

Rural Development Strategy of the village Osorhei

Moșoiu A.

University of Oradea, Faculty of Environmental Protection, 26 Gen. Magheru St., 410048
Oradea, Romania, e-mail alina_mosoiu@yahoo.com

Abstract

More than 56% of the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU) live in rural areas, which cover 91% of European territory. This makes rural development policy to be an area of vital importance. Strengthening the rural development policy is a priority for the European Union.

Strategy is necessary for community development and involves sustainable development principles - current requirements fulfillment enable future generations to carry out its development options.

Why does Osorhei village need a development strategy? Because the pursuit and the concern of local administration is to create conditions for a better living environment for the community, covering all aspects of sustainable development. To achieve its objectives, the local administration needs planning (prioritization) of actual needs.

Key words: *owning farmland, household level, Lack of qualified*

INTRODUCTION

Osorhei village is located in the Eastern part of Oradea city, on the E60 international highway, or DN 1, along the railway line Oradea-Cluj, 8 km from the city center. It lays by Crisul Repede River, on a hilly area extending from the Apuseni Mountains. At an average height of 126 m above sea level, Oșorhei Village is situated at the opening of the valley of Crisul Repede River into a plain, in a contact area between the Apuseni Mountains and the Banato – Crisana Plain, transition area from hilly parts to plain parts (the Western Hills, the Oradea Hills). The Western part is bordered by Oradea City, Podgoria neighborhood and with Rontau village, which is part of Sînmartin area, in North-East it is bordered by Husasau de Cris, belonging to Ineu area, in East it is bordered by Sacadt and Copacel, and in Southern part by Santelec village, that belongs to Hidiselu de Sus area.

It consists in villages Osorhei, Fughiu, Alpar, Cheriș and Felcheriu.

The village covers an area of 6492 ha, of which 4426 ha is unincorporated land and 2066 hectares is built.

The situation of agricultural land in the village Osorhei

Land		Surface
Arable	(ha)	2995
Pastures	(ha)	977
Hay fields	(ha)	452
Total farming lands	(ha)	4424

Livestock in the village Osorhei

<i>Livestock</i>	
Pigs	2780
Birds	25312
Sheep	1149
Cattle	1104

The economy of the area is dominated by agriculture, population owning farmland, fragmented into small parcels, with low operating efficiency.

The evolution of population of the village Osorhei in 2004-2008

Area	Time frame				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Osorhei village	5924	5970	5887	6151	6305
men	2928	2947	3250	3055	3136
women	2996	3023	2637	3096	3169

Osorhei village had a population of 6.305 inhabitants (July 1, 2008), representing 2.65% of total population in the area analyzed, of which: 2.850 in Osorhei, 1.050 in Alparea, 750 in Cheriou and 450 in Felcheriu.

Population structure by gender is 50.3% women and 49.7% men.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In terms of agricultural economy, the SWOT analysis provides a complete image of the agricultural production units and systems by studying simultaneously the internal characteristics and external influences upon them, taking into account both positive and negative variables.

The SWOT analysis is used primarily to assess the situation on the ground and it is the fundamental step in the preparation of the development programs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The SWOT analysis of Oșorhei village includes:

Strengths

- Beneficial for agriculture and livestock in the area is the fact that in the individual household level, everything is naturally bred, leading toward an organic development, which is becoming more and more appreciated both internally and externally. Unfortunately, the lack of organization in this field leads to a total lack of efficiency.
- Advantageous position close to Oradea and the main access routes to Bucharest and to the border with Hungary.

Weak spots

- Insufficient financial resources, limited investment
- Agriculture techniques outdated, primitive and inefficient technologies
- High average age of those who deal with agricultural activities
- Parceled land (agricultural land can not always be worked mechanically) and ownership issues;
- Lack of efficiency, the obtained products are used almost entirely for the use by the owner and his family
- Reduced selling market

Opportunities

- Information and awareness of land owners towards the cooperation of having larger farmlands, better organized and better managed
- Attracting financial resources from European grant funding for economic development of the area.
- Identifying profitable and unconventional crop and diversification of these. Conclusion of cooperation agreements for internal and external sales.
- Creation and promotion of registered brands after traditional recipes from the fields of agriculture and animal breeding.

Risks

- Negative impact on the economy and local labor market of a possible restriction of activities of economical agents in the village and in Oradea City;
- Increasing aridity of the soil due to climatic conditions;
- Limited number of accommodation

- Lack of qualified personnel in tourism - managers, guides - and poor promotion of existing tourist products.

CONCLUSIONS

To strengthen sustainable economic and structural transformation of the business, tourism and agriculture environment in this village, it would be appropriate to take the following measures:

- Establishment of markets and fairs and permanent selling of local products;
- Attracting new investors in order to increase local economic competitiveness;
- Support and stimulate small producers of traditional products and handicrafts;
- Development of the necessary infrastructure for tourism activities - access roads to the objectives, water supply, sewerage, electricity;
- Construction of a recreation area on the banks of Crisul Repede River
- Construction of an access road to the Felcheriu Cottage, to highlight the area's tourism potential.

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