

## **ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION - ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ROMANIA 2030**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In the article, based on our own studies and research, we present and critically analyze the content and provisions of the national strategy for the sustainable development of Romania 2030. Thus, starting from the prescriptions of the European Union in the field, adopted on June 20, 2017, "A sustainable future for Europe: the EU's response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", the national framework for supporting the 2030 Agenda and implementing the set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The three pillars of the national strategy for the sustainable development of Romania 2030 are analyzed: the economic, social and environmental pillars. Also presented and critically analyzed are the three chapters of the national strategy for sustainable development of Romania 2030: Chapter I Introduction (presents a recent chronology of the evolution of the concept of sustainable development from an international perspective); chapter II - Objectives for Sustainable Development (presents the current stage of development of Romania, as a result of the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Romania) and Chapter III - Implementation and Monitoring (presents the decisions to be taken to ensure the operational framework for the implementation and monitoring of the achievement of the concrete objectives and targets of the Strategy). We also analyze in the article the specificity and adaptation of Romania to the requirements of the European Union within the national strategy for sustainable development.

**Keywords:** *Sustainable Development, Ecological Education, National Strategy*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Romania, as a member of the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU), has expressed its support for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution A / RES / 70/1, at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015.

EU Council conclusions adopted on 20 June 2017, "A sustainable future for Europe: the EU's response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" is the



policy paper adopted by EU member states on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Through this strategy, Romania establishes its national framework for supporting the 2030 Agenda and implementing the set of 17 SDGs. The strategy supports Romania's development on three main pillars, namely economic, social and environmental. The strategy is citizen-oriented and focuses on innovation, optimism, resilience and confidence that the state serves the needs of every citizen, in a fair, efficient and clean, balanced and integrated environment. The documentation and substantiation of the strategy were based on reports received from ministries and other central institutions, developed for this purpose, synthesis materials developed under the auspices of the Romanian Academy and other scientific and academic forums, accessible data of European institutions and the UN, suggestions and the recommendations recorded following public consultations with the business community, academia, national research and development institutes, NGOs and representatives of civil society, as well as the contributions of individual experts.

#### **DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ROMANIA 2030**

The strategy is structured in three chapters:

Chapter I Introduction presents a recent chronology of the evolution of the concept of sustainable development from the international, European and national perspective, as well as the way in which it has gradually materialized both in the UN and EU programmatic documents and in Romania's public policies.

Chapter II Objectives for Sustainable Development present the current stage of development of Romania, as a result of the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Romania. Horizons 2013-2020-2030, approved by the Government in November 2008. The shortcomings identified are identified and specific areas are identified where further efforts and resources are needed to achieve the convergence objectives and bring the EU average closer to the main indicators of sustainable development.

Chapter II presents the national targets for each of the 17 SDGs, namely Horizon 2020 for the envisaged measures and 2030 Targets for the rational phasing of efforts to achieve this goal.

Chapter III Implementation and Monitoring presents the decisions to be taken to ensure the operational framework for the implementation and monitoring of the achievement of the concrete objectives and targets of the Strategy. The aim is to ensure the coherence of government actions and increase the active involvement of all relevant factors of society and citizens' actions, with the motivation to ensure the harmonious combination of the three dimensions of sustainable development for transformation into a sustainable society.

### **THE SPECIFICITY AND ADAPTATION OF ROMANIA TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Romania needs a change in the current paradigm of development to meet the challenges of the 21st century. We are living in a period marked by the process of globalization, accentuation of inequalities and aggravation of environmental problems. Sustainable development is the solution. The national strategy addresses these challenges, proposing the transition to sustainable development based on the principles and in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as a member of a prosperous and invigorated European Union.

Sustainable Development represents, in the Romanian context, the desire to achieve a balance, a synthesis between the aspirations of the free-born citizen, the society on which it depends and through which it is defined and the context that allows self-realization. This balance starts from man, the central actor who seeks an individual balance and favourable conditions to achieve.

Favourable conditions are influenced by the society that needs to support and motivate it and by the environment through which it finds itself and can find its balance. The role of the state in the context of sustainable development is to help achieve this balance, not only for today's citizens, but also for future generations.

The previous strategy supported the recovery from the economic and financial crisis felt after 2008. A new approach is now needed in the 2020s, taking into account the economic, social and environmental realities of the global, European and national horizons. Overtime, to meet “the needs of the current generation without compromising the chances of future generations to meet their own needs”[1].

If in the last ten years Romania's targets were set in relation to the evolution of the world economy and in line with EU policies, now both Romania and the EU must redesign their medium and long term priorities to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the United Nations Summit in September 2015 [2]. This is a sure way to achieve a better future for future generations.

Romania, along with 192 other states, has undertaken to establish the national framework to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action. The global action plan, which Romania chooses to support in the coming years, addresses poverty alleviation, combating inequalities, social injustice and protecting the planet by 2030.

It is an action plan for people, planet and prosperity, which aims to strengthen a climate of security and freedom, in which “no one will be left behind” [3].

### **ANALYSIS OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF ROMANIA**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has resulted from a long international process of analysis, which recognizes that global problems can only be solved through global solutions. Changing perceptions and awareness of the



unprecedented evolution of society, rising birth rates on a global scale, accelerating economies of developing countries and social disparities have highlighted the limits of planetary growth. Rising prices for certain resources have highlighted the fact that the Earth can deplete its renewable and non-renewable physical resources, leading to a catastrophic imbalance. [4].

The foundations of progress in the field of environmental protection, linked to development, were first introduced on the international agenda at the Stockholm Conference (1972). The result was the creation of the UN Environment Program by adopting a Declaration on Environmental Protection in order to "protect and improve the human environment for present and future generations."

This conference gave legitimacy to the concept of sustainable development with the three pillars: economic, social and environmental [5].

The three pillars under which the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is structured have been defined in the Brundtland Report (1987) [6], [7]. The most important pillar is **SOCIAL EQUITY** – whereby developing nations must be able to meet their basic employment needs.

The Millennium Summit in 2000 ratified the Millennium Declaration, the first international framework document to combat poverty, hunger, disease and inequality worldwide. In order to achieve the aspirations of the Millennium Declaration, 8 specific development objectives have been defined, known as the Millennium Development Goals, 21 targets and 60 indicators, with a deadline of 2015 [8], [9], [10].

The 2030 Agenda calls for action from all countries, poor, rich and middle-income.

Recognizes that ending poverty must be accompanied by a plan that contributes to economic growth and addresses a range of social needs, including education, health, social protection and employment, while addressing the issues of combating climate change and protecting the environment. It also covers issues such as inequality, infrastructure, energy, consumption, biodiversity, oceans and industrialization.

The agenda promotes the involvement of all stakeholders, by democratizing the process decision-making on sustainable development. The responsibility and role of generations is emphasized for the creation of sustainable development The European Context of Sustainable Development.

Within the EU, since 2006 [11], the concept of sustainable development has been integrated into the Enlarged Europe Strategy, in a unified and coherent strategic vision, with the general objective of continuously improving the quality of life for present and future generations, for the creation of sustainable communities capable of managing and using resources efficiently and harnessing the potential for ecological and social innovation in the economy, in order to ensure prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion.

## Section ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

In 2010, as a follow-up to the EU's sustainable development, the Europe 2020 Strategy for Promoting Smart Growth (based on: education, research, innovation), sustainable (based on reducing carbon emissions, energy efficiency, renewable resources) was adopted, and inclusive (creating new jobs, reducing poverty, etc.).

Together with the member states and respecting the principle of subsidiarity, the EU is committed to becoming a leader in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and, implicitly, of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development Rio + 20, in 2012, drafted the document The Future We Want, which made progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and made the transition to setting Sustainable Development Goals for the post-2015 Agenda.

This document is further recognition of the importance of the three dimensions of sustainable development - social, economic and environmental<sup>10</sup>.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Transforming our world, adopted on 25 September 2015 by the heads of state and government of 193 countries at the UN General Assembly, is a fundamentally modified version of the conceptual framework of sustainable development, structured on a package of 17 sustainable development goals, supported by 169 underlying targets.

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The agenda promotes the involvement of all stakeholders, by democratizing the decision-making process on sustainable development. The responsibility and role of young generations in creating sustainable development are emphasized.

Starting from the idea that the benefits of economic development must outweigh the costs, including those related to environmental conservation and improvement, Romania's first Sustainable Development Strategy of 1999 aimed at progressively improving and maintaining the welfare of the population in line with the requirements of rational use. natural resources and ecosystem conservation.

Accession to the European Union in 2007 adjusted national priorities through the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Horizons 2013-2020-2030 (SNDD), approved by the Romanian Government on November 12, 2008, aiming to reduce the socio-economic gap compared to that of the Member States of the European Union.

For sustainable development to succeed in Romania and, therefore, the 2030 Agenda, together with the commitments of the European Union, this strategy is built around the citizen and the needs of future generations.



The strategy starts from the premise that sustainable development presents a framework of thinking that, once mastered by the citizen, will help create more equitable society, defined by balance and solidarity and able to cope with the changes brought by current global, regional problems. and national, including population decline. The care of the state towards the citizen and the respect of the citizen towards the institutions, towards his neighbour, moral values and cultural and ethnic diversity will lead to a sustainable society.

The European Commission presented on 22 November 2016 the Communication "Next Steps for a Sustainable European Future". The document presents the European Union's response to the 2030 Agenda and confirms the integration of sustainable development objectives into European policy and current European Commission priorities, assessing the situation and identifying the most relevant sustainability concerns.

Through this communication, the European Union is committed to sustainable development by "ensuring a dignified life for all while respecting the limits of the planet, bringing together prosperity and economic efficiency, peaceful societies, social inclusion and environmental responsibility".

The EU's response to the 2030 Agenda is to integrate the 17 SDGs into the Union's public policies, in order to support the global effort to build a sustainable future in collaboration with its partners. The 17 SDGs are already pursued by many of the policies of the European Union, and Romania, as a member of this community, aims through this strategy to integrate the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Romania's Perspective on Sustainable Development Starting from the idea that the benefits of economic development must outweigh the costs, including those related to environmental conservation and improvement, Romania's first Sustainable Development Strategy in 1999 aimed at progressively improving and maintaining the well-being of the population. correlation with the requirements of rational use of natural resources and conservation of ecosystems.

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## CONCLUSION

The concept of sustainable development, which involves ensuring the development of welfare for the present generation without negatively affecting the development and safety of future generations, is a concept with poor application in Romania (massive deforestation, irrational exploitation of nature reserves, etc.). In this context, ecological strategies designed to ensure sustainable development are of particular importance.

The national strategy for the sustainable development of Romania until 2030 contains several provisions for fulfilling this concept. Thus, an important place is occupied by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, adopted by the Resolution of the UN General Assembly A / RES, in 2015.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global action plan, which Romania chooses to support in the coming years. This plan addresses poverty alleviation, combating inequality, social injustice and protecting the planet by 2030.

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