

Country experiences on medical deserts The case of Romania

Marius-Ionut Ungureanu, Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy



Do we have any medical deserts in Romania?

Scarce stock to replace retiring health workers.

Lengthy waiting times and long distances when accessing health primary care services.

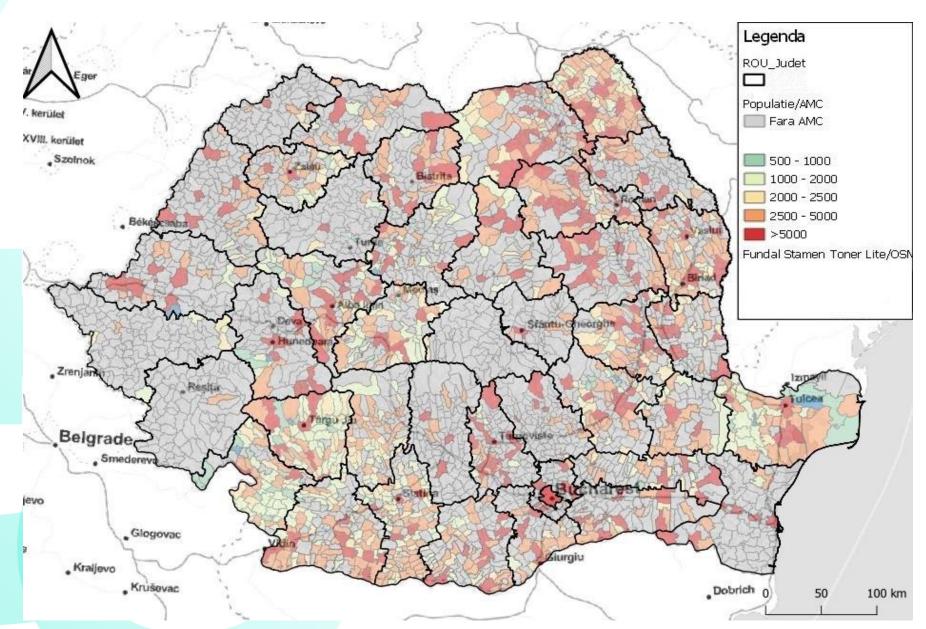
Challenges in recruiting young nurses in a poor city.

Barriers to attract midwives to a rural community.

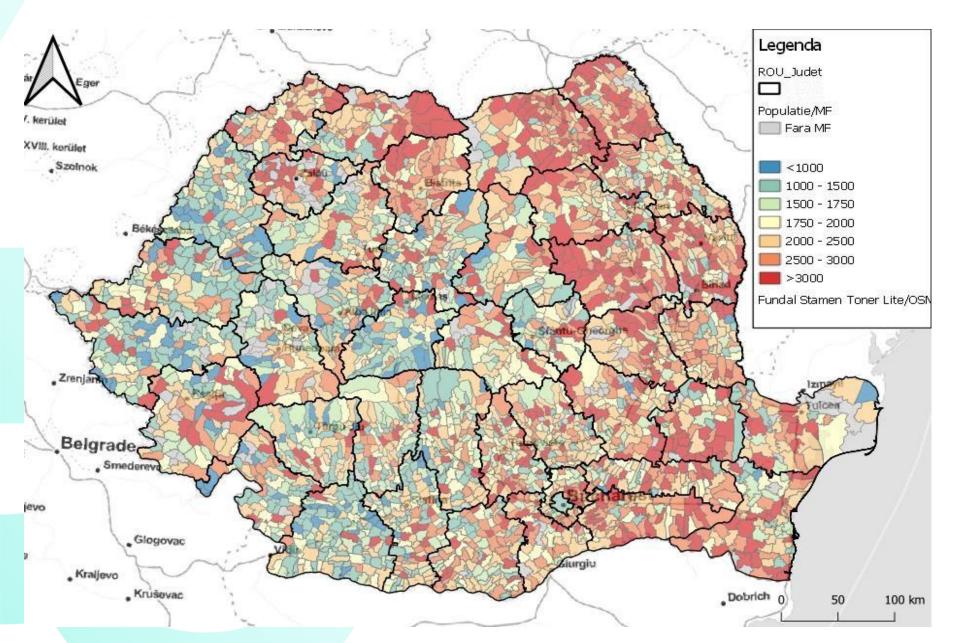
Difficulties to retain general practitioners in a remote area.

A lack of specialist doctors in a municipality.

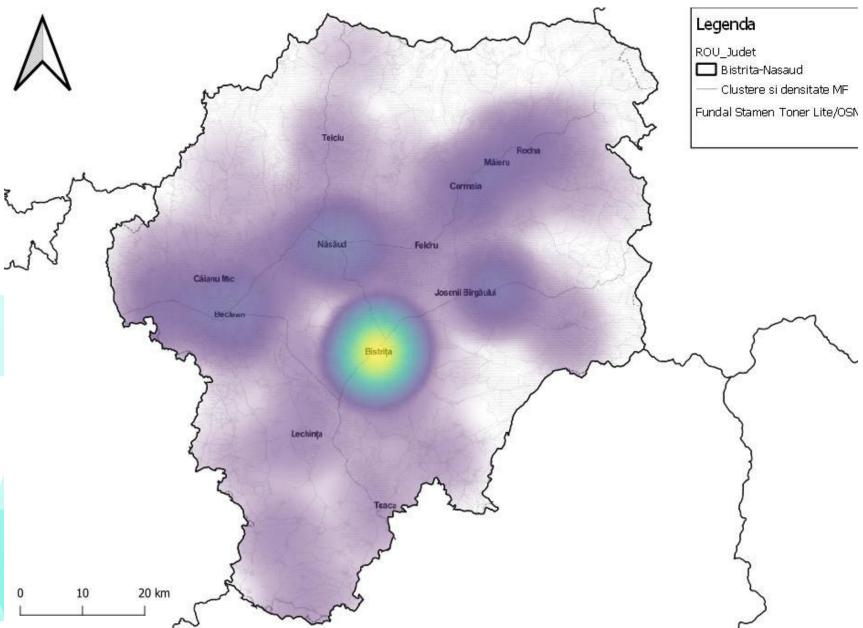


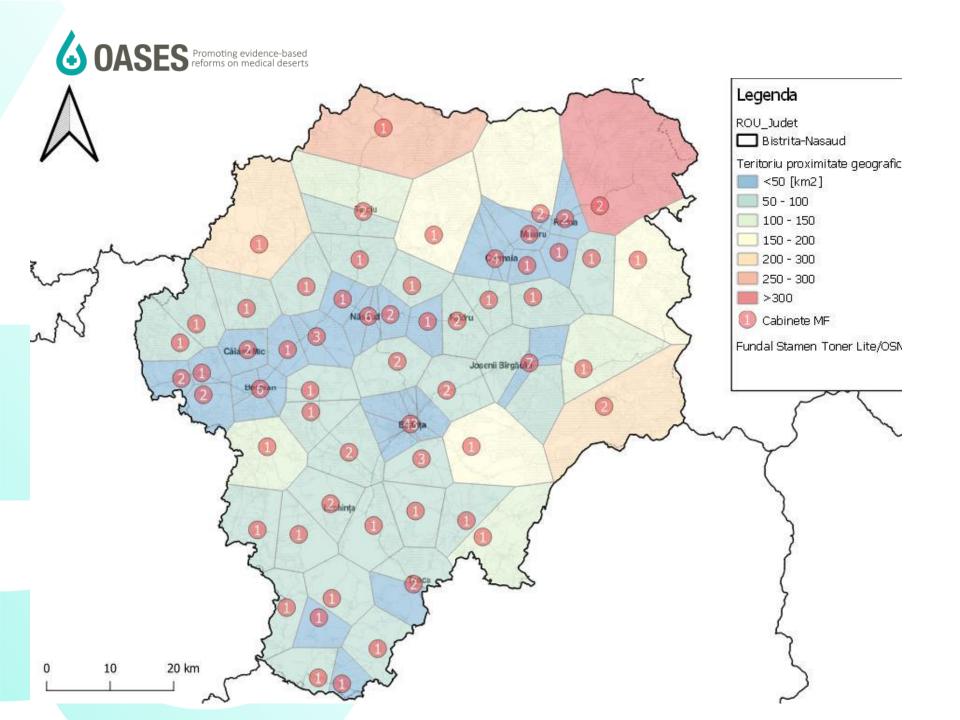




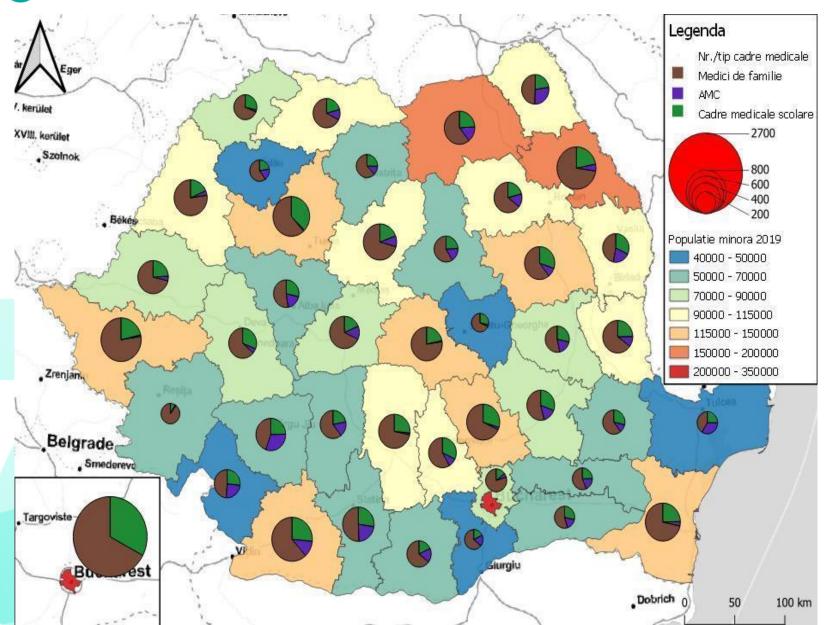














Should Romania be concerned about the coverage with PHC workforce?



Ageing GP Workforce

The share of GPs 65 years old and older is 10%



Uneven coverage with CHWs

60% of the counties in Romania (25 out of 42) have less than 60 CHWs



Unbalanced distribution of CHWs

75% of all CHWs are located in rural areas



Insufficient school doctors in rural areas

Although 62% of the schools in Romania are located in rural areas (where 28% of all students study), only 2% of the school doctors are practicing in rural areas



Key messages









Exchange information

Benefit from successful examples and lessons from other parts of EU / the world



Effective decisions require timely data

Think local

Local challenges require local solutions

Raise awareness

Medical deserts are a reality, but they can be addressed



Thank you!

Marius-Ionuţ UNGUREANU
Assistant Professor
Director – Center for Health Workforce
Research and Policy
marius.ungureanu@publichealth.ro



The content of this presentation represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.