

THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ON RURAL COMMUNITIES COVERED BY THE GAL SOMEȘ TRANSILVAN TERRITORY

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Abstract. This research was conducted with the purposes of highlighting the effects produced following the implementing of the Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013 on the territory of the 14 communes of the Local Action Group *Gal Someș Transilvan*. The Rural Development Strategy diagnosis has been based on the objectives subject to implementation, pursued for the meeting of needs and necessities of the territory's inhabitants. The research has revealed the economic and social sustainable development of the Rural Development Strategy Gal Someș Transilvan 2007-2013 in the territory. The implementation of the Rural Development Strategy of the Local Action Group has generated new jobs, infrastructure modernization, economic and population growth as well as a precedent for the absorption of the projects of the current strategy.

Keywords: Local Action Group Gal Someș Transilvan, local communities, analysis, rural development

INTRODUCTION

A rural development policy in Europe is not an option for the future, but a necessity, even more so as the issue of agriculture development and implicitly of the rural space has major national connotations, representing a complex and current issue in Romania. [6] This is why the main European Union's concern is to remedy the dysfunctionalities of the member states. As compared with the other member states of European Union, the Romanian economy is not stable enough to sustain the rural agriculture and development. With all the support received, in spite of its agricultural potential, Romania has had a relatively low agricultural production. The subject of this work is the analysis of the social and economic impact of the Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013 elaborated by the Local Action Group *Gal Someș Transilvan* on the economic lives of the inhabitants of the covered territory. The Gal Someș Transilvan territory is a part of the Northwest Region of Cluj County. As for its surface, it is of 894.33 km². The commune with the widest surface of the territory is Apahida, with 106.02 km², and a population of 10,684 inhabitants, respectively. On the other end, Aluniș commune has a surface of 56.53 km² and a population of 1,223 inhabitants. [5]

MATERIAL AND METHOD

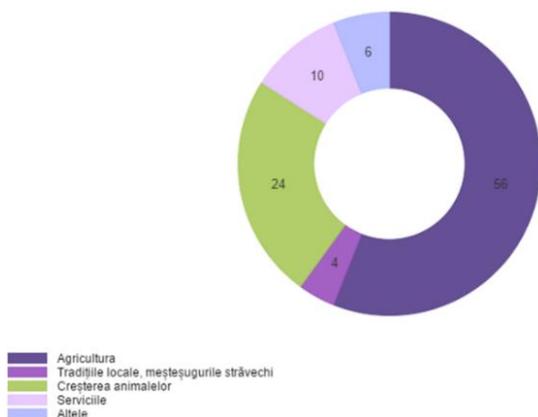
The material used for this work includes the information of the Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 elaborated by the Local Action Group Someș Transilvan and those of the National Rural Development Strategy. The data collection method was the sociological inquiry, and the questionnaire as research instrument. Known as the research instrument of the sociological inquiry, the questionnaire is meant to cover a variety of questions based on logical and psychological arguments, addressed to respondents.

The research instrument consisted of twenty questions and the used batch was 100 applied to the target group. A Microsoft Excell database was created in order to enter the information of each questionnaire individually. In order to be processed, questions and the questionnaire content were controlled and validated. The sociological inquiry was conducted during the period 01.01.2017 - 18.06.2017 on the territory of the Local Action Group *Someș Transilvan* of Cluj County.

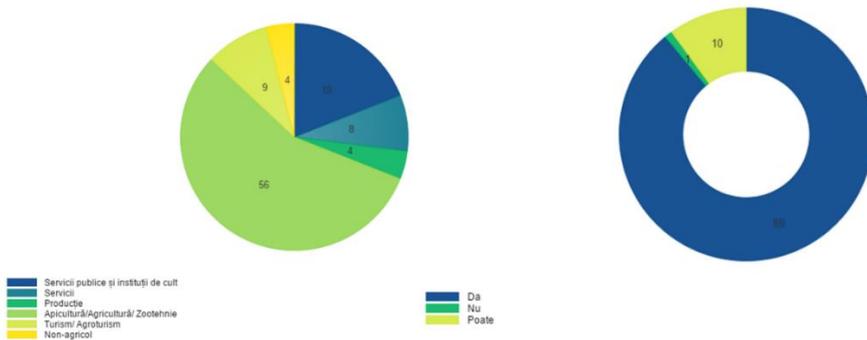
For the purposes of this work a series of factors in fields such as tourism, demographics, farming, local infrastructure etc. have been analysed, a strategic research of the existing circumstances has been conducted, the development area has been identified and the diagnoses have been pronounced.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

On the basis of the research, by analysing the bibliography sources and the situation existing in the territory, the following results have been reached: 41 per cent of the respondents are farmers, 36% are employees, 8% are entrepreneurs and/or pupils/students and 7% are retired. According to the resulting data, we can say that farming is largely practised in the territory and, moreover, we can draw the conclusion that the rate of those working in factories or institutions is a large one.



Most of the respondents, the 56 per cent, consider that farming is the potential of the area, followed by raising livestock - a 24 per cent, services 10%, 6% by other fields and the remaining 4% by ancient local traditions and crafts. According to the above representation, we can note that for the inhabitants, farming and raising livestock rank first in the territory.

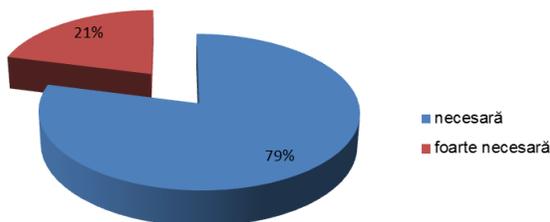


According to the results of the applied questionnaire, 56% of the respondents considered apiculture/agriculture/zootechnics as the industry having received the most funding in the territory, followed by 19% obtained by public services and cult institutions, 9% by tourism and agritourism, 8 % by services and 4% were allotted to non-agricultural and service field. Of the above representation we can conclude that in the territory other fields need funding, too, not only agriculture.

Priority Funding Areas	
Field	Percentage
tourism and local values	34%
economy	20%
education	18%
social work and workforce	21%
farming	7%

Source: Own processing according to the questionnaire results

A significant number of respondents, namely 89% thought that new and modern farms are a necessity in the area, 10% answered that they may be necessary and 1% thought that no farms are needed in the territory. We can say that the inhabitants of the territory *Gal Someș Transilvan* tend towards innovation and campaign for beneficial projects for them and for the communes they live in. For the territory development, the development strategy proposed for capitalisation the scope of the businesses in the above table. According to the respondents, tourism and local values (34%) should be priority for funding purposes, followed by the social work and workforce, economy 20%, education 18 %, and farming 7%.



Asked whether they thought that the Local Action Group needed funding for the projects included in the development strategy, 79% of the respondents considered that the association needed a larger budget and 21% thought that funding was a must.

CONCLUSIONS

The Development Strategy impact on the territory has been a positive one, has brought benefits among component communes and to inhabitants alike by economic capital increase, new jobs, higher tourism potential, preserving and protecting the natural and cultural assets.

The potential of the territory is vast, as sustaining, modernising and developing tourism, agriculture, services and not only will lead towards quality products, new jobs and

a higher standard of living. The number of people who practice farming and work as farmers is quite large, and this is beneficial for a sustainable development.

All the projects funded as a result of the development strategy can be further developed, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Objectives that have not been reached by the Development Strategy 2007-2013 are proposed in the current Rural Development Strategy 2014-2020[4].

Based on the study conducted by us, on the analysis of the Development Strategy 2007-2013 impact on the territory *Gal Someș Transilvan*, the following can be recommended:

- Capitalising local tourist resources by promoting the area for tourism and developing the tourist services, using publicity, advertisements, online media;
- Professional training of young people in the agricultural and financial field by schemes of training, information and broadcasting innovative knowledge;
- Supporting people who opt for projects designed for the agricultural sector, encouraging them to head for agricultural cooperatives;
- Intensive advertising of Rural Development Strategies, requirements and necessities in the area, use of volunteer work;
- Identifying the needs in the territory and putting them into practice according to their importance.

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