In the context of an extended Europe, our country will need a sustained rhythm of durable growth much higher than the European average, in order to be able to improve the existing differences found at the regional as well as the national level.

Our country’s capacity to benefit from the advantages granted as a member of the European Union depends on the success by which we use the possibilities of growth offered by the absorption of available funds.

Romania’s adhesion to the European Union is the most advantageous perspective from the financial point of view as well as from the economical development.

1.1 Regional development strategies

1.2 Financial priorities and resources

1.1 Regional development strategies

In the context of an extended Europe, the new members, characterized by considerably lower development levels compared to the existing states of the European Union, need a constant rhythm of development much higher than the communitarian average, in order to improve the discrepancies that persist both at the regional and at the national level.

All these cannot be achieved but by a strategic setting of priorities with regard to the intervention fields of the cohesion policy funds, which must be mused for the promotion of the enduring increase, of the competitiveness and of the labour force occupation.

The capacity of our country to benefit from the advantages given by the E.U. membership quality depends on the success by which it utilizes the development possibilities offered by the available funds absorption. A major role within the absorption of the structured and cohesion funds is incumbent on the local authorities, the last having the role of developing the planning, implementer and evaluating capacities of the actions of
local development, with the purpose to offer coherence and concentration on adapting the strategic programs for economic development at the level of each territorial administrative units.

The structural funds must be managed and headed in such a manner that to allow the regional discrepancies to come closer and not further. Moreover it must be promoted a national budget reform, which may allow the planning and setting priorities process integration and the expenditure both of the internal resources and of the European ones. In this context it is also necessary to define an efficient strategy for using the non-reimbursable transfers both sectarian and regional. In case Romania will not succeed in implementing these administrative reforms and will not increase the local authorities’ absorption capacities, there is the risk of facing the possibility of not spending all these resources and to register high opportunity costs socially and economically.

It is important to have a structural funds absorption rate as high as possible, as this means that the projects are being realized in the most diverse domains from education to environment, from the economy to the infrastructure, projects that do not mean only development but also opportunities, jobs and advantages for their beneficiaries, Romanian citizens.

Romania is facing its most important opportunity of development, of the constant increase in an economy more and more globalized. The future of our country is that of a dynamic, competitive and innovative economy, which functions in the economic, social and political structures of the European Union and of the global economy.

Romania’s adhesion to the European Union is the most favourable perspective both financially and economically, the increase of the living standards and the modernization of our country. Thus, the investments performed in the infrastructure field: modernization of the thoroughfare, roads, highways, the introduction and extension of the drinkable water feeding network, inventions with regard to improving the drinkable water’s quality, to the environmental protection contribute to the development of our country’s economy.

In agreement with the European politics of economic and social cohesion, it is necessary that our country promoted a regional politics which have the following main objective:
- the identification of the structural deficiencies in every region, which have a destructive effect over the competitiveness and the increase potential, and settle as its top priority the eradication of these deficiencies;
- building up a long term development strategy for each region, in accordance with its comparative advantages and its weak parts, which would admit that not all the needs may be fulfilled simultaneously and, at the same time, to give birth to investment projects in the light of the interaction among them and choosing the way towards a long term development;
- offering the needed attention to the environmental considerations within the investment decisions in order to assure a constant development;
- avoiding the excessive concentration of the investments in the present development centers, where the impact over the economic activities could be higher on a short time but could be in the detriment of the balanced long term development;
- the contribution to fortifying the managerial capacities for elaborating, implementing and managing regional development programs.

The regional development policy take into consideration the relations of complementarities that exists among the sectarian politics, among these and the special cohesion and planning, as well as the necessity to improve the institutional capacities.
The main objective of the regional policy aims at the balanced territorial development of our country, under the conditions of the regional increased competitiveness.

The disparities have different causes, being very well the result of the disadvantages imposed by the geographical distance or by the recent economic and social changes, or by both. These discrepancies come from the structural discrepancies in the competitiveness’ key factors – the inappropriate endowment with physical and human capital (the infrastructure and the labor force), the insufficient capacity of innovation, of the support offered to the enterprises and the low level of medium capital. Although the European economy is perceived as a whole, there must not be ignored the remarkable discrepancies in production, productivity and occupation, which persists among regions.

According to the solidarity and cohesion principles, one of the present priorities is bringing the life standards of the new member states closer to the communitarian average as soon as possible.

Respectively, the Structural Funds have a key-importance for the new member states helping them to fortify the competitiveness, to develop a strategic approach and to give special attention to assuring a maximum of coherence among the Structural Funds and the national politics.

1.2 Financial priorities and resources

Our country beneficiates, starting with the adhesion date, of important funds allotted by the European Union to the cohesion politics within the European Union frame. If properly appreciated and used, this opportunity may contribute to the economic development of our country and to the recovery of the discrepancy compared to the European Union member states.

This opportunity given to Romania is subjected to certain restrictions and implies a significant effort, especially from the authorities implicated, with respect to the issuing beforehand and in a proper manner of the programming documents and of those concerning the implementation, the endowment with competitive human resources, the resolution of the issues of afferent state help, etc. One must not forget that the implementation success depend first of all on all the potential beneficiaries and on their capacity of elaborating and implementing high quality projects.

Under the present conditions, when the Romanian economy is facing pretty serious structural problems, we need coherent and unitary strategies that aim at the programming, setting priorities and following the regional development policies.

Our country needs:
- structural programs in order to recover the existent discrepancy compared to the European Union member states, as well as for the long term development;
- adopting a coherent forming and perfecting politics of the civil servants;
- electronic communication, which fluidizes the documents and data circulation, in order to shorten the substantiation and decisional time and to diminish the budgetary expenses;
- appropriate consulting and efficient evaluation of the fezability and the impact of the taken decisions;
- the modernization of the intern procedures of public management by improving the decisional and executive circuits, encouraging the decentralization when taking decisions;
- the improvement of the communication, of the data exchange, of the flux of documents both horizontally and vertically, both within the institution and with the exterior
organization by using modern means of communication: conversations on the internet, intern network, intranet.
- the training of the specialists in the technique department and their implication in the external financing programs;

The integration benefits must be also evaluated at the level of non-monetary effects:
- the modification of the economic behavior, which is now based on largely on the ethic hazard;
- the increase of the technological, economic and commercial competitiveness;
- the improvement of the business environment, under the aspect of the predictability and reducing the risk of uncertainty.

Romania must continue making a constant reformatory effort with the purpose to create an institutional framework adequate for the European Union’s transfer’s utilization. The supplementary budgetary resources must become a priority by allotting an increase number of personnel in the institutions that takes care of the European resources unrolling, by means of an emphasized increase of the wages in these fields compared to the increase average given at the level of the entire public administration and by promoting an educational program that would help a larger business environment and the population to learn the procedures by which these transfers may be mobilized and used. Moreover, there must also be promoted a national budget reform, which would allow an integration of the process of planning, setting priorities and spending both the intern and the European resources. In this context a definition of the efficient strategy for using the non-reimbursable both in a sector and regional is also necessary.

The budget in 2007 is an ambitious one, it must be interpreted as a first step towards the multi-annual budgetary programming, modern method that must be used in the post-adhesion stage of Romania to the European Union. The orientation towards investments in the infrastructure, education, research-development and rural development is a progress that may fundament a rapid convergence with the economic European pattern.

The absorption of the communitarian funds represent an objective in itself of the post-adhesion strategy, taking into account the important contribution that these funds will have for recovering the discrepancies in comparison with the development stage of the European Union member states. The access to these financial resources, by means of the cohesion European politics, represents one of the main economic benefits.

The resources taken into consideration for the financing of the investment objectives are:
- The contribution of the European Union from the Structural Instruments (European Fund for Regional Development, European social Fund, Cohesion Fund), for the “Convergence” Objective and the Objective “Territorial European Cooperation” and the national public co-financing (state budget, local budget, external credits, other civil sources) and afferent private.
- Funds of the structural type of the European Union for agriculture, rural development and fishing (Agriculture European Fund for Rural Development and Fishing European Fund) and the national public co-financing (state budget, local budget, external credits, other civil sources) and afferent private.
- The allotting exclusively from the national and local public sources for development investment programs, which have objectives similar to those financed from the above mentioned communitarian funds;
- External credits for the investments granted by the International Financing Institutions for supporting objectives similar to those financed from the above mentioned communitarian funds (e.g. BEI, BERD, World Bank etc.).

In order to become a net beneficiary of the communitarian funds, Romania must assure a higher level of absorption of them. The funds that will be received from the European Union are potential, compared to the contribution to the communitarian budget which is a certainty and represent an assumed obligation as a member state.

Complementary to the communitarian funds, the state budgetary resources and those that will be drawn from the private sector will be engaged on preferential development directions.

Premises for an optimum utilization of the financial resources:
- the accurate information of all category of potential solicitors and beneficiaries of the projects financed by the European funds. The information campaign must offer detailed information concerning the possibilities created, the application method and to reach the addressees by adapted means of communication.
- the assurance mainly of the administrative capacity of all the institutions implicated in the communitarian funds management and implementation, in order for this to be able to deploy its activity at high standards, efficiently and transparently. A special emphasize must be stressed on the formation of a sufficient number of specialists in managing the communitarian funds, who would cover the entire spectrum of the Romanian civil administration both geographically and thematically.
- the support of the promoters of projects for establishing a mature projects portfolio, which could be financed immediately after the operational programs were approved. The permanent renewal of this project reserve represents a warranty of the increase of the communitarian funds absorption level.

Furthermore, using the communitarian financial resources assumes also the observance of the following principles:
- Efficiency – funds utilization depending on the strategic directions for the settled development;
- Subsidiary – the management of the funds at a level closer to the local and regional needs, depending on the zonal specificity and the local priorities;

In addition, it is very important to attract financial resources, complementary to the communitarian resources by means of developing public-private partnerships in the main important domains of development, depending on the local specificity.
- Partnership – communitarian funds management and implementation must be realized by means of the implication of all the society’s branches, from public national, regional and local authorities, to economic and social partners, civil society, etc.
- Additionality – the contribution from the Structural Instruments do not replace the structural public expenses or equivalent of another Member State.
- The thoroughgoing at the national level of the European integration progress Fundament Adhesion to the European Union sign Romania up in the dynamics of thoroughgoing the European integration process.

The acceleration of the real convergence process with the European space by valuing the endogen potential will depend on the efficiency of applying this pattern by the institutions with high responsibility within constant socio-economic development promotion and management.

This objective will be realized, among others, by an allotting of the funds differentiated on regions, depending on the development level, that is the inverse ratio to the GIP/citizen.
The regional strategy will set as a priority the regions left behind, which follows the regional and local resources, while the other strategies from the branches have no spatial approach, but have an obvious regional impact.

The implementation of this priority will lead eventually to the diminishing of the disparities between the regions, between the urban and the rural environment, between the urban centers and the additional aerials, and with regard to the cities, between the places that are attractive for the investing persons and the non attractive, by means of a better use of the regional synergies, including urban-rural.

**Bibliografie**