



Introduction



The rural space is considered a peripheral one, inside of which the factors that have major decisional power gain only a secondary position. All through the history, no matter the place, the village would always claim, in very many places, the majority of the demographic potential. Consequently, the village remains the stabile basis, which biologically sustains a nation, through its functional profile, which in most of the cases displays a basic structure.

The urban development at the beginning of the century, dominated by the economy of "the chimney", which requires a huge working force, has fully contributed to the process called "the tearing apart of the village" and generated the great migrations from rural to urban spaces. This situation is valid at least for the West of Europe. Later on the process was sustained by massive migrations from the poor world.

In the formerly socialist countries, the process of generalized industrialization, which was launched after The Second World War, had a faster evolution and has as a major consequence a major transfer of population from the rural space towards the urban one, in a very short period of time. The number of towns has consequently increased. As they changed the residential status, the rural immigrants, the peasants, usually changed their socio-professional status, becoming workers in the great urban industry. Through this new social status the former countrymen gained maximal political privileges, the workers being the social strata which mainly supported the communist political power. In Romania, in a period of 25 years (1960 - 1985), almost no person who graduated the elementary schools in the rural space did not settled in his birth place. Parents used to encourage their children to migrate to towns where the wages in the industrial field were higher and systematically paid than those paid by the former C.A.P. (Agricultural Cooperatives of Production). The factories generally provided

homes in blocks of flats, both for the ones who had a family, and for the ones who didn't, which were far more comfortable than the ones in the countryside.

Generally speaking, the physical effort was much lower than the one the agricultural work required, and the workers had far more spare time (here emerge the theory of the three eighths - 8 hours of work, 8 hours of rest 8 hours of having fun). One should not neglect the system of providing free tickets for holidays in balneo-climaterical and health resorts.

These are the reasons to explain how it was possible that in such a brief period of time very many villages have lost a huge demographic capital.

After the fall of the totalising systems in the Eastern Europe and the drastical reduction of the urban industrial activities, we witness again the emergence of a process of emigration, but this time from the urban space towards the rural space. But this shift of population is for the moment not important from a quantitative point of view.

In such a context, the rural space should be included with a greater area of participation in the process of defining and realizing the techniques of regional development. The territorial dezechilibrium of the development, generated by the massive concentration of the industry, may be adjusted in a predictable time by increasing the role of the rural space in the processes of regional development.