SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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Summary:
The phrase "human settlements system" is a concern for researchers in various fields as geography, economics, regional planning and for those responsible for formulating and implementing spatial development policies.

The research covers various aspects of human settlements and is a meeting place of many disciplines and humanities. It is natural, as human settlements, either as isolated or in territorial systems they belong, are where manifests are transformed and develop human communities and societies as a whole.

Problems national system of settlements in Romania are varied and complex.

The evolution and consolidation of a stable and balanced is a continuous and dynamic process that goes through a series of steps, some characterized by profound transformations that can be called critical. One such step is the present one, where the influence of the changes in the economy and social and political life, the very development of settlements, be they urban or rural, knows a turning point, a certain vulnerability when the progressive or regressive of evolution is may change at any time. Industry restructuring on the one hand and reîmproprietărirea owners, are factors that can create shock effects unchecked urban and rural areas. On the other hand the development of trade, multiplying special services, urban (banks, insurers, etc.) and can foster diversity of choices population compared to a net urban areas where living conditions and financial incentives for farmers are still far to be attractive

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1. Introduction

The research of human settlements is a fascinating field and, at least in the last 150 years, has been the object of study for geographers, sociologists, urban planners, historians, anthropologists, economists and other specialists or thinkers for. Some have tried to decipher the laws "evolutionary" of human settlement, from primary to higher its forms (Mumford). Others have sought to understand human settlements relationship with the environment, and human activities (Geddes). Geographers by the nature of their concerns have sought to understand the causes of distribution arrangements and then the world population and settlements (Vidal of Blache, Reclus, Ratzel). Some historians have been tempted to follow the evolution of human settlements in the events history (Toynbee, Le Goff, Braudel). Sociologists have expressed interest in researching the relationship between the built environment and human behavior (Chicago School).

The study has pioneered the settlement as such and the modern urban settlements in territory-oriented study paved the way for human settlement geography, urban geography and regional planning that in the years '30 plastic Cincinat Sfintescu called it "greet town planning". From an analytical and descriptive phase predominant phenomena related to the formation and development of human settlements, years '50 -' 60 have given an active role geography and spatial planning of human settlements in space policy decision making both in the West and the communist East. For various reasons, years ' 70 - '80 marked a slight rebound amid criticism implementation of theoretical models unverified and not always viable [7]

The main purpose is to highlight the importance of sustainable economic development, given the fact that social development and environmental protection work aims to highlight on the one hand, a number of concepts, theories or traditional recenteîn about your topic, and the secondly to identify a number of defining characteristics for the study of sustainable development of human settlements in Romania

In the paper several historic landmarks were dashed on the emergence and development of the concept of sustainable development, and shades that it has developed along time.
Analysing the evolution of the concept of sustainable development from its first formulation to date, there is a widening implications form thereof, if the initial emphasis was on environment protection. now the concept of sustainable development (supported) covers all forms and methods of socio-economic development, whose foundation is the first to ensure a balance between the socio-economic systems and elements of natural capital so that development support themselves, to perpetuate without collapsing due to overfishing, environmental degradation, population destruction.

Beyond the strategies developed at international level, principles of sustainable development should be implemented at local, regional, development based on natural resources, human and economic disparities.

2. The present situation of human settlements

The concept of sustainable development tends to outline more precisely and to be used in the design and performance of the economic and social transformations. Sustainable development requires that a suitable place to be ensured for environment conservation in the economic projections.

In this sense, any development in economic review must have minimum effects on the environment that is to be kept and transmitted to the future generations.

An important element of sustainable development projects is the current situation of human settlements.

This situation is reflected in the human habitat features and in various specific aspects and territorial differences.

The main problems of the sustainable development of human settlements are as follows: developing the urban network in an ordered and hierarchical system; developing systems of complementary rural settlements and ranked in territories; increasing the urbanization degree of the country through the possibility of declaring some rural settlements as cities; improving the administrative organization is sometimes considered as a need a better territorial development; changing urban hierarchy by differentiated development of different cities that form the urban network.

Human settlements are in a situation with many common features of which we mention: the existence of a historical center representing the initial nucleus of the city, with architecture specific, these historical centers were minimally renovated and valued in urban review, they remain the emblem of those cities; the new neighborhoods are in suburbs and are real cities having facilities, connections with the city center, but suffer a certain uniformity and monotony; the industrial platforms located on the outskirts of cities are restructuring and they have decreased their activity quite often.

Because the sustainable development is that type of development which improves the well being of the current generation without this increase leading to impaired well-being of future generations, it requires a set of elements/factors to be considered to reach such an objective. Even if almost every settlement is a particular case, it has its own specifics, the sustainable development has to be concordant nationwide.

Overall, it can be appreciated that the sustainable development process knows certain difficulties in our country, because it needs to impose and develop in the hard conditions of the transition period, when the essential objective is the economic recovery of human settlements under the aspect of urgent need to animate them.

Although they have many elements in common, the approach of sustainable development has to be differentially made for the two great categories of settlements, rural and urban.

For example, a concrete knowledge of natural factors where different forms of this habitat type, especially the geomorphologic changes and particularly those of the hydrological regime are imposed in the rural settlements, first of all. Second of all, it is requested to establish the intensity of human pressure in general, but at the same time the effect of this pressure on natural resources specific to that area.

Sustainable development takes into account many aspects: human settlement network, structural aspects of human settlements, built housing fund and the service and facilities network, urban image, organization and arrangement of space.

The important element of sustainable development of human settlements

In the structural aspects field of human settlements, the sustainable development targets multiple elements:

- **occupation and use of land**:
  - The current land use in the rural and urban settlements space although is the result of a long historic process, especially expresses the intervention from the socialist period, when especially collective housing neighborhoods and areas or industrial platforms replaced overnight the individual households, farmlands, green spaces or watertables.
  - For urban settlements green spaces are an important aspect not only in Western countries, but also in Romania.

- **built housing fund and services and facilities network**:
  - There are notable differences between the rural and urban environment:
    - a surplus of living space in rural area, in contrast, housing crisis in urban area;
    - urban housing fund still has a reserve of time in terms of length of service; the same thing cannot be said about the rural homes, whose seniority, besides the quality construction material, involves a major financial effort for repair or even replacement;
    - quality of housing:
      - unfavorable situation in rural areas in terms of facilities with indoor installations;
Sustainable development also means rendering the personality of settlements, which, especially for cities, was more affected by the massive demolition and construction of standardized large settlements of collective, identical houses, regardless of the physical and geographical unit where those urban centers are located and the traditional style, natural of constructions. This aspect as important as the depersonalization of housing estates is reflected in the individuals’ depersonalization, generating among others, the deviant behavior phenomenon.

In the same sense, it is necessary a better highlighting of the symbol markers of settlements: hillocks / hills, rivers, seaside, representative buildings such as palaces, castles, churches, old housing estates with a particular architectural style, some modern buildings. [1]

A better organization and arrangement of the space aims to make territorial optimum, by valuing its most favorable conditions, namely maximizing to meet the social and economic needs without jeopardizing the ecological balance. In addition, any development strategy, besides the economic, social, technological, etc. coordinates, must also follow the specific, particularities of the natural environment of these settlements. Thus, moving the accent from the macro level to the micro level, to that of each settlement, and sometimes even to neighborhood level, urban functional area or, rural area, to village level.

Sustainable development of Romanian settlements has to be correlated with the restructuring and downsizing process of the economy in our country, complex and difficult process.

Between the objectives of the sustainable development of human settlements in our country according to the European Court of Land management Planning, the following are entered:

- stimulation of labor stability in rural area and in small cities by reducing the swinging movements of population and ensuring labor force in the whole national territory;
- avoiding regional social-economic polarization, delimitation of the eight development regions having just the role to act in order to reduce and not increase discrepancies;
- stimulation of using alternative resources: small industry, handicraft, landscape, cultural-ethnographic revaluation, etc. ;
- diversification of agricultural products, according to local eco-pedo-climax resources, for rural settlements and service offer (commercial, health, education, cultural, financial), for urban settlements;
- differential management of the disadvantaged areas/settlements from the demographic, social point of view, economic activities, resources (depleted, untapped, incorrectly operated, etc.);
- limiting the territorial expansion of cities, in order to maintain the agricultural land, green spaces, watertables, etc. near urban settlements;
- increase the living standards in rural and urban areas, in particular by increasing rural public utility networks and by expanding and improving the existing ones in cities.

Sustainable development brings change not only to the theoretical heritage and methodologies to address the issues of territory development, but also a restructuring of the hierarchy of values and functional parameters, a reassessment of priorities and share processes and phenomena, in short "an accent movement". Adoption of the principles of sustainable development requires a shift in the technocentric perspective by an ecocentric one in all aspects of territorial arrangement.

The change of accent proposed by the concept of sustainable development results from the very way in which the environment is seen as a value, namely as resultant of three values:

- esthetic;
- ecologic;
- economic - in the sense of a value which is not market determined, cannot be marketed in the form of goods and services, cannot be measured in monetary value and requires new evaluation tools including qualitative aspects.

In general lines, it can be said that the change of perspective is, in fact, a new attitude to the complex relationship man-social and economic activities - natural environment, namely, widening the analysis of mutual influences and causal chains and also deepening the study of relevant areas. The new concept refers to that report bilaterally, in the context of a global system which means that both human needs and protecting and preserving the natural environment (its needs) are considered equally. Where the extent of damage is advanced, the concerns will be focused mostly on the second side. In this respect, factors such as restoring the natural environment, judicial use of natural resource get a certain particularity in the general concept and policy for spatial planning. [2]

Sustainable development pays particular attention to land-use management generally considered as a complex system environment, based on its assessment. The main implications of the concept of sustainable development on land arrangement can be summarized as follows:
The concept of sustainable development of the territory, a fundamental element is the adoption of a general strategy of development that correlates and integrates from the beginning the environmental and evolution of human settlements problems, in temporal sequences of short, medium and long durations. In these conditions, it is necessary the reassessment of the role and position of town planning and land management planning documents and those who elaborate them. There must however be stated the following aspects:

- integration of the development and land management planning principles in a global and unified conception;
- transformation of the land management plans in complex management tools.

From the perspective of sustainable development, land management planning can be defined as an intervention aiming to reconcile human, individual and social needs, with the resources and real potential of the natural and built environment on the one hand, and with the technological and financial resources, on the other hand, in terms of protecting and conserving the existing heritage. The land management planning in a sustainable manner does not operate with unique patterns or methodology, is not normative and does not provide ready-made and ideal solutions. It can be characterized rather as adaptable, flexible, tendentious and formative.

Land management planning transforms in this context, in a development planning science, not only of the territory, but the entire economic and social life. Any development decision tells upon not only the physical space, but also on socio-economic factors of life as a whole. The complexity of the "human development" concept determines the necessity of designing and using a complex system of indicators that reflect its various aspects.

First of all, we have to have indicators that reflect the human development profile, hotspots in the human development and regional disparities within this development. Second, indicators are required to reflect the evolution in human development along with the indicators of weakening phenomena of the social edifice, indicators of migration and village-city disparities, and the territorial hierarchy of human development. Thirdly, there should not be forgotten the indicators reflecting women condition, those of the gap between women and men, those of survival and child development, of health and health infrastructure. Fourth, the indicators of human capital formation are required with those of education, infrastructure in education, scientific and technological research, culture and communication. Fifth, there are required unemployment indicators, of people’s participation in economic activity and the work accidents and those of the demographic profile or fertility and natural population growth. Sixth, we must have indicators reflecting the living conditions, indicators of urbanization, of urban infrastructure and general infrastructure. Finally, seventh, there must be highlighted the revenue and production indicators, indicators of natural resources and environmental indicators, list and their grouping being open to continuous completion and improvement depending on the needs of analysis and economic and social decision. [3]

Of course there can also be conceived other groups of indicators, that the system has the capacities needed for reflections sufficient to characterize the concept of sustainable human development.

The complexity of human development aspects imposed its quantification by an appropriate measure to reflect the nature of the economic and social progress. First Human Development Report, published in 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) adopted as a measure of human development: longevity, education and standard of living. Life expectancy at birth, adult literacy degree and the average length of schooling and, respectively, incomes per capita are indicators that are used to calculate the human development index (H.D.I.).[7]

The first three variables reflect the "stock" factors, mainly accumulations obtained in time in health and education field. Income per capita is a variable type "flow" type, which characterizes the degree to which individuals have access to resources needed for a decent life.

The human development index is a relative measure, resulting in a set of rules chosen for the maximum and minimum values for each component: life expectancy varies between 25 and 85 years; the literacy between 0 and 100%; the average length of schooling between 0 and 15 years; and the income per capita between 200 and 5.385 Euros calculated at purchasing power parity. In addition, if the income per capita exceeds the world average of 512 Euros, it is used a new adjustment of income per capita based on a descending scale, corresponding to the decrease of its marginal utility. [2]

The index calculation is simple for each component. The numerator is the difference between the value achieved in human development in the specific individual field and the minimum value, expressing the obtained achievements.

The denominator has a normative dimension, reflecting the distance travelled between minimum and maximum value for that indicator. Education level is calculated by aggregating the degree of literacy with the average
schooling. The average of the three components - health, education and income - reflects the state of human development.

In other words, the index reflects taking into account the maximum values of its components, the distance between a country of the maximum possible level of human development with an H.D.I. level of 1.00 - which assumes a life expectancy of 85 years, universal literacy, an average of 15 years schooling and an income per capita of 5.385 Euros.

The valences of human development index are descriptive, allowing the characterization of human development index and comparison of the experience of different countries or regions in the economic and social progress field and pragmatic by the way they highlight the priorities of economic-social politics on fields and regional areas where the intervention actions act like emergency. [1]

The human development level differs from one Country to another, the development index varies between 0,716 and 0,785. The counties fall under the conventional limits adopted worldwide in the average human development area.

The amplitude of human development variation between counties is of 10%, so that the human development in territorial profile is relatively homogenous in Romania. [6]

The income per capita is the major source of regional disparities. The capital of Romania benefits of an infrastructure developed by the high qualified workforce and cumulates the governmental decision centers of national economy. The opposite is the northeast development region.

The characterize of the evolution of human resources, of economic support, of human development, including infrastructure and public services, will complete the picture of evolution and human development stage in Romania, emphasizing its hot areas. Many of the countries that outrun Romania from human development point of view, record a higher life expectancy and an advanced degree of literacy of population.

The human development index contains three basic elements: longevity, education level and income. Longevity is measured by life expectancy at birth. The training level is determined as a weighted average of the degree of literacy of adult population and the average length of schooling. GDP is used for income, calculated to the purchasing power parity in euro equivalent. With the technology revolution in infrastructure, it is essential to be made a new way to conceive urbanization assuming substantive review of policies so far.

For the success of the new era of ecologic development, besides the construction of national strategies based on own resources and needs, the regional, international and even global strategies are important, which should take into account not only the globalization of human development, but also the fact that it is necessary to redistribute efforts depending on the amplitude and intensity with which have been provoked the damages to progress and environment by different states of the world.

If for those economically developed the strategy imposes transition to fund restructuring of the economic and social activity, education, health and environment protection, for the poor and underdeveloped countries, it is the question of finding those strategies that favorably respond, concomitant to the problems of increasing labor productivity and population, environment problems and the quality of people's lives.

In order to act locally, there have been established the following sectors: energy, transport, industry, agriculture and forestry, space management and organization, education, disaster management. In order for these actions to be efficient in international, European, regional level, the participation of public power is imposed in all levels.

The public power has to form legislative and institutional mechanisms and also the necessary financial resources.

The human resources, man, is at the center of the concerns for the future. Even if the present presupposes decisional uncertainty spaces, the future has to be saved, the attention of current generation is focused to the future generation which should have more chances to build welfare: putting under control the current anthropic pollutant phenomena and processes; production patterns and less polluted consumption; conservation of national ecosystems; ecologic reconstruction of land degraded by economic activities. This can transform in profitable economic activity because it means that only bringing certain land areas in the natural circuit, but also the field to develop research - development activities, equipment production, organization of companies for the execution of rehabilitation of the land, wastewater and degraded products treatment, opportunity to create new jobs and increase the economic activity.

The efficiency of natural capital means the exploitation of natural resources and in the interest of future generations or rationalization of natural reserves that can be revalued without exhausting the resource, deposit during one human generation.

The higher degree of revaluation means preservation of natural resources, amplifying the economic activity, another degree of revaluation of human resources.

The processing efficiency, closed technological cycles, zero type technologies, waste, positive environmental externalities are insurance factors of natural capital attracted in the economic cycle.
The efficiency of human capital becomes the key of the economic development in perspective, insisting upon the total period of the education cycle, assuming and managing the risk, acquiring the modern social and ecologic behaviors. In the decision making process, an increased attention should be given to the potential risks that the human action could impose to the environment.

The human activities are the result of certain needs that should develop within the limits imposed by the environment. Needs manifest simultaneously and in opposition to others which requires managing these needs in the sense of reducing or redirecting them than satisfying them to find the optimum point between the demands encountered in opposition, following the reconcile and directing of human aspirations towards the environmental development and restructuring in which their activities are carried out.

The economic effects obtained after the human activities have to allow the increase of welfare and respect to the environment, the aim of people’s activities has to be the improvement of life quality.

3. Conclusion

In economically developed countries, with mainly in European Community countries, there is a deep awareness of the need to ensure an sustainable development of human settlements, the activity that become a priority for governments, organizations governmental and nongovernmental. However, so far we can talk about that and the countries of Europe Central and Eastern Europe.

Mostly it can be appreciated that the process of sustainable development meet some difficulties in our country, it is forced to impose and to see perform in harsh period of the transaction, when the main purpose is economic recovery of human settlements in terms of urgency to animate their

The analyzed studies are currently being implemented as resources demorifice system settlements in Romania consist mainly of adults, reflecting decreasing young population, characteristic is an aging population in urban areas stands Employment in industrial activity and in the rural sector in assets belonging to third parties precm and unpaid agricultural activities in the family system in their own households

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