

Summery

1. Introduction2

2. Research stage.....3

3. Research methods7

4. The Microregion of Huedin. Resources and Local Development.....8

Bibliography 18

1. Introduction

Key words:

Rural space, resources, development strategy, endogenous development, cluster

The rural space represents a complex research topic, since it covers a wide range of interconnected structures, which function as an open system. The heterogeneity of the rural space is based on such aspects as geographic position, natural and socio-economic potential, accessibility, infrastructure facilities and cultural particularities. Therefore, defining it with accuracy and homogeneity is almost impossible. There is an important specification to be made, namely the fact that we are dealing with different rural spaces, which is the reason why the development possibilities must be adapted to the endogenous potential of the regions.

In the context of different historical-political conditions, fundamental differences arise between the rural spaces corresponding to the various states. As a result of the communist and socialist systems and as a consequence of their policies, rural areas in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, but also in Eastern Germany, encountered major obstacles on their way towards development, compared to the countries where the democratic political systems have dominated for longer periods of time. Moreover, EU integration represents a new challenge for these countries. „Rural spaces in Central and Eastern Europe are influenced (...) on one side, due to EU integration, by Europeanization and globalization trends and, on the other side, by the process of pushing towards peripheries within the national processes of centralization and modernization” (Born 2011, page 166).

The timeliness and relevance of European rural space topic starts from the mere reason that most of the European population lives in the countryside, many of the EU states having predominantly a rural specificity (not only the new EU member states, but also Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France). Thereby, in order to assess the development possibilities of the rural areas, it becomes necessary to analyze the resources, the development potential and the development obstacles. Only after such analysis viable strategies for the improvement and preservation of the rural structures can be drawn up and implemented.

The thesis „Resources and Local Development in the Micro-region of Huedin (Romania)” intends to establish a sustainable development strategy for Romania’s rural space and for the research area, as a result of analyzing important regional and local development theories. Deepening the concepts of endogenous development of rural space, as well as that of the clusters in the rural space, the PhD thesis aims to establishing empirically justified strategies, which could be the starting point for further studies conducted by researchers, politicians or even local players. The purpose is that of bringing a practical contribution to the local development field, and in this respect the detailed analysis of aspects regarding resources, needs and possibilities of Huedin Micro-region gives us a tangible picture of local development.

2. Research stage

In order to render the rural space heterogeneity within the multitude of definitions associated to it, I have resorted to classifying the definitions as: structural-functional, negative, contrasting and statistic-quantitative. The purpose of this classification is that of emphasizing not only the recurrent features, but also the complementarities degree of definitions.

The traditional side of the rural space as a source of food and resources is considered to be secondary in the context of a declining agriculture. By formulating the overall concept of rural development, a modern importance is given to such concept, emphasized by certain activities, such as bio agriculture, tourism, renewable energies, environment protection and obtaining new areas. As a consequence, a functional transformation of the current rural spaces has been noticed, that is the more and more accentuated transition from mono to multifunctional. The last one implies combining the related functions – economic, ecologic, social, in a mix which addresses not only the rural space in general, but it can be found also at the settlements or agriculture level. Thus, the rural settlements near conurbations have more accentuated location and services features, while those located in areas having natural and cultural potential develop their tourist feature and the traditional ones keep their agricultural feature. The agriculture, in turn, diversifies, a special role being assumed by the energetic feature.

For categorizing the rural spaces, a large number of indicators is being used. Due to the diversity of the criteria employed, these indicators can act unevenly, which requires the interpretative analysis of certain indices within the rural system, therefore by no means isolated. Globally, natural, economic, socio-cultural and psychological factors are being analyzed. Further, some of the most common indicators are listed: number of inhabitants, inactive population, inhabitants-jobs indicator, number of persons activating in agriculture, agrarian quota, unemployment rate, GDP, agrarian quota of GDP, family income, private consumption, expenditure, commuting rate.

As for the analysis of rural space resources, the main feature of the economic ones is their limited nature, more precisely their deficit in the context of continuously growing human needs. Given such background, the concept of resources rationalization is brought into question, which is discussed within the trio of limited resources, growing needs and rationalization degree. According to the rarity law which generates the rationalization necessity, the volume, structure and quality of resources and economic goods develop more slowly than the volume, structure and intensity of needs.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has stipulated, starting with 2006, the necessity of a paradigm change for the rural areas, based on the trend of paying more attention to local characteristics and necessities, highlighting in particular the local resources importance and rural areas competitiveness. Nevertheless, economy and society are developing towards a continuous globalization, multiple conflicts arising between these two evolution directions. Starting from this duality, the rural areas development potential will be analyzed within the sustainable development, emphasizing the tension generated between globalization and „localization”, between agglomeration and development, in an endogenous sense, respectively.

The world today is placed, undoubtedly, under the sign of globalization. As a consequence, there are no more isolated states when it comes to market or economy, in general. Although this is considered to be an advantage, the states integrated within this globalizing trend have lost a lot of their economic autonomy. Furthermore, the supposed uniform spread of economic gain within globalization was proved to be defective, leading to enormous regional disparities. Starting with the '80s, the theories regarding regional development are viewed as an alternative (a better one) in terms of sustainability. They

give, as well, a new importance to the local spatial dimension concept. Thus, during the scientific debates, two ideal economies are discussed, based on opposite concepts: the centralized one (de-territorialized) and the localized one, respectively (Storper 1997). Actually, we are dealing with a hybrid of the two solutions and here the question arises about how much the two types should be combined in order to obtain the optimum development solution.

The sustainable local development starts from the premise of balance between economic, ecologic and societal dimensions, based upon the principles of sustainability, competitiveness, financial support and good governance. In addition, all parties involved must maintain close relationships, mutually beneficial at all possible interaction levels. Although there is a relative individuation of the local development theory, it has to be viewed in the context of regional development.

Within the New Regionalism theory, rural areas development has been analyzed, first, from the cumulative perspective and from the endogenous one. The cumulative thesis implies indirect positive effects on the rural areas economy, due to redistributive phenomena at national/international economy level and to some spillover secondary outcomes at regional level (Margarian 2011). The lack of research, as far as local development is concerned, has led to the following phenomenon: many of the existing regional economic structures do not cause the spillover and implementation of coherent and consistent solutions in the economy of predominantly rural areas. In response to the shortcomings of the cumulative model, the endogenous approach to a region's potential arises.

Endogenous rural development or endogenous development of the rural space takes into consideration the intrinsic value of elements specific to a region and creates its potential, disseminating a bottom-up development direction rather than a top-down one. Unlike other regional theories (neo-classic, NEG), based mainly upon the complete mobility of production factors – capital and workforce, as well as new factor of production – knowledge, the endogenous development model involves the reduced mobility of these factors, which are connected to a certain point or a geographic region. Furthermore, within the endogenous development, there is the necessity of discussing neo-capitalist concepts, such as human and social capital (Lin, 1999) related to rural

space. Endogenous development supports the creation of socio-economic networks, starting from the idea that local and regional players have the advantage of functioning in simple and informal networks. Nonetheless, the interaction between them does not prove to be that easy and beneficial in every situation. Thereby, although the competition means interaction and a fairly high level of cooperation (Porter 1990, 1998), there is the risk of limiting such competition on local markets, because of tacit agreements between the exchange participants.

In spite of some inaccuracies, the rural space endogenous development theory structures fold on the sustainable local development theory, because they are built upon its three pillars (ecology, society, economy).

The present work approaches, from the point of view of its theme, classical aspects of rural space research, included in the general notion of sustainable rural development. These aspects refer to agriculture, forestry, obtaining alternative energy, tourism based on cultural and natural landscape, environmental protection, but also to business environment, human and social capital – parties network, localities network, infrastructure and possibilities and financing projects.

Within functional rural spaces – such as rural areas around urban agglomerations, tourist regions, small cities having regional functions, agricultural lands located in areas suitable and unsuitable for agriculture – the infrastructure, life relationships and the relationship with the environment, as well as the development opportunities lead to structural disparities (Plieninger et al. 2005). Further, the structural transformations associated with the actual rural spaces will be synthetically described. Rural communities face a full process of demographic decline, thus a diminished population in the next years is taken into consideration. Demographic decline, in terms of population decrease and aging, has severe effects upon the economic, socio-cultural and political system of a rural region. These effects are integrated within a downward spiral, because population decrease leads to diminished revenues for the municipal budget, thus the local administrations have low funds for the improvement of infrastructure and public services, which make a settlement unattractive for the investors. The latter are the bearers of technical progress and innovation, in other words exogenous factors of the region, who

creatively contribute to the formation of solid structures at local level. Lacking a creative class, the rural space cannot evolve only based on endogenous resources.

3. Research methods

In order to give answers to the research's questions, adequate methods have been used, which allow the analysis of the territory's existing situation and which offer in the end the possibility to compile a sustainable development strategy for the analyzed area. Since each method is characterized also by weaknesses, in order to illustrate as accurately as possible the potential and the development opportunities within the Microregion of Huedin, the area being analyzed, a mix of methods has been chosen, so the methods could complement each other and could lead to the expected results. According to the principle of a PhD thesis three stages of development (cumulative, analytical, deliberative), the methods used within each of these stages have been chosen in compliance with the intended purpose. During the cumulative stage, the main method has been bibliographical documentation. In this regard, various books, journal articles, studies and specific reports have been consulted. Some of these bibliographical sources have been accessed through the Internet, from the pages of some national and international institutions. During the analytical stage, the method of statistic data analysis has been chosen, the statistics being obtained gradually from institutions such as NSI (National Statistics Institute), Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Cluj, City Halls etc.; the information provided by the official websites of ministries has also been taken into consideration. The data has been illustrated by means of graphic and cartographic methods designed to give an overview of the de facto situation within the microregion. During the deliberative stage, the synthesizing of the results and the development strategy formulation occurred and in this respect three methods have been used: the evaluation marks method, in order to determine the endogenous potential; the SWOT method, in order to emphasize the strengths and opportunities, but also the weaknesses and risks in the analyzed region; the ABC analysis, in order to prioritize the strategies that must be implemented at the earliest.

4. The Microregion of Huedin. Resources and Local Development

During the transition period from centralized economy to market economy in ex-communist countries, among which Romania as well, many similarities arise regarding the rural space development. The most important ones are: change of ownership and legal uncertainty as a consequence of economic and social restructuring, more accentuated fragmentation of properties; the failure of privatization process in agriculture, the development of cooperatives and family farms, the reduced number of animals, the substitution of goods purchased by trade with those obtained from one's own efforts; difficulties encountered by the farmers on the free market (because of the cheap imported merchandise, but also because of the unaffordable loans, of the untrustworthy retail companies, of monopoly companies, of unfavorable trade position respectively), lack of investments, of human and financial resources for the development of local initiatives; the poor specialization of economic activities, the development of certain locations having the necessary potential for rural tourism, other services offered by small industries, the completion of mass industrialization processes, the preservation of villages in their traditional form, without any constraints regarding the change of their residence; population flows that migrate towards the city and later on towards the opposite direction, the degradation of social, educational, cultural and health conditions, because of many agricultural farms closure.

The microregion of Huedin is located in the northwestern part of Cluj county and its neighbors are the following villages: Aghireșu, Căpușu Mare, Gilău, Săvădisla, Valea Ierii of the county of Cluj; other neighbors of the region are the county of Sălaj, in the north, the county of Bihor, in the west and the county of Alba, in the south. From the administrative point of view, the microregion analyzed comprises a rank three city, Huedin and 13 municipalities: Beliș, Călățele, Ciucea, Izvorul Crișului, Măguri-Răcătău, Mănăstireni, Mărgău, Mărișel, Negreni, Poieni, Râșca, Săcuieu and Sâncrai. The municipalities comprise 56 villages and several hamlets. As for the territorial point of view, the region has a surface of 1,557 km² and a population of 36,216 inhabitants (year 2010), with a medium density of 23,26 inhabitants/km².

In terms of space, the settlements overlap the basin of Huedin, the Păniceni plateau and the northeastern part of the Apuseni Mountains (in the south, Gilău-Muntele Mare Mountains, in the west, Vlădeasa Mountains, in the north, the ramification between Plopiș and Meseș Mountains). Thus, the predominant relief is hilly and mountainous, but, plateaus can also be found in patches.

The microregion's population, except Huedin, is marked by a negative balance because of the accentuated aging process, associated with a negative natural growth. The migratory balance is generally reduced, since the population is not characterized by a high mobility. The gender structure remains within the overall average of Cluj county, the number of men being approximately equal to that of women. According to the ethnic criteria, the following population groups are found: Romanians, 80.79%, Hungarians, 15.5%, Rroma 3.64% and other ethnicities, 0.07%.

The area does not benefit from a high level of economic development, relying almost exclusively on agriculture, which is predominantly a subsistence one (except potato crop and animal breeding for dairy products and meat). Land use is, in its turn, still deficient: arable land 14%, pastures 56%, hayfields 30%. The local economic sector that is best represented is the industrial one and the handicraft one (31.24%), which provide employment to a number of 1635 people.

The location of the microregion gives its population various advantages. It is situated very close to the economic, cultural and university center of Cluj-Napoca, but also to the polarizing center of Huedin, serving certain basic functions (administrative, economic, healthcare, educational etc.). Some of the municipalities are located on the E60 international route, which, together with the major railways facilitate the access towards the western and central part of the country, representing a localization potential favorable for the economy, but unfavorable when it comes to environment and living conditions of the inhabitants.

The microregion of Huedin is an area with outstanding natural and cultural landscapes, ethnic diversity, a secular history, well defined relative resources, thus with a significant potential. The landscape variety brings together types of villages with different structures, but also with different traditions and customs. Not only the relief, but

also the ethnic spectrum with all its resultants provide multiple opportunities for tourism development.

The idea of an institutionalized cooperation between the settlements around Huedin and their shaping as microregion appeared in 1999 and became reality, at the administrative level, in 2001 through the creation of the Huedin Association for Areal Development (HAAD). The parties involved in the Microregion's development are: the city halls, a number of NGOs, economic entities, the population. The major interest in studying this microregion, in other words its „initiators” are, actually, NGOs, which activate especially within the environment protection, adopting a more conscious ecologic behavior, based upon the proximity of the microregion to the Natural Park of the Apuseni Mountains. In this regard, upon the initiative of Transylvania Ecological Club (TEC), in 2001, the Huedin Association for Area Development was born (HAAD), a non-profit organization, whose purpose is to support the development of settlements in the area of Huedin and their international, national, regional and local representation.

Subsequently, within the project called “Sustainable Rural development in Romania”, drawn up also by Transylvania Ecological Club in partnership with HAAD and with the support of other NGOs, the municipalities Mănăstireni, Mărgău, Poieni, Săcuieu and Sâncraiu have been chosen for a study conducted in 2003, within which the strategy elements for sustainable development were designed. In 2003, TEC publishes a document that is actually the activity report of the Huedin Microregion Community Forum members and comprises the participants' ideas, a set of five priority projects, but also other ideas of projects for the future. In 2009, in the Microregion of Huedin, a local group of action (LGA) was created, which edited a development plan regarding the accession of the Leader European financing program (Axis 4 of the Rural Development National Program 2007-2013). Huedin Microregion won the project worth 4.124.836,18 Euros, ranking 94th place on the October 2009 chart (111 projects), with a score of 64 points.

Following the obtained results, a series of characteristics of Huedin Microregion emerged, which served as a starting point for designing a most detailed image possible of the situation encountered in the territory and there were highlighted not only the positive, but also the negative aspects. In order to create a context that could allow the comparison

of the microregion with other similar units and in order to visualize the region's development degree compared to the national situation, the human development index (HDI) emphasizing has been chosen. The evaluation of a region's development degree is a complex process, which has to take into consideration the numerous factors that determine the population's social welfare and living standard. Calculating an aggregate indicator that focuses on the human development is very useful also for the proper determination of the development strategies for the analyzed region.

The data upon which HDI is based refer to 2009. In this year, Romania's HDI had a 0,778 value. Since most of the necessary data were not found under a form adequate for calculating the index, some approximations were necessary that could get as closer as possible to the actual situation within Huedin Microregion.

After aggregating the three indices according to the formula mentioned at the beginning, a 0,795 HDI value was obtained, highly above Romania's value. The next table summarizes the data calculated for the determination of the aggregate index of human development:

Tab. 1. HDI estimation in HMR

	HMR 2009
Indicators	
1. Life expectancy at birth – Average age – years	73,07
2. Literacy - %	94,93
3. Education enrollment - %	69,54
4. a) GDP per inhabitant – ron current prices 2009	22484
b) GDP per inhabitant - \$ current prices 2009	7396
Indices	
1. Life expectancy at birth - Average age - years	0,801
2. Education index	0,878
3. GDP per inhabitant - ron current prices	0,718
HDI	0,795

Within the United Nations Program for HDI Development and Poverty Index (poverty rate) sustainable development indicators are taken into consideration. In order to complete the image of the development stage of Huedin MR and in order to see its situation at administrative units level, the present study chose as well to calculate the population's absolute poverty rate according to 2002 data.

Tab. 2 The poverty rate of the rural settlements in Huedin MR

	Poverty Rate	Households stable population	No. of poor people
BELIS	36,70%	1382	507
CALATELE	38,40%	2668	1025
CIUCEA	30,30%	1727	523
IZVORU CRISULUI	17,90%	1649	295
MAGURI-RACATAU	47,00%	2395	1126
MANASTIRENI	31,70%	1809	573
MARGAU	38,10%	1869	712
MARISEL	45,70%	1670	763
NEGRENI	31,90%	2673	853
POIENI	33,60%	5764	1937
RASCA	34,90%	1814	633
SACUIEU	44,20%	1641	725
SANCRAIU	26,40%	1809	478
Total Huedin MR	35 %	28870	10150

The approaches within the regional policies focused, since 1980s, on a new direction that is based upon three pillars: structural policy decentralization, promotion of endogenous potential of the regions and the focus of attention on sustainable development. The core of these approaches is represented by the integrated rural development, which promotes the decisions taken at regional and local level, the active participation of the parties involved, the creation of public-private networks and partnerships.

The endogenous potential of Huedin MR that comes from agriculture and forestry could increase the number of jobs in the countryside by means of activities such as: the processing of ecological agricultural products, of herbs, berries, but also by agricultural services. A particular importance is given to the association of producers and to the creation of certain groups, as a form of representation at regional, national and international level. The biggest challenge is connected to the use of lands and consists of developing innovative projects that could mitigate the conflicts between the land use possibilities.

The tourism resources represent an endogenous potential that allows the development of certain alternative income sources for the microregion's population. Particularly, the natural and cultural landscape plays a crucial role, because the space attractiveness depends on it. All tourism activities though depend on the infrastructure, especially on the area's accessibility, but also on the accommodation capacity and the

territory shown features of certain rural settlements. In spite of the unbelievably beautiful landscape and cultural potential, many idyllic villages are likely to remain undiscovered because of the lacking infrastructure.

As for culture as an endogenous potential, the necessity of preserving the regional characteristics is maintained, characteristics that are born by means of traditions and costumes; the development strategies of the rural spaces have the duty to focus on this aspect. The associations play a vital role in the life of the village and offer, in many cases, the only socio-cultural activities to children and young people who live here. Not only the young attend these associations; persons of all ages participate, eliminating the possible conflict between generations.

By means of local initiatives, the parties in the region can offer products and services on the regional and/or external market, which reflect the endogenous potential of the space. Within the endogenous rural development, active participation gets a whole new significance, due to the development strategies that are formulated at local level and their implementation occurs under the supervision of those who formulate them and who are also the direct beneficiaries of their effects. For the execution of these projects, different forms of participation (involvement) are necessary, according to each stage; these materialize in working groups that are presently found well defined within the LEADER program.

Although they are characterized by a high endogenous potential, rural communities hold generally the financial power, the know-how and experience in order to highlight the existing resources, thus the external intervention of certain experts is necessary, experts who create at least the framework of the developing projects and who assure the financing of the biggest projects, especially the infrastructure ones. Therefore, in order to design a successful development strategy, the Bottom-Up type initiatives must be associated with Top-Down instruments.

According to the sector economic analysis carried out, but also to the highlighting of the resources, results the fact that in the area there would exist the possibility of creating regional clusters, at least in the fields of tourism and wood processing industry. These are characterized by a higher number of enterprises, which could create an association with the purpose of cooperating to promote their own industry. By means of

these kind of associations, involving private initiative parties (bottom-up) and through the necessary investments made by the agricultural state institutions, animal breeding or forestry (top-down) competitive clusters could be created, even at European level from the food point of view, for instance, a cluster of buffalo milk products; a cluster dedicated to collecting and processing berries, edible mushrooms and herbs. The latter could be connected to the cosmetic products industry, which seeks this kind of unpolluted raw material for lotions and other products; there is also an impulse in this respect from L'Oreal, which aims to open a cranberries processing unit in Huedin MR.

Unfortunately, most of these association and cooperation forms are more hypothetical in Huedin MR, given the poor initiatives of the local economic players, but also of the government, who does not promote this kind of structures. The first step for the creation of an efficient cluster would be that the economic agents, the organizations and public institutions to form and then to act within a network according to the cooperation and competitiveness relationships and after their erosion on the market they could decide which clusters could be efficient in that specific area. Thus the government would have at its disposal factual information, measurable about the developing industries that give more value to the chain they belong to, which would ease the adoption of support strategies policies and the financings.

For the promotion of the clusters as local development structures, it would be necessary to initiate awareness actions upon the economic and non-economic players involved and to create a legal framework that could support from all points of view the involved industries.

Taking into consideration the fact that a cluster's engine is represented by innovation, which comes mainly from superior professional preparation, Huedin MR has a major advantage for any kind of cluster created in the area, meaning the favorable position of Huedin city at 50 km from the Cluj-Napoca university center, which, at the beginning, could prepare highly qualified workforce, needed in the territory being analyzed. Subsequently, a creative class could emerge, well trained and qualified in this microregion, which would have the know-how necessary for implementing the economic strategies. During a long-term period of time, there could exist also a knowledge and experience transfer to the future entrepreneur generations.

Cluster development does not have effects only at economic level; it gives that region generally more attractiveness, providing more services even to the population who is not directly involved in the cluster's activity. The effect of major importance of such structures would consist of the fact that in Huedin MR there would be working opportunities for the young population, who wouldn't be in the situation of leaving the region, which offers constant and motivated workforce, but also creates the possibility of population growth in general.

According to the sustainable development principles, by means of Huedin MR resources analysis and after determining the existing status quo in the analyzed territory, in the end it all comes down to suggesting certain local development strategies, suitable for this particular space. In order to formulate efficient strategies, there must be taken into consideration simultaneously the economic and social development together with the environment preservation and improvement.

For the strategies implementation, local population and the players having interests in the area have the duty of making suggesting and proposals regarding those projects meant to develop the microregion. On the other hand, they can put pressure on local administrations, but also on regional and national institutions in order for the developed projects to stay focused on de development strategies suitable for the community's development. The projects being conducted in the area must be accepted by the local population and considered useful for it. Otherwise, the possibility of major conflicts emerges, conflicts that destabilize even more the rural space.

In Huedin MR, there can be seen the pressing need of two strategies, a short-term one that would develop the region in a sustainable manner and would consolidate in front of the risks. On long-term, human resources education degree must be taken into consideration and especially that of the new generations. Furthermore, it is mandatory that an adequate degree of transportation infrastructure is developed so that the population won't stay isolated. The future of Huedin MR rural space relies upon the assurance of people contacting other environments, from which they can learn new things; upon facilitating the movement of creative ideas and innovation, but also upon the means access, which would allow the incorporation of the innovation within the productive process. Considering the changes that arise regarding rural space financing in

the EU from 2014 until 2020, Huedin MR must adopt a more competitive position and to develop projects based upon certain ideas, which would highly contribute to the territory situation improvement.

The last part of the PhD thesis is dedicated to conclusions, forecasts regarding the future of the microregion, but also the limitations of the research. Although it has been individualized for over a decade, Huedin Microregion continued to be a region avoided by the scientific research, but also by the development strategies policies. As a result of the analysis carried out by this work, it was confirmed that Huedin Microregion is the least economically developed area of Cluj county. The same thing though cannot be said about its resources and potential. After the sector analysis has been done, I have emphasized the above statements.

The restitution of the agricultural lands (in accordance with Land Law 18 of 1991, republished 1998 and with law 1/2000) had as a result the dispersion of land ownership and the excessively fragmented structure of the agricultural exploitations, which is the main obstacle for the development of a viable and competitive agriculture. Under these circumstances, the agriculture cannot provide revenues for the rural population, who needs to take other activities such as tourism, energy production, handicraft production and trade, collection and processing of berries, edible mushrooms and herbs etc.

The microregion's development potential consists of factors that contribute to the progress of regional economic activities. It is emphasized that spatial distribution and mutual relationships between settlements and not the isolated examination of a settlement influence the region's development potential. The quick discovery and the efficient use of the endogenous potential can bring the necessary information about the lasting and autonomy of a settlement. Still, the endogenous development theory is not a theory in itself, proving a too strong generalization and the lack of empirical studies which could confirm it. It appeared more as an answer to all the shortcomings observed in theories, models and processes meant to develop the rural space (Slee 1994). Closer to reality stands the neo-endogenous development approach of the rural space, since this one does not refuse relationships, which are born naturally with external world and it also puts into motion the integration of local processes in the macroeconomic external environment.

In conclusion, the development of an economical activities portfolio development is necessary, meant to delay as much as possible the rural space decline. For each municipality, a mix between agriculture, tourism and industry must be established that, from a geographic-perceptual point of view, could be implemented with the population's support, in other words, public acceptance is necessary. This means that within this mix we are talking about a balance between endogenous resources profitability and the rural population perception regarding the above-mentioned activities.

The weaknesses of the present work come from the lack of data from certain segments of the research, which are suggested as possible subjects for complementing the research. Thus, the following aspects are underlined in order to be subsequently added:

- The qualitative approach of the relationships that arise between local players from the networks and the influence exerted by these relationships upon the development of the microregion
- The detailed analysis of the financing sources at municipal level – local budget analysis (taxes and grants – fiscal situation; financial power of the municipalities; budget deficit); the analysis of other financing sources (NGOs – World Vision, for instance), but also the determination of the finished projects impact;
- A separate analysis, more detailed, of the mountain region and a strategic plan for its development. The mountain area of Huedin MR, as well as that of the entire county of Cluj, faces the continuous deterioration of the technical infrastructure, population aging, increase of illiteracy or chaotic exploitation of local resources;
- The calculation of poverty rate according to certain more recent data in order to connect it to HDI and other aggregated indicators. This could not be calculated only based on the data from the 2002 Census. At national level, the absolute poverty rate (calculated according to the food basket and a minimum of non-edible products and services) represented in 2008 5.7% and in 2009, under the crisis circumstances grew to 7.4%, meaning 1.58 million poor people;
- The necessity of an analysis based on more complex geographic perspective, not strictly normative-formal of the Huedin MR, thus by components, once according to the relief – mountains and hills, but also according to cultural criteria for areas

division – Căłata region (the cultural specific of Kalotaszeg) and the Apuseni Mountains (the cultural specific of their inhabitants, the „moři”).

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