

**PROVOCĂRILE DEZVOLTĂRII
DURABILE LA NIVEL NAȚIONAL**

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Abstract

Omenirea a ajuns la un astfel de punct de "ofensiva" împotriva naturii, că unele dintre problemele de protecție a mediului și de conservare au devenit universale. Ritmul alert de dezvoltare a societății contemporane, numeroase probleme sociale și de mediu implică în mod necesar o cunoaștere aprofundată a dezvoltării și a efectelor sale. În această lucrare ne-am propus să examinăm problematica dezvoltării durabile din România, precum și legătura între obiectivele de dezvoltare durabilă națională cu obiectivele stabilite la nivel internațional. De asemenea, din cauza transparenței și accesibilității informațiilor publice scriem despre evoluția în momentele cele mai importante ale procesului de dezvoltare durabilă în România.

Aspectele de dezvoltare durabilă din România sunt un domeniu care necesită creativitate, inovare economică și socială orientată coerentă din toate zonele societății, pe termen mediu și lung.

Cuvinte cheie: dezvoltare durabilă, Agenda Locală 21.

**THE CHALLENGES OF
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON A
NATIONAL LEVEL**

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Abstract

Mankind has reached such a point of the "offensive" against nature, that some of the environmental protection and conservation issues have become universal. The alert rhythm of development of contemporary society, many social and environmental problems necessarily require in-depth knowledge of development and its effects. In this paper we proposed to examine the issue of sustainable development of Romania, and linking national sustainable development goals with the objectives laid down at international level. Also because of the transparency and accessibility of public information we write about the evolution in the most significant moments of the process of sustainable development in Romania.

Romania's sustainable development issues is an area that requires creativity, economic and social innovation from all parts of society in a coherent, medium and long term oriented.

Key words: sustainable development, local agenda 21

Introduction

Concerns about sustainable development dates back almost 40 years ago, when the Stockholm Conference on Environment (1972) was agreed on the inexorable need to answer to raised issues about the deterioration of the natural environment, about preventing the worsening ecological imbalances and to ensure Earth's ecological balance.

The starting point in formulating the concept of sustainable development is the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development of United Nations, known as the Brundtland Report, which noted the idea that "humanity has the capacity to achieve sustainable development - to ensure the gratification of current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Theoretical and practical conditions for sustainable development of Romania is indissolubly bound to promote the national interest, ensuring the largest possible surplus of the balance between benefits and costs of globalization on the practice of our country's short, medium and long term. One of the important factors in our sustainable development is to increase domestic consumption of goods and services as a component of a well-functioning markets.

1. Sustainable Development in Romania: the current study, achievements, directions

Sustainable development of Romania means firstly long-term stability following its three main components namely:

1. Economic growth in sustained rates;
2. Continuous improvement of living standards and social welfare;

3. Maintaining ecological balance, prevent pollution and improve the quality of environmental factors.

Sustainable development of Romania aims at consistent and constant pursuit of the objectives of the three components that occur in the size, dynamics and structure of available resources. We need continuity, consistency and coherence in the actions we take more than ever, at different levels of Romanian society.

Initiatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in sustainable development supported the Romanian Government in preparing the Rio +5 report and started the National Center for Sustainable Development (NCSD) in March 1997, marking the beginning of Local Agenda 21 Programme launched in Romania. The center is recognized by the government as the only agency that deals with sustainable development issues. Since 2000, the CNDD as executing agency of UNDP, together with Capacity 21 and the support of the Governments of Great Britain and Canada, moved to implement Local Agenda 21 for nine cities in Romania: Baia Mare, Galați, Giurgiu, Iași, Miercurea Ciuc, Oradea, Ploiești, Râmnicu Vâlcea and Târgu Mureș, so called „pilot cities” in this process. Being consistent in the promotion and implementation of Sustainable Development started in 1997, Romania organized in 2001 “ the Process Review Conference Rio +10, for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe”. The conference was attended by 17 countries represented by Foreign Ministries and Environmental Protection.

Currently, the implementation process of the Local Plan for Sustainable Development (Local Agenda 21) ended in the pilot cities (January 2003), the final

documents being approved by local councils. It should be noted that with the completion of the project CNDD activity in those cities (Iasi, Galati, Giurgiu, Miercurea Ciuc, Ploiesti, Ramnicu Valcea, Targu Mures, Oradea and Baia Mare) has not ceased, the Center making special efforts to help communities implementing those priority projects, in particular by establishing public-private partnerships for local infrastructure.

Local Agenda 21 has been highly praised both at central government and local authorities. There was a high demand from other local authorities to be included in this process. Given the excellent results of the pilot phase, as well as experience working in a team with appropriate methodologies and techniques, the Romanian Government decided to extend the Local Agenda 21 at national level in over 40 cities, from 2003 to 2007. In this regard a cooperation agreement was signed on August 29, 2002, between representatives of the Government, representatives of the Federation of Local Authorities in Romania and the United Nations Development Programme. Following this agreement, extending the implementation of Local Agenda 21 included 13 municipalities between 2003-2004 (Arad, Bolintin Vale, Campina, Falticeni, Medias, Pitesti, Sibiu,

Sighisoara, Slatina, Targu Jiu, Targoviste, Worcester, Zimnicea) in 2004 - 2005 three towns and one county (Bistrita Borsec, Brasov, Mures county), in 2005-2006 three cities and one county (Constanta, Gura Humorului, Medgidia and Brasov County).

Consistent with its role to support local authorities in developing institutional capacity to meet the stage of accession / integration into the European Union, and given the importance of local development plans in the regional development scheme, UNDP will continue to assist the implementation of Agenda Local 21, oriented towards planning process for sustainable development at regional level.

2. Highlights of sustainable development in Romania

To act in a realistic way, informed of the facts on the strategic direction of sustainable development, it is necessary for Romania, its people and its external partners to have a clear representation of the starting point, upon the country's real assets.

Based on the principle of transparency regarding public accessibility of information, the most significant moments on the progress made towards sustainable development in Romania were consulted and summarized in Table 1:

Table 1: Highlights of sustainable development in Romania

Event Date	Project Name
1994	Romanian Academy - România 2020;
March-June 1995	Substantiation Committee of the National Strategy for Economic Development ("the Commission from Snagov");
21st June 1995	Signing of the Declaration regarding the "National Strategy for Romania's accession to the European Union";
1997	National Centre for Sustainable Development; Agenda 21/România 2020;
15th April 1999	Decision regarding the establishment of working group for sustainable development strategy of the national economy in the long term;
1999	National Sustainable Development Strategy of Romania in 2020;
February 2000	National Economic Development Strategy of Romania in the medium term 2000-2004;
2002	National Forum for Sustainable Development - first edition; Local Agenda 21 - Sustainable Development Plans Baia Mare, Galati, Giurgiu, Iasi, Miercurea Ciuc, Oradea, Ploiesti, Ramnicu-Valcea, Targu-Mures;
2003	National Forum for Sustainable Development - second edition;
1st April 2003	Launching the project on the Sustainable Development Strategy Romania;
28th June 2003	Decision concerning the establishment and functioning of the Permanent National Committee for the elaboration of sustainable development strategy of Romania - Horizon 2025;
27th February 2004	Launching the first country report on Millennium Development Goals;
2006	European Institute of Romania - Strategy and Policy Studies, strategic directions of sustainable development in Romania;
July 2007	Application development and capacity for implementing EU-funded projects to county, town or village level - Alba Iulia;
15th-19th June 2008	Sustainable development of electrical energy production sector in Romania;
December 2008	National Sustainable Development Strategy of Romania Horizon 2013-2020-2030; [http://strategia.ncsd.ro/docs/sndd-final-ro.pdf]

3. Strategic directions for sustainable development in Romania

In developing the Sustainable Development Strategy of Romania, were used mainly pragmatic and sectoral

strategy documents produced in Romania in the pre and post accession: Romania's Accession Treaty - the European Union, the National Development Plan 2007-2013 (NDP) , National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 (NSRF), post-accession strategy for Romania.

National Development Plan (NDP) 2007-2013 is the strategic planning document and the multiannual financial programming that guides and stimulates the economic and social development of the country in line with the EU Cohesion Policy.

The plan sets out the overall aim of fast reducing the socio-economic disparities between Romania and other European Union member states and details the specific objectives of the six-way priority process that integrates directly and / or indirectly requirements for sustainable development and environment for short and medium term [Strategia Națională pentru Dezvoltare Durabilă a României – Orizonturi 2013-2020-2030, București, 2008]:

- The objective of increasing competitiveness and developing the economy based on knowledge includes, as one of the main priorities, improving energy efficiency and use renewable energy to reduce climate change;

- Bringing to European standards the basic infrastructure focuses on sustainable development of transport infrastructure and means of transportation by reducing environmental impact, promoting the intermodal transport, improving road safety and protection of critical infrastructure elements.

- The priority regarding the protection and improvement of the environmental quality provides improved living standards on the delivery of public utilities, in

particular regarding water and waste management; improving sectoral and regional environmental management, biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, risk prevention and response to natural disasters;

- Improving and making more efficient use of human capital aims at promoting social inclusion and strengthening administrative capacity to develop a modern and flexible labor markets, improving the relevance of education and training for employment, stimulating entrepreneurial culture;

- Development of rural economy and increasing productivity in agriculture, forestry and fishing includes provisions on the rational use of the land, ecological restoration of degraded or contaminated land, food safety, animal welfare, encouraging aquaculture in coastal areas;

- The objective of reducing development disparities between regions and within their covers, among others, improving of administrative performance and local public infrastructure, natural and cultural heritage protection, integrated rural development, urban regeneration affected by industrial restructuring, strengthening business and promoting innovation. They are also expected, shares in the cross-border cooperation, transnational and interregional socio-economic integration of border areas and increasing the accessibility of the regions of Romania in the EU.

Since November 2008, Romania has a new National Strategy for Sustainable Development, it is the defining element of our country's full connection to a new philosophy of development, specific to the European Union and widely shared globally , that of sustainable development.

This Strategy sets clear targets for the transition ,within a reasonable and realistic time, for the model of development generating high added value ,driven by interest in knowledge and innovation – oriented towards continuous improvement of people's lives and their relationships in harmony with the natural environment.

Conclusions:

Sustainable development was an innovative concept of development, and after the general plan and development theory, it should be found customized solutions for it on activity domains, along with appropriate measures for implementing the principles of the concept. The sustainable development is the necessity of integration of economic objectives with the ecological and environmental protection ones.

The current priority in implementing the environment policy in Romania is to adopt a sectoral strategy to integrate environmental considerations in accordance with sustainable development and improve implementation administrative structures.

As strategic directions, environmental policy focus will fall on a series of Priority Axes that are designed to strengthen the preventive element: the development of integrated environmental monitoring system, eco-sustainable production and consumption, institutional decentralization and the principle of accountability at all levels and in all areas, development of market-oriented instruments, international cooperation.

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