

THE RURAL AREAS CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONS TO WHICH THEY BELONG TO

Abstract

The traditional argument "growth against development" loses its focus by introducing the idea of sustainable development that focus on opportunities for creating new jobs, increase income and improve local living standards. All these processes occur in time and space, while ensuring that all development decisions reflect the full value of natural and cultural environment.

Sustainable development concept is loaded after a long period in historical events through the actions undertaken to involve stakeholders in decision-making levels, which marks inter-disciplinarily relationship between economy and environment. Its purpose is to protect and improve the environment to meet basic human needs, promoting equity between generations, and improving quality of life for all people.

The process of developing local rural communities in terms of sustainability implies first of all, awareness for the need of planning development, proper assessment of community strength and weakness points, existing and potential opportunities and risks which will determine the priorities activities for short and long term .

Keywords: heritage, cultural tourism, public administration, rural area

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CONTRIBUȚIA SPAȚIULUI RURAL LA DEZVOLTAREA DURABILĂ A REGIUNILOR DE APARTENEȚĂ

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Rezumat

Tradiționalul argument „creștere contra dezvoltare”, își pierde din concentrare prin introducerea ideii de dezvoltare durabilă, concentrare ce se focalizează asupra oportunităților pentru crearea de noi locuri de muncă, creșterea venitului și îmbunătățirea nivelului de trai local. Toate aceste procese se manifestă în timp și spațiu, concomitent cu asigurarea că toate deciziile de dezvoltare reflectă întreaga valoare a mediului natural și cultural.

Conceptul de dezvoltare durabilă apare după o perioadă îndelungată încărcată în evenimente istorice derulate prin acțiuni de implicare a actorilor din nivelele de decizie, care marchează relația de interdisciplinalitate între economie și mediul înconjurător. Scopul acesteia este de a proteja și îmbunătăți mediul, de a satisface nevoile umane de bază, promovând echitatea între generații, precum și îmbunătățirea calității vieții tuturor oamenilor.

Procesul de dezvoltare a comunităților rurale locale din perspectiva durabilității implică întâi de toate, conștientizarea necesității planificării dezvoltării, a evaluării corecte a punctelor tari și slabe ale comunității, a oportunităților și riscurilor existente sau potențiale care vor determina pentru comunitate acțiunile prioritare de scurtă și lungă durată.

Cuvinte cheie: creștere economică, dezvoltare economică, dezvoltare durabilă, spațiul rural, dezvoltare regională.



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1. INTRODUCTION

Realizing a macroeconomic analysis of economic processes, simultaneously with their dynamic approach, the emergence of new concepts is reflected in among which can be spotted and the growth and economic development. These new concepts, the meaning they hold, between the various authors there are differences, big or small, and liaison points, which gives them a universal character.

In the process of development (Mowforth and Munt, 2003) economic growth it is considered its foundation. Economic system developed in time and space, as a hole and its dynamics, targeted the economic growth obtaining a complex shape. Mentioned phenomenon expresses those changes taking place within certain timeframe and in a given area, the increase in size of macroeconomic outcomes, in close connection with their influenced factors, and designate the positive evolution, made in the long term average, of the national economy.

This process, however, does not surprise the qualitative changes of the national economy, reflected in its structure and in living standards; these issues are highlighted by the concept of economic development.

Qualitative aspects that characterize the content of economic development can be highlighted by the following definition: (Cruceru, 2008) "Economic development is a multidimensional process involving major structural changes in society, popular attitudes and national institutions, and accelerating growth, reducing inequality and eradicating poverty".

As a form of macroeconomic dynamics (Popescu, Bondrea and Constantinescu, 2005) economic development requires a combination of qualitative transformation, in both economy, and in the scientific research in manufacturing technologies, operating organizational mechanisms and structures of economy, in the human thinking and behaviour.

Regarding the concepts of development, it is used in very different context starting from individual development of an organization, locality, and region and by overall development of the society (Ionciță, 2004). Evolution cycle of the development is described in time since 1950, in broad terms, the emergence of different schools of thinking and development standards, brought to the time border of the twentieth century, to highlight phases and its main concepts.

The evolution of this process is presented as a scheme, and reflected in economic and political context to understand road map to achieve the

Desired development. Year 1950 was the beginning of the development process followed in decades, so (Mowforth and Munt, 2003):

- 1960, modernization,
- 1970, alternative development, (eco-development - management of natural resources on environmental criteria is a precursor to sustainable development, and is repelled, until a similar concept will succeed win) (Caracotă et al 2004),
- 1980, neoliberalism, free market economic growth (in 1987, the Brundtland Report-quality economic growth),
- 1990, sustainable development (poverty reduction strategy) / gradually become one of the main foundations on which they were based economic policies of governments in developed countries
- 2000 +, modernization alternative? (involvement and partnership) / liability to be established between generations.

From the definition of economic development is coming out the phenomenon of change, transformation of economic structures, the relationship between human activities and environment. Noteworthy is the action of an organization with a role in the development process analyzed, namely, the Club of Rome (Caracotă et al, 2004), which in 1970 drafted the paper entitled "Limits to Growth", which supports that development and growth are limited by the natural environment.

Quantitative, qualitative and structural aspects of the economy evolution, in line with demographic trends and general issues of human development and the ecological balance are simultaneously covered by the process of economic development. The traditional argument "growth against development", loses its focus by introducing the idea of sustainable development that focus on opportunities for creating new jobs, increase income and improve local living standards. All these processes occur in time and space, while ensuring that all development decisions reflect the full value of natural and cultural environment.

In modern society the end of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century finds negative effects of human development, a finding which takes into account interrelationships between environmental issues, general welfare and economic growth process, the question of a new interpretation of the concept development. Therefore, it redefines fairness, in each country, and the emergence of sustainable development. The phenomenon of sustainability must be economically

acceptable formulating clear goals, while preserving the natural balance, without destroying or deplete resources. We can see that sustainable development involves not only economic, but rather to other areas of life and human activity areas that aim to qualitative growth.

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN EUROPEAN UNION

The multiple meanings and interpretations of sustainability (Williams, 1998), by reflection are often explicit and implicit connections made by people. It is a word that is defined, interpreted and imagined different between individuals, organizations and social groups. Sustainability is a key term in the vocabulary of modern political discourse. What should we succeed, through the researches undertaken, and within this scientific work is not to use the words without meaning and in a calming way. We must recognize that sustainability is perceived and described as an essential part of the ideology of New World Order and all the trends that are associated with it.

A problem of all societies around the world is that sustainable development must be addressed globally through its three components - economic, social and environmental, starting from economics, which is a consistent human activity, and focused on meeting the needs and increased social welfare and environmental protection.

Sustainable development concept is loaded after a long period in historical events through the actions undertaken to involve stakeholders in decision-making levels, which marks interdisciplinarity relationship between economy and environment. Its purpose is to protect and improve the environment to meet basic human needs, promoting equity between generations, and improving quality of life for all people (Inskip, 1991).

Over time they gave a series of definitions of the term sustainability, "*Sustainability refers to the ability of a society, ecosystem, or any such existing system to operate continuously in an undefined future without reaching to depletion of the key resources*" (Ghilman, 1998) or "*Sustainability is the doctrine of emergency through the development and economic progress to be made and maintained over time, within the limits set by ecology in the widest sense - the interdependence human beings and their jobs, biosphere and laws which govern physics and chemistry. It follows that environmental protection and economic development are indeed antagonistic processes*".

An economic definition - ecological sustainability, widely accepted, states that sustainability is a relationship *between economic system and ecological system dynamics slower, where social life is endless, individual life can thrive, human culture can develop, but the effects of human activity remains*

within certain limits while avoiding the destruction of diversity, complexity and functions that provide life support functions performed by the ecological system (Duguleană, 2002).

After extensive research on the many literary references of known authors may present the chronology of events related to the definition and achievement motivation of eco-economic thinking (Romeril, 1989):

- Stockholm Conference on Human Environment (1972) - the problem of the global environment and development needs;
- World Conservation Strategy (1980) - Sustainable use of natural resources;
- Brandt Commission Report (1980) – development must include “care for the environment”;
- Declaration by the WTO (World Tourism Organization) from Manila (1980) – all resources are common heritage;
- Agreement UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) / WTO (1982) – to promote eco-tourism development;
- Brundtland Report (1987) - sustainable development with economic growth.

World Commission on Environment and Development, the “Brundtland Report”, titled “Notre avenir à Tous”/“Our Common Future” and presented to the UN General Assembly in 1987, defined sustainable development and environmentally sustainable as “security of the present needs without compromising the capacity of future generation to meet their own needs”.

The ultimate goal of sustainable development is to meet current needs without jeopardizing the quality of life for future generations. Environmental component is very strong, and the drafting and publication of the Johannesburg Declaration, it was assumed collective responsibility for the progress and development of the three interdependent pillars of sustainable development:

- economic development
- social development and
- environmental protection at local, national, regional and global levels.

At the world leaders actions should be added and referred to those taken at EU level, over its history, to the development of national economic, regional and local responsibility in terms of environment and equitable socially.

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Chronology of events is presented in Table no.1:

TABLE NO.1 ACTIONS TAKEN AT EUROPEAN UNION LEVEL, REGARDING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Year and location	Event	Decisions	Remarks
1972/PARIS	<i>Paris Summit</i>	Special attention to environmental protection in the context of economic growth and improve living standards.	Social and ecologic impact
1986/MILANO (issued at 1st of July 1987)	<i>European Single Act</i>	It is a landmark of European environmental policy, was first mentioned in a treaty of the European Community	European Community and environmental policy
1993/MASTRICHT	<i>Maastricht Treaty</i>	Granting full environmental status in European politics	Increased emphasis on
1999/AMSTERDAM	<i>Amsterdam Treaty</i>	Strengthening the legal basis of a policy aimed at promoting environmental protection and sustainable development within the European Union	Environment European legislation and promote of Sustainable Development
2000/LISABONA	<i>European Council from Lisbon</i>	"by 2010 the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world"	Knowledge based economy
2001/GOETHEBOURG (continue in 2005 with an intensive review process and the end is in 2006)	<i>Goetheborg Summit</i>	Adoption of the Sustainable Development of the European Union (EU) (2001) Adoption of Sustainable Development Strategy for an enlarged European Union based on the strategy and results of Goetheborg process started in 2004.	<i>EU Development Strategy</i>
2007/LISABONA	<i>Lisbon Treaty</i>	Includes and additional protocols on climate change and combat global warming. Also, some provisions of the Treaty refers to solidarity in energy supply problems and changes in European energy policy	European energy policy and climate change

Source: (own interpretation) http://www.mmediu.ro/protectia_mediuului/dezvoltare_durabila/international.html

Cooperation for sustainable development should be a concern for both the EU and its Member States. Community policy on sustainable development should be complementary to the policies implemented by the Member States. A global policy can achieve the optimal level if each individual policy is well set up. This principle allows a higher level of decentralization of management in rural areas and activities based on partnership and cooperation between all levels of responsibility: European, national, regional and local.

Sustainable development must be applied, taking into account the principle of concentration and differentiation in favour of those areas with the highest demands. This process is based on an integrated approach to inter-connect in the same legal framework and instruments:

- development and regulation of agriculture, economic diversification, natural resource management, improvement of activities with impact on environment, cultural and tourism products promotion;
- economic and social activities diversification must to foster private sector development through: investment, technical assistance, high quality services, adequate infrastructure, education and training;
- ensuring sustainable trait for all activities, applying the principle of subsidiary. Subsidiary is a fundamental principle of social decision by major decision that effects can be obtained only when the decision making process can approach the decision (Radu, Menda and Gane, 2008).

Compared to the decisions taken at global and European level, and at Romania level, as EU member state, it is necessary to mention those actions taken by the last mentioned state, on the economic growth and development, adopting their characteristics of sustainability.

Each country has its own needs for growth, and national demographic characteristics and features of the natural environment, a certain space built. The meaning of sustainable development is given precisely by endogenous model of reconciliation between man and nature. This does not, of course, put aside the need for international collaboration and cooperation (eg environmental management capacity and implementation of national policies will increase demand for clean technologies, which will accelerate technology transfer and cooperation). Adapting the concept of sustainable development is influenced by specific conditions of each country, which highlights the common accountability principle, but differentiated. Even though, here you have to maintain that the concept is used excessive and inappropriate contexts made by some developed countries.

3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL AREA

Throughout human history, the old way under the impact of technical and production, characterized by accelerated and un-rational development of industry, rural area has undergone profound changes in economic, social and ecological conditions, which led to the exodus and impoverishment of the rural population. All these situations have led to remarkable acceleration of concern in developed countries, devoted to the process of balancing the ratio village-town/rural-urban, reconciliation and recovery in the countryside, preserving the unique material and spiritual values.

Overall analysis of rural components reveals that prospects of development of rural communities are affected by lagging behind in economic, social and infrastructural aspects. These significant differences

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and lagging behind urban areas; especially compared to EU member states are triggered by high levels of fragmentation of agricultural holdings, existence a broken market system, both in terms of exchange of agriculture products and the agricultural land transactions; number of owners of large farms situated at a considerable distance from these holdings; diversification of crops grown weak; low productivity in both the plant and livestock sector; difficulties in procurement of agricultural and non-agricultural production and low levels of material and social infrastructure of rural areas, especially in education, health facilities and farms' utilities.

We need to call into our scientific discussion the fact that our rural communities were based for a long time, on the abundance of natural resources. The powerful technological, political and economic changes, being characteristic of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century, led to profound changes in agriculture that have affected the rural economy, way of life of rural communities, and finally, the relationship between rural and urban.

Even if these changes have occurred and still bear a perennial feature of their occurrence, strength and empowerment are two features that characterize many rural communities. Romanian economy during the transition to a functioning market economy began under unfavourable auspices. Since the last decade of the millennium II, our economy has manifested itself in a structural crisis of the concrete forms of expression which were generated deep contradictions and imbalances accumulated during development mainly to extensive national economy, mismanagement, non-performing before 1989. For rural areas, the rapid pace of change has brought with it not only challenges but, equally, and opportunities.

In the perception of the complexity of sustainable development should be given special attention to issues of sustainability through the unit of the economic, ecological, technological, social, human, political, educational, cultural and legal coordinates. In some ways, sustainable development helps to achieve change which is inevitable, and to do it in an economically responsible in terms of environmental and socially equitable. The successful rural communities struggle using local skills and values, while adapting and adopting new ideas and technologies on local level. With changes in agriculture, rural communities are trying organize locally better. Community development allows local residents to expand infrastructure: public service, public housing, community facilities, and diversify their economic base without undermining their rural heritage and values.

On the basis of five factors that are mutually in the socio-economic development: population, natural resources and environment, agricultural production, industrial production and pollution, sustainable development strategy has to find adequate optimization criteria for the report needs- resources and

target objective - means necessary, based on their mutual compatibility in time and space. Sustainable development is designed so as to achieve such an economic environment through inputs and outputs to be in direct compatibility with the natural environment and the needs and interests of present and future generations to coexist and succeed.

In these circumstances, have become more intense economic and social concerns of international organizations, governments of the countries from our contemporary world, civic organizations, scientists and specialists from different fields in order to prevent "saving" rural degradation. In this context, many developed countries within their economical, social, cultural and ecologic aspects its economic-social and environment national development strategies include in their structure, the sustainable rural development.

Sustainable development is not a detailed plan of action, a formula that implements it without limits and that because there is not a single solution. A wide range of solutions are identified, they are dependent on availability of space, time, values and resources.

Sustainable development principles in rural agriculture refers to the creation of a competitive agricultural sector to cope with fierce competition on the world market, including the EU: using production methods and practices that ensure the protection of natural environment, able to determine obtain of quality and healthy food products; diversification of farming practice by taking into account the traditions, the local, support activities in rural areas and maintaining the existing population in rural communities, especially disadvantaged groups, farmers gratitude for their contribution at the economic, conservation and revitalization of the natural resources and cultural heritage, maintaining the quality of landscape, environmental awareness of rural population, active involvement in the decision making and activities which carries out in rural areas through training and economic consciousness and affirmation environmental (Nistoreanu and Ghereș, 2010).

4. CONCLUSINS

The process of developing local rural communities in terms of sustainability implies first of all, awareness for the need of planning development, proper assessment of community strength and weakness points, existing and potential opportunities and risks which will determine the priorities activities for short and long term.

A sustainable community is identified by active citizens who participate in the development of the community they belong. Therefore, the priority characteristics which should define the community destiny, are the imitative and responsibility spirit. Sustainable development of rural areas is an

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extremely complex issue, highly present; which aimed to achieve a balance between preservation and conservation requirement of material and spiritual needs of the countryside and its modernization trend.

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