

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ROLE OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COMMUNITY

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Abstract

Each rural community should develop towards raising the level of living of its inhabitants. Thus, after identifying the needs of that community must find concrete solutions to their satisfaction. The role of local government in this respect is crucial, especially when we refer to a rural community.

Should be given to human and economic resources, culture, environment, traditions, whole social capital, economic and informational administrative authorities and if these resources are not enough, they must be supplemented or created, including projects with grant. Also neglected is the support of citizens in achieving the desired results and in rural communities, often involving citizens actively and directly.

Key Words: *administrative authority, legislation, decisions, involving, rural community.*

1. Introduction

Contemporary society is characterized, among others, by the scale of business development executive, administrative authorities default activity. Executive activity is the fundamental form of activity by which it specifically state power and consists of enforcement of laws and other legal acts, the main activity carried out public administrative authorities. Public administration is divided territorially and functionally, has jurisdiction exercised within the law and has clear principles that function¹.

For a rural community to grow and develop to be a long-term it is necessary that the respective territorial administrative unit to have public administrative authorities really involved in the community it manages and the benefit of which should act. For this it is necessary to identify the real needs exist, to find sustainable solutions to meet them and also have to anticipate what possible needs which may arise in the future, problems or difficulties or simply the direction of development is to be it has not just limited to rural community but to the area where it is. Administration works in the interests of the citizen². She is the one who receives information from the social environment and all that emanates from the

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¹ I. Santai, *Drept administrativ și știința administrației*, vol. II, Alma Mater Publishing House, Sibiu, 2011, p. 20.

² I. L. Vedinaș, *Administrația publică – în slujba sau împotriva intereselor cetățenilor?*, in Scientific Notebook, no.6/2012, ISAM, Chișinău, 2014, p. 131-133.

administration addresses the social environment. Administration can not exist without citizens and citizens need local and national administrative authorities to manage there.

Everything that can harness the interest of the community, to do whatever we refer to environmental, economic or human resources which can be ordered at a time. Local administrative authorities must establish objectives they want to achieve and so have all the necessary legal and all legal proceedings in the sense of fulfillment.

It has such a vision of the rural community to set out the objectives and priorities and administrative authorities to exercise their mandate under maximum professionalism and high efficiency.

2. European and national aspects of rural development

In Europe appreciates that Europe's rural areas³ represent 85% of total area and affect directly or indirectly, more than half of the European population⁴. EU policy places special emphasis on rural development.⁵ Knowledge, research, improvement and development of rural areas are vital activities for each country, both in terms of rural areas, expressed through the area owned and the share of employed in productive activities, social and cultural services, housing and tourism.

The rural area of Romania currently consists of the administrative area of the existing 2688 common country, that bring together the country's rural population, in accordance with the law.

Law no. 215/2001 on local public administration presents territorial administrative units. The commune is the basic administrative unit in whose territory the implementing rural policy. Public authorities are partners of county and regional authorities in implementing rural policy. The average population of a commune of 3870 inhabitants, but there are a variety of villages in Romania in terms of size but also social demographic. A community is made up of several villages on average 4 to 7 villages incumbent on policy. Over half common (55.4%) are made up of 1-4 villages and 6.2% of communes have more than 10 villages.⁶ Rural area, delimited, totaling 212,7 square kilometers, representing 89% of the country. The population living on this territory has about 10,140,000 inhabitants and represents 45% of the population, resulting in a relatively low density of under 48 inhabitants / km².

The rural area is not as large in all 8 regions of Romania⁷. The largest space is the rural Northeast region (94.0% of the area) and is the largest rural population in the South (55.7% of the population). A particular case is the Bucharest region, in which

³ http://ec.europa.eu/index_ro.htm.

⁴ Findings belongs Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of the Council of Europe in the report on the European Charter for rural areas.

⁵ E. L. Catană, *Principiile bunei guvernări. Evoluții europene și studii comparative*, Universul Juridic Publishing House, București, 2009, p. 235.

⁶ The data are taken from the reports of the National Institute of Statistics of Romania.

⁷ Romania is divided into 8 regions, representing areas that correspond to groups of counties, but are not territorial units - administrative, formed after their free association and based on an agreement signed by representatives of respective County Councils. These eight areas constitute the implementation and evaluation of regional development policy. They are: North-West, North-East, Center, South-East, South, South-West, Bucharest-Ilfov and West.

the city is Bucharest, capital of Romania. It concentrates 88.8% of the population of the region. Rural population around the capital is only 11.2% of the region's population.

National Development Plan (NDP) is a key tool by which Romania has tried to recover as quickly as socio-economic disparities towards the European Union. NDP is a specific concept of European economic and social cohesion and he pursued multiannual strategic planning and financial programming. Basically we talk of a partnership, which sought and stimulate social and economic development of Romania under the EU Cohesion Policy.

NDP strategy 2007-2013 was structured in six national development priorities, limiting the number of priority being capable of ensuring focus available resources on achieving those objectives and measures with the greatest impact on reducing disparities compared to EU and internal disparities. It should be noted, however, that within these priorities are addressed specific intervention and many areas such as education, health, energy, communications and IT sector, preventing natural risks, etc.

We can not notice that they no longer find such an elaborate plan for the period 2014- 2020, considering practical objectives have been met and that there is no more need than the continuation of existing policies, in agreement with the European Union. Of course, much of the objectives have been achieved but it is absolutely necessary to continue rural development since it is far from being completed.

3. Involvement of local administrative authorities in rural areas in Romania

Local Romanian administrative authorities rural permanently must ensure economic growth through increased investment in their community. Investments may be internal but also external in nature, including attracting grants, which unfortunately at present, in the year of grace 2015 are deficient because they are not attracted grants at the level it should be. It is true that the percentage is growing from year to year, but unfortunately not sufficient reasons are multiple, some are related to the example of the procedure is still maintained and bushy but not involved in starting procedures authorities.

Also, these authorities have done and must continue the process of making a road infrastructure where it does not yet exist or modernize them, where one state is inadequate. This problem of access roads have long been a real problem. Not only tourism activity has had to suffer but quick access to health care facilities or schools was a real challenge long. Of course it tried, also, the revitalization of agriculture but it managed better, only in certain regions, where there are larger scale mechanized. The rural population has decreased in number year by year, grew old, and agriculture is made more strict for own consumption. Although theoretically increase agricultural productivity and competitiveness would lead to a return of employment in rural areas, this is not achieved and practical, young people preferring to leave for urban communities. Repeated attempts by the authorities to grant various facilities for young people or people who go to practice in the country, not proved sufficiently motivating to be able to say that to achieve the desired effect. In order to revive economic activities in rural areas and diversification of agricultural activities is

necessary to support the implementation of activities to tourism, handicraft production and other agricultural activities specific (like beekeeping, mushroom cultivation and medicinal plants), establishment of new rural locations, modernization of existing and development services leisure (sports, ski slope, golf course, etc.). Farms are common in rural communities, large and small farms, they must be supported by government programs or are in danger to not survive on the free market. The local tradition needs to be kept as promoting local customs, specific rural traditions are those that can generate further value to the rural community.

Local administrative authorities in rural areas supported attempts to create a business environment in territorial administrative units. In addition to internal or external investments that have succeeded or not to draw, there are small family businesses (dot food, pharmacy, bar, dentist, veterinarian, etc.) that provides jobs and revitalizing the economic and social environment that rural community. Often the authorities have supported this initiative even through the concession of property for pursuit of those activities, providing exemptions or reductions in local taxes, according to the text of the law. Also we have to mention the efforts related to land planning, the existence of a functioning land registry including rural areas.⁸

It wanted the modernization and development of public utility services so that they respond best to the needs of citizens and local and national economy. The aim was to approximate the standards of EU countries, and even if there are still villages which have no drinking water supply or sewerage and asphaltting, we can not fail to mention that these types of jobs in rural areas were developed steadily increasing. Common residences have made these works but they often do not exist in all the villages belonging to the village. Prepare and maintain an adequate level of infrastructure is essential for economic and social development of the rural environment and balanced regional development. A modern infrastructure is very important for rural areas to exist and to be able to develop.

Romania as a EU Member State, entered on the European Union market. This had a particular impact in all sectors. Although theoretically they were modernized and developed to impact the state's economy has been pluses and minuses. Rural development⁹ has been affected. We mention one example, forestry. Although it did for years, the massive export of timber that could be a plus for the local and national economy, in reality it came to talking about a real negative impact both nationally and locally areas. Massive deforestation has created a desolate rural aspects, it is an ecological disaster on long and short run financial benefit is minimal. It achieved enormous export of raw timber, unprocessed timber. Raw, little money. Thus, in May 2015 seeks to require the approval of a new forestry code and the Government emergency ordinance prohibiting the export of raw expects a limited period of time, during which solutions can be identified legal, just and fair. In this way, the role¹⁰ of

⁸ L. Oprea, I. Ienciu, G. E. Voicu, M. Tudorascu, *Introducerea cadastrului general într-un teritoriu administrativ*, Pangeea, nr.13/2013, pp. 122-131.

⁹ National Rural Development Programme (RDP) combined co-funding available from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and other national support through EU structural funds for the benefit of sustainable rural development Romania.

¹⁰ D. A. Tofan, *Drept administrativ*, Vol. I, The third edition, C.H. Beck Publishing House, Universitar Course Collection, București, 2014, p. 76.

national and local administrative authorities is a major one with implications not only for the present and future economy of the state, but also for present and future generations living in rural communities or anywhere else in the country. There is much talk about corruption in this period, including the forestry sector, but we believe that we need to talk about the involvement of local authorities and their accountability regarding the fate of the local administrative area it manages.

National Strategic Plan for Rural Development¹¹, has set general objectives for the period 2009-2015: increased competitiveness of the agro-food and forestry, improving the environment and countryside, improving quality of life in rural areas and diversify the rural economy, launch and operation initiatives local development. There is not neglected the need to protect nature, the environment, natural resources, land and water in rural areas and improving quality of life for rural dwellers¹². Tasks of the administrative authorities are multiple, as they are specified in the law, authorities are in constant contact with the run, not only civil operations¹³ or by formulating various requests and authorizations.

It must however be reminded that improving the efficiency of agriculture and forestry to face competition open external trading environment means not only benefits. It is important the benefit of the country, not just short term.

Employment, labor market was also subjected to particular challenges not only in terms of training but in all aspects¹⁴, including the rural communities.

Improving the quality of life in rural areas, diversification of the rural economy, promoting knowledge and improving human potential represents the strategic objectives for local administrative authorities. Improving local governance¹⁵ continuously and adapted to the constant changes in all existing environments is a must that local administrative authorities must have regard. No one says it is easy to realize this but clearly need to rethink the way in which the local government especially in terms of professional directors, namely that the decision maker is not just execution, regardless of how investing office, by election or by appointment. It is simple, easy to administer an administrative territorial unit, no matter how small or large it may be. For example, the territorial organization of Alba County comprises of 11 cities, 4 municipalities, the county capital Alba Iulia, Aiud Blaj and Sebes and 7 cities: Abrud, Câmpeni, Cugir, Ocna Mureș, Zlatna, Teiuș and Baia de Arieș. In the county there are still 65 administrative units, namely, communes and 658 villages¹⁶. Along with the counties of Brasov, Sibiu, Covasna, Harghita and Mures, Alba County are part of the Central Development Region.¹⁷

¹¹ Developed on the basis of the Community Strategic Guidelines.

¹² <http://www.fonduri-structurale.ro/Detalii.aspx?t=dezvoltarerurala>.

¹³ L. Cetean Voiculescu, *Dreptul familiei*, Hamangiu Publishing House, București, 2012, pp. 354-356

¹⁴ A. Hurbean, Workers Representatives, în *Agora Internațional Journal of Juridical Sciences*, nr. 2/2013, pp. 56-61.

¹⁵ I. Alexandru, C. Gilia, I. V. Ivanoff, *Sisteme politico-administrative europene*, the second edition, revised and enlarged, Hamangiu Publishing House, 2008, pp. 56-59.

¹⁶ Information about Alba county towns can be found at www.cjalba.ro.

¹⁷ Central Region is situated in central Romania, within the greater curvature of the Carpathian Mountains, on the headwaters of the Olt and medium. With an area of 34,100 km² (includes Alba, Brasov, Covasna, Harghita, Mures and Sibiu), representing 14.3% of the territory of Romania, the Centre

Local administrative authorities have an important role in ensuring rural development, economic growth, quality of life but also in community building. Driving ability should be increased and strengthened community. The access to health care and education should be increased. Often municipalities made up of villages that not only show differences in development between them, but are located far from each other, in the area of cosmic demanding or harsh weather conditions. Thus, students have to walk sometimes long distances to get to school and some authorities were involved in the construction of boarding schools in addition to, or in providing transportation to the school and back. Rural areas should be provided with basic facilities required but also the economy is to be conducted in accordance with natural and social climate in which it manifests itself.

4. Conclusion

Social and economic role that local administrative authorities have to develop in all aspects of the territorial administrative unit that manages can not be minimized as this is the more important as we refer to rural communities. Being given the aging population in the countryside I could even say that the administrative authority in the way it governs locally and according to the vision that has lead to economic and social revival of the village in question or, on the contrary to a while its extinction.

Social policies to support families, promoted by local authorities are very important considering that no longer relies young families in the villages and the number of children born in rural areas is declining very high. There are local councils and mayors who have agreed to support young people to start a family by giving some money, or the birth of a child by providing a financial plus monthly from the local budget for the period of the parent is the legal period of parental leave new-born child. Such administrative authorities concerned have identified some beneficial solutions for their communities.

In order to revive economic activities in rural areas and diversify them by supporting agricultural activities should be supported private initiatives and community and must be investment, consulting, infrastructure, education, medical and cultural support. All these are interdependent and administrative authorities can not afford to act only on a certain level and neglect another level.

Without the infrastructure, we have no investment or tend to zero without water and sanitation services and investment have decent living conditions, jobless have a poor environment without education, the culture and progress are all interdependent and all depend on the evolution of the rural community concerned.

Preservation of local traditions and valuing them, depend on the support and involvement of local administrative authorities. The local council and the mayor, this is the decisive one. We need to find balance bridge between tradition and modernity, so that the rural community is harnessed to its full potential. Agritourism and any other type of activity must be managed with respect for the environment in which it manifests itself. The fact that many Romanian villages preserves authentic and

Region ranks 5th among the 8 regions. By its geographical position, make connections 6 of the other 7 regions, registering approximately equal distance from its central region to the border crossing points.

archaic element can be exploited by local administrative authorities by promoting tourism or other activities through which to highlight the existing time and space.

The administration is seeking to attract local budget revenues through business support default by creating new jobs, but also pursues increased education, civilization and comfort of the residents they govern.

A good infrastructure attract investors and developed economic environment leads to higher living standards. This standard should be increased but not at the expense according to social standard. The local government depends on efficient use of natural resources, tourism, cultural, physical and human. Everything depends on local government funding and attracting domestic or foreign, and especially European grants, which are vital to the community and support projects that can reduce aging working population can capitalize more effectively, human resource.

Administrative authorities in rural areas are those that are closest to the citizen, who best knows the needs of this because we are talking of administrative territorial units lower than in cities. Here in the countryside needs are more easily identified. It is very important and dialogue, collaboration, partnerships with neighboring authorities and county administrative or country. Also it has worked with all walks of life, including politics or religion. The influence of the priest, a teacher and police in villages and communes perceived otherwise than in cities or larger areas. Objectives can more easily meet if we take into account these aspects and any strategy must have administrative centers on the citizen and the countryside in which it is found.

The entire rural territorial administrative unit depends on how the local administrative authority intends to act responsibly and professionally to serve the citizens and the territorial community and human resources it manages. The role these authorities they have, not only socially and economically but in all aspects, is a major one. The effects of actions, approaches and strategies implemented by the administrative authorities is felt in time and implications overwhelming impact over the years that follow and influence the development or stagnation of the rural community concerned.