

# **TIPOLOGY OF SOCIAL SERVICES ACCREDITED IN THE WEST REGION OF ROMANIA – A QUANTITATIVE PERSPECTIVE IN 2017**

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**Abstract:** The objective of the article is to present a current quantitative perspective on the typology of accredited social services, the categories of beneficiaries to whom these services are addressed and their geographic distribution in Western Region of Romania (counties Arad, Caraș-Severin, Hunedoara and Timiș).

**Key words:** accredited social services, social services beneficiaries, social services typology

## **Introduction.**

The current context in which social services providers can organize social services is determined by a complex legislative framework in which the conditions and operating requirements for suppliers and services are established.

The current legislative framework governing the granting of social services and their accreditation has been changed and amended since 2011 and consists of a package of normative acts composed of laws (Law no 292 of 20 December 2011 Social assistance, Law No. 197 of 1 November 2012 on Quality assurance in the field of social services), government decisions (Judgment No. 118 of 19 February 2014 approving methodological rules for the application of the provisions of Law no 197/2012) and order of minister on the approval of minimum quality standards for each type of social service.

*In the context of these legislative changes, the present article aims to present a quantitative perspective on the typology of accredited social services in the West Region in 2017.*

Accreditation is the process of evaluating and certifying compliance with the criteria and requirements of minimum quality standards attested by the accreditation certificate for social service providers and by operating licence for the social services.

**Objective:**

What is the current typology of accredited social services and beneficiaries categories and what is their geographic distribution in the West Region of Romania?

**Methodological approach.**

The methodological strategy used to determine the typology of accredited social services in the Western Region of Romania assumed the method of statistical analysis (databases with social services providers and social services accredited by the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice were consulted in 10 March 2017 ).

**Results and discussions.**

*1. Typology of social services in the West Region.*

The processing of information in the database was carried out after 3 criteria:

- a) Criterion No. 1: The main headquarters situated in the urban/rural environment in which the social service operates;
- b) Criterion No. 2: Legal form of organization of social service providers (public and private).
- c) Criterion No. 3: Categories of beneficiaries and types of social services.

*a) Distribution of social services according to the main office in which the service operates (urban, rural);*

With regard to the distribution of social services in the urban environment, it was found that the number of social services operating at region level in urban areas is 222 services representing 76.02% of the total accredited services at region level). It is three times higher than the number of social services operating in rural areas-70 services representing 23.98% of the total services accredited at region level.

In each county there is a larger number of social services based in the urban area in relation to services based in rural areas.

The largest number of accredited social services is found in Timiș County with 90 social services in the urban environment (75.63%) and 29

services in rural areas (24.37%). The smallest number of accredited services are found in Caraş-Severin County with 34 social services in the urban environment (89.47%) and 4 services in rural areas (10.53%). For Arad County urban services are in number 39 (66.10%) and 20 services (33.90%) are accredited in rural areas. In Hunedoara urban services are in number 59 (77.63%) and those based in rural areas are 17 (22.37%), (table 1).

**Table 1.**  
**Distribution of social services according to the headquarters located in the urban/rural environment by counties and the West region.**

	Total number of accredited services	Arad	Caraş-Severin	Hunedoara	Timiș
		Number of accredited social services	Number of accredited social services	Number of accredited social services	Number of accredited social services
Number of accredited services based in urban areas	222	39	34	59	90
Number of accredited services based in rural areas	70	20	4	17	29
Total accredited services in each county	292	59	38	76	119

*b) Distribution of accredited social services from the West region according to the legal form of organization of social service providers (public and private).*

**b. 1.) Number of public/private suppliers accredited at region/county level.**

In the Register of social service providers accredited in the West Region were registered on 10 March 2017 a number of 319 social services providers but only 114 suppliers had active social services.

Of the total of 114 providers with active social services, a number of 32 are public service providers and the other 82 are private suppliers of which 79 are associations, foundations, federations, 2 suppliers are religious cults and 1 supplier is a limited liability company.

**b. 2.) Number of public/private social services accredited at the region/county level.**

At the level of the region, a number of 141 (48.28%) accredited public social services and 151 (51.72%) of private social services were operated in 2017.

In Arad and Hunedoara counties about half the number of services in each county are public and the remaining half are private. (Arad 49.15% public services and 50.85% private services, Hunedoara 50% public services and 50% private services).

In Timiș County Private services represented 66.38% of the total accredited services and the public was 33.62%.

In Caraș-Severin County, most of the accredited services were public (89.47%) of the total number of accredited social services at the county level and the private 10.53%.

The distribution of social services accredited by the counties, types of public or private social services and the headquarters in which the social services (urban and rural) operate is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2.**  
**The number of social services accredited according to the form of legal organization (public/private) and the headquarters in which they operate (urban/rural) on the counties and West Region.**

County	Arad		Caraș-Severin		Hunedoara		Timiș	
Types of social services	PuAS	PrAs	PuAS	PrAS	PuAS	PrAS	PuAS	PrAS
Urban	21	18	31	3	29	30	33	57
Rural	8	12	3	1	9	8	7	22
Total	29	30	34	4	38	38	40	79
Total accredited services in each county	59		38		76		119	
Total accredited services in West	292							

Region	
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*c) Distribution of accredited social services from the West Region depending on the type of social service and the category of beneficiaries.*

In the field of child services are accredited at the region level a total of 144 services (28 day centers for children, 8 day centers for families with children, 10 day centers for children with disabilities, 2 night shelters for street children , 85 residential centers, 6 foster children's services, 5 residential care centers for mother and child).

A number of 34 services (18 residential services, 9 services of protected housing type and 7 day centres) are accredited in the area of social services for persons with disabilities.

In the sphere of social services for elderly people are accredited at the region level a number of 76 social services (6 day centres for elderly, 48 residential services for elderly persons, 4 residential medical-social centers, 4 protected housing and 14 home care services).

Other types of accredited services (17 social canteens, 3 community support services for adults, 5 day centres for other persons in difficulty situations, 1 residential service for women victims of domestic violence, 2 residential services for victims of human trafficking, 4 residential centers for young people in distress, 1 residential center for other people in dependency situations, 5 residential centers for other homeless people).

## *2. Geographical distribution of accredited social services in the West Region.*

As regards the geographical distribution of accredited social services, it has been found that they are distributed unevenly on the surface of the West Region.

In the West Region are organized a number of 323 administrative units of which 42 are in urban areas with 12 municipalities and 30 cities and 281 communes in the rural environment.

Accredited social services (depending on the main office) are found in 80 localities from a total of 323 localities in the region, which means that only in 24.76% of localities in the West Region operate at least one social service. (Source: <http://www.mmuncii.ro/j33/index.php/ro/2014-domenii/familie/politici-familiale-incluziune-si-asistenta-sociala/4848-Servicii-Sociale-licentiate-in-baza-Legii-nr.197/2012>, consulted on 10 March 2017).

At the region level operates a total of 292 social services with a high concentration of services that are headquartered in the urban environment (222 social services) and a number of 70 social services based in rural areas. It is

therefore found that between urban and rural areas there is a massive imbalance throughout the region (urban 76.02%, rural 23.98%).

Urban social services functioned in a number of 33 cities and municipalities out of a total of 42 cities and municipalities. Rural social services functioned in a number of 47 municipalities out of a total of 281.

The largest number of localities in the rural area in which social services were functioning were recorded in Timiș County (in 19 municipalities of 89) and the smallest number of rural areas with social services were recorded in Caraș-Severin County (4 Locations in 69, Table 3).

**Table 3.**  
**The number of urban/rural localities in which accredited social services operate.**

County	Number of urban localities with accredited services	Total number of cities and municipalities	Number of rural localities with accredited social services	Total number of communes
Arad	7	10	13	68
Caraș-Severin	5	8	4	69
Hunedoara	12	14	11	55
Timiș	9	10	19	89
Total	33	42	47	281

### **Conclusions and recommendations.**

The analyzed data showed that the distribution of social services accredited in the rural urban area in the West region has a massive imbalance in favour of the urban environment-222 services (75.63%) and 29 services in rural areas (24.37%) .

The distribution of social services according to their organisational form (public or private) at the level of the West Region is about half/half with a larger number of private services in Timiș County and a larger number of public services versus private ones in Caraș-Severin county.

Correlating the number of providers accredited with the number of accredited social services, it follows that the 32 accredited public providers support a number of 141 social services and the 82 accredited private suppliers support a number of 151 social services at the level of the entire region. The number of public and private social services accredited at the region level in 2017 still remain in the national trend of "2013, half of the accredited social services providers in Romania act in the private non-profit environment, as Foundations or Associations "(Calliste, D., Dobre, A. and Babes, D., 2013, p. 9) with the indication that in 2013 a social services provider was still registered in the database of the Ministry of Labour and Social justice for each social service ( Accreditation was only on social services and not on suppliers separately).

The distribution of social services according to the type of social service and the categories of beneficiaries highlights the fact that the most developed sector remains the domain of child services (due to the massive support of services by the Directorate-General for Social assistance from each county) with the highest number of accredited social services (144), followed by social services for elderly people (76) and a fairly restricted number of services for disabled people.

As regards the geographical distribution of accredited social services, it has been found that accredited social services are mainly grouped into localities adjacent to municipalities and cities.

The data revealed in this article open new research opportunities towards a nationally updated quantitative analysis.

A complementary qualitative research could bring into question the analysis of the phenomenon on the large number of accredited suppliers compared with the small number of providers who have accredited social services. Other directions of analysis could also explain the phenomenon already known to the lack of social services accredited in rural areas, and also the lack of assessments of the needs of potential beneficiaries in most local communities, especially in rural areas.

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