

## RURAL ECONOMY IN ROMANIA – EVOLUTIONS AND TRENDS -

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**Abstract.** *The rural area, in its multiple diversity, is subject to complex challenges coming from the macroeconomic and macrosocial processes: a) demographic and social challenges from the territorial point of view, segregation of vulnerable groups – the diminution in number of the rural population and the strong demographic ageing on the rise have an impact upon rural cohesion starting from the type of public services, their supply and ending up with the rural labour market; b) climate change challenges – the environmental risks are felt in the territory at different degrees, and vulnerabilization is regionally selective; c) challenges in relation to the loss of biodiversity, through the vulnerabilization of the natural, landscape and cultural patrimony – the regional character of the rural area can be so drastically modified that the territorial identity is lost.*

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**JEL Classification:** J24, J11, O15, O18, Q2

### 1. Introduction

The strong diversity of the Romanian rural communities by regions and the main characteristic to conceive rural development essentially through the modernization and development of agriculture generate specific strategies for the potentiation of opportunities and risk diminution/exclusion.

The regional differences in the case of the Romanian rural communities stem from different historical evolution of the social becoming, from different cultural patterns that assimilated the different social and political transitions into their own mould. The concrete modality to couple the ecological, socio-economic, socio-cultural and socio-demographic systems describes the rural zones / regions / provinces; the adaptation and assimilation mechanisms of the values imposed by the macro-social system as integrating system have imposed a certain perception of the community, of their living place by people, an (accepted or denied) image that represents an essential element of regional combinations. The response of the rural society lacked institutional strategic coherence and the analytical approach of the present study targets the evaluation of context in which the Romanian rural

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