

## RURAL AREAS – THE PREMISE OF ROMANIAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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### **Abstract**

*Year 2007 when Romania joins the European Union marked a new era in development and agricultural economy of our country. In this context Romania has had to quickly adapt its economy to take part in the EU internal market and to benefit fully from the positive effects of adopting the CAP. EU membership is perhaps the strongest factor of pressure for reform of agriculture and rapid rural Romanian economy given the necessity to integrate successfully in European rural economy. European model of agriculture is based on competitive sector oriented to market fulfilling also other function such as environmental protection, provision of residential settlements more convenient for people in rural areas and the integration of agriculture with the environment and forestry.*

**Keywords :** integration, economy, rural development, era

### **INTRODUCTION**

Rural is a concept particularly complex, which resulted in a great diversity of views concerning the definition, scope and its components. According to some specialists consider the rural space everything is urban. This general definition often creates confusion between the concept of rural and agrarian concept, which does not correspond to reality. Rural areas is not a concrete space and heterogeneous. Of course, you can give many definitions and descriptions can make multiple countryside.

Rural economy, dominated by agriculture in large part is still poorly integrated into the market economy. In the current economic context, the understanding and the application of techniques of marketing depends on the wellbeing of citizens in rural and urban area, as well as the welfare of farmers.

Romanian manufacturer must act in line with economic reality existing global and national levels, to implement the technical and economic methods to give stability and efficiency.[1]

The producer is obliged to produce in accordance with what is required on the internal and international markets, to respond promptly to the needs of the consumer, to

focus, therefore, to request to shaping their own offers.

Throughout history, rural and urban have evolved correlated inversely determined by economic needs, developed both global and national level. Here are a number of criteria for differentiation between rural and urban.

In the vision of I. Aluas 1998, urban areas is distinguished by rural and vice versa by: occupational criterion, the criterion of human relationships, demographic, social stratification criterion, the criterion of competence, and criteria interaction between human communities.

Nationally, agriculture is one of the most important branches of the economy.

Romanian rural development depends on factors such as: access to education, strengthening the institutional capacity of the agricultural administration, access to health services, the development of basic infrastructure, particularly that of roads to facilitate access to the markets and to allow good mobility of the workforce. Rural areas have substantial growth potential and have a vital social role.

The contribution of agriculture, forestry, fisheries in gross domestic product is about 9.7%, while their contribution in the GDP of

the other EU member countries is situated at about 1.7%.

The decrease in the share of agriculture in GDP was due to entrance on right track of the market economy and the development of other branches of national economy. Currently rural areas are the subjected actions of the industrial civilization, actions that lead to a decrease in the rural population exclusively occupied in agriculture.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

Over 70% of Romania's population lives in the poor rural areas. The risk of poverty to which it is exposed to the rural population is three times higher than the risk of the urban population is exposed.

Structural deficiencies in the agricultural sector increase national differences in relation to other Member States. More than half of the rural populations have no water in the public system.

There is a low degree of equipment with utility infrastructure in rural areas; 5-6 times lower compared to urban areas and at a distance of their status in the EU. Agriculture is the major economic activity of the rural areas.

Sustainable development of this sector involves the formation of a competitive agriculture, which would create an economic surplus needed its own developments and to have a positive contribution to the general economic balance, the insertion of agriculture in the economy and the functioning of its generalized by economic forces as the development ecological sustainable agriculture, producing food and raw materials, which must not be the victim of pollution and agent the development of sustainable agriculture to ensure parity income of farmers with those of other socio economic groups.

In socially sustainable rural development is a guarantee of ensuring the conditions of life for society as a whole.

Rural areas in the EU were developed on the basis of a set of policies: agricultural, industrial, transportation, commercial,

whereas rural addressing sequentially may lead to the appearance of wrongdoing.

Rural means a specific space, contoured and influenced by the existence and interaction problems: demographic (population structure, density, residential space), economic (the nature of the work, the relations of production, the structure of the sources of income, etc.), ecology (environmental peculiarities, built residential typologies and distribution functionality of localities). Rural development is located at the confluence of the urban tendency of expansion and the need to maintain rural, assuming a form of harmonization which merges the attainment of economic growth and environmental protection.

Development of integrated, balanced and long-term – so-called "type of development sustainable" or "supported" – assumes the existence of Community policies to support "green" tourism for exploitation of the rural areas.

Rural tourism in the majority of cases in those regions, which receive financial assistance from the Structural Fund and the Regional Development Fund of the European Union, which have decreased markedly.[3]

In the framework of the support of the EU for the achievement of the objectives of development in rural areas, the most important measures are to encourage rural tourism and vocational training in the field of tourism. This involves financing investments designed to create tourism facilities, such as: accommodation on farms, the development of natural parks, sporting activities.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

EU rural development experience can be transposed into a general idea: rural based on regional policy overrides policy sector Economics (branch).

Regional policy is based on the more comprehensive, including financial support for rural areas, agro-environment, agro-tourism, conservation of the cultural heritage of the diversification of the rural

infrastructure, the creation of productive, social, institutional.[4]

Rural policies have been directed in support of EU regions and proved the inability of coherent development.

Where territorial development of regions in the EU would be left to the discretion of the demand and supply would appear disadvantaged regions, transformed into economic burden and, most importantly, the potential of these regions would be used here, the need for structuring the rural policies.

For Romania, a rural development policy lacking, productive capital investment was reduced, low income, social infrastructure, productive and undeveloped. An alternative for improving economy was the accession to the EU, which has involved the harmonization of economic and institutional mechanisms with those of the EU.

Table 1. National criteria used for classification of rural settlements

Country	National criteria used for classification of rural settlements
Austria	Communities with less than 5,000 inhabitants
France	The common contains a booking less than 2000 inhabitants.
Greece	Population of the municipalities and communes in which the largest centre of population is less than 2,000 inhabitants
Island	Localities with less than 200 inhabitants
Luxemburg	Common with than 2,000 people in the administrative center
Holland	Municipalities with a population of less than 2000 inhabitants but more than 20% of the population are engaged in agriculture.
Portugal	Agglomerations and other administrative areas with less than 10,000 inhabitants
Suede	Localities with less than 200 inhabitants

The main obstacle to rural development is given by the poor development of the industry, demand reduction, the lack of budgetary resources.

Certainly, one can say that rural is the decisive support of the future, a space where human settlements that are distinguished by specific traits: demographic, economic, social,

ethnic, environmental, geographic, functional, typological etc.

Rural area plays an important role in both the size and functions of residential, economic and recreation that you meet. Rural areas Romania hold 87, 1% of territory and 45% of the population.

At European level, rural occupies 85% of the area of the territory, with pronounced gap compared to urban quality of life insurance.

European vision in the village has three main functions: economic function, ecological and socio-cultural function.

National criteria used for classification of rural settlements.[2]

## CONCLUSIONS

The development of rural areas and to reduce the high levels of poverty in these areas can be achieved through reforms in the agricultural sector, through the development of human capital and to increase social protection. Expenditure policies for the next period should give new priority to agriculture and rural development.

Agriculture and rural development budget should anticipate future problems in a world with rapid changes. Romania needs to establish the criteria which should be used to ensure that the principle of value added is applied effectively.

Prioritizing budgetary expenses should reflect better the political objectives of the rural areas.

Providing resources to co-finance projects must represent the key step of the policy feature of agricultural and rural development.

Negotiation facility should introduce budgetary debate in the ranking of priority areas of Romania; infrastructure, education, health, agriculture and rural development, the security of the citizen. Medium-term objective is to achieve convergence with the average level of economic and social development in the EU.

Policies that can contribute to the achievement of convergence with priority must be repeated in rural areas. The agricultural sector plays an important role in

the national economy. As regards the budget, the Government should provide additional advantages clear countryside. It is very important for rural development in Romania to increase the quality of services in rural areas through access to education, to ensure a health system accessible to all residents of the villages, a pension scheme is improved access to modern infrastructure.

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