Abstract

In the last years of the current European Union will be involved less in funding developing countries and geographic areas outside it, because we need to focus on eliminating disparities and balancing standards of living in member countries, how much more there is still big differences in this regard between Member States of the European Union. The objectives of economic growth, social to, throughout the European Union can only be achieved through the permanent coordination of macroeconomic and sectoral policies implemented in each Member State and at Community level. Track the means, firstly, the completion and operation of administrative structures, particularly in the public sector appropriate to the requirements of democratization, of establishing a fair competition between participants in economic and social life etc. The sums of EU funds to improve the construction and operation of government, most of the public sector, shows increasing levels from the previous financial programs, levels that diminiează making room for other community priorities.

Cuvinte cheie: cohesion policy, European Structural Funds, absorption rate of economic development

1. Introduction

In the last years of the current period. The European Union will require less funding developing countries and geographic areas outside its, because it needs to focus on eliminating disparities and balancing standards of living in member countries, how much more there is still big differences in this regard between Member States of the European Union.

The objectives of economic social growth, throughout the European Union can only be achieved through the permanent coordination of macroeconomic and sectoral policies implemented in each Member State and at Community level. This means, first, completion and operation of administrative structures, particularly in the public sector appropriate to the requirements of democratization, of establishing a fair competition between participants in economic and social life etc. The sums of EU funds to improve the construction and operation of government, most of the public sector, shows increasing levels from the previous financial programs, levels, which decreases giving way to other community priorities.

2. Cohesion policy

In the framework of Cohesion Policy for the period 2007-2013, three objectives were pursued:
- convergence,
- regional competitiveness and employment
- european territorial cooperation.

These objectives were financed by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund. The latter originate aid to Member States with gross national income per capita less than 90% of the Community average, so that those countries can to reduce the economic and social gap, stabilizing also the economy.

Cohesion Fund for 2007-2013, addressed to Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia, and Spain was eligible on a transitional basis as gross income its recorded average is lower than the EU15.

The first objective (Convergence objective) aimed at improving conditions for growth and convergence factors with real impact for Member States and regions less developed. Into European Union of 27 Member States (2007-2013) the objective addressed the 84 regions located in 17 Member States are at a lower stage of development, to a population of 154 million inhabitants, which recording a GDP / capita below 75% of the Community average, and in a digressive
transitional arrangements other 16 regions, namely a population of 16.4 million inhabitants with a GDP / capita slightly exceeds the 75% threshold, the effect statistical EU enlargement.

The amounts allocated to the convergence objective amounted to 282.2 billion euros, which accounted for 81.5% of total key priority "competitiveness and cohesion".

Regional Competitiveness objective and Employment aimed strengthening the competitiveness and attractiveness of regions and therefore a significant reduction in unemployment across the European Union. To achieve this objective development programs have been developed to help the regions to anticipate and promote economic change, stimulate innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, to increase the number and quality of jobs, job classifications adapting to market requirements.

The programs under this objective focused on 168 regions of the enlarged European Union which are located in 19 of the 27 Member States, namely about 340 million inhabitants. The amount allocated to this objective was 55 billion euros, of which 11.4 billion euros for the regions benefiting from the gradual implementation, 16% of the total expenditure.

With regard to territorial cooperation objective, it has focused on strengthening cross-border cooperation through joint local and regional initiatives, so be boosted integrated territorial development and interregional cooperation is encouraged, along with exchanges of experience.

The population living in border areas who are dedicated programs that fall under this objective amounts to over 181 million people, representing 37.5% of the total population of the European Union and the total amount allocated to this target is 2.5 % of total budget expenditures dedicated priority direction, namely competitiveness and cohesion (8.7 billion euros).

The programs under this objective focused on 168 regions of the enlarged European Union which are located in 19 of the 27 Member States, namely about 340 million inhabitants. The amount allocated to this objective was 55 billion euros, of which 11.4 billion euros for the regions benefiting from the gradual implementation, 16% of the total expenditure.

With regard to territorial cooperation objective, it has focused on strengthening cross-border cooperation through joint local and regional initiatives, so be boosted integrated territorial development and interregional cooperation is encouraged, along with exchanges of experience.

The population living in border areas who are dedicated programs that fall under this objective amounts to over 181 million people, representing 37.5% of the total population of the European Union and the total amount allocated to this target is 2.5 % of total budget expenditures dedicated priority direction, namely competitiveness and cohesion (8.7 billion euros).

In the framework of the strategy, cohesion policy and the Structural Funds is emerging as "a key mechanism for achieving the priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive in the member States and regions" [2].

In 2007-2013, the report of the Cohesion Policy (EC, 2014), EU Member States have faced a number of obstacles during the project cycle management. Some experts have pointed out that in the preparation, evaluation and implementation of projects financed from structural instruments, particularly the infrastructure was informed that the regulations of specific national, but also those resulting from trasfers of acqius of the community require multiple interventions on proposals from institutions outside the system to manage the structural instruments in the form of issuing permits and approvals, which complicates and delays the whole process both preparation and implementation. Also is added the international financial and economic crisis which has contributed to this hinders financing through Cohesion Policy. Thus, in some analyzes also indicate that one of the major problems faced beneficiaries in the context of the financial crisis focused their ability to secure necessary resources to finance the projects (whether their own contribution to project, whether it is cash-flow assurance), for a range of public interest or public beneficiaries. Deficiency of institutional capacity in the management of structural instruments was another key issue the 2007-2013 funding period, both the institutions responsible for the management of operational programs and the beneficiaries especially in terms of implementing major projects by public local authorities.

In 2007-2013 EU budget allocations for Cohesion recorded an increase the cost denominations, totaling 348.856 billion euros. If in 2007, the allocation was about 45 billion euros by the end of the programming period it rose to about 54 billion euros [9].

### Financial allocations for Cohesion Policy for the period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Payments</th>
<th>Annual budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>122,190</td>
<td>124,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>129,681</td>
<td>132,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>120,445</td>
<td>134,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>134,289</td>
<td>140,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>133,700</td>
<td>142,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>141,360</td>
<td>148,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>144,285</td>
<td>153,168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The allocation level is not necessarily conclusive as it is legal commitments to provide funding if they strictly observe certain conditions. The practical importance of the annual payments that certainly has a lower level than annual allocations, according to data from Table. 2.
Table no.2

The financial allocations for Cohesion Policy for the period - milliard euro -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Allocation for Cohesion Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>45.061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>47.267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>48.427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>49.388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>50.987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>53.716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>54.524</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the period 2014-2020, to ensure an effective contribution to achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, cohesion policy will take into account the experience of 2007-2013, three main directions: harmonizing the rules on eligibility and durability, flexible scheduling funds and auditing singular projects under $100,000. Thus, in the period 2007-2013, any project regardless of its size, could be subject to audit by the audit authority, the European Commission auditors at any time during the course of it, even up to 10 years after its closure, in response to this problem, change for the period 2014-2020 provide for a reduction in the number of audits by the national audit authorities and the European Commission.

3. Agriculture and Fisheries Policies

Agriculture is the economic sector where integration is manifested most strongly. The amounts that have been allocated for the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) represents almost half of the total Community budget and, although it provides for a reduction of this funding allocations for agriculture will continue to be high. For the first time the common agricultural policy was implemented in 1962, although it was still envisaged by the Treaty of Rome in 1957, and aimed mainly increase agricultural production, in a Europe devastated by World War II. In short, the Common Agricultural Policy has met its primary objective (ensuring food security in the European Community), allowing significant increase in agricultural production in Europe due to the implementation of instruments that guaranteed the income of farmers, rural exodus monitoring and promoting farm monitoring.

Reforms that have occurred over the years have focused mainly on:
- Towards reducing surpluses through the introduction of quotas;
- Reduce the parts represented by the Community budget allocations for agriculture;
- Making a qualitative growing importance diminish, which means rural development, environmental protection, compliance with health rules concerning animal life and ect.

The Common Agricultural Policy is governed according to several principles, among which the most important concerns:
- The existence of single agricultural market, the customs borders of the Member States have disappeared, technical standards are harmonized Community health regulations are complied with;
- The establishment of a financial solidarity, the allowances provided for in the EU budget for agriculture;
- Direct aid to farmers, which were introduced with the CAP reform in 1992, representing 80% of the budget period PAC. This grant farmers a minimum income, regardless of the quantity of products to avoid overproduction and eliminate distortions in trade of agricultural products;
- Use of any financial incentives to encourage farmers to opt for environmentally friendly production methods.

Financing of the CAP is considered the most important EU financial intervention, accounting for about 45% of the EU budget in 2007, decreasing compared to previous years.

European agricultural policy take account of consumer demands, which require safe, healthy, protected from the dangers of various crises that have succeeded in recent years (eg mad cow, avian, swine fever etc.).

European Union to have in the future more attention in terms of consumer concerns on agricultural products and builds its policy on this view based on the proliferation of controls at all stages of production, processing and consumption until the end.

Common Fisheries Policy The European Union has the largest maritime territory in the world, making it to be the world's largest market and at the same time, the chief importer of fish since over 60% of consumption comes in third markets.

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is built according to the same model with common agricultural policy, aiming, notably four objectives, namely:
1. conservation and sustainable exploitation of resources, so as to be able to achieve a good balance between a competitive industry of fish and sustainable fish stocks, including avoiding situations of overfishing, which the European Union has faced in the past. To this end, the European Union regulates the volume of fish stocks and aquaculture products;

2. to allow the fishing sector to adapt and modernize in order to increase the profitability of activities in the field. To this end, grants from Community funds are for investment projects for both fish production and aquaculture development and modernization of vessels specific markets;

3. Restructuring of the fishing fleet. Reform started in 2002 in this regard introduced a system for limiting fishing capacity of EU fishing fleet to adapt to available resources of Member States;

4. relating to the marketing of products, common fisheries policy aims to stabilize markets, ensure a quality meal at reasonable prices and to support the incomes of fishermen.

To fulfill its role, the common fisheries policy, it has a common market organization which defines common rules for the marketing of products, a common prices and a tariff for the import of fish from third countries.

From 1 January 2007, the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) has been replaced by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), which had the amount of 3.8 billion euros for the period 2007-2013. This new fund is not allowed to facilitate application of the last reform of the common fisheries policy and support the restructuring of the sector.

Certain actions may be financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF). For instance actions aimed at retraining of fishermen.

Fishing also occupies an important place in the research and development program financed by EU funds, with a view to improving the scientific basis of the Common Fisheries Policy.

The priorities were included in two documents, namely:
- A strategic plan, which was presented overall medium-term vision for the development of fisheries and aquaculture to the Member State, and in the manner it deems appropriate to implement the Common Fisheries Policy.
- An operational program for implementation of the policy and priorities to be financed.

4. European policy on employment and social policy

The Single European Act of 1986 gave an important place of social policy, mainly in health and workplace safety, as well as on dialogue between social partners and economic and social cohesion. With the Treaty of Maastricht, and more by the Treaty of Amsterdam, between the priorities of the European Union has been introduced and a high level of employment of labor. Although primarily it is for the Member States, the European employment policy, however, is a matter of common concern, the European Union having one of its legal coordination instrument at Community level in the union strategy. At the same time, through its actions, the Union should support and complement the actions undertaken by Member States in the field of employment.

Employment policy is part of the Community policies, which means that every action in the European Union will have tangency and workforce development, regarded as employment levels, training etc. These strands are provided numerous policy action: education and training policy, and regional policy, research and technological development support policy states the use of new information technologies, personal mobility policy etc.

The objectives of social policy and employment are mainly:
- Fostering employment and high social protection;
- Harmonious, balanced and sustainable economic activities;
- Equality between men and women;
- Increasing the sustainable and non-inflationary;
- A high degree of competitiveness and convergence of economic performance;
- Raising the quality of life;
- Economic and social cohesion.

Regarding employment European Union and Member States have agreed to develop and pursue a coordinated strategy for employment, mainly to promote skilled labor, formed and thereby likely to adapt to the current and future labor market.

In his approach rests on the European Union regional and local authorities and the social partners and civil society, advocating for development. To prevent the emergence and expansion of unemployment, including taking steps to stimulate employment, the European Union has set three objectives:
- Reach the level of "full employment";
- Improving the quality and labor productivity;
- Social cohesion and employability.

At the level of each objective equality between men and women must be included in all three directions for action.

To achieve these objectives, EU governments have decided to follow ten specific guidelines:
1. active and preventive measures for and inactive people;
2. creating jobs and promoting entrepreneurship;
3. promoting adaptability to employment and mobility;
4. promoting human capital development through education and training;
5. increase labor supply and promote employment of older people;
6. equality between women and men;
7. promoting the integration of disadvantaged people in the labor market and fighting discrimination against such persons;
8. stimulate employment through more attractive financial offer;
9. making workplaces “black” in employment law;
10. diminishing regional disparities in terms of employment

Through the European Social Fund and various community programs, particularly the Progress program, the European Union has supported the training and the reintegration into work and projects aimed at combating discrimination in employment.

European regional policy by promoting balanced development of Union supports the creation of new jobs in regions experiencing difficulties.

Also, to finance projects with social component contributes European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF) grant loans and guarantees SME that through innovation creates new jobs and / or acting sectors characterized by intensive use of labor.

Progress program was conducted in the European Union in the period 2007-2013 in the field of employment and social solidarity, alongside the European Social Fund shares. This program has replaced four programs implemented in 2000-2006 which addressed the fight against discrimination, equality between women and men, relative employment measures and the fight against social exclusion.

The objectives pursued by the Progress program were:
- Improving knowledge and understanding of the situation in Member States through analysis, evaluation and follow strict implementation of Community policies;
- Support the development of statistical tools and methods and common indicators, structured by age, training etc., relevant to the program;
- Supporting and following up the implementation of Community legislation and policy objectives in the Member States of the European Union to assess the effectiveness of program implementation and its impact on social life;
- Promote networking, exchange of experience, census and disseminate good practices and innovative approaches across the EU;
- Better knowledge of the stakeholders and the public all subject area of interventions Community policies;
- Increasing the capacity at European level, the main networks to promote, support and develop Community policies and objectives.

5. Conclusions

The pressure on agricultural policy is not only domestic but also in the world, the Common Agricultural Policy was criticized by other members of the World Trade Organization, which accuses agricultural export subsidies. However, within the European Union are numerous contradictory debate on CAP financing from Community funds, net contributing Member States considered excessive, while the beneficiary Member States want to preserve allocations to high levels.

Implementation of a policy of large-scale European remains difficult as long as they strictly observe local area is mainly Compete Member States, although this does not prevent them seek harmonization of certain aspects of social legislation. The confiscation Member State has its own system of social security, but all 27 Member States (the analysis of the work were considered EU27 UE28 not due to the funding policy analysis on 2007-2013) attempts to coordinate for European citizens to benefit from a satisfactory social protection guaranteed anywhere in the European Union. For example, the Member States and the European Union are concerned the adoption of a European minimum wage purposes identical throughout the European Union, the nominal value or, at least, harmonized in terms of purchasing power.

Regarding the EU Cohesion Policy, the main objective is to help promote balanced regional development in old and new Member States. As statistics indicate European regional policy has made a significant contribution to increased prosperity and living standards throughout the EU, also contributing to reducing the economic and social both between regions and between Member States. Without the contribution of Cohesion Policy, the disparities between Member States could be much higher than today, but the effects of the international economic crisis, resulting in increasing global challenges have led to the need to implement a common policy reforms.
Currently, the European Union faces a number of challenges including globalization, climate change and population aging. These challenges do not stop at national borders, institutional or policy, but have an important impact on regional and local communities.

6. Bibliography:

[4]. Georgescu George, „Determinants of increasing EU funds absorption capacity in Romania “, Annales Universitatis Apulensis Series Oeconomica, 2009, vol. 2
[5]. HG678 / 2015 on the closure of operational programs funded in 2007-2013 through the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Fisheries Fund
[6]. Politica de coeziune a Uniunii Europene, editat de Ministerul Afacerilor Externe, disponibil la: http://www.mae.ro/node/1623
[8]. www.europa.eu.int
[10]. www.mie.ro