



Message on the occasion of the 2nd International Conference on Rural Space and Regional Development

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Mister Perfect, ladies and gentlemen,

I thank you for your invitation and I am honored to take part in the works of the 2nd International Conference on Rural Space and Regional Development. I also want to acknowledge the presence in our country of the distinguished foreign guests, to bid them “Welcome to Maramureş” and to wish them special moments here.

First, I would like to underline the importance of the subject of this reunion – the lasting development and inter-regional cooperation – taking into account the fact that these have become global issues. Regional development implies the involvement of all the communities belonging to a region, as the issue of the equilibrium between social and economic development, as well as its importance to the environmental factors – quantitatively for the protection of natural resources and qualitatively for the protection of the environment – and it’s a problem that can only be dealt with at local, regional and national levels.

Maramureş County is acknowledged as a land with an industrial-agrarian economy, with a population mainly dwelling in the urban area.

The increasing of polluting phenomena affecting the environment, to which some other negative processes such as the deforesting, soil erosion, improper infrastructure development can be added, they are all but some of the problems the rural space of Maramureş has to face. For these very reasons financial efforts are necessary for the re-launching Maramureş’ economy, but also for the ensuring of the appropriate equilibrium between resources and demands.

The private sector is already a force and an active, dynamic factor for the economy of our county. Approximately 50 000 inhabitants of Maramureş found working places during last year on this field, mainly based on private initiative and there is still a large action field to be covered from this point of view.

We haven’t yet developed our services. We have the possibility to solve social problems through the developments in the first place, of the private sector in the field and in the tourism as well. Maramureş is a region endowed with exceptionally attractive natural surroundings, highly appreciated by all its visitors. But when speaking about tourism, we stick to troubles related to the net of hotels and agro-touristic guest-houses. To develop mass tourism in Maramureş, lots of effort and initiative are necessary to transform each household into a proper location for tourists. Another specific thing for Maramureş is the tendency to equilibrate the rapport between culture and civilization, to integrate artistic creation to the modern technological progress.

The re-habilitation of historical buildings belonging to the rural heritage and their promoting towards a global recognition through computer networks and communication technologies is one of the chances for the relaunching of Maramureş economy.

The Maramureş County Council has worked to the consolidation of the regional infrastructure involving communication and information technology through implementing two projects: “UrbaNet” and “Tourist”. These will provide people in Maramureş with the organization

of educational consulting and planning structures in the field of lasting rural and urban development.

I put all my trust and my deep conviction in the fact that the success of lasting rural and urban development is in our hands, because the tradition and our ancestors' heritage urge us to think responsibly to our present and future, in order to ensure civilized living conditions for the local populations.

I congratulate you for organizing this manifestation, I wish you a lot of success during the works and I wish you health, happiness and prosperity.

Thank you.