



**Greeting Message on the Occasion of the 3rd
International Conference
"Rural Space and Local Development"**

Tudor ȘTEFĂNIE
Mayor of Turda Municipality, Turda, Romania



Mr. Emil Boc, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca Municipality,
Mr. Andrei Marga, President of the Academic College of the "Babeș-Bolyai" University,
Mr. Vasile Surd, Professor and Chancellor of the Faculty of Geography,

Distinguished representatives of foreign universities,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very honoured to participate to the international conference organized by Professor Vasile Surd to whom I am bonded by a lot of memories from our childhood spent at Micești – my mother's and my grandparents' birthplace.

The theme of the conference is of a major importance as it maps out the fundamental pillars for the development of our villages within the framework of regional development, but also at a national and European level.

After a serious involution – too long a period, unfortunately – the Romanian village confronts itself with serious demographic, administrative, moral problems and also problems related to the households. Thus, our hopes to find the best ways to develop the rural space are right in order to give back to the rural space its vital functions, and also new ones, thus generating progress and civilization.

As a Mayor of Turda, I was involved in the organization of this international conference. Therefore, I am glad to invite you to Turda the next days, a visit that will be illuminating for you as it will show you Turda as a town that knew to face an industrial reconstruction, a town that is hospitable, a town that I represent with dignity and love.

Thank you for your time!

Cluj-Napoca, 22.07.2006