



In Romania, the big cities are interested in the metropolitan approach because of the internal pressures, the distortions in the development processes and the need to meet the competition on the internal market, on one hand, and, on the other hand, because of the need to prepare the integration in the European development networks and to face the competition at another level.

Cities that aspire to important roles in Romania



The City of Baia Mare, together with the bordering localities is currently concerned with a series of problems and pressures in the development process, which need to be approached through partnerships in order to be properly settled.

- **External pressures**, resulting from the processes that come along with the globalization of economy, the establishment and enlargement of the European Union, the enhancement of the importance of economy based on knowledge, the increase of the competition between regions, the aspects related to international migration.
- **Internal pressures**, resulting from processes related to transition, decentralization, regionalization policies, social and economic unbalances and distortions, competition among cities, problems related to environment, housing and services, as well as unbalance between the demand and offer of lands, etc.

The consequences of these pressures are translated by relations that join and separate the city of the surrounding area:

- Distortions in the demand and offer of lands for development;
- Imbalances in the local economic development;



- Damage of the housing system and of the life conditions;
- Lack of physical accessibility and utilities adequate to the new demands;
- The low level and the lack of the public services;
- Social deprivation, poor living standards;
- Damage of the environmental conditions.

The metropolitan development approach aims to overtake and to settle the multiple pressures resulting from the changes in the economic system, in the development and planning system, from the distortions and diversified needs in the urban area, as well as in the adjacent rural area, in order to create a development pole in a coherent network at territorial level.

However, the local entities are aware of the differences between the potential of the area and way it is promoted and administrated for the increase of the local community welfare. The adequate capitalization of the potential in the city and in the bordering localities can contribute to the creation of a regional development pole and the consolidation of the roles assigned to the partner entities at county, regional and national level.

The creation and development of Baia Mare Metropolitan Area was necessary from many points of view, and the most important are:

- The creation of a favourable environment to attract the major investments;
- The defining of a common strategy concerning the sustainable development of Baia Mare Metropolitan Area (economic, social, territorial);
- The development of metropolitan projects with European funding;
- The creation of a transparent and competitive public administration to efficiently collaborate with the affair environment and local community;
- The cultural heritage and local identity conservation.

The localities association concerning the creation of the Metropolitan Area, is justified by the fact that Baia Mare City has the role of a polarizing center of the North West Region of Romania, having multiple relations (social, cultural, economic) with the nearby towns and communes.

The Baia Mare Metropolitan Area will represent for the 2014-2020 EU period of programming, an important instrument to access the European Structural and Cohesion Funds, that will facilitate implementation of infrastructure projects, in order to attenuate the social, economic and territorial imbalances between the member localities.