

Unemployment is a socioeconomic phenomenon that has occurred in Romania with the onset of the transition period towards a market economy and which has started to gain a strong interest in different academic/research fields. This book is one of the first that approaches this topic from a geographical perspective and together with other works from the economics and social sciences, contributes to investigations of a present-day subject, relevant for decision-making factors.

Six chapters structure the book. The first includes concepts, theories and types of unemployment, all of them being connected with issues of labor market functionality in particular and of economy, in general. The second chapter is a comprehensive study of the labor market in Romania, which particularly analyzes the labor market dynamic, potential, structure, disparities and the relationship between job offer and demand. The next two chapters rigorously tackle the spatial analysis of the unemployment phenomena, the author integrating the results within the economic context of Romania. There are identified the representative areas of unemployment, rural and urban, as well as the regional disparities which are viewed on the temporal scale, as well, not only spatially. The next chapter is connected with the spatial results of the unemployment, being examined from the point of view of governance policies and strategies. The last chapter includes two case-studies (least favored mining zones and the Buzău County) which might be taken as examples of analysis of unemployment at large geographical scales. The purpose of this part is to capture the local characteristics, particularly those regarding the economy and labor market, and to analyze them within the specific physical and socioeconomic context, specifically referring to natural resource availability and main demographic characteristics.

