

RESUME

In the first chapter of the thesis, entitled „**STUDY OF PECULIARITIES, COMPONENTS AND DEFINING ELEMENTS OF RURAL AREA SUPPORT OF ACHIEVING OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**”, approaching the concept of rural area and its main characteristics. In actual research the countryside, a major obstacle to addressing identity perspective it is precisely the boundaries of identity. In general problems facing the Romanian rural areas are common for certain development, they are mainly economic, economic relations and mode of exploitation and social value system and individual behaviors.

After a long period of time, the rural was a victim of „industrial explosion” and hence the „rural exodus” in developed countries began a process of reconsideration of this space keeper of unique cultural values and traditions. Thus, during the „orientation Urbano – centrist” began to be replaced gradually differently from country to country, depending on the level of development, with a period of reconsideration of the rural.

There is a rich literature on the area and its dimensions. Rural rurality represented object of study for different sciences, including economics, geography, sociology, ethnography, agronomic particularly distinguished. In this context, the number of definitions and studies aimed at rural areas is important.

The concept of rural areas is interpreted by experts from various fields in different ways. Among the many definitions of the concept note:

- Representing the rural fields, peasants, and in general all activities and territories neurbane;
- The adjective is used to define areas which relate to all fields and in general to life in the countryside, which lies outside the main cities
- Is not only rural based agricultural activities, but also of industry, handicrafts, rural commerce;
- The countryside is not an abstract space, no uniform, he is a geographical space-and heterogeneous umano;
- Rural area is divided into two sections that define, on the one hand, purely agricultural issue, and secondly the problem of rural life, for people who can not deal with agriculture;
- By rural means some kind of landscape, an area of land cultivated, a territory that is intense agricultural activity, which generally bears the imprint of man: show fields, orchards, pastures, built-up areas, and in a sense space became cultural areas;
- Rural designate a different set of urban areas.

Economic activities taking place in rural areas, are very poorly diversified, the economic life of the Romanian village is dominated by agriculture. Industry is a diverse and least developed economic sector in rural areas. If we talk services in rural areas, they are not only developed but in some areas almost totally lacking.

EU's rural areas are an essential part of image and identity of the Union. Based on a standard definition, over 91% of EU territory has a rural character and is home to over 56% of the population. Moreover, the impressive variety and beauty of the landscape gives the EU its own unique character - from the mountains in the steppe, the great forests to large fields.

According to latest statistics, 45% of the population lives in villages. The percentage is higher in the south, where the number of people living in rural areas account for 58% of the total population. From this point of view We Are Not Far from the European Union. More Than Half of the 25 Member States of the European Union Lives in rural areas. Rural areas account for 92% of the total EU. The differences show up in the revenue they collect agricultural workers.

Chapter two of the thesis entitled „**RESEARCH ON THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AS COOPERATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT TOOL AND ITS SPECIFIC ASPECTS**” is focused on defining the public-private parteneritului. Public-private partnership concept expresses a way of cooperation between the public and private sector, nongovernmental organizations concerned, business associations or companies for the provision of quality public services.

Public-private partnership concept was first used in Britain and the U.S., and in the 80s was introduced in Germany in urban development planning approaches. Major issues of community interest can be effectively addressed within the framework of public-private partnership.

The public-private partnership at local level, the model on which we meet today, takes shape in the early 80's of XX century in Western Europe and U.S, form of cooperation between local authorities and the private sector to implement projects such as rehabilitation of declining industrial areas.

Simultaneously, there are public documents, laws to give support local initiatives. An example is U.S. public law, Job Training Partnership Act, which entered into force on 1 October 1983. This law governs the relationship between authorities and business sector to provide training services for the benefit of economically disadvantaged adults and youth, unemployed workers and others facing employment difficulties.

Therefore, public-private partnership is:

1. agreement between public and private sector in order to develop a project or providing a service, which typically is provided by the public sector.
2. understanding / agreement between a public authority and a person to design, build a good operation with good or services related to that only some of these operations related to the operation of that good or to transfer an interest or opinions of interest an asset by a private individual.
3. medium and long term relationship between the public and private (including community and voluntary sector) that involve risks and gains and tracking functions using multi-sector, finance expertise to provide a service.
4. takeover by the private sector public sector activities by any form (partnership or acquisition of shares), the use of Private Finance Initiatives, or other 'arrangements', and concession of

public services, maintenance, construction, necessary infrastructure, public services including the sale or other forms of partnership

In Romania, the first public-private partnership structures were formed ad-hoc national level since the mid-90s on the occasion of national or sectoral development strategies, as well as institutional structures, such as the Tripartite Commission and the Economic and Social Council.

These partnerships have contributed to gradually achieve a level of cooperation between the social and political actors though they often played and still plays the role of legitimization of political action, being less involved in decision making and policy monitoring.

It is also common forms of public-private partnership between the state and local partners in infrastructure works, such as Vivendi project (privatization of water distribution) in Bucharest.

During Chapter three is intended to emphasize „**IMPORTANCE AND CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM LEADER IN RURAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**”. The name „Leader” comes from „Links between rural development actions.” As the name suggests, is a method of mobilizing and promoting rural development in local rural communities, and not a fixed set of measures to be implemented.

Experience has shown that LEADER can bring considerable changes in the daily lives of people in rural areas. Can play an important role in encouraging innovative responses to problems old and new rural and becomes a kind of „laboratory” for local capacity building and testing new ways of meeting the needs of rural communities. It led to valuable results in many rural areas in EU member states and could play a significant role in helping rural areas new and future EU Member States, as they adapt to contemporary realities in constant change.

Leader axis is based on building local action groups. The public-private partnership which focuses heavily on the Leader axis and establishment of these lags. Local Action Group should:

- draw together around a common project relevant interest groups in a given area;
- be autonomous in making decisions and be able to look from a perspective resources;
- link the different measures;
- to seize the opportunities offered by various local resources;
- be open to innovative ideas;
- be able to link and integrate sectoral approaches.

Support under the Leader axis offers the possibility, in the context of preparation of local development strategies based on local needs and strengths, to combine the three objectives of the three axes of the EAFRD shall: competitiveness, environmental improvement and quality of life/diversification. Develop and implement local development strategies requires a management and technical activity in the field, especially in Romania, where this approach is new. It will pay special attention to this issue, and Romania has already organized before the official launch of the program, some training sessions aimed at those human resources. Special attention will be given the LEADER

approach to ensuring the proper implementation in Romania. This will give priority to start the program by training potential extent of the Leader 4.31 adapted for Romania for the construction of public-private partnerships representative, integrated development strategies and financing and preparation of files for selection of local action groups. To support this, Romania will allocate 2.5% of the total budget in April to the last selection axis of GAL.

In Romania there are a number of community development initiatives, such as local initiative groups, and other micro-regions LEADER partnerships. Some groups have reached a level of organizational maturity and turned into community associations with legal personality, and others, having reached their goal, were dissolved. Although a number of partnerships in preparation of local development strategies, many of them have not been finalized due to the lack of financial resources and lack of information on funding and benefits arising therefrom. The projects to be implemented through the Leader axis will be small projects that will have to comply with a maximum ceiling of EUR 200 000 public financing and the total investment will not exceed 400,000 euros.

Given that there is potential for the formation of local action groups and the fact that Romania has not implemented Leader type measures, the establishment and development of Local Action Groups are a priority for the programming period. Thus, public and private actors in the territories who wish to participate in the selection of Local Action Groups need support until the selection of this measure for building partnerships, developing integrated strategies and financing studies for the preparation application files.

LEADER approach aims to fulfill the three axes of the RDP objectives through integrated development strategies developed by local actors, organized into local action groups. Bottom-up is a way that allows local partners to choose a coherent group of measures tailored to the priorities identified in their territory and translate them into development strategies to enhance the endogenous potential of the territory.

These strategies should be reflected in concrete projects. The selection of projects to be implemented on a development strategy will be achieved by the LAG selection committee, composed of members of the partnership.

Selection criteria on which projects will be selected for implementation will be developed by GAL and will take account of local and also will pay special attention to the selection of innovative projects. Operational objectives are:

- Implementation of integrated strategies and local development projects (which can cover several lines) to increase the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry.
- Improving the environment and the rural quality of life and diversification of economic activities in rural areas.

Complete the LAG national selection will be a long process. In the first phase, the most representative partnerships in the organization and experience, will be selected and will be an example for other territories. The LAGs will be a good practice example of local development and support the

training of partnerships who wish to participate in the following selection procedures for selecting a different group of GAL.

Chapter Four „**IMPLEMENTATION THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE LEADER PROGRAM**” is focused on highlighting examples of public-private partnership in European Union countries.

The European Union attaches great importance to the countryside, which is reflected in policies and programs promoted by it. No doubt there are different perceptions, experiences in nature that exist in different countries, particularly in Europe, as there are different systems of administrative and public services (decentralized-centralized-decentralized), and a variety of political culture, community and religious.

It also finds that European countries do not exist and neither can impose a standard system of partnership, even if it is being shaped in recent years increasingly under the influence of Anglo-Saxon depending on the two major objectives:

- a. Employment;
- b. local development to ensure economic and social cohesion.

LEADER value is demonstrated by the many worthwhile projects supported in recent years that have a real impact on everyday life of rural residents. The examples presented below gives an idea of the variety and creativity of rural development strategies are implemented by LAGs in different regions of Europe. They also show, how effective the Local Action Groups have used the opportunities available under the LEADER to work at regional, national and European level and to establish contacts in order to share experiences and best practices.

Chapter Five, entitled „**STUDY REGARDING RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES OF RURAL AREA OF ARAD COUNTY AS LOCATION FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**” aims at presenting the significant elements of Arad county and its rural environment, which may constitutions public-private partnership basis.

Arad is located west of the city near the border with Hungary and its neighbors to the south is Timiș, Bihor county to the north, east of the county of Hunedoara. Its geographical position is favored by the existing intersection of European roads and promising proposals, and relatively short distances to the Romanian capital, Bucharest (603 km), Hungary-Budapest (284 km), Austria-Vienna (506 km) and Serbia-Belgrade (215 km). With an area of 7754 km², Arad has a rate of 3.65% of the total area of Romania, stretching is the sixth county in the country.

Arad County tourism potential is one of great value. Harmonious combination of landforms, favorable climate, fauna and flora elements, the presence of mineral waters and abundance of historical and architectural monuments in this area are a real tourist area of convergence. Among the most representative natural attractions in the county of Arad. Mill Valley Cave mention wildlife (common Moneasa) Gurahont Baltele back of Laura (common Gurahont) Runcu-thick (common Bârzava), Poiana Balta moorish Rovina daffodil, (City Ineu), Moor Falcon (Lipova city), Forest Sic (common Carand) Duțu's Cave (village Săvârșin) Monoroștia fossil site (village Bârzava) Zăbalț fossil

site (common usus), pubescent oak forest at Carand (common Carand) Sărăturile (common Socodor), stand Macea (common MACE) Prundul Mare (Floodplain Park) and Mures Floodplain Natural Park.

The network includes 68 villages ATU that a number of 261 communes and towns, villages that fall within their membership. Territorial distribution of communes with localities indicate a focus of many of them in the eastern half of the county and especially in mountainous areas. Municipalities with the largest number of villages are Hălmagiu (11), CRAIVA (10), Gurahont (10), Săvârșin (9) Bârzava (8) and tips (8), Plesca (7). In the western part of the county, municipalities with 2-3 villages predominate, with some exceptions: the municipalities Vladimirescu Secusigiu, Șagu, move the four villages. One village common are: Regiment, Semlac, Seitin, Șimand, Socodor, Sepreuş, Covăsint.

Arad is part of the West Region against other regions region ranks sixth in terms of length of road network. This road has a total length of 10292 km, with a density of 32.1 km / 100 km², being slightly below the density in the country (33.5 km / 100 km²), holding seventh place in the length of national roads - 1883 km and sixth place in the length of local roads - 8409 km.

Arad is crossed by three road routes in Europe. Also benefiting from the existence of the next European transport corridor road: Nadlac Border Corridor IV - Arad - Timisoara - Lugoj - Deva - Sebes - Sibiu - Pitesti - Bucharest - Lehliu - Fetesti - Cernavoda - Constanta with industry to Caransebes Lugoj - Drobeta Turnu Severin - Craiova - Calafat border. Railway Network in Arad county is 3.1% of total rail network in the country which has a length of 20348 km.

County economy is currently experiencing significant increases and decreases reported in all sectors. Arad has a diverse and complex industry, where major share is owned by manufacturing (90% of total) - food, chemical industry, rail vehicles, light and wood. Industry structure reveals a predominance of manufacturing industry.

Agriculture, another area of the county's economic base has undergone a change in ownership reform, which led to the destruction of old structures both in the plant culture and in animal husbandry, forestry. Peasants became landowners, without having the necessary financial means cultivation. Associative forms we do not have occurred, and de-capitalization of the remaining agricultural companies has led to a difficult situation. On the other hand changes in manufacturing and entry into CEFTA adversely affected especially the agricultural products market, which remained a constant demand and without solvent. On the other hand prices of fuel, seeds, tools and other industrial products needed for agricultural production have seen large increases, insostenibile the small landowner.

Chapter six, entitled „**CURRENT RESEARCH ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ESTABLISHING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN RURAL AREAS IN ARAD COUNTY**” is a radiograph of the territories identified as possible public-private partnerships, highlighting the factors behind choosing these areas as possible lags.

In the design of specific project proposals for rural development, which take place in public-private partnership, we believe that research is needed on the current state of implementation of

public-private partnership in Arad, by selecting the LAGs, outlining the criteria for selection of these lags and presentation of specific elements for each of the four selected LAGs.

In the county of Arad have been identified so far to select four lags:

- Arad Vineyard, which includes the localities: Paulis, Ghioroc, Covas, Syria, Pâncota, Taut, and forcing Tarnova;

- Mures Valley - from up to Vladimirescu Petris;

- Cris White Valley - from Sinteia Hălmagiu to Great;

- Meadow Mures - Pecica and five municipalities.

The choice of target areas, have been taken into account:

a) the common elements, namely:

- Environmental Heritage

- Architectural and cultural heritage

- Customs and traditions

- How an organized households

- Mentality of the people close ATU components of the target areas.

b) the common needs of the development strategy ATU components, finding, like some endogenous potential and areas available to them that they must develop their strategies.

These LAGs were reported best selection criteria to have a maximum score. Criteria related to the territory, existing partnerships gal, strategy, innovative actions, cooperative actions, etc.. Arad is very important for the establishment of LAGs eligible, important as they will be able to access European funds, which will lead to the development of our county. Areas in which projects can be made by the LAGs related tourism, culture, education and even small local infrastructure projects.

All four areas identified as potential for implementing public-private partnership will be ad hoc, mainly aimed at supporting access to the fund being offered by RDP (LEADER axis 431 by the measure 431.1 and 431.2 with sub-measures and measures 41 and 42). After the selection procedure will be initiated at national level, there may be the following situations:

a) The LAG will be selected to benefit from the support provided by the EAFRD (made as described above);

b) LAG remained unselected will participate in the selection of the following year;

c) LAG remained unselected can operate as a public private partnership formed under the laws in force, may work with other public-private partnerships, lags other regional, national and European taking advantage of the fact that the strategy of developing the area whose interests they represent has been achieved after a LEADER principles approach, bottom-up approach, tailored to the needs of the community they serve, selecting priorities to be pursued in their local area.

Over the last chapter, entitled „**CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN RURAL AREAS OF ARAD COUNTY BY PROJECT PROPOSALS**” attempted to analyze factors influencing public-private partnership projects in rural and based on

Arad's design, after the European model of a series of three projects applicable to any of the four lags selected for the development of public-private partnership.