Abstract
Rural and urban development in sustainable context is a complex process that requires an improvement of the existing situation and a removing of the dysfunctions. Over time, the rural area was not addressed as much as urban area, rural analysis is often fragmentary explained and incomplete argued. The system of values owned by rural area is overshadowed by an economic, social and cultural subordination to the city. The connection that is established is a support for the systems analysis of settlements and is the consequence of the functional differentiation between cities and villages, evidenced by the natural, social and economic aspects representative for each system. Our research highlights the relationship, to the social, economic and cultural level, between the municipality of Piatra Neamț and Gârcina commune, situated in proximity. The dependence of rural areas to the city is evident due to the very small distance between them, the existing phenomena causing significant changes in both sides. The population is an important indicator of sustainable development, the demographic relationship between urban and rural area consisting intake of labor resources and sources of supply organic food. The demographic, economic, administrative, educational, cultural and sanitary relations will be highlighted based on statistical data, through graphs and maps, their interpretation referring in the same time to the situation of county level. The partnership established between rural and urban areas lead to the development of urban system and a rural preservation, so new concepts of sustainable development is essential in the exploitation of local resources.

Key words: rural development, rural space, urban development, rural-urban relations