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**“DEFENSE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN THE 21st CENTURY”**

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**SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

MANCIA Mircea Sebastian*
POPOVICIU Gabriela A.**
PAINA Liliana***

*Faculty of Civil Engineering, Cadastre and Architecture / Department of Cadastre / University of Oradea / Oradea / Romania

**Faculty of Environmental Protection / Department of Agriculture-Horticulture / University of Oradea / Oradea / Romania

***Faculty of Civil Engineering, Cadastre and Architecture / Department of Cadastre / University of Oradea / Oradea / Romania

Abstract:

The present paper tries to bring to the attention of the initiated or less initiated reader those elements of regional development and environmental protection through which the economic, natural, and human resources should be grouped according to the needs and possibilities of each individual state, reported to our days. In this sense, the work will reveal the events of the last 3 years show that the interdependence of the economic, cultural, and development processes of the states of the world can be disrupted for various reasons. At the same time, we will try to understand through this paper, that satisfaction of the population's needs must be achieved respecting the principles of environmental sustainability.

Key words: globalization; regionalization; natural resources; sustainability; economic development; technical progress;

1. Introduction

In the "Development Strategy of Romania in the next 20 years", elaborated by the Romanian Academy, the chapter "Natural resources, strategic reserves, what we use and what we leave to future generations", highlights the challenges between the advanced degree of resource depletion, low productivity and efficiency, as well as the need to register Romania on the trajectory of sustainable development with the rehabilitation of natural heritage [1]. Air quality, water, soil, forests, protected areas, underground and energy resources, waste are targeted.

The events of the last 3 years show that the interdependence of the economic, cultural and development processes of the states of the world can be disrupted for various reasons. Economic resources, natural resources and human capital must be grouped according to the possibilities and needs of each state reported to the present.

The satisfaction of the population's needs must be achieved respecting the principles of environmental sustainability.

The existing disparities in development can be improved through coherent measures, technology changes and the efficient use of human capital.

The sustainable development of the economy can be achieved by using own resources, ensuring the workforce, production capacities using technical progress, investing in research and specialization.

In the 1990s, Samuel Huntington said that the world is moving towards uniformity and universalization. It was considered that local entities no longer mattered much. "The world is



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beginning to divide the idea of globalization is beginning to be questioned even by those who caused it" [2].

2. Globalization, as a process of worldwide integration

Water resources, soil resources and air quality are changing with the increasing growth of raw materials. Economic-technological activities produce waste, physical-chemical changes in the environment, climate changes; they have negative effects on health, modify biodiversity, threatening the environment and health and food security.

U.N. policies to which the European Union states also joined and proposed sustainable development models. The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, with the 17 Sustainable Development Objectives (SDG) proposed a set of measures to maintain the balance between economic, social, health and environmental protection elements [3]; these objectives have a global character, targeting both developed and developing countries.

"The mobilization of resources, the increase of political will and the science of national strategies represent a long-term economic and social development tool for Romania. Romania attaches great importance to the UN, which represents the multilateral framework for addressing major global issues. Eradicating poverty, avoiding social exclusions requires social cohesion policies. Romania supports the role of local authorities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as a direct response to the social needs of citizens." [3]

Globalization, being a controversial process, refers to a process of integration worldwide, with the promotion of specific ideas. Economically, it is based on the integration of states into a structure of the international economic system type.

In the same acceptation, globalization can lead to the loss of identity through unification, abuse of force, cheap labor for the production of goods that are sold expensively.

The principles of sustainable development can be found in the economic development models adopted by Romania. Local development regions are trying to attract foreign direct investments - in addition to local capital -, to reduce economic, social and cultural imbalances, for the sustainable development of the country.

"Around the 1990s, there was a kind of exuberance around the notion of globalization. Hopes for an open world, of productivity, exchanges and well-being were linked to the eradication of restrictions and the reduction of customs tariffs. The reverse - the more and more direct dependence of the communication life and people (jobs, the state of peace or war, food), on what happens outside the country, the region, the continent." [4]

The relations between the countries are being resettled and reorganized.

The Covid-19 crisis, the war started by Russia in Ukraine, the energy crisis, lead to the emergence of a new world, composed of large development regions. The change can be seen in the economic, urban and social environment. "The world economy has developed so slowly that some economists have started to believe that there will be no recession. These crises led to an absolute transformation, a forced learning". [5]

Globalization has led to interdependence between certain branches of the economy, between certain industries. Prosperity has increased for some nations, but phenomena of impoverishment have also appeared in the less developed countries, due to the globalization of some negative factors that generate local, regional, zonal conflicts (i.e. Africa).

Currently, "we are in a state of rethinking identity issues at a political and strategic level. It is painful in many ways. Today, we are entering a completely different reality, when we move from globalization to deglobalization". [2]



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Considering the economic, social, geostrategic and financial realities, a new approach is needed. The sustainable development of Romania must be achieved in a balance in which the state and the administrative-territorial units work for its citizens.

The Romanian state must sustainably manage its own resources.

"The degradation of the quality of environmental factors can endanger national security - with the potential to significantly disrupt the economic-social climate, the depletion of resources can generate or accentuate crisis situations. Environmental structural transformations: floods, drought, desertification determine population migration to other regions with superior living conditions." [6, 7]

3. The Bihor County and the North-West Development Region

Bihor County is part of the Northwest Development Region. The Northwest Regional Development Plan - 2021-2027 (PDR) - is the document that reflects the development policies in relation to the special needs of the region and the relevant strategic directions [8].

The basic objectives of regional development in Romania, according to Law no. 315/2004 on regional development, are:

- reducing existing imbalances,
- the correlation of governmental sectoral policies at the level of the regions,
- cooperation at inter-regional, international, cross-border level.

Respecting the principles of sustainable development, natural, material, human, historical, intercultural resources are the basis of the region's strategic development objectives horizon 2034:

- capitalizing on competitive advantages through investments,
- connecting the region to international flows of goods, tourists, investments,
- increasing investments in human capital,
- increasing the efficiency of the rural economy while preserving the quality of the environment,
- the transformation of urban centers into spaces of influence and regional attractions,
- the promise of social inclusion and the fight against poverty,
- promoting the transition to renewable energy sources and the responsible management of resources,
- the development of low-emission transport systems,
- development of databases (local, county, regional).

Bihor County aims to become a dynamic and active county.

For this, according to the development strategy for the years 2021-2027 [9], there are four important objectives to be achieved, namely:

1. Development of public infrastructure in Bihor.
2. Increasing economic competitiveness in industry and agriculture.
3. Capitalizing on the tourist potential of the county.
4. Development of public services and administrative capacity.

According to the data of the National Institute of Statistics (I.N.S.), the population of Bihor County on 30.12.2022 was 609,850 citizens, of which 49% lived in rural areas [10]. The population registers a decreasing trend. In this sense, the metropolitan area of Oradea was created by the association of the municipality of Oradea with 9 founding administrative-territorial units (U.A.T.) from its vicinity. The aim of the association is to increase the prosperity of the area and the quality of life according to the founding documents, to increase living standards and to increase the economic and social cohesion of the area.



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Sustainable development strategies aim at continuous growth of added value, attracting and supporting foreign investments, taking into account the cross-border area of the metropolitan area.

From the point of view of transport infrastructure and accessibility, Bihor County, as a cross-border county, still has a reduced and deficient accessibility by road, rail and air. But they are in progress:

- the expansion of the Oradea airport,
- the execution of fast roads,
- execution of the A3 highway,
- modernization of the Oradea-Cluj railway.

Mobility and the quality of the related infrastructure are elements for the relationship with the west and the transport of goods.

Bihor County presents opportunities for development. The value of local investments increased before 2020. The overlapping crises slowed down the pace of development.

A durable and sustainable economic development means new industrial policies, based on the circular, competitive and climate-neutral economy.

4. Conclusion

"The pandemic was one of the triggering elements of economic uncertainty and vulnerability, putting pressure on public finances and leading to the redefinition of policy priorities. The situation was aggravated by the war in Ukraine [...] which generated new economic problems. The increase in energy prices, a component of global inflation [...] leads to the stagnation of the economy. Incomes have not kept up with inflation, which continues to affect purchasing power." [11]

It is found that some states will not be able to cover their basic needs in food and housing. Climatic, economic and social changes lead to the need to act for a sustainable development, with the elimination of the causes of crises, with investments in renewable sources, the restoration of the environment and nature.

The phenomenon of regionalization is foreshadowed, which means an appropriation of the states from an economic and political point of view, materialized through regional agreements, as a defining element [12].

The globalization of the economy materialized through the increase of investments and capitals from abroad, the intensification of commercial exchanges and the increase of interdependence between world markets.

The emergence of disruptive phenomena, such as: the Covid-19 crisis, the war in Ukraine caused by Russia, the energy crisis, climate changes have affected the world economy, which has presented some blockages due to global interdependencies.

In the 21st century, states cannot function in isolation. A regionalization system is being outlined in which, by applying the principles of sustainable development, local businesses and small businesses that can adapt to environmental issues, using green, clean energies and local and/or national resources, will be encouraged and supported.

"Romanians want a Romania centered on their own agenda. There is a return to the paradigm *through ourselves*, namely a pragmatic attitude towards regional and global developments." [13]

Economic and technological development must be based on the principles of sustainable development with the exploitation of own resources, but respecting the environmental policies developed by the European Union.

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