

HEALTH OF ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH OF ECONOMY

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ABSTRACT

The central idea of this paper is that meeting human needs and achieving material and social well-being can not be reduced by simple accumulation of goods and money with the price of compromising the possibilities of future generations to meet their own needs. This requires profound changes in current mentality that will lead to replacing immediate economic interests with healthy economic interest which involves submission of a determined effort on heritage protection and conservation of future generations to save both human health and existence of planet itself.

KEY - WORDS - Entropy, pollution, healthy environment, ecology, sustainable development

JEL Classification: Q5.

1.Introduction and Background to the Study

In order to satisfy its increasingly numerous, complex and diversified needs, or even just to make a living, since ancient times, man has exploited the resources of the planet which is normal to the point where, owing to the desire to get rich quickly and overflowing, he came to ignore the need to preserve that balance, as appropriate, between his own needs and environmental protection factors. Brutal intervention of man in the soil-water – air system, called "the triangle of life" exceeded the adaptation possibilities of biosphere with extremely negative consequences not only for his health but also on its whole hereditary heritage.

The environment as a place of human existence is the result of complex interaction of natural elements such as soil, air, water, climate, biosphere with socio-genetic elements of economic and social life. [2]

The condition of pronounced degradation of the environmental factors as "collective goods" can illustrate as well as possible the conflict arisen between the laws of human nature and of immediate efficiency. Some of the serious problems facing humanity lately, such as damage to the ozone layer or global warming, show us that the planet has already far exceeded the capacity to absorb our waste. This is the first time in the multi millenia history of the Earth when human intervention on nature exceeds its absorption possibilities, dispersing and neutralizing various categories of pollutants.

2.Sustainable development

Almost universally experts have reached a consensus regarding the limits of the type of economic growth that prevailed in the nineteenth and twentieth century and therefore imposed switching to other paths of development. There were developed and were based many and varied concepts of carrying out new programs and models of development. Regarding reconciliation between the economic domain and the environment, the concept that is mostly accepted by specialists is sustainable development (sometimes called sustainable human or ecological development). [1]

The theory of sustainable development is relatively new and is still under development. The concept emerged in a time when environmental issues were in the forefront of political debate, being born about 40 years ago, as a response to the emergence of environmental issues and natural resources and energy crisis. The moment when, in practice, it recognizes the contribution of human activities on environmental degradation is at the Stockholm Conference on the Environment in 1972. It was when it was first advocated reconciliation between man and nature, between the economy and the environment. [9]

Twenty years later, the Brundtland Report (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) emphasized again the need for this reconciliation so as "to achieve human progress not only in a few places and for a few years, but for the planet and for the future as long as possible," which is the very essence of the concept of sustainable development.

Major deterioration of the environment factors is one of the most serious problems of mankind for whose solution the development and implementation of a continuous improvement strategy becomes imperative. Within it we must start from the idea of the intensity with which environmental factors are affected by human actions (anthropogenic factors) and to take into account the organization of environmental protection at the

institutional level , the presence or absence of monitoring infrastructure and management of environmental factors , the international agreements , the existence of an education conciliatory towards polluted and polluting areas, namely public awareness regarding the level and the effects of pollution and etc. . [2]

Sustainable development has become a major objective of the European Union since 1997 , with its inclusion in the Treaty of Maastricht , and in 2001 , at the summit of Goetheborg it was adopted the EU Sustainable Development Strategy , to which , a year later, in 2002 at Barcelona an external dimension was added. Since sustainable development requires strategies on sliding horizons , but in the long term ,in the prospect of 20-25 years at the European level its revision became necessary . The professed aim of the Renewed Strategy was to act for continuous improvement of quality of life both for the present and for the future generations . Renewed Sustainable Development Strategy concerns the whole of Europe , a reason why it proposes uniting the efforts of broad categories of entities (from the government and other decision makers and to NGOs and even citizens) . [9]

General principles of environmental protection can be translated into life through positive legal rules as well as finding appropriate economic instruments of intervention to solve them as judiciously as possible. [1] Cooperation for sustainable development should be the focus both in the EU and in each of the Member States. In this respect , the Romanian legislation , as a member of the EU, has been harmonized with the union . An important step in this direction was the drawing up of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) of Romania in a revised form as agreed at Community level objectives and methodological requirements of the European Commission (established by Government Decision no. 1216 of 4 October 2007, published in the Official Gazette Nr.737/31 . 10 . 2007)

3.Protection of the environment and the right to a healthy environment

The complex study of the interaction of ecological factors must be the basis of all actions to protect the environment. This is because, we like it or not , "Planet is not the private property of anyone. It is the common property of all mankind , just as atmosphere and oceans which nobody has the right to pollute ".[8] The human brain must be programmed to think a new vision of development and dictate actions released from what the distinguished professor Costică Popescu calls " our common whole , which is the planet that we exist on ."The new vision of development suggests a " higher social order , which is interested in the life of future generations as much as that of present generations and focuses more on the health of the planet and the people than on the accumulation of material and military power " [6]

Environmental protection is a very complex activity based on a conception created at local , national , regional and even international level which requires , on the one hand maintaining environmental integrity , life support systems and on the other hand the recovery and reconstruction of degraded systems due to natural calamities or as a result of negligence or errors in strategy development. This is because the more recent actions of mankind have led to the transformation of humanity and the artificiality of ecosystems which requires finding and using the most appropriate methods for maintaining the health conditions for all living things (including human beings). [2]

The concept of healthy and balanced environment has many meanings. Therefore it is to be found in numerous international documents being the focal point of numerous entities and individuals of this planet.The right to a healthy environment is a universal and at the same time , a right of every person of a state that legally establishes it . [4]

Every citizen of a State must be recognized the right to live in a healthy environment. This view is expressed in both the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights , but also in the specific documents in which are contained , without any discrimination rights and fundamental freedoms for all the people of this planet. This equality , recorded in the above mentioned documents , actually refers to the equality of living conditions that all people must have but also create them through certain activities. Equal right to live in a healthy environment can not be carried out without the contribution of each of us who need to make the effort required to live in such conditions.

The right to a healthy environment entails the duty of every individual to prevent pollution, to stop all activities that lead to such a result , to take all measures to restore the environment that has been polluted and repair the damages caused by pollution. [7]

In Romania , Environmental Protection Law no . 137/1995 , republished, with subsequent amendments , provides in Article 5 that "the State recognizes the right of all people to a healthy environment ." In the same article there are included all legal guarantees for exerting this right , namely: "access to information concerning the quality of the environment, the right to compensation if injury is created, a right of association in organizations defending the quality of the environment, the right of consultation for making decisions on policy development, releasing agreements and environmental permits , etc. . " [5] . The Constitution of Romania of 2003 (published in Official Gazette no. 758/29 October 2003) in Article 35 entitled " The right to a healthy environment " states that : "1. The State recognizes the right of every person to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment . 2 . The state provides the legal framework for exerting this right . 3. Natural and legal persons have the duty to protect and improve the environment. " [7].

4. Correlation of development policies and environmental protection

The success of preventing and combating environmental pollution is certainly determined by the correlation between economic development policy and environmental protection policy. The correlation is revealed to be the more natural the more we will consider that the overwhelming majority of economic, but also environmental issues have about the same causes two of which distinguish themselves qualitatively and quantitatively, namely:

- Under qualitative aspect the correlation between the two policies concerns increasing connectivity of the states of the world as a result of processes of internationalization and globalization that have brought development in all areas but especially in communications and transport;
- Quantitatively this correlation can be explained by the fact that the previous economic activity was much less intense and environmental damages consequently reduced.

Developing of an economic policy has as its starting point the understanding and awareness of the general interests of the nation, the economic and strategic interests of the country that have yet specific determinations and occurrences in each country and each of the milestones according to the economic and political domestic and international situation. [1]

Environmental policy as a branch of general policy falls within the current political system of society, without which there cannot be conceived, developed and also implemented as particularly complex and undeniably necessary. Note that it is assumed the total compatibility of the constituent subsystems: economic, scientific and technological, cultural, environmental, demographic, etc.

Environmental policy is very closely related to the economic development of society and economic policy achieves the link "between policy development and environmental protection and territorial development policy and local autonomy, investment policy and so on, aiming at the development of society in accordance with the environmental policy and on both policies, with the help of financial policy, covering the expenses needed to achieve both goals: economic development and environmental protection". [7]

5. Conclusions:

Contemporary economic literature was devoted to the idea that economic growth is influenced by the natural environment and economic growth which, in turn, exert a multiple influence on the nature in all its components. This bilateral, complex relation between economic and natural environment is highlighted by the notion of entropy, respectively anti-entropy.

The intensity of economic growth is influenced by two complementary and contradictory processes:

- An entropic, destructive one in which the natural potential is in process of degradation;
- Another one anti-entropic, creative and informational, which opens up new possibilities to explore and exploit resources more efficiently, leading to what has been called "sustainable development".

Sustainable development requires full consonance with the requirements of ecological balance and healthy development, which means that we consider all the aspects of "progress in man and for man": culture, science, civilization, equality and equity among people, ethnicities, nations and peoples. These dimensions of sustainable development are understood and analyzed in their multiple interrelationships, the process of sustainable development reflecting them all to a higher level, with the chance of becoming the object of coherent policies and strategies of settlement. [1]

The success of any measures to prevent and combat environmental pollution is caused, to a large extent, by the correlation between economic development policy and environmental protection policy. The two policies need financial policy support which must provide the necessary funds to achieve both goals: economic development and environmental protection (eco-development).

The most important aspect for healing people, society, and therefore the environment, is the cultivation through education of human solidarity, of a collective consciousness, a sense of human communion. Man as a social being, will not be able to fulfill his aspirations, will not be able to assert himself and develop unless he lives and acts as part of the whole he belongs to, of the human community in general. We emphasize the importance of this issue as beyond religious and political options, beyond ethnic diversity, beyond social status, people have the essential duty to collaborate as efficiently as possible, on the ground of solving the big issues defining their existence. [3]

Hoping that our approach was able to arouse the interest of those who had the patience and curiosity to read these lines we believe that nothing would be more suitable for the ending than the reflections of the same sensitive and unmistakable Constantin Popescu:

"Nature, as you might have noticed is considered "stingy" to us because it doesn't provide all the things we need ready-made, free of charge..... Maybe we exaggerate when we call it "stingy" after all it has done to man and mankind. Right. We exaggerate! That is why I put the word stingy in quotes, because in fact this view means fully satisfaction from us! How much "responsibility" of this nature to give us the truly vital things to our existence, and how much "inspiration" not to provide ready-made and free of charge all the things we need. Perhaps it "thought" that if it had given us everything, then we would not have been humans. We would never

have been inclined to fulfill our life in society through work and love , as Dr. Alfred Adler said : What sense would have had lived human life if all its needs had been provided ready-made by mother nature ?

That is why , in our opinion ,we use the attribute " stingy " as the most beautiful word that can ever be pronounced to someone who is careful not to deprive us of all that is natural for living, for being in time and, at the same time,for making you be what you need to be, a tireless seeker of accomplishments " . [6]

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