



“Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS: A CHALLENGE FOR ROMANIA

Camelia Burja*, Vasile Burja

“1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Faculty of Science, 11-13 N. Iorga Str. Alba Iulia-510009, Romania

Abstract

Integration in the European Union has faced Romania with new challenges and objectives out of which sustainable development in rural areas is a priority. A diverse and efficient rural economy is needed, capable of generating resources that will increase the quality of life and observe environmental protection. The analysis presented in the paper brings into evidence economic, social and environmental characteristics from the Romanian rural areas, compared to EU-27 and a series of developed countries (Germany and France) or which joined EU later (Poland and Hungary). The research results highlight major disparities between Romania and the countries surveyed concerning the development on the principles of sustainability in the rural areas.

Key words: quality of life, rural area, rural economy, sustainable development

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* Author to whom all correspondence should be addressed: e-mail: cameliaburja@yahoo.com