

ABSTRACT

Environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, resource depletion, combined with the need to sustain economic growth seen by global demographic, affect the quality of people's lives. This interconnectedness existing between social-environmental-economic factors led me to elaborate thesis entitled "The impact of EU and national environmental programs on sustainable development in Romania".

The rationale behind the choice of theme is actually the paradox of the past 20 years, during which substantial improvements indicated in the standard of living and yet there are one billion poor people without access to a decent minimum, becoming victims of environmental change and socio-economic. Human welfare is the desire of every person, goal materializing through acquisition opportunities designed to valuing their potential. Improve this parameter is the safest way.

The human being, through his economic activity, develop strategies ignoring the environment. "Nature never lies" - said Eminescu; there is a moral duty for us to maintain untainted the edifice of nature, to manage nature properly, not to submit challenges, because they are irreversible, generating major risks, which could lead to failure recovery natural capital.

The ideas of William Petty, the father of political economy, who believed that "if a person works with nature, welfare will soon appear" are highly topical. Adaptation, mitigation, impacts are words for a critical, consistent, unbiased analysis of environmental policies for the complex issue of climate change. In the absence of categorical measures, the costs are increasing and the beneficial results are restricted numerically. Actions that have the fore climate change will be effective if global technologies improved. Research and development actions should contribute to the development of relevant and systematic strategy.

Sustainable development imposed itself as a corollary of economic development, it is intended to be adding economic considerations and social environment both for the present and especially for future. The concept of sustainable development has an important place in global and European meetings, since 1972, the year when the concept has been set for the first time. Strategies necessary to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, indicators meant to indicate the result of the implementation of policies, plans oriented towards achieving national targets were developed. I approached the whole system of sustainable development from the perspective of environmental pillar because nature provides resources both economic growth and life on Earth, while both economic growth and citizens' behavior affects the ecological balance.

This work combines theoretical and analytical approach. It brings solutions to environmental objectives of sustainable development. I used the latest national and international bibliographic materials, designed to demonstrate the multidimensional nature of sustainable development, the

importance of protecting the environment for sustainable economic development.

This thesis was built on the following levels: framing the concept sustainable development, the role of community and national environmental policy in achieving sustainable development, case study on the implementation of environmental programs in Prahova County. Divided into six chapters, introduction and conclusion, the thesis presents a wide range of issues, from sustainable development theoretical analysis, multidimensional concept, continuing with the importance of environmental protection, the last chapter was consisting in case study.

I considered necessarily to clarify the concept of sustainable development theory, that is why **the first chapter** is intended to describe economic terms growth - development - sustainable economic development. Economic growth is an economic concept, while economic development links the economics, social, political, cultural, environmental, scientific, spiritual, human. Economic development is a multidimensional concept incumbent economic, generating growth and progress. Guidance, classical, neoclassical, global structural, static, dynamic - theories and models of economic growth can not ignore the reality - the reality of economic, social, or nondirective direct involvement of the state, the indissoluble link between theory and practice, a reality that demands attention radiographs from an evolutionary standpoint. Concerns about new forms of development have guided Aurelio Peccei to form a group of 70 representatives from 25 countries under the name Club of Rome in 1968. Theories of economic growth and development issued by the members of this club have received criticism from other scientists of the time (The Bariloche, Leontief). The zero economic growth was considered unthinkable for developing countries, which causes the term sustainable development. The largest known concept known multiple approaches since its adoption in 1972 until nowadays. Members of the Club of Rome consider that poverty-barrier to sustainable development- is a positive benefit on halting economic growth, declining birth rates and reducing consumption. The term sustainable development started awareness the limitation of natural resources and increased of pollution. The stop of economic development would have been unthinkable (solution report Limits to Growth), the new formula of economic development included care for the environment. Sustainable economic development is economic development designed to satisfy the consumer's needs without compromising or prejudicing those of future generations. Combining economic growth with social equity and environmental protection for present and future is the foundation of the new forms of sustainable economic development, based on efficiency. I wanted to emphasize the idea that the new economy must be efficient in terms of resource use. Desire for profit engage ecological insecurity. This means raising the standard of living today with negative consequences in the future. It is necessary the compatibility of economic efficiency criteria with the criteria of human social efficiency, sustainable to ensure opportunities for future generations, achieving enhanced economic growth. I wanted to

emphasize that sustainable economic development is founded on eco-efficiency. The production processes, aided by innovation, technological change, does not affect the environment, exploitation of resources takes into account the regenerative capacity of nature, and pollutant emission limits imposed by environmental policy are followed. The term eco - efficiency is reflected in the economic dimension, but also ecological. It consumes less resources (to meet the requirement of sustainable consumption and the limited resources) to get as many products, which is the desire of sustainable development (reduced consumption, the maximum profit).

Chapter two presents the concept of sustainable development in terms of emergence, consolidation and its operationalization in the economic literature, but also in terms of its multidimensional nature. The premises that were the emergence of this concept are shown. The concept of sustainable development arose from the awareness of the negative impact of economic growth on the environment through traditional living conditions are affected. The emphasis began to be placed on environmental protection, resource conservation actions that will facilitate future economic development (the nature is a factor of development and growth) and therefore sustainable human development. Environmental issues such as pollution, irrational use of resources resulting widening social gap constituted bases necessity to reorient economic growth. Due to obvious problems highlighted in the Stockholm Conference and the report Limits to Growth, the United Nation had the initiative to create the World Commission on Environment and Development. In 1987 the report of the committee entitled "Our Common Future" contained the best known definition of sustainable development; the focus is on the development of present and especially future. Like any new concept, future-oriented development should find answers to some challenges: the number of people living given the inversely proportional relationship between population growth and resources provided by nature, the output required to achieve without natural environment to be affected, equity between generations also within the same generation. At the conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the importance of maintaining balance required environmental-economic development was highlighted, by its name, the UN World Conference on Environment and Development. In the period 1992-2012 the global meetings had the same interest: present and future development capacity. To become a viable concept, principles, points of support for a fair and effective implementation of sustainable development were settled. Applying principles will end with achieving goals. Human development, as the primary goal, can be achieved by interacting economic goals with environmental goals. The human being is a priority of sustainable development, economic sectors are subject to environmental norms in order to ensure health.. Sustainable development can be achieved only if the economic sectors guides the work respecting environmental requirements.

I wanted to highlight the multidimensional character of the concept of sustainable development. Thus, using the international literature, I highlighted different approaches to a pillar over another depending on the specific field.

The social concerns human welfare by providing decent living conditions. Valence multidimensional sustainable development lies in the ability of these pillars to act together for the benefit of present and future.

The global objectives conducive to sustainable development were merged into Sustainable Development Strategy of the European Union in 2001 (based on the Lisbon Strategy of 2000), renewed in 2006. It aims to limit climate change, promote sustainable production and consumption patterns, sustainable transport, improve the health of the population, social inclusion. Europe 2020 Strategy complements the proposed community goals by supporting smart, sustainable, inclusive economic growth. The goals are occupancy of 75%, the investment in research to 3% of GDP, energy efficiency, renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to reach the 20% threshold. Like any process, sustainable development should be quantified. Therefore, I considered necessary to address a chapter aimed at this aspect. Sustainable development indicators were created in order to highlight the performance objectives. Sustainable development indicators are particularly important to mark progress or regress targets. The results outlined serve as future decision support in order to achieve sustainability.

In the third chapter, *Environment and history of environmental policy*, I reiterated the trajectory of natural capital in its development from the perspective of economic thought. I use Larrousse dictionary to define semantic the term environment. I felt necessary to present situations in which the word occurs (environment, economic, social, cultural); I intended to emphasize the human role in the transformations undergone, leading to a clear categorization: the natural and built environments. The foreshadowed picture is unmistakable evidence that action, human involvement is pervasive. Environment-economy relationship has seen different approaches to history of economic thought. Classics recognize the limited natural resources. Adam Smith, the author of *invisible hand principle*, is a keen observer of economic mechanisms in terms of capital operation. Another economist, J. Mill, joins smithiense theory, and even suggests that any increase should lead to a state of equilibrium. Malthus drew attention to the demographic explosion and analyzed pertinently relationship between population and the increasing number of natural resources. He reaffirmed a truth not so optimistic: human reproductive capacity exceeds the capacity of environmental restoration. Nature, in Marx's view, was used for purposes of social production. David Ricardo comes up with a solution to counteract the negative consequences, considering that the economic downturn is a guarantor to the decrease in the volume of natural resources.

Early the 60s of the twentieth century marked the emergence of interest in the environment. This is when it was realized that accelerated economic development has led to a crisis of environmental and social pillars.

Natural environmental concerns were highlighted by organizing the 1968 UNESCO Conference on the biosphere, followed by conference decisive role in the creation of Community environmental policy, United Nations Conference 1972 in Stockholm. Over time there were international

conferences focused on the areas of environmental factors: air (emissions protocol sulfur, nitrogen, ozone layer protection, Protocol Kyoto Convention on Climate Change), water (polluted rivers border International Conference on Water and Sustainable Development), soil (Conference desertification). European treaties have addressed environmental protection in a gradual manner. If the environmental objectives were considered obstacles to economic development in the Treaty of Rome, the Treaty of Maastricht recognizes environmental policy as an independent policy of the European Union. Amsterdam Treaty of 1997 grants the phrase sustainable development priority status concerns the European Union. Integration of environmental policy into other EU policies is based in Cardiff in the 1998, the first guideline of sustainable development. Another important step of integrating environmental objectives into other sectoral policies has been developing the Strategy for Sustainable Development in 2001 in Gothenburg. As a result of the European Council of 2004 were established that environmental policy is reviewed annually. Lisbon Treaty presents sustainable development as a prime objective of the European Union. Under the Treaty, the involvement in environmental actions is for each Member State and the European Union, according to the principle of subsidiarity. Treaty stands at the highest level need EU action to combat global environmental issues - climate change. The paramount task of the European Union's contribution to stopping global climate change. Energy is another area addressed in the Treaty, main goals are to increase security of supply, lower primary energy and renewable energy development. Member States have to apply the principle of solidarity through support for problems occurred in the energy supply.

I emphasized the need to protect the environment , support sustainable growth and development. Resource depletion, environmental pollution are problems that gave rise to the idea that environmental protection is an integral part of development. The environment is the link between economic growth and quality of life . The human being and the environment are in the inter-relationship of the resulting damage ecological balance and living conditions. Long term, these these unwanted effects have a bearing on the development of future society . Unfortunately, later it was noted that the individual is only a part of the system called nature. A natural disruption of a single element produces serious consequences in the entire circuit. The importance attached to environmental protection has been demonstrated by adopting the principle of integration whereby all economic sectors were subject to environmental activities , from the Sixth Community Environment Action and adoption of the 2001 Gothenburg European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development .

The fourth chapter presents EU environmental policy on sustainable development fund. I wanted to expose the evolution of environmental policy in two stages: the first stage (1973-2000) through the role of five environmental action programs, and the second phase (2001-present) through the Sixth Environment Action Programme and initiatives of Europe 2000. Community environmental policy is based on the Community Environment Action Programs. The first five environmental community programs represents the

shaping of environmental policy, from its beginnings through sectoral approaches to problems, initiating environmental policy principles, the establishment of economic instruments to awareness of environmental protection for sustainable development. The founding treaties of the European Union lacked concern for the environment, the evolution of environmental policy in the five programs was to integrate environmental objectives in all sectors. I discussed environmental policy directives oriented directions for four priority areas of sustainable development: climate change, nature protection, conservation of natural resources, health and the environment. I brought criticism, personal opinions on Community environmental policy directives.

In Climate change field I proposed :

- imposing purchase a limited number of permits greenhouse gas emission, profits from the sale of permits to be targeted in 75% of the environmental actions (directive specifies a minimum percentage 50%), unless it is shown that, to levy high taxes on profits gained from the sale; to continue trading certificates from EU countries to ban the VAT refund from the state of residence;

- the deployment of European Mobility Week every city community countries where various activities (saves Cycling Planet , A day without a car) to be held monthly ;

- introduction into curricula for secondary education disciplines through which students realize their role in keeping the environment clean (eco - calendar) ;

- be aware of the harmful impact of greenhouse gas emissions, not only for today, but much later;

- for programs aimed at encouraging renewable energy production to find more followers, I recommend that competent authorities to encourage success by providing a certain percentage reduction in tax on building and land, the local government to issue a building permit emergency;

- the involvement of the banking sector by developing attractive packages and services for individuals and businesses. Advisory services have valence and promotional. Packages include conditions for granting favorable loans only to individuals and legal entities implementing renewable energy program. Interest rates are attractive and repayment to be made in equal installments over a period of time. Number of years established for payment of the loan is at least equal to the period of time that the return on investment is achieved. This banking product can accommodate country-specific economic configuration. Legal entities to partner with ministries in the industry. The protocols developed to provide specific clauses clarify ways, ways that the ministries will be sustainable partners ;

- a hierarchy of groups of polluting industrial consumers more moderate or aggressive. Electricity cost to be differentiated using a universally accepted scale. The price paid for conventional energy consumption to be set differently for both households and industrial users based on certain consumption threshold. The conventional energy consumption turns out to be unsustainable , the cost is higher.

I consider that the initiative of European states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 95 g CO₂/km is opportune. Even if the difference between the proposals made by Member States and the hostile regulation is low (9 g), we must realize that the ecological balance beneficial actions must be taken quickly.

The European Commission proposed in April 2013 development of national action plans in case of natural disasters caused by climate change. If Member States do not present until 2017 the measures taken in this regard, the Commission will issue a directive requiring EU countries are obliged to implement these plans. I believe that this proposal is beneficial to any state, and the studies carried out at national and local governments to establish a budget with which to take actions to prevent and combat climate change (dams for flood risk areas, intervention in agriculture in areas with high temperatures).

As for the energy labeling, the buyer may or may not be attracted to information about the reality that the product does not affect the environment (once we hit public awareness, we live in a world where the emphasis is on the benefits currently offered). But the best way to attract new buyers is offering a discount. That is why I believe that buying eco-labeled products, offering a discount on the value of the product or a shopping voucher from the same store would attract more buyers.

For biodiversity conservation I think it would be appropriate to apply a law on the duty of any citizen to plant a tree. Another measure which interferes growth in a profitable environment is promoting ecotourism around protected areas Natura 2000 Network, and more.

For a deeper awareness of health problems caused by polluted environment, for the development of new environmental policy directive under threats to health, the involvement of health organization to recent statistics improving the information processing national, regional, local are required.

Sustainable development would be beneficial to guide investments in the services sector, the sector with the highest productivity of resources.

The 2012 Club of Rome Report turned attention to the need for a circular economy. Principle *Nothing to lose, everything is transformed* should be the cornerstone of our daily behavior. Since the lowest forms of education, subjects on turning waste into resources should be added to the curriculum. Selective storage of waste must be regarded as the cheapest new measure applied to save nature. The German model, the country in which they were implemented jukeboxes for PET recycling is another measure that should be taken in all countries. To decrease the amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment, in addition to current directives, I propose to grant a longer period of warranty for household, conducting ongoing buy-back programs in a more attractive manner. I consider placing selective storage devices inside each school, both to increase recycling, especially as awareness of the importance given to this action. Selective storage should become a daily routine.

Regarding this year European Commission's proposal on reducing the consumption of plastic bags (bags thin), I think it would be beneficial both for the adoption of the restriction on supply retailers with these products and the application of higher prices that would buyers have to bear. Eco-taxes in this situation should be viewed as an impediment to purchase bags for transport.

Chapter five presents orientation of Romania environmental policy in the context of sustainable development. I structured this chapter in several chapters: Evolution environmental policy; Protection of the natural environment, the path to sustainability; Funding programs, stage reached by Romania on environmental protection.

The first law on nature protection in Romania was issued in 1930. Environmental protection has been given a particular importance when the Ministry of Environment was establishment in 1990. Since 1995, when the new legislation came into force in environmental protection, sustainable development, along with the principles issued by the Conference of Switzerland, Lucerne (1993) "Environment for Europe", European sustainable development strategy conclusions of the Lisbon and Goteborg sectoral strategic documents formed the basis of Romania. The legal basis of environmental policy in Romania is the implementation of the environmental acquis. Romania received some delays on European environmental compliance stipulated in Chapter 22. Implementation of the acquis depends on the state of economic development. As our country has asked 11 transitional period results involving investments and high costs.

Sustainability, as an attribute of economic development, is in the forefront to economic growth given the limited resources provided by the planet and the importance of natural capital in the economic cycle. Romania submitted to the European Commission environmental plans and objectives to achieve economic development in harmony with nature beneficial to sustainable human development. I wanted to point out the involvement of Romania in achieving sustainable development. I have shown tracing objectives in the years 2013, 2020, 2030 framed Sustainable Development Strategy of Romania; I have highlighted the link between environmental quality and living standards through the National Development Programme 2007-2013; Romania by making requirements in the areas of waste management, protection of natural resources, can meet the Europe 2020 strategy document obiectivele; I listed the National Environmental plans in support of sustainable development.

Because sustainable development is a global goal at which every state must contribute, EU candidate countries have received financial support for environmental objectives. Sectoral Operational Programme - Environment was developed and adopted to improve the environment and living standards in Romania. SOP-Environment helps to attract post-accession funds to continue community environmental programs aimed at filling the existing gaps between Romania and the Member States. National environmental programs are funded through economic instruments: Environment Fund, environmental investments. I concluded this chapter with the presentation status compliance

with European environmental standards by our country using quantitative research by interpreting national environmental reports and statistics provided by the National Institute of Statistics.

Chapter six was intended of the case study of this paper. I wanted to frame Prahova in South Muntenia Development Region for which I present the strategy of sustainable development and socio-economic characterization. Section two presents detailed description of Prahova County and each area of environmental programs implemented (pre-accession funding, post-accession Environment Fund).

I approached a quantitative and qualitative research for which I needed the data provided by the County Council, the county's environmental reports for the period 2006-2011, the County Department of Statistics, reports the South-Muntenia Environment. I also used data from the departments of Environment and Information Fund SOP Environment.

To show the impact of environmental programs I calculated indicators of sustainable development in the county of Prahova by addressing the Sustainable Society Index indicators grouped as follows: indicators expressing the state of the environment (air quality, surface water quality, soil quality, greenhouse gas emissions emissions), indicators which express the quality of life indicators (sufficient to Drink, proper sanitation services, life expectancy), indicators expressing the degree of sustainability (recycling, renewable energy consumption, biodiversity conservation, forest status). I wanted to highlight the impact of the National Programme for Improving the environment by creating green spaces, so I calculated Lawn indicator that expresses the area occupied by green spaces enjoyed by every citizen.

Research conducted allows a radiography and detailing wider process of decision making accurate figures beyond statistical nature.

Calling performance, consistency, fairness, civic high behavioral attitude will lead to the removal of harmful effects and inclusion of Romania in the European family on the medium, with notable achievements in all parameters will enable the restoration and conservation of natural capital as a guarantee interaction between interaction intra generation and within generation.

Durability of natural capital is the very sustainability of the human being.

Keywords:

- Economic Growth
- Economic Development
- Sustainable economic development
- Sustainable development
- Environmental protection
- Welfare
- ecotechnologies
- Environmental Policy
- Pollution
- Renewable energy

- Emissions of greenhouse gases