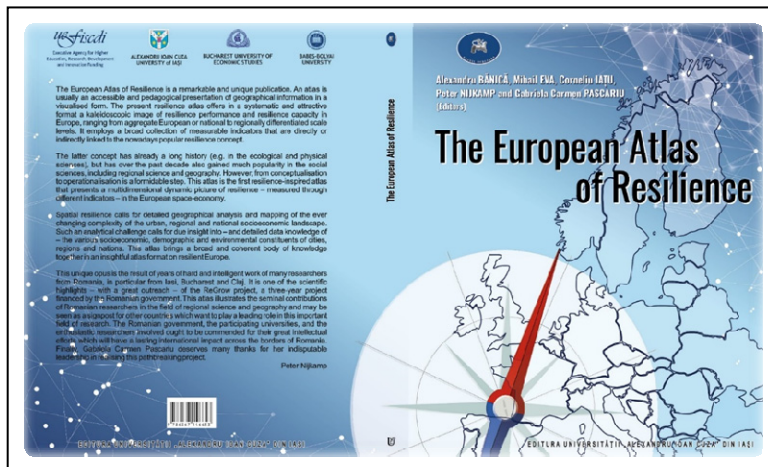


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REVIEW

Alexandru Bănică, Mihail Eva, Corneliu Iașu, Peter Nijkamp, Gabriela Carmen Pascariu (Editors) (2021) - **The European Atlas of Resilience**, „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Publishing House, Iași, 114 pages



An Atlas is generally an instrument to better communicate spatial knowledge and facilitate new insight into complex phenomena. The volume entitled *The European Atlas of Resilience* (<https://regroweu.uaic.ro/atlas.htm>) focuses on a current and exciting theme - resilience - approached from different perspectives, thus highlighting its interdisciplinary character (a multidisciplinary perspective which includes economy, geography, sociology, administrative science). As an emergent property of complex systems, resilience has become the buzzword of the present times, as people have to adapt to unpredictable shocks or long-term disruptions (e.g., economic crisis, climate change, refugee crisis, attacks terrorist attacks, the current COVID-19 pandemic). The approach also integrates the natural environment, individuals, society, the economy and institutions, all in a system that is as functional, sustainable and adaptable as possible.

The Atlas, edited by Alexandru Bănică, Mihail Eva, Corneliu Iațu, Peter Nijkamp and Gabriela Carmen Pascariu, illustrates the constant concerns of the editors and authors to analyze the complexity of this subject. The volume aims to be a working tool for academics and experts, such as a tool of critical reflection and practical utility for policymakers. The Atlas is one of the main final results of the REGROW EU 2018-2021 project "Advancement of innovative research in the theories of regional development and growth, through a resilience approach: towards a convergent, balanced and sustainable European Union", financed by the Ministry of Research and Innovation. The paper includes four chapters that reflect a gradual, comparative, broad and in-depth approach to resilience from a multidimensional and multi-level perspective.

The first chapter – *Introduction* – conceptually defines systems and resilience and identifies shocks and stressors such as the 2003 heat wave, the 2004 and 2007 EU enlargement, the 2008–2009 economic crisis, the 2013 Ukraine crisis, the refugee crisis 2015 - 2019 and COVID-19. Certain indicators are chosen to measure the impact of shocks on systems (resilience performance) and a resilience performance index is developed. Another approach carried out in this chapter is to group regions according to the performance of resilience results, define typologies and find similar characteristics by region type.

The second chapter focuses on Resilience Performance which represents an approach to resilience from a realistic and multidimensional perspective; it is the largest chapter out of the four in the Atlas. This section provides an in-depth analysis of the resilience performance of European countries and regions after the economic crisis of 2008-2009 and after other shocks (presented in each thematic section), including ten different thematic dimensions grouped into five major areas:

- Individual and society (coordinator Alexandra Gheorghiu)
- Economy (coordinators: Cristian Incalțărău and Liviu-George Maha)
- Environmental (protection) resilience (coordinators: Ema Corodescu-Roșca, Bogdan-Constantin Ibănescu and Alexandra Cehan)
- Institution and governance (coordinator: Ramona Țigănașu)

- Democracy resilience (coordinator: Loredana Simionov)

Finally, the authors proposed an aggregate resilience index that measures the performance of all subsystems in each thematic group.

Chapter three - *Resilience capacity*. Resilience capacity comprises three different dimensions: absorption, adaptation and transformation. The chapter looks at the conditions and determinants that influence how a country/region responds to shocks and recovers more or less well from them. The Atlas proposes a suite of indicators integrated into a general index of resilience that may be relevant in this case. However, we should admit at the same time that this general index is a partial product/result, as it could be supplemented in the future by including other relevant factors.

Chapter four includes *Case studies* such as the European Summer Heat Wave of 2003; Well-being during the pandemic in Romania; Tourism and the COVID-19 pandemic: the case of Romania; Social media & compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures.

The Atlas is a comprehensive and unique multidimensional assessment of resilience performance and capacity. We must emphasize the strengths, namely the complexity of the indicators used, the interdisciplinary nature of the teams involved, the vast volume of information that has been processed, and the representation and cartographic analysis of this information, a tool to support space-sensitive policies at different territorial levels. Limitations are related to statistical data (sometimes contradictory and unreliable; recent data unavailable), including relatively simple cartographic representations and the local level integrated only through case studies. However, overall, this volume represents a valuable contribution to developing the concept of resilience (theoretical and practical), presenting readers with an interdisciplinary approach based on a rigorous methodology.

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