

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS OF ROMANIA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE LISBON STRATEGY

Judeu Viorina - Maria

Univeristatea Agora Facultatea de Drept și Științe Economice Piața Tineretului nr.8 email: viorina@univagora.ro tel. 0722.762.939

Bologa Gabriela

Univeristatea Agora Facultatea de Drept și Științe Economice Piața Tineretului nr.8 email: gabi_fiat@yahoo.com tel. 0724.214.533

Building a great infrastructure with strong policies and institutions for private sector development and social cohesion and inclusion means that waste large amounts of resources without achieving a sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the region. Improving infrastructure will be important to support economic growth and regional integration. The existence of infrastructure, transport, energy, telecommunications and water, is the key to growth.

Key words: economic development, social development, employment, integration.

The Objectives of the Lisbon Strategy

The objective of Lisbon on GDP is to maintain a GDP growth average of about 3%.

The objectives of the Lisbon strategy for employment, as specified in the European Employment Strategy, covering the three objectives of global full employment, improving quality and labour productivity and strengthening social cohesion. Projected targets by 2010 are as follows:

- An overall employment rate of 70% in 2010 (67% in 2005).
- An employment rate among women by 60% in 2010 (57% in 2005).
- An employment rate for older people (aged between 55 and 64 years) in 2010 to 50%.
- An increase by 2010 to 5 years the average age at which people leave the labour market (retirement effective medium to ensure the average of 65 years in the EU until 2010).
- The availability of childcare by 2010 for 90% of children aged 3 years and the age for compulsory school and 33% of children aged less than 3 years (target set by the European Council in Barcelona in 2002).

The educational objectives of the Lisbon 2010 (set in Barcelona in March 2002) are as follows:

- To reduce the number of those who leave school before the term by 50% (between 2000 and 2010).
- At least 85% of those aged 22 years and 80% of those aged 25 and 64 years of European Union studies have complete upper secondary education.
- Level of participation in continuing education in the European Union must be at least 12.5% of employed adults (25-64 age groups).
- Reducing the average rate of EU school abandons below 10%.
- An increase MSTE graduates (engineering and technology) at least 15% by 2010.

European Strategy for Employment in view:

- Public investment should focus on ensuring adequate access to those most in need, particularly people with low skills, disadvantaged groups and individuals engaged in small companies.
- Increase funding for mathematics, science, technology and engineering (MSTE) studies, increasing the number of graduates and reduce the imbalance between the sexes in these areas.
- Halving the proportion of those aged 15 years who have reduced capacity in the areas of reading, mathematics and scientific literature, to improve the basic skills of the workforce

The targets and goals of the Lisbon Strategy for Research and Development and Information Society are:

- Total expenditure for Research & Development to reach 3% of GDP by 2010 (1% supported by government spending and spending 2% of firms supported).
- Costs of undertaking the research and development to reach 67% of total expenditure by 2010.
- Connecting to the Internet houses to reach 30%.
- Governments to provide services 100% online 2010.

Unique System Management Information

An essential role in achieving these targets has *Unique System Management Information*.

The Unified Management Information (SMIS) is a national information system that supports internet all institutions in Romania that implement National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and Operational Programs (OPs). The system addresses requirements that are found at all levels of management (Managing Authority, Intermediate Bodies, Certification Authority, etc.) and all phases of a cycle (programming, requests for proposals, contracting, monitoring, evaluation, payments, audit and control). SMIS main characteristic is that of offering its users a unique mechanism to assist them in performing their duties daily.

As a monitoring tool, SMIS is the leading provider of information on the implementation, both at project level and program, allowing monitoring reports to be generated automatically.

The Unified Management Information (SMIS) was developed under the coordination of ACIS closely with representatives of all the structures involved in the management of Structural Funds, and during the implementation, SMIS will be managed and developed by the Authority for Coordination of Structural Instruments.

The SMIS design follows three fundamental principles: data availability (data are available directly following a request from an authorized user), data confidentiality (data are provided only for authorized users to access certain information), data integrity (data processing should be executed only by authorized users through authorized). To implement the three principles above system supports multiple users classified into a number of user groups/roles. In this way access is easily organized and managed and access to information can be fully audited and accessed in a flexible manner.

To provide an effective tool of management, operational model of SMIS is based on a set of sub-systems, which together reflect the broad range of functionality that the system is, designed to carry as follows:

- **Programming**, which allows recording and alteration of the information in the NSRF broken down at lower levels on PO's, priority axes, key areas of intervention and operation;
- **Project management** (registration and modification of key project information, including the contracts);
- **Monitoring**, which allows assessment of progress in the implementation of Structural and Cohesion Funds and to target (where applicable). It also allows automated aggregation of bottom-up value of real primary data which are recorded at lower levels of the System;
- **Audit and Control**, which will record the results and checks out the audit and create audit reports;
- **Management of flow of funds**, which will record estimates of payment applications, with inputs of funds, projects revenues, suspensions and recoveries of funds.

Targets and goals of the Lisbon Strategy for Environment

Priorities identified in Goteborg have been translated into targets as follows:

- Combating the growth of volume and volume of traffic congestion, noise and pollution;
- Stopping the use of resources and waste generation;
- Responding to citizen concerns regarding the safety and food quality, use of chemicals, treatment of infectious diseases, resistance to antibiotics, etc.;

- Evolution to an indicative target of 22% by 2010 for electricity generated from renewable sources (the Member States have separate targets for renewable electricity);
- Reduce emissions (e.g. the Kyoto targets). The objective for 2008-2012 is to reduce emissions by 8% compared to 1989 and by 5% compared with 1990 levels;
- Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010;
- Separation of GDP growth in transport, in particular by moving from road to other modes of transport and giving priority to infrastructure investments in protected environment.

The infrastructure to support economic development and regional integration in Europe

Improving infrastructure will be important to support economic growth and regional integration. The existence of infrastructure, transport, energy, telecommunications and water, is the key to growth. In addition, without adequate transport systems to law between countries, trade can not grow, without adequate communication facilities; citizens of different countries can not have a secure contact between them, which constrains the possibilities for trade. The existence of adequate infrastructure is essential for social cohesion in any region: the opportunity to travel, to interact, to meet to trade is required to create a multicultural society that respects each other is intolerant, appreciates and recognizes differences and values cultural.

It is important to stress that, while infrastructure is important, is not sufficient to promote growth, social inclusion and cohesion. Investments without the necessary reforms to strengthen institutions and promote trade and investment in the private sector will not be sustained and will generate benefits to their full potential

In addition, without an investment management policy and supporting social interaction and tolerance in the region will not be sufficient to promote social cohesion. Creation of democratic and open society that allows social and cultural diversity, including ethnic diversity is as important as investment in infrastructure to facilitate mobility, communication and cooperation.

Financial needs for infrastructure in the countries of area are high. Nearly half of public investment in the countries of the area is infrastructure. These levels of investments are aligned environments seen in other market economies that appear it is possible that they are low in light of special circumstances in the region, where infrastructure must be rehabilitated or rebuilt because of war or destruction of civil negligence, and the prospect of improved integration in the region and in Europe.

Also many countries of the area may not increase costs and/or public loans due to domestic macroeconomic considerations, may also be difficult to pick appropriate funds from traditional sources. For this reason, increasing competition and improving the overlap quality/price services will be very important for progress in the marketing utilities and private involvement in financing infrastructure development that are still at the top in the area. Experience of developing countries shows that it is very possible to attract private investment and particularly in telecommunications, energy and water.

The regional dimension is important. First, significant efficiency gains can be achieved by pursuing development infrastructure at the regional level and not nationally. Because most countries in the area are small, developing investment policies and infrastructure at national level does not allow exploitation of economies of scale, which are important in transport and energy. Second, because profits from regional projects are carried out outside national borders, fair financing mechanisms, and generally sharing the hardships of these regional projects will be established at regional level. Thirdly, development is constrained by infrastructure problems (weak institutional arrangements and needs major rehabilitation and reconstruction) that are shared by the countries of the area, this ensuring a coordinated approach, regional annul them.

Regional Operational Program for Romania

In accordance with the regulations, regions of Romania are eligible under Objective Convergence GDP whereas it is below 75% of EU GDP.

Regional Operational Program from 2007 to 2013 (POR) includes all the 8 development regions of Romania, established by Law no. 151/1998 of regional development, as amended by Law no. 315/2004, in compliance with Regulation EC Nr. 1059/2003 concerning the establishment of a common statistical classification of territorial units.

During the 2007-2013 programming period, Romania will receive 19,667 million from the Structural and Cohesion of the European Union. Of this amount 3726 million will be allocated to the Regional Operational Program (ROP).

Financial Plan of ROP - annual allocation of each fund in the operational program.

Operational Program (CCI number): 2007RO161PO001

Annually, the sources of funding in Euro:

THE YEARS	Structural Funds. (1)	Cohesion Fund. (2)	Total (3) = (1)+(2)
2007	330.168.339	-	330.168.339
2008	404.126.047	-	404.126.047
2009	441.135.485	-	441.135.485
2010	523.721.833	-	523.721.833
2011	556.767.943	-	556.767.943
2012	663.832.914	-	663.832.914
2013	806.269.201	-	806.269.201
General Total 2007-2013	3.726.021.762	-	3.726.021.762

Source: Regional Operational Program for Romania, 2007 – 2013

Development is the framework for developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of regional development strategies and programs of economic and social cohesion that these are implemented.

Territorial disparities in terms of economic and social development are in a process of growth throughout the country, although in some cases the pace of change was so fast that it is difficult to identify structural models. Obviously, however, that the Bucharest - Ilfov most developed region of the country and shows signs of congestion. Meanwhile, there is a slight upward trend which is concentrated in western regions (South, Central & Western) and less in the eastern regions (Northeast, Southeast, South and South-West), although the dynamics actually be better assessed at the sub, where they are very clear signs of decoupling economic marginal areas situated along the border including along the Danube, strengthening the old historical trends, and other local factors can be better evaluated.

Given those presented above is important to know that all these regional problems could be solved to a greater or lesser extent by the Regional Operational Program from 2007 to 2013 (POR) and respecting the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy.

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