

SOME REMARKS ON THE REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAM OFFERED TO ROMANIA BY THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE 2007-2013 YEARS

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În lucrare se face un studiu asupra „Programului Operațional Regional” (POR) pentru o dezvoltare susținută și durabilă a celor 8 regiuni economice ale României, având un suport financiar din partea Uniunii Europene de 4,6 miliarde Euro, pentru o perioadă de 5 ani, începând cu 1 ianuarie 2007.

1. Introduction

A sustainable balanced, uniform and sustainable regional development of all Romanian zones represents not only one of the main objectives of the governmental authorities of our country but, equally, one of the conditions imposed by the EU during the adhering negotiations finalized in 2006.

Consequently, out of the 31 chapters on the adhering of Romania, included in the communitarian acquits, negotiated with the authorities of European Commission of Brussels, a special one is devoted to “Regional politics and coordination of local structural instruments”. As such, out of the total sum of 31.7 billion Euro allotted to Romania for the 2007-2013 period, on the occasion of its joining the EU, about 15% will be allocated for the Romanian, “regional operational program” (POR).

Actually the financing of this program is related, as well, to some other pre-adhering chapters negotiated in 2006, such us: social policies and absorption of the labour force, environmental protection, or support of the local economic activities carried on by small and medium size companies, etc.

Governmental and local authorities namely : the Ministry of Sustainable Development of Public Works and Dwellings, as well as the Agencies for Sustainable Regional Development ,etc, should be responsible for the practical implementation of such as objectives, including control of the legal use of all funds provided by this program

2. General objectives

During the negotiations on the “Regional operation program” 4 main objectives were established, namely:

- increase of the economic and social role of the urban centers,
- improvement of the attraction and access capacities of local authorities to punctual program, applicable to some specific areas requiring financial support,
- complex upgrading of the historical, cultural and recreation potential by active promotions of either organized or individual tourism activities, developed under civilized conditions,
- increase of managerial and enterprising competence of the region involved in the Regional operation program.

The above mentioned general objectives aim at attaining:

- sustainable urban and local development,
- continuous improvement of the regional and local infrastructure,
- consolidation of the local business medium,
- development of tourism activities all along the year, by specific and attractive local programs,
- technical assistance for the specific promotion of this project in each region of the country

3. Priority fields of interest

Within the Regional operation program, the priority domains having been allotted the necessary funds were established:

- continuous rehabilitation and modernization of the infrastructure of the local and regional transport,

- adaptation and improvement of the infrastructure of health services, public and individual person safety as well as social and information services,
- modernization of the educational infrastructure by diversified professional training of the local working forces,
- enterprising initiatives supporting the business activities developed by small and medium size companies, participating to the development of their regions, reevaluation and valorification, from a modern managerial perspective, of the historical and cultural patrimonial assets, those related to local traditions and old customs,
- capitalization of the natural tourism resources, accompanied by strong promotion of the regions, qualitative improvement of the services, offered to tourists of several categories,
- acceptance of some diverse social activities to promote cultural diversity at local level.

Some types of specific operational program, can be mentioned:

- improvement of economic competition,
- environmental protection against chemical, biological and physical polluting agents ,
- improvement of the infrastructure and technical endowments of railway, auto, air and naval transport,
- continuous training and education of the human resources, involved in the economic and social activities of the region,
- improvement in the activity of the local administration, making it able indeed of correctly and operatively solving all demands expressed by citizens, as well as those resulting from the activities involved in the sustainable development of each region,
- continuous supply of the financial resources necessary for the practical achievement of some specific objectives, through realistic, judicious and punctual programs.

The objectives for practical implementation of such specific operational programs which had in view, follow:

- a higher productivity of the economic units from each region, up to the attainment of an average degree of development, as compared to similar enterprises, till 2013,
- environmental protection by a good practical implementation of some technical and economic steps, making possible the spreading any type of wastes in the air, water and soil, together with the prevention of any contamination risk at the level of the whole ecosystem,
- construction of new streets and highways and introduction of some modern, comfortable and mainly non-polluting conveyance means, attractive for the people,
- settlement of continuous educational system-flexible and easy adaptable for training of the new labour forces necessary for competitive economic and social activities, i.e., professionally compatible to the one from other EU countries,
- providing of the modern educational means for any type of school, at all levels of education in order to improve the quality of the educational process,
- assuring the economic, social and human cohesion in each region of Romania, by a responsible involvement from the part of the local and central authorities, according to the current legislation.

4. Available financial funds

Following the negotiations between the Romania authorities represented by the Ministry for Sustainable Development of Public Works and Dwelling and the Authorities of the European Council in Brussels, the European Union approved financing the Regional operational program for Romania, for the period 2007-2013, with a sum of 3.72 billion Euro, to which other 0.88 billion Euro representing the Romanian Government contribution should be added. The total amount of 4.6 billion Euro will be distributed as is pointed out in Table.

Table

EU Funds for the 8 Romanian development regions

A POR Priority targets	EU-Funds		Regions							
			NE	SE	S	SV	V	NV	C	B-I
	(mil. Euro)	(%)	% in Total offered funds							
			16.32	13.25	14.23	14.01	10.34	12.09	10.90	8.86
Allocated funds (mil. Euro)										
1. Support for urban development	1391.17	31.36	227.04	184.33	197.96	194.90	143.85	168.19	151.64	123.26
1.1. Integrated plans for urban development	1391.17	31.36	227.04	184.33	197.96	194.90	143.85	168.19	151.64	123.26
2. Improvement of regional and local transport	876.71	19.76	143.08	116.16	124.76	122.83	90.65	105.99	95.56	77.68
2.1. Country roads and urban streets	876.71	19.76	143.08	116.16	124.76	122.83	90.65	105.99	95.56	77.68
3. Improvement of social infrastructure	657.53	14.81	107.31	87.12	93.56	92.12	67.99	79.50	71.67	58.26
3.1. Health infrastructure	173.58	3.91	28.33	23.00	24.70	24.32	17.95	20.99	18.91	15.38
3.2. Social services infrastructure	99.52	2.24	16.24	13.19	14.16	13.94	10.29	12.03	10.85	8.82
3.3. Equipments for emergency situations	99.52	2.24	16.24	13.19	14.16	13.94	10.29	12.03	10.85	8.82
3.4. Education infrastructure	284.91	6.42	46.50	37.74	40.54	39.92	29.46	34.45	31.06	25.24
4. Support for regional for regional and local bussines medium	795.65	17.93	129.85	105.43	113.22	111.47	82.27	96.19	86.73	70.49
4.1. Structure for bussines support	274.39	6.18	44.78	36.36	39.05	38.44	28.37	33.17	29.91	24.31
4.2. Industrial sites: rehabilitation and preparing for new activities	235.40	5.31	38.42	31.19	33.50	32.98	24.34	28.46	25.66	20.85
4.3. Microcompanies	285.86	6.44	46.65	37.88	40.67	40.05	29.56	34.56	31.16	25.33
5. Improvement and promotion of local tourism	715.77	16.14	116.81	94.84	101.86	100.28	74.01	86.54	78.02	63.41
5.1. Reconsideration of cultural potential	235.40	5.31	38.42	31.19	33.50	32.98	24.34	28.46	25.66	20.85
5.2. Tourism infrastructure	330.01	7.44	53.86	43.73	46.96	46.23	34.12	39.90	35.97	29.24
5.3. Promoting of tourism potential	150.36	3.39	24.53	19.92	21.40	21.07	15.55	18.18	16.39	13.32
TOTAL	4436.83	100.0	724.09	587.88	631.36	621.60	458.77	536.41	483.62	393.10

Mention should be made of the fact that by the Governmental Order No 811/2006 two projects have been approved for the reconstruction of some regional main roads demanded and elaborated by the districtual councils of Timis and Harghita, for a total length of 60 km which will cost almost 30 million Euro.

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