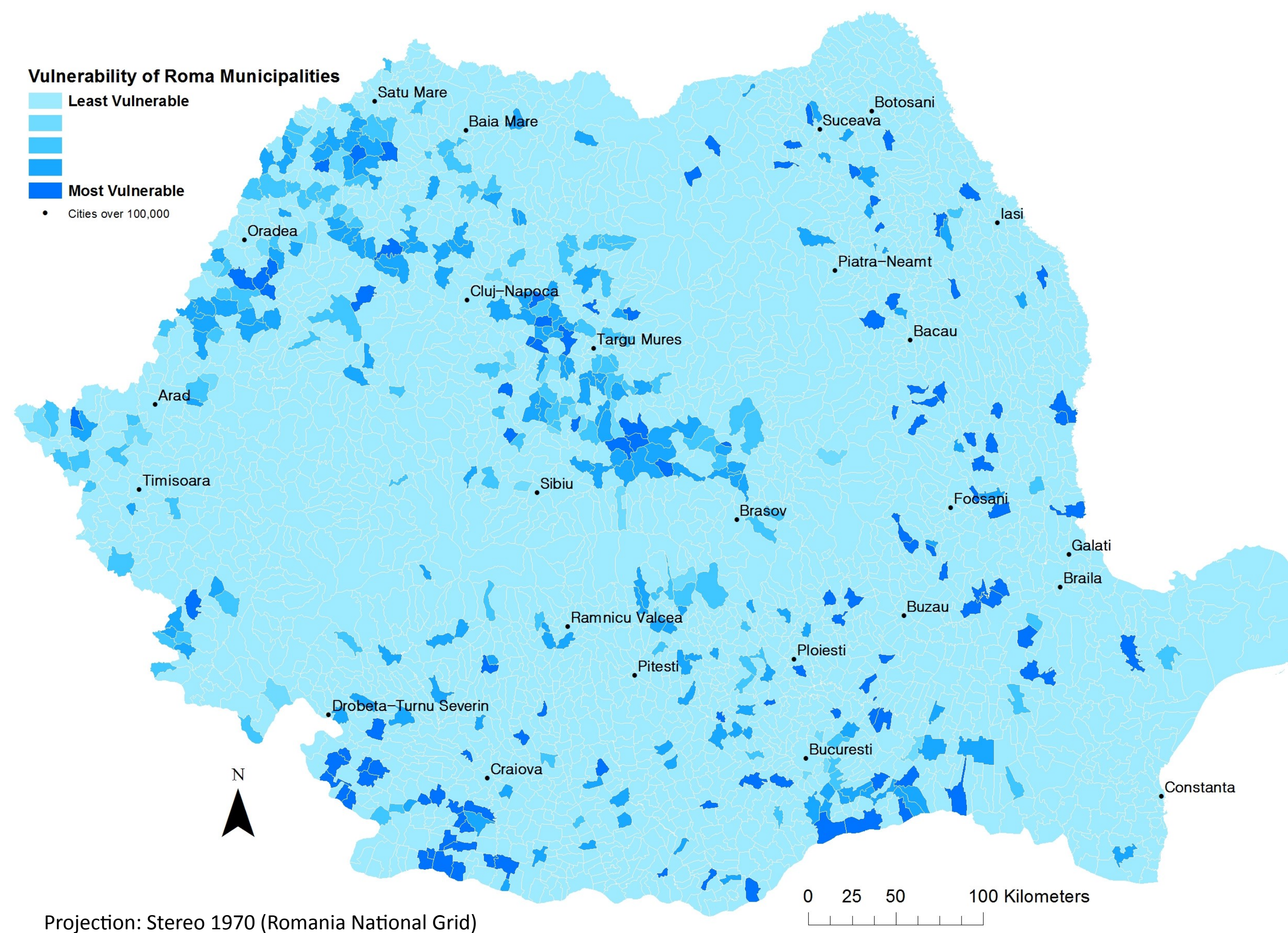


# EU funding in Romania: Do Roma live in vulnerable areas?



## Introduction

As part of the Roma Decade of Inclusion, several Eastern and Central European countries voluntarily agreed to create comprehensive National Roma Integrations Strategies (NRIS) addressing four categories of Roma integration: health, education, employment, and housing. Although the European Union funds almost the entire cost of the projects, it usually cannot earmark funds specifically for the Roma. Additionally, since investing specifically in the Roma might lead to further social exclusion and discrimination, the government needs to invest in municipalities that have both large Roma populations and are considered vulnerable. In Romania, this has meant the government chooses the regions in

which to invest, with “vulnerable populations” often acting as proxies for the Roma population. This project seeks to see if the most vulnerable municipalities overlap with municipalities with substantial Roma populations. Another words, do Roma typically live in vulnerable regions of the country? If this is not the case, in order to ensure EU funds provide the maximum social integration to the Roma, **in which municipalities should the Romanian government utilize EU funds?**

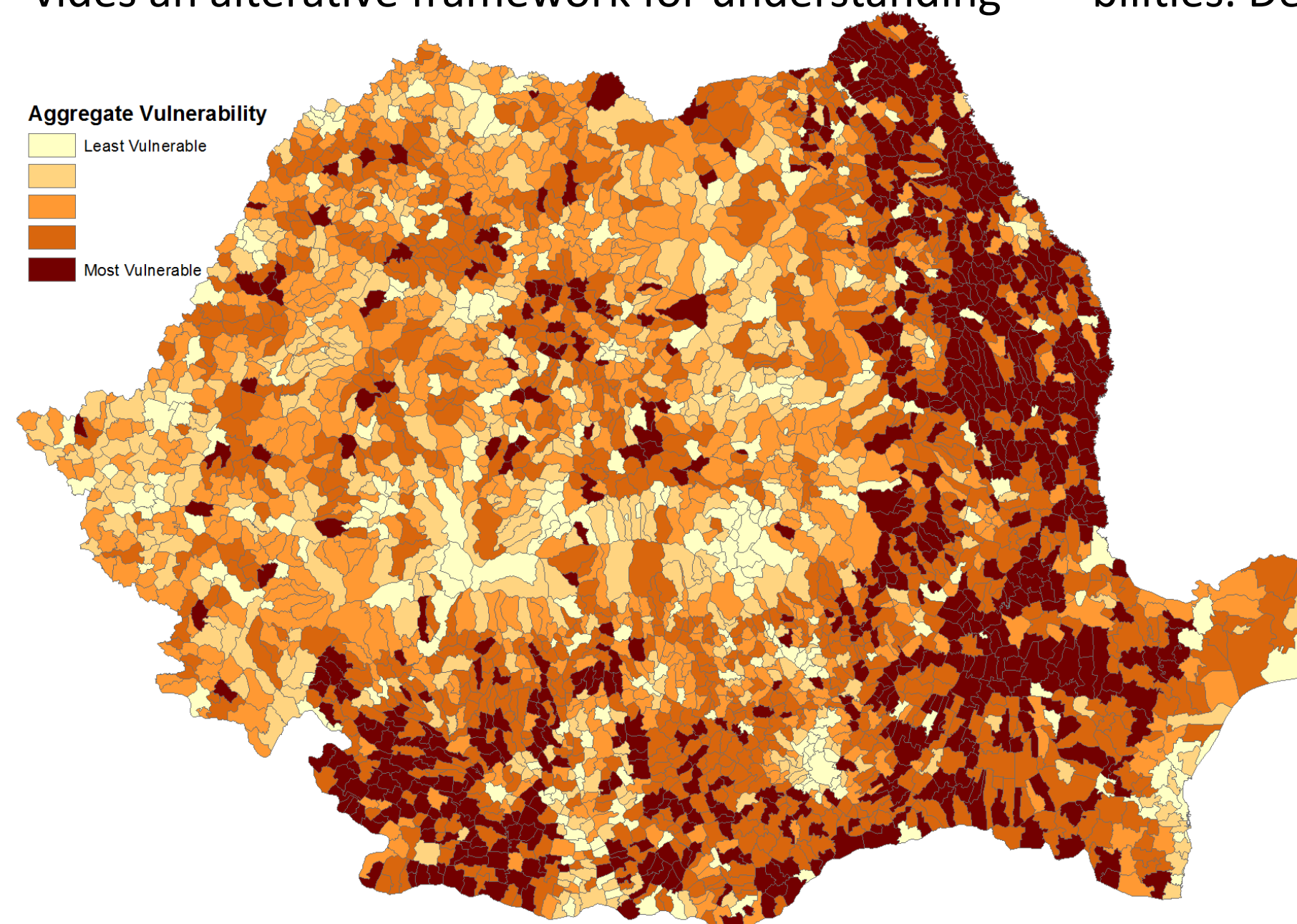
## Methodology

This project mapped vulnerability in Romania by the following attributes: education, access to running water, indoor bathrooms and kitchens, central heating, sewerage, and household size. Each of the seven attributes were given rankings based

on their jenks (natural breaks), with five representing the most vulnerable and one the least vulnerable municipalities. Once all attributes were ranked, a map was created to show the aggregate vulnerability of all municipalities. Another map provided the percentage of Roma in each municipality. Lastly, the large map joins the municipalities that contained both a substantial Roma population— deemed at least ten percent of the population— with the general level of vulnerability for those municipalities. The least vulnerable category includes both municipalities with a Roma population of less than ten percent and municipalities with negligible vulnerabilities.

## Conclusion

The areas of vulnerability exist overwhelmingly in the Western and Southern part of Romania, whereas the Roma population lies mainly in the northwest of the country. The final map provides an alternative framework for understanding

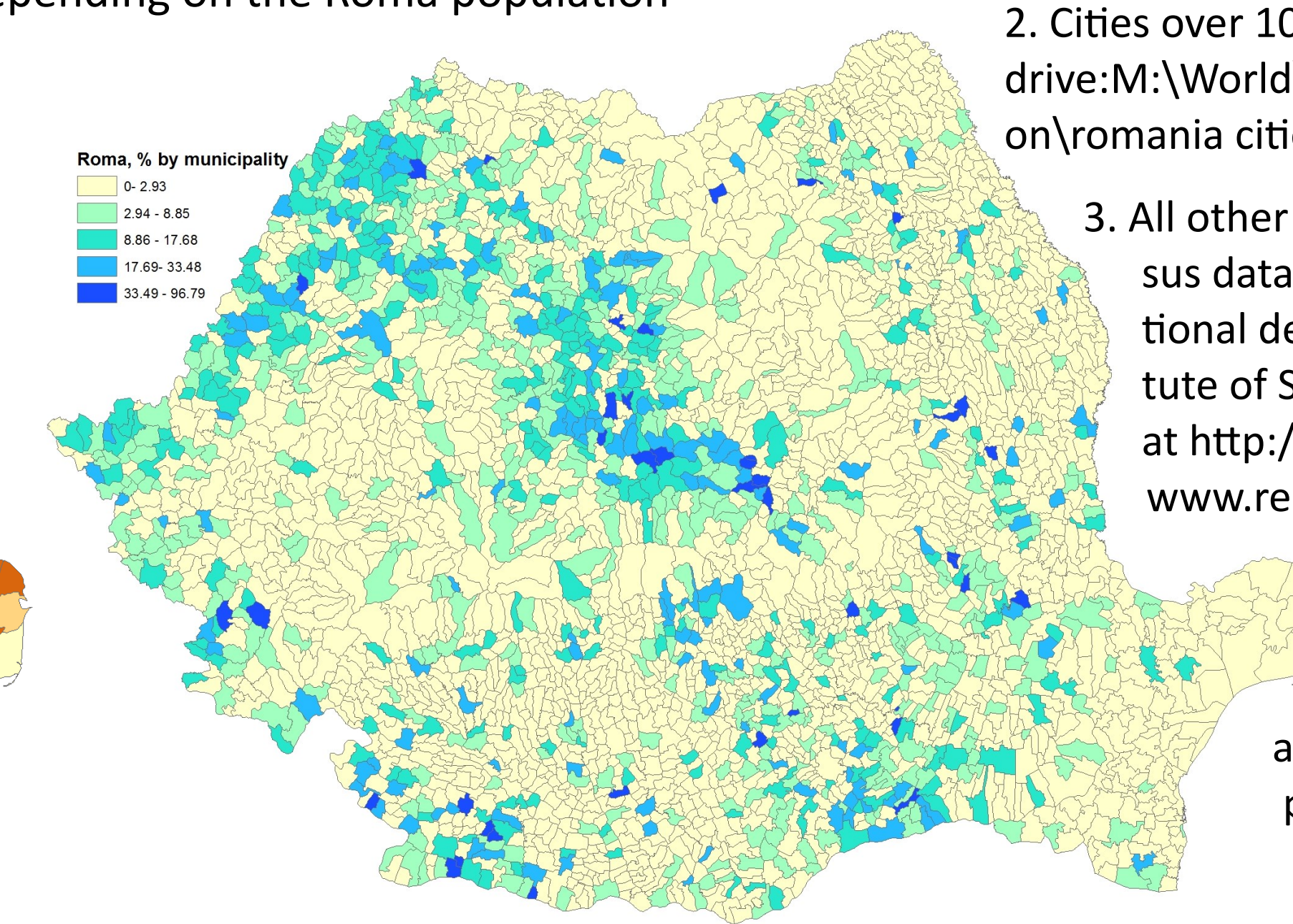


Roma vulnerability. Differences between this map and the aggregate vulnerability map means these funds would still help vulnerable populations. However, such actions suggest the government stands a higher chance of being suscepti-

ble to corruption and vote buying from these populations. Furthermore, such actions build increased animosity between the Roma and non-Roma in Romania as the latter believe the former are getting extra help, when in reality they are being further marginalized.

## Limitations

Since the most vulnerable groups have a tendency to live in the northwest and southwest of the country, any Roma in these regions are more likely to be shown as vulnerable as opposed to Roma living in the rest of the country. Particularly, in the northwest part of the country, Roma might not show up as vulnerable since a population of ten percent living below the poverty level would be absorbed into a larger population living above the national average. Therefore, the maps serves as a good indicator of where the Roma live, with potential vulnerabilities. Depending on the Roma population



within each municipality, the Roma vulnerability might be vastly different. The government should engage with local authorities to receive a clearer picture of Roma living conditions in individual municipalities. Given the typical level



of spatial exclusion the Roma experience, a group living on the margins of a richer municipality would be well known to the community. The maps take into consideration rural regions, the areas most likely to suffer from spatial exclusion.

## Sources:

1. Municipalities shapefile from M drive: M:\World\GfK\Europe\romania\add on\romania municipalities.shp
2. Cities over 100,000 shapefile from M drive: M:\World\GfK\Europe\romania\add on\romania cities 100k.shp
3. All other data: 2011 Romanian Census data through the Institutul National de Statistica (National Institute of Statistics), available online at <http://www.recensamantromania.ro/rezultate-2/>.
4. Picture by Cinty Ionescu, available online at <http://humangoods.net?p=2824>.

Cartography and Design by Andra Boşneag

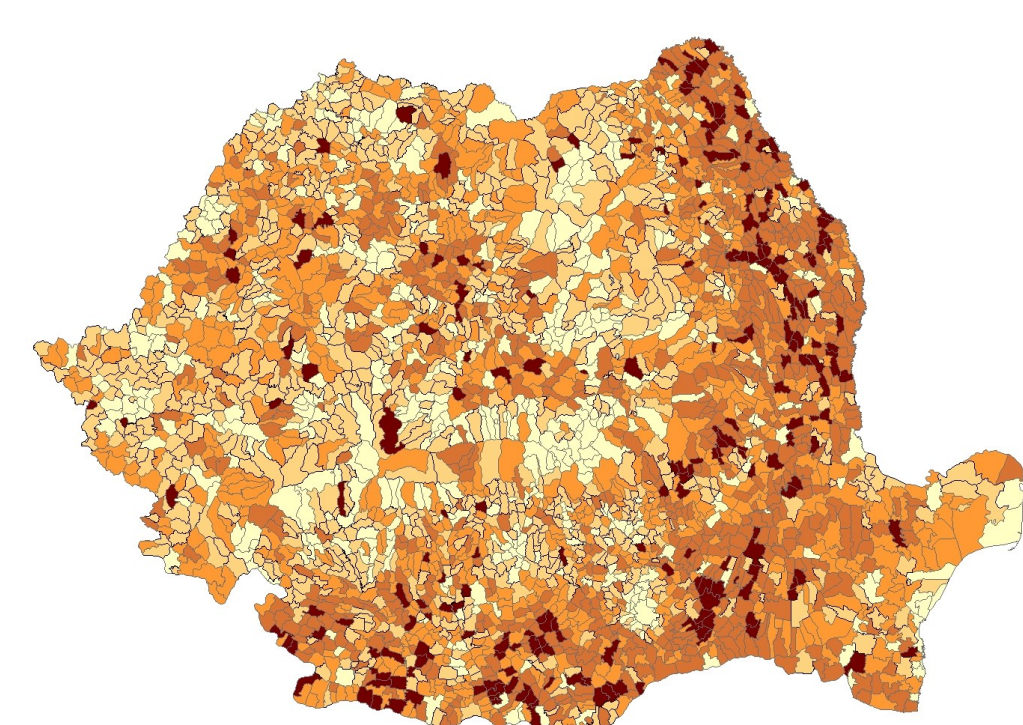
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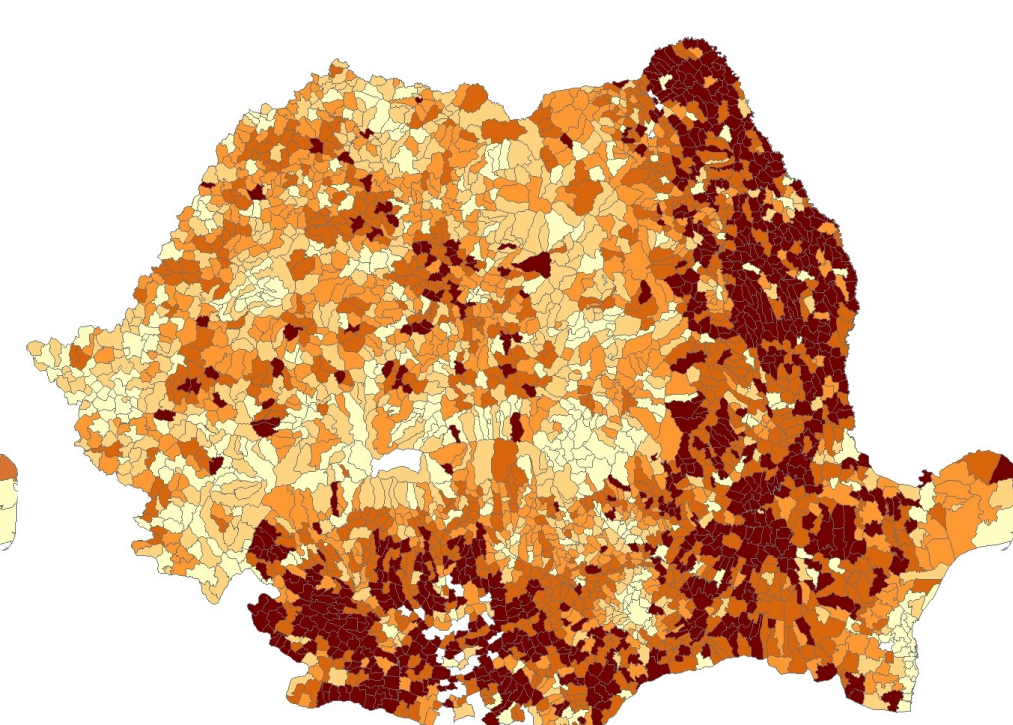
Professors Florance and Pamerter



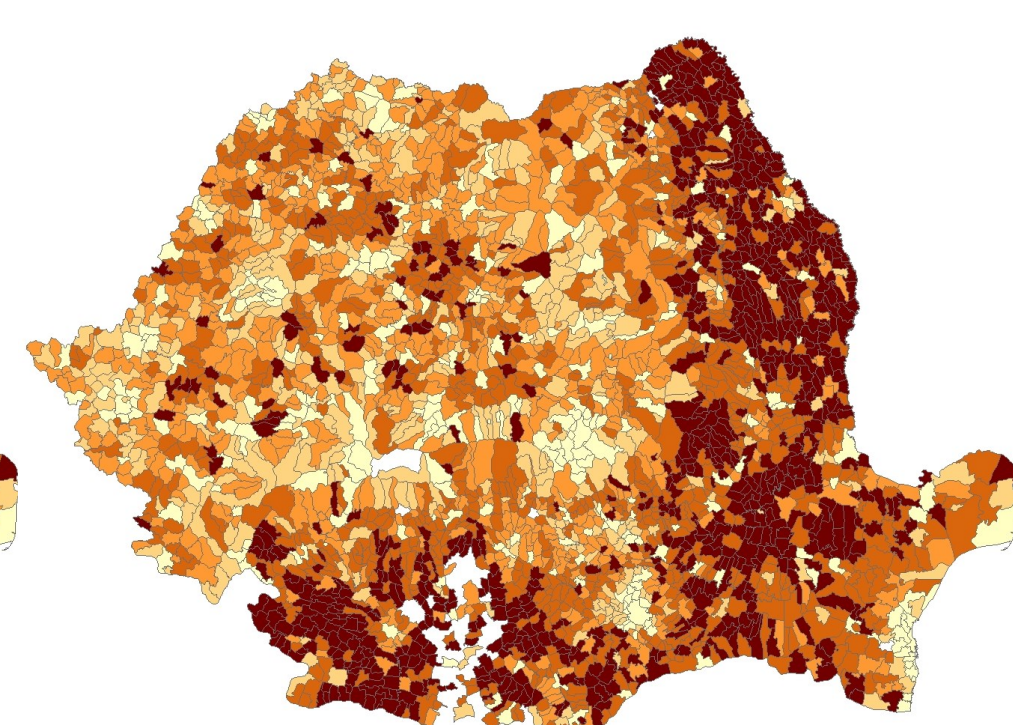
## ASSESSING VULNERABILITIES



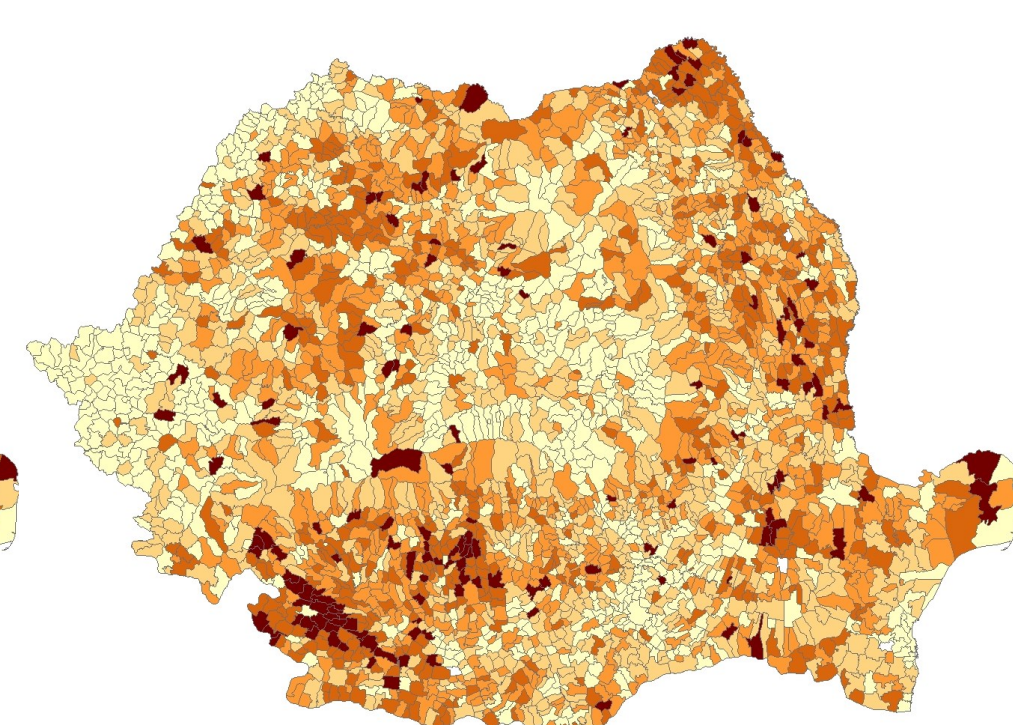
EDUCATION



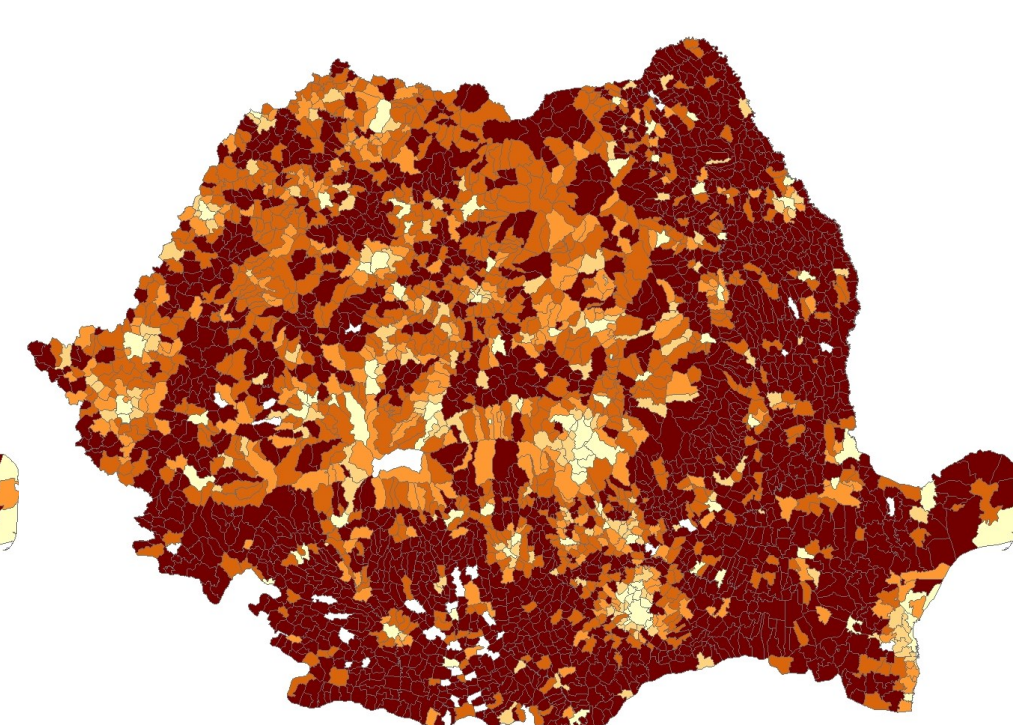
RUNNING WATER



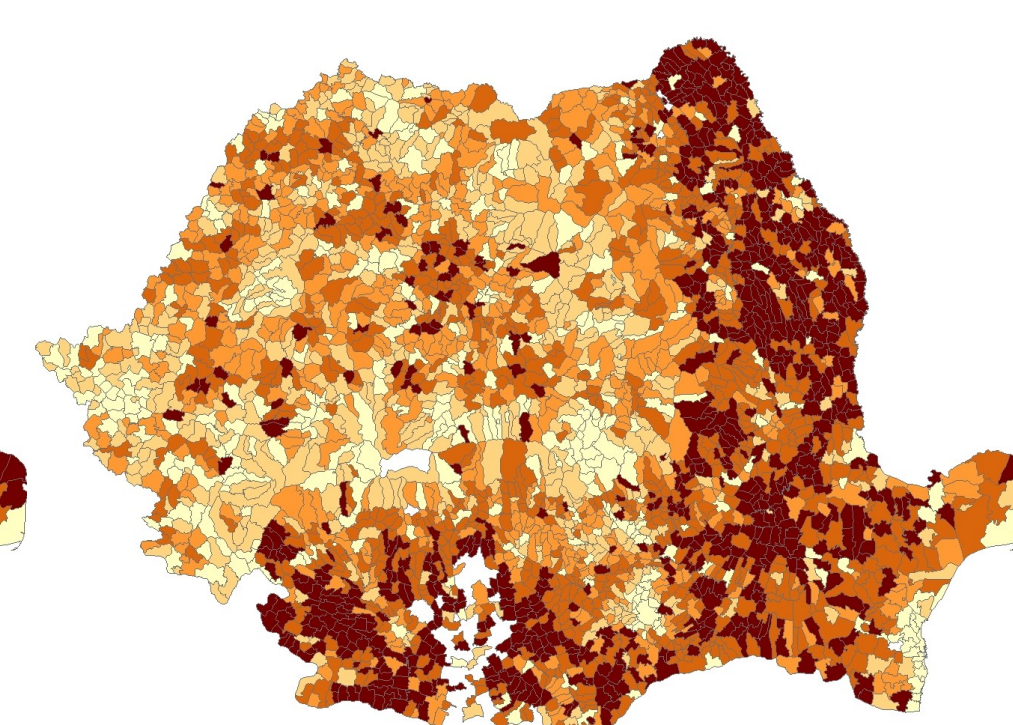
INDOOR BATHROOM



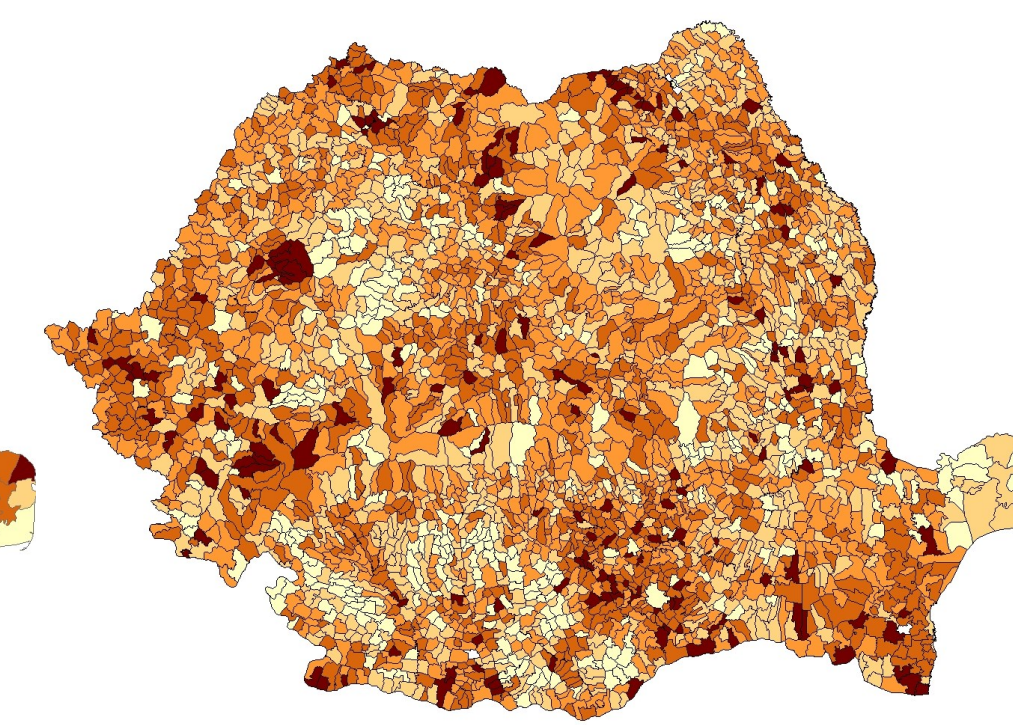
INDOOR KITCHEN



CENTRAL HEATING



SEWERAGE



HOUSEHOLD SIZE