male persons. Hence a slight tendency of minimization such economic opportunities by the female subjects. On the other hand, people with a lower education level are more willing to accept such investments; the available strong argument is that of the appearance of new jobs. Closely analyzing their choice (and even the general one) we cannot say that it's a wrong one, in the context of the lack of jobs and of a population with a high-poverty level. Let us be allowed to appeal to the data from other research that we conducted in the same space, just to justify the option that was imposed: the acceptance of a private initiative that would break the EU rules, in order to improve the quality of the population's material life.

Regarding the assessment of the quality of people's material life, we found a fact which doesn't surprise us. If in December 1999, 67% of the questioned people from the Jiu Valley said that they used to live good (and very good) before 1990, the population surveyed in 2007 (and we mean those who were adults before 1989, so knowledgeable of the situation) at a rate of 63% believes that by 1989 their material life was good (and very good). A minimum difference, due to the depopulation, which highlights the inefficiency of the actions that took place to improve the economic and social crisis. For the period of 1990-1996, the research in December 1999, the interviewed subjects showed a good material level in 40% of the cases. For the same period, but in the research from 2007, 46% of them remain on the idea of a good material life. Another interesting comparison is for the period 1997-2004. We would like to point out, before going ahead with the exposure, that the periodicity is not an arbitrary one, but it takes into account, rather relatively, the political development of Romania, just to record the fluctuations experienced by the population, considered by us, as the finest receptacle of the facts. In this way we were able to establish by comparison, that at the level of the above mentioned period, but set in December 1999 in the research from 1996 to 2000, only 4% of the study subject said it was the beneficiary of a good material life. Let's specify that the research from December 1999 also took place just a little over two years from the major layoffs, placing us in interviewing the subjects when, according to the theory, the chronic poverty is installed. Returning to the present, i.e. to the resulted data from the research of 2007, it concluded that for the period 1997-2004, (the interval 1997- 2000 is excluded, we have already defined it and this is also the artifice that we call) but understood with and through the existent modifications in the interval 2000-2004, the social assistance had a very important role in the Jiu Valley, 33% of the respondents considered that they had

a good standard of life. After 2005, there aren't any major changes, good or bad in life and we could tell that it stagnated at the threshold reached at the end of 2004.

Not without interest is the agreement, bigger with almost 20 percent of those who raised animals for sacrifice, comparative with those who hadn't raised animals, towards the establishment of such farms. A relatively similar situation is encountered in the case of those who have raised/raise pets and who partly help us understand why people oppose to the euthanasia of stray dogs. To better understand this mechanism of thought both towards the agreement of the establishment of such farms that contravene the EU provisions but also towards the acceptance of pets, we tried the deepening of a situation which proves quite problematic. Thus, we asked the subjects about their attitudes and other inhabitants' attitudes towards pets and the laws that might affect them, understanding by this the "adoption" of them and raising in collective spaces such as blocks with dozens of buildings. The feedback that we asked was performed on several variants (e.g.: not at all, very little, little, much, very much, total) we merged them (those that are suitable for merging, i.e. very little + little, much + very much) just to emphasize what is suggestive. We found that the attitude of the population towards pets is more than favorable: 41% of the citizens are not disturbed "at all" by the pets that "reside" in blocks (dogs, cats, etc.) and 26% of them only "very little + little".

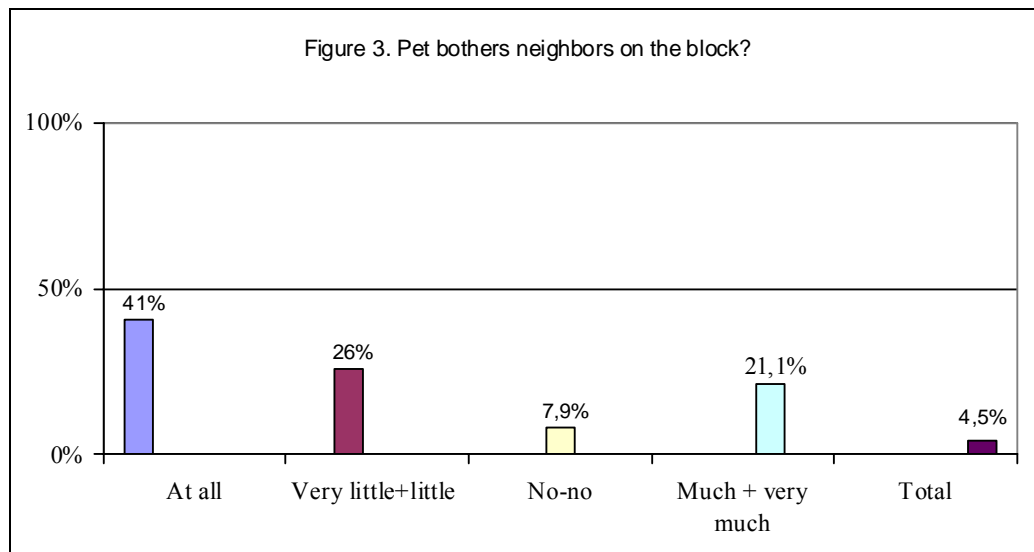


Figure 3. Pet bothers neighbors on the block?

It's an element that the local administration must take it into account in the resolving the delicate issues regarding the stray dogs, most of the citizens not agreeing, and we say this with certainty, with the gathering the dogs from the streets only to be euthanized. Because it is a very interesting aspect that can offer many interesting elements, we will detail the question through the point of view of different categories that we can consider. Regardless of age, the interviewed subjects prove to be animal

lovers, even if they don't personally raise animals, they tolerate their presence inside the block they reside. The situation is also repeated in the distribution by gender, the subjects regardless of gender or membership prove to be pet lovers. In fact it is a mentality that is found in any variable (of identification) which we took into account, its presence being demonstrated in the case of the studies: regardless of the subjects' education, pets are tolerated, without disturbing or if they do it, in a very little way. Once again we can feel the difference between those who live in blocks and those living in houses (with garden), which we announced in the previous pages, from the perspective of the mentality they prove. Those living in blocks accept the presence of the animals, but in a certain proportion, unlike those who reside in houses and, if they lived in blocks, they declare they wouldn't be disturbed "at all" if their neighbors had pets. Here's a new element that must be considered in the strategy of persuading the population to abandon animal husbandry, especially since most of the people that have such an occupation do not reside in blocks.

In the support of those above listed, comes the answer of the subjects to a question that explicitly targets the reaction they would have if a law categorically prohibited the raising of pets in blocks. Over half of the respondents (53%) believe that such a law would be received with hostility, people opposing it, the main reason being that many people are animal lovers. Only one quarter of the subjects is categorical, considering that such a passion must "move to houses." In each age category, from the smallest to the largest, the general opinion is that such a law would be "badly received". There is thus a uniform distribution of the opinions in the social body, the mentality of the people being formed in this way in the first years of life among the families they were born. A difference that is required is quite obvious, is that between of men and women. The females are proving more attracted to the idea of protecting the animals, their reaction against a law prohibiting their raising in blocks, surpasses the men's one with over 13 percent. The reaction of resistance is proper even to those who are able to speak about this matter, namely the residents of the blocks, which in a proportion of 52% believe that such a law would be received with hostility by the citizens.

Finally, those who currently raised or raise pets, believe in their majority (65%) that a law requiring people to give up raising pets would be received with great restraint, if not with hostility. Unlike those who raised/ raise pets, the reaction of those who don't have such a passion is much more moderate, only 38% of them are convinced that people would react in a negative way.

3. THE CITIZENS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS DOUBLING THE GREEN AREAS

For years, the environmental problems in Romania have been ignored, other issues having priority on the agenda of the Parliament or the Government. Beginning with the Law no. 265/2006 from the 29th of June 2006, for the approving of the Government's Ordinance 195/2005 regarding the environmental protection published in the Official Gazette no. 586 from the 07th of June 2006, Romania has made a decided step in protecting the environment.

One of the attributions of the local administrations in this respect is, and we quote here just from the above mentioned Act, "to take appropriate architectural features, to optimize the density of the housing, while keeping, maintenance and development of the green spaces, parks, the alignments of trees and street protection curtains, of the landscape planning with ecological aesthetic and recreational function, in accordance with the town planning. Moreover, the same Law explicitly states that: "The change of the land's destination that appear in the urban planning as arranged green spaces is prohibited. The private lands, which appear in the urban planning as green areas, or unprotected planted areas whose destination can be changed only in compliance with the specific valid regulations are exempt from the provisions of par. (1).

Finally the environment protection has become a priority for Romania. And especially for the Jiu Valley and implicit for the Municipality of Lupeni that because of the mining has suffered from the point of view of the environmental quality. In a report assessing the socio economic situation of the Jiu Valley in 1997, the regional staff of the National Agency for Development and Reconstruction of the Mining Areas appreciated that the natural environment of the Jiu Valley, abused decades of industrial activities has an aspect of "destruction and horror". In such a context comes the EU directive which provides that the green spaces in the Jiu Valley must be doubled. Certainly, between the legal provisions and putting those into action there are the local authorities which have the important task to materialize these directives step by step. The most important partner of the authorities was, is and will remain the local community. From the way it is trained and involved in the projects implementation of the authorities depends their realization and obviously a better quality of life, this time on its environmental dimension.

Although in a previous research (conducted in July 2007) it resulted that 56.2% of the citizens of Lupeni consider that the state of the environment from their locality is "good to very good", we realized that there is certain confusion on this line. We mean that the environment is not limited to the sanitation of the urban areas but it also considers its expansion to meet the biological requirements of the inhabitants. It's not worrying the fact that a large number of those who believe that green areas are far below to what would be needed, but especially that one third of the respondents who believe that the green areas are almost non-existent. Merging the percentages, it results that three quarters of Lupeni's residents are unsatisfied with what they are offered under the name of green areas.

Although the large share of subjects who issued such a view is a great one, making the detail of the answers by category of subjects almost unnecessary, we use it just to give as much weight to the assertions with reference to the statistical tables. In this way we determined that regardless of age, people are dissatisfied, the available green spaces they have are not only insufficient but almost non-existent. A similar situation is found in the division by gender. Both men and women in almost equal proportions are unsatisfied with the surface of the green areas. Exactly the same feeling of dissatisfaction is found on studies or depending what type of the building they live in.

Knowing the facts found on the field we asked the citizens if they agree with the doubling of the green spaces, especially in the circumstances where such an undertaking may involve expropriations of some people who personally own lands in the city area and after the planning, the land could be given to the public. Although 75% of the respondents believed that the green spaces are undersized, the reaction to such a situation, in which some people might be affected in their interests, through expropriations, was also undersized, only 53% of them believing that the measure is just, as long as people are compensated correctly. However, the rate of 53% is high enough to give the authorities the confidence they need to initiate such actions, the community support being provided, especially if the results are obvious: new public spaces perceived as parks, gardens etc.

We can remark a greater attraction to the positive response at the older age groups, people who exceed the limit of 45 years and up to 75 years or over, agree with expropriations in a much bigger proportion than the younger persons, certainly, in the terms of some fair compensations. In the category of gender there can be felt a visible difference in the favor of men, who are more willing than women to support expropriation. With some surprise we must note that people with higher education support the expropriations to a greater extent than those with primary or medium education. It's a mechanism which we won't comment, but the encountered situation leaves place for other studies to discern this type of thinking.

The last correlation presented here is that those who live in blocks agree in a double degree with the expropriations than those who live in houses, definitely affected by such action of the authorities. Indisputably any infringement of the private property is an extremely delicate issue, even if it has been designed for the good of the community, the public interest. To avoid any form of dissension and dissatisfaction, the local authorities are obliged to seek the views of the community, already defined as the most important partner they have in the work of construction/reconstruction of the city of residence. Without this public consultation, of the consultative democracy (and even of the participating one, although this requires a great effort from the authorities), many administration's decisions can be contested, aspect that makes difficult their application.

The population knows very well the zone and realizes that the lack of the built-up land (because of the geography of the area), desired by all those who could be expropriated, is a factor that could hinder the work of increasing the green areas. Absolutely normal, those deprived of the land which they had in the personal property should be compensated, and the compensations must model on the specific of the area. The most appropriate form of compensation, according to those interviewed, is the mixed one, i.e. the land owners must receive from the state the value of the land in money and other lands in exchange, to an agreed formula between the authorities and those expropriated, or after some detailed rules set by the government. Certainly, it mustn't be ignored any compensation in singular form: money or other lands, the appropriate form of compensation remaining at the latitude of the local administration that must consult with the community, to engage it in the decision process.

The form of compensation is one that knows an overall majority block on the money + land mix. Analyzing it on categories of age, it fluctuates in an interesting way, and we present the formed majorities:

1. 18-25 years - mixed compensation (36%);
2. 26-35 years - the land in exchange compensation (35.6%)
3. 36-45 years - mixed compensation (43.5%);
4. 46-55 years - money compensation (35.1%);
5. 56-65 years - mixed compensation (53.1%);
6. 66-75 years - the land in exchange compensation (45.9%)

The variation seen above is no longer valid in the case of gender, both male and female persons tilting in a majority way to the form of mixed compensation. A new fluctuation, and we expect in this case, depends on the studies of the subjects:

1. four classes - an equal division between the three forms of compensation;
2. eight classes - the land in exchange compensation (41.5%);
3. professional school - mixed compensation (30.3%);
4. high school - money compensation (37.5%);
5. superior - mixed compensation (45.5%)

The form of compensation is a key element in this equation of expropriation for the benefit of the public interest, and an administration that wants to settle the sources of conflict and to implement as soon as possible the initiatives that it has or it has been delivered in a centralized way, must know the community status of spirit. Another issue of collective interest is the destination of the expropriated lands, which previously could not be categorized as green areas. It is necessary to understand that under the name of "green areas" people can understand children's playgrounds or parks, gardens etc. To learn exactly what the citizens of Lupeni want, we asked such a question. It prevails the desire of establishing new children's playgrounds and parks.

Merging the two variants (the merging through the similar themes of the two options is allowed, and we refer to the destination, the playgrounds being practically synonymous with parks, or vice versa; we did this differentiation, however, because some people understand through parks special places that can silence them / walk freely, children playing in the park is somewhat excluded by the arrangement of the place: hedges, flowers, grass, etc.) it concludes that over 75% of the people want parks.

We detail the encountered situation by the way it is represented in every individual variable (which corresponds with our analysis). The age is a factor which does not differentiate between the individuals from the perspective of the new lands' destination that are in the possession of the administration, the majority made up for each category tilting for the establishment of new playgrounds for children. The same majority is in the case of the gender category, men or women giving priority to the same playgrounds. In the case of the studies there is a variation of options which confirms that some people do differentiate between "playgrounds" and "parks". It's the case of the people with a higher education, who are opting in a majority way for the establishment of parks.

4. THE LACK OF THE CONNECTION TO THE SEWERAGE AND DRINKING WATER NETWORK IN THE HOUSES WITH YARDS. ITS PERCEPTION IN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE INHABITANTS OF LUPENI

Another provision of the Law. no. 265/2006 from the 29th of June 2006 states the following: the obligation of the physical and juridical persons of not polluting the surface waters by washing objects, products, packaging, materials; the obligation of the juridical persons of not discharging any wastewater, faeces into the surface waters or ground waters.

To comply with these provisions it's necessary that the buildings, and this time we refer in particular to those with yards, to be properly equipped: water, sewage, garbage cans that should be raised daily by the specialized departments of urban sanitation, etc. . If the buildings don't have a connection to the town sewerage it's understood that the waste water (full of chemicals and even faeces, if there are makeshift toilets whose leakings are not captured in specially equipped septic tanks) are discharged in certain beds of water. In this way, the pollution is a constant of the area, at least from this perspective. Such a situation comes glaringly in contradiction with another provision of the above mentioned Act stating very clearly that the authorities have the obligation "to improve the microclimate of the settlements through the development and maintenance of the water sources and beds of water inside and from the surrounding areas of them.

We tested the perception of the people from Lupeni whether there are such properties that are not connected to the municipal sewerage system, the damage being clearly stated by law. Although the owners are incriminated too, the authorities are primarily responsible for such a state of fact. It is not only logical but mandatory for the local public administration to respect and implement its obligations by law. It's also logical that such an achievement requires engineering knowledge and serious amounts of money that is unlikely to be held by ordinary people. On the other hand, the owners must show their interest in such enterprises, accepting and respecting the law's prescriptions, even contributing with the respective amounts (just like in the case when somebody connects to the gas main column, for example), or supplying physical work. Regardless of subjects' age, they consider in a majority proportion that the fault is divided between the owners and the authorities, but with the above clarifications. Men are much more accusers than women regarding the authorities that tend to divide the blame between the owners and administration.

The level of education of those questioned had a role in sharing the opinions. Here's how they were divided: those with four, eight classes are most convinced that the guilt belongs exclusively to the authorities. From vocational school, high school and ending with those with a higher education, the majority opinion is that the blame is equally shared between the two involved parties: owners and authorities. Interestingly, those who live in houses aren't exonerating themselves, blaming only the authorities, but 75% of them agree that the guilt is a common one. There is no doubt that such a fact is a favorable premise for the positive development of the situation, with a desire from the owners to cooperate with the

authorities. There isn't always possible from the technical point of view that some work can be done, even if it's for the benefit of the community. For example, some of the houses with a yard may be located far away from the city sewage system, so there is no justification for the financial effort made.

There are, however, some backup solutions that put into practice can contribute to solving the problems related to the protection of the natural environment. Almost two thirds of the respondents believe that in such cases the municipality must interfere and bear the costs of the works by starting and completion of some septic tanks. There are opinions that the owners should be required to build these septic tanks, but the law explicitly requires the administration to protect the natural environment. Therefore, it is necessary for the administration to interfere and carry out such work, incurring the costs in full, and then the owners will use these septic tanks and will be forced by the law to maintain them. Almost invariably on each age category the majority opinion is that the authorities must build these septic tanks. It's the same case with the distribution by sex or education. Although those who live in blocks and those who live in houses considered that it's the duty of the authorities to interfere, the subjects who live in houses surpassed those who live in blocks with 15%. In their view a mechanism operates, which seems as logical as possible: if the authorities are obliged to enforce the law, then the authorities are required to secure the necessary in order to apply the law. In this case the Law no 265/2006.

We sought to determine how the community reacts if there are buildings in the city where people live without having any toilets with water. Some criticisms of the community are related to the break of some basic hygiene sanitary rules that can affect the health of others (52%) and also the environmental damage (14, 1%). Furthermore, we exposed below in a suggestive graphic form the hierarchy considerations that the citizens make, regarding this state of fact.

The citizens of Lupeni feel fully affected, two thirds of them declaring (by merging) such a fact, whether they refer to the health standards or to the environmental ones. It cannot be said that one of the age categories declares that it's more affected than the others, existing a relative uniformity of the responses. The same consideration is valid for the male and the female persons, in a proportion of almost two thirds being declared the modality in which they feel affected. The most obvious correlation is with education.

Thus, the more the level of studies increases, the higher the percentage of those who feel affected by the fact that some fellow-citizens do not have a minimum hygiene item is. The last studied issue is that of the connection to the water supply network. It is in fact a matter which is coupled with the lack of the sewerage systems, being less plausible to exist current drinking water in the buildings affected by the lack of the sewerage and toilets with water (there are not excluded the cases where the owners, through personal efforts have arranged special wells equipped with water pumps, to replace the lack of the connection to the municipal water column). Again the people's views are majority in incriminating the lack of the current water, motivating the break of the sanitary standards. But there is, however a question related to the nearly 40% of the respondents who believe that the only affected people are those who do not have tap water in the buildings they live.

The opinions expressed by the representatives of the community, those included in the study are as clear as possible: the local administration must urgently interfere and connect them to the municipal water column. If, technically it is not possible to realize this work, then the same municipality must reconsider its modernization strategy through the development of some studies that must express the clear positions in the terms of possibility or impossibility of drilling some wells in order to supply with drinking water the buildings which until this moment do not benefit from this facility.

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