

REGIONAL DECENTRALIZATION IN ROMANIA

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Abstract: The complexity of the determinants of development, as well as an impressive issue raised at both central and local levels, it makes it more than difficult to define a framework on which “to build local and regional development”.

As long as we are still in transition, as long as the reform is ongoing, affecting all actors of local socio-economic development, I expect to be subject at any time to new changes in the pace of sectoral policies that will generate new problems, making it difficult to correlate efforts, increase the intensity of partnerships, ensure a global monitoring and evaluation of the phenomenon of local socio-economic development.

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1.INTRODUCTION

The challenges posed by globalization over the last decades have highlighted the multiple valences of progress and economic growth, and in this context the "region" can be seen as a foundation of economic and social life, a basic scale of economic development.

Assuming that European integration presupposes a high level of economic and social homogeneity, the Romanian Government's strategy must necessarily focus on “local and regional development” policies that eliminate economic and social disparities.

Romania expressed its desire to join the European Union immediately after 1989. On 1 February 1992 it was granted the status of associate member, which allowed it to be officially represented in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Acquiring full membership is a matter which must be resolved in the shortest possible time to create the structural preconditions for bypassing the process of recovering the economic gaps that separate them from the highly developed countries and at the same time adopting acts. regulations and administrative structures compatible with European ones.

Both the process of democratization of the Romanian society and the need for a synchronization with the European structures, determined at national and regional level a deep process of reform in the political and administrative structure in Romania.

After a long period of centralized leadership in politics and economics, it is not easy to convince and introduce in this process a project concept based on participatory methodologies, oriented towards cooperation. This will determine the construction of a concept of regional and local development based on a high degree of responsibility of the forces involved highlighting the consensual, managerially oriented processes.

At the same time, such a concept must be understood as a collective, politically oriented decision for a strategic concentration of development activities.

A new basis for Romania's regional and local development policy was laid at the end of 1996 through the so-called "GREEN PAPER", which was intended as a strategic document, a consensus of the collaboration between the Romanian Government and the European Commission.

Along with the analysis of regional disparities at national level and the description of the current administrative-political framework, this document formulates the first national development objectives and the first regional policy measures for the period 1997-1998, establishing eight "Development Regions".

2. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In achieving a broad basis for regional development strategies, the participating partners there must be different institutions in political life, in the administration and the economies, economic agents, non-governmental organizations, in order to ensure the widest possible and most credible consensus in the implementation of a draft of that strategy.

Such participation expresses clearly and more convincingly its own local and regional needs, as well as its political will to take a constructive stance on national policy strategies.

The form, the structure through which such a consensus can be expressed and acted, such a participation is represented by the consortium. It can be local, regional and even Euro-regional.

The consortium is an administrative, legal, economic, non-governmental structure that brings together local, zonal, regional actors involved in a process of regional and local development, which actually build the consensus of the development strategy for the region, develops programs and projects by economic segments and well-defined needs, ensures effective and efficient implementation of the program. Including local political and administrative institutions - consortia - as a partnership structure can also ensure the correlation with national strategies, as well as interregional and Euroregional cooperation in border areas, thus acquiring a cross-border dimension. Of such a structure, as a lever of regional and local development, we can not talk outside the market economy, which means decentralization of initiatives and removal from the planning of economic production activities, and in the absence of local autonomy which means decentralization of decision.

Only in these conditions can the consortium stimulate regional potential, as we have mentioned, through the decision-making process.

It can also highlight the untapped potential with positive socio-economic effects, given its ability to know and assess directly the situation of an area or region and not distorted by various administrative links.

The consortium also has the role of identifying the development potentials that are expected to have a beneficial effect for the whole area or region and to set priority

"areas of action" for the region's development strategy which, in the idea of polarity, stimulates growth trends in other areas.

These areas of action become target areas chosen by consortia, for which they define the measures / projects.

The consortium also defines:

- the hierarchical system of regional development objectives;
- a strategic orientation and prioritization of individual priorities according to development objectives;
- concrete medium-term development strategies starting from the premise feasibility in a regional context;
- processes programming management structures;
- a project monitoring and evaluation system.

To give the desired results, the partnership is required to be animated by unwavering conviction that what is achieved at one point in part through joint efforts will sooner or later have a positive impact in another part of the region and eventually across the country.

This desideratum has increased chances to be fulfilled in any region if everything that has been created positive so far in that region.

At the level of an area or region it can and must become the basic structure in the development process.

For this, as it has been specified so far, it has the task of developing a development strategy that includes:

- strategic development objectives;
- measures or actions.

The objectives to be achieved by applying the strategic development measures provided for in all areas of economic and social life must be formulated and chosen in the form of a hierarchical system comprising:

- identifying and formulating the desired objectives;
- operationalization of the formulated objectives;
- the inclusion of the financial and human resources involved in the action program;
- determining the mode of interference between the adopted domains;
- overall evaluation of the strategic policies adopted.

The role of the system of objectives is to guide the measures on the desired development process, at the same time, it is an optimal tool for controlling both the measures and the results of their application.

The system of objectives developed, as an integrated element of the monitoring system, permanently indicates the direction of economic development of the region.

Based on theoretical considerations and regional potential analysis, a hierarchical system of objectives was built consisting of three levels:

- the general objective and the qualitative objectives for the development of the region;
- objectives of the target areas;

At the level of a region, the strategy developed by the consortium must express the strategic choice global development of the future region. This global strategy must include:

- raising the standard of living;
- creating new jobs;
- improving the quality of the environment;
- development of the business environment;
- international competitiveness;
- environmental regeneration.

The contribution of consortia to regional and local development can be defining and welcome Romania can determine the evolution of the national economy in the direction desired by the Romanian society and the European community, and the accession and post-accession to this European structure.

What needs to be noted and shown to the full awareness of all public factors is not to imitate for the sake of alignment, but to facilitate communication within a united Europe, composed of countries that over time have also evolved according to some own customs or norms.

The whole history of the European Community, initially starting from six countries with relatively equal development, the heated and not once contradictory debates, which allowed the accession of several states, showed the major role that cultural-historical disparities play in making decisions in able to satisfy both national interests, naturally marked by feelings and subjectivism, but also those of the community, whose great disadvantage was and remains the fact that they are an absolute premiere in the building of a new world.

The differences between the interests and those at the type of the regions of our country is almost invisible.

The regions of our country are entities that express different interests, subjectivisms, different ways of achieving their objectives, which are largely common. The economic development of some regions also supports the sinuosities generated by the insufficient understanding by some local and governmental factors, of decisions of the administrative factors, of autonomy in the context of a national development strategy.

Or, the consortium-as a local and regional partnership comes in support of this synchronization - its action leading to a single decision that encompasses all interests, its existence representing a center of polarization and dissemination at the same time. Consortia must present the possibility of creating direct bridges both inside and outside the country, other than in the existing official framework, which is insufficiently coherent now when there is practically a process of building another socio-political system, the framework which has a low responsiveness and availability.

The existence of the consortium is a real human gain that can be summarized as follows: at the level of local decision makers we can already talk about an experience developed linearly in the exercise of dialogue on integration. Fulfilling the main role, namely to correlate the efforts of all actors involved in the development of an area or region and to develop a strategy for this development. The consortium, through its compartments, must proceed with a concrete step-by-step approach for each area:

- preparation for strategic development, a stage considered useful for mainly preparing the bases data, to study the market and identify resources. It includes preparatory projects for future development, without which large-scale projects in the following stages

cannot be carried out. In parallel, some of the projects of this stage initiate the definition of the institutional framework corresponding to the development requirements at regional level.

- starting the strategic development-stage in which it is considered necessary and useful to place some projects which mainly concern training, qualification and requalification measures, without excluding at this stage some projects related to the creation of the investment framework, or the initiation of promotion and communication structures.

3. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF A CONSORTIUM

The consortium represents a local or regional partnership structure and can be a legal entity established on the basis of Romanian legislation, non-governmental and non-political.

It is usually constituted for a precise objective (development of an area, a region, implementation of programs, etc.), for a determined period, ie until the fulfillment of its unlimited objective. The headquarters of the consortium is established according to the needs and will of its members according to the legal provisions, in a locality in the respective region, usually the most important from an administrative or economic point of view.

The consortium partnership can be made up of local, governmental, non-governmental institutions, economic agents, scientific, cultural, political personalities.

The general objective of the consortium is structured on sub-objectives which in turn are materialized through a set of activities or measures. These activities will be carried out by implementing a work program and will be developed periodically by the executive director or staff of the consortium or approved by the board of directors. Work plans will specify resources, deadlines and responsibilities.

The members of the local consortium are:

- founding
- associate
- of honor.

The operation of the consortium is based on a statute and under the guidance of a management structure. The organization of the activity takes place based on the operating regulations approved by the founding members.

The management structure consists of the following advisory and administrative bodies:

- general assembly;
- the board of directors;
- the president;
- the executive director;
- the scientific council.

All these components have specific attributions and responsibilities, included in the statute depending on why establish founding members.

The decision-making system is by simple majority vote.

The patrimony of the consortium is constituted by the voluntary contribution of the members, donations, subsidies, funds obtained from the country and abroad, the administration of some movable and immovable goods.

The consortium is controlled by the founding members or the censor of the local consortium. The entire activity is carried out according to the legislation in force and with the opinions provided by law. Acquisition of membership in all three forms is done by completing a standardized membership.

4.CONCLUSIONS

The interests of a local community are better concentrated and focused by local decision-makers on all levels of administrative, economic and social interest through forms of association accepted under the name of local (regional) consortium.

The type of consortium association can approach a Community policy in a flexible way (without bureaucracy and immobility), can better unite the community effort and can implement new types of measures necessary to create economic alternatives in areas with disparities (concrete example in Romania-mining areas and areas with a high degree of isolation).

Local consortia are also approved by international institutions, by the structures of the European community, these forms of high efficiency in the process of regional development in Europe.

The local consortium can be the driving factor for the development of lagging areas or economically inhomogeneous areas, it can be the polarizing factor of the community effort for sustained and sustainable development of that area.

The promotion of such a structure in Romania in the process of local and national development was more than beneficial, it could counteract the dysfunctions generated by the multitude of intermediate links, it could create a new image of the Romanian society, brought to a change of mentality and a total attitude. available in the context of Romania's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

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