

**Alexandru Diana**

Babeş-Bolyai” University, Faculty of  
Geography, Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA

*The SAPARD Programme.  
Delocalization of Alimentary Industry  
in Romania*

Delocalization of the alimentary industry has been a more or less successful attempt of the SAPARD Programme in Romania during the pre-accession period to the European Union. The effects of this financial assistance programme may be considered positive if we consider the aspect of financial absorption and the diversity of the supported and developed economic activities. An overview of this financial help illustrates the availability of the inhabitants within the territory. Yet, the issue of our debate focuses on the functionality of the rural space, fact that cannot be given or established only by

this kind of attempt but it could set the premises for a future policy coordinated and structured according to the ratio registered by certain economic activities initiated by the local actors. The policy of rural development and transformation of the rural from an area for supply to an area of product and demand a financial support for rural became of a real means of development for urban. Given the opportunity offered by the practical guidebook for the application for the modernization of the already existing small and medium enterprises within the suburban areas, it becomes rather obvious the reason why the ratio of the modernization projects of investments increased against the ratio of the new investments in this industrial sector. The high proportion of accessing projects for modernizing the already existent production units is a fact. At the same time it becomes visible the tendency of not to relocate or to change the classical production centres, at the periphery of the urban areas that offer facilities for functioning and smaller production costs having in view the more facile access to all types of utilities. We have to keep in mind the fact that alimentary industry has the advantage of being able to be placed both in urban and in rural areas. Initially, the aim was to place new centres for processing alimentary products in the rural space so that they should create new opportunities for creating new workplaces, developing other types of agricultural activities in sectors providers of primary products, like animal breeding, vegetable and fruit farms to provide the necessary primary products, thus establishing a better correlation among all measures of the SAPARD Programme within the territory. The reduced number of new investments in this sector of economic activities within rural demonstrates the maintenance of the concept of urban location of industry, nearby the markets, utilities and qualified

workforce. Nevertheless, we can notice two aspects of locating industry both in urban and in rural areas. Placing units of alimentary processing in urban areas registers some advantages in what production and market are concerned, considering the access to the technical infrastructure and especially to the national and county transport network, fact which is vital for a linear functioning, thus assuring permanent production and delivering all year long. Much more, the main market centres are placed in the urban areas as well, especially in the urban centre in which periurban area is located the processing unit and the other urban centres polarized by it. On the other hand, the rural areas provide a high number of active workforce, yet untrained, closeness to the main primary products to be processed, low costs of production, however all these being shaded by the lack of modernized infrastructure, a profound agricultural aspect and a low interest of investors. What it has been a priority, it still remains a priority of the rural development policy, and eventually, starting with the small steps of innovation our rural settlements will become a productive and attractive space.