

SUMMARY

PhD thesis entitled "*The Impact of European funds on rural development in Moldova*" presents the evolution of rural development in Moldova in the wider context of European rural development, strengthened and confirmed in the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy, which was based mainly on the ability of the economy to create new sources of rural income and employment, protecting cultural heritage, environment and heritage of local communities.

The paper is divided into five chapters, preceded by introduction and followed by conclusions and references, the last chapter of the thesis is devoted to practical approach by presenting representative successful projects implemented through regional priority measures both European rural development programs conducted at national level, before and after Romania joined the European Union.

At first, the paper addresses the concept of rural development strategic thought to be the main instrument used by the European Union blurring social and economic disparities between regions, fueled by different degrees of endowment with natural resources, physical capital, human and financial. The term gained attention after the European Commission developed strategic document *Agenda 2000* when rural development became the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy. Considered to be one of the oldest European Union policies due to the long history, Common Agricultural Policy has undergone several reforms that allowed adaptation mechanisms used to achieve the objectives set by the *Treaty of Rome*. The main criticism of this policy refers to in that it is a expensive policy in that it uses between 45 and 50% of the Community budget. At national level, the Romania's financial assistance in the pre-accession period to the European Union was done by the National Agriculture and Rural Development, which ensured the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* and Special Pre-Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development in Romania. For the period after accession, Romanian rural space financing was done by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, financing instrument created by the European Union to support Member States in implementing the Common Agricultural Policy.

The second chapter "*Spatial distribution of projects with European financing*" offers a quantitative estimate of the impact to two European programs for rural development. Through the SAPARD program in Moldova were financed in the programming period 2000-2006, a total of 982 projects in the following areas: improving the competitiveness of agricultural

products and pisciole, rehabilitation and modernization of basic infrastructure and economic development of rural areas. All projects were co-financed with funds from the European Union and the Romanian national budget and public beneficiaries (local community) could get 100% financing of their project, provided that it does not generate revenue, unlike private beneficiaries who received at least 50% of the project value, the other part being represented by own funds. Regarding the territorial distribution of investments, the vast majority of financial resources were concentrated in Counties Suceava and Iasi due to high absorption of funds under Measure 2.1. on rural infrastructure development. The new programming period represented by the EAFRD instrument based on the principle of co-financing the private investment projects, the Government contribution was 20% and the European Union contribution was 80%. Investments made focused on increasing the competitiveness of the economy, the need to protect water resources and improve the quality of residents life in rural areas. Regionally, in Moldova were implemented 11.428 projects with a total public value of 867.84 million Euros. Were supported mainly small and medium enterprises, considered to be able to develop new products or exploit natural resources through innovation and adaptation.

The third chapter entitled *"The importance of the political factor in the absorption of European funds"* presenting an update on improving physical infrastructure and the degree of involvement of local authorities in implementing European programs. Investments were made in the expansion and modernization of transport infrastructure, drinking water supply and sanitation in order to increase the share of population served and its stabilization in rural areas of Moldova. For pre-accession period, the projects were implemented under Measure 2.1. *Development and improvement of rural infrastructure* and for post-accession period by Measure 3.2.2. *Village renewal and development, improvement of basic services for the economy and rural population by enhancing rural heritage* in both cases being allocated a contribution from the European Community and Romania, and a set of specific tasks. Results of the analysis indicate significant differences in administrative plan regarding the number of villages that have received financial aid from the European Union. As we have seen, these differences were manifested both economically and in terms of territorial and social. Territorial, by morphology of relief units and social by the reduced training and information of the rural population which should be aware that the modernization of transport, water supply and sanitation are indicators of assessing the degree of civilization and development opportunities which an administrative unit offers its inhabitants.

Chapter four *"Romanian border cooperation between Romanian Moldova and the Republic of Moldova"* treats one of topical issues of Romania and the Republic of Moldova,

respectively evaluation socioeconomic disparities of Euroregions on either side of the river Prut. Thus, from the analysis of the Joint Operational Programme Romania-Ukraine-Moldova 2007-2013 identified that counties and districts participating in the projects implemented in Moldova and Moldova have benefited from diverse opportunities for cross-border cooperation in many areas, including: achieving a common information space on the potential economic and business opportunities in the Euro-regions, the coordination of environmental protection and the developmental infrastructure to ensure border crossing facility and cooperation in research and development domain.

Last chapter entitled "*Case Studies. European projects in Moldova*" presents real examples of investments made by SAPARD funds and EAFRD in Moldovan rural areas. Thus, in the pre-accession period were made following projects: "Modernization of SC Cotnari SA", the village Cotnari, Iași County, "Rehabilitation of communal road DC 194 km Lilieci – Hemeiuș – Trebeș" Hemeiuș Commune, Bacău County, "Setting up of livestock farms in the village Heleşteni" Heleşteni Commune, Iași County, and building "Pension tourist" Loredana "3 stars" in Hemeiuș Commune, Bacău County. In the 2007-2013 programming period, investments aimed "The acquisition of tractors, machinery, agricultural machinery, high efficiency and performance deozat-bagging line-tagged pallets seed and feed processing unit" project carried out in the Matca Commune, Galați County, "The improvement the existing residence in pension" in the village of Lilieci, Hemeiuș Commune, Bacău County, , "Rehabilitation DC 135 Cotnari - Horodiștea – Lupăria and acces to Geto-Thracian Catalina, the establishment of water distribution and sewerage network in Cotnari and purchase of machinery and equipment for public utility service "and" Setting up the Tourist Information Centre "both projects being implemented in Cotnari Commune, Iași County.

The paper ends with the *Conclusions* that comes to present in a synthetic manner and systematized relevant parts of this thesis and the list of *References*.