

## **A Geographical study of social risks in the Romanian Danube Valley. Applications in the Turnu Măgurele–Giurgiu sector**

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The theme of social risks in the field of Social Geography is based on an interdisciplinary approach, having special theoretical and practical implications. The concept of social risk implies several approaches, mainly of a social nature, as well as an economic and geographical one, thus becoming an important interdisciplinary concept for future research into the human dimension of global environmental and socio-economic changes. The studies referring to the development of the social risk concept reflect the diversity of applicable domains, as conceptual and methodological approaches are attributed particularly to the natural and social sciences.

In the past, natural disasters and health problems were a major concern for the population and for society as a whole, but the evolution of mankind favored the development of new types of social risk which are reflected in the structure of present societies, being rooted in human activities and in the modernization of society.

The paper *A Geographical study of social risks in the Romanian Danube Valley. Applications in the Turnu Măgurele–Giurgiu sector* represents, as a whole, an interdisciplinary study of the spatial dimension of social risks through analyses at local and regional level. In this context, the assessment of socio-economic and demographic imbalances, as sources of risk for local communities (poverty risk, depopulation risk, educational risk), is designed in close connection to the current environmental problems and, above all, with the effects of climate change. In this sense, the integration of information on physical-geographical and socio-economic factors in a complex GIS database was an essential aspect in the assessment of social risk, and of the vulnerability degree, respectively. Another part of the paper is devoted to evaluating natural and technological hazards (drought, floods, drinking water pollution). Geostatistical techniques and the spatial representation of socio-economic components allow for a complex assessment of the phenomenon and of the measures required for the sustainable development of the region.

Therefore, land surveys on physical-geographic factors, sociological inquiry based on a questionnaire on how the local population perceives social risks, and taking groundwater samples for pollution assessment have provided a complete picture of the various aspects of social risks. Field trips and contacts with the local population were an essential milestone, by capturing and recording information on the ground to assess social risks and shaping the local socio-economic context.