# THE IMPORTANCE OF RURAL LANDSCAPE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT. CASE STUDY BOTOSANI COUNTY

## IMPORTANȚA PEISAJULUI RURAL ÎN DEZVOLTAREA RURALĂ. STUDIU DE CAZ: JUDEȚUL BOTOȘANI

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Abstract. Countryside are important for the harmonious development of space, such as the European level is addressed and integrated into the organizational policies and spatial planning and territory. Disparities occurring globally due countryside influenced the implementation of local rural landscape and creating an aesthetic. Botosani is in a process of development and creation of carrying out its policies and strategies. Thus rural areas shows the most numerous malfunctions, which means that identity has striking countryside and require special attention by its integration policies and strategies in rural dezvolltarii. Harmonious development and organization of rural space will create a rural landscape aesthetic and integrated European and global level.

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Rezumat. Peisajul rural prezintă importanță pentru dezvoltarea armonioasă a spațiului, astfel că la nivel European este abordat și integrat în politicile de organizare și amenajare a spațiului și teritoriului. Disparitățile apărute la nivel mondial datorită peisajelor rurale a influențat implementarea strategiilor de dezvoltare a peisajului și crearea unei estetice rurale. Județul Botoșani se afla într-un process de dezvoltare și creare a politicilor și strategiilor efectuării acesteia. Astfel spațiul rural prezintă cele mai numeroase disfuncționalități, ceea ce înseamnă că peisajul rural nu are identitate pregnantă și necesită o atenție deosebită prin integrarea acestuia în politicile și strategiile dezvoltarii rurale. Dezvoltarea și organizarea armonioasă a spațiului rural va crea un peisaj rural estetic și integrat la nivel european și global.

Cuvinte cheie: peisaj rural, dezvoltare rurală, amenjarea teritoriului, politici de dezvoltare, Convenția Europeană a Peisajului.

#### INTRODUCTION

The term landscape was first used by painters in the Renaissance, and was defined as a painting nature from the perspective of human rights. He developed the term landscaping from the nineteenth century to define art gardens and their setting (Socol and Rădulescu, 2006).

History of the origin of "landscape" shows that painting belongs to replicate nature, but with the evolution of science and research, it was the board and to other areas: geography, history, art, arhtectură, ecology, ethnology, medicine and so on, addressing different sides of this concept and create the

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appearance of diversifying their classification landscapes: natural, anthropogenic landscape, cultural landscape, urban landscape, countryside, etc. ethnographic landscape.

We can identify several scientific disciplines that studies the landscape: landscape architecture studies "organization and building upon certain principles and techniques of outer space by associating the natural elements of landscape (ground, rocks, water, vegetation) with artificial elements (movement, decorative and utility construction, furniture, etc.) to achieve specific functions of these spaces " (Vijulie, 2010) landscape ecology and Geoecology study mutual relations overall between ecosystems in geographically and ecologically (Nicului, 1990) and studying geography landscape landscape integration with the social, natural bioecosistemele changing man according to his needs, the level of organization and development of the community.

#### **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

The study aims to highlight the importance of rural landscape and rural development need to integrate aspects of the countryside socio-economic development strategies and development plans and landscaping. A brief history of the concept was analyzed landscape approach in the European Landscape Convention, European Spatial Development Scheme, the European Charter of rural areas, the Territorial Agenda, the European Charter for Regional Planning and then integrate the objective of the install of the territory aimed a harmonious rural landscape of socio-economic development strategy of Botosani and Spatial Plan of Botosani.

Such was the case study chosen Botosani, to observe the importance of the countryside in rural development because it is an area with a pronounced rurality and many difficulties in planning. Include objectives for Spatial development strategies provides a redefinition of the countryside and its coherent structure.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

European Landscape Convention clarifies the importance of the European landscape and sets a major objective for Member States for the protection and enhancement of the landscape. So this is the promoter include indirect protection and landscape conservation in development policies at EU level.

The aim of the European Landscape Convention is achieved through economic and social arrangements to achieve sustainable development based on a fair and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment, noting that participating in a landscape important to the interest general regarding the cultural, ecological, environmental and social.

The landscape is an important part of quality of life, but the evolution of techniques of agricultural production, forestry, industrial and mining and spatial policies, planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation, and global economic change transforms landscapes most or negative.

While the European Landscape Convention reflected its importance at European level and the need for the development policies and spatial planning official documents of the European Union, which includes plans for the development and reducing disparities include indirect protection and landscaping. Thus in Europe the major objectives are to create a competitive space through socio-economic development policies and strategies rational cohesive landscaping that will result in a structured and harmonious countryside (fig.1).

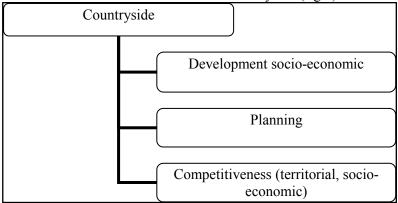


Fig.1 - Synthesizing European policy objectives for creating a structured rural countryside

The scheme Spatial Development and Territorial Agenda attaches great importance to the protection of rural landscapes, their identity but it highlights the need for spatial planning and policy implemntarea resource recovery, modernization, creating a competitive economy and a modern society.

#### Case study: Botoşani County

Rural development attaches great importance to the landscape of this area, as there are numerous socio-economic and territorial disparities which causes disruptions in the countryside, making him incoherent, and may not be classified and without retaining traditional culture. Botosani County faces numerous problems at rural demographic, social, economic, territorial and landscape bear the consequences of the above. Rurality facing adds a note of authenticity to be preserved countryside, but the socio-economic and rural development policy requires dmeografic so they must be designed and implemented to reduce the gaps in this area but without affecting rural characteristics.

The main documents existing in Botosani county rural development are socio-economic Strategy and Plan of Arrangement Teritoiului performing diagnosis and provides rural development strategies, recovery of resources and optimization of space.

Development strategies based on reducing socio-economic disparities at the county and regional planning advocates that range in a rational and effective to implement socio-economic policies. It attaches importance to both official documents are official support for the realization of rural development for the economic, social, infrastructure, health, tourism, cultural education and highlights the need to improve planning for recovery and valorisation. It is noted that the proposed policy for the rural countryside will be conserved, and its characteristics have a decisive role in creating strategies for rural development. Thus the

correlation between the true and the need to preserve the rural landscape rural development highlights the influence of these two coordinates and their interdependence.

Although the countryside is an indirect object in all development strategies and spatial plans, it is vital to underpin socio-economic development of rural areas and to preserve the traditional rural landscape specific. Botosani County, now faces a rehabilitation countryside due to the integration into the European Union and rural development policies. After 1990, the rural landscape and visual identity has lost its collective property due to changes on the abolition of collective farms (Centers Agricultural Production).

Implementation of a capitalist economy in rural Botosani the destruction of the space aesthetics as economic reforms have had negative effects on core activities, agriculture, because aging process. Thus there were socio-economic and demographic changes, causing a reorganization of agriculture through land laws, (Land Law 18/1991) had two functions: one for the return of land ownership and a dissolution of agricultural cooperatives.

Rural landscape in the study area is chaotic, losing the identity due to changes after 1990, but 2007 is starting his reconstruction of his realcătuirea a coherent and having visual identity. Land parceling, maintaining rural morphology of each component of the village județuțui Botosani occur without significant rehabilitation, has triggered an archaic countryside without structure, which has captured the attention of the authorities to develop policies to redefine the countryside.



Fig.2 - Typical rural landscape in Botosani County, Photo: Cuciureanu Simona, 2011

We can identify some problems of the countryside in the area of study: the land (determined by reîmproprietărire practicing subsistence agriculture because each individual had a small area of land and cultivate as many crops to households) and rural residence (form specific county is rectangular, but because of the economic situation dwellings were not rehabilitated and upgraded a long time).

The dominant features of the countryside in the county of Botosani are locuitele typical Romanian village without being upgraded, practicing subsistence culture, using traditional farming techniques (horse, plow, wagon), using small plots of land etc..



Fig. 3 - Rural landscape in Botoșani County, Source: Cuguat-TIGRIS, 2003)

Existing problems of the countryside can be reduced by adopting rural development policies, European funds provided for rural disparities, optimizing specific features by creating coherence village landscape, modernized homes by increasing comfort is technically upgrading rural infrastructure. Thus in Botosani County countryside can be redefined and can highlight the uniqueness through a uniform and integrated rural development machines.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

- 1. Interdependence between landscape and existing problems in rural areas highlights the need of rural development strategies that meet European targets on territorial competitiveness and socio-economic cohesion.
- 2. Countryside conservation is a priority at European level, which should be implemented in Botosani County which has an authentic countryside with traditional characteristics currently stored, despite the intrusion of modernity. Philosopher H.R. Patapievici believes that this complex traditions were kept pure, not yet victims of modern influences.
- 3. Influence is indirect countryside rural development strategies and policies, but is an important aspect for achieving rural development, EU cohesion policy objectives and socio-economic and territorial competitiveness and preserve the identity of authentic countryside Botosani.
- 4. Countryside in Botosani county may retain the rural character by: developing and promoting companies "large landowners" land to lease all of the rural communities, creating in this way an aesthetic geometry plots in terms of

landscape, then upgrading rural infrastructure, technical and utilities increased comfort, keeping specific rural housing (rectangular shape), and lower penetration constructfiilor "kitch" (mansions), etc. This ensures a competitive rural development, but keep local identity and landscape, improving them and redefining them.

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- 7. \*\*\* Convenția europeană a peisajului.
- 8. \*\*\* Planul de Amenajare a Teritoriului Județean Botoșani.
- 9. \*\*\* Schema de Dezvoltare a Spațiului Comunitar