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Title:	<i>PRINCIPLES AND VALUES IN THE OBJECTIVES OF ROMANIAN STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</i>
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PRINCIPLES AND VALUES IN THE OBJECTIVES OF ROMANIAN STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT:

THIS ARTICLE PRESENTS AND ANALYZES THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES REFLECTED IN THE OBJECTIVES OF ROMANIAN STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ELABORATED AT THE LEVEL OF THE ROMANIAN COUNTIES. DATA GATHERING WAS MADE USING A DATASHEET FOR COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL DOCUMENTS APPLIED TO THE 42 SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES AND TO ROMANIA'S 41 COUNTIES AND BUCHAREST MUNICIPALITY. DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS WAS CARRIED OUT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STAGES OF THE CONTENT ANALYSIS: INVENTORY OF ALL STRATEGIC VISIONS, SETTING STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, STANDARDIZING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE VISION AND OBJECTIVES, CLASSIFYING INFORMATION INTO UNITS OF ANALYSIS, ESTABLISHING THE MAIN CATEGORIES OF ANALYSIS, CODING AND ANALYZING FINAL DATA. THE COLLECTED AND ANALYZED INFORMATION WAS GROUPED INTO SIX CATEGORIES: THOSE REFLECTING THE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES UNDERLYING THE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH THE PRISM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THROUGH EMPLOYMENT OR THOSE RE-FLECTING THE PRINCIPLES AND VALUES UNDERLYING SOCIAL INCLUSION, THROUGH THE PRISM OF HEALTH CARE, THROUGH CITIZENS' EDUCATION OR THROUGH SOCIAL ASSISTANCE.

KEYWORDS: PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT; SOCIAL INCLUSION;

INTRODUCTION

In this article we present an inventory and analysis of the values and principles reflected in the objectives of the sustainable development strategies, elaborated at the level of the Romanian counties. Sustainable development is a major concern globally. In order to achieve the goal of sustainable development from global to local, sustainable development strategies have been developed, with clear and precise objectives, principles and action

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plans³. The future of mankind on this planet depends on the sustainability of a complex system involving three interlinked elements/ subsystems: the natural environment, the social/political system and the global economy⁴.

The principle of sustainability underpins sustainable development. It refers to a holistic approach to the systematic identification and optimal use of information and technological transfer, participation and capitalization of local conditions and diversity.

Sustainability is a key aspect of management. It has three essential elements: principles (principle of sustainable development), processes (sustainable planning, sustainable structures, sustainable objectives, sustainable alternatives, sustainable implementation, monitoring and control) and professional skills⁵.

An analysis of the European documents elaborated by various working groups on sustainable development and widely debated in the specialized literature helped us to identify principles and criteria approached from an economic, social and ecological perspective and validated as effective at international level. We replay this summary in Table 1.

Table 1: History of setting objectives/principles/criteria for sustainable development within international documents/events

Decision-maker / Event	Year	Objectives / Principles / Criteria of sustainable development
United Nations Conference on the Environment, Stockholm	1972	"The world's natural resources must be protected for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management as needed" Human right to a healthy environment "Human beings are at the center of concerns regarding sustainable development, having the right to a healthy and productive life, in harmony with nature".
Brundtland Report	1986	increasing everyone's standard of living; development should not lead to degradation;
"Earth Summit" Conference on Environment and Development - Rio de Janeiro	1992	"sustainable development"; the environment and sustainable development are inextricably linked to solidarity and participatory democracy; prevention of environmental pollution; mitigating informational risks;
European Commission	1993	improving the quality of life; continuous access to natural resources; environmental protection ⁶ ;
Workshop on Sustainable Development in Salzburg, Austria	1994	humanism; high quality of life; preserving cultural and regional diversity; fair distribution of wealth and resources; human survival; preservation of irreversible deterioration or exploitation of natural resources; stabilization within the carrying capacity of ecosystems; preserving biodiversity;

³ Kardos, Mihaela; The reflection of good governance in sustainable development strategies. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2012, 58, 1166 – 1173.

⁴ Sadler Philip. *Strategic Management*, 2nd ed.; Kogan Page: London, UK, 2003; 27-46.

⁵ De la Cruz López, Maria Pilar.; Cartelle Barros, Juan Jose.; Del Caño Gochi, Alfredo.; Lara Coira, Manuel; *New Approach for Managing Sustainability in Projects. Sustainability* 2021, 13, 7037.

⁶ Zaman, Gheorghe.; Gherasim Zenovic. Criterii și principii ale dezvoltării durabile din punctul de vedere al resurselor acesteia. *Buletinul AGIR* 2007, 1, 136-142.

<p>Millennium Summit Millennium Declaration</p>	<p>2000</p>	<p>severe poverty reduction; universal access to the primary education cycle; promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; reducing mortality in children; improving maternal health; fight against HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis; ensuring environmental sustainability; creating a global partnership for development;</p>
<p>Council of the European Union - EU Sustainable Development Strategy</p>		<p>the principle of democracy; the principle of gender equality; solidarity; respect for the law; compliance with fundamental rights, including freedom and equal opportunities for all;</p>

Using the values theory and the theory of sustainable development, the research approach started from this question: What are the values reflected in the objectives of sustainable development strategies?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The tool used for data collection was the datasheet for collecting and analyzing social documents, research applied to the 42 sustainable development strategies, related to the 41 counties of the country, to which is added the municipality of Bucharest. Using this form we were able to collect information related to the strategic vision, objectives, implementation period, or information related to each particular region. Each sustainable development strategy was considered an official document, being accessed from the official website of each County Council.

The process of data analysis followed the classical stages of content analysis as follows: inventory of all strategic visions, inventory of all strategic objectives, standardizing the information contained in the vision and objectives, classification of information into units of analysis, setting the main categories of analysis, coding and final analysis of data.

The field of analysis is represented by all these strategic documents, developed with the purpose of being implemented into stages, having three time horizons: short-term, medium and long-term (2030), considering the regional policies (Regional development plans and strategies), the national sustainable development policies (the National Strategy for Sustainable Development), as well as the European policies on sustainable development (the Sustainable Development Strategy of the European Union).

RESULTS

The information gathered from the strategic documents issued under the coordination of all the 41 County Councils of the country, plus the municipality of Bucharest, were grouped into six categories: those reflecting the principles and values that underlie the quality of life, through the prism of economic development; those that reflect the principles and values that underlie the quality of life, from the perspective of protecting the environment; those that reflect the principles and values that underlie the quality of life, through the perspective of employment; those that reflect the principles and values that underlie social inclusion, through the prism of health care; those that reflect the principles and values underlying social inclusion, through the prism of citizens' education; those reflecting the principles and values that underlie social inclusion, through the prism of social work.

DISCUSSION

1. Quality of life in the light of economic development, environmental protection, employment.

A. The Principle of Sustainable Development

All the objectives of the analyzed strategies are built so that the results of their implementation lead to meeting the community needs at the county level, without these results endangering the potential of future generations to meet their own needs.

It is important to speed up concerted efforts to improve policy coherence for sustainable development⁷.

Objectives such as "attracting investments in small urban and rural area", "modernization and extension of transport infrastructure", "rational, sustainable use of natural and anthropogenic re-sources", "sustainable development of the rural areas", "development of business infrastructure", "founding of associations and groups of producers through the sustainable economic development of farms and agricultural holdings", "increasing incomes in the agro-forestry sector, through a process of sustainable development of the rural area" reflects a vision based on values such as sustainability, coherence, credibility, safety and even financial well-being.

The objectives of sustainable development strategies should be achieved without compromise. Authorities should communicate these objectives to citizens and commit to monitoring their implementation at all levels⁸. Also, adopting these strategies by the local public administration authorities for a period of between three and thirty years proves their willingness, at least at a theoretical level, to adopt long-term development systems.

Sustainability needs continuous improvement⁹. However, the way of applying these objectives and meeting the specific indicators of sustainable development depend on the local conditions specific to each county from individual, groups, political, trade union actions to the ethno cultural features applicable to each community.

The progress as a value highlighted in these economic objectives falls within the sphere of sustainability only if it is produced and maintained over time, inducing responsibility for the community who promotes it. It is about the responsibility of current generations for the progress of future generations, an intergenerational fairness with a long-term beneficial impact.

The development of products and services based on sustainability criteria is the main goal in development plans. Public policies, consumer preferences and social responsibility underline the growing importance of applying sustainability principles in regional development¹⁰.

B. The Sustainability Principle

The diversity of systems, their productivity and efficiency is secured for future generations, through objectives such as "sustainable use of natural resources", "development

⁷ Meuleman, Louis; Public Administration and Governance for the SDGs: Navigating between Change and Stability. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 5914.

⁸ Smith, Malcolm; Performance measurement & management, 1st ed.; Sage: London, UK; Thousand Oaks, California; New Delhi, India. 2005; 19-20.

⁹ Hussey, David. Strategic Management From theory to implementation, 4th ed.; Butterworth-Heinemann: Oxford, UK, 1998; 161-508.

¹⁰ Muñoz López, Natalia; Valero Martín, Jose Ignacio.; Biedermann, Anna.; Santolaya Sáenz, Jose Louis.; Fernández-Vazquez, Aranzazu. Projecting More Sustainable Product and Service Designs. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 11872.

of urban infrastructure and sustainable management of water resources", "development of the forest fund", "eco-efficient management of the consumption of resources and their maximum capitalization, by promoting consumption and production practices, allowing a long-term sustainable economic growth", "responsible management of natural resources", "development of sustainable investments leading to the improvement of environmental factors", "unitary, rational and complex water management", "protection and sustainable development of the built environment", "development of integrated waste management systems", "development of sustainable investments leading to the improvement of environmental factors", "sustainable management of natural capital", "development of sustainable investments in environmental infrastructure".

Sustainable management (sustainable business, sustainable consumption, sustainable practices) in the private sector and beyond is noted¹¹. The involvement of all organizations in the sustainable development strategy is pursued both at global, national and local level¹².

Three categories of objectives can be identified from the analysis based on the sustainability principle: objectives related to the management of natural capital such as the protection, conservation and improvement of the quality of the environment (development of regional water management systems, development of integrated waste management systems, development of sustainable investments in environmental infrastructure); objectives aimed at protecting human health (improving the health status of the population, by preserving the state of the single natural heritage, improving the health of the population in relation to the quality of environmental factors), objectives related to the management of resource consumption (increasing the capacity to implement legislation in the field of environmental information, strengthening the implementation capacity in the field of waste management, strengthening the capacity of implementing the legislation in the field of environmental protection, strengthening the capacity to implement the legislation in the field of noise pollution, increasing the level of involvement of local communities (awareness, education, training, reconversion, etc.), environmental education.

Four major components of sustainable strategies related to globalization are mentioned: global strategic positioning, global business system, global organization¹³.

C. Principle of competitiveness

One of the principles that received a great deal of attention in the economic policies debates at European and even global level is reflected in objectives such as those summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: The objectives of the regional sustainable development strategies, based on the competitiveness principle.

Results	Means	Areas
Strengthening the business environment	by increasing the competitiveness of enterprises	Business environment, businesses
Increasing the competitiveness of productive sector and its attractiveness	by stimulating foreign investors	Productive sector
Increasing the competitiveness of food industry	by supporting investments	Food industry
Setting up new businesses and increasing the competitiveness of existing ones		Enterprises

¹¹ Heinrichs, Harald.; Laws, Norman; Sustainable Public Administration. Sustainability 2021, 13, 6382.

¹² Czainska, Katarzyna; Supporting Social Activity as Part of the Sustainable Development Strategy. Education of Economists and Managers 2020, 56(2), 9–24.

¹³ Lasserre, Philippe; *Global Strategic Management*, 1st ed.; Palgrave Macmillan: New York, USA. 2003; 36-59

Increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector		Agricultural sector
Increasing the competitiveness of the county	through the development of prosperous economic activities, by introducing new technologies and investments in knowledge and innovation	Technology sector
Increasing the competitiveness of tourism sector		Tourism
Increasing the competitiveness and diversifying the economic basis in the rural environment		Rural sector
Increasing the economic competitiveness of the private sector		Private sector
Promotion of extensive agriculture -organic	by increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors and adapting to market supply and demand	Agricultural and forestry sector
Increasing the competitiveness of the agro-food and forestry economy	by adapting supply to market requirements	Agro-food sector
Boosting the business environment	increasing the competitiveness of enterprises	Business environment

They reflect values such as efficiency, equity, courage, freedom, all these enabling an open competition, permissive to all economic actors in society. Without the advantage of sustainable competitiveness, the organization will always be vulnerable¹⁴. In order to achieve these objectives to pursue economic competitiveness and create the mechanisms for the efficient functioning of the market, qualities of the economic system based on values such as creativity and innovation are needed so that resources are used with maximum efficiency to achieve performance, whether we are referring to the agricultural sector, industrial, technological or tourism.

In today's changing environment organizations need to evolve from a profit perspective towards sustainable economic development¹⁵.

D. Principle of population welfare

All the objectives synthesized in table S2. presented above fall under this principle which should guide the actions of all actors in the economic area that creatively use local resources.

Sustainable development can be interpreted in economic terms as a way of maximizing human well-being for present and future generations¹⁶.

The well-being of the population can be achieved primarily by encouraging the opening of new businesses, by permanently identifying people's needs, attracting investments at local level and raising the level of infrastructure development. The role of entrepreneurs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is paramount. They will develop businesses to support employment, eliminate poverty, provide decent work and economic growth, help

¹⁴ Williams, Kevan; *Strategic Management*, 1st ed.; Dorling Kindersley Publishing: New York, USA; 2009; 6-15.

¹⁵ Manresa, Alba.; Escobar Rivera, Dalilis; Excellence in Sustainable Management in a Changing Environment. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 2296. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13042296>.

¹⁶ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Sustainable Development Critical Issues*, 1st ed.; OECD: Paris, France, 2001; 7-96.

reduce hunger, improve health and well-being¹⁷. The well-being of the population is based on values such as efficiency in mobilizing and using the existing potential, a joint community effort in both public and private sectors

They should promote values such as technological innovations, entrepreneurship, flexibility/adaptability to market conditions and the quality of human capital so that economic policies can be implemented respecting this principle. The contribution to the well-being of the population consists in increasing the incomes, the standard of living, the population welfare in global sense.

The impactful results of these objectives are the improvement, development, modernization, ex-tension, capitalization, promotion, diversification, innovation, etc., (transport and telecommunications infrastructure, agriculture, investments, both in rural and urban areas, entrepreneurial initiatives, tourism, historical and cultural heritage, manufacturing). They highlight the same purpose of increasing/improving people's quality of life based on the principle of population welfare.

E. Principle of human rights

The objectives of "sustainable development" are aimed at promoting human rights¹⁸. The purpose of the objectives of environmental protection is actually based on human protection. The way to reach this goal is to eliminate the activities of people who harm the environment, if we refer to man – nature coexistence.

The natural environment itself can be considered a value, if we believe it is an essential part of humanity's heritage. Environmental protection is actually a human obligation that stems from the human right to a healthy environment. There are also discussions around the human right to land. Although universal human rights do not clearly mention the right to land, access to land is intrinsically linked to human rights fulfillment¹⁹.

Objectives such as the one of "increasing the level of involvement of local communities (awareness, education, training, reconversion, etc.)", aim at developing people ecological consciousness through education.

F. Principle of active participation

Objectives related to protection, conservation, improvement, development of the natural environment aim to encourage the participation in the environmental decision-making process of those interested or affected by the policies in the field, but they are also promoting attitudes that ensure the success of such targets. Decision-making process becomes more complex in the context of sustain-ability. Tools and techniques are needed to support management and decision-making²⁰. They are based on values such as real commitment, transparency, trust, taking responsibility for implementing policies to ensure public health.

¹⁷ Ashari, Hasbullah; Abbas, Iffat; Abdul-Talib, Asmat-Nizam; Mohd Zamani, Siti Norhasmaedayu; Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development Goals: A Multigroup Analysis of the Moderating Effects of Entrepreneurship Education on Entrepreneurial Intention. *Sustainability* 2022, 14, 431.

¹⁸ Martelli, Maria; Education for (un)sustainable development: recognizing anthropocentrism in Romania's sustainable development strategy. *Studia UBB Sociologia* 2020, 65 (LXV), 1, 91-110.

¹⁹ Kramer, Anna Katharina; Klümper, Frederike; Müller, Alexander; Thornberry, Francesca; Strengthening Accountability for Responsible Land Governance: Linking Governance of Tenure to Human Rights. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 11113.

²⁰ Litvaj, I.; Ponisciakova, O.; Stancekova, D.; Svobodova, J.; Mrazik, J. Decision-Making Procedures and Their Relation to Knowledge Management and Quality Management. *Sustainability* 2022, 14, 572.

Some of the changes that each company should make with regards to social responsibility are: de-signing a durable location (to protect the environment, to provide a high level of security, low energy consumption), to improve the production process (eliminating residues, reducing the level of chemical fertilizers), prohibiting the use of products considered to be harmful, responsible marketing, programs geared towards the well-being of employees, easy access for people with disabilities²¹. Citizens' initiatives are very important and specialists from universities have focused on explaining the values of sustainable development according to which every individual counts²².

For successful adaptation to climate change, sharing responsibility within society is an important concern. It highlights the need to involve both public institutions and private organizations but especially to involve the responsibility of all citizens²³.

G. Principle of workforce flexibility

The objectives of the sustainable development strategies underpinning this principle, as shown in Table S3, envisage workforce and enterprise adaptability in terms of value through promoting the entrepreneurial culture, through training and support offered to enterprises and employees, through developing partnerships and encouraging initiatives for the social partners. Sustainable human resources management has the potential to facilitate the development of organizations towards modern principles, policies and practices. In this context of sustainable human resources management the employee perspective is essential²⁴. Workforce adaptability has in this sense three dimensions: temporal, spatial and contractual²⁵.

Table 3. Summary of the objectives from Romanian counties' sustainable development strategies in employability field

- Improving the vocational training system in order to increase active employment;
- Increasing the entrepreneurial spirit by organizing training/development programs for people who want to open/develop their business;
- Stimulating programs that encourage high-level of professional management career for women;
- Running of training programs specific to trade union activity;
- Supporting the vocational qualification/re-training of the active population in rural areas, through training / information / counseling programs;
- Raising awareness among the stakeholders of the importance of continuous training;
- Strengthening partnerships for continuous professional development;
- Increasing employment;
- Active measures to combat unemployment;
- Stimulating the development of new economic activities;
- Encouraging young people to start their own business;
- Boosting workforce mobility;
- Boosting job creation in disadvantaged areas;
- Providing qualified workforce;
- Providing local support/facilities to create new jobs;
- Increasing the capacity of local administration authorities to attract funding sources;
- Linking lifelong learning to the labor market;

²¹ Grigore, Georgeta. The benefits of the socially responsible practices. *Annals of the University of Petroșani, Economics* 2008, 8(1), 243-246.

²² Skarzauskiene, Aelita; Maciuliene, Monika; Citizen Science Addressing Challenges of Sustainability. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 13980.

²³ Persson, Erik; Knaggård, Åsa.; Eriksson, Kerstin; Public Perceptions concerning Responsibility for Climate Change Adaptation. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 12552.

²⁴ Paulet, Renee; Holland, Peter; Bratton, Andrew; Employee Voice: The Missing Factor in Sustainable HRM? *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 9732.

²⁵ Wallace, R. Jay. Responsibility and the Moral Sentiments. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 2002, 64 (3), 680-681.

- Increasing the adaptability of the workforce and enterprises;
- Promoting organizational culture;
- Training and support for enterprises and employees to promote adaptability;
- Developing partnerships and encouraging initiatives for social partners;
- Public Employment Service modernization;
- Strengthening the capacity to provide employment services;
- Training of the staff from the Public Employment Service;
- Increasing the employment rate in the region, ensuring equal opportunities for all social categories and improving the living standards of the population;
 - Increasing the competitiveness of human resources and adapting them to the demand on the local and regional labor market;
 - Encouraging geographical and occupational mobility;
 - Development of training and qualification programs in line with the specific needs of employers;
 - Helping graduates access jobs;
 - Organizing training/retraining modules, professional development, counseling and guidance for the unemployed;
 - Increasing the interest of employers and other key actors in order to make investments in human capital more efficient;
 - Development of community work programs aimed at temporarily employing redundant persons with a view to keeping them in a form of activity which facilitates their access to the labor market;
 - Career counseling, guidance and information services;
 - Promoting all the active employment measures available and developing the system of initial and continuous professional training;
 - Improving and expanding the social services system;
 - Acquisition of specialized skills in administration and business development fields.

H. The principle of work efficiency

Following the analysis of the strategic objectives based on this principle, we distinguish two dimensions. The first dimension highlights the objectives that promote investment in vocational training, and the second shows the objectives to increase the efficiency of workforce use. Considering the social and environmental challenges faced by organizations, there is also a need for new leadership models, methods and tools for implementing organizational changes to develop sustainability²⁶.

The workforce quality is the first value distinguished as an absolutely essential element for the success in implementing these objectives.

It can be ascertained from the way in which the workforce responds to the practical tasks, the content of the work or to the knowledge, qualifications and skills required from the point of view of the employees/potential employers.

From the economic agents' perspective the quality can be seen in the economic agents' orientation towards the market and in the opening of the economy towards the external challenges.

From employees' perspective, challenges can be grouped into three categories: issues related to the job performance and tasks carried out; challenges in setting up or providing services, challenges regarding social needs identified at community level²⁷.

²⁶ Fry, Louis; Egel, Eleftheria; Global Leadership for Sustainability. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 6360.

²⁷ Corman, Sorina; Difficulties and risks in the intervention of the staff employed within the social assistance departments of the local public administration. *Analele Științifice ale Universității »Alexandru Ioan Cuza« din Iași. Sociologie și Asistență Socială* 2020, 13 (2), 67-74.

I. The principle of respect for human dignity and non-discrimination principle.

Objectives such as those included in the synthesis presented in Table S3 demonstrate the importance given to the human being, their value and qualities (creativity, intelligence, diligence, compassion, etc.) on one hand, as well as the complexity and importance of care for human nature, on the other hand. Research shows that attitude towards nature, connection with nature and self-esteem form a balanced structure of identity²⁸.

Human dignity and non-discrimination mean fair or equal treatment; they must be considered when implementing these objectives. Labor determines the volume, structure and quality of the material and spiritual goods and services available in society²⁹.

2. Social inclusion through health care, citizens' education and social cohesion

A. The principle of universality and non-discrimination in medical services provision.

Every person has the right to access basic health services. Some of the strategic objectives analyzed are aimed at ensuring the access of all types of inhabitants to these services. They are based on values such as humanity, solidarity, human dignity, equal opportunities to primary health.

Gender equality is essential for social sustainability and the development of organizations including hospitals or other medical institutions³⁰.

The wording of the objectives underpinning this principle reveals that authorities are aware of the difficult access to these services for some population groups. Consequently, they aim to improve and facilitate access to services and encourage service development by setting objectives of sustainable development in this field.

B. The principle of quality in medical services provision

The objectives based on this principle were classified as following: objectives focused on the rehabilitation, modernization, digitization, development and equipping of the hospital infrastructure ("rehabilitation, modernization, development and equipping of the hospital infrastructure", "improvement of the school medical assistance network"), on the training and support of the personnel working in health ("keeping and attracting medical staff, construction of housing for resident doctors, both in urban and rural areas, transport facilities"), on the speed in emergency interventions (improving the conditions for providing emergency medical assistance in emergency rooms in territorial hospitals, investments in providing intervention equipment in emergency situations) and on prevention of health risks in population ("improvement of healthcare system in schools, a decisive and mandatory component of prophylaxis and prevention in children and young people").

Social services are not only opportunities offered by social policies they also represent important measures to respond to the social concern of all European citizens³¹.

This principle is based on values such as efficiency and effectiveness, respect for customers and focuses on the use of the medical services provided reflecting the need for a coordinated response to population needs in this field.

C. The education principle – promoter of sustainable development

²⁸ Bruni, Coral; Schultz, P. Wesley; Woodcock, Anna; The Balanced Structure of Environmental Identity. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 8168.

²⁹ Mărginean, Ion. Calitatea vieții în România: prezent și perspective. *Calitatea Vieții* 2010, XXI, 3–4, 231–237.

³⁰ Gartzia, Leire; Gender Equality in Business Action: A Multi-Agent Change Management Approach. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 6209.

³¹ Andrioni, Felicia. *Serviciile sociale în context contemporan*, 1st ed.; Sitech: Craiova, România, 2018; 25.

This principle is at the heart of most of the mentioned objectives as being a core element in areas such as employment, environmental protection, economic development (see Table 4).

Educational objectives inventory in sustainable development strategies aims to highlight ways of promoting and growing the traditional life values on one hand, and to use the results of modern scientific development on the other hand.

Education, a value in itself, can achieve sustainable development by combining traditional ways of life with futuristic information and technologies. The role of education in implementing sustainable development strategies is underlined. Understanding and embracing the concept of sustainability is one of the main problems of society and education plays a key role in this process³².

An improved quality of life can be achieved through education. Only education has the ability to facilitate harmonization of the three key factors of sustainable development: the environment, the society, the economy.

The problems faced by the individual, the community and the society require a scientific approach, therefore innovative knowledge and techniques are needed to achieve sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development clearly reflects the emerging need to incorporate the principles of education for sustainable development into all levels of education³³.

Table S4 Inventory of education objectives in sustainable development strategies

- Development of the education system;
- Development of infrastructure and educational material base;
- Adapting secondary and higher education to labor market trends ;
- Stimulating adult education and training ;
- Research development and improving collaboration with the economic environment;
- Improving the access and participation of vulnerable groups to the educational system and to the labor market;
- Increasing attendance rate in pre-school, primary and secondary education through:
 - providing financial support for disadvantaged families;
 - minibuses for school transport from rural areas;
 - promoting education in the language of the Roma minority;
 - awarding social scholarships and merit scholarships to pupils from disadvantaged groups;
- Preventing and combating early school drop-out though:
 - providing integrated guidance and counseling services for people at risk of early school leaving;
 - information and awareness campaigns for parents;
 - involving of formal and informal leaders of disadvantaged communities in efforts to prevent early school leaving;
 - supplying with additional tutors/support teachers for pupils with learning needs and school adaptation issues or for those pupils coming from disadvantaged groups, as well as children with specific needs;
 - implementing "school after school" programs, remedial education and assisted learning for underperformance;
 - introducing hot meals/snack and homework programs in schools for pupils from very poor families;
 - early school leavers reintegration into education (including "second chance" education programs);
- Promoting literacy courses, assistance towards completing studies and support in training for young people from disadvantaged groups, who have exceeded the age of schooling by:
 - organizing part-time courses in rural schools or in poor communities;
 - increasing the access of Roma children to alternative forms of education, such as distance learning;

³² Krayneva, Raisa.; Rudenko Aleksandr.; Motylev Roman; Role of education in implementing the sustainable development strategy. E3S Web of Conferences 2021, 250, 07008.
<https://doi.org/10.1051/e3sconf/202125007008>.

³³ Cebrián, Gisela; Junyent, Mercè; Mulà, Ingrid; Competencies in Education for Sustainable Development: Emerging Teaching and Research Developments. *Sustainability* 2020, 12, 579;

part-time education, home literacy;

- Rehabilitation, modernization, development and equipping of the educational infrastructure;
- Access to quality initial education and training;
- Improving the access and participation of vulnerable groups in the labor market, through training programs for the development of basic skills and qualifications: access to quality initial education and training.

D. The principle of systemic education

The logic behind educational actions of the scientific content transmitted through educational institutions can raise population awareness of the need for sustainable development and the importance of professional training.

"The educational system development", "digitization", "development of human resources", "modernization of the education system" are objectives that define systemic education (with fundamental elements, connections and networks), means through which people and society can benefit from a maximization of potential and vulnerable groups, from a process of social inclusion that respects their dignity. Should we consider the institutional and personal limits of public administrations, we will be aware of the need for lifelong learning of sustainable development³⁴. Education for sustainable development is one of the great challenges in universities³⁵.

A continuous human resources training ("boosting adult training and professional retraining", "modernizing and adapting education and vocational training system to the new requirements of the labor market", "adapting the labor force by developing and promoting active policies for employment", "promoting social development programs") and a correlation of the labor force with the demand for human resources ("adapting medium and higher education to the trends in the labor market", "developing research and improving collaboration with the economic environment") are based on values such as competence, professionalism, applicability, quality, sustainability. Current issues such as climate change, poverty reduction, gender equality must be in the focus of the educational process³⁶.

E. The principle of universality and the principle of social solidarity

In order to ensure social well-being, it is necessary to allocate resources based on the principle of social solidarity (see Table 5).

Sustainable development strategies include objectives such as "reducing social exclusion", "ensuring equal opportunities, restructuring and developing social services", "encouraging projects to support the social inclusion of groups", "creating social inclusion programs for disadvantaged people", "building social housing for families and people in need". They emphasize the support provided to people who cannot meet their social needs. Everybody has the right to social assistance services and to exercise this right without restriction or preference.

These objectives aimed at people with disabilities, the elderly, the Roma citizen, young people who leave the child protection system, children in need, victims of domestic violence, families in need, are based on values such as solidarity, humanism, charity and equal opportunities.

³⁴ Drhová, Zuzana; Sustainable Development Strategy: A Tool for Strategic Governance?. *Central European Journal of Public Policy* 2011, 5 (2), 86-97.

³⁵ Martín-Garin, Alexander; Millán-García, José Antonio; Leon, Iñigo; Oregi, Xabat; Estevez, Julian; Marieta, Cristina. Pedagogical Approaches for Sustainable Development in Building in Higher Education. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 10203.

³⁶ Martelli, Maria; Education for (un)sustainable development: recognizing anthropocentrism in Romania's sustainable development strategy. *Studia UBB Sociologia* 2020, 65 (LXV), 1, 91-110.

Continuous efforts are needed both at international and national, regional or local level so that any citizen can understand the need for sustainable development³⁷.

Table 5: Inventory of social assistance objectives in sustainable development strategies

<p>Increasing the access of people with disabilities in rural areas to diagnostic services Skills assessment: assessment centers/development/training for persons with disabilities (certificated by specialized authorities); Developing new services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation and development of Recovery Centers for adults; • Initiation and development of Adult Day Care Centers (local specific); • Initiation and development of Regional Support Centers • In rural areas: support networks (mobile teams) + supply of medicines planning; • Residential Emergency Center; • Residential Centers; • Counseling services for caregivers <p>Training / development of staff / caregivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for informal caregivers – massage, physical therapy and curriculum development. <p>Promotion campaigns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness campaign on increasing access to institutions of public interest; • Employers' awareness campaign promoting the disability employees' rights <p>Creating a regional network of care services and assistance serving elderly people; Access to long-term care and home care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catering projects available to isolated communities; • Strengthening primary healthcare project: mobile consultation team and pharmacy • Project on Developing community nurses network and medical prevention activities (local nurses employed by the local authorities). <p>Institutionalized care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects for the institutionalization of the elderly, especially for people from rural areas; <p>Service networks / (complex projects):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and national partnerships for the provision of residential services and alternative services; • Project on guided hospital discharge (from regional hospital) and continued healthcare at patient's home; • Emergency center for the elderly living in isolated villages (discharged from hospital) suffering from dementias, Alzheimer's; <p>Human resources training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation and development of training programs for health care assistants and multidisciplinary care teams; • Volunteer training projects – developing volunteering activities/programs within community centers (day care centers/clubs); <p>Active ageing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects on active ageing • Project on involving the elderly in the care of other people – especially in rural areas <p>Roma Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational program for parents related to children's education and health; • Educational program for pre-school for Roma; • Consolidating the prevention programs on early school drop-out through 'school after school' projects • Reinforcing Access to higher education Program <p>Improving the population standard of living:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing social inclusion and ensuring equal opportunities; • restructuring and developing social services; • developing leisure activities, sports and wellbeing

³⁷ Sharma, Shashikant Nishant; Sustainable development strategies and approaches. *International Journal of Engineering and Technical Research (IJETR)* 2013, 1(8), 79-83.

Measures for the development of services for vulnerable groups identified at the regional level: elderly people, people with disabilities, young people who leave the child protection system; children in need, victims of domestic violence, Roma population, as well as other vulnerable groups

- Developing services for the elderly;
 - Developing services for people with disabilities;
 - Developing services for teenagers leaving the protection system
 - Developing services for children in need;
 - Developing services for domestic abuse victims;
 - Developing services for Roma communities;
 - Developing services for other vulnerable groups.
- Promoting social inclusion:
- Developing social economy;
 - Developing a network of integrated social services
 - Improving the access and participation of vulnerable groups in the education system and to the labor market;
 - Promoting equal opportunities on the labor market;
 - Transnational initiatives on the labor market;
- Reorganization, development of social assistance infrastructure
- Encouraging projects that support the social inclusion of disadvantaged groups (especially Roma) and prevent early school leaving;
 - Promoting public-private partnerships to prevent early school leaving;
 - Developing and upgrading the social protection infrastructure, increasing the quality of services in specialized units;
 - Creating social inclusion programs for disadvantaged groups– particularly for Roma – to lead to the motivation and involvement of the Roma population in various activities and the creation of jobs.
 - Social integration of young people in foster care or placement system, especially young people who reach the age of 18 and leave the care institutions;
 - Establishing residential alternatives (temporary shelters, transit centers, crisis centers, sheltered housing, care homes);
 - Establishment of non-residential alternatives (day care centers, counseling centers, clubs, therapy and recovery centers);
 - Involving the income support beneficiary in activities at local level, ensuring strict law compliance related to receiving benefits in exchange of social work;
 - Full access to training and development for staff involved in social protection; activities and for public-private partnerships aiming to set up alternative services;
 - Developing partnerships between local social assistance institutions, decentralized public services of ministries and NGOs in the field, in order to provide services adapted to the specific needs of people at risk;
 - Building social housing for families and people in need or at risk;
 - Encouraging projects that support decreasing of the number of homelessness and beggars.

F. Partnership principle

Cooperation and taking partnership responsibilities within local authorities, non-governmental organizations, civil organizations, support groups in providing social services and supporting vulnerable social groups, in order to overcome risk situations are values that underlie this principle reflected in the objectives of sustainable development strategies ("developing partnerships between local social assistance institutions, decentralized public services of ministries and NGOs in this field, in order to provide services adapted to the specific needs of people at risk" encouraging public-private partnerships for providing home health care and services", "promoting public-private partnerships for the prevention of early school drop-out", "local and national partnerships for the provision of residential and alternative services"). Generational responsibility for consumption can be a response to crises, enabling economies to overcome the crisis of confidence and reaffirm community

ties³⁸. All institutions and organizations must be involved in sustainable development. The responsibility of financial institutions, primarily banks for sustainable development and pro-environmental activities is essential³⁹.

The public-private partnership is a means for ensuring social well-being, improving the quality of public services, with the expertise of the private and non-governmental sectors, stimulating the transparency of the implementation of social policies and the efficiency of the provision of social services.

G. Principle of active involvement of beneficiaries in the provision of social services

Stimulating each person's effort in social risk situations determine a self-awareness of personal abilities, skills and competences, which is based on the recognition of human dignity at the community and society level. The idea of approaching the community as a whole from the social worker's client perspective must be permanently present⁴⁰.

Sustainable development plans include, albeit only to a small extent (see Table 5) inventory of social assistance objectives in sustainable development strategies, objectives that involve and empower the recipients to find positive outcomes: "the development of the social economy", "the social services beneficiaries' involvement in local activities".

The joined effort of each member of the community can result in achieving the necessary well-being resources.

CONCLUSION

The principles underlying these strategies have been grouped into two dimensions. The first concerns the quality of life pursued through economic development, environmental protection, employment, and the second dimension addresses social inclusion through the prism of health care, citizens' education and social cohesion.

The research question underpinning this study approach was: What are the values reflected in the objectives of the sustainable development strategies?

Following the analysis of the sustainable development strategies elaborated at the level of the Romanian counties it was found that the analyzed strategies reflect a vision focused on values such as sustainability, safety and well-being, responsibility, progress and digitization.

Courage, freedom, efficiency, equity, creativity and innovation values were reflected in the analysis by configuring the human resources involved in the implementation process, qualities aimed at achieving performance.

Other values such as an entrepreneurship, flexibility and adjustment to specific conditions have also been identified in this area of human resources so that the analyzed objectives produce a major impact on the quality of life of the population and on their well-being.

When analyzing the reference to the social dimension (social inclusion), as it appears in the strategic objectives, social solidarity, universality and human dignity have been highlighted and in this context a special place is occupied by education as a link between the three factors of sustainable development: the environment, society and the economy.

³⁸ Mladjan, Mrdjan; Marković, Dušan; Generational Responsibility in Consumption as a Response to Global Economic Crises. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 3329.

³⁹ Dec, Paweł.; Masiukiewicz, Piotr; Socially Responsible Financial Products as a Contribution of Financial Institutions to Sustainable Development. *Sustainability* 2021, 13, 3067.

⁴⁰ Sorescu, Emilia Maria. Social Work in the Rural Area from Dolj County, Romania. *European Scientific Journal* 2015,1, pp.367-379, <http://ejournal.org/index.php/esj/article/viewFile/5571/5366>

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