

The prerequisites of social development when planning for decentralization

Cătălin Daniel DUMITRICĂ

National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania
catalin.dumitrica@administratiepublica.eu

Teodora I. BIȚOIU

National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania
teodora.bitoiu@snsps.ro

Dragoș DINCĂ

National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania
dragosdinca2000@yahoo.com

Abstract. *The issue of decentralization is widely debated, regulated and analyzed in official EU documents and literature. The research topic is extensive and includes the analysis of the economic dimension, legal and administrative dimensions that contribute to the development of an interdisciplinary research.*

The paper is part of a larger research project aiming to design a polar diagram for the periodical assessment of the degree of regional development and, in its first phase, it has already established and defined the areas and their specific indicators (i.e. Social Development and Economy & Market, Environmental protection, Governance and Regulation, Spatial Planning, Education and Training, Science and Research).

In the second phase we aim to determine whether the local government has the management, economic and administrative capacity to facilitate the implementation of decentralization policies in various areas of development and what are the results obtained after applying the decentralization measures.

The impact of local and regional policies initiated in order to facilitate the implementation of the decentralization process, must be analyzed through a regular monitoring of the fluctuations recorded by a comprehensive range of regional indicators whose development depends on the success of the decentralization process.

This paper therefore aims to conduct a comparative analysis regarding the evolution of the key indicators on sustainable development, public health, education and training at the level of the eight development regions in Romania, trying to determine to what extent the evolution or the involution of these indicators at the level of the local government, is the result of the legislative package on decentralization, the effectiveness of the administrative management, or it is only generated by their economic particularities.

Keywords: decentralization, sustainable development, public health, education and training, local government.

JEL Classification: H5, H7, R5.

1. General aspects regarding the decentralization process in Romania

The development of an administrative system focused on the applicability of the principle of decentralization in Romania was possible with the adoption of the new Constitution in 1991, which was the beginning of the decentralization process, materialized by developing new autonomous administrative structures that formed the basis of local public administration in Romania.

The decentralization process in Romania was and still is extremely difficult, the Romanian administrative system being in constant recalibration regarding the transfer of competencies from central to local level and in terms of establishing the degree of local autonomy, from 1991 until now having many trends of centralization and decentralization of the system.

Funding the local government was one of the main steps of decentralization, a series of regulations⁽¹⁾ in this regard contributing to the increase of the degree of local autonomy through the development of essential changes in the structure and funding of local public authorities by developing the local taxes and charges system.

Continuing the process of transfer of competencies to the administrative-territorial units required the development of a new legal framework represented by Law no. 215/2001 regarding local public administration, new legal framework which set the principles, rules, tasks and mechanisms that could be used by local public administration, with special attention being given to the provision and delivery of local public⁽²⁾ services to citizens.

The transfer of competencies to local public administration continued, but these steps did not benefit from the allocation of own local financial resources, necessary for the provision of quality public services.

In 2006 the Government of Romania has advanced to a new stage in terms of calibration of the decentralization process, a number of laws being adopted⁽³⁾ /revised⁽⁴⁾ to meet the international commitments assumed by Romania in order to join the European Union.

Efforts by the central government to implement a process of decentralization were supported by the representatives of the associations of local authorities, which on 29 March 2009 adopted the "Agreement on the decentralization of public administration".

All in all, the agreement included the categories of competences to be decentralized and identified the sectors⁽⁵⁾ that would be affected, among them identifying the areas of *sustainable development, public health, education and training*, areas whose indicators are the subject of this research.

The economic crisis, which started in 2008, has required the adoption at central level of certain measures with a strong budgetary impact, both at central and local level. Such measures aimed at wages cuts in seamlessly with 25% of the budgetary personnel in parallel with government measures for decentralization in sectors such as education, health, agriculture, culture, youth and sport, which allowed in 2010 the transfer⁽⁶⁾ of a total of 368 hospitals towards local public administration.

The local public administration was facing a real challenge, with the obligation to demonstrate that it has the *managerial and financial capacity* to manage decentralized areas in a manner allowing both their functionality as well as their improved performance level.

2. What do indicators tell us?

In the present paper, we aim – through benchmarking of data on indicators considered relevant for the three areas by the research team (*sustainable development, public health, education and training*) – to determine to what extent the evolution or the involution of these indicators at the level of the local government is the result of the *legislative package on decentralization, the effectiveness of the administrative management*, or it is only generated by their *economic particularities*.

The analysis of *public health and education and training* indicators must be carried out by reference to the concept of sustainable development and implicitly to indicators of sustainable development to ensure sustainable human development.

2.1. The sustainable development indicators

The process of sustainable development is the result of an integrated approach with regard to development mechanisms at local, metropolitan and regional/central levels.

The evolution of indicators considered by the research team as relevant in the context of sustainable development is directly influenced on the one hand by the public policies developed centrally as well as by development strategies developed locally, strategies that are designed to implement locally government public policy priorities.

In this context, we believe that the analysis of specific indicators of sustainable development by reference to a series of statistics compiled at macro level is an element of balance, designed to provide an objective view, regarding the evolution or involution of analyzed indicators.

The set of analyzed indicators (Dumitrică et al., 2016) (Number of active entrepreneurs, Area of artificial regeneration, Municipal waste recycling rate collected, The coverage degree of population to garbage collection services, Population connected to wastewater treatment system) will try to provide an interdisciplinary approach in terms of analyzing the existence of a balance between the four key dimensions of sustainable development, namely human sustainability, social sustainability, economic sustainability, environmental sustainability.

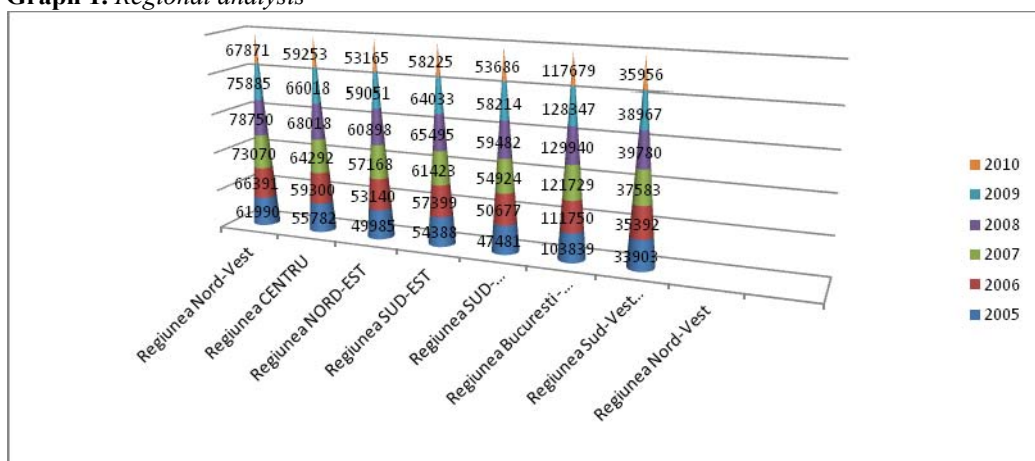
Table 1. Sustainable development indicators

Selected indicator	Macroregional analysis	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of active entrepreneurs	Macroregion 1 ⁽⁷⁾	117772	125691	137362	146751	141903	127124				
	Macroregion 2 ⁽⁸⁾	104373	110539	118591	126393	123084	111390				
	Macroregion 3 ⁽⁹⁾	151320	162427	176653	189422	186561	171365				
	Macroregion 4 ⁽¹⁰⁾	76737	81666	87426	92401	90148	81926				
Area of artificial regeneration (ha)	Macroregion 1	4917	4250	3192	3262	3595	3257	3609	3785	3390	3646
	Macroregion 2	5673	6673	3941	3373	3915	3944	4828	4007	4262	6524
	Macroregion 3	1165	1584	1623	1403	1405	1171	1102	1029	983	978
	Macroregion 4	2634	3026	1960	3206	2047	1734	1960	2205	1802	136
Municipal waste recycling rate collected (kg / capita /year)	Macroregion 1				309	255	275	234			
	Macroregion 2				240	227	223	243			
	Macroregion 3				265	252	278	263			
	Macroregion 4				241	258	214	208			
The coverage degree of population to garbage collection services (%)	Macroregion 1				64	76	80	84			
	Macroregion 2				45	57	68	77			
	Macroregion 3				61	66	77	78			
	Macroregion 4				46	53	53	60			
Population connected to wastewater treatment system (Nr. of persons)	Macroregion 1		2144248	2151114	2221047	2259651	2291386	2306941	2314722	2337577	2433583
	Macroregion 2		1840854	1850179	1875957	1864971	1911716	2026137	2025275	2210348	2270143
	Macroregion 3		870477	910139	898374	896569	914386	2665754	2682817	2689238	2721461
	Macroregion 4		1213076	1218967	1219786	1215334	1464616	1569942	1618422	1646420	1573075

Source: data gathered from the National Statistics Institute, available on-line <http://www.insse.ro/>, accessed on March 2016.

▪ Number of Active Entrepreneurs

The first indicator, **Number of Active Entrepreneurs** allows the analysis of the private sector dynamics and its trends of its development, both locally and regionally, offering a first set of information regarding the composition of economic sustainable development.

Graph 1. Regional analysis

Source: <http://www.insse.ro/>

Following the regional comparative analysis performed for the indicator number of active Entrepreneurs, we learned that the Bucharest-Ilfov region ranks first in terms of number of active Entrepreneurs within the time period analyzed, seeing their steady increase until 2010. At the opposite pole lies South-West region which has the lowest growth rate in terms of number of active Entrepreneurs in relation to other development regions.

Regarding the indicator number 2 Area of artificial regeneration after the macro regional analysis at the level of the development macro regions 1, 3, 4 a decrease in the number of hectares that have benefited from artificial regeneration can be observed, while macro region number 2 is the only one which records the level of 2014 compared to 2005 an increase in the surface of land artificially regenerated. Fluctuations in this indicator, correlated with the results recorded by the other indicators are representative for the fourth dimension of sustainable development, environmental sustainability.

Regarding the data for the categories of indicators for municipal waste recycling rates collected, and the coverage degree of population to garbage collection services, the research found that the data is only available for the period 2008-2011, the period in which at the level of the 4 macro regions regarding the indicator municipal waste recycling rates collected, there are fluctuations, both positive and negative regarding the progress of the indicator, being identified an increase in the macro region 2 followed by a decrease in the level of other macro regions for 2008-2011.

Regarding the indicator coverage degree of population to garbage collection services there are recorded positive fluctuations, observing an average growth of approximately 20% at the level of the 4 macro regions analyzed. The last indicator population connected to wastewater treatment system enables the analysis of data for the period 2006-2014, observing a considerable evolution at the level of the 4 macro regions of the number of people who benefited from the connection to wastewater treatment system.

2.2. Public health and education and training indicators

Sustainable development cannot be designed without developing an educational and healthcare system designed to ensure high performance, this being the reason for which educational and the health indicators are analyzed in the context of sustainable development indicators.

Thus to ensure a sustainable development, central and local authorities should focus primarily on two fundamental areas such as Education and Training and Public Health.

The development of integrated measures which have as their main effect local / regional development will have to start from the particularities of the two main areas of development, bearing in mind their development tendencies.

The proposed set of indicators to be considered in the two areas of development is aiming: to analyze the public health perspective (Mortality rate, Infant death rate, Natural population growth, Number of hospitals beds per 1000 inhabitants, Number of doctors per 1000 inhabitants) in order to determine the demographic evolution, the system's ability to provide specialized health care assistance, as this information will be the foundation for the start of public policy at the local level with a direct impact on regional

and macro regional levels. The system analysis for the Education and Training based on certain indicators such as: Economically active population, Employment rate, The education level of adults 25-64 years, The total school population on macro regions, regions of development and counties, individuals level of computers skills will allow for the correlation of information such as educational level of the population and its correspondence with the labor market.

The analysis will allow the identification of possible development directions and integrated measures at local and regional level that contribute to the growth of workforce employment by developing training programs with local and regional impact.

Table 2. Public health indicators

Selected indicator	Macroregional analysis	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Mortality rate (Deaths per 1000 inhabitants)	Macroregion 1	11.4	11.3	10.8	10.8	11.0	10.9	10.6	11.8	11.6	11.8
	Macroregion 2	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.8	11.0	11.3	10.9	13.0	12.7	13.
	Macroregion 3	12.0	11.8	11.5	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.6	12.7	12.2	12.5
	Macroregion 4	12.7	12.5	12.0	12.1	12.3	12.4	11.9	13.2	12.9	13.4
Infant death rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births)	Macroregion 1	13.7	13.4	12.1	10.7	10.1	8.8	9.4	9.2	9.0	8.4
	Macroregion 2	16.9	14.8	13.6	11.9	10.9	11.5	10.6	12.2	11.0	10.4
	Macroregion 3	13.6	13.0	9.7	9.8	8.7	8.7	8.3	8.0	7.9	7.7
	Macroregion 4	15.0	14.3	12.1	11.3	10.9	9.8	9.1	10.5	9.9	8.6
Natural population growth (Persons)	Macroregion 1	-6012	-6309	-5275	-2560	-3840	-5721	-7301	-11655	-10808	-9870
	Macroregion 2	-1592	-977	-2557	-2679	-5887	-11629	-13761	-21052	-20654	-20318
	Macroregion 3	-16349	-14697	-14046	-11555	-10279	-12829	-16668	-20670	-19936	-19444
	Macroregion 4	-17128	-16628	-15359	-14508	-14819	-17345	-17467	-19625	-19414	-19890
Number of hospitals beds per 1000 inhabitants	Macroregion1	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	6.9
	Macroregion2	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.0	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.9
	Macroregion3	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.0
	Macroregion 4	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.6
Number of doctors per 1000 inhabitants	Macroregion 1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9
	Macroregion2	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1
	Macroregion3	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2
	Macroregion 4	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0

Source: data gathered from the National Statistics Institute, available on-line <http://www.insse.ro/>, accessed on March 2016.

The analysis of indicators on the public health system gives us some data regarding its functionality and achieved results. The analysis of data on mortality rates reveals a stability of data between minimum 10 and maximum 14 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants in the four development macro regions for the period considered in this case 2005 and 2014.

Regarding infant death rate a concern of the central and local authorities to reduce the figures related to this indicator can be observed, seeing a decline in infant death averaging 5 to 6 deaths under one year old per 1,000 live births, thus foreshadowing a downward trend in the coming period, as well.

Representing the value of live births and number of deaths in a reference period and representing accordingly the difference between births and deaths reported per 1,000 inhabitants, the values for natural population growth including data for infant death rates are entirely negative for the period under review 2005-2014, which means the natural decrease of population and the trend being of negative values increase.

A possible cause for the negative evolution of these indicators can be drawn from an analysis of results for indicators related to number of hospitals beds per 1,000 inhabitants

respectively number of doctors per 1,000 inhabitants, a relatively small number of beds in average about 6 beds per one thousand inhabitants in a period of approximately 9 years and an average of about 2.6 doctors per one thousand inhabitants.

The correlation of data on the number of doctors per one thousand inhabitants respectively the number of beds per on thousand inhabitants reflects one of the main problems of the public health system, represented on one side by an inadequate endowment generating both directly and indirectly a chain effect in terms of the indicators evolution regarding health professionals with direct impact on the negative figures after analyzing the natural population growth indicator.

A possible solution to improve the public health system indicators can be offered by the educational system that can generate further momentum on the economic environment and local and regional economic development. Regarding the indicator on economically active population at the macro regions level it can be observed an average of about 2,416 thousands active persons in conjunction with an employment rate of about 60% at the level of analyzed macro regions. Regarding the educational level of adults, the data offers a view of the level of education of adults in relation to the three levels of education higher level of education, high school level of education and low education levels, and could easily see a significant ratio in terms of persons with an average level of education in relation to persons with high levels of education, respectively low.

It can be seen as the percentage of persons who have a low education level is average to about 1.8 times higher than the percentage of persons who have a higher level of education for the period 2004-2014.

Data on school population at development macro regions level are available for the period 2011 to 2013, finding an average of about 929,948 persons registered in the education system.

Table 3. Education and training

Selected indicator	Macroregional analysis	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Economically active population (thousands of persons)	Macroregion 1	2276	2265	2366	2345	2320	2255	2201	2150	2177	2180	2190
	Macroregion 2	3078	3029	3062	3039	2898	2811	2726	2689	2698	2678	2670
	Macroregion 3	2631	2607	2667	2667	2659	2621	2603	2528	2551	2577	2596
	Macroregion 4	1973	1939	1945	1936	1931	1889	1835	1821	1806	1767	1787
Employment rate %	Macroregion 1	56,5	57,1	59,3	59,7	60,8	58,5	57,1	56,6	58,2	58,8	59,5
	Macroregion 2	61,3	61,6	62,7	63,2	63,6	62,8	61,3	60,6	61,4	61,1	61,3
	Macroregion 3	59,3	59,3	61,9	62,4	63,6	62,8	62,4	59,9	60,6	60,8	62,2
	Macroregion 4	59,2	59,3	60,3	60,7	62,0	61,3	59,6	59,9	60,4	59,4	60,8
The education level of adults 25-64 years (higher education)%	Macroregion 1	1.9.3	9.5	10.3	11.0	11.5	11.8	11.9	12.8	13.5	14.2	14.4
		62.1	63.5	63.8	63.8	64.1	63.3	63.1	62.8	62.7	62.1	58.7
		28.6	27.0	25.9	25.2	24.4	24.9	25.0	24.4	23.8	23.7	26.9
	Macroregion 2	8.1	9.0	9.8	10.0	10.7	10.7	11.0	11.8	12.5	12.1	12.0
		59.3	59.5	59.3	59.9	59.3	58.8	57.9	57.4	57.6	58.7	55.3
		32.6	31.5	30.9	30.1	30.0	30.5	31.1	30.8	29.9	29.2	32.7
	Macroregion 3	14.5	15.2	16.2	16.0	16.7	17.1	18.0	19.8	20.5	21.2	22.1
		59.5	60.3	60.8	61.5	61.3	60.6	59.4	58.7	58.9	58.6	54.6
		26.0	24.5	23.0	22.5	22.0	22.3	22.6	21.5	20.6	20.2	23.3
	Macroregion 4	10.2	10.4	10.6	11.3	12.9	13.7	13.3	13.8	14.3	14.2	14.3
		59.8	61.1	62.6	62.8	61.9	61.3	61.2	61.3	62.1	62.0	60.3
		30.0	28.5	26.8	25.9	25.2	25.0	25.5	24.9	23.6	23.8	25.4

Selected indicator	Macroregional analysis	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
The total school population on macro regions, regions of development and counties. (No of persons)	Macroregion 1								972356	948950	932004	
	Macroregion 2								1152491	1131315	1104360	
	Macroregion 3								969403	944768	925061	
	Macroregion 4								729265	709293	689508	
				2007			2008			2009		
				Low	Medium	High				Low	Medium	High
Individuals level of computers skills (%)	Macroregion 1			14.1	10.2	5.0				6.3	10.9	8.4
	Macroregion 2			11.7	10.5	3.7				17.9	10.3	8.9
	Macroregion 3			15.9	12.4	5.3				16.9	11.1	12.6
	Macroregion 4			15.9	8.7	6.3				5.7	10.1	7.8

Source: data gathered from the National Statistics Institute, available on-line <http://www.insse.ro/>, accessed on March 2016.

In terms of digital literacy, data for the individuals' level of computers skills are available for the years 2007 and 2009, 2007 being the first year that ran monitoring of such an indicator, the data series is not continuous because the indicator was not pursued every year.

3. How can local governance influence indicators?

The indicators presented and analyzed at the development macro region level is mainly the result of government public policies carried out in the analyzed areas (sustainable development, public health and education and training), but equally analyzed data is the result of action or inaction of local government on areas essential for local development.

Local government practiced under the principle of decentralization, can directly influence the evolution of these indicators by their prioritization in the development strategies elaborated at the local community level.

In order to determine to what extent the evolution or the involution of these indicators at the level of the local government, is the result of the *legislative package on decentralization, the effectiveness of the administrative management*, or it is only generated by their *economic particularities*, a brief analysis of the development strategies drawn up at the level of 100 small and medium towns in Romania will be developed.

Following the research will try to determine if the analyzed areas and the need to improve these indicators was a priority when drawing up development strategies.

In order to facilitate the identification of information, the socio-economic structure analysis was analyzed as part of the development strategies and implicitly the nature of base line indicators used to develop the 100 development strategies for the period 2014-2020⁽¹¹⁾.

Table 4. *Information obtained from the analysis of development strategies*

Base line indicators used in the socio-economic analysis	Nature of the information provided
The administrative surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data regarding the percentage of administrative area division, by ownership; ▪ Data regarding the evolution of land use categories (arable land, pastures, orchards and vineyards, etc.); ▪ Information on incorporated area, housing.
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The population density. ▪ Division by age group. ▪ Marital status, education, natural population movement, the state of employment and degree of poverty, changes in the number of registered unemployed and the unemployment rate.
Means of access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data regarding national / county roads contributing to facilitating access to the city; ▪ The structure of the network of streets, parking lots, sidewalks, detailing the structure of the road network in cities, rail information and information on water supply, heating, public lighting network, postal services and telecommunications.
Health and social assistance infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information regarding health services, which are providers of health services, indicators on health services, welfare services.
Education infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information concerning on the one hand educational infrastructure and the specialized personnel data; ▪ Evolution of the number of students per school years; ▪ Their results and statistical situations regarding the granting of scholarships.
Culture, Religions, Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information regarding the number of libraries; ▪ The number of houses of culture, publications, magazines, celebrations and local traditions;
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information regarding the structure of economic entities in the analyzed cities, depending on their field of activity, evolution of companies analyzed within the city; ▪ The main businesses in the city; ▪ Information on industry, agriculture, land use categories situation, the utilized agricultural area, unutilized agricultural land and other areas (hectares) by use, crop production, agricultural productivity, and livestock.
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information regarding environment quality, water quality, air quality, soil quality; ▪ Information regarding waste management, green spaces, forest; ▪ Information regarding natural hazards and emergency situations.
Public administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information regarding the administrative structure of analyzed cities and the functioning of local public administration.

After analyzing the socio-economic structure as integral part of the development strategies drawn up in 100 small and medium towns from Romania, for the period 2014-2020, there may be a real concern from local government to develop indicators covering areas analyzed, in this case sustainable development, public health and education and training.

In the socio-economic analysis, base line indicators regarding *demography, health and social assistance infrastructure, education infrastructure, environment could be identified*, indicators that demonstrate the concern that local government manifests for local development process, the analyzed data from the local development strategy, aiming directly or indirectly improving the macro region indicators analyzed.

Development strategies drafting and including those three areas analyzed as main objectives of local development, is in our opinion a result of the decentralization process.

Thus the decentralization contributes to a comprehensive process of raising awareness among local authorities, of their active role they play in the development of programs and an administrative management able to contribute to improving the performance of the

public health system, the education system with direct impact on the development process of integrated homogenous development.

The analyzed cities are from all the 4 development macro regions, allowing us to ascertain that the conditions for a unitary development of the indicators at the macro regional level are created, which will allow the emergence of bottom-up economic development mechanisms, facilitated by the decentralization process which will generate a chain reaction in terms of regional development and hence macro regional development.

4. Preliminary conclusions

This paper is part of a much wider research that aims to develop a management tool – polar diagram that allows an objective monitoring of the evolution of indicators selected and analyzed.

In the first part we aimed to develop a brief comparative analysis regarding the evolution of the indicators analyzed, taking as a starting point data provided by the National Statistics Institute, while in the second part of the paper to aimed to determine to what extent steps – having as main objective the improvement of the indicators analyzed in the first part - are taken at local level.

The analysis of the structure of development strategies has allowed the identification of a common denominator represented by the prioritization by the local government of the analyzed development areas.

The identification of current statistical data regarding the local public health system, local education and training system, local and sustainable development indicators for each of the 100 cities examined, showing the proof that local government is becoming aware about the problems.

Is local government ready for decentralization? It shall continue to be a crucial question. The data provided in the first part of the work aimed at general aspects of the decentralization process and the analysis of indicators at the macro regional level enabled us to state that the decentralization in Romania was the result of an insufficient programmed process, not focused on a real assessment of local administrative capacity.

The drafting of local development strategies, a prerequisite for attracting European funds currently offers an objective assessment of local level development, which allows determining integrated priorities development and, moreover, correlated priorities at the level of all the development process stakeholders.

The existence of the development strategies in all administrative-territorial units in Romania is therefore a first condition for the local government to be prepared for decentralization.

Notes

- (1) Legea administrației publice locale (Local public administration Law) nr. 69/1991, published in Monitorul Oficial (Official Gazette), Partea I, nr. 79 din 18/04/1996, O.G. nr. 15/1992, cu privire la impozitele și taxele locale (Government Ordinance no. 15/1992 regarding local taxes and charges), published in MOF, Partea I, nr. 209 din 26/08/1992; Legea nr. 27/1994 privind impozitele și taxele locale (Law no. 27/1994 regarding local taxes and charges) published in MOF nr. 127/24/05/1994.
- (2) Legea nr.326/2001 privind serviciile publice de gospodărire comunală (Law no. 326 / 2001 on public utility services), Ordonanța Guvernului nr. 86/2001, privind serviciile de transport public local de călători (Government Ordinance no. 86/2001 on local public transport services for passengers), Ordonanța Guvernului nr. 84/2001 privind serviciile publice comunitare de evidența persoanelor (Government Ordinance no. 84/2001 on the public community service of personal records).
- (3) Legea finanțelor publice locale nr. 273/2006 (Local Public Finance Law no. 273/2006); Legea cadru a descentralizării nr. 195/2006 (Decentralization framework law no. 195/2006).
- (4) Legea administrației publice locale nr. 215/2001 (Local public administration Law no. 215/2001), Legea privind instituția prefectului nr. 340/2004 (Law regarding the prefect institution no. 340/2004); Legea statutului funcționarului public nr. 188/1999 (Civil servant status law no. 188/1999).
- (5) Education, health, order, defense and public security, civil status and personal records services, social protection, agriculture, culture, youth and sport, environment, transport, urban planning, customer protection, social housing and for youth.
- (6) Hotărârea nr. 529/2010 (Decision no. 529/2010).
- (7) Macroregion 1 is formed by: NORTH-WEST region, CENTRE region.
- (8) Macroregion 2 is formed by: NORTH-EAST region, SOUTH-EAST region.
- (9) Macroregion 3 is formed by: SOUTH-MUNTENIA region, BUCHAREST-ILFOV region.
- (10) Macroregion 4 is formed by: SOUTH-WEST OLTENIA region, WEST region.
- (11) The analyzed development strategies were developed within the project: “Dezvoltarea capacității de planificare strategică la nivelul autorităților administrației publice locale ale orașelor din România” (Developing the capacity for strategic planning at the level of local authorities of cities in Romania), SMIS code 27520, Project co-financed from the European Social Fund through the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity Development, Project Beneficiary: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, Partners Association of Cities in Romania, Association of Secretaries of Towns in Romania for the period 2014-2020.

References

- Bițoiu, I.T. and Rădulescu, C., 2015. Do health securities ensure the provision of secure services? Ethics and efficiency-a two way street. Probleme actuale ale spațiului politico-juridic al UE. ediția a II-a. *Revista Română de Drept European*. Supliment, pp. 186-192.
- Dincă, D. and Dumitrică, C.D., 2013. Metropolitan development, phase in the urban development. *Journal of Public Administration. Finance and Law*, Issue 4, pp. 24-30.
- Dincă, D. and Dumitrică, C.D., 2015. The Theory of Minimal Risk in Local Development Processes, *Global Journal of Management and Business Research: A Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal* Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA) Online. *Administration and Management*, Vol. 15 Issue 9, Version 1.0. pp. 7-14.

- Dinu, I.T. and Dumitrică, C.D., 2014. Covering the social costs of market failure – the unsub of the value added. *Theoretical and Applied Economics*, Vol. XXI, No. 12(601), pp. 51-62.
- Dinu, I.T., Dumitrică, C.D. and Irimia, S.I., 2015. *Regional development and its decision-making pitfalls*. Editura Economică. București.
- Dumitrică, C.D. and Dincă, D., 2015. Integrated homogeneous development, result of an interdisciplinary approach, *Journal of Public Administration, Finance and Law*, Issue 8, pp. 34-44.
- Dumitrică, C.D. and Dinu, I.T., 2013. The metropolitan area as a knee-jerk response to the multilevel governance and its derived national public decisions, *Theoretical and Applied Economics* Vol. XX, No. 6(583), pp. 119-138.
- Dumitrică, C.D. Bițoiu, I.T. and Dincă, D., 2016. Assessing the regional development degree – step one: calibrating the polar diagram. *Theoretical and Applied Economics*, Vol. XXIII, No. 1(606), Spring, pp. 41-56.
- Rădulescu, C., Bițoiu, T. and Iliescu, D.B., 2015. The 5 Ed. of the public health services – An in-Depth adverse research brings to surface the maleficent practices and the malpractice. *Revista Română de Bioetică*, Vol. 13, No. 2.
- City development strategy: Broșteni, Bucecea, Darabani, Frasin, Hârlău, Milișăuți, Negrești, Săveni, Milișăuți, Milișăuți, Dolhasca, Babadag, Băneasa, Ianca, Isaccea, Mărășești, Negru Vodă, Nehoiu, Techirghiol, Târgu Bujor, Pogoanele, Sulina, Panciu, Făurei, Năvodari, Ovidiu, Amara, Căzănești, Boldești-Scăieni, Bolintin Vale, Budești, Bușteni, Fundulea, Lehliu-Gară, Mioveni, Mizil, Răcari, Sinaia, Slănic, Titu, Topoloveni, Urlați, Videle, Băbeni, Berbești, Corabia, Corabia, Drăgănești-Olt, Filiași, Novaci, Piatra-Olt, Rovinari, Târgu-Cărbunești, Țicleni, Baia de Aramă, Tismana, Bumbesti-Jiu, Brezoi, Ocnele Mari, Scornicești, Balș, Aninoasa, Deta, Moldova Nouă, Oțelu Roșu, Pecica, Petrla, Recaș, Sânicolau-Mare, Sântana, Uricani, Chișineu-Criș, Călan, Aleșd, Ardu, Baia Sprie, Borșa, Cehu-Silvaniei, Sângeorz-Băi, Seini, Șomcuta Mare, Tăuți – Măgheruși, Ulmeni, Vișeu de Sus, Valea lui Mihai, Abrud, Avrig, Baraolt, Băile Tușnad, Borsec, Covasna, Dumbrăveni, Luduș, Miercurea Sibiului, Predeal, Săliște, Sărmașu, Teiuș, Victoria, Zlatna.