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The analyzed text is a field report written by two social researchers from the Romanian Institute of Sociology. The main objective of their research was to point out the general social and economic situation of Jiu Valley Romanian mining Region after the major wave of dismissals that took place in 1997 as an effect of the lager post-communist deindustrialization process.

In their field-study the researchers mainly used exploratory interviews held with officials from local institutions and statistical data. The emphasis was laid at institutional and community levels and not at the level of the workers' lives. The explored institutional environment included mining related institutions as mining enterprises and trade union, on the one side, and other local public institutions as city hall, schools and police, on the other side. Both the effects of deindustrialization on these institutions and the resources brought by them in order to cope with poverty and unemployment are briefly investigated. Complementarily, data on the prices of apartments, on the local mass-media development and on health problems faced by the women from the Jiu Valley are exposed.

The report reveals the impact of the dismissing process on the Jiu Valley mining working force. Initially planned as a kind of shock therapy against the background of transition from centrally organized to a market economy, the restructuring of mining industry led to sudden and massive unemployment, the adequate social policies being almost absent. In only two-month period the Jiu Valley population employed in mining industry was almost half reduced (from 42603 to 24500). This massive unemployment was stimulated by governmental ordinances that encouraged the workers to leave their jobs, offering to buy their contracts at relatively favorable rates (12 to 20 salaries depending on the length in service).

Although the researchers are worried about the social problems brought in the region by this wave of dismissals they fail to provide comprehensive policy recommendations for countering poverty and unemployment related problems. Their social "diagnosis" is rather a limited one. By means of a very brief style, the problems faced by workers are generally and elusively identified. This is partly caused by a too narrow approach of the social realities from Jiu Valley. An institutional perspective should be complemented by a closer attention to the specific ways in which several local social categories experienced and responded to the massive deindustrialization process that brought poverty and unemployment. Such research findings are necessary in order to design better social policies.