

THE BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES



Doctoral School of Economics II

DOCTORAL THESIS

**INFRASTRUCTURE - A PILLAR IN ENSURING AND PROMOTING THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTEMPORARY RURAL COMMUNITIES**

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ABSTRACT

The doctoral thesis analyzes the role of infrastructure and public intervention in the rural development process, starting from the premise that infrastructure must be understood from a multidimensional perspective, encompassing physical components as well as the social, economic, institutional and digital dimensions essential for the functioning and modernization of rural areas. The main objective of the research is to highlight the role of infrastructure in integrating rural areas into the national economy, by analyzing how state aid contributes to supporting investment and reducing disparities between urban and rural environments.

The analysis of the conceptual, legislative and institutional framework of state aid highlights its role as an instrument for correcting market failures and stimulating investment in rural infrastructure. The evaluation of investments at the national level reveals an uneven distribution of resources and the predominance of grant-based aid instruments, which reflects an orientation toward direct support for beneficiaries, but also raises issues regarding the sustainability of interventions.

Keywords: rural infrastructure, state aid, rural development, public investment, economic impact.