ASSESMENT OF THE INTEGRATION MODE OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPEAN RURAL AREA AND NORTH-EST REGION

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Abstract

Within the rural development, the agriculture of Romania holds an important weight, detaching itself by the contribution to the realization of the gross domestic product, as well as by about 29% of the employed population, returning 0.43 ha / inhabitant, compared to 0.21 ha / inhabitant in European Union. This explains why agriculture is a very attractive and profitable branch.
In this context, the strategy of sustainable rural development and the increase of the performance and the competitiveness of the agricultural production at national, regional or local level, must start from the economic-financial analysis of the situation of the agricultural sector, according to which to proceed to the adoption of those measures that lead, firstly, to the increase of agricultural production and, secondly, to its efficiency by attracting European funds.
The paper aims to identify the way of approaching sustainable development within the regional development strategies, having as a case study the North-East Region, and to evaluate the implementation of the strategic objectives, at regional level and in the rural environment. The main objectives come to meet the goal set by: the conceptual delimitation of sustainable development in a global, European and national context; assessing the dimension of the sustainable development phenomenon at global, European and national level; assessing the inter-correlation between the regional strategic objectives and the sustainable development objectives for the North-East Region (2007-2013 and 2014-2020); the projection of the evolution of the result indicators of the regional strategy for the period 2007-2020 (with target indicators for 2022), which highlights the contribution to ensuring regional and rural sustainable development, compared to the evolutionary trend from 2000-2013 and 2014-2020; identifying strategic proposals for ensuring regional and rural sustainable development.

Key words: rural, development, integration, sustainable, performance

Sustainable development is a model of development that aims to ensure a balance between economic growth, quality of life and environmental conservation in the medium and long term, so as to meet the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations.
The EU strategy set 7 key objectives: climate change and clean energy (limiting the effects of climate change on society and the environment); sustainable transport (limiting the impact of transport activities on society, economy and the environment); sustainable consumption and production (decoupling economic growth from the process of environmental degradation, social and environmental performance of technological processes, etc.); conservation and management of natural resources (improving management and avoiding overexploitation); public health (improvement of protection, performance of health systems); social inclusion, demography and migration (inclusion, solidarity and increasing the quality of life); global poverty and challenges for sustainable development (promoting DD and integrating into global goals, meeting commitments). The paper thus aims to identify new strategic proposals for ensuring a sustainable development of rural areas, by using a system of specific, quantifiable and representative indicators that will allow, through econometric analyzes, the evaluation of the results and the projection of the evolution of the sustainable development phenomenon.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Scientific documentation - by collecting information from different books, magazines, electronic sources and other materials, in libraries or other documentation centers, was the foundation of the research carried out, methods

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and techniques that allowed to identify the key issues, formulate hypotheses, outline objectives, achieve own research - said in order to confirm / deny the hypotheses and find solutions for the studied problem. Thus, the paper called for:

- the logical, rational interpretation of the concepts, phenomena and processes specific to the agricultural policy, as well as of the determinations and conditions that take place within it;
- explaining the evolutions and tendencies that are manifested in agriculture through the prism of the recourse both to the economic theory and to the statistical analysis and interpretation of the official data or calculated by the empirical observation or by the logical induction / deduction path;
- the use of a rich instrumental (tables, figures, graphs) for the most eloquent illustration and the most substantiated support of the opinions expressed and the conclusions of the research;
- comparative analysis of the evolutions recorded regarding the dynamics of pre- and post-accession agriculture;
- the critical study and interpretation of the bibliography - general and specialized, domestic and foreign - consisting both of monographs, treatises, specialized periodicals, normative acts, etc .;
- outlining trends in both European and Romanian agriculture;

Also, in order to achieve the set objectives, a series of indicators were established through which the association can highlight the directions of impact of the integration process on agriculture. The set of indicators has been selected starting from the identification and inventory of those quantifiable elements that can capture the impact of integration. These quantifiable elements have different particularities at the macroeconomic level than at the microeconomic level and require classification according to different criteria.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The assessment of the sustainable development of the rural environment is an important issue in the elaboration and implementation of regional development strategies oriented towards ensuring smart growth, sustainable growth and inclusive growth. The low productivity of the rural economy sectors, the decrease of the employed population, the high unemployment among the young people, the increase of the number of people suffering from poverty and social exclusion, the lack of jobs, the reduced and poor quality infrastructure, etc. these are just some of the problems that the Romanian rural environment faces. (Bălăceanu C., Apostol D., 2012). These problems represent real phenomena that characterize the rural environment, and the strategies of the last decades have focused on improving them in support of ensuring sustainable rural development and the growth of local economies. (Rusu M., 2012).

The document "CAP for 2020: How we respond to the challenges of the future related to food, natural resources and territories" presents the potential challenges, objectives and orientations (COM (2010) 672 final, 18.11.2010) from the perspective of a sustainable approach to the rural environment. Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, as well as risk and natural resource management are key priorities for the common agricultural policy of EU Member States. Also, "Europe 2020: A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" (COM (2010) 2020 final, 3.3.2010) addresses issues regarding the efficient use of resources in the context of future climate challenges. (Otiman P.I., 2012).

Sustainable development strategies aim to mobilize and concentrate the company's effort in achieving sustainable development, providing a framework for formulating a vision for a sustainable future, as well as a framework for negotiation, mediation, consensus and institutional capacity building processes. (Giurcă D., Alexandri C., Rusu M., 2012).

According to the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) in 2013, 26 countries had political strategic planning tools, of which only 23 had developed sustainable development strategies (*Table 1*). The strategies are very different, but they generally include a vision, three-dimensional objectives and describe the implementation process. Most strategies range from 50-100 pages, with the exception of Great Britain (7 pages) and Germany (252 pages), and three countries have opted for different approaches, namely Slovenia, Germany and the United Kingdom. The number of objectives varies from 32 in Estonia and Switzerland and 610 in Lithuania.

By creating these objectives, the 2020 Strategy aims to be compatible with the long-term development objectives of the European Union's Sustainable Development Strategy (SDD). Thus, the 2020 Strategy includes SDD objectives in terms of resource efficiency, levels set for climate and energy goals, poverty reduction, and educational attainment (*Table 2*).

Table 1

Strategies for sustainable development at European level

Contry	Year of first strategy	Updated versions	Other revisions	Number of objectives / measures	Predominant size (economic, social, environmental)	Other dimensions
Austria	2002	2011	-	159 (5/23/131)	Egal	International
Belgium	1999	2010	2000,2004	230 (6/31/193)	Social	
Bulgaria	2007 (draft)	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	2009	-	-	-	-	-
Czech Republic	2004	2010	-	167 (6/17/144)	Egal	International Education
Denmark	2002	2009	-	200 (21/87/92)	Egal	Research
Estonia	2005	-	-	32 (4/12/16)	Egal	International
Finland	1998	2006	-	186 (6/26/154)	Egal	households
France	2003	2010	-	75 (9/50/16)**	Egal	Culture
Germany	2002	2012	2004,2008	25 (4/21/0)***	Egal	International Education
Hungary	2007 (draft)	2013	-	-	-	Research
Iceland	1996	2010	2002	72 (4/17/51)	Medium	community
Italy	2002	-	-	142 (4/28/110)	Medium	International Education
Latvia	2002	2010	-	319 (26/79/214)	Egal	Research
Lithuania	2003	2011	2009	610 (27/48/535)	Egal	
luxembourg	1999	2010	-	-	-	International
Malta	2006	-	-	246 (4/28/214)	Egal	-
Netherlands	2001	2011	2003,2008	89 (13/22/54)****	Egal	International
Poland	2000	-	-	-	-	
Portugal	2007	-	-	-	-	households
Romania	1999	2008	-	-	Social Economic	Tourism
Slovakia	2001	-	-	277 (11/28/238)	Social-Economic	Research
Slovenia	2005	-	-	169 (5/19/145)	Economic	Education
Spain	2007 (draft)	-	-	-	-	Household culture
Sweden	1994	2006	2004	119 (8/19/92)	Social	Tourism
Switzerland	1997	2012	2002,2008	32 (10/22/0)	Social Economic	Research
Great Britain	1994	2011	1999,2005	160 (6/33/121)	Egal	Education

Sursa: ESDN 2013

Table 2

Integration of the SDD key objectives into the Europe 2020 Strategy

Objectives SDD	Inițiative						
	Smart growth			Sustainable growth		Inclusive growth	
	A digital agenda for Europe	An Innovation Union	Youth on the move	A resource-efficient Europe	An industrial policy for the age of globalization	An agenda for new skills and new jobs	A European platform for combating poverty
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Climate change and energy	25-75%	25-75%		over 75%	over 75%		
Sustainable transport	25-75%	25-75%		25-75%	25-75%		
Sustainable consumption and production	under 25%	under 25%		over 75%	25-75%		
Conservation and management of natural resources		25-75%		over 75%	25-75%		
Public health	25-75%	25-75%				under 25%	25-75%
Social inclusion, demography and migration	25-75%	25-75%	25-75%			over 75%	over 75%
Global poverty and the challenges of sustainable development				25-75%			25-75%

Sources:2013 monitoring report of the EU sustainable development strategy, 2013 edition, Sustainable development in the European Union

The relationship of the EU's objectives to those of sustainable development can be summarized as follows:

- Socio-economic development: The 2020 strategy provides for "promoting a prosperous, competitive and eco-efficient economy, which offers high standards of living and full and high quality employment throughout the EU "; for this purpose it was established the increase of the expenses for R&D up to 3% of the GDP, the increase of the energy efficiency by 20% and the increase of the employment rate (20-64 years) to 75% by 2020; these objectives supported by initiatives 1-6 and the "Employment Package";

- Sustainable consumption and production - SDD objectives are - by addressing social and economic development within ecosystems and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, by improving environmental and social performance of products and processes, by increasing green public procurement and EU involvement in the global market. environmental technologies and eco-innovations; supported by initiatives 4 and 5;

- Social inclusion (creating a socially inclusive society and ensuring and increasing the quality of life of the inhabitants) - SDD objectives - poverty reduction, social and territorial cohesion, reduction of school dropout (under 10%, 85% of staff under 22 to graduate from secondary school) , restructuring of social systems, increasing the participation in the labor market of the elderly, inclusion of women in the labor market, attracting and participating immigrants in the labor market; initiatives 6 and 7; general objective to reduce school dropout below 10%;

From the analysis of the presented data it is observed that the gross domestic product per inhabitant realized in the North-East Region has the lowest level compared to the other regions in Romania, representing 61.4% of the value registered at national level of GDP / inhabitant in 2016.

In 2016, the contribution of agriculture to the regional GDP was 16.5%, a value higher than that achieved at the national level (10.6%), which denotes the high dependence of the regional agriculture economy. (*Table 3*).

Table 3

The gross domestic product of the North-East Region per inhabitant, by counties, between 2008 and 2016

The region	P.I.B. per inhabitant - millions of lei current prices								
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Northwest	6.538,1	8.783,8	11.068,4	12.538,6	14.946,6	18.610,5	21.542,1	21.297,4	21.827,2
Center	7.505,4	9.747,8	11.858,3	13.097,6	15.920,2	19.579,5	22.707,7	22.618,8	23.428,3
North East	**4.970,9**	**6.575,9**	**7884,3**	**8.907,6**	**15.920,2**	**12.340,9**	**14.794,5**	**14649,3**	**15.014,8**
South East	5.966,8	7.788,1	10.323,4	11.541,7	13.569,8	15.641,8	19.098,9	18.738,2	20.076,8
South Muntenia	5.562,7	7.377,4	9.506,8	11.068,5	13.374,6	15.757,8	19.648,1	19.913,7	20.288,2
Bucharest-Ilfov	14.467,0	17.639,0	21673,3	29.572,6	35.012,1	43.037,3	59.680,2	55.079,3	58.137
South West Oltenia	5.553,1	7.698,0	9.493,8	10.371,1	12.463,2	15.097,3	17.831,8	17.752,8	18.735,1
West	7.527,4	10.265,2	13.045,1	15.064,7	18.570,1	22.341,9	26.173,2	25.602,4	27.640
Romania	**6.950,1**	**9.090,3**	**11.372,0**	**13.362,8**	**15.967,6**	**19.315,4**	**23.934,6**	**23.341,4**	**24.435,9**

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Romania 2008-2016

Depending on the way the indicators are used in the regional analysis and the way in which the strategic objectives aim to improve them, we have further developed a matrix of the result indicators that allows us to identify the logic of the strategic intervention in ensuring the sustainable development of the rural environment in the North Region. - East (*Table 4*):

Table 4

North-East Region 2007-2013 - Logic of the intervention of the sustainable development of the rural environment

Sustainable development objective	Infrastructure and environment	Business environment	Tourism		Rural development	Sustainable development objective
Structural transformations and macroeconomic equilibria						Increase of gross domestic product per inhabitant
						Increasing the number of active enterprises
						Increase the capacity of existing tourist accommodation
						Increased employment rate
						Lowering the unemployment rate
Sustainable transport						Increasing the length of public roads
						Decreasing the number of people killed in road traffic accidents
Sustainable production and consumption						Increased volume of water distributed
						Population connected to the wastewater treatment system
Conservation and management of natural resources						Increasing the quality of surface water
						Increased area of forestry per capita (ha)
						Limitation of harvested wood
Public health						Decreased death rate due to chronic diseases
						Decreased mortality rate
						Decreased infant mortality rate
						Increase the number of beds in hospitals to 1000 places
						Increasing the number of doctors to 1000 seats
Social inclusion, demography and migration						Lowering the poverty rate
						Decreased internal migration
Education and vocational training						Increasing the level of training of adults (25-64 years)
						Decreasing the early dropout rate of the education system by young people
						Growth of the employed population (15 - 64 years)
						Decreasing share of low education population
						Increasing the school population
Scientific research and technological development, innovation						Increased expenditure on research and development activities (% of GDP)
Increased labor productivity and improved employment rate						Increasing the share in GDP of development research expenditures in the enterprise / public sector
Investment policy and diversification of financing sources						Increasing the number of employees in the research activity

The analysis of the strategy highlighted that it does not address all the aspects of sustainable development, pursued at national level, not taking into account a series of indicators neither in the socio-economic analysis, nor in the strategic planning. (Otiman P. I., 2012). Of these we mention a series of objectives applicable to the rural environment:

- economic (measures to restructure the agricultural sector and agricultural marketing, decrease in the number of people in a household, decrease in consumption expenditure per household, increase in meat consumption per inhabitant, increase in the area cultivated ecologically; increase the number of passengers benefiting from transport public etc.);

- environmental (quantities of waste collected per inhabitant, sanitation services, volume of water discharged, number of population benefiting from sanitation services and utilities; concrete measures of management of protected areas, etc.); (Otiman P. I., 2012).

- social (increasing life expectancy, increasing access to the population that gives up medical services for financial reasons, increasing life expectancy of people over 65, reducing accidents at work, reducing economic dependence, reducing gender pay disparities, etc. .).

CONCLUSIONS

The Community Agricultural Policy proved to be one of the most successful communitarian policies, having also a high degree of complexity. Exactly this success shall determine the difficulty of the reform, considering the changes in the initial conditions that represented the fundament of its elaboration. The need to increase the competitiveness on the European Agricultural Market, the creation of an integrated rural development program to accompany the reform process, the simplification of the legislative framework at the European level and the substantial decentralization in implementing the measures shall lead to a reform in phases, whose effects shall mark the entire European construct.

The analysis per types of production of the separation per sources of incomes, revealed us that the support through Pillar I – subventions for the vegetal and animal production – was more equally distributed among farms. The contribution of the income sources to forming the total income emphasized that the value of the agricultural production leads to around 67.1% of inequity, the remaining being under the influence of subventions. Among these, the most important contribution was determined by the free payments (21,3%), these being followed by subventions for intermediary consumption and other subventions. The assessment of the effect of the modification of the income sources on the total income:

Incomes from the agricultural production and other subventions lead to the increase of inequity among farms that obtain different products (grains, wine, horticultural products, etc.); increase with 1% of the incomes from the agricultural production leads to the inequity increase with 5.76%;

The subventions lead, generally, to the decrease of inequity between them, especially subventions for the animal production (decrease of 3,33%) and direct payments (with 2,17%);

The analysis per types of specialized farms concerning the discomposure on income sources showed us that the value of the agricultural production leads to 68.8% of inequity, the remaining ones being under the influence of subventions.

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