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INTEGRATED HOMOGENEOUS DEVELOPMENT, RESULT OF AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

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Abstract: *The analysis of the processes and dimensions of development was a permanent concern for both theorists and practitioners. Analysis of economic models and theories envisaged their limits to explain the whole complexity of the development process, analyzed both at local and regional levels. Thus an interdisciplinary approach was necessary, specific for administrative science; in order to better understand the development process, the mechanisms, the dimensions and patterns that have influenced the development process both from the economical and administrative points of view. This paper aims to develop an overview of the main concepts that may be related to the development process, highlighting their interdependence, who in the authors' opinion leads to the concept of integrated homogeneous development.*
Keywords: *local development, urban development, regional development, integrated homogenous development*

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Local development is the process of development, mainly economic, in a particular region or local administrative unit, which determines an increase of life quality at local level. The aim of local development is "economic prosperity and social welfare by creating a favorable business environment, along with community integration of vulnerable groups, using endogenous resources, and developing the private sector". Local development supposes the existence of a regulatory framework, of a local partnership, of a local development strategy and of resources.

Local development, in the current context of economic, social and administrative restructuring changes, must be viewed as a dependent process of innovation and entrepreneurship, supported by mechanisms, society and flexible institutional structures, with a high degree of local cooperation and interaction (Matei, 2005). Defining the concept of local is not just about local administrative units, commune, town, city or county, but also about inter-communal, interregional and cross border levels (Matei, 1998: 95).

The basic principles of local development are based on administrative, social, economic, workforce and territorial considerations. Thus, specialists (Matei&Anghelescu, 2009:18-22) have identified nine local development principles, as follows: the principle of economic and social competitiveness of the territory, equity principle, public private principle, globalization, comprehensive strategy, regional collaboration, focus of development, citizen orientation, measuring and evaluation, principles that can be extrapolated to regional development, too.

In French specialized literature, development is considered an economic and cultural finality of decentralization, diversifying and enriching the activities in a given territory, through mobilizing all the existing resources and energies of the area. The result of population efforts, local development means implementation of a project of economic, social and cultural development. It transforms a neighborhood space in an active mutual aid space (Xavier, 1991:57).

Local development is a progressive concept, focused on social change, on the necessity of defining new rules of play, that need to counteract at local level some negative effects that occur as a result of some actions taken at central level. Some authors (Profiroiu, 1998:69) call this progressive concept "liberal local development", considering it a process whereby governments or community organizations stimulate economic activity and job creation. Its purpose is to increase the employment opportunities in those sectors that improve the community situation, using the existing human, natural and institutional resources. This strategy is rather a way to recover the local economies by creating jobs.

Local development is equally social; its aim is to create a climate of equity in the fight with poverty and by promoting individual identity in a great diversity. It also envisages elimination of discrimination, especially by paying attention to disadvantaged groups. Generally it can be discussed about human development and strengthening the personal competences through education, alignment to ethical values, and social development that takes into account the social and cultural relation, as well as citizens participation in decision making process within public authorities.

Access to information is a prerequisite to local development given that only through the stakeholders' support, it can be successful. At the same time, information allows timely correction of any shortcomings of local development projects under continuous changes of the environment. Lack of management experience and technical abilities of managers is one of the main important constraints of local development.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Urban planning is defined in different ways, considering the following: "a complex ensemble of activities of design, endorsement, and approval of several plans or the authorization of future buildings for any type of urban or rural community" (Șăineanu, 1998:1056). However, there were some opinions that consider urban planning is "a set of political, administrative, financial, economic, social or technical measures with the aim of ensuring a harmonious city development" (Hubert, 1993:1).

Urbanization can be understood as a continuous and complex process, in which activities related to concentration of population occur at the same time, as well as various

modernization and social changes. The urban centre or the city is considered an administrative area or a functional economic area.

Urban development can be seen as a process of growth and amplification accompanied by a series of qualitative changes generated by the development strategies, policies and programs. Urban development is a complex, interactive process, these features being determined by carrying out development projects in the phases of elaboration, planning, implementation and evaluation, phases that involve a series of stakeholders whose decisions determine the development trajectory.

Urban development policy is a set of integrated governmental (national, regional and local) measures (economic, social, cultural, environment, transport and safety) that are addressed to the cities. The purpose of urban development policies formulation is to improve the future development, to eliminate the disfunctionalities, balancing the future development and enhancing development trends. Depending on the city specificity, the sectors covered by development policies include spatial planning, housing, public services, social economic development, and urban revitalization methods.

Urban planning is viewed today in close interdependency with spatial planning, as part of it, and it consists in a set of activities through which objectives related to: improving living conditions by eliminating disfunctionalities, ensuring access to public services and affordable housing for all residents, creating conditions to meet special needs of children, elderly and disabled persons, efficient use of land in accordance with appropriate urban functions, controlled spread of build-up areas, protection and enhancement of the built and natural cultural patrimony, ensuring the quality of the build-up frame, planned and planted in all localities, localities' protection against natural and technological risks are pursued.

Urbanism is currently facing increasingly global structuring of cities problems. Such problems are proving extremely complex, especially when it comes to defining the geographical area of human settlements extension, to remodeling or enlarging the indispensable role of the urban center, to achieving the necessary cities decongestion in order to reach the proper cities performance.

Spatial planning and urbanism (the two notions, urbanism and spatial planning, lead to confusion. Some elements from urbanism are given to the spatial planning term; this issue appears also when we are talking about spatial planning concepts. The confusions appear at the specialists level, whose field of activity is related to both concepts, as well as for the level of ordinary persons that get in touch with those terms) are branches of the same tree. Space is the reference field. Thus, spatial planning and urbanism is a field of study and a spatial subject related to geography, on one hand and architecture, on the other hand. Today, we are witnessing a new approach of the two domains, from the administrative science point of view that emphasizes the role of public authorities in development and using of urbanism and spatial planning tools, as well as the citizens involvement in specific activities.

The urban dimension of regional development is thus required to ensure a balanced and optimal development of regional territory in an attempt to avoid overcrowding and excessive size of some regional areas to the detriment of other areas. Such a situation would cause a series of structural imbalances that contribute to deepening the regional disparities.

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

The actions related to metropolitan development could generate, besides to the effort for economic growth, a number of negative economic consequences on the environment and social cohesion, with the possibility of developing the so called *growth islands* around metropolis; while others small territorial administrative units can be disconnected from the growth process.

Considering these aspects, a polycentric development can contribute to reducing the environmental pressures, as well as the social tensions leading to the democratic structures stabilization. Theoretical academic and practical concerns related to metropolitan development cover many aspects. The first aspect is the extension of urban area, seen as a result of the action of three powerful forces "population growth, rising incomes and reducing the transportation costs" (Brueckner, 2000:160-171).

Urban sprawl and metropolitan areas constituting raises big concerns regarding the sustainable development of this space. A first requirement is about planning and management of metropolitan areas in the view of developing a strategic management. Metropolitan areas constituting raises, also the need for adopting decisions related to population and the way of managing the new area, new production and resistance techniques being generated. The need for evaluation of the urban space and for clarification of economical value of the specific area is another consequence of metropolitan areas development. In which concern economic activities, metropolitan development contributes to the optimization of the existing resources, supporting and attracting of industries from the sphere of products and services in the area.

The approach of developing metropolitan areas supposes, first of all, elaboration of policies that contributes to a better spatial planning. The need for spatial planning aims two main aspects that are related to the preparation of the conditions for transposing the economic development strategy, as well as in reducing some disparities or development errors that occur just because of the lack of territorial planning. Unplanned evolution of socio economic phenomenon like urban development leads inevitably to the creation of dysfunctionalities. This type of dysfunctionalities has been created due to the lack of strategies for urban development planning.

In the context of balanced development of metropolitan areas, the guiding principle should be urban spatial policy oriented towards growth, supported by greater integration with regional policy, on a more sustained cooperation with the private sector and taking into account the environment protection requirements by the environmental impact studies.

An major role in metropolitan area spatial planning policy is played by the private sector, an important element for social development, and in the same time of spatial development; one of the main tasks of spatial planning being to provide a development perspective, and to ensure security in which concern the management of private investments.

The main problems that should be solved at the level of metropolitan areas are related to the development of basic infrastructure and to ensure the access of population, industrial consumers and tourists to this infrastructure, promotion of strategies for housing

improvement, ensuring modern transport and traffic management strategies, environment protection and promoting sustainable development principles.

Beyond the need to ensure public services and infrastructure, the issues that requires urgent solution refers to the way of using the resources, as well as to the creation of modern transportation systems, to increase the traffic safety, measures that will increase the population accessibility and mobility, as well as the development of economic growth poles.

Within the metropolitan areas, the presence of natural and cultural resources is essential to every human activity, however the main cause of discomfort is how the resources are used and consumed without taking into account the balance of the natural system and the need to ensure the balance between it and the urban system. Most of the times, within the development process of urban activities the resources are excessively consumed, without ensuring their effective management.

In this respect, the local authorities' policy should focus on conservation and balanced use of those resources in order to ensure the proper life conditions for residents.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The process of economic development inevitably engages changing natural environment, through the fact that is using the environments factors as renewable resources, but also because the nuisances affect sometimes irreversibly the ecological balance. Economic development involves an external cost sustained by the environment, whose dimensions increasingly evident in recent years, if not properly evaluated, question the long term viability of the process itself. From their early stages, the economic development theories tackled the issues of natural resources and their limited feature. Given the fact that environment protection 'objectives and measures targets need to be related to the path of transition to market economy in order to ensure sustainable development, it is obvious that macroeconomic adjustments need to take into account the energy and environmental restrictions.

As a result of macroeconomic dynamics, sustainable economic development requires a set of quantitative, structural and qualitative changes, both in economy and scientific research and manufacturing technologies, within the operating mechanisms and functioning organizational structures of economy. The basic principle of this development is PPP, meaning "the polluter pays principle".

In that context, the concept of sustainable development, this is the form of economic development which aims to meet the present consumers' needs without compromise or prejudicing the needs of the next generation.

The core concept of sustainable development is the interaction between population, economic progress and natural resources potential, highlighting key issues arising from: optimizing the resources / needs ratio, goals to be achieved, necessary means, based on time and space mutual compatibilities.

The general objective of sustainable development is to find an optimal interaction and compatibilities of fours systems: *economic, human, environmental* and *technological*, in a dynamic and flexible function.

Therefore we are talking about the capacity to support indefinitely human resources for human society development meaning sustainable use of natural resources (Allaby, 1998) within the carrying capacity. In this context we discuss about development to support the evolution of human socio economic system on a continuous trajectory without affecting the existence of next generation within the carrying capacity. Implementation of this perception of sustainable development led to a pragmatic definition of it which supposes the integration of environment policies into economic and social development at all levels in a holistic manner through economic, political or technological strategies (Barbier, 1987: 101-111).

Sustainable development not only requires a strategy or a program, but also indicators to asses in time its rate and efficiency, or to highlight deviations from the planned overall orientation. Information obtained through "sustainability indicators" must allow identifying restrictions and failures and to base measures for completion and rescaling of the transition action programs at national level and harmonize them to macro regional and global scale (Vădineanu, 1998: 334). A particularly important relationship to be considered is that of urbanism and environment, which is characterized by a complex theoretical and operational relationship. The nature of these relationships is exemplified by the fact that urbanism, referring to the totality of actions of communities spatial planning are interfering on multiple plans and in many subareas with the environment, both the natural one and that influence by human activities.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Regional development was created out of the efforts of the economists, of persons in charge with planning, regional development policy becoming one of the most important and most complex policies of the European Union, statute resulting from the fact that through its objective (The proposed objective was to understand and to characterize the processes of growth at the regions level) of reducing existent economic and social disparities among different regions from the Member States, the European Union acts in several domains that are significant for development, like economic growth and SME sector, transport, agriculture, urban development, environment protection, specialized training and occupancy, education.

The method of analyzing and interpreting of the regional development process derives from the theories, methods and techniques initial designed for understanding the behavior of national economies. Such a procedure can be considered acceptable, because the economies of the regions resemble in many aspects with national economies. However there is a series of significant differences between regions and nations that cannot be ignored:

- Regional economies are by far much more open than national economies, in which they are located in,
- Interregional commerce does not have fees and other commercial barriers, all the regions from a country using the same currency,
- the workforce and the capital have a higher degree of mobility among regions than between countries,

- barriers regarding legal framework, politics, language exert a higher force in the case of international migration of the production elements than on the interregional one,
- increased degree of existing interdependence among the regions inside the borders of a state, play also an important role in the regional analysis (Nicolae& Constantin, 1998:13).

It should be mentioned that fact that regional economy analyses both interregional and intraregional relations, among local economies. Hence the necessity for the distinction between regional economy, focalized on the region as a clearly defined entity, by taking into account the relations mentioned and the economy of the urban, rural localities who from their name are debating the issue of the localities' social-economic development, through the angle of the elements that compose the locality as a system is its specific functions.

The regional problems, disparities and interregional and intraregional unbalances regarding the economic development levels of the European community countries' (and not only) appeared during human history following an uneven (Iuhas, 2004: 57) geographical development.

Neoclassical economic theories suggest that regional disparities are only temporary and the elimination of these discrepancies could be achieved through adjusting of the prices and salaries, through movements related both to the labor market, and the capital market, the market mechanism being the one making possible the decrease of these differences from the economic activities. The success of the market mechanism in eliminating regional differences depends essentially on the condition of the existence of the prices competition and low transport costs and on the total mobility of the workforce and the capital. If these prerogatives are not fulfilled, then a concentration of the economic activity, of prosperity and of the workforce degree of employment in some regions could appear and a delay in the economic development, unemployment, and decrease in the standard of living could appear in other regions. This is why if the market mechanism is not controlled, a spiral effect could arise, in which the developed regions present the most favorable conditions for the companies as well as a very well developed infrastructure, a concentration of highly qualified workforce, available support for services, leaving to their choice the possibility of increasing or not the economic advantage compared to the poorly developed regions.

Usually, none of the developed regions will back down in the perspective of the development of another region. Hence, in the poorly developed areas, it is mandatory for the competent authorities to create conditions for the companies that had good results and that have the possibility of reinvesting.

Theoreticians like (Lazonick, 1984), (Glasmeier&Fuellhart, 1991), (Maskell& Malmberg, 1995) tried to apply the existing concepts (Neoclassical conception, keynesian, neomarxist, monetary theories have represented the main economic landmarks that contributed to the understanding and the efficiency of the regional development process), in order to describe the divergence phenomenon of growth methods from one territory to another, the serious consequences regarding interregional disparities at the

European Union level, due to the complexity of the European economic integration process could be only alleviated by applying integrated measures of regional policy.

Three approaches were remembered in the beginning having as main purpose the analysis of the economic growth discrepancies among regions: neoclassical approach (at the end of the XIX century and in the beginning of the XX century, economic thought was dominated by the neoclassical school. Even if regional economic problems were not revised by this school, it managed to influence some researchers that approached regional problems, like G.H Borts and J.L Stein), the one concentrated on exports and the theory of uneven development.

The only theory that established a connection between the evolution of a region and its endogenous features is the theory of uneven development (in the beginning of the 1960s' a series of theories of uneven development like center-periphery were highlighted, among the most important representatives of this being John Friedman, Stiard Holland and Gunar Myrdal. The main idea of the development theory, as a chronological differentiation was formulated by the Nobel Prize economy sciences winner, Gunar Myrdal). This considers that the growth process is in essence and permanently unequal, which contradicts totally the neoclassical theory (through its effect of amplification, endogenous growth of incomes creates differences between areas and regions which lead to the appearance of a process of cumulative and circular causality.

A series of studies (Armstrong&Wickerman, 1995) indicates two different tendencies regarding the regional development in the European Union: the alleviation and the increase of the regional disparities, respectively convergence and divergence in regional development, which have succeeded in different time moments.

By all odds, the simplest explanation of regional disparities is the diachronic type, the regions going over a series of phases in the development process, phases that did not start in the same time in all regions.

The implementation of measure of regional policy at local level necessitates their correlation with the existent tendencies at the:

- European level for establishing the actions and general objectives;
- National level for adapting the general actions to the national context, as well as for monitoring of their implementation and delivering administrative assistance;
- Regional level with a fundamental role in selecting projects, resources allocation for these and their implementation monitoring
- Local level with a role in engaging local actors, projects design and their implementation promotion
- The obligation of cooperation and collaboration at interregional, regional as well as national/ European for implementing integrated and efficient measures for regional development thus appears.

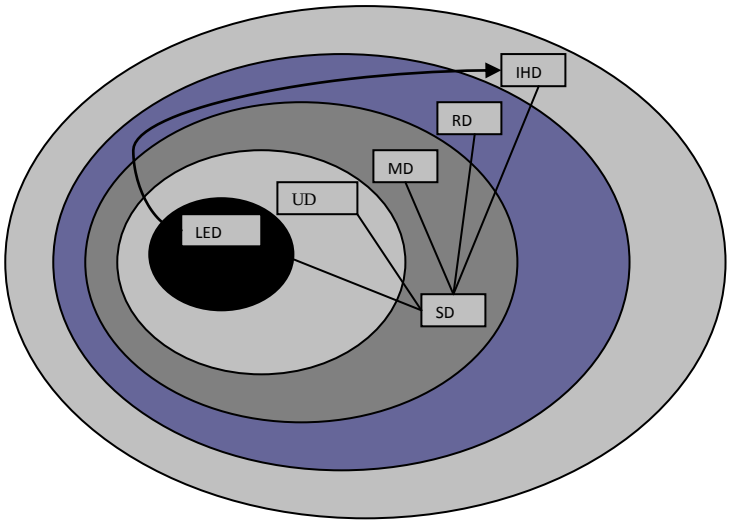
Hence it is recommended that the ensemble of regional development policy instruments to assist the national economic policy of each EU Member State, in order to reduce the existent inequalities among the living standards of the Union's citizens.

CONCLUSION. THE APPEARANCE OF A NEW CONCEPT. INTEGRATED HOMOGENOUS DEVELOPEMENT

Integrated homogenous development (the outline of the integrated homogenous development will be attained through using in the graphic representation including the concept of regional development. This won't be presented as such during this chapter, considering that a series of main aspects of this process have been developed in previous chapters, and in the future, a special chapter will be dedicated to this process as well as for the features of its applicability in Romania) is reached when the attainment of a balance from the perspective of the other development dimensions previously presented can be observed. Integrated homogenous development implies the intersection of the measures that aim local development with the ones that aim urban development and accompanied by a series of sustainable development representative features.

For a better understanding of what integrated homogenous development aims it is necessary to have a graphic representation of the method through which these concepts become interdependent (figure no.1 Concepts interdependence).

Figure no. 1 – Influences and determinations among models – graphic representation
Key:
LED – Local economic development;
UD – Urban development;
MD – Metropolitan development;
SD – Sustainable development;
RD – Regional development;
IHD – Integrated homogenous development.
IHD = LED+UD+MD+SD+RD



Source: D. Dincă, C. Dumitrică, Urban development and planning, 2010, p. 113

Graphical representation of the interdependence concepts aims in offering an overview of the method in which the evolution of the development processes through

specific techniques and methods has determined the appearance of new development dimensions like urban, metropolitan dimension, sustainable and regional, all these representing in fact local development dimensions. From the territorial point of view, local development is more ample, aiming besides others the interregional and crossborder level. The other forms – urban, metropolitan or regional – have in view different territories – urban areas, metropolitan areas, regions. An increase of the approach complexity and an increase of the sustainable development integration for these types of local development have been ascertained.

Each of these dimensions has a series of specific features that contribute in achieving an integrated homogenous development focused on an interdependence of the systems, achieving thus a self adjustable development mechanism.

The positioning of local development in the center of the system has as purposes:
To demonstrate the fact that initially, the development process had strong endogenous features and subsequently as a new development level was reached, exogenous factors were more and more present, other features of the development being involved (e.g. DU – Urban development, which has as main objective of activity of spatial planning and urbanism).

To underline the importance of the factors and the local particularities in reaching a homogenous development at the region's level.

Together with the amplifying of the economic processes that subsequently attracted

the necessity of a structural development of the urban system, the appearance of the metropolitan areas in the context of urban development can be mentioned. The placement on the same development level with the appearance of the metropolitan areas, moment that corresponds from our point of view to a series of detrimental implications on the environment, sustainable development (D.D.) pinpoints the achievement of a development level whose continuation, without the implementation and respecting procedures that are aiming at the environment protection, can lead to the situation in which this development system is no longer a balanced one. Not respecting the requirements regarding sustainable development is jeopardizing irreparably the possibility of achieving an integrated homogenous development.

Regional development through the process complexity must be positioned in the final part of the representation. Regional development has as main objective the achievement of a convergence between the local development elements, sustainable development and the ones of the urban and metropolitan development. The method through which the regional development process succeeds in creating a balance in using those elements, as well as the adaptation and implementation of the external economic measures at local level, accompanied by the promotion of the development models successfully implemented at local level, will represent that set of necessary actions for reducing the intra and interregional disparities that is influencing in fact the achievement of a homogenous development in the region.

Achieving an integrated homogenous development is directly related to the mechanisms that are the basis of a sustainable local economy development, the importance of the relation of the two concepts being graphically represented. The graphic representation should not lead us to the conclusion that local development is the beginning

and integrated homogenous development represents the process finality. The analysis of the representation must lead us to the conclusion that local development is superposed over the integrated homogenous development, constituting its essence, its central element, while the other dimensions are phases that appear in the evolution of local economic development.

Although initially it has been considered that homogenous development can be achieved through the implementation of centralized economic policies, in the 80s', the failure of regional development attempts based on a centralized model of intervention has determined the recommendation of "development of the basis", i.e. strengthening local capacities, by taking into account the local population objectives and its aspirations regarding development. This new perspective yet ancient, if we take into account that the first types of development were identified at local level, grants a distinct importance to certain factors, like the nature and the form of politic institutions, the need of a sustainable help for the regional, metropolitan public power, the existence of a modern infrastructure connected to a reasonable density of the population.

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