

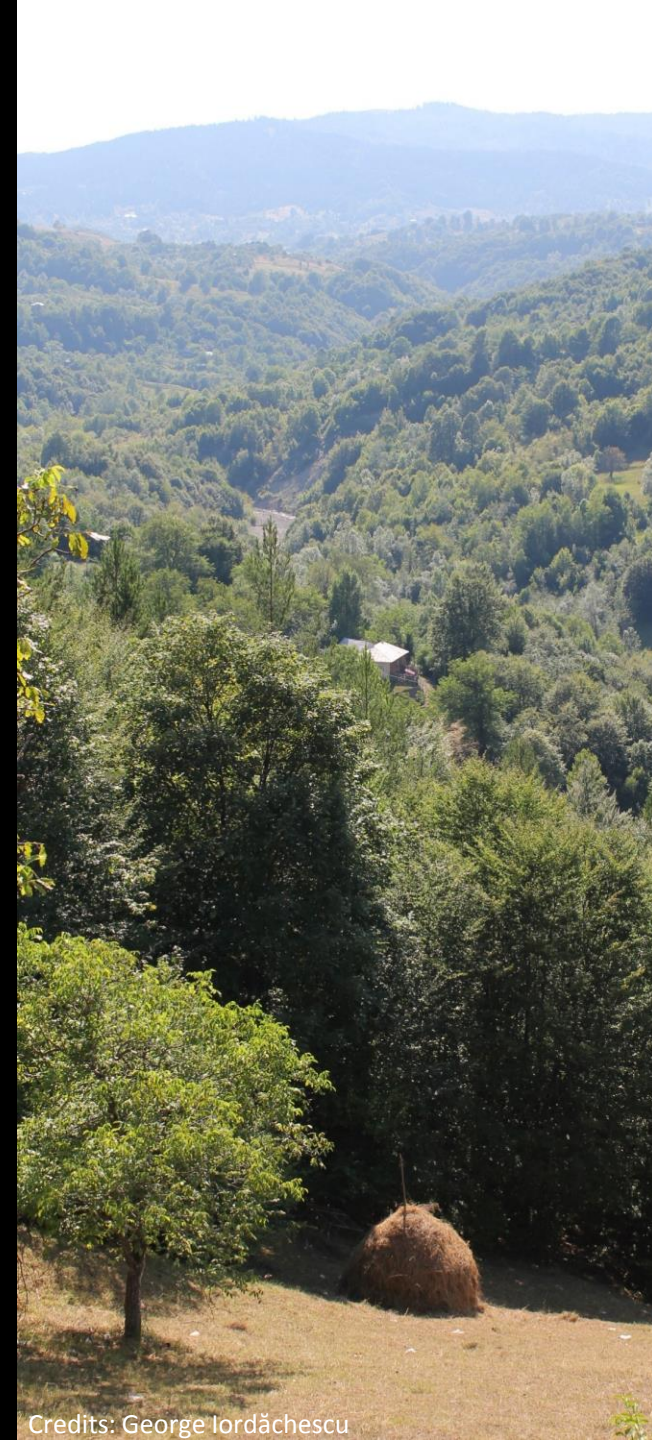
# Do Institutions Matter in the Management of Commons?

A field-based analysis of the monitoring, controlling and sanctioning instruments in the communal villages' *obște*.

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# Outline

- What is an *Obşte*?
- Two types of *Obşte*
- Three periods of the *Obşte* development
- The relevance of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Elinor Ostrom's design principles
- Monitoring & Sanctioning instruments in the *Old Obşte*
- Monitoring & Sanctioning instruments in the *New Obşte*
- Discussions & Implications

# The Communal village and the *Obște*

- The Communal Village
  - *Archaic associative form of property characterized by indivisibility and communality*
- The Obște
  - *The leading organization (founded on local-based institutions) of the communal village*
- The commons owned by the village and managed by the Obște
  - *Forest areas*
  - *Pasture*
  - *Common infrastructure (headquarters, ballrooms, cemeteries, etc).*



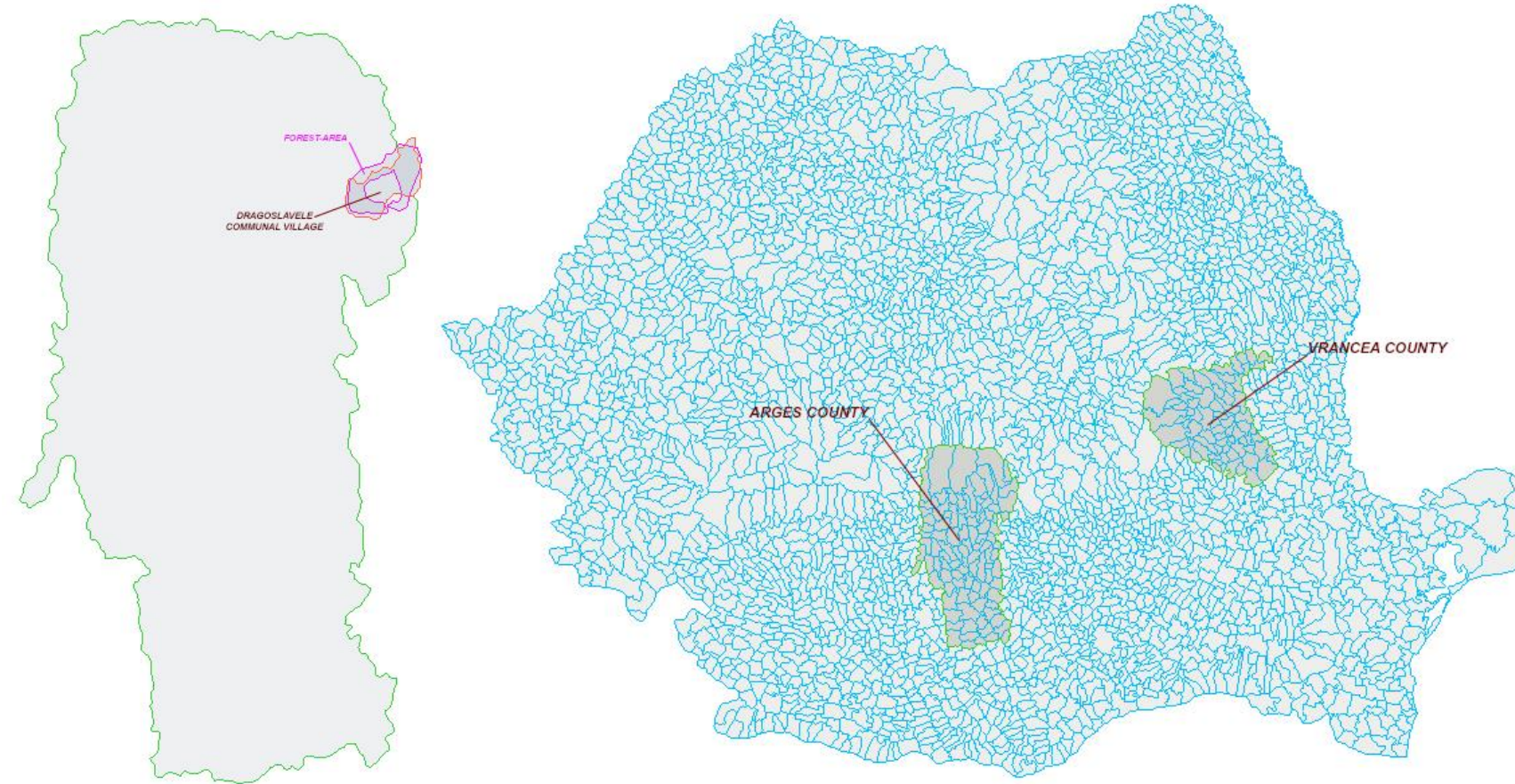


# Two Types of Obște

*and the data collection process*

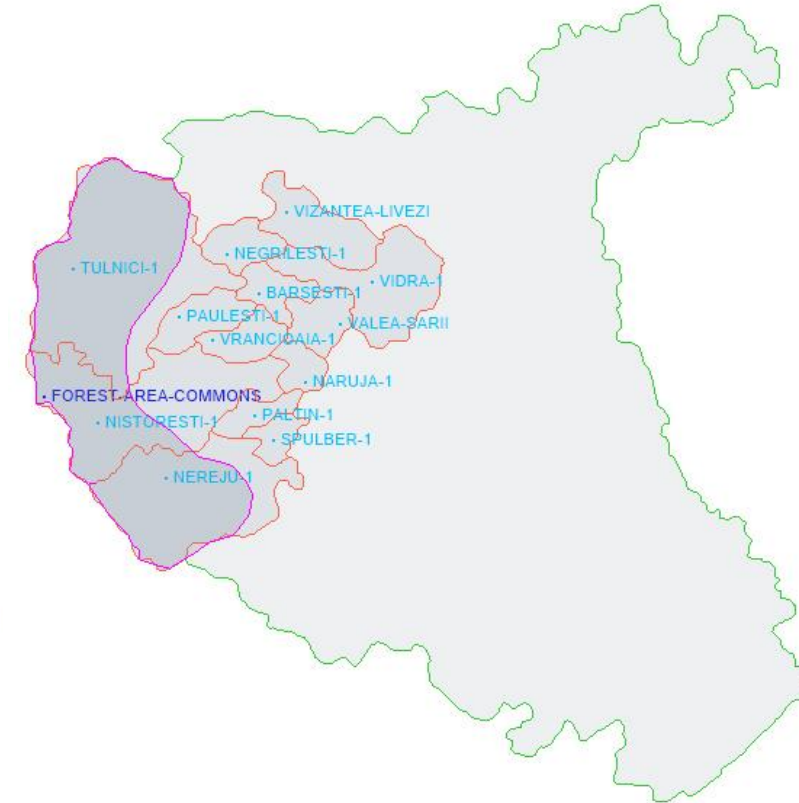
## Inegalitarian

*The membership is based on a number of shares*



## Egalitarian

*All the villagers are part of the Obște*



For the case of Vrancea I had the opportunity to collaborate with the research team of the Romanian Forest Commons Project (P.I. Monica Vasile ) – <http://romaniacommons.wixsite.com/project>

# Three periods of development & analysis

- The period until 1948 (*The Old Obşte*)
- The communist period
- The period since 1990(2000) (*The New Obşte*)

# Ostrom's design principles (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>)

- A design principle should be understood as *"an essential element or condition that helps to account for the success of institutions in sustaining the CPRs and gaining the compliance of generation of participants to the rules-in-use"* (McGinnis and Ostrom 1992, 8)
- 4<sup>th</sup> design principle: ***Monitoring***
- 5<sup>th</sup> design principle: ***Graduated Sanctions***

# M & S instruments in the Old Obşte's Forest

	Inegalitarian Obşte	Egalitarian Obşte
<b>Monitoring instruments</b>	Each member was in charge with the monitoring process. (The personal interest of the villagers that owned more shares was higher than the others')	Each member was in charge with the monitoring process.
<b>Sanctioning instruments</b>	Light: admonition Medium: curses proposed by the priest Severe: ostracization from the village	Light Medium Severe
<b>Other details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ All the members were involved into the Obşte's economic activity</li><li>❑ There is not any differentiation between the monitorization capacity or the sanctioning instruments depending on the number of shares detained.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ All the <b>villagers</b> were involved into the Obşte's economic activity</li></ul>

# M & S instruments in the New Obște's Forest

	Inegalitarian Obște	Egalitarian Obște
Monitoring instruments	Forestry District (private or public)	
Sanctioning instruments	Graduated Sanctions proposed and applied by Police or Judicial Court	
Other details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ The villagers are not involved into the Obște's economic activity</li><li>❑ The state is the only entity that is allowed to sanction persons, even though they are part of a local-based institutional arrangement.</li></ul>	



# Discussions & Implications

- ❑ The Communist Period acted as a **Critical Juncture** (Acemoglu & Robinson 2013)
- ❑ There are probabilities linked to the sanctioning instruments in the New Obşte
- ❑ The implication in the *Obşte's* economic activity
- ❑ The imposition of the new monitoring and sanctioning systems may represent a part of a “*Leviathan Solution*”

*The CPRs institutions robustness level decreased in the case of the New Obşte than in the case of the Old one. A tragedy of the commons cannot be fully avoided in a long – term perspective.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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