

## DIAGNOSTIC STUDY OF THE COMPLETION DEGREE IN USING EUROPEAN FUNDS IN TIMIS COUNTY

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**Abstract:** *If the West Region for Romanian means traditionally riches, a higher level of development and a lifestyle with strong influences from German and European Central space, for foreign investors, the West region was highlighted as a promising investment area to where substantial opportunities of an emerging market can be harnessed in a modern and civilized business. So, starting from a set of favorable circumstances and build on an impressive industrial tradition in the post-communist period, the West region recorded a constant economic growth, higher to the romanian average and has managed to draw an impressive volume of foreign investments oriented towards economic sectors. The economic dynamics of the West Region is the result of a complex of factors, among the most important would be the highest qualification level of employment and the cosmopolitan mentality which characterize an important segment of population, proximity to the Western markets and existing natural and significant resources.*

**Key words:** *industrial tradition; business environment; qualification; employment; natural resources.*

### INTRODUCTION

The Community funds are also an opportunity for the development of social and solidarity economy, and in order to be accessible, it is required certain specific competences, especially to find the best information or to be able to take account the requirements of programming imposed by European Union (Ianoșevici, 2013). In addition to these funds, there are also operational programs representing the documents submitted by each Member State and adopted by European Commission. Romania has prepared some strategic and operational documents to establish the development priorities and to define their allocation.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

It has been defined the issue and formulation of the main hypotheses in order to constitute an explanatory and convincing model, inducing the importance and activity of the researched subject. Then, it has been drawn up and completed by the collected information. The drafting of this paper was made in laboratory, based on the notes from the ground, the existing material and consulted bibliography.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In Table 1, the financial data on projects developed in Timis County have been highlighted. So, there have been estimated primarily the corresponding amounts for total number of projects for each strategic development axis and for total local co-financing amounts axis (columns 4 and 5).

Table 1

## Number and value of projects implemented in Timis County

AXIS	Total projects (no.)	Projects included in the Strategic Programme 2007-2013	
		Estimated total value	Local co-financing total value
		EURO	
		4	5
Transport	105	284.195.296	25.130.148
Environment	279	358.800.850	22.248.598
Education and human resources	25	1.555.047	500.000
Social and health	30	5.253.600	1.438.872
Tourism	24	12.641.422	190.000
Economic development	12	32.506.053	843.400
Administrative capacity	19	4.633.925	4.332.335
Rural development	227	95.216.178	45.500.000
Territorial cooperation	32	35.819.344	2.502.148
Culture	63	36.188.931	2.455.142

Source: OJPDRP Timiș

In this context, the co-financing refers to both the amounts by which the beneficiaries of grant projects of various programs contribute to their implementation, and projects funded exclusively from own financial resources of Timis County Council. The financial data in columns 4 and 5 refer both to the Timis County Council projects and strategic partners projects (mainly of public administrations in Timis County) where these data were provided by their owners. In the columns 6 and 7 (table 2), only the corresponding amounts on number of projects have been estimated, considered as priorities, on each strategic development axis and local co-financing amounts for each axis.

Table 2

## Number and value of priority projects in Timis County

AXIS	Priority projects included in Strategic Programme	
	Estimated total value	Local co-financing total value
	EURO	
	6	7
Transport	74.163.271	11.678.903
Environment	35.260.000	758.598
Education and human resources	454.476	478.600
Social and health	2.095.000	985.372
Tourism	0	0
Economic development	21.606.053	585.400
Administrative capacity	4.505.925	4.319.835
Rural development	0	0
Territorial cooperation	4.714.961	732.348
Culture	21.678.435	2.689.200

Source: OJPDRP Timiș

In this context, the category of priority projects refer to the projects that satisfy the following main requirements:

- Ensure the solution of stringent requirements of strategic development in the medium and long term
- Satisfy, currently, the eligibility requirements for qualification in auctions of European and national programs for grants funding;
- Have the documentation of in progress or completed project;
- Are included in the decision acts of the authorities which they promote for economic and social development.

In the case of strategic axis. No.8 "Rural Development", financial data on priority projects do not exist, considering that these projects are the exclusive responsibility of local public administrations. In the Figure 1, we present some graphical presentations of financial data (columns 4 and 5).

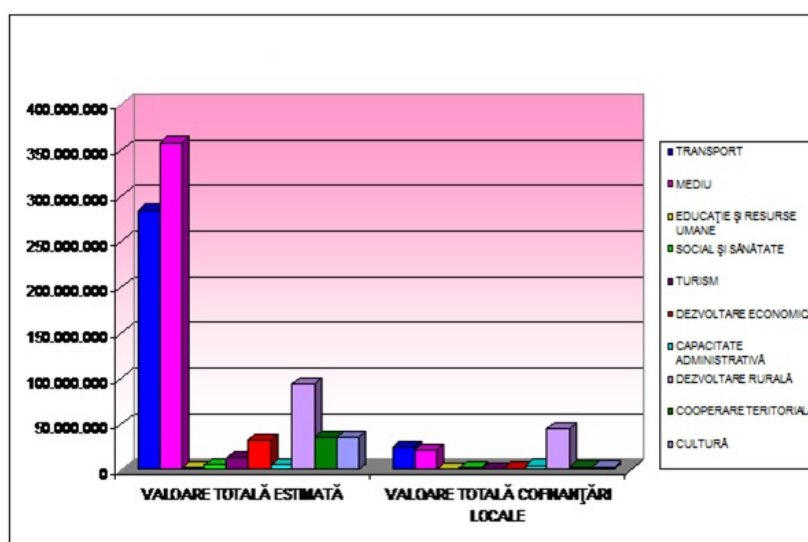


Figure 1. Total value of projects in Timis County

As we can see from the above presentation, the value of projects represents the majority for the "Environment and Transport" Axis, followed by the "Rural Development" axis. The value of local co-financing represents the majority for the "Rural Development" Axis, which is explained by the large number of projects financed from its own and local public administrations funds in Timis County.

In Table 3, there are highlighted the financial data on projects completed in 2007-2011, included in the Strategic Programme of Timis County Council. The development and modernization of public infrastructure component of the localities in Timis County related to the Strategy of Social and Economic Development are also taking into account. So, there are presented the total amounts for all projects related to each strategic development axis as well as the amounts of external financing and local co-financing for each development axis. It is also presented the number of completed projects per year and for each development axis. In the case of "Rural Development" Strategic Axis, currently, there are no financial data regarding the completed projects, these projects can be found in the exclusive responsibility of local public administrations in Timis County.

Table 3

## Completed projects in the period 2007-2011

AXIS	Projects	Budget (Euro)			No./value projects (mil.Euro)				
		Total	External financing	Local financing	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Transport	3	1.611.000	1.330.348	280.500	0	1	2	0	0
Environment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education and human resources	6	1.665.314	946.314	718.000	3	0	0	1	2
Social and health	2	2.453.000	1.709.000	744.000	0	0	0	0	2
Tourism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Economic development	1	3.100.000	2.850.000	16.500	1	0	0	0	0
Administrative capacity	4	431.670	92.670	339.000	0	0	1	2	1
Rural development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Territorial cooperation	16	5.002.443	3.568.551	560.521	4	2	1	0	9
Culture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: OJPDPR Timiș

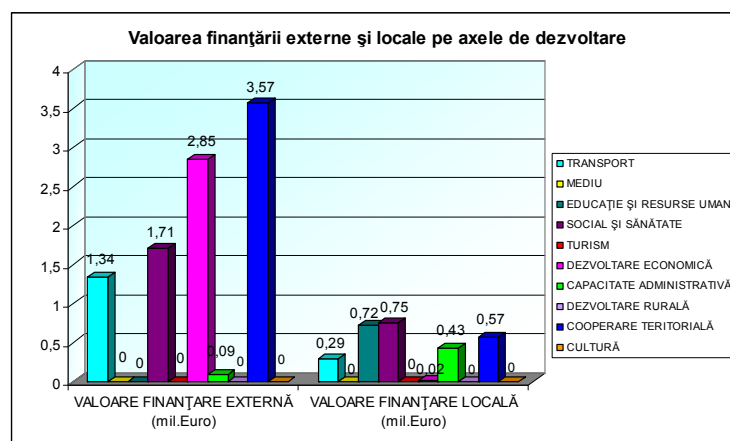


Figure 2 - Amount of external and local financing on development axes

According to Figure 2, the highest value of attracted external funding was performed on Axis 9 „Territorial Cooperation” (3.57 millionEuro) without the external financing within Axis „Environment”, „Tourism” and „Culture”. Regarding the local funding, it appears that the highest value is recorded on Axis 4 „Social and health” (0.75 million Euro), followed by Axis 3 „Education and Human Resources” (0.72 million Euro).

## CONCLUSIONS

The European funds are the most important element for the economic growth strategy. Due to the highly uncertain economic context, these investment projects financed

from European funds could be an important engine of growth. The administrative capacity, in the absorption of European funds, is still not at a sufficient level, existing many and serious weaknesses. The arguments in supporting the viability of development in Timiș County, seen in a regional, national and international context, could be summarized just as in the case of the West Region.

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