

ROMANIA FEATURES OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT

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Abstract

Regional development is a new concept that aims to boost and diversify economic activities, stimulate private sector investment, contribute to reducing unemployment and lead to an improvement in living standards. Development and harmonious arrangement of the territory is an imperative of any civilized state for the welfare of all its citizens. Regionalization is a top-down process, which has as a starting point regional imbalances and regionalism is a bottom-up process of representing how the region perceives regional consciousness considered as a homogeneous territory by its residents and the community. European reality is that where there is regionalization regionalism was imposed because "the future of Europe must be built by a balance between Brussels, states and regions." Regionalization is in fact the result of trends in territorial organization in European countries today. However, we can speak of a "Europe of regions" where regions are public corporate body that answers the need for territorialisation certain policies.

This paper aims to define the first part, the concepts of region and regionalization in order to subsequently provide procedural issues on regional development policy. At the same time, it will highlight the main aspects of economic development, taking into account the economic, social, cultural. The last part of the paper we summarize the effects of policies on regional development regions of our country, guiding us as socio-economic situation.

Keywords: region, regionalization, regional development, regional development policy, decentralization.

JEL Classification: O20; R11; R12.

1. Introducere

Regional development is a continuous process that is amplified once the enlargement of the Union by integrating the candidate countries. Regional development policy goals in the EU It will have the effect of strengthening the territorial context of balanced development, increase business competitiveness in the competitive environment of the Union.

Regional development process conducted in member countries U.E. and experience on regional policies constitute the rationale new dimensions on regional development in Europe.

Regional development plays an important role in economic and social policy of our country. Framing located in the EU It was not possible without clarification and strengthening regional problem in Romania, addressing these issues assuming various fields of economic, social, political in each region. Approaches are different from region to region, depending on the particularities, but the specific mechanisms are found in local authorities, which through their representatives in the Regional Development Councils, established the directions that regional development must move within each region . Nowadays, our juridical settlement of development regions is far away form perfect. That's way national and international elements request an administrative-territorial reform. In this context, our politicians recognize that decisional system of development regions is complicated and politically influenced [2].

2. Regions and regionalization in the European Community

The region is the cornerstone, on which they theorize, is method develop investigative techniques specific targets and measures are defined, as well as tools that enable their implementation.

A region can be defined as "an area of a territory with a set of internal features (own) distinct and consistent (which may be natural or human) which gives it a certain unity significant which distinguishes it from other neighboring areas"[7].

To achieve territorial cohesion and social Europe emerge following objectives of Community legislation: ensuring the regions' structural undeveloped conversion regions and industrial areas in decline, combating long-term unemployment and employability of young people and those at risk of exclusion, adaptation workforce to industrial structures, adaptation and development of agricultural structures and modernization of fishing.

To achieve these objectives regional policy, the European Union stated the following basic principles: the principle of concentration, which involves the concentration of credits on a limited number of objectives, territory and populations; programming principle actions carried out by Community support frameworks; the partnership principle, which involves collaboration between European institutions and competent authorities of Member States established at regional or level; additionality, which means that the Union's action is intended to complement the efforts of Member States and not replace them; subsidiarity, which is the fundamental principle of the whole system of Community law requires that Community acts are adopted at EU level and brought out by the competent authorities and institutions of the Member States with strict exceptions established by the European Community Treaty; principle of local autonomy, being understood by the right and effective capacity of local government to solve and manage, within the law in their own name and in the interest of the local population, an important part of public affairs; principle evaluation, structured in three phases, showing how to achieve the goals.

In official EU documents, we find this notion less precisely defined in the Community Charter Regionalization. (document prepared by the European Parliament in 1988).

Charter defines the region as "a territory that forms the geographical unit net or a similar cable of territories where there is continuity, the population possess certain common elements and wishes to retain the specificity of the resulting, and develop the to stimulate cultural progress, socially and economically. " Region is an administrative level that has its place in the administrative hierarchy to a position immediately below the central level[8].

Regionalization can be defined as the process by which the establishment of a capacity for autonomous action, which aims to promote a territory, sub and supra- national, mobilizing its mechanism of economic and, where appropriate, resorts solidarity local or regional and development potential.

This can be done either through institutions preexisting or by making a new territorial division designed to better meet the objectives, process, however, is always conditioned constraints which it exercises political and institutional framework, whose development may be governed by a several trends.

Depending on where it occupies regionalization within the constitutional and administrative structure of the state, at the European level can make a classification, identifying five types of regionalization:

- a) administrative regionalization;
- b) regionalization through existing local authorities;
- c) regional decentralization;
- d) political regionalism or regional autonomy (institutional regionalism);
- e) regionalization through federal authorities.

Regionalization is the process by which the establishment of a capacity for autonomous action, which aims to promote a territory, sub-national or supra-national by mobilizing its mechanism of economic and, where appropriate, resorts solidarity local or regional employment and development potential or. This can be done either through existing institutions or by building a new territorial division designed to better meet objectives. This process, however, is always conditioned by the constraints exercised political and institutional framework, whose development may be governed by a number of trends. The creation and organization of territorial regions model is in fact a particular feature of this process [3].

Regionalization is materializing trends in territorial organization aiming to provide a solution to conflicts exacerbated by excessive centralization born or administration, to fight bureaucracy and reduce the distance between those who manage and administer those.

Regionalization plays an essential role in Member States with EU integration as it allows them to better respond to the requirements formulated by the Union and to mobilize their economic capacity, helping at the same time, develop their potential. Regions is granted a significant role in this process because they are considered spaces, expanses closest to the citizens. Regionalization can be done by adapting existing institutions or by calling a new administrative-territorial division.

Currently regionalization is a new way to understand or to charge administrative-territorial organization of a state or intermediate level administrative organization with its functions and purposes.

In the context of social and economic cohesion policy, use of the term encounters some difficulties. The first problem concerns the general absence of a clear demarcation of the region economically. The second difficulty is

determined by administrative-territorial heterogeneity of Member States of the European Union. In this regard, both the Treaty of Rome (Treaty establishing the European Economic Community) and other treaties that followed it, refer to the region as a geographical area generally.

3. Regional development policy - component of EU policies

European regional development dimensions are designed in regional development policies. In this regard, the regional development policy is a set of measures adopted at EU level to support underdeveloped regions, aimed at creating or restoring a relative balance in economic activities, living standards.

Regional development policy is a key policy of the European Union, which is based on financial solidarity, providing support less developed countries and regions or experiencing structural difficulties, in order to create jobs and increase competitiveness. EU regional policy was built around the concept of economic and social cohesion, a concept aimed at reducing disparities in levels of development of regions, helping lagging regions and reduce the gap that separates them from the developed U.E.

This policy is, above all, a policy of solidarity. It is based on financial solidarity between Member States and, as a result, a substantial part of their contribution to the Community budget - more than a third - is directed to poorer regions and disadvantaged social groups. European Union contributes to:

- ✓ development region in late economically, against the European average of economic development;
- ✓ reconversia industrial areas in difficulty;
- ✓ diversificarea activitatii declinante agricole;
- ✓ regenerarea zonelor depopulate.

Due to regional development policy all regions participating in improving the competitiveness of the Union. Structural Funds represent an important complement national policies, both directly and through leverage that opening minds to the harmonious development of the EU as a whole, and to promote a sustainable environment.[6]

Structural Funds support work towards obtaining the most disadvantaged regions and pursuing a number of objectives:

Objective 1 (regional target) for the development of backward structural regions, where GDP per capita is below 75% of the EU average for the last three years.

Objective 2 (regional target) on conversion of declining industrial regions and facilitating the emergence and development of alternative industries. This goal is addressed although zones that are located in regions whose development level is close to the EU average, face a number of socio-economic difficulties.

Objective 3 (Community target) to combat long-term unemployment and facilitating the professional integration of young people and particularly exposed to exclusion from the labor market.

Objective 4 (Community target) on increasing employment opportunities for young people;

Objective 5a (Community target) for adapting the structures of agricultural and fisheries sectors under the Community Agricultural Policy.

Objective 5b (regional target) on promoting economic development and diversification of rural areas underdeveloped.

Objective 6 (regional target) to support regions with low population density.

4. Regional development policy in Romania

The harmonious development of the territory is an imperative of any civilized state for the welfare of all its citizens. Until 1990, Romania was speaking in the context of hyper leadership, the development plan proportional and rational territorial distribution of the productive forces. All they have remained at the stage of goal, because an objective so complex and extremely profound implications not only able to perform simple administrative reorganization or redivision. [3]

Romania started its regional policy after 1990, to inquiries from the European Commission, with a program whose main objective was to support public administration in knowledge and understanding procedures for the implementation of regional development policy, priority of the European Union. The program was completed with the drafting of a Green Paper for Regional Development.

The transition to a market economy has generated in Romania socio-economic transformation of an unprecedented scale. The intensity of these processes has different resonances in territorial known by the concerted action of several factors.

Despite its undeniable importance for the success of economic reform in Romania in the transition period in the early years after 1990 has not been given adequate attention to the regional dimension of the strategy and reform. 1995, which marked the beginning of the concerns of developing the strategy for Romania's accession to the European Union, represented the beginning of the consideration explicitly the problems of regions and local communities has been recognized as a key element of realism and consistency of this strategy. [6]

Regional development policy is implemented at the local level through the 8 regions whose names are given by the cardinal points, such a region being built by voluntary association of neighboring counties, having legal personality.

Regional development support measures are planned and promoted in an institutional framework, approved at central, regional and local level in accordance with EU principles of structural assistance, concentration, programming, subsidiarity and partnership.

The entire construction of regional policy in Romania is based as in the EU on national plans (NDP) and regional development. The NDP achieved a similar program conducted by the states that joined the EU before

Instrumental in implementing the National Development Plan in Romania is represented by the Regional Operational Programme (ROP). The ROP comparative analysis carried out by the Monitoring Committee of the Regional Operational Programme (ROPMC) in 2009 observed that disparities between regions of Romania remained the same compared to the pre-accession period.

According to a report of the European Parliament, Romanian development regions fall within the type of "regionalization through its existing authorities." A particularly important role in the process of regionalization of Romania, central authorities have regional authorities, county authorities, local communities, non-governmental organizations.

Regardless of how reform was initiated (inverted or backward), the central authorities have a key role in adopting and implementing the necessary measures. After completing the process of regionalization role of central authorities would diminish considerably, being involved only in major lawsuits aimed at regional level, supporting them through co-financing.

Regional authorities in turn should recognize the important role that they have in terms of economic development aiming at creating and maintaining business ties within the region. County authorities are informed of the implications posed by this complex process of regionalization. All the main actors are in the context of regionalization, local communities, because most services are decentralized locally in accordance with the subsidiarity Principio.[1]

As regards capacity to absorb structural funds it is deeply deficient. A report on the absorption of funds for ROP conducted by the Ministry of Regional Development points out that the average absorption is 30% and there is also a major discrepancy between the absorption of funds for ROP within each development regions in Romania.

Promoting their own regional development policies by local government authorities but also regional structures, it assumes that no one can know better the real needs of these communities than themselves and those elected to represent them [9].

In practice, however, the effective implementation of regional development policies encounter many obstacles such as[5]:

- ✓ A strong imbalance between supply and demand (especially in the labor market);
- ✓ The poor state of infrastructure and public utilities, which negatively affects the investment climate and taking away all categories of investors (both domestic and foreign);
- ✓ Dependence strong agricultural sector still weak and decline of many productive economic centers;
- ✓ The power of attraction limited and low in most regions and business infrastructure cumbersome and insufficiently developed;
- ✓ Capacities financial, technical and managerial limited to regional and local level;
- ✓ The continued deterioration of social infrastructure and quality of life not only in rural but also in urban areas;
- ✓ insufficient and often even lack the financial resources available locally for large infrastructure;
- ✓ Limited and difficult regions and congested road network in the capital.

Conclusions

Regional development is a requirement of the potential harmonization of national and community economies. The convergence of national policies is conditional on the creation and development of the single market. Funding processes of regional development is not just an end in itself identifying resources and the equitable distribution of their defined objectives but is a specific mechanism established consisting of the resources and tools adapted to the process.

Regional development policy theoretically strengthens the role and responsibilities of local government and regional bodies in economic and social development of each locality and the development regions, while diminishing involvement of governmental institutions in such activities. So for Romania, regional development policy should become an essential component of local autonomy.

Given the powers conferred on institutional structures of the regions and the collaboration of their government structures, some authors are of the opinion that regional development is a genuine framework for administrative decentralization, which correspond to the principles of organization and functioning of local government and ensures autonomy that it needs a national, sovereign, independent, unitary and indivisible, such as Romania.

In our opinion, however, that overall public administration, it is noted the need for greater decentralization of administration so that local authorities have real decision-making power, it is ideal as it is complemented by a widening financial autonomy. On the same direction, we believe that in terms of developing regions, even if they are not

administrative-territorial unit, would require a wider range of them and especially to rethink the composition of members of their institutions.

Romanian regional development model, the bill is European, standing at the crossroads of regional development models promoted by the European Union and the Council of the European Union.

However, even if development plans, regional operational programs and strategies for their implementation are defined by bodies responsible for regional development, we can not speak of a success of European policy of regional development than when following the implementation of policies in Romania will have visible results on the improvement in the economic, social, cultural and environmental.

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