

## THE DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES OF THE CLUJ METROPOLITAN AREA

**Luca E., D. Pojar, Laura Luca, Adela Hoble**

*University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

**Abstract.** *The paper presents some aspects regarding a development project of the areas around Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Through this project is predicted the creation of the Cluj Metropolitan Area. This would also be the proper thing to do for the development of the whole area and, of course, the living conditions of the inhabitants of the rural area would become similar to the ones in the urban one. In the paper, it is also made an analysis over the stage of development of Apahida, one of the components of the future metropolitan area.*

**Keywords:** metropolitan area, development project.

### INTRODUCTION

The big differences between villages and towns, registered all over the world, are still worrying even in the first two decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The identification of the ways of attenuation of these differences and promoting some realistic rural development programs represent persistent problems of the European Union, and Romania's also (Luca E., 2008).

The problem of the rural development represents one of the most complex themes of the present because it presumes the creation of a balance between the need of conserving the economical, ecological, social and cultural rural space, on one hand, and the tendency of modernization of the rural life, on the other hand (Oțiman P.I., 1998).

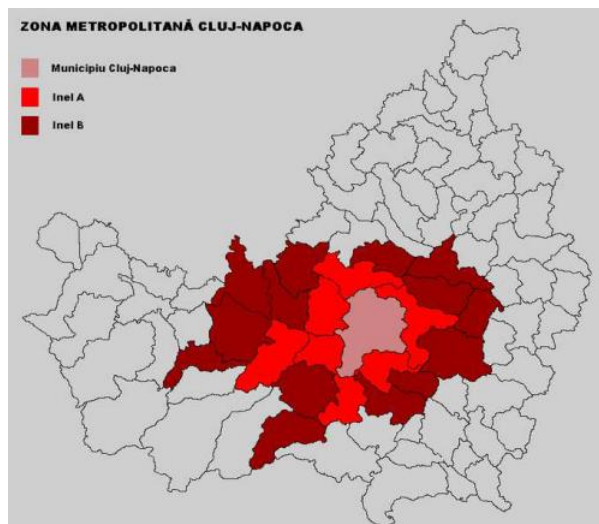
A rural development program contains, depending of the conditions and the necessities, developments of the infrastructure, of the agriculture, of tourism, small and medium companies, the creation of new work places and ideas concerning the protection of the environment, the education and the development of the community (Ionașcu Gh., 1998).

### A DARING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – CLUJ METROPOLITAN AREA

A daring project of development of the rural area near Cluj-Napoca was released in the last years, following that through the formation of the Cluj Metropolitan Area (figure 1), a proper frame of the general development of the whole area would be created and, of course, the living conditions of the people who live in the 17 communes of Cluj county would be more like the living conditions in the urban area.

This project's target is that in the near future, the communes Aiton, Apahida, Baci, Bonțida, Borșa, Căianu, Chinteni, Ciurila, Cojocna, Feleacu, Florești, Gârbău, Gilău, Jucu, Petrești de Jos, Tureni, Vultureni, would be a part of Cluj-Napoca, with a total surface of 153.754 ha and a population of 379.705

inhabitants. These 17 communes will form two successively rings around Cluj-Napoca.



**Fig. 1. The configuration of the Cluj Metropolitan Area**

It is appreciated that the county will have a contribution in the creation of the area with well-educated human resources (11,96% people who have graduated university ; 30,17% people who have graduated high-school; 15,44% people who have graduated a professional school ), know-how, capital, and the communes will come with an open space, good for the development of the area.

The main proposed strategy elements are:

- The rapid development of the infrastructure at european standards – obtaining grants from the European Union for: the access infrastructure (*road*: detour flanges and Transylvania highway; *air*: the development of the airport; *railway*: modernization and development, introduction of the fast trains); essential utilities: water, drainage/purge, sanitation, gas; power efficiency.
- Increasing the economical competitiveness through: Attracting strategical investors; Growing the entrepreneurial capacity; Stimulating the concentration of traditional and high-quality companies; High capitalization of the touristical potential – balneary, cultural, mountain, agrotourism, hunting tourism etc. Stimulating the innovative and competitive potential of the economical sector.
- The development of the human resources and the education: Training programs, continuous education; Education and research.

In the figures 2-5 are presented the limits of the territorial administration units and the population of the future Metropolitan Area components, transportation infrastructure, the situation regarding the economical competitiveness and the human resources, as well as the inhabitable surface per inhabitant, in Cluj-Napoca and in all of the 17 communes.

## APAHIDA COMMUNE – COMPONENT OF THE CLUJ METROPOLITAN AREA

Apahida commune is situated in Eastern part of Cluj-Napoca city, 14 km far from the residence of the county. The villages that are components of the commune are: Apahida – the residence of the commune, Sânnicoară, Dezmir, Corpadea, Pata, Sub Coastă and Bodrog (fig. 6).

The access between the villages of the commune, the commune and Cluj-Napoca, as well as to the nearby counties it is simplified by an important network communication way, which sums 68 km on the commune's territory.

According to the last census (2002), the population of the commune was of 8.785 inhabitants and the total surface of the commune was of 10,602.00 ha, from which the inside land had 2,217.00 ha and the terrain 8,385.00 ha.

On Apahida's territory there are 454 companies working, and the number of them is presumed to increase, especially because of the construction of the detour flange and the proximity of the Cluj-Napoca Airport.

### THE S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS

The SWOT analysis made on the commune level highlighted the strenghts of the commune:

**S (Strenghts):** Accessibility, transit area; The proximity of the Cluj-Napoca Airport; The proximity of the Industrial Parks Tetarom 2,3; Accessibility to the detour flange; European road; Important surface of water; Tradition in the vegetable cultivation; The practice of an ecological agriculture; Cultural and historical traditions; The safety of the citizen; Available land for the development; Low-cost land; Attractive area for industrial and civil investments etc.

**W (Weaknesses):** Lack of the water, gas, electric current and drainage assurance of all homes; Limited resources; Insufficient development of the services; The level of modernization of the schools and kindergardens; Weak-developed agriculture; Big differences between the city and the village; Lack of irrigation systems; Unpaved roads in the localities, as well as between the localities; Lack of an alternative for the thermal energy supply; The inexistent electrical network in some of the areas in the commune;

**O (Opportunities):** The possibility of accessing external and internal funds; The economical development of the commune; The capitalization of the touristical potential of Câmpenești village; The geographical layout; Cooperation with the nearby communes; The foundation of the Metropolitan Area; The construction of the Regional Hospital in Câmpenești;

**T (Threats):** Emigration; The aging of the population; The changing of the legislation; The decrease of the traffic or some possible restrictions.



Fig. 2. The limits of the territorial of the administration units of the future Metropolitan Area

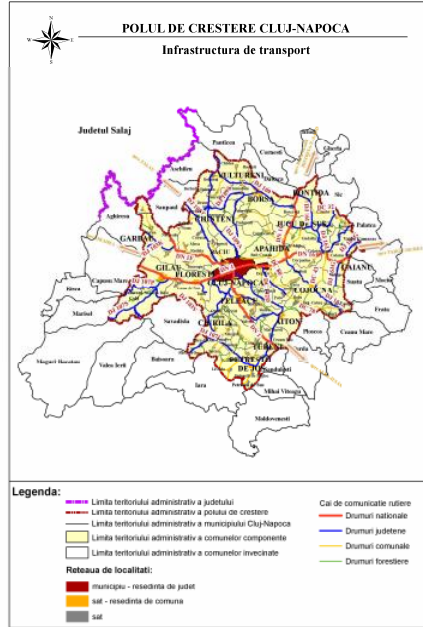


Fig. 3 Transportation infrastructure future Metropolitan Area

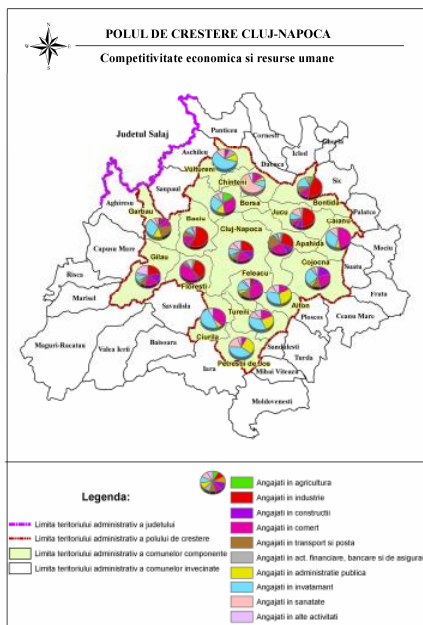


Fig. 4 The situation regarding the economical competitiveness and the human resources of the future Metropolitan Area

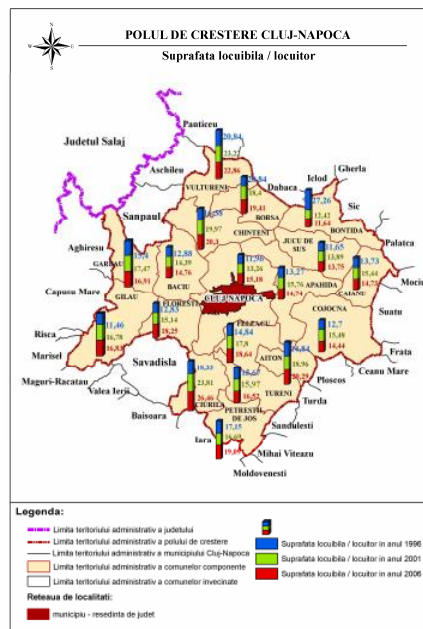


Fig. 5. The inhabitable surface per inhabitant in the future Metropolitan Area



Fig. 6. Apahida commune and the component villages

## CONCLUSIONS

After the studies that have been realised, it can be noticed that the development of the Cluj Metropolitan Area may determine a long-term economical and social stabilization of each of its components and a constant improvement of the economical competitive background.

After the analysis of the existent situation in the Apahida commune – one of the future components of the Cluj Metropolitan Area, it can be noticed that the promotion of the integrated and sustainable development in the rural space of Apahida commune is going to be realized through the optimization of the existent economical sectors, the encouragement of changing the economical and social activities, the improvement of the infrastructure, as well as through the access to new technologies.

## REFERENCES

1. Ionașcu Gh., 1998, Conceptul și imperativul dezvoltării durabile, în volumul Dezvoltarea în pragul mileniului III, Al doilea Congres al Oamenilor de Știință din România, București
2. Luca E., 2008, Dezvoltare Rurală, Editura AcademicPres, Cluj-Napoca
3. Otiman P.I. , 1998, Dezvoltarea Rurală în România, Editura Agroprint Timișoara
4. Consiliul Județean Cluj, 2010, Zona Metropolitană Urbană și Strategii de Dezvoltare a Zonei Metropolitane Cluj-Napoca.