

RESPECT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: The contemporary adaptation of the society to more and more restrictions imposed by global changes, especially by climate ones, involves a vigorous and innovative set of actions. The environment scene is populated by many actors, who play in a synergic and cohesive manner for defining and implementing a real sustainable development. In this context, we assist at increased responsibility of all these actors: the decision makers, specialists, mass media and, obviously, population. Their affective relationship with the Environment defines the respect of its resources and quality. The paper argues that respect for environment could be a central variable in the process of sustainable development of communities. Connected with this notion we could define some general issues: respect for the next generations, diversity, general structure of the natural components, and cultural landscape. Crucial roles for consolidation and awareness of the respect for environment have the education, protection of the environmental values, building of feeling of solidarity, increasing of the communities' exigencies for their own existence, spreading of good practices in the environmental management, etc. The sustainable development strategies have to be enforced the respect for environment, which may harmonize the globalization and localization processes, frequently categorized as contradictory ones. Respect for environment contributes to the diversity of the local environment, encouraging the creation and innovation processes, to the adaptation process to increasingly complex restrictions coming from the global environment, to the diffusion of the universal values in a local environment, and inversely, to the promoting local values by globalizing forces. Consequently, the paper could be considered as an incentive to reflection and action, and a real message for specialists in the field of sustainable development to concentrate their best efforts on an optimal insertion of the communities in the local, regional or global environment.

Keywords: respect for environment, sustainable development, environmental protection, responsibility, development strategies

1. INTRODUCTION

The development of the present-day technologies used for high assessment of resources (mainly non- or hardly regenerative ones) has demonstrated both the creative

ability of the human beings and their adaptation power to increasingly restrictive environments. The greater and greater attention paid to the intervention tools and techniques obscures somehow the fact that those creating these technical elements and benefiting from them should be made responsible and aware of their role. The society adaptation to the new conditions imposed by global changes, and mainly by global climate changes, involves a complex action, at the same time coherent and synergic, meant to diminish the degradation and exhaustion rhythm of the resources. Therefore, defining policies of sustainable development and their correct implementation are as many goals of the communities at all levels: local, regional, national, supranational, and planetary. A multitude of actors play for achieving the territorial synergy: population, economic-social agents, specialists in varied fields, NGO's, mass media, and politicians. The experiments up to now show that besides technical elements, some other aspects should be considered, i.e. those related to the behavior of the mentioned actors, which could have a maximum efficiency in implementing sustainable development strategies and policies.

Since environment has a territorial component, thus becoming a development insertion field, an affectionate relationship should exist between the participants in defining and implementing the sustainable development strategies and the space to undergo structuring processes. Or, in other words, the perennial values of a territorial system should be truly known, they should be acknowledged by the communities populating it so that everybody can respect the qualities of the environment these values develop into.

A sustainable development strategy can only be defined and implemented if the dynamics of the environment and of society components in a given territorial system is genuinely known; the manifestation tendency of these components at higher hierarchic scales should also be well understood. Such a diagnosis, in which the **analyst affectively resonates with the values of the place, environment included**, can offer to the decision maker sets of variants for ensuring the sustainability of the respective territorial system. In the definition and implementation processes of the sustainable development strategy and policies their direct and indirect beneficiaries should take part as well.

In such a context, the most vulnerable component of the **environment-development** binomial is **THE ENVIRONMENT**. That is why the respect for environment is the very starting basis. Any reflection on the sustainable development of a territorial system, any definition, method or tool, any implementation algorithm of a policy should be based on the **respect for environment**.

2. TWO KEY-CONCEPTS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable development. The debates on the environment-development relationship started in the post-war years, mainly after 1960. The demographic boom at a planetary level and the consumerism development typical of the mature and generalized Fordism signaled the exhaustion of the planetary resources, mainly of the energetic and food ones. The Club of Rome ("Growth boundaries" report) and the

debates led by Sir Julian Huxley, who served as director of UNESCO (Adams, 2002), drew the international community's attention to the permanent environment degradation by excessive use of certain resources and by the chain-implications of such consumerism. That period witnessed a multiplication of studies on ecodevelopment (Brookfield, 1975; Patten, 1978; O'Riordan, 1981), starting from the necessity to define and observe the limits the environment factors imposed in the development process.

Until 1987, the greatest part of the studies made mainly within the UNO environment Program were dominated by the ecological aspects of the nature-society relationship with a view to setting the principles able to lead to the protection of the species increasingly aggressed during development processes. Following the Brundtland Report, the stress has been laid in the definition of the development concept on the necessity of achieving a sustainable level of the population's lives and of resource conservation (Mac, 2008). Otherwise, it is about another kind of growth, a sustainable and equitable one, able to ensure integrate economic and social development, in which the concern for environment has become a central variable. The synthetic expression of this report is essential in the definition of sustainable development: improvement of the today inhabitants' living conditions must not compromise the next generations' needs.

The Brundtland Report has remained a reference element for the whole future period. The 1991-published report "Caring for the Earth" put forward nine basic principles on the societies' sustainable development. However, the most significant element in spreading and assimilation of the principles on sustainable development was the UNO Conference for Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. That world summit ended with the adoption of "21 Agenda", structured in 40 chapters covering rather complex problems: from biodiversity to elements connected with women's integration in society (Adams, 2005).

Sustainable development, seen as a process or as a target, determined the appearance of another concept having a similar meaning that should be considered as a result of the development in this spirit, i.e. "sustainability" appearing at the interference among environment, economy, culture, and social (Fig. 1). In fact, the concept includes the process behind it, a process that is often seen as complex and vague, generating discussion about the conditions of its implementation. Although sustainable development means a certain type of development, it is frequently seen as a process of diminishing development or of moderating it by rational consumption of resources.

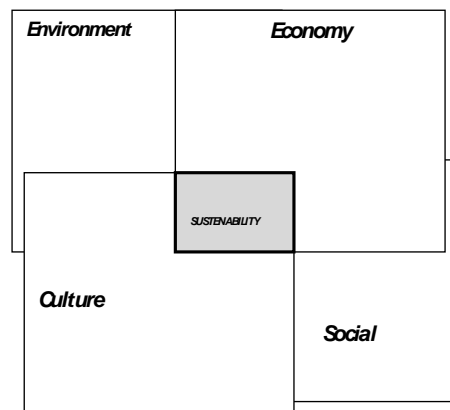


Figure 1. Sustainability as output of the Environment, Economy, Social and Culture Interaction

It is obvious that one of the important dimensions of sustainable development is environment-connected (O’Riordan, 1999). The latter has to be seen both as the natural environment of development insertion and as an environment created during the society adaptation to natural restrictions.

Environment. Between society and nature, unbalanced relationships have appeared during evolution. The society takes too much from nature in comparison with what it gives back. Moreover, even if the relation could be balanced quantitatively, it disadvantages the environment qualitatively, because higher and more dangerous amounts of waste materials are returned. Under such circumstances, the natural and artificial environments should be harmonized, or at least the artificialization degree of the latter has to be limited.

Under the conditions of explosive demographic growth and of global climatic changes, the processes of human concentration and of economic activities should be analyzed and administered with the greatest care. If the quality of the present environment does not pose special problems for the next few generations, probably around 2200, when the population has reached about 10 billion inhabitants (Graham and Boyle, 2002), the problems will be more and more difficult to manage. Besides their anthropic origin, the increase of the Planetary Ocean level with about 1 m will significantly diminish the Earth resources and the problems will thus be extremely complex; the multiplication of hazards will strongly affect the communities (Leveque, 2001).

However, in an optimistic vision, the society adaptation to the new conditions automatically involves an increased responsibility towards the interventions in the structuring mode of the geographic space and implicitly towards the modification of the environment quality. That is why the preservation of the present environment diversity, corroborated with an adequate demographic policy could increase humans’ adaptation capacity to the new natural, social-economic, and cultural conditions.

Starting from the idea that the present environment has a natural component with a great ability to provide resources for population and that they represent the dominant insertion environment for communities, some other types of environments should be distinguished; they are created by society and ensure the society’s ability to adapt, develop, and interact with the natural environment. Therefore, the structure of the present environment has varied complexity degrees related to the intensity of the anthropization process.

Briefly, this structure, having variable relations from one place to another, emphasizes five types of environments (Fig. 2). The natural environment results from the usually mutual interactions established among the main groups of natural components: geomorphologic, climatic, hydrological, floristic, faunistic, and pedological. The most dynamic components, having a determining role in structuring the environment, are the climatic ones, even if some others are perceived from the physiognomic and landscape points of view (floristic or/and geomorphologic or/and hydrologic).

The natural environment represents the cover within which some other types of environments appear; they can even seem dominant within smaller spaces (Ianoş, 2000). Among these types, the following stand out: social environment (resulted from

the relationships established among inhabitants and among groups of populations); economic environment (generated by the whole economic relationships established among the profile actors, being sometimes perceived as a business environment); built environment (representing all the reports among dwelling, industrial, service buildings, infrastructures, and their characteristics as well); and cultural-psychological environment (defined by the individuals' and communities' behaviors and by their creative ability).

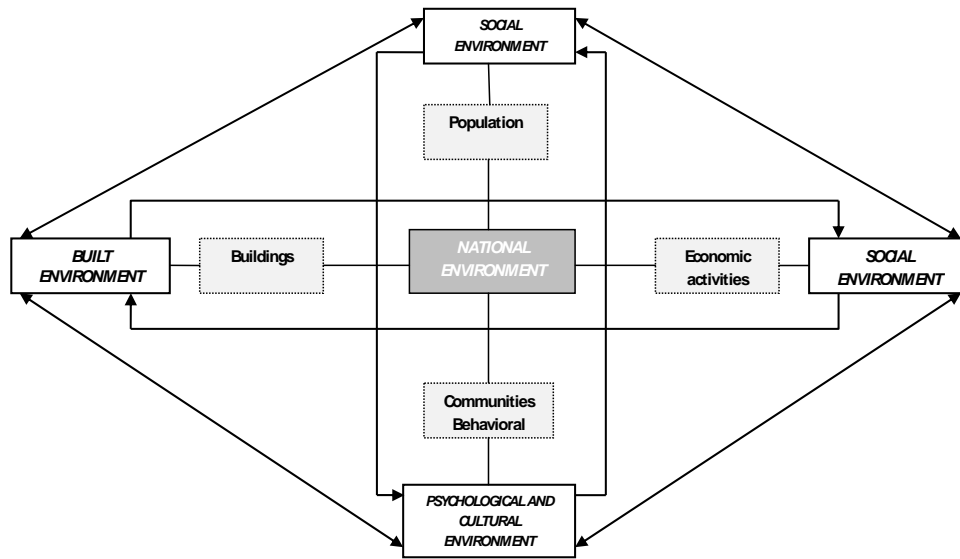


Figure 2. General structure of the Environment in an anthropised territorial system (after Ianos, 2000, with changes)

The spatial variation of the quantity of interdependences among these types of environments might explain the fragility of the present environment in certain geographic areas and its relative stability in some others. The responsibility towards the type of interactions, the communities influence directly or not, is mirrored by the environment differentiated quality, by its degradation level. Hence the necessity to cultivate respect for environment. The respect should be visible not only at the common population level or at the level of the economic-social actors, but mainly among specialists and decision-makers.

3. RESPECT FOR ENVIRONMENT – DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISTICS

The affective relationship among the economic-social, cultural, and political actors, NGO's and population, on the one hand, and environment, on the other, is created in a complex context of interactions, governed by development policies specific to certain conditions in which the resources are permanently degrading. That affective relationship defines the respect for environment, which can be considered a

performance criterion in the process of sustainable development. In reality, respect for environment always leads to responsible analyses, to caution and selective interventions that can lead to a maximum efficiency of the actions taken on long and ultra-long terms. Respect for environment represents individual or collective common sense for its components, awareness of its values, and mainly of the degradation rhythm in a process of excessive exploitation. Therefore, respect for environment represents a feeling of responsibility that can be reflected in adequate behavior towards what Nature has created, alone or in interaction with society.

As a central variable in the process of sustainable development of societies, respect for environment includes other numerous aspects, resulting from its real values and from the affection to be expected in a present responsible development. Consequently, the following categories connected with respect for environment can be individualized:

a) Respect for the next generations. In reality, this is the conscious existence axis of the humanity. Without such a feeling, the next generations will be deprived of the bare necessities of their existence, thus endangering the very existence of the human being on the Earth. Keeping unaltered the natural and anthropic components of environment, of the structures created in historical time, represent the guarantee of consistent heritage for the future.

The environment values should be considered under their many aspects: both the intrinsic ones, found in resources of all kinds, and those resulting from integration in more general environments. Respect for the next generations means watchfulness in consuming non- or hardly regenerative resources. They create the energetic balance at varied levels and, more than that, exaggerate consumption could lead to degradation of certain environment natural components. But for human resources, with great regenerative capacity by knowledge accumulation, and maybe for the easily regenerative ones (agricultural), all the other types of resources should be consumed with a care specific to crises periods and having in mind the next generations.

b) Respect for environment diversity. Conservation and increase of the environment diversity is a desideratum of the sustainable development. When speaking about diversity, more often than not the majority of population thinks of biodiversity. In fact, we should also appreciate the variety of landscapes (morphological, floristic, faunal, etc. structures) as an effect of the environments succession and diversity. Landscapes represent private environments for communities, but they are also the result of the changes occurred in natural, social, economic, and cultural environments. The environment diversity – given the natural components with a basic physiological role for the humans (as biological individuals) have remained unaltered – is a genuine resource for sustainable development. Scalar approach of the environment diversity is able to support the nature conservation and protection policies and of some of its elements. For instance, even if there seems to be no problem at a local level, due to the plentiful floristic or faunal species, a great problem might appear at the regional, continental, or planetary level if the respective species are endemic. Therefore, the apparent homogeneity at local and infra-local scales might be essential to ensure environment diversity at higher scales.

c) Respect for environment also involves a certain **behavior towards the**

general structure of the natural components, meaning a conservation attitude of the naturally valuable environments and of highly fragile environments, as well. The change of the communities' insertion environment entails high costs in the adaptation process to the new conditions. Increase of demographic and economic pressures and of the communities' exigencies as well – urban mainly – aggress natural components and natural landscape conserved as parks or as plots of land having some other uses outside the urban spaces proper. This general phenomenon is highly visible in metropolitan areas where the residential- or industrial-type investments are increasingly present and have a devastating effect.

The superficiality shown in drawing up sustainable development strategies and policies, and mainly their inconsistent implementation in strongly anthropized environments, such as the urban ones, make easier the extension of the built spaces as oils slick. Such incessant urbanization leaves no space for the natural buffer-spaces able to diminish the fundamental change of the subjacent area and the modification of the local microclimate as well, for instance.

Out of respect for the real values of environment and of natural landscape, or for some of its components, the communities have adopted restrictive laws and, indirectly, a certain reticence about the natural heritage: parks, reservations, natural monuments and landscapes.

d) Respect for environment means to duly appreciate the **cultural landscape** structure. Cultural environment is one of the environment integrant parts, a result of the natural environment successive transformation under the pressure of demographic growth and of concentrating economic activities. The new built space during history frequently contains elements of great architectonic, spiritual, and historic value so that their cultural valences can be valorized productively, by conservation. Such values bear the stamp of the historical period they were built in and hold more than their physiognomy could express. Those environments – seemingly artificialized in excess – are as many resources for the communities' revitalization and tools for diminishing the aggression towards certain natural components. By localization, the valuable cultural landscapes bring about respect from all the social-economic actors, tempering their profit-oriented actions. Individual acknowledgement of cultural values legally declared as such – many of the objectives or built areas have been declared spaces of great cultural and historical value – does not necessarily lead to appreciation of the cultural landscape ensembles. Therefore, the population should be made aware of the need to conserve the values as such and their insertion environment, which shows them off totally or partially.

Respect for environment follows several main directions that demonstrate concrete ways of increasing the responsibilities of the decision makers, economic-social actors, of the mass media, and population. Such responsibility means more consistency in the actions directed to conservation and protection of the environment values. Careful interventions accompanying any action developed under the slogan of a better living are required since neither all the environment real values nor the “domino” effect, which might appear following some dysfunctional events and their propagation in space, are always known.

4. CONSOLIDATION AND AWARENESS OF THE RESPECT FOR ENVIRONMENT

Respect for environment, in its primary forms, has probably existed forever; it is a form of protection, food included. Nowadays, the rapid development and increased living standard have had contradictory effects: on the one hand, the environment-directed actions are more careful, and on the other, aggressiveness towards environment is higher. That is the reason why awareness and consolidation of the respect for environment is a must. We think that education, full awareness of the protection of values as heritage for the next generations, spreading of good practices in environment management, a feeling of belonging to a certain space – characterized by a certain type of environment – subordination of the individual interests to the collective ones, etc., all this could have a crucial contribution.

Education is one of the main components in the consolidation and awareness process of the respect for environment: both the compulsory and long-life one. In the latter case, the mass media involvement is a must. It should turn the consolidation and awareness of the respect for space in a fundamental goal of the civic education.

Obviously, the school education, mainly in geography, biology, geology, or natural sciences classes, is highly important. It is the teachers' duty to tactfully, but firmly inspire their students with affection to environment and its values. The examples they give, alongside with their own behavior will persuade the young people that the present features of the environment, its resources included, have to be preserved and changed as little as possible. The communities' adaptation to their insertion environment has been a historical process, but the interventions speeding up in the latest century are very risky and might generate dysfunctional events likely to endanger the lives of the next generations. Understanding the process at a very early age will make people act more responsible when they grow up to be actors with impact on environment. The sum of these individual behaviors might create a collective attitude, able to stop economic or human activities with destructive character on the environment.

Discussion about consolidation and awareness of the respect for environment has to consider the education got during professional training as well. The future specialists, who will interact directly or indirectly with the environment and the territory in their activities, should receive packages of distinct knowledge connected with the environment structure and dynamics, so that they can achieve the exponential increase of its fragility. The specialists training in the field of natural sciences get enough knowledge in the field, but those working in other fields, such as public administration, social and political sciences should be offered, we think, even if optionally or facultatively, packages of basic knowledge about environment and about the need to protect it.

Awareness of the protection for environment values in order to pass them, as unaltered as possible, to the next generations is an important action axis of the respect for environment. The awareness process is a complex one, although it lies on the common sense to the environment values. Good practices, present at a local, regional, national, and international level have been validated by recent history and confirm the positive effects of an adequate behavior towards environment. The

essential aspect is a correct appreciation of the values starting from the relativity of the notion of value. The distinction between values and non-values is limited by the level of knowledge; that is why both the perennial and temporary characters of a value are considered, alongside its usefulness. Generally, the perennial values support the main pillars of sustainable development, whereas the temporary ones ensure a certain contextual “comfort” of human development.

Analysis of the multiple environment components emphasizes the major usefulness degree of the quasitotality of natural elements – in reality, perennial values – and the selective character of those belonging to anthropic environment. Anthropic environment, created for the society adaptation to natural environment, makes difficult the dichotomy between perennial and non-perennial values: something that seems to hinder development at a certain point might become an essential element in the next stage.

Based on the character of the global environment values, a multitude of actions can be undertaken to make aware both the population and the economic-social actors involved in the environment protection and conservation. An important role in being aware of how vulnerable these values are is played by education under its varied forms. There is no doubt that following the Rio de Janeiro (1992) and Johannesburg meetings (2002), programs of research and information spreading have been developed because of the increasingly precarious state of the environment. Thus, the whole world has come to be aware of the connection between environment and sustainable development. At the same time, at the world level, “such events as Earth’s Day, Environment International Day, International Day of the Ozone Layer, or Water International Day have become educational benchmarks” (Ungureanu, 2005, p. 286).

Strengthening respect for environment, by the population’s awareness and participation, leads to achieving complex benefits, moral included, at the level of the respective communities in an adaptation process that proves to be more and more complicated and accompanied by unpredictable elements.

Building a feeling of solidarity, at varied scales, will imprint a behavior of collective participation in the losses generated by environment restrictions and in certain types of consumptions as well, which have contributed to the instauration, for several generations, in certain spaces, of a voluntaristic excessive behavior. For long and ultra-long terms, the huge benefits generated by that feeling of solidarity will contribute to a sustainable development and will make up the resources necessary for the next generations. Solidarity among communities does not exclude their attachment feeling being created to the spaces they interact directly with.

The prospect of diminishing the values of the respective space, by the destructive action of certain collectivities or interest groups, solely animated by a disproportionate gain in comparison with the investment, may strengthen the solidarity feeling of the communities or of the population to defend natural or cultural values. Practically, the solidarity feeling appears when the individual or group interest is subordinated to the regional, national, or global interest, respectively. Such a convergence of interests, starting from the global character of local actions, from the cumulative effects of apparently ordinary actions, from the trans-spatial character of environment, leads to coherent and long-lasting economic-social activities, to spatial

configurations in which the natural and anthropic components are increasingly harmonized.

Effects of the respect-for-environment awareness materialize in **increase of the local and regional communities' exigencies towards their own existence**, thus increasing responsibility to the continuity of the human life on the Earth. A short retrospection in the field shows that the communities' exigencies have multiplied and that the standards imposed on some social-economic processes have kept changing in the latest decades. Such multiplication of exigencies has been accompanied by reevaluation of the space resources, of the apparently unlimited ones included. In such conditions, the concept of sustainable development itself and the efforts made to implement connected strategies may be considered a consequence of the new exigencies. Obviously, all the norms for the environment protection and conservation decided at varied levels of territorial decision, global included, could be added here. It is rather a self-imposition of the restrictions so that the space inestimable values can remain unaltered: starting with the natural environment ones to those belonging to the anthropic environment (Ianos, 2008).

The resultant of the whole process of the respect-for-environment consolidation and creation has direct consequences on the real behavior of the individual, decision-maker, and human communities as a whole towards space values. Among the space values, the environment ones are essential because they represent the insertion conditions of the human beings as biological individuals, but also of the communities as specific spaces having certain population densities and economic-social activities.

The numerous discussions on the environment-communities/individual relation materialized as far back as the 1960s and 1970s in studies emphasizing a certain structure of the human environment (Sonnenfeld, 1972). Although relatively simple, the structure generated ideas. Thus, the idea of a behavioral environment appeared, meaning that the individual has a certain behavior that consciously valorizes and changes the environment (Fig. 3). At a higher scale, a perceptual environment was found, representing the part of environment known by individual either through an unintentional perception of the environment characteristics (temperature, humidity, pressure, etc.) or through a conscious one based on his/her own experiences and learning processes. The next, on a superior level, is the operational environment in which the individual, or the collectivity, lives and works. The environment of this type differs physiologically,

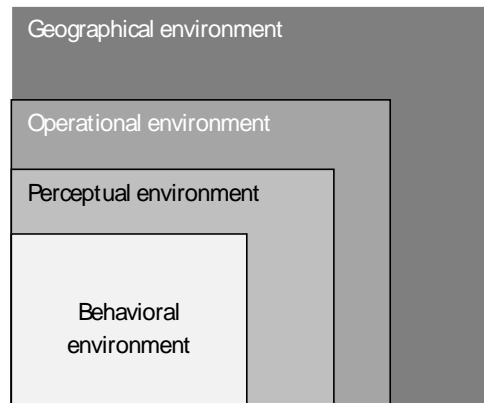


Figure 3. Human Environmental types (after Sonnenfeld, 1972)

psychologically, and culturally from one individual to another, from a race to another, from a culture to another (Sonnenfeld, 1972, p. 147).

All these types are covered by the geographical environment that is the whole external environment of an organism, either individual or collective. This environment can be measured and quantified by objective methods, specific to analysis scales. The following environments are individualized in the geographical one: operational (largely objective), perception and behavioral (both predominantly subjective).

Respect for environment is based on the direct attitude towards all these types of environments, mainly towards the operational one with which any community and any individual are connected, directly or indirectly. When discussing about the society sustainable development, the whole geographical environment has to be considered because that level cumulates all the effects of actions, be they better or not so better oriented.

5. RESPECT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The first whistle on the exhaustion rate of the Earth resources was blown when the consumerism was in full swing, by the Meadows Report, **Growth Limits**, published in 1972 by the Club of Rome (Adams, 2002). Subsequent evolutions strengthened the trends signaled, but not the anticipated amplex of the degradation phenomenon of resources by utilization. Therefore, later, the European Union and its member countries switched systematically from analyses and general studies to concrete action programs. In this way, strategies have been worked out on sustainable development, with goals, tools and resources for implementing them.

Without detailing on those strategies, elaborated and revised for several times at the level of the European Union and of the member states, mention should be made that the notion of sustainable development was very close to a concept on the society integrate and sustainable development. The strong emphasis laid initially on the environment issues explicitly is only implicitly found in the goals formulated in varied time horizons. Even if the whole society participation in taking decisions, ways for correct assessment of the impact on environment, measurement, quantification, and stimulation of interventions are very much discussed on, the importance of assuming responsibility and cultivation of the respect for environment in all the stages of elaboration, implementation, follow up and assessment of the strategies on sustainable development are not clearly pointed out.

The sustainable development strategies have to be enforced in a rather complex context, when we witness, on the one hand, the globalization of the local, and, on the other, the localization of the global (Ianos, 2006). Against such a general, contradictory background, respect for environment may harmonize the two processes: it contributes to the diversity of the local environment, encourages the creation and innovation processes, helps in the adaptation process to increasingly complex restrictions from the global environment, in imposing universal values in a local environment, respectively, in promoting local values and their diffusion by globalizing fluxes.

As mentioned above, respect for environment and for its values has to be found in all the elaboration and implementation stages of the derived strategies and policies of sustainable development. It has to be present even in the definition stage of the sustainable development strategy so that its role can increase and be more and more visible in the next stages. Implementation of the sustainable development strategies, its follow up and assessment have been made easier due to the policies based on respect for space and on responsibility incumbent on all those interested (stakeholders) in maintaining and developing the human society.

The sustainable development strategies, based on respect for environment, have to be built on the even lower ability of the natural environment to answer demographic pressure and economic growth; they have to use social intelligence to maintain the resources quality and the environment interactive potential. The key-objectives of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development do not consider constantly the totality of the environment perennial values and more often than not they ensure only its protection against the requirements of the economic growth. It is however common knowledge that the cumulative effects of the processes developed up to the present will be seen in several decades. Consequently, the actions undertaken for improvement of the environment conditions, in an exponential rhythm, are the only one able to ensure the present quality of the environment for the next generations.

The experience we have gained up to now shows that respect for environment can be removed relatively easy by the harmful effect of the petty group interests that focus only on huge profits gained in a very short time. We can remind here of the visible negative effects of the deforestation process both in the mountainous area and, mainly in the hilly and field ones. In this way, the basic elements of implementing the sustainable development strategies at the level of local communities are affected.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Respect for environment in the process of sustainable development can be considered a priority axis since it makes the decision makers, the specialists and the population behave cautiously. There is no respect for environment if the environment with all its components is not perceived as being essential for life and for development. The attention has to be focused on building and consolidating respect for environment. A poll made by the National Strategy for Sustainable Development reveals that only 40% of the 15-year-old pupils were able to explain and to identify some environment issues (National Strategy for Sustainable Development, draft, 2008, p. 34).

With such a proportion, in the future stages no pro-sustainability behavior can be expected from the main economic-social actors if the advantages of the population being educated in that spirit are not better valorized.

Obviously, this point of view on the respect for environment having to be included as an essential variable in the process of sustainable development must be understood as an incentive to reflection and action. Even if declaredly objective, reflection and action get voluntaristic accents when directed only from economic or social towards the environment problems. This is due to the fact that the environment

values are seen from the viewpoint of a certain sectorial economic and social development, and not as a whole, meaning that the indirect effects, generated by phenomena and amplification, are considered as well. That is the reason why, the specialists' viewpoints in the field of environment analysis and management compensate for a thinking oriented to economic-social benefits.

At the same time, the present paper is a message meant to spur the specialists in the field of sustainable development focus their efforts on an optimal insertion of the communities and of their activities in the environment. Respect for environment leads to maximum caution in implementing varied sectorial policies, in defining and implementing programs and projects of territorial development, but also actions for improving environment quality.

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