

Opportunities of Employment in the Neighborhoods. Case Study on the Municipality of Alba Iulia

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Abstract:

This study is based on a series of researches carried out in the municipality of Alba Iulia in the summer of 2012. They have been part of an urban diagnosis included in the *Integrated Measures of Employment in Neighborhood*, a project financed from the European Social Fund through the Operational Programme Human Resources Development. The project has been carried out by the Alba Iulia Town Hall in partnership with the County Agency for Employment Alba. The research included an inquiry and a series of interviews with representatives of some local institutions and entrepreneurs in Alba Iulia. 754 people over the age of 18 have been interviewed within the inquiry that we have coordinated. There has been an estimated maximum error between 3,8% and 3,5%. The main conclusions of this research indicate a certain amount of pessimism towards the chances for creating new jobs in the neighborhoods of Alba Iulia. But at the same time the issue can be that of a realistic adjustment to the neighborhood size and resources. The results did not exclude a specific mentality according to which new sustainable jobs are only possible in large enterprises, as it happened during the communist regime. The current tendency is in fact that of developing SMEs and home jobs in the urban areas. Large enterprises are located at a greater distance from the urban centres. The adjustment process to the need for jobs in the districts of Alba Iulia, can differ from one district to another or from one socio-occupational category to another. However, the occupational policies at neighborhood level need public support. Some results of the present research can be considered towards the achievement of this goal: 1) concerning the different domains of activity it should be noted that employment in the trade and services section have a greater support, followed by those in the light industry field; 2) young people may give more support to the creation of new jobs in the districts compared to other age groups; 3) the higher the education level is, the greater the support for jobs in trade, tourism and service industry is; 4) freelancers and unemployed people should provide more support for creating new jobs in the districts than other social groups; 5) patronage would more likely appear in trade and services than in other domains. But the relationship between the current pessimism/optimism and the reference to possible occupation policies need to be deeply studied. To conclude, we believe that further researches could focus on a clearer adjustment to the size of the city and its neighborhood, as well. Afterwards, the general resources of development need to be taken into account. Finally, an analysis on the direct benefits resulted from setting up new businesses in the neighbourhoods should be carried out.

Keywords: Neighborhoods, employment, development opportunities, employment policies.

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