

## STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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### Abstract

*The present article exposes the summary of a research project whose purpose is measuring sustainable development in Romania at the level rural areas. Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development in English) means better quality of life now and for future generations. According to the vision of sustainable development, progress integrates immediate and long-term objectives, local actions and global economic and environmental issues, all of which are inseparable. Such a vision of society can not be imposed only by political society as a whole must adopt certain principles (political, economic, social, thinking). Sustainable development can be defined simply as a better quality of life for everyone, both now and for future generations. Sustainable development means: balanced and equitable economic development; high levels of employment, social cohesion and inclusion; a high level of environmental protection and responsible use of natural resources; generating a coherent political system open, transparent and accountable; effective international cooperation to promote global sustainable development (Gothenburg Strategy, 2001).*

**Key words:** quantification, research paradigms, resources sustainable development, sustainability

### INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development in English) means better quality of life now and for future generations [1]. According to the vision of sustainable development, progress integrates immediate and long-term objectives, local actions and global economic and environmental issues, all of which are inseparable. Such a vision of society can not be imposed only by political society as a whole must adopt certain principles (political, economic, social, thinking) [2].

In Europe, the rural has been studied for a long time in ethnographic or geographic [3].

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Over time, we have outlined several research paradigms:

1. traditionalist model, which considers rural or village, as the true keeper of the spirituality, specificity and originality of a culture, a society, such research seeking to

reveal the values, behaviors and symbols of traditional rural;

2. improver model, which considers rural areas as genetic form a company, but also advanced enough to be brought to urban structures. Research in this area measure generally gap between urban and rural areas in terms of income, education, comfort and productivity;

3. ecological model, which reveals specificity, features and advantages of contemporary rural way of life;

4. cronoregresiv model used generally in the monographs of villages.

Theoretically, each State member may decide and implement rural development policies completely independent. But this approach would not work well in practice. Not all EU countries could afford policy they need. Moreover, many of the issues addressed by rural development policy is not strictly limited to national territory or to a particular region (eg, pollution knows no boundaries, and fight for environmental sustainability has become a concern at European and international level ). Also, rural development policy relates to a

number of other policies developed at EU level.

Therefore, the EU has a common rural development, which, in a rather large extent, is controlled by member States and regions.

This policy is partly financed by the EU central part of national and regional budgets of the Member States.

The main rules governing rural development policy for the period 2007-2013 and policy measures available to Member States and regions are covered by Regulation (EC) no. 1698/2005 of the Council.

Under this act, rural development policy for 2007-2013 focuses on three themes (known as "thematic axes"). These are:

- improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry;
- improving the environment and the countryside;
- improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy.

For this period, place even more emphasis on the existence of a coherent strategy for rural development in the EU. This is achieved through strategic national plans should be based on the EU strategic guidelines.

It is intended that this approach will contribute to:

- identify areas where the use of EU support for rural development is greater added value for the Union;
- the link with the main EU priorities (eg, those included in the Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas);
- ensure consistency with other EU policies, particularly those relating to cohesion and environment;
- implementation of the new CAP, market-oriented and, therefore, the necessary restructuring in old and new Member States.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Responsibility for implementing the Strategy to the European Union and its Member States, involving all parts of the EU and national institutions. It also stresses the importance of close collaboration with civil society, social partners, local communities and citizens to

achieve four key objectives of sustainable development:

- a. environment - made possible by measures to decouple economic growth from negative environmental impacts;
- b equity and cohesion - Made by fundamental rights, cultural diversity, gender equality and combating discrimination of any kind;
- c. economic prosperity - possible by fostering knowledge, innovation and competitiveness to ensure high standards of living and a abundance of and well-paid jobs;
- d. meeting the EU's international responsibilities by promoting democratic institutions in the service of peace, security and freedom, the principles and practices of sustainable development throughout the world.

The overall objective of promoting sustainable development is to have people better prepared to face current and future challenges and to act responsibly towards future generations. To this end, initiatives will be considered fundamental to all areas of learning, namely learning to know, to act, to live together and to renew themselves and society.

Sustainable development can be defined simply as a better quality of life for everyone, both now and for future generations.

Sustainable development means:

- balanced and equitable economic development;
- high levels of employment, social cohesion and inclusion;
- a high level of environmental protection and responsible use of natural resources;
- generating a coherent political system open, transparent and accountable;
- effective international cooperation to promote global sustainable development (Gothenburg Strategy, 2001).

Currently the European Union are promoted three instruments for sustainable rural development: LEADER TRDI and SAPARD. LEADER + (for EU-15). The program aims to support and encourage rural economic actors in order to develop long-term. Local decision makers are invited to develop and implement original development strategies, focusing on:

- specificity and unique landscape, and tradition;
- improving the economic environment in order to create new jobs;
- improving the skills of self-organization of rural communities to promote social cohesion.

In this sense, it creates local action groups (LAGs), which will develop local development plans and will be responsible for implementation.  
 TRDI (Temporary Rural Development Instrument) (for the 10 new countries mmbre EU) is a supported by EAGGF and includes key measures to standardize the policies of the 10 new EU member countries and the rest of the European space, comprising: a series of measures environmental protection, early

retirement, afforestation and providing payments for disadvantaged areas.

SAPARD (Romania and Bulgaria) or Special Accession Programme aims to assist in rural development and agriculture, with an annual budget of 520 million Euros for the period 2000-06. The main objectives of pre-accession program are:

- Support agriculture and rural development in the pre-accession;
- Long-term problems to adjust the agricultural and rural sector as a whole;
- Implementation of the *acquis communautaire* in the field of agricultural policies.

Rural development in Europe was implicitly contained in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (Common Agricultural Policy).

Tabel 1.The main stages of the history of CAP development

No.	Period	Features
1	1958	Conference in Stresa
2	1932-1972	Implementation of the CAP, with the sole pillar agriculture
3	1973-1982	Prudent pricing policy period
4	1983-1991	Crisis years of the CAP
5	1992-1999	CAP reform (Mac Sharry) – New Approach
6	2000-2001	PAC long-term sustainable agriculture> Agenda 2000
7		Second pillar of the CAP priority - rural development
8	2003 Sept.	New CAP

## CONCLUSIONS

1.The essence of sustainable development of human society is given by the management, present and future of its natural resources, energy, materials and information in relation to the objectives of economic growth and ensuring a quality increasingly better life and environment.

2.Possible funding sources to achieve the objectives of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, under the National Development Plan, Operational Programmes and specific action plans approved are:

a.EU contribution through structural instruments (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund) for the "Convergence" objective and purpose "European territorial cooperation" and public national co-financing (state budget, local budgets, external loans and other public sources) and related private.

b.EU structural funds (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Fisheries Fund) and national co-related public and private sources.

c. Funds allocated from the state budget and local budgets for development investment programs with objectives similar to those financed from Community funds mentioned above.

d.Foreign loans for investment from international financial institutions (European Investment Bank - EIB, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - EBRD, World Bank, etc..) And other sources (sovereign wealth funds, private funds investment profile and so on) to support 95 national projects congruent with the objectives of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and the EU Strategy.

e.Other financial instruments (encourage further foreign direct investment, more active use of the capital market, in particular by

launching initial public offerings (IPO), enlargement of bank loans by encouraging domestic savings, investment term development tools long lease of infrastructure and public utilities, promoting public-private partnerships and so on).

3. Sustainable development policy should include three main areas:

- household development through systematization and modernization of its equipment without altering traditions;
- Strengthening farms compatible with those of the EU;
- Development of rural communities through provision of infrastructure (water, telephone etc.) and providing residents with social services.

4. We may conclude that there are practically two essential ways which determine and influence the process of rural development in the European Union: report of agricultural sector versus non-agricultural sector and environmental care.

There is noticed a focus move from center starting policies to policies that appear locally. In the new approach, rural development requires first of all, information.

A particular emphasis is placed on the dissemination of knowledge, information and know-how, transfer and management of information and knowledge. Concepts such as rural extension development or agricultural extension involves communication infrastructural development, information and innovation.

Rural must be thought in terms of the future, not as a past problems solve ("rural area should not be seen as a problem but as an opportunity). Rural development policy must include agriculture in a larger socioeconomic and ecological context.

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