

## WAYS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN VALCEA COUNTY

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### *Abstract*

*Compilation of the ways for developing a county level, helps to: create a vision about community that we want in the future, provide a complete picture of how the economy, environment, infrastructure can improve the county to set development goals and priorities that are reflected in measures to achieve the objectives. Also, the development of these paths of development may underlie a guide for improving community life and to reduce disparities. In this work we performed analysis of investment programs that benefit local communities in Valcea County in the period 2008-2016. Finally, the County development strategy based on RDP measures was set up for the period 2014-2020.*

**Key words:** rural development, paths, services, development strategies

### INTRODUCTION

At the macroeconomic level (national, regional, county, municipal) and microeconomic level (economic agents with and without legal personality), establishment of socio-economic development pathways is required for different time horizons.

It should be noted that the development of socio-economic ways for Valcea county aimed at maximizing resource efficiency and local communities to develop a vision of the future in the sense of helping them in guiding economic and social development [4].

Starting from the Romanian rural settlements need to adapt to EU requirements, by promoting efficient sectors in rural and economically viable and socially strategies established the main directions for development of rural infrastructure.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

As research methods, we used documentation, the analysis and data processing from a secondary analysis.

Once the information was defined, known and interpreted, the next step was the detailed documentation of the interest area. In the analysis activity, the study of the

documentation available for the area or for the analysed system is a starting point. This allows in the analysis to obtain the first knowledge and information. The documentation implied also the analysis of the legislation or the compared analysis of the various specialised sources.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The ways of development at county level for the next period (2014 - 2020) is based on RDP measures, conditions in the county in early 2014, the use of available resources and attracted (projects from European funds) to reach the destination set. It is a condition of action and effective involvement of all stakeholders at all levels of Romanian society. The ways of development and development strategy of Valcea county must respond effectively and promptly to the increasingly rapid changes in the economic environment to internal and external circumstances, the constraints generated by EU Member. Thus, the visions are built for short and medium term (annual) which harmonize the requirements with the development of Euro-Atlantic integration of Romania. Economic and social development of Valcea county to increase living standards

and conditions of the entire population of the county is a priority of the current round. Major directions for achieving this objective is reflected in the development and modernization programs, especially in rural areas of Valcea county, road infrastructure and technical improvements in the education system, social services, health and other services at both qualitative and quantitative level [4].

The principles of sustainable development strategy refers to:

Sustainability in the sense of better living conditions for the population in general and especially for the disadvantaged population and minimum conditions for a decent life, health and welfare of all;

Competitiveness which involves developing their economy Valcea county in the regional, national and even international, promoting a competitive private sector. Competitiveness is achieved by several factors: quantity (output per hectare), quality (healthy and uniformity), production cost, effective marketing.

Financial support to facilitate access to a variety of financial resources to meet the needs investment and development;

Good governance through efficient and effective response to issues and empowering local communities and partnership with civil society [5].

The overall objectives [3] sustainable development strategy of rural communities in Valcea aims:

-improved quality of life and diversification of the rural economy;

-strengthening rural households;

-increasing the competitiveness of the food;

-improve the environment and the countryside;

Specific objectives are following:

1.European Integration - embodied in increasing absorption of grants to local councils in Valcea county, through measures:

-corresponding improvement project portfolio development priorities of projects;

-grant co-financing projects and ongoing;

-improvement of qualifications for civil servants in order to establish sustainable funding application.

2.Entrepreneurial environment - objective resulted in the continuation of facilities to investors in terms of its benefits to the local budget and the nature of the work (exemption from taxes on legal grounds, land concessions).

3.Development of one diversified agricultural sector and performance (quantity, quality, sales price) through measures to support agricultural extension services, technical and logistic support for farmers to achieve viable projects to obtain grants leading to the modernization of farms; measures to enable land consolidation; prevention and combating soil degradation sources and the environment.

4.Sustainable management of forest since the county forestry holds 52.5% of the total Valcea county. This can be achieved by monitoring forest logging activities, measures to encourage traditional industrial processing but wood; measures to increase forest areas and improve forest management.

5.Promoting tourism services and tourism given the outstanding natural resources for spa tourism. Applying this measure is based on the existence of a potential tourist attractiveness that aims to encourage and foster the integration in the county and on the market of tourist-oriented businesses for domestic and international tourism circuits and allowing it reasonable accommodation. For Romania a largely agricultural country, but with a diverse cultural and natural heritage, rural tourism is a viable alternative in Valcea, still underexploited. Linked to the development of rural crafts of the region will allow for additional income for the rural population. The last two decades have emerged and developed two popular tourist category Leisure in the countryside: rural tourism and ecotourism.

The Agritourism help highlight the availability of accommodation of the homestead prepared and arranged suitable for receiving guests; dining services and other complementary activities dependent on natural and economic context of the homestead (for leisure activities, teaching in

traditional occupations, horse riding, fishing, therapeutic cures ionizing etc.).

The Ecotourism is becoming more evident a type of tourism appreciated natural areas of local communities. This form of tourism can provide much needed revenue for the protection of national parks and other natural areas and generating additional revenue for part of the rural population with low incomes.

6. Promoting local industry and crafts by: supporting the small industry, encouraging craft activities (crafts of pottery, making of traditional and folk).

Their implementation will allow the development of employment in rural areas and population growth rate employment.

At Valcea County level, after the trends of guidelines rural development plan 2004-2013, in terms of synthesis investment projects and external funding for analyzed period in our research is 2010 - 2013. Most of the projects have set deadlines for completion by the year 2016, resulting in the designation of the project, program type and stage of the project document (approved, implemented, completed evaluation). Economic indicators show refers to the total project value, the total eligible project, the eligible reimbursable structural funds/cohesion, payments and implementation period [4].

Table 1. Classification and investment programs in urban and rural areas in Valcea County between 2008 - 2016

No	Environment Action urban rural	Type of program	Number of projects	%	Of the total county %	Total value of project lei	% of total	Grant eligible amount of Structural Funds Cohesion lei	% of total
1	URBAN-	POR	41	87,2		641.705.116		454.095.698	
2		PNDR	-	-		-		-	
3		POSM	1	2,1		303.001.790		122.328.782	
4		POSDRU	-	-		-		-	
5		PODCA	3	6,4		1.322.418		1.124.054	
6		POSCCE	1	2,1		17.467.814		12.477.009	
7		Cross-border cooperation	1	2,1		300.150		255.127	
TOTAL			47	100	46,2	963.797.288	59,4	590.280.670	54,3
8	RURAL	POR	10	19,2		254.295.365		177.542.280	
9		PNDR	34	65,3		210.391.593		204.290.041	
10		POSM	1	1,9		7.676.120		-	
11		POSDRU	5	9,6		5.406.399		4.481.437	
12		PODCA	2	3,8		1.450.766		1.238.567	
13		POSCCE	-	-		-		-	
14		Cross-border cooperation	-	-		-		-	
TOTAL			52	100	50,9	479.220.243	29,5	387.552.325	35,6
15	URBAN RURAL	POR	2	0,6		1.829.991		1.177.031	
16		PNDR	-	-		-		-	
17		POSM	1	0,4		177.618.128		108.007.960	
18		POSDRU	-	-		-		-	
19		PODCA	-	-		-		-	
20		POSCCE	-	-		-		-	
21		Cross-border cooperation	-	-		-		-	
TOTAL			3	100	2,9	179.448.119	11,1	109.184.991	10,1
GRAND TOTAL			102	100	100	1.625.465.640	100	1.087.017.986	100

Source: National Institute of Statistics [1, 3] and own processing

The analysis of these indicators was done through a series of classifications based on certain criteria. Classification of foreign funds investment programs in Table 1 was made by

grouping them by areas: urban, rural, urban/rural in their types of programs. Of the 102 projects, 46.2% were allocated to urban areas, totalizing Lei 963,792,288 representing

59.4% of the total projects. For rural area the programs accounted for 50.9% of the county, with a total of Lei 479,220,243 which represents 29.5% of the total value of projects in the county, which shows that projects with lower values are due work to be done.

The 102 projects made in the period 2008-2016 are at various stages (Table 2) -7

approved projects (6.8% of all projects); in evaluation - 2 projects (1.9%); in implementation - 49 projects (48%); completed - 44 projects (which SAGEM 43.1% of the total of 102 projects) that over 90% of Valcea county projects are completed and implementation stages.

Tabel 2. Projects classification after program stage

No	Approved		In evaluation		In implementation		Completed	
	Number of programs	%	Number of programs	%	Number of programs	%	Number of programs	%
1	7	6,8	2	1,9	49	48,0	44	43,1

Source: own processing

Classification of investments after the completion - Shows that the total number of projects, 2.9% were set to be completed in 2010, 12.7% in 2011, 11.7% in 2012, 17.6% in 2013, 18.6 % in 2014, 20.5% in 2015, 0.9% in 2016, 16 projects did not specify the year of completion.

As a result of investigations carried out in the county Valcea found to be necessary to achieve a balance between the different dimensions of sustainable development: environmental protection, human and social development, economic development. Various improvements in the quality of life are the only achievements of the projects that have been accessed by local leaders and rural entrepreneurs may risk social dysfunctions. The human and social development in rural communities ensures improvement of living conditions, the accessibility to social services and public goods, social and physical capacity transmission to future generations. Human development is based on 5 projects for rural POSDRU all to prepare some additional activities to develop new, easier labor employment, inclusion and economic development in mountain and foothill areas.

Estimation and evaluation of completed projects presented is based on the specific measures implemented in rural communities in Valcea and characterized by: local specific natural conditions, social and citizens' own needs; social specificity resulting from the

collaboration of key institutions rural; evaluation of projects implemented.

Was concluded by the importance of modernizing rural infrastructure projects resulted in:

- a) road infrastructure upgrading and expanding the road network in communes and municipalities, execute a lateral water collection system, asphaltting the main roads in the village, the execution of farm roads;
- b) urban infrastructure: water supply network to almost all households in the village, sewerage system and water treatment, landfills, waste collection services, rehabilitation of street lighting;
- c) communication infrastructure: evaluation of current public transport system and increasing the number of vehicles according to needs and opportunities for student transportation;
- d) educational infrastructure: especially by improving the quality of buildings, halls and energy resources through proper planning of the amounts required in the municipalities; number is seven projects with a value of 3% of the total and 6.6% of the eligible amount;
- e) health infrastructure modernized through qualitative improvements needed hospitals, medical facilities and staffing and auxiliary;
- f) social infrastructure is achieved by upgrading the educational system has adequate space for social activities (nursing homes, orphanages, social support awareness organizations and companies in organizing charitable activities) socially vulnerable;

g)infrastructure and public order and civil protection by increasing the efficiency and quality of public relations, joint activities with the local police station to prevent and detect crime;

h)reducing and preventing pollution are based on a number of issues and standards established and harmonized with those of Europe, were aware of the problems and environmental education primarily educational institution;

i)public administration reform that although it is a secondary objective must at all times maintain the materialized in upgrading relations between the mayor and citizens through training of officials to increase the capacity to manage the funds.

From these elements on the achievements of the previous period and current programs, Valcea county level strategy must consider "Socio-economic rural development perspective for 2014-2020" by the managing authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Development Rural planned for the National Rural Development Programme (RDP).

The contribution of the present and future development of services to increase the standard of living and quality of life in rural areas. Rural development can be achieved through the development of services and their contribution to the possibility of the development of micro, small and medium enterprises. They have an important role in maintaining and strengthening the economy by creating new industries or market niches by increasing employment opportunities by encouraging competition in the market and vitalize economies at regional or local level. Number of business development possibilities in the Valcea county and the municipalities are provided by the diversity of natural resources (agricultural land, 52.5% of the county forests, rivers and lakes, diverse flora and fauna), human resources (availability of labor and low cost thereof), cultural resources, well-known spa resources, tourism resources. It requires quantitative rural development services, improving their quality and appearance of the development of new

services (Internet, mobile telephony, sanitation, etc.)

For this purpose must overcome major obstacles in opening and development of micro-enterprises in non-agricultural areas, especially the services of rural area: lack of specific entrepreneurial culture; lack of capital needed to open a business; issue of financing and small business lending capital needed in rural areas; reluctance due to lack of knowledge strict banking; fears of risk in business and personal guarantees required.

To address these obstacles in terms to credit non-agricultural activities and services have identified a number of problems related to high interest rates charged by commercial banks to grant loans and the system of taxes and fees for various services provided by banks (opening accounts, lending, the cost of financial transactions). Of great importance is here partnership between the beneficiary and bank credit, the latter having the role of information on existing funding lines, credit conditions in support to real and effective business plan development and construction of the credit file.

## CONCLUSIONS

The development of ways of socio-economic development in the county Valcea aimed at maximizing resource efficiency and local communities to develop a vision of the future in the sense of helping them in guiding economic and social development. Starting from the Romanian rural settlements need to adapt to EU requirements by promoting efficient sectors in rural and economically viable and socially strategies established the main directions for development of rural infrastructure. The existence of these paths of development helps us to: create a vision of community that we want in the future, we provide a complete picture of how the economy, environment, infrastructure can be improved; establishes development objectives and measures and priorities are reflected in the goals; is a guide to improve community life and to reduce disparities. The county development strategy for the next period

(2014-2020) is based on RDP measures, conditions in the county in early 2014, the use of available resources and attracted (projects from European funds) to reach the destination set. It is a condition of action and effective involvement of all stakeholders at all levels of Romanian society. Vâlcea County Development Strategy must respond effectively and promptly to the increasingly rapid changes in the economic environment to internal and external circumstances, the constraints arising from EU membership.

The ways for sustainable development of rural communities in Valcea aims: improving quality of life and diversification of the rural economy; strengthening rural households; increasing the competitiveness of food; improve the environment and the countryside.

Specific objectives aim: European integration manifested in increased absorption of grants to local councils in Valcea county by improving project portfolio priorities accordingly. Thus, it should be consider the following development paths can support improve the situation currently existing in Valcea:

- maintain and develop economic activities in rural areas by restructuring semi-subsistence farms on the principle of efficiency;
- setting goals for development and realization of measures, priority objectives for improving community life and reduce disparities, given the need to adapt rural settlements Romanian and EU requirements;
- increasing the capacity of absorption of structural funds by consulting projects contributing to sustainable services Valcea;
- development of entrepreneurial spirit and support for the development of a formal education in this field, setting up business courses in rural areas;
- setting up of rural credit available to farms of any profile;
- attract investments in agricultural holdings for the introduction of new technologies (new varieties, certified seeds, irrigation, plant protection treatments);
- agricultural policies to ensure occupancy optimization of manpower in agriculture and related services;

-increasing the access to financial resources and cooperative rural banking system, contributing to the creation of SMEs, improving quality of life and the attractiveness of rural environment;

-adoption of measures that contribute to improve the quality of services.

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