

## STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA

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**Summary.** Agriculture remained a key sector of Romania in the framework of the pre accession period to the European Union. Thus, around of 41% of the employed population worked in the primary sector which represent approximately 14% of the Romanian GDP. The Copenhagen Summit Decisions, the Annual Report of EC of October 1999 on the Romanian's Progress towards Accession as well as the general provisions of the EU Agenda 2000 Framework and the bilateral phase of the acquis screening reached the same conclusions as those of the National Strategy for the economical development of Romania presented to the European Union in March this year, meaning the need for Romania to create a functional market oriented economy, consistent with the principles, norms, mechanisms, institutions, and policies of European Union. The convergence foreseen in this respect is based on an evaluation of resources and opportunities of domestic and international context, and respond as laid down by the updated National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis to the double requirement of finalisation of a market oriented economy and of preparation for the accession to the European Union, for using the historical chance offered by the decision of the European Council in Helsinki of December 1999 to open the negotiation of accession for Romania. In this given context, we will present in this paper the priority of harmonisation of the legislation concerning the SAPARD Programme measures, between 1999 and 2004.

**Keywords:** SAPARD, agriculture, European Union, funds, program

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### **Introduction**

In the National Programme for Accession of Romania to the European Union (May 2000), in volume I, chapter 3, item 3.4.2.5. *Integrated Agricultural and Rural Development*, is mentioned that the National Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development (NPARD) is a component part of the National Development Plan, as this latter was approved by the Government Decision 749/1999. In volume II of the National Programme for Accession of Romania to the European Union – Annexes, item 3.4.2.5. *Agriculture, Rural Development*, in accordance with the Europe Agreement (1994) and with the Accession Partnership, are mentioned the legal documents which are to be elaborated / amended, and are established the deadlines by which the action of legislative harmonisation is to be accomplished, taking into account also the implementation of the SAPARD Programme. Thus, Romania implemented in the agricultural sector the structural adjustments necessary to its integration in the Common Agricultural Policy and it supported the investments that respect the Community rules regarding economic, environmental and social fields. Consequently, in the last years before adhesion to the EU, Romania undertook :

*a) On the one hand, in the economic field, the following actions:*

- To set-up optimal dimensioned agricultural holdings, economically efficient, by investments and by excluding the marginal exploitations;
- To focus on the structural reforms through the strengthening of agricultural holdings, privatization of commercial companies from the rural areas where nowadays the state has majority capital, National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan 2000-2006;
- To improve the legal and institutional framework for a good functioning of agricultural market, and to support the development of the infrastructure necessary for this market;
- To sustain policies by agricultural products in order to improve the whole chain from the production to the consumer, both on the internal and external market, in conformity with the quality standards of the EU;
- To diversify the rural economy by non-agricultural economic activities;
- To support the vocational training of agricultural producers and land or forest owners.

*b) On the other hand, in the regulation field of the administrative reforms that will allow:*

- To align its legislation (especially in the veterinary and phyto-sanitary fields) to the *acquis communautaire* and to prepare consequently its integration in the Common Agricultural Policy;

- To enforce its administrative capacity by training people in order to allow an optimal framing of this economic sector;
- To build the institutional structures necessary to the administration of the Common Agricultural policy.
- Romania has begun to develop a certain number of reforms in the framework of this policy:
- The giving back of the agriculture and forestry land and the establishment of the private property in agriculture, at the same time with the approval of the Land Law No. 18/1991, with surfaces not exceeding 10 ha, and by the approval of the Law No. 1/2000 for the reconstitution of the agriculture and forestry land property right required in conformity with the provision of the Land Law No. 18/1991 and of the Law No. 169/1997, the surface which will be gave back has no mare than 50 ha;
- The setting up of the legal frame for: the transfer of the land by the approval of the Law No. 54/1998 regarding the legal transfer of the land; the granting conditions stated by the Law no. 219/1998 regarding the granting conditions; the leasing of the land in conformity with the Law no. 16/1994 regarding the leasing; defining elements of the land reform and for the establishment of the land market;
- The ensuring of the legal frame for the privatization of the agriculture companies (in conformity with the Government Urgency Ordinance No. 198/1998 regarding the privatization of the companies having in administration agriculture land or land being always under water shine) and of the food industry companies (Government Urgency Ordinance No. 88/1997 regarding the privatization of the companies and the Law No. 99/1999 regarding the acceleration of the privatization process);
- The administrative – institutional reform of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Government Decision No. 331/2000 for the modification and completion of the Government Decision No. 6/1999 regarding the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food).
- The setting-up of the SAPARD Agency with the Government Urgency Ordinance No 142/2000.

### **1. Objectives of the plan**

On the long term, the strategy proposed by the National Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development (NPARD) was to contribute to the accession of Romania to the European Union and allowing that Romanian agriculture to be reinforce in order to be able to cope with the Community market competition's pressure and at the same

time improve the life conditions of the economic agents of rural areas. Having regard to:

- (i) objectives under the Accession Partnership (98/C/202/08 JOCE 29.06.1998);
- (ii) council Regulation 1268/99 on SAPARD;
- (iii) the economic priorities laid down by the National Program for the Adoption of the *acquis*,

*“Art 1(2) Community Support shall comply with the conditions laid down in the framework of accession partnerships and shall relate in particular to:*

*a) contributing to the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* concerning the CAP and related policies”,*

*b) solving priority and specific problems for the sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and rural areas in the applicant Countries;*

- (iv) the socio-economic conditions prevailing in Romania rural areas, their strengths, as well as potential,
- (v) the multifunctional role of agriculture as provided for in the reform Agenda 2000 and on the basis of the following principles:
  - *a competitive agriculture sector which can gradually face-up to the world market;*
  - *production methods environmentally friendly, able to supply quality products;*
  - *Various forms of agriculture with the following lines:*
  - *to keep the tradition,*
  - *to maintain the countryside,*
  - *to maintain the active rural communities,*
  - *to maintain the employment,*
  - *a simpler agricultural policy more understandable which establishes a clear line between the decision that have to be taken jointly and which should stay in the hands of each state;*
  - *recognition of the services provided by farmers to the society;*
  - *to insure an equal treatment of men and women.*

The support given by the Community in the period 2000-2006 through the SAPARD Programme shall be focussed on actions designed to contribute to the reaching of the following general objectives proposed for SAPARD Programme:

- i) The implementation of the *acquis communautaire* concerning the common agricultural policy, the environment protection and related policies in the field of food and consumer protection regulations, public health, well been and good health condition of the animals and plants health.*

This objective of the Romanian strategy for integration in the European Union for agriculture, food industry, fisheries and rural development sectors is represented by implementing of the *acquis communautaire*. SAPARD will support practical development to implement the provisions of the *acquis* regarding:

- a) Food standards;
- b) Control measures in order to assure the consumers protection, the public health and the animal and plants healthcare;
- c) Environment protection.
- ii) *Engaging for the environment protection, the transposition in the national legislation and implementation of the Directive "Nitrates", of the programme "Natura 2000" and of the Directive "Evaluation of the Environmental Impact"(Annexes I and II).*
- iii) *Solving priorities and specific problems for the sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and rural areas of Romania.*

Taking into account the identified strengths, disparities, gaps and opportunities, the short and long term strategy proposed through the National Plan for Rural Development shall have the following strategic objectives:

- *sustainable development of an competitive agro-food sector by modernizing and improving the processing, marketing of agricultural and fisheries products;*
- *to increase standard of living in rural areas by improving and developing the necessary infrastructures, and by defining and setting up the good agriculture practice for sustainable agriculture and rural development;*
- *to develop the rural economy, by setting up and modernizing the fixed assets, for private agricultural and forestry holdings, developing and the diversifying the economic activities, in order to maintain and/or create alternative/supplementary incomes and new jobs;*
- *to develop human resources by improving the vocational training for farmers and owners of forestry lands and by building and consolidating the institutional capacity.*

For all of these strategic objectives, priority was focused to the investments that allow the implementation of the *acquis communautaire*.

## **2. Strategies and Priorities for Spared Assistance**

The strategy for SAPARD assistance described below aims at achieving the main objectives of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan while taking into consideration the following constraints:

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- The priorities set in Art. 4.3 of Council Regulation 1268/1999, in particular: *“In their plans, applicant countries shall ensure that priority is given to measures to improve market efficiency, quality and health standards and measures to create new employment in rural areas, in compliance with the provisions on the protection of the environment”*;
  - The list of eligible Measures given in the Art. 2 of Council regulation 1268/1999.

To achieve the priorities, the operational objectives referring to the measures proposed by the SAPARD Regulations is as follows, regrouped in four priorities. The general and National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan 2000-2006 specific objectives of each measure are to be found in the measures of the SAPARD Programme that was promoted. These priorities were the following:

***Priority 1: Improving the access to markets and of the competitiveness of agricultural processed products;***

***Priority 2: Improving infrastructures for rural development and agriculture;***

***Priority 3: Development of rural economy;***

***Priority 4: Development of human resources.***

The elaboration of priorities, in the framework of the rural development strategy, was based upon the following two important principles:

- A strong correlation between priorities, by correlating the measures corresponding to each priority, and especially in order to obtain cumulated results, ensuring the development of production chains, the stabilization of the food-stuff market and implicitly an integrated development of the rural area;
- Previous promotion of certain priorities, which must ensure the development of some resources in the areas with potential as well as a good orientation and management of the programme funds.

In the framework of the first principle, the first priority cannot be fully developed without supply in agricultural raw materials. These resources must be diversified, stable from the quantitative point of view, of superior quality and having competitive prices. These were the objectives pursued in the framework of the third priority. Also, the implementation of the regular supply flow of the marketing and processing units was conditioned by the existence of an sufficient infrastructure network and especially by a network of dense rural axis, which allowed to service the supply units. This objective met the objective of the second priority. Finally, the implementation and efficient functioning of the production or processing units were conditioned by the training of the economic agents, who are necessary to their functioning. This objective was also provided for in the framework of the forth pri-

ority. Thus, the impact of the first priority was reached by implementing in the same areas the measures belonging to the second, third and fourth priority.

In the framework of the second principle, Romania was favoured during the first years of development of SAPARD the implementation of infrastructure projects that are necessary to the functioning of an economy in rural area. Romania therefore mobilized 50% of the Community assistance during the first two years for infrastructure projects, which have already finalized their technical studies. There were implemented standard and specific training courses from the beginning of the programme in order to make viable the operations regarding agricultural holdings and units for processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products. Thus, there were ensured all the conditions that will be very necessary to the development and modernization of modern vegetable and animal farms, as well as the capacities of processing agricultural products in accordance with EU standards. Moreover, this helped to elaborate studies and analyses regarding the market, the production structures, the areas with various development potentials (rural tourism, production diversification, handicraft etc.).

The available amount provided through the programme was significant, but, due to the fact that the problems are substantial, the impact of the programme was relatively limited to National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan 2000-2006 solving the problems and to implementing the acquis. The programme had also a positive impact on the preparation for the accession at the EU.

***Priority 1: Improving the access to markets and of the competitiveness of agricultural processed products.*** The specific objectives are:

- . Orientation of production in accordance with foreseeable market tendencies or the development encouragement of new markets for agricultural products, especially for processing and marketing of agricultural products grown according to the environmental standards in force, and in certain cases biological products can be used (in particular organic farming).
- . Quality improvement of processed products and control of food products quality, by respecting the minimum requirements of food hygiene according to EU standards;
- . Improvement and control of sanitary conditions;
- . The establishment and strengthening of commercial private agri-food and fish processors.

**Measure 1.1: Processing and marketing of agricultural and fisheries products.**

Applying art. 2 from the Council Regulation (EC) no. 1268/1999, art. 3 from the Regulation of European Commission no. 2759/99 and art. 25 and 26 from the Regulation of European Council (EC) no. 1257/1999, the measure has as a general objec-

tive the support for investments, destined to the improvement and rationalization of processing and marketing of agricultural and fisheries production in order to accomplish progressively the accordance with the *acquis communautaire*, contributing thus to the increasing of competitiveness and added value for these products, being in the same time a sector with a big potential in creating new jobs. This measure was accompanied with the on-going privatization of the sector and the suppression of over-capacity owned by the State.

Due to the fact that processing sector was for about 85% situated in urban area, investments supported within this measure must be addressed also to those units for restructuring and modernization of the production processes and avoiding the low utilization of some production capacities. Supporting of some small and medium processing capacities in rural space is justified as long as there is a surplus of raw materials which can be absorbed by the units belonging to the rural space, without diminishing the quantity of raw materials destined to the processing units from urban area. This measure was put in practice taking into account the following operational objectives:

- . Support for investments for improving the processing and marketing of agricultural products, by sectors and by specific objectives;
- . Support for investments for monitoring quality (control laboratories inside the processing plants);
- . Stimulating investments aiming at the protection and enhancement of the environment as well as livestock hygiene and animal welfare ("green investments").

This measure gave a priority to the production sectors for which the implementation of *acquis communautaire* needs important investments (milk, meat, fruit and vegetables, wine, fish) but also didn't exclude other sectors which represent important potentials to put in value (cereals and oilseeds). In those sectors, only the modernisation of existing capacities was sustained.

This measure gave a priority to the projects higher than 100.000 EURO but also didn't exclude smaller projects (between 30.000 and 100.000 EURO for those projects located in rural areas and based on local markets. The vocational training in this sector was supported by the measure Technical assistance of SAPARD.

**Measure 1.2: Improving the structures for quality, veterinary, and plant-health controls, foodstuffs and consumer protection.** According to article No. 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1268/ 1999, the measure had as general objective implementation of the *acquis communautaire* in the sanitary- veterinary, plant-health food quality control fields in order to contribute to the improvement of quality of raw materials and of finite agri-food products and to improve the competitiveness



of the domestic market and for export prospects. For this measure, support was insured complementarily by both Phare and SAPARD funds.

Taking into account that the aim of this measure was institutional building it could be financed especially by Phare Programme. If the Phare Programme was not able to finance the projects, these was financed by SAPARD. Phare was focus on the following directions:

- . Consolidation of institutions building and national legislation in compliance with European one (acquis communautaire) regarding the investments,
- . Finalizing ongoing programmes and measures,
- . Modernisation and making operative the multi-functional border inspection (including those referring to border inspection for animal health),
- . Investment projects of more than 2 millions EURO (eligible value).

SAPARD shall focus, among others, on smaller actions at local level. This measure requires the harmonization of the national legislation with the acquis communautaire as specified in the framework of the measure. This measure will be put in practice taking into account the following operational objectives:

- . Establishment of new laboratories in public and private sectors;
- . Modernisation, extension and equipment endowment of the existing laboratories;
- . Setting up an information and communication network system for public laboratories.

The public laboratories supported by this measure were considered as investment in infrastructure not generating substantial net revenue.

**Priority 2: Improving infrastructures for rural development and agriculture.** According to article No. 2 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1268/ 1999, the general directions were in order to improve the rural infrastructure, to increase the living and working standards and to maintain the population in the rural areas, by promoting specific objectives, such as:

- . Improvement of access of the inhabitants living in the rural area to holdings, of communication between rural areas, and of access to national network.
- . Improvement of hygiene and sanitary conditions of the living houses, and of the productive activities carried out according to the standards in force;
- . To ensure the necessary water consumption for the agricultural crops and for livestock in areas with humidity deficit, in terms of economic efficiency, by in-

creasing the economical and technical efficiency of the existing irrigation systems and reduction of the water losses from the irrigation network.

- To increase the capacity of protection of the agriculture lands against floods, by developing new digging and other specifically systems and by the rehabilitation of the existing ones.

The water infrastructure, as any other infrastructure investment project, was subject to an EIA. Therefore, the environmental aspects was considered via the related procedure. Management of the water and irrigation infrastructure was ensured by the beneficiaries and the implementing agency included in the grant contract clauses in this respect, since it would be rather complicate to list such details within the body text of the Plan. Drainage systems and water treatment mentioned techniques were subject of technical review to decide weather it is technically feasible. Anyway, by economic point of view and as a follow-up of existing environmental protection obligations, the exact techniques were fixed. Apparently, therefore it was no need for an additional formal procedure in that respect.

**Measure 2.1 Development and improvement of rural infrastructure.** The purpose of this measure was to improve the access of the inhabitants living in the rural localities to the public services, to set-up of prerequisites for modernizing the degree of comfort in rural areas, to improve of the quality of the environment and diminishing of polluting sources etc.

This measure was put in practice taking into account the following operational objectives:

- Building and modernisation of local communal roads and bridges;
- Building and modernisation of the drinking water supply systems;
- Better management of the sewage water systems through investments related to water treatment stations.

This measure was implemented with a big amount for the first two years, taking into account the needs in this sector, and also in an integrated way in order to support investments linked with other measures of the SAPARD program.

The investment supported by this measure was considered as investment in infrastructure not generating substantial net revenue.

**Measure 2.2 Management of water resources for agriculture.** According to the provisions of Article 2 of European Council Regulation 1268/1999, the general objectives of this measure were to ensure a sustainable management of the water resources in the rural area, to maintain and stabilize the production, to preserve and protect the environment, to contribute to the increasing of the incomes and to support rural employment.

The operational objectives within the framework of this measure were the rehabilitation and upgrading of existing irrigation systems, as well as in the rehabilitation and modernization of existing drainage systems.

These could be accomplished taking into account the following operational objectives:

- . Rehabilitation and upgrading of existing irrigation systems;
- . Rehabilitation and modernisation of existing drainage systems;
- . Reduction of water losses in the irrigation network;
- . Protection against flows.

This measure sustained the investments of the National Society of Land Reclamation which keeps the management by concession of the infrastructures owned by the state, as well as the investments supported by the new association of water users for the management of secondary water networks. This measure was implemented in areas without high natural value. All the projects submitted in the framework of this measure had to present an Environmental Impact Assessment according to the law n°137/1995 on Environment Protection. The details for the implementation of this measure were been discuss with the Commission before the beginning of its application foreseen in 2002. The investment promoted by administration and supported by this measure was considered as investment in infrastructure not generating substantial net revenue.

***Priority 3: Development of rural economy.*** According to provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No. 2759/99, for appliance of the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1268/1999 and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/1999, this priority had as specific objectives the support for investments in agricultural holdings, setting-up producer groups, diversification of the activities in rural areas, which helped the adaptation of the rural economy with the *acquis communautaire*, for improving the agricultural incomes, the employment and the orientation of the production to the market economy. The specific objectives were oriented to:

- . Decreasing production costs,
- . Adjusting the production to the need of the market,
- . Ensuring the optimal use of the manpower available by encouraging the creation of new employment,
- . Improving and diversifying production,
- . Improving the quality,
- . Promote the diversification of agricultural activities,

- Establish in common joint rules concerning the information on the production, especially on the harvesting and market distribution, officially acknowledged within the candidate country,
- To preserve the high natural value agriculture environment that is potentially threatened,
- Protection and improvement of forest resources by a better valorization of the forest.

**Measure 3.1 Investments in agricultural holdings.** The measure was implemented with priority for activating the agricultural potential at the same time with the valorization of local resource in view of making efficient the practiced exploitation to insure the agricultural income. There must be granted support the setting up or modernisation of the investments in accordance with the *acquis communautaire*. The exploitations that received support from SAPARD Programme should comply with the national legislation and if the legislation was updated during the implementation of the project should comply before the payment with the harmonized legislation in force.

This measure was to be put into practice taking into account like operational objective the promotion of investments in animal and plant sectors at farm level, in order to improve the farm buildings and to clothe it with new machinery and/or animals with a high genetic quality.

The minimal conditions of viability for each sector of production were fixed in the measure, as regards the minimal agriculture area or the minimal number of animals bred, as regards the minimal technical conditions of breeding and feeding, and using of manure, as regards the minimal conditions in order to respect the national legislation of environment.

**Measure 3.2 Setting-up producer groups.** The general objective of this measure was to increase the income of the producers who are members of producers groups and to maintain and create employment in rural areas by setting-up such groups. The purpose of producers groups was to market in common their products and establishes the joint rules of production. Consequently, the quality and marketing conditions of the products obtained by the producers groups must be also improved.

Taking into consideration Art. 6 of the Commission Regulation no 2759/1999, there were established the following operational objectives:

- Support to encourage the setting-up and to facilitate the administrative operations of producer groups;
- To stimulate especially the young farmers (under 40 years old) to be involved in setting up producer groups.

- . The quality increasing, by setting up producer groups leads to application of modern technologies and implicitly to the increase of the product quality.

The delayed beginning of this measure allowed, through the technical studies that were implemented and financed within the technical assistance measure of SA-PARD Programme, to define its intervention framework and to draw up its implementation methods. The details for the implementation of this measure were discussed with the Commission before the beginning of its application foreseen in 2002, after the establishment of the necessary legal framework.

**Measure 3.3 Agri-environmental measures.** The development of the practical experience of implementation of agri-environmental measures, both at administrative and local level, respectively at the farm level, according to the principles of the CAP will speed up the process of legislative harmonization that Romania is undertaking as well as the absorption of experience from the EU Member States. The Ministry of Water, Forestry and Environmental Protection has already started preparing the legal context for the implementation of agri-environmental measures and major pieces of legislation have been already approved in this respect; e.g. Government Ordinance no. 34/1999, referring to organically production and its certification.

According to Article 22 of the Council Regulation (EC) no.1257/1999 the support for the agricultural production methods designed to protect the environment and maintain the countryside (agri-environment) contributed to multiply the actions of accomplishing the objectives of the community policies regarding the agriculture and the environment.

Particularly, the support granted through this measure promoted like operational objective putting into practice pilot projects aiming at conversion to organic agriculture, the protection of areas with special bio-diversity / natural interest and maintain / improve the rural landscape and natural environment.

The details for the implementation of this measure were discussed with the Commission before the beginning of its application foreseen in 2002. A study was made on the framework of the technical assistance that will define the concept of good agricultural practice, the activities that go beyond them and the estimated income loss. This study also established the zones and the conditions of implementation.

**Measure 3.4 Development and diversification of economic activities, multiple activities, alternative income.** The general direction of this measure, established according to the provisions of the Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/1999, specifies that the support will envisage to support employment and to generate alternative incomes by diversifying rural activities related to agriculture. This measure was put into practice taking into account the following operational objectives:

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- . To sustain the agricultural activities in the rural area through the accomplishment of specific services; in this respect, it is proposed to sustain the setting-up of circle of agricultural machinery and services for repairing agricultural machines.
- . To sustain the activity of youth and women;
- . To sustain the activities which are specific to the rural tourism (agro and silvotourism);
- . To preserve and to develop traditional handicraft activities;
- . To develop aquaculture, bee-keeping, sericulture and mushrooms cultivation.

It has to be mentioned that Romania had already an experience in the rural tourism, by the existence of marketing networks (ANTREC, FRDMR etc) and the classification of the agrotouristic units according to their level of comfort. It was proposed to give a priority to the modernisation of existing units, but also to create new units if the applicant bases the investment on a study of the potential market in the area where the project was carried out.

**Measure 3.5 Forestry.** According to the provisions of Article 29 of European Council Regulation no 1257/1999, the support for the forestry sector contributed to achieve the general directions:

- . Preserving and developing of economic, ecological and social function of the forest in the rural areas, concomitant with the extension of afforested areas, in order to increase the product added value of the forest and to increase the incomes of forest owners;
- . Fulfilling of the arrangements that Romania agreed upon in the Pan-European Conference on Forests Protection.
- . The support shall promote one or more of the following operational objectives:
- . Financial support for local communities for the a forestation of the abandoned land and the forestry roadway system;

Financial support for owners of forests and degraded lands from private sector (individual natural persons or their associations and legal persons), for private companies dealing with harvesting, transport and primary processing of wood, of forests from rural areas for : Creating and modernizing nurseries, A forestation, Harvesting and transport of wood products, First processing of wood.

**Priority 4: Development of human resources.** In accordance to Article no.2 of the Council Regulation (EC) no.1268/1999, with Article 5 of the Commission Regulation (EC) no.2759/1999 and with Chapter III, Title II of the Council Regulation (EC) no.1257/1999, this priority had as general objective the granting of assistance to the

professional training in order to contribute to the improvement of knowledge and professional competencies of the farmers and other persons involved in agricultural activities and in forestry, as well as to their conversion towards non-agricultural activities.

The specific objectives of this priority were the following:

- To train the farmers for the qualitative re-orientation of production, for the diversification of economical activities, for the appliance of these production methods that are consistent with the preservation and improvement of the landscape and the environment protection, of the norms that are applied in the field of hygiene and of animal welfare, as well as for achieving of a level of professional qualification which is necessary for the management of a viable holding.
- To ensure that the program gets acquainted, both by the beneficiaries as well as by the responsible with its implementation (selection, checking, and monitoring);
- To ensure the promotion of the programme;
- To ensure the training and forming of various authorities and bodies responsible for the accomplishment of the program;
- To elaborate the necessary studies for measures implementation.

**Measure 4.1 Improving of the vocational training.** Among the operational objectives of this measure, there were to be mentioned:

- Qualitative reorientation of production, including for the setting-up of producer groups;
- Production practices compatible with the maintenance of the landscape, the protection of the environment, hygiene standards and animal welfare; including training for farmers' taking-up the agri-environmental measure.
- Management of economically viable agriculture and aquaculture farms;
- Administration of the irrigation networks by the member of the Water Users Association;
- Other vocational training: forestry and diversification of rural activities in the case of agriculture and fishery producers and forest owners.

The measure was focused on short-term training in the sectors related with the acquis communautaire: environment, hygiene and quality, animal welfare and for the economic viability of the agricultural and fishery holdings.

The measure Technical assistance of SAPARD programme financed the vocational training for the measure Processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products, and

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Phare and national programmes could eventually sustain the vocational training for the non farmer's beneficiary of the measure Diversification of economical activities.

**Measure 4.2. Technical assistance:**

- To ensure that the program gets acquainted, both by the beneficiaries as well as by the responsible with its implementation (promotion, selection, checking, and monitoring);
- To ensure the implementation of the program in an efficient, transparent and strict manner, including the purchase of equipment necessary to monitor the program, the equipment and the inner workings of the monitoring Committee;
- To inform the beneficiaries and the general public about the programme;
- To ensure the training and forming of various authorities and bodies responsible for the accomplishment of the program;
- To elaborate the necessary studies for measures and program implementation;
- To ensure the evaluation and the control of the implementation of the program;
- The training of the agents belonging to processing and marketing enterprises assisted within SAPARD Programme.
- The training of the agents responsible with the implementation of the programme.

**Quantification of expected outputs.** According to the Communautaire regulations, for the assessment of NPARD, three types of indicators were use:

- The output indicators, which measure the direct effects produced through programme activities, being a quantifying tool for the operational objectives of each measure. The financial and administrative resources of the programme are inputs, which contribute to achieving the operational objectives.
- The result indicators, which measure the short term effects of the assistance, in other words, it is allow the evaluation of the specific objectives fulfillment within each measure from the Programme
- The impact indicators, which quantify on long term the actions promoted within SAPARD Programme, as a result of the monitoring of the general objectives, for the whole programme and each measure as well

The result and impact indicators proposed in each measure that would be improved subsequently in collaboration with the Commission's services. On average there will be promoted about 30,000 projects at an average individual cost of 70,000 EURO. The most relevant expected outputs by types of projects are the following:



- 2,100 projects that are comprised in the measure of processing and marketing of agricultural products, for the following sectors: dairy products, meat, cereals, oilseeds, wine, fruit and vegetables, potatoes, fish;
- 178 projects to improve the system of quality control;
- 1,800 km of communal roads, which represents an increasing of 180% of the existing modernized roads;
- 2,700 km of pipelines for drinking water, which means an increase of 20% of the existing length;
- 1,300 km of pipelines for waste water (sewerage), which represents 1,6 time more than the existing length (864 km);
- 40,000 ha of land improved by irrigation and drainage, i.e 5% of the actually used surface;
- 11,000 projects of investments for agricultural holdings, supported by about 12,000 farmers, out of which 20% of young farmers,
- 10,600 equipment for mechanization of agriculture;
- 2,200 new livestock buildings or modernized;
- 900 buildings created or modernized for crop farms;
- 500 groups of producers sustained, which include 16,800 farmers, out of which 3,300 young;
- 36,000 ha covered by agri-environmental measures;
- 7,000 projects of diversification of economic activities, out of which 3700 units for agri and silvo-tourism (which represent an increase by 1,2 times compared to the existing units);
- 1200 km of newly built forestry roads or improved;
- 15,000 ha afforested on degraded agricultural lands;
- 400 enterprises of wood exploitation or sustaining the wood processing;
- 150,000 farmers (agriculture and fisheries) or forest owners trained on specialized programs.

### **Conclusions**

Nevertheless, all of these measures were very important for Romania in the last years before adhesion, in order to harmonize the Romanian agriculture with the European standards and norms. An attempt to evaluate the expected impacts is very interesting. Among these, one of the illustrative output indicators is “employment”. For each measure where new jobs were created or existing jobs were maintained in better condition, it was estimated the foreseen number. All the measures together represent about 72,000 created and 68,000 jobs maintained in better condition. This

number, compared to the number of persons unemployed in rural areas (270,000) reflects the immediate impact of the assistance granted. The average monthly cost for the newly created jobs or for the jobs maintained through the programme of financial assistance is of above 180 EURO. Comparing this figure with the average wage in Romania, which is of 84 EURO/month it clearly appears the immediate effect of allocated sums.

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Примљено: 14.10.2007.

Одобрено: 16.12.2007.

UDC: 631.1(498)

## СТРАТЕГИЈА И ПРИОРИТЕТИ ПОЉОПРИВРЕДЕ И РУРАЛ- НОГ РАЗВОЈА РУМУНИЈЕ

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### Резиме

Пољопривреда је била кључни сектор Румуније у предприсућајућем периоду Европској унији. Наиме, око 41% запосленог становништва радило је у примарном сектору што представља око 14% БДП Румуније. Одлуке самита у Копенхагену, Годишњи извештај Европске комисије из октобра 1999 о напредовању Румуније у Европску Унију, као и опште одредбе Агенде 2000 Оквирног програма ЕУ имали су исте закључке као и Национална стратегија економског развоја Румуније представљена Европској унији у марту ове године, а то је указивање на потребу стварања функционалне тржишно оријентисане економије, која је у складу са принципима, нормама, механизмима, институцијама и политикама ЕУ. Конвергенција у овом односу је базирана на процењивању ресурса и могућностима домаће и међународне сарадње и у складу је са, као што је истакнуто у Националном програму за усвајање *Acquisa*, захтевом за коначно формирање тржишно оријентисане економије и припремањем ка приступању Европској Унији, коришћењем историјске шансе понуђене одлуком Европске комисије у Хелсинкију децембра 1999 да започну разговоре за приступање Румуније Европској Унији. У овом контексту, рад приказује усклађивање легислативе која се односи на САПАРД програм у периоду 1999-2004. године.

**Кључне речи:** САПАРД, пољопривреда, Европска унија, фондови, програм

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