

Why Romania is a much better place than you think

Krisztián Buza

Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, Romania

`chrisbuza@yahoo.com`

In his highly influential book [1], Hans Rosling et. al. describe that most of us have a systematically incorrect view of the situation of the World. This is primarily due to our outdated stereotypes. One of Rosling's key messages is that we need a data-driven or fact-based approach to understand our World, or a part of it. In this talk, we will review the book and apply a similar methodology to understand the situation of Romania. As a result, we will see that according to several essential indicators, Romania is close to rich and healthy countries of Western Europe and North America. While we do not claim that Romania is a perfect country, inline with the aforementioned book, we point out that things may be BAD and BETTER at the same time: compared with the ideal situation, most of the things are bad, however, they are much better than a few decades ago. In other words: "the world has improved and it's far from good" [2]. Despite the fact that the presentation is based on publicly available statistics, the interpretation of the numbers may be somewhat subjective. Therefore, an additional goal of this talk is to motivate fact-based discussions about what exactly could and should be improved and how.

References

- [1] Hans Rosling et al. (2018) "Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong about the World - And Why Things Are Better Than You Think"
- [2] Hans Rosling (2015): "The mindset of factfulness", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw0qTj2tfqM>