

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. CURRENT CHALLENGES
- CASE OF ROMANIA INTELLIGENT ECONOMIC GROWTH –
COMPONENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
WITHIN A SOCIETY FAVOURABLE TO INCLUSION**

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Abstract: *This paper analyses in its first part the relationship between economic, technical and social development and the biosphere equilibrium, by using the concept of "sustainable development", and emphasizes the principle of responsibility and solidarity between generations and in time, as defining elements of sustainable development. This paper is also questioning whether the idea of progress, understood so far only under its positive, but not under its perverse side, shouldn't be revisited, and how one can master "the unchained powers of the Devil", represented by an "unchained Prometheus". In its second part, this paper focuses on "Intelligent, Durable and Inclusion Favorable Growth in the EU, and Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy".*

Keywords: sustainable development, equilibrium, nature, humanity, responsibility, solidarity, temporality, intelligent growth, inclusion, strategy.

Part I

I.1 The notion of "sustainable development" and the message of the two fundamental principles: Intergenerational and intertemporal accountability and solidarity

The notion of "sustainable development" french translation, which romaniens have taken over from the English phrase "Sustainable Development", a term which has no equivalent in French as in other languages, this phrase is now entered into the public domain, used more or less by specialized commentators and by all media and the general public.

"Sustainable development" can be literally translated as "sustainable" or "viable" developing, but it is interesting to consider what, in French translation, the accent was placed on "sustainability", and more generally, on temporal dimension. Brundtland Connection, supported by a UN Commission in 1987, which meant the release date of the first definition of the concept of Sustainable Development, is particularly enlightening in what the significance of the concept: it highlights the report, to meet the "needs of the present without

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compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs! Starting from this understanding of the concept of "sustainable development" emerges a fundamental requirement: "call the intergenerational equity principle" which induces the need for intertemporal trade-off between the two horizons: "short" and "long term" From this we can conclude that temporality is the crucial problem and watched in terms of sustainability or perenity, raises the question: Is there a way to sustainable development and another type of unsustainable development that is a mutation in the conceptual problem of development. ? At the same time there is the question why we need to add "sustainable" qualifier from a notion that seen in its most general sense, designates an expansion centered around the idea of progress? This understanding leads us to the Enlightenment ideas and engage the fundamentals of the concept of modernity and the idea of modernity and progress (1).

1. Myriam Revault d'Allonnes, Le developpement durable:quels enjeux philosophiques ?

L'Europe et le developpement durable,
Collection:Penser L'Europe, pag.60

I.1.2. Reassessment of the idea of progress or how to "master the powers unleashed the devil"?

For many centuries, science and technology have appeared in an indisputable manner as key factors likely to improve the fate of man and enable him to master their own destiny. Man, humanity, looked to its scientific and technological power marked by a cumulative logic and its ability of owning the nature by superficial watching, or at best, without any threat or danger. Time has proven that the effects of science and technology and its power to own the nature became difficult to control and consequences could not be easier to predict and master at medium or long term. And in particular there have been unpredictable consequences on the balance of the biosphere. As always, the scientific and technical progress " is ethically neutral, it can serve good or evil, to the construction or destruction "(Thierry Montbrial-Action and the World System" (page 256) (1). Nature, which was initially considered only an object of conquest and became exploited during the most terrible source of anxiety and anguish, "Because she had not only exploited but the subject has become the most important component of protecting the human, being his own protection to survive on planet earth. This reversal paradoxical fact is related to the opened prospects up by modern technologies, in human hands, turned in the most dire threats. The "unbound Prometheus " is the modern human which science gave

him unimaginable powers and whose economy received a scary boost threatening not only the outside nature but also its own existence. Nature is its truly life environment (as the etymology of the term ecology itself, derived from the Greek oikos (habitat, home) and if "symbiotic" stability between man and nature is broken, then the human race is in danger. The principles of the concept "sustainable development" moves the current situation first and foremost, but opposite, the question posed by the Galileo-Copernican revolution (2), after the double loss of man's existence within it and its object or to know - what would be from the world system and the human place in this system? question that today sets out the following form: what's left of nature as a medium for life?

The outline of the conceptual mutation claims here the notion of sustainable development on the idea of progress and the historicity of the human condition. In this sense one can understand joining the adjective "sustainable" to the noun "development." If any development is a progress, progress that occurs in all clarity that has an ambivalent nature: a possible tool for better movement, but also a possibility of a perversion and a degradation of the situation, as stated, Thierry de Montbrial in 'Action and world system ', cited above (pag.256) The concept of "sustainable development" thus reveals the ambivalence and uncertainty that accompanies progress dimension, especially that the idea of progress in scientific and technical progress. It also puts the question to know which is attached to the human race (view) notion of "development." in other words, as Brundtland report also says, yes it is to ensure the most disadvantaged population resources until now have been granted only to the privileged. The Goal is twofold: it concerns both space (sharing resources in the world) and time (solidarity with the generations to come) can understand that this is not to reject the idea of progress, which we could qualify for the regressive (as the decrease) but to submit to examination and criticism of a particular model of development, linked on the one hand the Western man (Anglo-Saxon) and on the other hand, a certain ideology of progress (about progress) one that assumes a self-perfectionment (!) of the human species and a certain society and economy developed under this ideology.

I.1.3. From vulnerability to responsibility and solidarity

A new ethic of responsibility.

"Guilt" market economy and consumer society.

Dimensional man: Homoeconomicus

To insist on acting on the vulnerability of our nature, the fragility balance that man maintains (it sets, it is) with the living environment and especially on the unpredictability effects of technological domination, involves a review of the conceptual notion of responsibility and guilt of the dimensional man, a model of economy and society that developed in the context of a specific material and

technical base. The principle responsibility of a text that provides the theoretical foundations of the notion of "sustainable development", author Hans Jonas, indeed, is considered his point of departure-like "immeasurable technological power - became a crucial problem for humans and even vital - obligation to reestablish the concept of responsibility and to establish a new ethics and particularly the responsibilities to rethink the central problem.

Modern technique operates as a transformation of human action (the act of man) and the need to be found in technical progress relentlessly to create new problems to be solved. The technic escaped, became "wild" and is absolutely vital to be "domesticated" again. But especially this "domestication" has become required by regard for humanity that will come to humanity the "man present" is responsible in what concerns the perpetuation of the species. The man has obligations in regard to their posterity. Since the "man present" has the "power" to destroy the natural conditions and therefore the possibility of a future human-man today (that we who are present) has the same obligation to be concerned for the fate of others, namely those who will come fate was in the hands of those in danger today. This new concept of responsibility not so much the past behavior of actual human (which is responsible) as "the power of dealing" which undertakes to be responsible (responsibility to future tense).

The classic idea of responsibility declines, first in relation to the past: a subject is responsible when it responds to what he did and the consequences of its past acts. The responsibility (imputation) is related with punishing (it was charged) a subject in relation to documents whose author is. The subject should therefore figure out what he did in two ways: to justify and pay the price in terms of product damage or other inconvenience. It is thus seen as the responsibility-attribution, even more classic sense of the word, is directed in a way forward: the subject is held responsible for foreseeable consequences of their actions which takes their responsibility. "Mutations require scientific and technical action, more radically, a new concept of responsibility that can not be measured on the actual action (ex-post facto calculation) of what has been done, but what is determined to do", (Hans-Jonas p. 132). It is found that this new "principle- responsibility" also performs a prospective size and a tendency to unlimited (Hans Jonas). From this perspective, humanity is increasingly responsible for a possible future for future generations to arrive at the formula as "being responsible for everything and for all." "This responsibility is virtually unlimited moral bearing a run and also because extended indefinitely, under such circumstances, humanity stands in terms of responsibility beyond the predictable consequences of an action that has been produced by man or not. "(quoted HansJonas-lucr.): In such a vision of humanity is accountable to this future generations to such an extent that the idea of reward and punishment for a particular action has no meaning (Myriam Revaultd`Allonnes work. cited)). The problem is to where in space and time lies

the responsibility of our acts and our decisions? It could be a "liability" and collective (universal) responsibility? Why and for whom humanity is responsible for this? The notion of "sustainable development" in the current sense, this implies that future mankind will live or not in a society with a certain economy. This responsibility is not just the biosphere, but the whole environment (all ecosystems), meaning "the world" in a generic sense that the world we share those living and those to come in the future.

I.1.4. Sustainable development and the "optimum Pareto"

The principle of intergenerational solidarity and temporal world companionship

The rule or "Pareto optimal" express the situation in which terms of resources and technical data, can not improve the situation of agents (this generation) without damage to the other (the other generations). "Pareto Optimal" is a criterion of unanimity viewpoint of consumers, it indicates that a state of the economy is judged as the best or equivalent to the others for each of the individuals enrolled in the same situation, that no individual can feel that his position deteriorates. It is a criterion of efficiency in terms of production and distribution of goods in the sense that it corresponds to the principle of dissipating our resources. There are as many "Pareto optimal" as many ways of distribution of income or assets in an economy. "Pareto Optimal" or "Pareto rule" does not indicate the best system for allocating resources in an economy, but how to avoid wastage in the distribution system. The notion of optimality requires comparing alternative solutions in the global resources of the economy.

I.1;4;1; Comparison of different methods of allocating resources of a company.

Markets, social justice and efficiency in light of the concept of sustainable development

A substrate of the concept of "sustainable development" is essentially a temporal problem in the world companionship, namely, the permanent common world of present and future generations. It is not only the "world of things and objects" but rather "human world" present and future world in which we have common management with the prospective attendees, a group of people with different kinds of people: with our contemporary but those who have preceded us and those to come (or babies are being born in perspective). Traditionally, world companionship was and is conceived in terms of spaciousness. Establish a public space, a common area is part of the political principles of democracy. Given these human relationships of lineage and transmission, from the solicitude of humanity present is shaping the future of humanity and intertemporal and intergenerational

solidarity. From this point of view the concept of "sustainable development" and any of its independent imprecise deficiencies that asks a series of problems involving economic, social, political, moral and ideological. From this perspective the type of economy and society plays an important role in the idea that society is not in the last analysis, only one set of subjects. In this view is reasonable to seek to explain economic and social phenomena to the behavior of individuals starting to compose a given society. The issue that concern us now, at this stage of development of human society, is the comparison between different possible allocations of overall resources of the economy now and in the future individuals. Users can call a "state achievable" Thus if an economy without production and providing a comprehensive inventory of goods (comprising eg various foods), a "state achievable" is a set of baskets of goods (Q_1, Q_2 where Q_1 is) owned by an individual (this Humanity) Q_2 owned by two individuals (future Humanity), etc., so that these elements to be equal the amount of available resources in the economy (either: $Q_1 + Q_2 = S$). Some states have made some privileged role at least in terms of theory. This concerns primarily the concurential balances, also all the initial allocation is the starting point for exchanges between individuals. The problem is the origin of their facilities and the fairness of the distribution (between present and future). This problem is moral. The policy may consider taking these initial endowments of any of the states achievable as given and proceed to a comparison with other states achievable without having any connection with any notion of social justice, in this view is proposed the analogy criterion "Best (order) Pareto. Criterion or "Pareto rule" does not allow changing the distribution of assets (resources) by taking from some to give to others (to take from those present to give the future) without risk to change the standard of welfare at the expense of some cation approach, to improve or weirder. Also, this rule does not allow them to compare between all possible states. For example, you can not say, according to the Pareto rule, the feasible state X (current generation) which all resources are owned from this generations, superior or inferior status that will be performed by Y (future generations) during which the distribution of resources is in another way (say egalitarian-state or laissez-faire market) because the transition from X to Y is reflected in a deterioration of current generations situation and by an improvement in future generations, or vice versa. In market economies socialization of individuals is achieved through the market. The law of supply and demand is the result of individual requests and offers. The problem is how the individuals form their requests and offers. Individual behavior is not the work of chance. Individuals are subject to the principle of rationality in the sense that they use "best available resources given the constraints that support them. Rationality principle implies the rule of results maximizing, and satisfactions. This principle made the individual (and society as a set of individuals) a behavior and psychosis as possession of more goods. The logic of "having "beats the logic of"

being "in the type of free market economy.. Won the figure rising importance. If the pleasure of owning as many objects is a reaction of penibility condition to her work and life becomes alien. Communication between people is now achieved by objects, according to a code of a particular discipline whose origins are found in the hierarchy of income (the amount of money, wealth), the world representation has become material obsessive. Interpersonal relationships Obsessive Mercandasing is resulting in an individual-type homoeconomicus "- animated direct and immediate satisfaction of winning, (the man without a mother without a father, only he-egoistus absolutus). Market economy and consumer society, who developed this type of individual responsibility, in the sense of "guilt", largely on issues that affect the man-nature balance and threaten the very existence of life on planet earth. Human society especially in economically developed countries are identified with the so called "consumer society", which in turn is based on "free market economy and the economies of individual type-Homoeconomicus" artificial propagation needs, even ostentatious consumption as a symbol of a certain social status under the slogan: buy-buy-consume-throw again. In the past companies were manufacturing and consumption in an organic unity. The basic rule was: the use of property so long as it's functional to physical exhaustion, his replacement was by physical degradation. The rapid development of technology in this economy, introduced the concept of "obsolescence" and thus exhausted before replacement operation in physical fitness, that before full physical wear. This has turned into a process of consumption of natural resources exploitation and accumulation of waste (discarded goods) over the planet's natural capacity for regeneration and the degradation of waste (discarded goods). The air, land and water-core resources have entered the degradation of life (are poisoned), and report balances have been broken man and nature became aggressive type, a "permanent war." "Man against nature, nature is life and his environment gave him life. The man appeared from the nature of man not nature. Euphemistically, the Man and set out to transform nature (!). The level of degradation-transformation has degenerated into destruction. Graduation-level environmental destruction of the environment has become far and dangerous for the existence of beings and even plants. In these circumstances nature has become fragile, very vulnerable, weaker than man, help us, so it requires no security and the need to protect them, its security. Security is the nature of human security. One does not make sense without the other, security nature (the environment) is now part of multidimensional security: politics, economy, society and military. Environmental security also involves defining the types of environmental threats that (human) and associated problems that lead to conflicts between states, communities and individuals. "Global war" that ultimately shape is a war on and the environment. Security, in its profound meaning, not just threats but also the lack of protection. Protect sinonom not lack of freedom, so that is trying to inoculate. Intervention to

protect the status deprivation of liberty is not what is protejeza. Conception protect our freedom, protecting freedom would be reduced, out of control Homoeconomicus's destructive behavior, if the economy and in the last analysis of taking under the control the ones who are destroying the condition of living the planet itself. Rule of 2P (PP), means that the polluter pays, is not enough. The problem of environmental degradation is not primarily a question of cost is an issue of quantity and quality of the environment from human activity-dimensional Homoeconomicus. Market, money and exchange are not guilty. Culprits are the type of economy and society-dimensional man Homoeconomics. Welfare, it is only meant to be insensitive material is a perman interdependence with environmental security, economic security and in turn the latter related to the type of development and growth. The concept of "sustainable development" is the vector relationship: wealth-based growth, multidimensional security and intergenerational solidarity Intertemporal-responsibility for the present but especially for the future and also the vector of the new paradigm of growth: smart growth, based on knowledge and innovation.

PART II

II.1. Intelligent economic growth – component of sustainable development within a society favourable to inclusion

As the concept of “sustainable development” comprises the multi-dimensional security, it supposes, as regards the wellbeing and economic growth as basis, a change of paradigm not only concerning the economic growth but also and especially the consumption and production of goods and resources. We consequently need to review the concept of “consuming man” and that of “producing man” of the consumers’ society and of the production society. The change of the manner of considering consumption as well as the economic growth that supports its, as a necessary evil whose “victims” are the natural resources and the environment limit, if not hinder, the march of man towards wellbeing and happiness. On the threshold of man's entry into the era of knowledge, the paradigm of economic growth can be no other than that based on intelligence and innovative spirit. The product of knowledge-based economy and society will no longer destroy the environment and thus man either will not change his physical and mental physiognomy. It is the merit of Europe to be the protagonist of a new type of economic growth: **intelligent growth, component of sustainable development, the fundament of the “Europe 2020 Strategy”**.

The “Europe 2020 Strategy” relies on three priorities that support each other and offer an overall image of Europe’s social market economy for the 21st century.

These three priorities that lie at the foundation and support the “Europe 2020 Strategy” are the following:

- Intelligent growth, component of sustainable development – within an economy and society based on knowledge and innovation;
- Sustainable development - through the promotion of an efficient economy from the viewpoint of the use of resources, economical and competitive;
- Social context favourable to inclusion – through a high employment rate, able to assure the economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Agreeing upon a limited number of main goals for 2020, the European Union aims at orienting its efforts and progresses towards what should be representative: a knowledge-based economy and society. These objectives or goals should be measurable, able to reflect the diversity of situations existing in the member states and to be based on reliable enough data in order to allow comparisons. For a sure success until the year 2020 it is also necessary to reach a series of other derived goals, selected along the above criteria, i.e.:

- The employment rate of the population aged between 20 and 60 should increase from the present level of 69% to at least 75%, including through a higher involvement of women, aged workers and through a better integration of emigrants into the labour market;
- The investment rates in research should be supported. The European Union aims at reaching the goal of investing 3% of the GDP in research and development (R-D). The goal succeeded in attracting the attention upon the necessity that both the public sector and the private one invest in the R-D sector, but it is focused rather on resources than on impact. It is obvious that it is necessary to improve the conditions for the investment of the private sector in R-D in the European Union and many of the measures proposed in the present strategy will contribute to this. The common approach of R-D and innovation will expand the range of expenditure, which will be more pertinent for the commercial activity and for the elements that stimulate productiveness. The Commission proposes the maintaining of the 3% goal, in parallel with the development of an indicator able to reflect the intensity of R-D and innovation;
- the reduction of the green house gas emissions by at least 20% compared to the 1990 levels or by 30%, if there are favourable conditions in this respect; the increase to 20% of the weight of recoverable resources of energy in the final consumption of energy and a 20% growth of the energetic efficiency;
- a goal regarding the level of education, which approaches the issue of early school abandonment, aiming at reducing the abandon rate from the present level of 15% to 10% and the increase of the percentage of the persons aged between 30 and 34 with higher education from 31% to at least 40% in 2020;

- the number of European citizens with a living standard below the national poverty threshold will be reduced by 25%, which will mean the extraction of over 20 million persons out of poverty.

Assuring higher levels of education will favour the employment opportunities, and the progress in the increase of the employment rate will contribute to the reduction of poverty. These goals are interconnected. The improvement of competitiveness and the speeding up of the creation of new jobs will be based on an increased capacity of research, development and innovation, in all the sectors of economy, combined with a more efficient use of resources. The collective attention will have to be mobilised for investing in ecological technologies, with reduced emissions of carbon, technology that will contribute to the protection of the environment, will contribute to the fight against the climatic changes and will create new business opportunities and jobs. What will be necessary is a stronger assuming of the role of leader, a firmer commitment and effective execution mechanisms for changing the attitudes and practices at the level of the European Union in view of reaching the results summarised by these goals.

II.2. The intelligent growth represents an economy based on knowledge and innovation

This type of intelligent economic growth means the consolidation of knowledge and innovation as driving factors of the future growth, and it is necessary to improve the quality of educational systems, to strengthen the research performance, the promotion of innovation and transfer of knowledge within the Union, the full use of ICTs and the conditions for the innovative ideas to be really transposed into new products and services, which generates growth, quality jobs and contributes to the approach of the challenges faced by the European and world society. Nevertheless, in order to succeed, all the above must be correlated with the entrepreneurial spirit, financing and the focus on the users' needs and market opportunities. The European Union needs to act towards these directions, because: the expenditure destined to the R-D sector are below 2%, compared to the USA with 2.6% and Japan with 3.4%, mainly as a result of the low level of private investments, not only from the viewpoint of absolute values of this expenditure – Europe must focus on the impact and the expenditure component for research and development and improve the conditions for the investments of the private sector in R-D in the EU. The lower percentage of the high-tech companies in the EU justifies half of its difference from the USA. In the domain of ***education, training and lifelong education*** there are low levels. A quarter of all school pupils has low reading skills, one in seven young persons abandons school and training too early. Around 50% reach an average level of qualification, but it is not sufficient to respond to the market requirements. Less than one person out of three of the

population aged between 25 - 34 has a college degree, compared to 40% in the USA and over 50% in Japan. According to the Shanghai index, only two European universities are on the list of the world top 20 universities. In the domain of the digital society there are other important issues for the new stage of knowledge-based development. Thus, although the global demand for ICT represents a market in value of 2 000 billion €, only a quarter of it comes from European companies. Moreover, Europe is behind as regards high-speed Internet, which affects its capacity of innovation, including in the rural areas, as well as regarding the online dissemination of knowledge and online distribution of goods and services. The actions within this properties will lead to the release of Europe's innovative potential, improving the results in the field of education, the quality and results of educational institutions and putting to a better profit the economic and social advantages of the digital society.

II.3. Sustainable development represents the promotion of a more efficient economy from the viewpoint of the use of resources, more ecological and more competitive

Sustainable development means the construction of a more competitive economy, sustainable and efficient from the point of view of the resources use, able to profit from Europe's role of leader in then race for the development of new processes and technologies including ecological technologies, meant to speed up the development of intelligent networks, which use ITC, to exploit the EU-scale networks and to consolidate the competitive advantage of the business environment, especially in the manufacturing sectors and SMEs, and able to help consumers realise the merits of the efficient use of resources. Such an approach will enable EU to prosper in a world with reduced emissions of carbon dioxide, disposing of limited resources and to present at the same time the degradation of the environment, loss of bio-diversity and non-sustainable use of resources. Moreover, this will be at the basis of economic, social and territorial cohesion. In order to reach the main and derived goals and objectives, the "Europe 2020 Strategy" is focused on the increase of competitiveness, fight against climatic changes and the adoption of clean and efficient alternative energies.

It is absolutely necessary that Europe should act in the following domains:

Competitiveness: EU has prospered due to commerce, exporting and importing to and from the entire world both raw materials and finite products. Being confronted with an intense pressure on the export markets and for an increasing number of raw materials, competitiveness should grow towards the main trade partners, grace to increased productiveness. One must approach the issue of relative competitiveness within the euro zone and within the ensemble eof the EU. The European Union has largely been in the avant-garde of the ecological solutions, but the acquired advantage is now endangered by powerful competitors,

especially China and North America. EU should maintain its advantage on the market of ecological technologies, as a means to assure an effective use of resources within the entire economy, eliminating at the same time the blockages in the infrastructure of major networks, simulating thus our industrial competitiveness.

Fight against the climatic changes: in order to reach the goals in the matter of climatic changes, it is necessary to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide much more rapidly in the following decade than in the previous decade and to fully exploit the potential of new technologies, such as the possibilities to capture and store carbon dioxide. A more efficient use of resources would significantly contribute to the reduction of emissions, to savings and would stimulate economic growth. All sectors of economy are targeted, not only those generating a high level of emissions. Moreover, one must consolidate the economies' capacity of resistance against climatic risks, as well as the capacity of preventing disasters and reacting to them.

Clean and efficient energy: if the energy goals are reached, the value of oil and gas imports could decrease by 60 billion € until 2020. This represents not only means of financial savings but is essential for the energetic security. If additional progress is registered as regards the integration of the European energy market, the GDP could increase by 0.6%-0.8%. The mere fact of reaching the EU goal that 20% of the used energy should come from recoverable sources could allow the creation of over 600 000 jobs in the EU. If we add to this the goal of 20% regarding the energetic efficiency, there are more than 1 million jobs at stake.

In order to act in this field, it is necessary to put into practice our commitments regarding the reduction of emissions in a manner able to maximise benefits and to minimise costs, including through the dissemination of innovative solutions on the technological plane. Moreover, we should also aim at disconnecting growth from energy consumption and become an economy more efficient from the viewpoint of resources use. This will not only offer Europe a competitive advantage, but will also reduce its dependencies on the resources of raw materials and basic products come from the exterior.

II.4. The society favourable to inclusion means and economy with a high employment rate, thus assuring the economic, social and territorial cohesion

Because of the demographic changes, the labour force at our disposal is decreasing. Only two thirds of the active European population has a job at present, compared to over 70% in the USA and Japan. The employment rate is low especially among women and aged employees. The young people have been seriously affected by the crisis, and the unemployment rate among them is over 21%. There is a high risk that the persons who are not integrated in the labour

market or who have weak connections with it could lose importance on the labour market.

An economic growth favourable to inclusion means assuring the autonomy of citizens through high employment rates, investing in the development of skills, fight against poverty and modernisation of the labour market and of the systems of training and social security in order to help citizens anticipate and manage changes and to build a solidary society. Moreover, it is essential that the benefits of economic growth be accessible in all the regions of the Union, including in the ultra-peripheral regions, consolidating thus territorial cohesion. A growth favourable to inclusion supposes assuring access and opportunities to all citizens during their entire life. Europe should put to full use its potential of labour in order to cope with the challenges represented by the population ageing and increase of world competition. Policies will be necessary to promote more intensely the equality of opportunities between men and women in order to increase the participation of labour force, which will contribute to growth and social cohesion. The issue of competencies is of utmost importance for Europe's knowledge-based economy and society, this aspect results from the following data: about 80 million persons in Europe have reduced or basic skills, but the more educated persons are those who benefit mainly from the opportunities provided by lifelong learning. Until 2020, 16 million jobs will require a high level of qualification, whereas the number of jobs for which reduced skills will be required will decrease by 12 million. For the workers to have a longer active life, it is also necessary to offer them the opportunity to acquire and develop new competencies during their entire life. Poverty in the European Union area, defined, as a space of freedom, justice, security and wellbeing is a challenge compared to the other spaces on the planet.

Before the present economic and financial crisis, 80 million people were threatened by poverty in the European Union, 19 million of them being children. 8% of the working persons do not earn enough to step out of poverty. The unemployed are especially affected and the actions within this priority will require the modernisation and consolidation of the policies in the matter of employment, education and training, as well as the system of social security and protection, grace to the increase of the participation on the labour market and reduction of structural unemployment, as well as through the growth of social responsibilities of companies with the business community. In this respect, it will be important to assure the population's access to centres of children care and to centres destined to other persons in care. It will be essential to put into practice the principles regarding flexicurity and to provide citizens with the opportunity to acquire new skills allowing them to adapt to the new conditions and to possible career changes.

A remarkable effort will be needed to fight against poverty and social exclusion and to reduce inequalities in the health matter, so that the benefits of

growth should be accessible to all. The EU's capacity to cope with the challenges represented by the promotion of an active and healthy ageing of the population will be equally important in assuring social cohesion and a higher productiveness in order to build the knowledge-based society, ecological and prosperous for all.

Part III. The case of Romania

Romania's strategy of sustainable development of 2008 aims at reaching those short-, medium- and long-term **strategic goals** that are in accordance with the main and derived goals of the European Union whose member it is. On the short-term, until 2013 one will aim at: *organically incorporating the principles and practices of sustainable development in the ensemble of Romania's public programmes and policies. For the year 2020 the goal targeted is the reaching of the present average level of the EU countries as regards the main indicators of sustainable development, and for 2030 the significant advance of Romania closer to the average level of that year of the EU member states from the viewpoint of the sustainable development indicators.*

Reaching these strategic goals will assure, on the short, medium and long term, a high economic growth and consequently a significant reduction of economic and social gaps between Romania and the other EU member states. Through the prism of the synthetic indicator measuring the process of real convergence, i.e. the GDP per capita, for the standard purchasing power (PCS), the application of the strategy creates the conditions that the GDP / capita expressed in PCS exceeds in the year 2013, half of the EU average at that moment, to come close to the level of 70% of the EU average in 2020 and to be slightly higher than the European average level in 2030.

The sectorial predictions regarding the sustainable development in Romania

a. Climatic changes and clean energy

Indicators	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2015	2020
Production of primary energy	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
▪Coal net	21.4	23.9	25.2	24.3	20.6	20.8	20.7	18.5
▪Usable natural gases	35.2	34.7	33.2	31.1	31.7	31.2	28.9	25.7
▪Oil	19.7	18.1	17.1	16.0	16.4	16.1	14.7	13.1
▪Hydro and wind energy	6.4	5.8	5.0	5.1	5.5	5.6	6.5	6.6
▪Nuclear-electric energy	5.0	5.2	6.9	9.3	9.9	9.9	9.3	16.1
▪Other resources	12.3	12.3	12.6	14.2	15.9	16.4	19.9	20.0

Source: The National Commission for Prognosis, 2009

b. Sustainable production consumption

Indicators	2009	2010	2015	2020
Gross Domestic Product– billion lei	531.3	568,5	848.5	1224,0
Gross Domestic Product– billion euro	125.0	135.4	208.5	300.7
GDP – real growth	-4.0	0.1	6.0	5.0
Gross added value from:				
- industry	-10.0	-3.0	4.8	4.5
- agriculture, sylviculture, pisciculture, forestry exploitation	-2.9	0.8	1.7	1.0
- constructions	2.6	4.0	7.7	5.6
- services	-2.2	0.7	6.7	5.5
Final consumption	-5.4	-0.5	4.9	4.3
Gross formation of fixed capital	-6.5	-0.5	7.5	5.7
Export of goods FOB – million euro	28400	29950	46100	73900
- annual percent modification	-15.5	5.5	10.8	9.2
Imports of goods CIF – million euro	42040	43230	61500	91000
- annual percent modification	-25.4	2.8	9.0	7.4
Commercial balance (FOB – CIF) – mil.euro	-13640	-13280	15400	17100
- percentage in the GDP	-10.9	-9.8	-7.4	-5.7

Source: The National Commission for Prognosis, 2009

c. Global poverty and the challenges of sustainable development

Indicators	2001	2007	2013	2020
GDP / inhabitant, lei	5211	19165	34340	59030
GDP / inhabitant, euro	2002	5743	8437	14504
GDP / inhabitant, PPS	5400	10500	15060	25560
% compared to the UE 27 average	27	42	52	70

Source: The National Commission for Prognosis, 2009

d. Social inclusion and demography**Thousand persons**

Indicators	2009	2010	2015	2020
Population aged between 15 and 64	15029	15021	14944	14880
Population aged 65 and over	3241	3269	3406	3533
Total active population	9965	9990	10240	10410
Active population aged between 15 and 64	9486	9515	9805	10000
Total employed population	9170	9220	9640	9950
Employed population aged between 15 and 64	8691	8745	9205	9540
Employees	6095	6125	6405	6567
BIM unemployed persons	795	770	600	460

Source: The National Commission for Prognosis, 2009

In the completion of the goals deriving from the national strategies, plans and programmes of development, the present strategy sets the main directions of action for the acquiring and application of the principles of sustainable development in the immediately following period, i.e.:

- rational correlation of development goals, including the investment programmes, in inter-sectorial and regional profile, with the potential and capacity of support of the natural capital;
- the accelerated modernisation of education and professional training and of public health, considering the unfavourable demographic evolutions and their impact on the labour market;
- the use of the best technologies available, from the economic and ecological viewpoint, in the decisions of investment from public funds at the national, regional and local level and the stimulation of such decisions from the private capital, the firm introduction of eco-efficiency criteria in all the activities of manufacture or services;
- the anticipation of the effects of climatic changes and the elaboration of both long-term adapting solution and of plans of inter-sector convergence, comprising portfolios of alternative solutions for crisis situations generated by natural or anthropic phenomena;
- assuring food security and safety by putting to good use Romania's comparative advantages regarding the development of agricultural output, including of organic products; correlation of measures of quantity and quality growth of agricultural output in view of assuring food for people and livestock with the major requirement of the production of bio-fuel, without ignoring the

requirements regarding the maintaining and increase of soil fertility, bio-diversity and environment protection;

- identification of additional financing sources, under condition of sustainability, for the achievement of certain large-scale projects and programmes, especially in the fields of infrastructure energy, environment protection, food security, education, health and social services;

- Protection and enhanced use of the national cultural and natural patrimony; connection to the European norms and standards regarding life quality will be accompanied by the reviving in modernity of certain traditional lifestyles, especially in the mountainous and wet areas.

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