

## SUMMARY

The habilitation thesis with the title "*Research regarding the sustainable development of the Romanian rural area in European context*" presents, in an integrated and documented way, the results of the research undertaken throughout the entire professional career, after obtaining the PhD title in 2010. The studies undertaken have allowed me the acquisition of expertise in the development of the Romanian rural area and the rural economy, placing particular emphasis on the development of non-agricultural activities, in particular, agritourism.

Current habilitation thesis presents a set of actions and measures that allow the elaboration of relevant strategies for the development of the Romanian rural area and the approach to the level of development of the Western European states, paying more attention to the sustainable capitalization of the existing resources in these areas, through non-agricultural activities.

This habilitation thesis is structured in two parts. *The first part* includes the scientific, professional and academic achievements, presenting in the form of an exploratory study, the main aspects that aim the sustainable development of the rural area and the possibility of capitalizing, at the highest possible level, the endogenous potential of the Romanian village. The studies undertaken for this purpose address two major research directions:

- ❖ research regarding the sustainable development of Romania;
- ❖ research regarding the implications of tourist activity in the development of rural areas;

The sustainable development of rural area represents a complex problem of contemporaneity, essentially, aiming to achieve a balance between the preservation of rural area from an economic, social and ecological point of view, on the one hand, and the diversification of economic activities, especially touristic ones, as sources of income for the inhabitants of these areas, on the other hand.

The professional and scientific activity, carried out until now, has a pronounced multidisciplinary character, oriented towards the sustainable development of the Romanian rural area. The scientific and publishing activity, carried out after obtaining the PhD degree in 2010, can be summarized as follows: 2 specialized books published by recognized national publishing houses; 1 book chapter published collectively, at an international publishing house, 2 course materials; 17 ISI indexed articles, 7 of which have the title of main author; over 100 articles published in journals indexed in international databases; 2 research contracts with the economic environment, as director; 6 research projects as a

member; 7 awarded articles in the UEFISCDI competition awarding research results (2019-2021); 134 citations in ISI indexed articles and 960 citations in journals indexed in other international databases; editor-in-chief of the BDI indexed journal - ***Agricultural Management Scientific Works***, guest editor of the ***Sustainability*** journal, special issue - ***"Role of Agritourism Activity in Sustainable Rural Development"***, member of the scientific committee and reviewer at the ISI and BDI indexed journals.

Currently, I am ***Vice-Dean in charge of the research activity***, at the Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, within the Life Sciences University "King Mihai I", from Timisoara. Since 2020, I hold the didactic degree of associate professor, being the holder of the disciplines of ***Agrarian Economy, Agritourism Economy, Production Economy and Entrepreneurship***. I carry out the didactic activity with professionalism, dedication, and interest, I coordinate students at symposiums and student competitions, I guide graduate students in the preparation of diploma and dissertation projects, and I involve and coordinate young researchers in research and institutional development projects.

***The second part of the habilitation thesis*** presents the professional, scientific and academic career development plan with the indication of the main objectives established on the short, medium and long term, their fulfillment, determining the increase in the performance of the IMADR field.

Regarding my professional university career, I propose to continue to progress in the fields in which I am currently active, but also to broaden their scope to other new fields of local or national interest. The development of the professional career is aimed at obtaining the qualification certificate and the didactic degree of university professor.

In the scientific career development plan, I will mainly pursue the continuation of research in the field of sustainable rural development, but also the expansion of the research area towards other priority areas of interest.

The proposed development plan of professional, scientific and academic career is based on the minimum criteria and standards for obtaining the habilitation certificate, this giving me the opportunity to involve and coordinate, in the research activity, young graduates who want a career of researcher or wish to improve their professional skills through doctoral studies. For the future, I will continue to pursue the development of a successful university career, the acquisition of a special academic recognition and the increase of professional and scientific prestige, at the same time pursuing the increase of visibility at the national and international level of the " Life Sciences University "King Mihai I", from Timisoara, and especially the Department of Management and Rural Development within the Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism, where I carry out my activity.