

S U M M A R Y

RESEARCHES ON THE EUROPEAN UNION ACCESSION IMPACT TO THE AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS DEVELOPMENT IN OUR COUNTRY. CASE STUDY OLT COUNTY

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Romania's accession to the European Union was a success and a European recognition of our country's efforts to align with the economic and social standards of developed countries in Europe. Although Romania has made many progresses so far, in the convergence of many sectors, it can be said that the most difficult part is the implementation of the commitments assumed for the functionality of the institutional mechanisms, which are an important challenge for the next period.

The paper aims to analyze and substantiate possible options for the implementation of funds in agriculture, paying close attention to the impact of their implementation on the development of agricultural holdings.

In order to achieve these assessments, a number of elements were taken into account, among which the CAP, direct national payments, the experience of several Member States, which were compared with the results in Romania.

Assessing the impact of the CAP and highlighting institutional needs as well as radiography and analyzing the difficulties encountered in this area is another aspect of the study. The analysis also aimed to identify the possible rural sectors that would need support for access / development.

For the estimation of budget implications, the paper presents a series of analyzes on the various measures taken, evaluated to observe the results, meaning proposed projects, finalized projects, required value, funded value, degree of achievement, both at country level and in case study area, SV Oltenia region and Olt County.

Another objective of the study is the formulation of recommendations and the presentation of options that provide an orientation framework for decision-makers to substantiate decisions related to accessing, implementing and evaluating European funds.

In the paper, the analysis of the impact of European funds on Romanian agriculture focused on the statistical analysis of the following indicators: occupancy rate, labor productivity, production of the main agricultural crops, agri-food trade, living standards, consolidation of agricultural holdings. The data used was provided by INS, APIA and AFIR and by the answers of 130 beneficiaries of European funds, obtained on the basis of the questionnaire drawn up in 2017.

The paper is structured in two parts, the first part being devoted to the bibliographic study, comprising the first two chapters of the paper, and the second part is made up of the case study, emphasizing its own contributions, which constitute the second part of the paper .

Chapter I. Analysis of the development of agricultural holdings at the level of the European Union contains a detailed introduction to the history of the European Union's agricultural policy on rural development with special reference to agricultural holdings. The results at the European level of the CAP are analyzed, the analyzed data highlighting the impact on European agricultural holdings, how the size of

agricultural holdings and the agricultural workforce has evolved in recent years. Based on these analyzes and other specialized studies, it was possible to see where the communitary agricultural policy is heading.

However, the analysis in the first chapter has highlighted the big differences between Romania and other countries, in terms of professional training but with a high consumption of Annual Work Unit, in the standard production where Romania, although predominantly agricultural reached only the 8th place in 2013 or the balance import export, where the values are negative.

It is unanimous the conclusion that the process of convergence towards EU standards, with reference to the technologies and agricultural outputs obtained, can only be achieved with subsidies.

Chapter II. The state of research on the impact of European funds on agricultural holdings is also part of the substantiation of the bibliographic study starting with the research on the basic concepts of impact analysis of European funds on agricultural holdings.

Detailed statistical indicators for the impact of European funds on agricultural holdings are detailed, including: average, standard deviation of the series, variation coefficient, annual growth rate and statistical comparison (test t) of these indicators for different time periods or different countries.

In the second part of the chapter is presented the collection and analysis of the data through the questionnaire, while briefly were presented the areas under the case study (10 studied villages). The analysis of the data from the questionnaire was aimed at evaluating the investment measures of the NPARD (related to impact, effectiveness, efficiency, achievements) in the studied villages, on the results of agricultural production and rural development.

The questionnaire, through the questions, attempted to capture the farmers' assessment of the attracted European funds and their perception of the impact they had on the farm.

130 people were surveyed, distributed on the three relief areas of the county (meadow, plain, hill) as follows: 34 from the meadow area, Izbiceni village; 47 from the plain area in Șerbănești, Crâmpoia, Vâlcele, Stoicănești and Izvoarele; 49 from the hill area in Bărăști, Tătulești, Poboru and Spineni.

In terms of gender distribution, 100 men were surveyed, representing 76.9% of the total and 30 women, 23.1%.

The questionnaire was interviewed and addressed directly to the individuals and legal entities that were involved. In the evaluation of the survey data, the assay test was used (Chi, Hi or χ^2).

Chapter III. Analysis of the impact of the accession to the European Union on the development of agricultural holdings in the South West Oltenia Development Region.

The first part of Chapter 3 is a brief presentation of the South West Oltenia and Olt County, of the natural, economic and social conditions. Labor indicators are analyzed to determine the impact that EU membership has had on the sector.

The case study is further elaborated by combining the analysis made in the questionnaire with the official data taken from APIA, AFIR and INS.

The answers to a series of questions have been analyzed, which helped to form a vision of the impact of European funds on the agricultural holdings in the studied area, which certainly can be extrapolated to the country.

Key issues have been identified in the conduct of farm activities, including: procurement of money, labor, especially for small farm and vegetable farmers, where manual labor is most sought after, changes climate.

The analysis also included the identification of the main sources of information in the submission and winning of the projects, where the first places are the mayoralities and the consultancy activity.

It is clear from the analysis of the questions that a higher impact was played by the projects financed on the improvement of the environmental conditions and on living standard and at a medium level of impact on the quality and quantity of the agricultural products as well as on the labor productivity. The same responses are also for economic indicators, with the assessed results at the medium impact level.

Chapter IV. Analysis of the impact of the funds attracted by our country and the development region South West Oltenia on the technical - economic and social results of agriculture and rural development.

The first part of chapter 4 studies the indicators that characterize the development of agriculture in the development region of South West Oltenia, in our country and in some European countries, all data being studied in comparison between the periods 2001-2006 and 2007-2016 or 2017, depending on the availability data.

Major changes were observed in all areas studied, both in the plant and animal sectors.

These analyzes were able to determine the positive impact on the structure of agricultural holdings by reducing the share of holdings with areas up to 10 ha in favor of larger size groups.

The impact on average yields on the main crops also highlighted positive results, with most of the studied crops having an upward trend, with lower yields compared to those at the EU level.

From the analysis of the impact on the trade of agro-food products, it is noticed that the export of products was greatly increased in Romania, and in the S-V Oltenia and Olt county, where the export growth was moderate.

The future of the agricultural holding is a point of interest for farmers' strategies. Most are convinced that they will continue to work in agriculture, trying to access European funds in the future.

Chapter V. Conclusions and proposals, is the final chapter summarizing the main results of the analysis undertaken and proposed a series of measures, called rural development perspectives, in order to facilitate access to the funds, increase their impact on the development of agricultural holdings, increase the degree absorption and development of agriculture in the area of SV Oltenia and Olt County. Measures are also proposed to empower those who contribute to accessing, developing and facilitating the achievements of European funds.