

# **REVIEW OF NATIONAL POLICIES FOR RURAL ROADS IN COUNTRIES WITH DEVELOPING ECONOMIES**

**Paola Villani**

Chair of the Italian Technical Committee 2.5  
*Rural roads systems and accessibility to rural areas*

**Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Politecnico di Milano, Italy**  
[paola.villani@polimi.it](mailto:paola.villani@polimi.it)

## **ABSTRACT**

This report aims to provide information to road infrastructure managers about best practices for sustainable rural road maintenance in all countries, but especially for the countries of Asia, Africa and Central and South America with developing economies.

Committee members have the opinion that the GDP per capita is not a good indicator of development for several reasons: first, the expenses related to events (erosion, floods, earthquakes, etc.), expenses related to traffic accidents determine higher costs. All emergency measures taken accordingly to reduce hydrogeological risk (landslides and network failures) will increase global GDP, but this does not mean that the country has a growing economy.

Regular maintenance of roads is essential to the economic vitality of a country. There is a particular need to focus on the maintenance of rural roads when planning and managing a vast transportation network, although the roads are often considered less important than the main roads or highways.

The work includes a questionnaire to determine the length in kilometers of the network (national, departmental roads, local roads, minor collector roads), Investment and maintenance of the road network (density of the classified road network, motorways, national roads, paved, unpaved, etc. - in kilometers of roads 100 km / sq. km).