DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN ROMANIA
IN THE PROGRAMMING PERIODS 2007-2013 AND 2014-2020

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Abstract

The development of rural areas in Romania must be analyzed in conjunction with the absorption of European or national non-reimbursable funds on each financing component. The investments made in the rural areas of Romania are the result of the implementation of specific and eligible European and government financing programs for the villages and communes in Romania. The rural infrastructure under all its components was greatly developed during the two mentioned programming periods. However, there are rural localities where many investments are needed to make a living to a minimum standard of civilization.

Keywords: rural areas, infrastructure, non-reimbursable funds, eligibility

1. Introduction

This article highlights the stage of investments made in rural areas of Romania classified by types of investments and regions of economic development for their rural component. Also, the physical measurement values of these types of investments are highlighted, the order of magnitude of these investments establishes the level achieved with implications in the socio-economic life of the respective localities. Major investments have been made in the field of road infrastructure, water supply infrastructure, household sewage infrastructure, educational, cultural infrastructure, social inclusion and equal opportunities as well as environmental infrastructure, sustainable and sustainable development. The article also highlights in terms of road infrastructure, namely the need for communal roads that should be modernized estimated at 20,000 Km. Also in the 21st century in Romania, there are still some non-electrified or electrified localities partially estimated at a number of 340 predominantly isolated villages in terms of geographical location. [1]

2. Investments in rural areas of Romania are made in the two programming periods

Making investments in Romania will be centralized in the following tables to simplify the understanding of the level of development in rural areas during the two programming periods.

It is important to mention that the development of the rural areas in Romania took place after the integration into the European Union, an occasion with which a series of norms and standards of life were adopted in the economic policy and in the national legislation, which implied another way of thinking of the strategies. development both nationally and locally. Also, before the integration of Romania into the European structures, in the Common Agricultural Market - CAP for rural areas, respectively rural development and agriculture (Pillar I and Pillar II of the CAP), no sustainable development strategy of the country was discussed, a sustainable development strategy or an environmental strategy. These issues began to be implemented step by step after European integration.

I also mention that after the European integration, the idea of social inclusion and equal opportunities was implemented. Social programs are already being implemented, including social inclusion and exclusion. Modern societies are based on civilized living conditions, a continuous policy of limiting pollution and preventing global warming. New technologies implemented in civilized countries have first and foremost the concern of being unpopular, of using "green" energy sources or energy produced from renewable sources. [2]
In this concept, also in Romania, strategies for implementing these principles of functioning of the company must be elaborated.

Table 1: Situation of rural infrastructure for each region in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>South-West Oltenia</th>
<th>South-Muntenia</th>
<th>South-East</th>
<th>North-East</th>
<th>North-West</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>Center</th>
<th>Bucharest -Ilfov</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- modernized roads</td>
<td>1.180</td>
<td>1.113</td>
<td>1.800</td>
<td>1.831</td>
<td>1.526</td>
<td>1.374</td>
<td>1.150</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- cobbled roads</td>
<td>1.621</td>
<td>1.662</td>
<td>1.376</td>
<td>2.395</td>
<td>1.996</td>
<td>1.797</td>
<td>1.504</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- dirt roads</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply infrastruct. [Km]</td>
<td>18.087</td>
<td>8.000</td>
<td>7.860</td>
<td>3.800</td>
<td>6.850</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2.345</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste water infrastruct. [Km]</td>
<td>2.107</td>
<td>6.450</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1.058</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas infrastruct. [Km]</td>
<td>2.463</td>
<td>2.808</td>
<td>2.800</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>5.860</td>
<td>1.987</td>
<td>2.986</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity infrastruct. [localities]</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- non-electrifying localities, or partially electrified locations</td>
<td>2.025</td>
<td>1.892</td>
<td>1.407</td>
<td>2.398</td>
<td>1.788</td>
<td>1.243</td>
<td>1.782</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal services [postal units]</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical services</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- hospital units</td>
<td>1.216</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social infrastruct. re</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational infrastruct.</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- pre-school education</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>868</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data processing, National Institute of Statistics – databases - 2017
In the European Union, when defining the rural area, at the level of population and population density, closer to taking into account other criteria such as: changing the time of natural space and migration; share of agriculture in Gross Domestic Product (GPS), unemployment rate. From the point of view of the European Union, which is based on a generally accepted concept in Western European countries, the rural area would cover regions and areas with diverse activities and would include, in these regions, natural and cultivated areas, villages, small towns and centers. regional as well as industrialized rural areas. [3]

This means that in the European Union, 50% of the population of the component countries lives in the rural area and occupies 80% of its territory. On the other hand, the rural environment in Europe is rich. It provides us with essential raw materials. The value of the places of rest and recreation that they offer, remarkable by their beauty, is obvious. [5]

In Romania, in 2017, the position of the population and of the rural areas are defined according to (Table 2).

(Table 2) Percentage of rural population (%) - 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>South-West Oltenia</th>
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<th>West</th>
<th>Center</th>
<th>Bucharest - Ilfov</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rural population</td>
<td>53,9</td>
<td>60,4</td>
<td>46,5</td>
<td>58,4</td>
<td>47,5</td>
<td>37,9</td>
<td>42,1</td>
<td>9,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>percentage of communes</td>
<td>14,26</td>
<td>18,4</td>
<td>12,5</td>
<td>17,9</td>
<td>14,1</td>
<td>9,9</td>
<td>12,4</td>
<td>1,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>percentage of villages</td>
<td>15,96</td>
<td>15,58</td>
<td>13,8</td>
<td>23,0</td>
<td>17,2</td>
<td>10,3</td>
<td>17,1</td>
<td>0,9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data processing, National Institute of Statistics – databases - 2017

Following the negative natural growth and migration, the population in rural areas is in decline and is in an extensive process of aging. This phenomenon is widespread throughout the country but also differentiated by the development regions. The aging process manifests itself differently in territorial profile, with the South-East, South-West Oltenia and West regions being the most affected. [6]

However, the agricultural sector and the rural economy are experiencing a progressive development due to the new production technologies implemented by accessing the European programs for rural areas. During the programming periods after the European integration, the agricultural farms, although they began to lack the labor force and the qualified personnel, were developed economically by equipping them with high performance machines, by using modern production technologies that require gross labor force. less and less, but with higher productivity. Through the European financing programs it was possible to train the farm personnel for the new production machines and technologies, it was possible the professional conversion of the workers from traditional agriculture and last but not least the social inclusion of the population in the rural area was possible. However, there is a phenomenon regarding the rural population which is accentuated over time, namely the urbanization of the rural population as a result of the lack of jobs in the rural area due to the lack of access to financing of Small and Medium Enterprises that can carry out job-generating activities.

Manufacturing activity is more encouraged, of a cooperative type, which cannot generate as many jobs so as to absorb the local labor. It is important to mention that between 2014 and 2020 the European programs of financing have differentiations regarding the co-financing of the projects related to the disadvantaged areas so that the private initiative for the development of non-agricultural specific enterprises is encouraged.

It is important to mention in the two specific programming periods in order to materialize in more and more concepts of private property on agricultural land which could involve creating strategies to produce some higher production of agricultural products per unit. use in such a way
that there are possibilities of transition to a market economy under conditions that provide documents contained in the Common Agricultural Policy, Pillar II.

Thus, in the plant sector, in the first years of the period considered the cereal production increased significantly as a result of the start of equipping the farms with new and performing machines, but later the agricultural land areas destined for cereal production were diminished, resulting in average cereal production.

According to the data taken from the National Institute of Statistics, the agricultural areas destined for cereal production have decreased significantly in Constanța, Tulcea, Timiş, Teorman, Brăila, Dolj counties, regions with very good conditions for agriculture.

The cereal production had a sinuous evolution due to the lack of a system of irrigation on larger areas although from the first programming period were provided eligible financing measures for the irrigation sector.

However, these financing measures were more difficult to access in the first programming period compared to the second programming period 2014-2020.

In the zootechnical sector, the livestock sector registered significant decreases especially in cattle and pigs and increases in the sheep and goat sector. Thus, in 2011 the cattle sector registered a number of 2.435 million heads and in the pig sector a number of 5.691 million heads. In the same period the sheep and goat sector number 10, 155 million heads. [6]

However, in recent years the herds of cattle, pigs and birds have been severely diminished by the appearance of dangerous diseases for the health of the population, which has led to the taking of sanitary-veterinary measures for the slaughter of these birds and animals in a large number both in the households of the population, and within large livestock farms.

In 2016, according to the data provided by the National Institute of Statistics, the private sector in Romania holds 96.7% of sheep and goat herds, 98.1% of cattle and 84.1% of pigs.

This situation is unsatisfactory, given that the households hold the share in the livestock sector, the number of animals being diminished.

The structure of the value of agricultural production is shown in (Figure 1), reference year 2017.

(Figure 1) The structure of the value of agricultural production reference year 2017

Source: The National Institute of Statistics, 2017
3. Conclusions

The development of rural areas in Romania after European integration has seen an ascendency in all fields of economic, social activity, environmental protection, so that the degree of civilization and the standard of living of the rural population has been improved. Thus, as a member of the European Union, Romania has assumed obligations to meet the objectives contained in the documents of accession to the Common Agricultural Market for both Pillar I and Pillar II.

Within the European legislative provisions regarding the regional and implicit development of rural areas, certain conditions are specified in this regard:

- a) the quality of the drinking water is an extremely important requirement located on a determining place as well as the quality of the air provided by the Directive 83/13 regarding the limit values and the quality objectives regarding the discharges of cadmium, nitrates, nitrates and heavy metals as well as by the Directive 91 / 692/1991 regarding the discharges of hexachlor-cyclohexane
- b) wastewater collection and disposal systems must comply with the environmental norms imposed by Regulation (EC) no. 1882/2003 of the European Parliament waste management contained in Regulation (EEC) no. 259/93 and in particular the conditions for the recycling of waste.
- c) the road infrastructure in the rural areas was developed through the non-reimbursable financing granted by the European Union and the Government of Romania;
- d) vocational training, vocational reconversion encouraged by non-reimbursable financing programs for human resources development led to the redirection of labor to other fields of activity than the initial ones but in a very small percentage for rural areas due to labor migration in urban areas or externally.
- e) social inclusion and exclusion encouraged through European social financing programs that were more heavily accessed during the 2014 - 2020 programming period because Romania and learned better the lesson in this area given the high percentage of people at high risk of poverty.
- f) launching the concept of sustainable development in the elaboration of the local development strategies leads to the implementation of some policies for environmental protection.
- g) launching the concept of sustainable development in the elaboration of the local development strategies leads to the implementation of environmental protection policies.
- h) support of primary medical activities in some rural localities and specialized medical assistance by constructing or arranging existing spaces conforming to such activities

The economy of the rural areas is mainly based on the agricultural branch, the vegetable production, vegetables, fruit growing, viticulture, etc. Collateral with the agricultural production was also developed the processing industry of agricultural products, either primary processing or industrialization of fruits and less of vegetables.

It is noteworthy that the proportion of vegetables is held in larger farms by the population households and less by the private crops on large areas due to the lack of irrigation on these preferred areas for vegetable growing. There is also an industry for processing animal products, processing beef, poultry and milk industrialization.

It is worth noting that in the production of milk there are both producers in the households of the population who deliver the milk to the collection centers and farms with dairy cows in intensive system.

In the mountainous areas there were developed the manufacturing activities of manual production of the different products whose tradition is kept in those areas, popular costumes, the manual production of carpets, the manual production of raffia braids, the production in the household of canned vegetables and fruits, products that they are then marketed in markets or fairs organized on various occasions.
It is very important to note that in view of the above, however, the population of Romania in 40% of the rural areas live in a degree of poverty on the border of subsistence, predominantly in the eastern regions, respectively Vaslui, Botoșani, Galați, Brăila, in the southern regions, namely Giugiu, Teleorman, partly Olt. The most developed regions in Romania are the western regions of the country due to the presence of foreign investments in the areas bordering the big urban centers. To be taken into account the neighboring areas of Cluj, Timisoara, Arad, Oradea. The areas in which the emphasis on preserving popular traditions is more pronounced than in the rest of the territory are Bucovina area and Maramureș area where traditional customs, folk costumes, traditional cuisine are sanctified.

That is why these areas are mostly visited by Romanian or foreign tourists in a large number. In these areas, a large number of agrotourism pensions are built in which tourists who love picturesque landscapes with a large religious load are accommodated due to the large number of Christian monasteries and churches.

Finally, I point out that the development of the rural areas in Romania and implicitly of the development regions is related to the absorption of the European funds through the financing programs made available to the Romanian economy, provided the observance of the Accession Protocol and the European legislation in force.

4. Bibliography

[3] EU 2020 strategy