

**Evaluation of poverty and economic development tendencies in the NUT3 Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok during the period 2014-2020 by LEADER Program indicators.**

**Jorge Hernando Michael Cáceres**

Rural Development Engineering, MsC

**Institute of Rural Development and Sustainable Economy/ Department of Rural and Regional Development**

*Insider subject leader: Krisztian Ritter*

Europe is currently putting a great effort to support rural areas, the evolution of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the higher importance that Rural Development Policy (RDP) is gaining in the past years shall be consider as an evidence of the necessity that countries have to support rural areas to improve quality of life and balance the territorial disparities in the the region. Hungary is not an exception of that, and since its accession to the

European Union in 2007, the country has been benefited for funding to support agriculture and rural areas.

LEADER programme is one of the key instruments of the RDP which aims to empower local communities through bottom up approaches, however, after more than 20 years in the field, the programme is still under discussion due to its mixed results.

Using a quantitative methodology, this thesis is aiming to give clarity on the development tendencies in the NUT3 of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, and highlight if it has been achieving key objectives of the RDP for Hungary such as poverty and economic development to finally set suggestions and actions using an developmental evaluation approach.