

The Considerations of the Sustainable Development and Eco-Development in National and Zonal Context

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Abstract

This paper examines how managers are involved in the implementation of models used in forecasting economic growth for sustainable development and eco-development.

The study allows that the experience of the organization where the research was conducted be generalized in other institutions of the local public administration, for the purpose of supporting the processes of sustainable development.

The study has implications in the organizational sector of the local public administration institutions, and in the process of the specialists' training in the field of the public administration management.

The results of the research contribute to the proposition of certain viable managerial solutions for the application of the sustainable development models within the local public administration institutions.

Keywords: *administration institutions, economical development, eco-development, regional development, sustainable development*

JEL classification: O11, Q56, Q57

Introduction

In the current phase, concerns on sustainable economic development or sustainable at the level of individual countries worldwide are linked by a complex of problems facing the present world, namely poverty in the midst of plenty; environmental degradation, uncontrolled expansion of urbanization, uncertainty employment for a job; removing traditional values, inflation, unemployment, economic and geographical monetary crises, etc.

In the opinion of some economists, economic growth is synonymous with economic development and social economic progress. Most economists consider, however, that notions of growth and economic development should not be opposed to one another, but neither overlaps. The two concepts have some common elements: both are evolutionary processes, are based on cooperation and use the same factors, the social purpose of both processes is to improve people's quality of life.

Concepts of growth and economic development are associated with economic progress. It highlights specific purposes and development of each stage,

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compared with the previous stages, and the support of an optimistic view on the evolution of society in perspective. The changes may condition the progress, if they are approached properly and efficiently managed (Năstase et al., 2012).

1. Delimitations regarding economical growth

The economical growth is defined as the enhancement of the economic scale resulting from the combination and use of factors of production and raised by macroeconomic indicators - gross domestic product, gross national product and national income in real terms, both total and per capita.

Growth is a complex process aimed at the economic system as a whole and its dynamics, presenting a positive upswing in the national economy, but that *does not exclude cyclical oscillations, sometimes temporary economic regression*.

In connection with the immediate economic concepts is the use of zero growth and negative growth, responding to the interests of economic policy.

Simon Kuznets consider a country economical growth as a growth of it's capability to furnish in a bigger measure economical goods, based on high technology as well as on institutional and ideological adaptations that it requires (Kuznets, 1966).

Henry Arndt consider that economical growth is in fact a income growth as a medium per citizen (usually measured as IGP per population) (Arndt, 1978).

Francois Perroux appreciates the growth as national economical dimensions expressed in the sum of all the services and goods obtained during a period, including the payments (Perroux, 1981). Its opinion, however, is only quantitative.

Zero growth is mentioned in a Club of Rome report. In economic policy plan (Angelescu & Stanescu, 2001), zero growth is presented as the only normal social reaction to the increasingly restrictive nature of resources and deterioration of ecological balance.

Zero growth reflects a situation in which economic results and increase of the overall pace, and the results of per capita remains constant.

Negative growth reflects the results of the macroeconomic per capita have a tendency to decrease, while maintaining the control of a number of correlations of fundamental balance, with acceptable compromise plan on economic efficiency and living standards. It is the plan of economic policy legitimating of a state of affairs or an unfavorable perspective.

The three meanings of economic growth are caught in some systems of thought through the notion of social reproduction (simple, wide restricted).

2. Aspects of sustainable economic development

As a manifestation of economic growth, economic development implies an overall transformation of quantity, structure and quality, both in economy and in scientific research and technology, the mechanisms and organizational structures of

an functioning economy, in the way of thinking and human behavior (Becker, 2001).

Sustainable economic development means that the economic growth in which it aims to satisfy the requirements of present consumption will not compromise or prejudice those of future generations.

The concept of sustainable development express the expansion of opportunities that present and future generations options , can fully manifest in any field - economic, social, cultural or political. The man was seated in the center of action for development. Sustainable development implies the existence of economic conditions, social, cultural and environmental friendly. If, in historical perspective, economic conditions have had an absolute role in the evolution of the human species, other conditions may not be today ignored. The economic component is, however, an essential factor of development.

In the 1966 World Human Development Report, prepared under the aegis of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), summarized the four essential components of sustainable development paradigm (Figure 1).

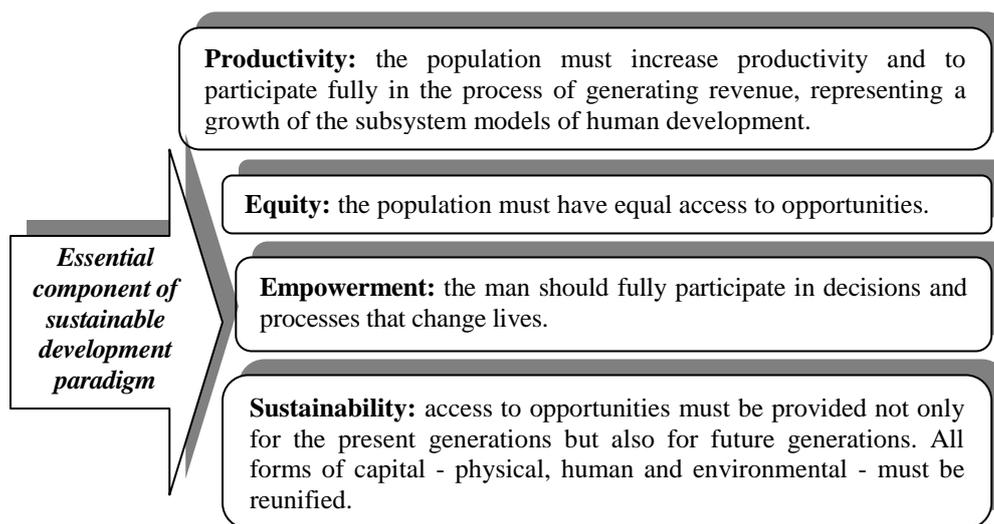


Figure 1. The four essential components of sustainable development paradigm

The concept of sustainable development is worldwide accepted and supported. Its message is retrieved by the Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, where discussions were focused in particular on the following aspects (Petrescu, 2009):

- a) Definition of sustainable development;
- b) Determine the conditions for such development;
- c) Measuring, quantifying sustainable development by finding an indicator to express the fact that a nation or an economy as a whole is fit or not, in a sustainable development.

3. Innovation and achieving sustainable development requirements

The overall objective of sustainable development is to find an optimum compatibility and interaction of four systems: economic, human, environmental and technology in a dynamic and flexible service. Optimum level that corresponds to the long-term developments that can be supported by the four systems. Because of the system is operational, it is necessary that this support and viability to be applied in all the subsystems that make up the four dimensions of sustainable development - from energy, agriculture, industry to investment, human settlements and biodiversity.

A minimum requirement for achieving sustainable development includes:

- economic growth resizing, given the increased quality side of production;
- elimination of poverty in terms of satisfying basic needs: a job, food, energy, water, housing and health;
- ensuring the growth of population to an acceptable level (reducing uncontrolled demographics growth);
- preserving and enhancing natural resources, maintaining the diversity of ecosystems, monitoring the impact of economic development on the environment;
- diversion technology and putting its risks under control;
- forms of government decentralization, increasing participation in environmental decision-making and the economy.

Multiple aspects of sustainable development from economic growth and employment population by gender equality, environmental protection and individual freedoms are treated in an integrative vision, the emphasis being placed on broadening opportunities for expressions of the people's choice.

Longevity, education and standard of living are considered essential. They underlie human development index (HDI) which provides a simplified measure, but useful, a complex realities. The indicators used to calculate the HDI are life expectancy, literacy and the degree of coverage in education, reflecting the level of education, GDP per capita, as a standard of living. In the last five decades, worldwide, have made progress in all areas and there have been significant changes in the level of human development (Panzaru, 2011).

The strategy of sustainable development becomes operational by appropriate national policies, in a position to encourage compatibility of systems that are conditioned in time and space, with regional collaboration and cooperation, internationally and globally. Consequently, designing a strategy to decide the most feasible policy changes and effective organization is essential (Nicolescu & Nicolescu, 2011).

Sustainable development is not an end in itself but a means to stimulate economic and technical progress, more equitable distribution through its effects on present and future generations. Common problem to all countries at planetary level, the strategy of sustainable development should be addressed taking into account

the existing gaps in the today world, dividing the countries into developed and underdeveloped rich and poor.

4. Concepts of sustainable economic development

There are long confrontations between different concepts on the protection of natural environment. Recognizing the economic development dependence of natural resources and their physical and formulating the concept of development is taking place within the framework of concepts presented in Figure 2.

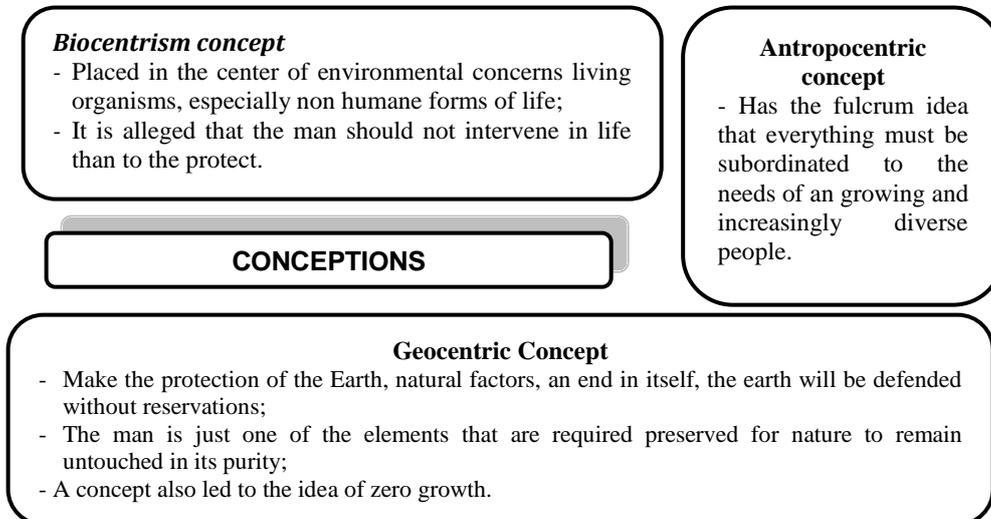


Figure 2. The main concepts of sustainable economic development

Of the three concepts on the protection of natural environment, retaining the common elements, rational and useful, can be reached at a general - conception of human reconciliation with nature and with himself. This concept presupposes respect for the nature laws in the economic activity, respect for the ecological Earth health, for social progress. Such a conception leads to prevent deterioration of the environment, which is fully possible, in terms of compatibility between development and production environment. This concept - strategy relate to the same extent in all countries in the world, developed or undeveloped, forcing a reconsideration of the strategies developed so far.

For developed countries which intend to switch to ensuring the compatibility of dynamic direct economic efficiency criteria imposed by the market, the efficiency of social and human, environmental, it prefigured the achievement of economic growth strengthened, based on dynamic environment compatibility created by man with the natural environment, the economic efficiency with social justice.

5. The eco-development concept

In the context of sustainable development we talking about eco-development. Thus, in 1972, Maurice Sliong the general secretary of the Stockholm Conference on the environment, introduced in the current language the concept of eco-development.

By its complexity, eco-development is not only economic development itself in relation to the natural environment, but the entire human development, social issues, culture, science and civilization, equality and equity between men. Currently, in the overall policy framework of environmental protection, there are targets presented in Figure 3.

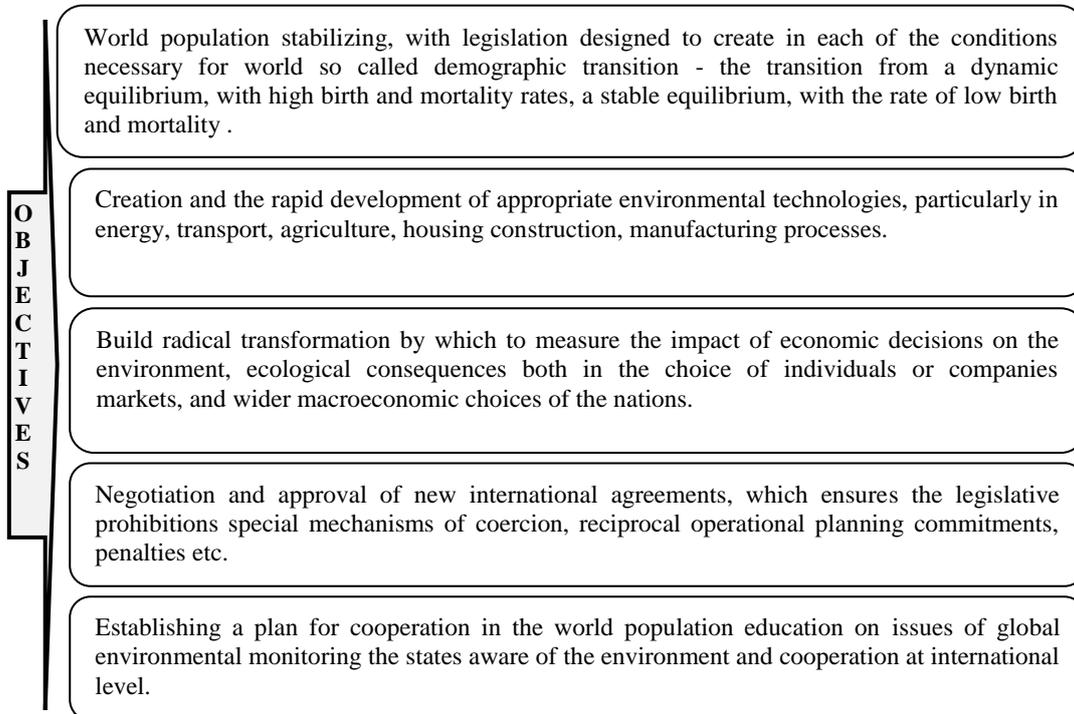


Figure 3. The main objectives of the policies of environmental protection

Eco-development (organic development) represents the growth in close correlation with environment laws, and ecological balance.

Eco-development is oriented to meet the practical requirements of long term, proposing harmony and complexity, excluding unilateral orientation to one or another branch of industry. Assuming a complex, diversified structure, eco development is characterized by a greater capacity for adaptation to the requirements of a stage and some major objectives.

It involves ecologically caution, stimulates development, starting from

knowledge consumption, advocates a harmonious development, carefully in full agreement with existing opportunities at a given moment and in a certain place.

6. Sustainable development and eco-development in Brasov

In the period February 1996 - 31 January 1998, the Government of Romania has proposed to establish in the framework of a Program for the Regional Development Policy, the preparation of a set of guiding principles for developing a regional policy in Romania, the Green Charter. In fact, the Green Charter is a summary document which seeks to establish the regional development principles for achieving the integration of Romania into the European Union (Petrescu, 2011).

The regional development policy objectives proposed in this document are:

- preparing for the integration into the European structures and ensuring the Romania eligibility for access to the structural funds for the development of the European Union;
- reducing the disparities between Romania's different regions;
- integrating the public sector activities in a broader concept of regional development.

The 8 regions are structured as follows:

- ✓ Region 1: Botoşani, Suceava, Iasi, Neamt, Bacau, Vaslui counties;
- ✓ Region 2: Vrancea, Galati, Buzau, Braila, Tulcea and Constanta;
- ✓ Region 3: The counties of Arges, Prahova, Dambovita, Ialomita, Calarasi, Giurgiu, Teleorman;
- ✓ Region 4: Valcea, Gorj, Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt;
- ✓ Region 5: Arad, Timis, Hunedoara, Caras-Severin;
- ✓ Region 6: Bihor, Salaj, Cluj, Satu Mare, Maramures, Bistrita Nasaud;
- ✓ Region 7: Alba, Sibiu, Brasov, Mures, Harghita and Covasna;
- ✓ Region 8: Bucharest and Ilfov County.

On sustainable development and eco-development, these regions have as main objectives: economic growth, social welfare and environment protection economic growth, social welfare and environment protection. In this sense, the County Council of Brasov intends to adopt certain sustainable development models aimed at:

- increasing economic competitiveness and improving the environmental performance of the companies established in Brasov;
- training personnel in view of the transition to a new model of development based on knowledge and innovation;
- achieving the transfer of knowledge, information, and technical solutions at the level of the industrial sector;
- ensuring a sustainable development of tourism in Brasov;
- fostering ecotourism in the Bran-Moeciu area;

- developing the local community in harmony with the environment;
- provide consultancy and assistance with respect to the implementation and integration of the sustainable development concept at the level of organizations;
- encouraging continuing education;
- actions focussed on the training and stabilization of the workforce, and on the motivation of employees and managers;
- actions intended to give citizens a sense of responsibility as regards their prevention role and the collaboration with the environmental regulatory agencies.

The application of sustainable development models supports the achievement of the local development objectives and provides the community of the County of Brasov the right instruments to express and evolve within the European community.

Seen from this perspective, institutional management has to be able to develop pro-active strategies oriented towards economic growth, social welfare and environment protection (Stefanescu & Panzaru, 2009).

Conclusions

The results of the survey indicate that the County Council of Brasov has acted along the time of a coherent and unitary promotion of sustainable development and eco-development of the county.

The results of the research have led us to a series of recommendations which shall give the County Council of Brasov, as well as other institutions of the local public administration a more qualified and realistic perception of the complex issues raised by sustainable development and eco-development. These recommendations are aimed at:

- encouraging the initiative of the employees of the County Council of Brasov to promote sustainable development and eco-development programs;
- securing the access to European funds destined for a sustainable development and eco-development of the county of Brasov;
- adopting efficient models of sustainable development and eco-development.

The main goals pursued by Brasov County Council, resource allocation and timing of activities are determined by a long-term strategy.

The results of the research have pointed out the fact that the institution has taken on the role of originator of change processes aimed at achieving a sustainable economic and social development of the county of Brasov.

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