COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS ON ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

George UNGUREANU[1], Gabriela IGNAT[1], Carmen-Luiza COSTULEANU[1], Ștefan VIZITEU[1]

e-mail: ungurgeo@uaiasi.ro

Abstract

Sustainable development - a development model that seeks 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 - has represented decades, the guideline that has underpinned development policies, programs and strategies. The issue of the mechanisms of financial support for Romania's agriculture is very important in our country's efforts to become competitive on the European agricultural market. However, the peculiarities of Romanian agriculture remain almost similar to the pre-accession period (fragmented agrarian structures, low technical and economic yields, outdate technical endowment, etc.), and the main question is whether community support mechanisms increase or remain Romanian farm performance, support measures to ensure their survival on the market. The paper highlights the regional development strategies of the North-East Region, solutions to improve the process of strategic implementation of development objectives, by providing viable tools for monitoring sustainable development at regional and rural level, eliminating their oversizing trends. The target indicators proposed by this paper and their rationale allow such a realistic and correct estimation of the strategic implementation and the measurement of the impact of the strategic objectives. In this context, we consider that proposed and substantiated result indicators starting from the previous trend of the region, for all strategic priorities 2014-2020, can be much better materialized in projects with major impact on sustainable development both at regional level and the rural environment, and the way of their evaluation and estimation represents a viable methodology for monitoring the regional development strategies.

Key words: sustainable, development, agriculture, objectives, strategies

Sustainable development, more than twenty years after the global campaign to promote the concept launched in Rio, remains a concept that is not fully scientifically or uniformly documented in political discourses, as it is not an observable phenomenon, integrated into scientific and standardized formulas, but constantly evolving according to new factors, changes of interests and institutional conditions. It can be seen as an aspiration to integrate through the three dimensions (economic, social, environmental) all aspects related to development, being currently disseminated through documents, conventions and political programs but with various and interpretable tools of application. However, the vision on sustainable development strategies are not unitary, in 2014, requiring the European Union to establish models of development strategies with specific indicators (ESDN) (ESDN, 2013), including the implementation of a development strategy Rural Development (Committee of the Regions) (Committee of the Regions, 2014).

It is people-centered with the aim of improving the quality of human life and is conservation-based being conditioned by the need to respect nature's ability to provide resources and services necessary for life. Thus, sustainable development means "improving the quality of human life by taking care of the capacity of ecosystems" (FAO).

"Sustainability is a relationship between dynamic human economic systems and slower ecological systems in which: (a) human life can develop indefinitely; (b) individuals can develop; (c) human culture can develop and (d) the effects of human activities remain limited so as not to destroy the diversity, complexity and functionality of ecological life support systems ", which allows" simultaneous maximization of the objectives of biological systems (genetic diversity, resilience), biological productivity), the objectives of economic systems (meeting basic needs, increasing utility goods and services) and the objectives of

[1] „Ion Ionescu de la Brad" University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Iasi

social systems (cultural diversity, social justice, participation) "(Abrahammson K.V., 1997).

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The methodological and scientific support in this paper was based on a series of direct and indirect documentation such as: observation, analysis (qualitative, quantitative, and historical), synthesis, comparison, systemic, monographic, statistical, figures and tables in the full and complex exposure and rendering of phenomena and economic processes studied.

The theoretical support of the research focused on the study of important scientific papers in the field of economy and management, with reference to the fiscal administration and the current problems in the public finances

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The term "sustainable development" is thought to have been introduced worldwide in 1980 (Kates R.W., Clark W.C., 2001) by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) in the World Conservation Strategy (WCS), but it was assimilated with the idea of ecological sustainability (IUCN, 1980).

In 1987, the World Commission on Environment and Development, the Brundtland Report (WCED, 1987), gave the following definition: "Sustainable development is development that covers the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to cover your own needs". Based on this definition, the Commission has set the following operational objectives: launching economic growth; changing the quality of economic growth; meeting essential needs for jobs, food, energy, water and sanitation; ensuring a sustainable level of the population; conservation and improvement of basic resources; technology reorientation and risk management; integrating the environment and the economy into decision making; reorientation of international economic relations.

Since the introduction of the concept and its promotion, most authors in the literature have tried to demonstrate that sustainable development may or may not be achieved, taking into account different approaches and visions (Sharachchandra M., 1991; Barbier, 1987; Barbier E.B., 1987) - the concepts of strategies for environmental sustainability and sustainable social and cultural development (Pezzey J. C. V., 1989) approach to sustainable development from the perspective of economic growth; Daly (1990) (Daly H. E., 1990) - the goals of sustainable development; Common and Perrings (1992) (Common M., Perrings C., 1992) - the difference between economic sustainability and ecological sustainability and so on.

Since 1992, when the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, scientific discussions have intensified on the contribution of science and technology to ensuring sustainable development, and After the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, a message was sent to the scientific and research community to find solutions to the problems raised by ensuring sustainable development (Clark W.C., Dickson N.M., 2003).

The need to create sustainable development strategies at national level was brought to public attention by Agenda 21 (1992) when it was stated that such a strategy must harmoniously encompass sectoral economic, social and environmental policies and plans so as to ensure economic development, socially responsible for protecting basic and environmental resources for the benefit of future generations. (UN, 1992, Agenda 21)

The implementation of these strategies requires inter-sectorial institutional participation, the creation of mechanisms involving governments, civil society and the private sector, and economic planning and decision-making needed to become more participatory so as to create an optimal framework for organization and coordination. The 2014-2020 IMF, approved in November 2014 (Council of the European Union, 2014), reveals a reduction in agricultural policy spending over the coming period. The amount allocated to the CAP amounts to 362.8 billion euros, 37.8% of the total EU budget (less than 47.1% in 2007-2014). Thus, in 2020, the CAP budget will account for 35% of EU spending, 5% less than in 2014.

The stages of realization and implementation of sustainable development strategies can be summarized as follows (*figure 1*):

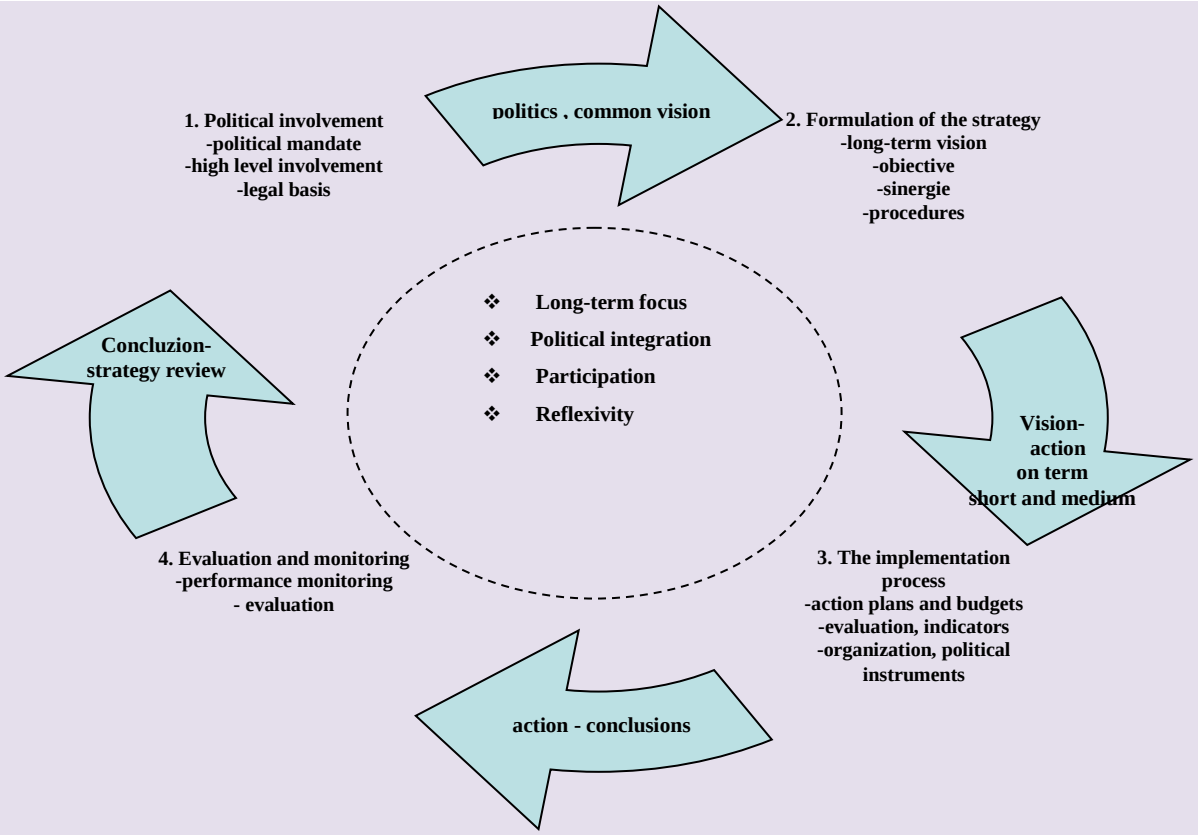

Figure 1 **Sustainable development strategy - principles and stages**
Source: ESDN (ESDN, Quarterly Report December 2007)

The relationship between EU objectives and sustainable development objectives can be summarized as follows:

• Socio-economic development: The 2020 Strategy provides for "the promotion of a prosperous, competitive and eco-efficient economy, which offers high living standards and full and high quality employment throughout the EU" (COM (2010) 2020 final); To this end, it has been set to increase research and development expenditures to 3% of GDP, increase energy efficiency by 20% and increase the employment rate (20-64 years) to 75% by 2020; these objectives are supported by initiatives 1-6 and the "Employment Package" (COM (2012) 173 final);

• Sustainable consumption and production - SDD objectives are - by addressing social and economic development in 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, reducing school dropout (less than 10%, 85% of staff under 22 to graduate high school) , restructuring social systems, increasing the participation of older people in the labour market, including women in the labour market, attracting and participating immigrants in the labour market; initiatives 6 and 7; general objective to reduce school dropout below 10%;

In the vision of the European Commission, sustainable development is fully integrated in the 2020 Strategy (smart growth, sustainable growth and inclusive growth), allowing greater coherence and integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. European targets for 2020:

• Employment - increasing the employment rate from 68.4% in 2013 to 75% (among the population aged between 20 and 64);

• Research and development - reaching a level of 3% of EU GDP for research and development;

• Climate change and sustainable energy use - 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions (compared to 1990), increasing the share of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency by up to 20%;

• Education - early school leaving rate below 10%, increasing the share of graduates (population 30-34 years) to over 40%;

• Fight against poverty and social exclusion - reducing the number of people suffering / at risk

of suffering from poverty and social exclusion by 20 million people. 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 (SDS). Thus, the 2020 Strategy includes SDS targets in terms of resource efficiency, levels set for climate and energy targets, poverty reduction and increasing education (*table 1*).

Table 1

Integrating SDS key objectives into the Europe 2020 Strategy

Objectives SDD	Initiatives						
	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 era 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%	Peste 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 (EUROSTAT, 2013, Statistical books)

• Public health - SDD objective - promoting a functional health system that provides a level playing field and improves protection against threats; the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Aging (European Commission, Pilot Scheme) and Together for Health initiatives (COM (2007) 630 final);

• Climate change and energy - SDD objective - limiting climate change and the costs and negative effects on society and the environment (reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, etc.);

• Sustainable transport - SDD objective - ensuring that the transport system covers the economic, social and environmental needs of society, but also minimizing unwanted impacts on the economy, society and the environment (decoupling economic growth of transport, sustainable level of energy use, reduction greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of pollution, reduction of transport noise (at source and through mitigation measures), etc., initiatives 4, 5 and the document • Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area - Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system (COM (2011) 144 final);

• Conservation and management of natural resources - SDD Objectives - improving the management and avoiding overexploitation of natural resources (resource efficiency, promoting eco-efficient innovations, avoiding overexploitation of renewable natural resources (fishery resources, biodiversity, water, air, soil, atmosphere), restoration degraded marine ecosystems, halting biodiversity loss, etc.); The 2020 Strategy responds to these objectives through the Common Agricultural Policy, the European Union Strategy for Biodiversity, the European Union Strategy for a "Green" Infrastructure, the Common Fisheries Policy, etc .;

• Good governance - SDD Objectives - open and democratic society, citizen involvement, political coherence, political integration, etc.; The 2020 Strategy includes the White Paper of the European Government which provides for openness, participation, responsibility, effectiveness, coherence (PNDR Annual Progress Report 2014, 2015).

SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS FOR SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE IN THE PERIOD 2014-2020

At the level of the European Union, in the period 2014-2020, Romania has allocated a value of 8,128 million euros, which represents 8.18% of the total funds allocated by the EAFRD for the current financial year (*table 2*), while Bulgaria receives a almost three times lower, a value of 2,366.7 million euros. The provisions of the Europe 2020 Strategy, for the period 2014-2020, the CAP will invest almost 20 billion euros in the agricultural sector and in rural areas in Romania. Key policy priorities, defined at EU level, include jobs, sustainability, modernization, innovation and quality. Romania has the flexibility to adapt both direct payments and rural development programs to its specific needs.

Globally, efforts to promote strategic sustainable development measures have led to: reducing the poor by 700 million people; saving approx. 3.3 million people with malaria (over 90% of children under 5); about 2.3 billion people had access to drinking water sources (it reached 89% of the population in 2012); ensuring gender equality in access to education (primary education); the number of malnourished people decreased but not at the expected rate; mortality rate in children under 5 years decreased, etc.

Table 2

Distribution of the allocation of European Funds related to EAFRD 2014-2020, at EU level

Country	EU funds in millions of EURO	% of EAFRD Total 2014-2020
Bulgaria	2 366.7	2.38%
Croatia	2 026.2	2.04%
Czech Republic	2 305.7	2.32%
Germany - Baden-Württemberg	709.6	0.71%
Germany - Berlin + Brandenburg	1 050.7	1.06%
Germany - Lower Saxony + Bremen	1 119.9	1.13%
Germany - Rhineland-Palatinate	299.8	0.30%
Germany - Saarland	33.6	0.03%
Germany - Schleswig-Holstein	419.5	0.42%
Germany - Thuringia	679.7	0.68%
Ireland	2 190.6	2.20%
Italy - National Rural Network	59.7	0.06%
Italy - Bolzano	158	0.16%
Italy - Emilia-Romagna	513	0.52%
Italy - Tuscany	414.7	0.42%
Italy - Veneto	510.7	0.51%
Romania	8 128.0	8.18%
Spain - National Program	237.8	0.24%
Spain - Aragón	467	0.47%
Spain - La Rioja	70	0.07%
Spain - Basque Country	87.1	0.09%
Sweden	1 763.6	1.78%
Great Britain - Scotland	844.7	0.85%
United Kingdom - Wales	655.8	0.66%

Source: Processing by: Rural Development 2014-2020, http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files (Rural Development 2014-2020, 2015)

Performance of agricultural holdings by sector

The performance of farms in the field crops, grazing livestock crops and mixed farms was increasing during the period 2007-2014, but the net added value per hectare in the vegetal sector was highest in the horticultural sector (*table 3*). On the other hand, labour productivity reached very high values in the livestock sector (about 118 thousand euro/AWU), 243.5% more than in 2007, and in field crops (about 16 thousand euro / AWU) where the increase was 515.8%.

Table 3

Evolution of the net added value per hectare and labour productivity, per sectors, for the period 2007-2014

	2007		2014		2014/2007 (%)	
	VAN/ha	VAN/AWU	VAN/ha	VAN/AWU	VAN/ha	VAN/AWU
Field crops	312.1	3193.4	467.7	16473.0	149.9	515.8
Horticulture	5262.8	3359.2	2426.9	2804.8	46.1	83.5
Wine	1678.2	3018.7	1381.4	6041.9	82.3	200.1
Other permanent crops	1290.0	3853.8	1434.3	5446.6	111.2	141.3
Milk	1023.9	2411.5	923.6	3944.1	90.2	163.6
Other grazing livestock	565.6	1917.6	855.5	4669.4	151.3	243.5
Other granivorous animals	7774.5	5289.1	4498.7	11777.8	57.9	222.7
Mixed	499.8	1156.5	833.9	2911.7	166.9	251.8

Source: FADN processing (RICA)

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 issue of sustainable development is a global and European priority; the implementation of national sustainable development strategies being undertaken since 2000 by over 145 countries at the initiative of the United Nations. Sustainable development involves more than the political process and requires profound changes in thinking, as well as in economic, social, consumer and production structures. Sustainable development is a model of development that seeks 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. Thus, sustainable development takes into account economic, human, ecological and social capital, in conditions of equity, long-term approach and in a systemic thinking.

In conclusion, the subventions granted based on Pillar I present the highest level of importance in obtaining the incomes and therefore influence more and directly the inequity between farms. The obtained results show us that a modification with 1% of the subventions granted through Pillar I: they have a negative effect leading to the increase of inequalities between different size farms; they have a positive effect leading to the reduction of disparities between the farms from different sectors or specialized on certain products.

REFERENCES

Fîntîneru G., Dona I., & Fîntîneru A., 2010 - *The flexible approach of the second pillar on CAP to maximize advantages for EU farmers-Romania case*. Scientific Papers Series Management, Economic Engineering in Agriculture and Rural Development, 10(3), 143-146.

Fred Gale, 2015 - *Growth and Evolution in China`s Agricultural Support Policies*, p. 5, http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1156829/err153.pdf, accesat la data de 02.06.2015.

Giurcă D., Hurduzeu Gh. Rusu M., Sălășan C., 2006 - *Sectorul Agricol în perspectiva aderării României la Uniunea Europeană: implicații asupra sistemului de plăți*, Institutul European din România – Studii de impact III, Studiul nr. 6.

Gorton M., Davidova S., 2004 - *Farm productivity and efficiency in the CEE applicant countries: a synthesis of result?*, Agricultural Economics, 30: 1–16.

Henke R., 2014 - *The Common Agricultural Policy after the Fisher Reform: National implementations, impact assessment, agenda of future reforms, Ashgate,* Publishing Lts., England, ISBN 978-140942-194-8.

Ungureanu G., Chiran A., Brezuleanu S., Moraru R., Boghita E., 2013 - *The optimization of agricultural exploitation size thought effect to adapt the agro-alimentary supply to the demand of trade*, ISITES.2013 1st International Symposium on Innovative Technologies in Engineering and Science.http://www.isites.info/PastConferences/ISITES2013/ISITES2013/papers/C8-ISITES13183.pdf

Ungureanu G., Ciurea I. V., Chiran A., Brezuleanu S., Gindu Elena, 2011 - *Tourism, social and economic balance tool and culture in rural area of Romania - 2011*, Agrár- és Vidékfejlesztési Szemle 2011. vol. 6. (1) Supplement „TRADITIONS, INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY" Hódmezővásárhely, 5th May 2011, Pag. 464-470, ISSN 1788-5345