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Changing actors, institutions and policies of regional development in Romania (case study of Neamt County in the North-East Region)



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Outline

1. How the Region has (re)-emerged in Romania
 2. Whether and how the Region has contributed in local and regional development & governance (case study: Neamt County)
 - a. *Development Agenda*
 - b. *Processes and Principles*
 - c. *Actors and Institutions*
 3. Whether and how the Region compliances with the western patterns
-

1. The (re)-emergence of the 'Region' in Romania

Regional development (and Regions) as a new concept !!!

Regional development policy » Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism - Windows Internet Explorer

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MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

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Tuesday 18.05.2010, 21:07:42

Regional Development » Regional development policy

Ministry

- Regional Development**
 - Regional development policy
 - Regional Operational Programme 2007 - 2013
 - European Territorial Cooperation Programmes
 - PHARE - ESC
 - PHARE - CBC
 - Irregularity alerts
 - Useful adresses
- Territorial Development**
- Constructions**
- Public Works**
- Tourism**
- Communication**

Regional development is a new concept that aims at stimulating and diversifying economic activities, stimulating investments in the private sector, contributing to decreasing unemployment and, last but not least, a concept that would lead to an improvement in the living standards. In order to apply the regional development strategy, eight development regions were set up, spreading throughout the whole territory of Romania. Each development region comprises several counties. Development regions are not territorial-administrative entities, do not have legal personality, being the result of an agreement between the county and the local boards.

Regional development policy is an ensemble of measures planned and promoted by the local and central public administration authorities, having as partners different actors (private, public, volunteers) in order to ensure a dynamic and lasting economic growth, through the effective use of the local and regional potential, in order to improve living conditions. The main areas regarded by the regional policies are: development of enterprises, the labor market, attracting investments, development of the SMEs sector, improvement of infrastructure, the quality of the environment, rural development, health, education, culture.

The main objectives of the regional development policies are as follows:

- to reduce the existing regional disparities, especially by stimulating the well-balanced development and the revitalization of the disadvantaged areas (lagging behind in

European Funds

- Regional Operational Programme
- European Territorial Cooperation
- PHARE Programmes

Regio

Governmental Fund

- Thermal Rehabilitation
- Rural Infrastructure
- Water supply
- Housing
- Social, Cultural, Sports Programmes
- Seismic Risk
- Territorial Development

http://www.mdrl.ro/index.php

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1. The (re)-emergence of the 'Region' in Romania

Region existed from the pro-communist period until 1968

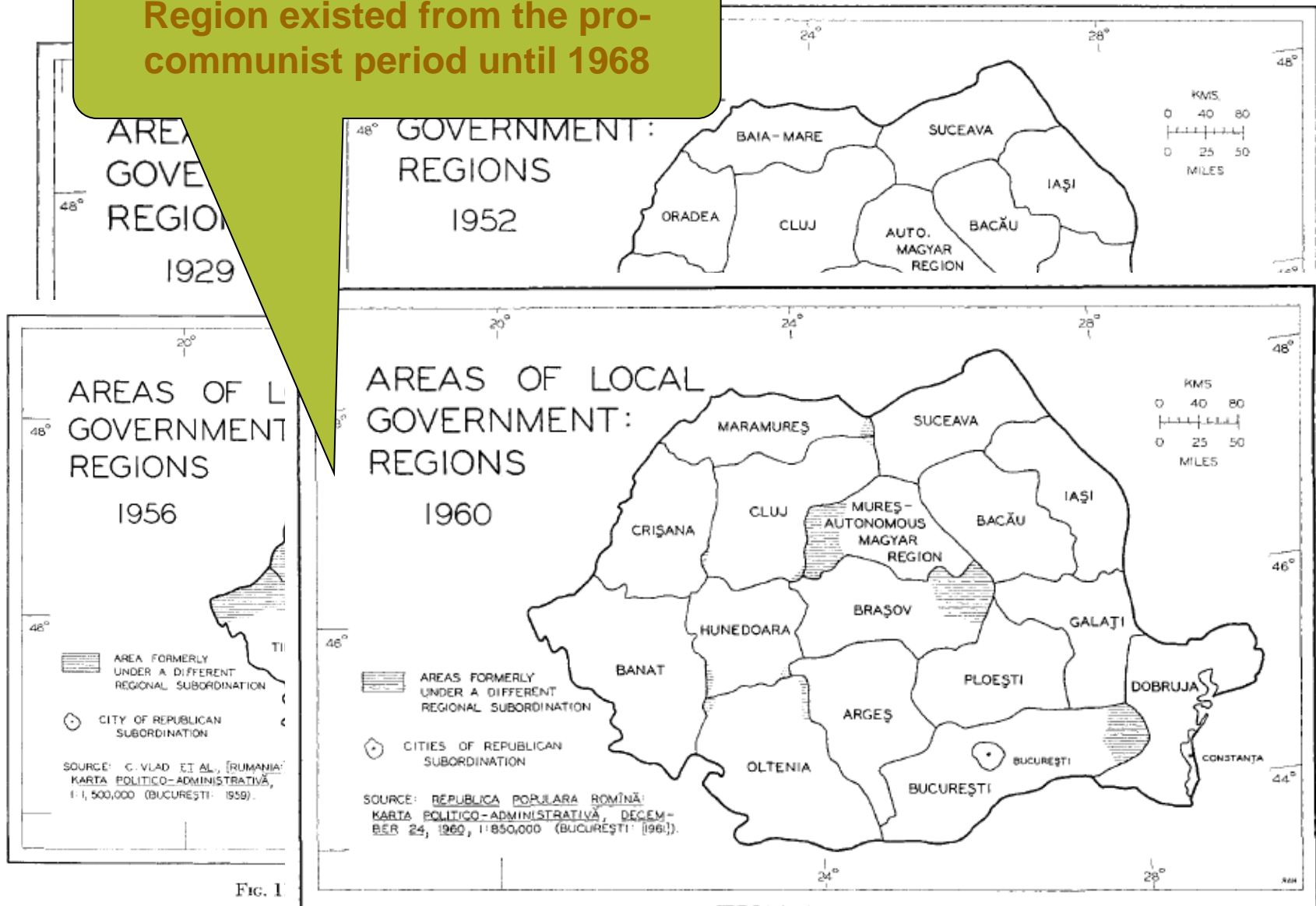


FIG. 1

Source: Helin (1967)

FIG. 12. Areas of Local Government: Regions in 1960.

1. The (re)-emergence of the 'Region' in Romania

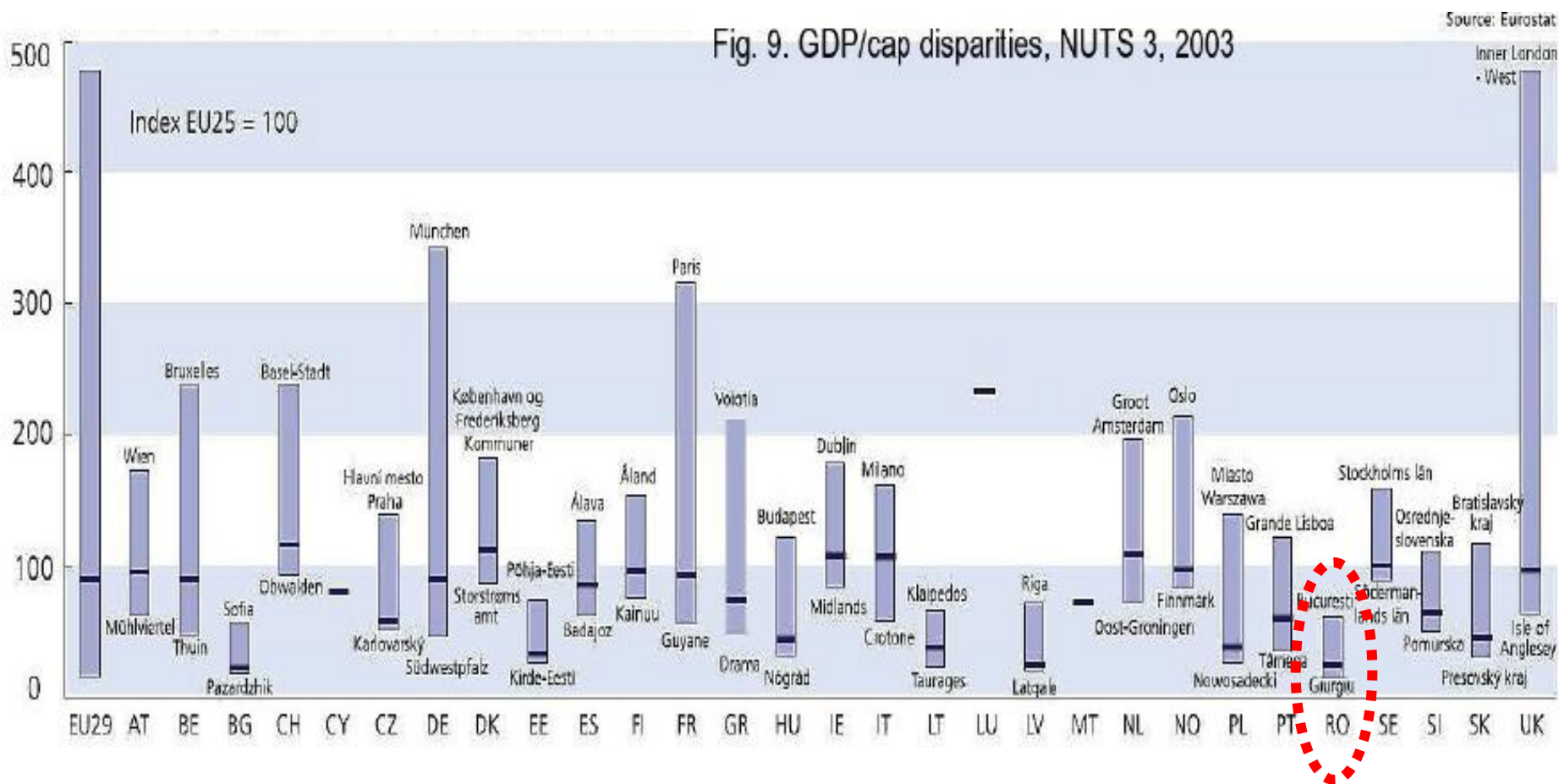
■ Why & How Regions have been re-invented?

1. ...the 8 Development Regions of Romania established by Regional Development Law no. 151/1998, which was later amended by Law no.315/2004, in line with the provisions of EC Regulation No. 1059/2003 with regard to the establishment of a common statistical classification of territorial units. *
2. ...represent the reference framework for drawing up, implementing, monitoring and assessing the regional development strategies, as well as the economic and social cohesion programmes implementing them.*
3. ...Romanian Development Regions are statistical units composed of 4 - 7 counties (with the exception of Bucharest - Ilfov Region), created based on association agreements between County Councils...*
4. ...according to four criteria (number of inhabitants, surface, cultural identity and functional spatial relations)...†

Sources: Government of Romania (2007), ROP 2007-2013, <http://www.inforegio.ro/user/file/ROP%20Final%20Version.doc>

†Benedek (2006), Raumplanung und Regionalentwicklung, <http://www.romania-central.com/wp-content/uploads/romania-in-the-eu-new-roads-for-convergence.pdf>

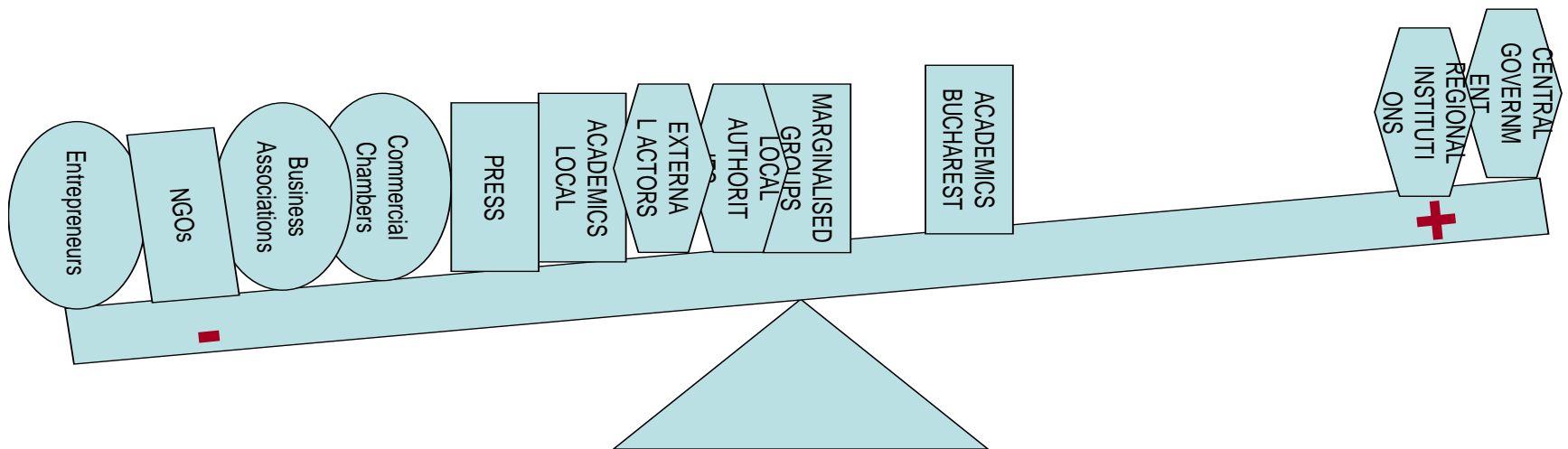
1. The (re)-emergence of the 'Region' in Romania



Source: Eurostat, cited in Ionita (2007, page 11)

2. The contribution of Regions in local development and governance

Figure 1: Comments upon the anticipated contribution and the actual engagement of the regional institutions in the local development of Neamt



2. The contribution of Regions in local development and governance

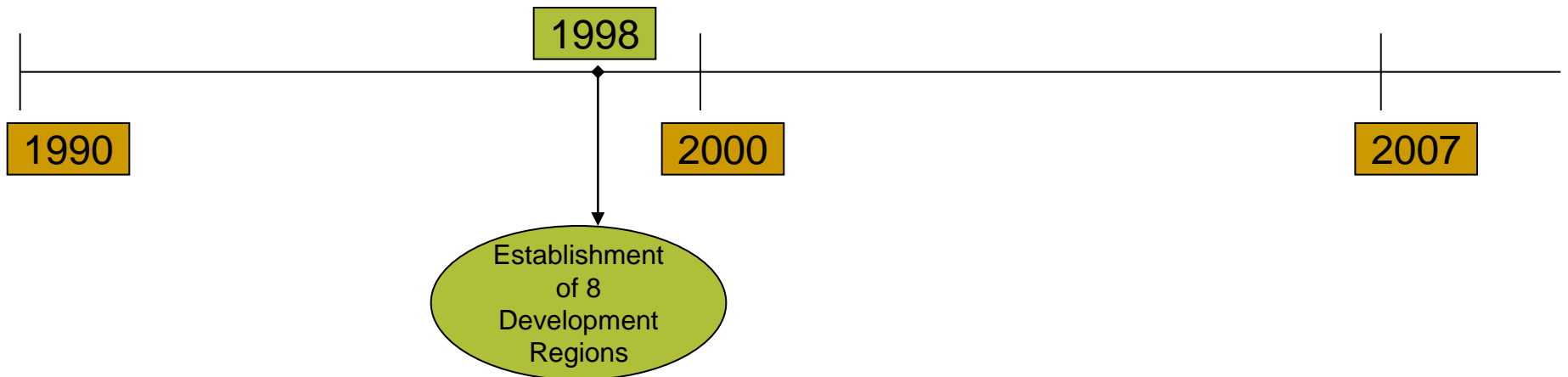
Think National – Act National

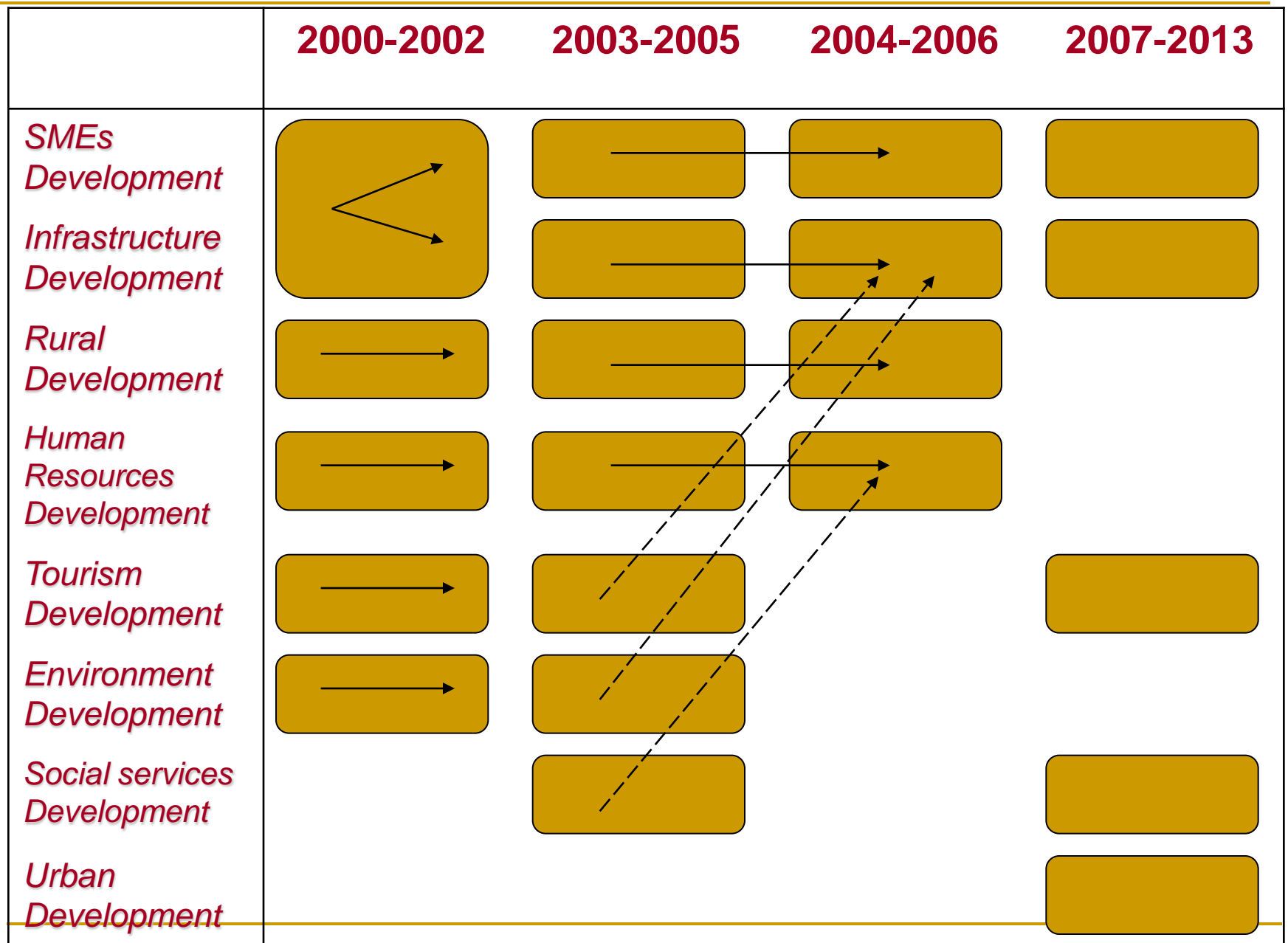
Think Regional – Act National

Free Economic Zones
Industrial Restructuring Areas
Less Favoured Areas

Regional Strategy 2000-2002
Regional Strategy 2002-2005
Regional Strategy 2004-2006

R.O.P.
2007-2013





2.a. Evolution of regional strategies (N.E.)

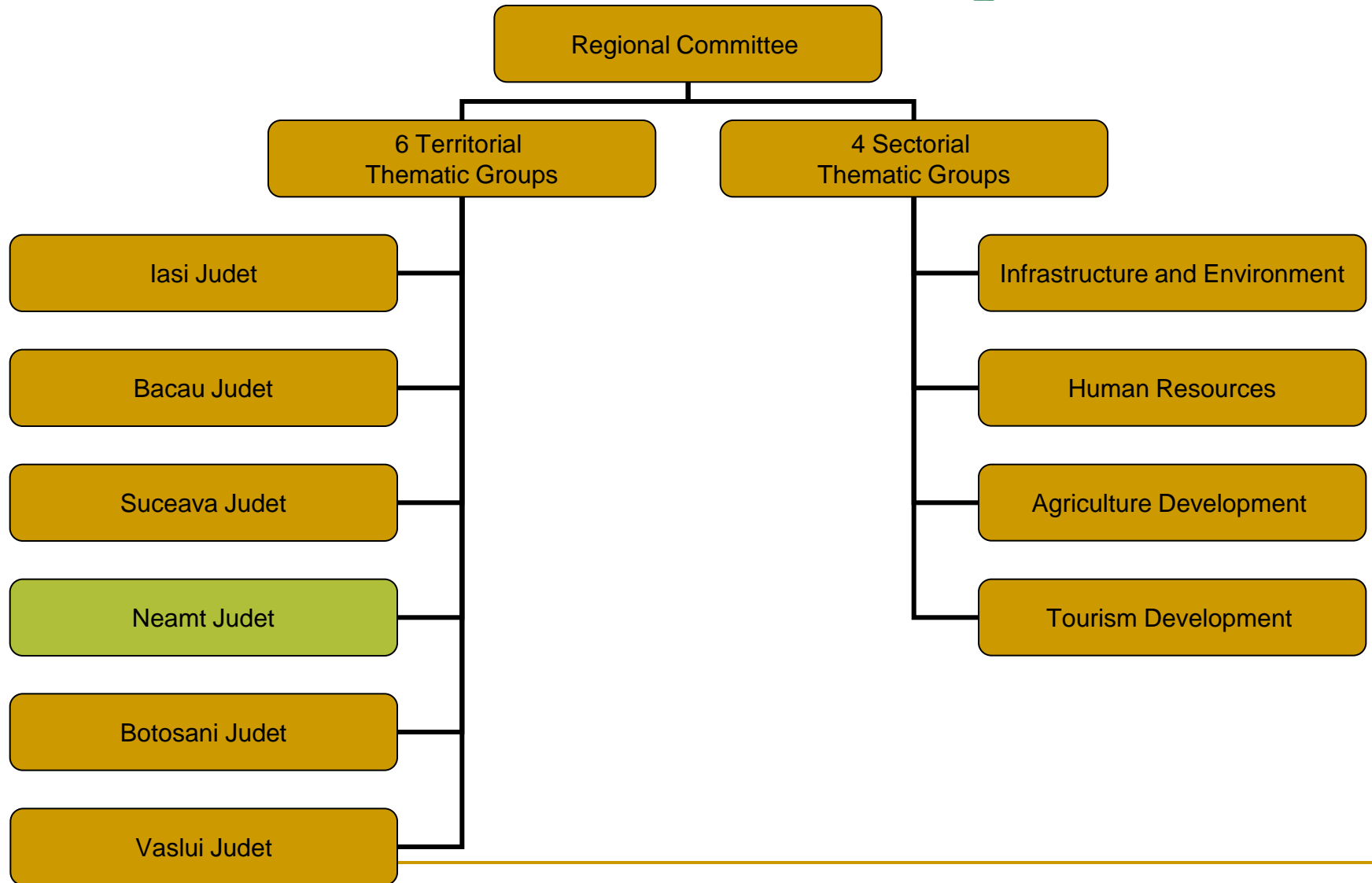
2. b. Introduction of new processes

- ...The ROP priority axes have been established through **extensive partnership consultations** (thematic working groups, forums, etc.) under the coordination of the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing...*
- ...The **partnership principle will also be promoted during the implementation, monitoring and evaluation** of the ROP...*
- Regional partners (mainly Regional Development Agencies) have been invited to get actively involved in the drawing up processes of ROP 2007 – 2013 in order to **identify and incorporate more easily the existing needs at regional and local level** and ensure local authorities and regional organisations ownership of programme...*
- ...the ROP is to support **a bottom-up local development approach**, [...] It will also support local interventions ...*
- ...the fulfillment of regional development policy is done on the basis of **subsidiarity, decentralisation and partnership principles**...†

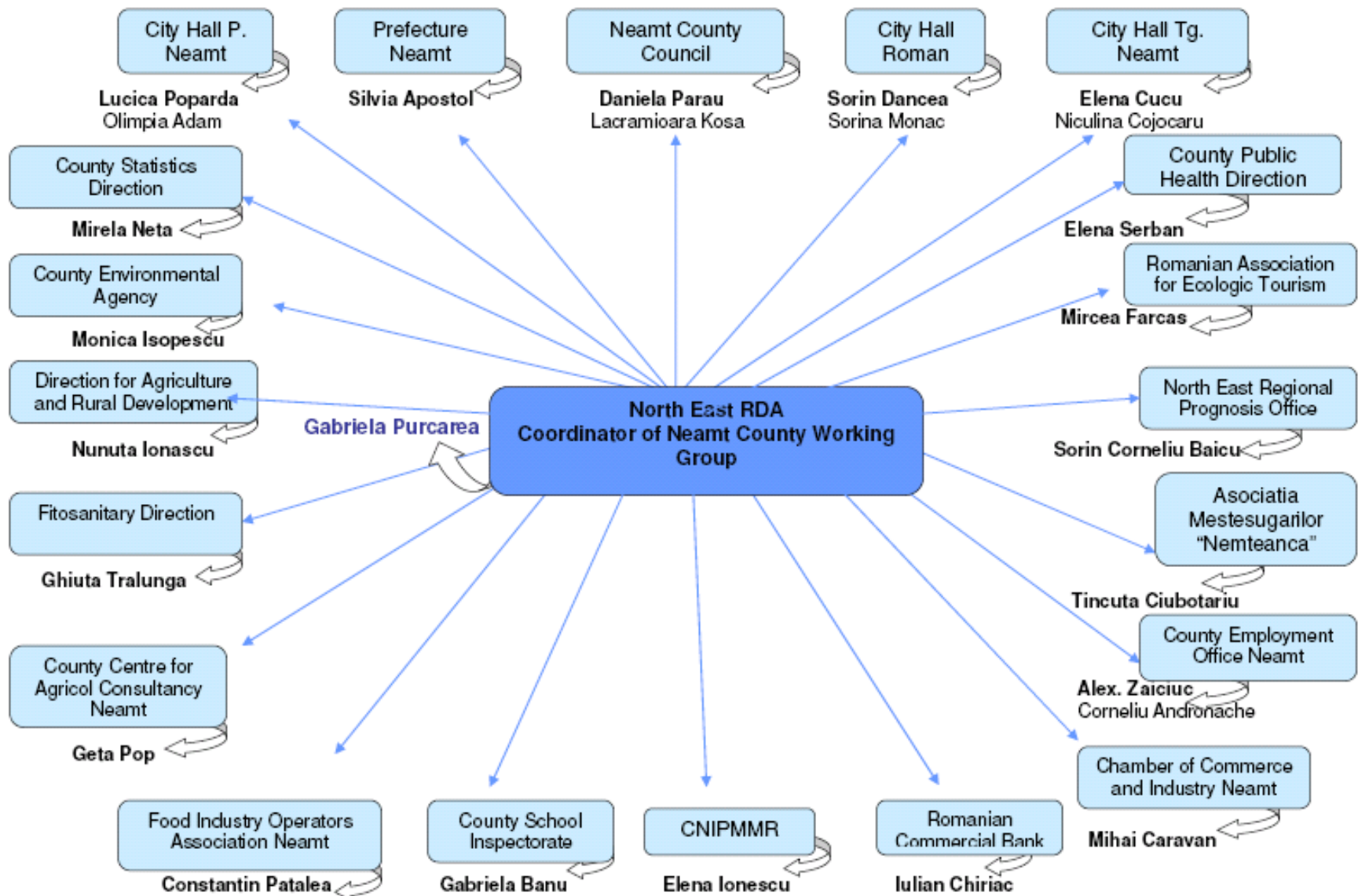
Sources: *Government of Romania (2007), ROP 2007-2013,

†Law 315/2004, Article (2) – Paragraph (3)

2. b. Introduction of new processes



2. b. Introduction of new processes



2. b. Introduction of new processes

Regional Sectorial Priorities

Agriculture

Human Resources

Infrastructures & Environment

Tourism Development

ROP Intervention Axis

Transport Infrastructure

Tourism Development

Social Infrastructure

Business Environment

Urban Development



2.c. Incorporate new actors

- The main partners involved, asymmetrically in terms of power, in this wide consultation process were:
 1. The competent **regional, local, urban and other public authorities**/ bodies, including the Regional Development Agencies;
 2. The **line ministries and government agencies**
 3. The **economic and social partners**
 4. Other bodies representing **civil society**, environmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality between men and women;
 5. The **EC Representation in Romania and several international organizations (World Bank, USAID, UNDP, and EBRD)** have also been actively involved in the public consultations for the identification of the ROP areas of intervention and actions.

3. Western patterns and Romanian regions

- Different degrees of compliance with western patterns
 - Adequate distinctive differences to support the emergence of the 3rd wave of regionalisation in Europe ?
 - Future studies (additional case & comparison studies in CEE & Baltic countries)
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Thank you for your attention!
