Abstract

The habilitation thesis called “Evaluation of performance management in agriculture and rural development” reflects in a condensed and substantiated manner the scientific and professional achievements, the recognition and the impact of the activity in the field of engineering and management in agriculture and rural development obtained after the defence of PhD thesis on the 28th of September 2009. A significant part of these results are a continuation of prior scientific concerns, the results being analysed in the current context and perspective of development of the target field, with reference to the most relevant sources of information related to the current stage of knowledge in the field and with the accurate analysis of the local, regional, national, European and global tendencies. Within the habilitation thesis I have presented how the evolution of the academic career has twinned with scientific research, with professional results, with the recognition and the impact of the activity in the field of engineering and management in agriculture and rural development, after obtaining the PhD title.

In the habilitation thesis, after a short introductory chapter, in which are presented information related to the aspects that define the author’s career, namely the academic, scientific and professional career, the section scientific achievements presents the main directions of research approached. Thus, the first part of this section presents the main directions of disciplinary and interdisciplinary research that represented the basis of this thesis, namely:

(1) Contributions for the economic evaluation of sustainable business management;
(2) Contributions to estimate the impact of rural development specific actions.

First of all was approached the issue of economic and financial performance of companies, by proposing instruments to quantify this or by studying it in close correlation with the resources available or the risks associated to businesses in several fields of economic activity: agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and tourism. The research followed the efficiency of the implementation of a complex information system through economic and financial research and
consultancy projects, providing concrete references related to how scientific results were applied in the real economy. The companies’ performance evaluation focused on situations in which we have investigated various aspects, useful to base the decisions of different categories of users such as: financial analysis instruments, the relation between profitability, return and growth, financial balance, factors of influence on business performance, etc.

It was also included a comparative study between the profit obtained by the beekeeping companies in Romania and in France, with the identification of the determinants and of the strategies that beekeeping companies in both countries need to implement in order to increase their profitability. The results of this study were presented in several scientific articles published in several magazines with international visibility, including a magazine indexed by Thomson Reuters.

At the end of this part is investigated the marketing direction of the companies in the agri-food industry, with a focus on consumer study, as well as on the manner in which rural tourism services, apiculture products and the ones certified organics may constitute an integrating factor in the value chain of agri-food products. This subchapter is based on the research presented in numerous scientific articles.

The results of the research regarding sustainable development of the rural space through the impact of rural development specific actions are presented through the identification of the aspects related to the multifunctionality of the rural area, from economic to residential, social, environmental and of good corporate governance, through studies whose results were published in specialty journals, ISI quoted, that were at their turn quoted in other specific works. Concerns related to sustainable development of the rural space were based on various directions of research: population and demographic structure, internal and external migration, workforce, standard of living, education, innovation and transfer of knowledge, agricultural and non-agricultural activities, traditional products, social economy and rural development.

The results obtained were disseminated through the publishing of studies, articles, scientific books, textbooks, so that both students and the academic and professional community could benefit to a larger extent. Thus, as an author, I have published 2 scientific books, 7 student support courses, 1 guide for practical works, 8 articles in ISI journals and ISI Proceeding, 100 articles and studies in journals indexed in international databases and in volumes of some international conferences. These proved to be useful for the activity of other researchers, being
quoted in over 30 Thomson Reuters indexed journals and other 46 scientific studies published in international databases.

Involvement in academic life facilitated the achievement of scientific results through the extensions of the collaborative network that includes colleagues from universities, research institutes, companies and professional associations in Romania and abroad. Participation in the organization of scientific conferences and to academic evaluation, membership in professional association show an activity based on specific principles and values that will continue to be followed in the future. I maintain the relationship with the business environment through the exercise of the liberal professions of accountant, evaluator and financial auditor.

The habilitation thesis concludes with the Plans of evolution and development of the professional, scientific and academic career broken down in three directions: in the educational domain, the one of scientific research and increase of professional prestige in the following period, through which are highlighted future intentions and development directions and in which it is intended the engagement and coordination of young researchers.