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THE ROLE OF THE ENERGY DIMENSION IN TOURISM SAFETY AND SECURITY

*Natalia ANTOCI,**Moldova State University*

Security, having a multilateral character – as a state of the social system, a complex process, a function of the state, etc. – reflects the level of satisfaction of the fundamental national interests of a country, as well as the actions taken, on a single ideological basis, to promote those interests and defend them against aggression, dangers, threats and risks of any kind. The tourism sector is an important economic sector globally and locally and offers real prospects for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Safety is one of the most important criteria in supporting the tourism industry. Diplomatic channels, negotiation, cooperation and exchange of experience have always been and remain the most viable ways for a state to achieve its foreign policy objectives in relation to its domestic needs, especially for the Republic of Moldova with limited energy resources and infrastructure still in the present.

Keywords: *security, energy security, tourism, sustainable development, renewable resources, interests, cooperation, infrastructure.*

ROLUL DIMENSIUNII ENERGETICE ÎN SIGURANȚA ȘI SECURITATEA TURISMULUI

Securitatea, având caracter multilateral - ca stare a sistemului social, proces complex, funcție a statului etc. - reflectă nivelul de satisfacere a intereselor naționale fundamentale a unei țări, precum și acțiunile întreprinse, pe o bază ideologică unică, promovând acele interese și apărându-le împotriva agresiunii, amenințărilor și riscurilor de orice fel. Sectorul turismului este un sector economic important la nivel global și local și oferă perspective reale de creștere economică durabilă și favorabilă incluziunii. Sectorul generează o situație economică, care stimulează dezvoltarea regională, oferă locuri de muncă și sprijină multe comunități locale. Siguranța este unul dintre cele mai importante criterii în sprijinirea industriei turismului. Canalele diplomatice, negocierea, cooperarea și schimbul de experiență o să rămână întotdeauna cele mai viabile căi prin care statul își poate atinge obiectivele de politică externă în raport cu nevoile sale interne, în special pentru Republica Moldova cu resurse energetice limitate și infrastructură în curs de dezvoltare.

Cuvinte-chee: *securitate, securitate energetică, turism, dezvoltare durabilă, resurse regenerabile, interese, cooperare, infrastructură.*

Introduction

Tourism is a rapidly growing phenomenon and has become one of the largest industries in the world. The impact of tourism is extremely varied. On the one hand, it plays an important and certainly positive role in socio-economic and political development in the destination countries, for example, by providing new employment opportunities. It can also, in certain cases, contribute to wider cultural understanding by creating awareness, respecting the diversity of cultures and ways of life. On the other hand, as a job creation tool, it has not lived up to expectations. At the same time, complaints from tourist destinations about the massive negative impact on the environment, culture and way of life of the inhabitants have given rise to a demand for more sustainable tourism development. Different parties will have to be involved in the sustainable tourism development process. Security, such as peace, identity and other terminologies in that fold of international political theory plays an important role in this sustainable activity both at the national and international level.

In the name of security, people and governments have taken measures where intended and unintended outcomes became difficult to manage. Because of his apparent lack of conceptual boundary, security as a concept is used to attract and stimulate patronage for many political and economic projects both at the state

level and at the international level of politics. The re-dimensioning of the concept of security implies the transfer of security policies from the self-referential, strictly national level to regional and global levels. Globalisation in all its forms (political, economic, informational, social, religious, cultural) has led governments to include new forms of individual, national, regional and international security challenges on the national security agenda. While tourism provides considerable economic benefits to many countries, regions and communities, its rapid expansion can also be responsible for negative environmental (and sociocultural) impacts. Depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation associated with tourism activities are sometimes serious problems in tourism-rich regions. Managing natural resources to reverse this trend is therefore one of the most difficult challenges for governments at various levels. Despite the negative economic impacts of tourism (such as inflation; foreign dominance of land and real estate markets; inward migration that erodes economic opportunities for domestic industry, including the poor), demand for travel and tourism continues to grow. There is significant scope for increasing potential gains by addressing a number of issues that can help improve opportunities for entrepreneurs and communities in destinations, for poorer sections of these communities, and macro-level for the national economy. Tourism has become the main source of income for the economies of a growing number of small island developing States (SIDS) as well as less developed regions of large countries with a natural environment attractive to tourists. Foreign exchange earnings can, however, vary significantly among these tourism-led economies due to leakages arising from imports of construction equipment and consumer goods needed by tourists, repatriation of profits earned by foreign investors, and the amortization of foreign debt related to tourism development. In addition to export earnings, international tourism also generates an increasingly significant share of government (national and local) tax revenues worldwide. In addition, the development of tourism as a whole is usually accompanied by considerable investment in infrastructure such as airports, roads, water and sanitation facilities, telecommunications and other public utilities. Such infrastructure improvements not only generate benefits for tourists, but can also contribute to improving the living conditions of local populations. This increase in general social capital can also help attract other industries to a disadvantaged area and therefore be crucial to regional economic development.

Materials and Methods

The tourism sector is an increasingly important source of employment, including in tourism-related sectors such as construction and agriculture, primarily for unskilled labour, migrants from poor rural areas, people who prefer to work part-time and especially women. Because the sector is relatively labor intensive, investment in tourism tends to generate greater and faster employment growth than equal investment in other economic activities. Informal employment relationships in small and medium-sized enterprises, which employ about half of the workforce in the hotel and food subsectors worldwide, also contribute to a relatively high proportion of child labor and unpaid employment in these subsectors in many countries. The sustainable development approach is particularly important when applying socio-cultural impacts, as this sector mainly depends on tourist attractions and activities that are linked to both the natural environment and the historical and cultural heritage of an area. If these resources are degraded or destroyed, then tourism cannot thrive. Conservation of tourism resources can help residents of an area become more aware of their heritage and support its protection. Ecotourism can be a valuable means of promoting the socio-economic development of host communities, while generating resources for the conservation of natural and cultural assets. In this way, ecologically fragile areas can be protected with the financial returns of ecotourism activities carried out by both the public and private sectors. In many developing countries, ecotourism has been particularly successful in attracting private investment to establish privately owned nature parks and nature reserves. The tourism industry can help protect and even rehabilitate natural assets, thus contributing to the preservation of biological diversity and ecological balance. Unsustainable ecotourism activities can threaten the very natural environment on which they depend. There is, in fact, a crucial distinction between ecotourism and sustainable tourism. For tourism development to be sustainable, it must move away from its traditional growth-oriented model to one concerned with a sustainable set of goals and principles. All forms of tourism can be considered sustainable or not. Sustainable tourism must be seen as an objective in

tourism development. Achieving such a goal is a difficult task to accomplish; however, the development of tourism in a sustainable manner must be an important objective in the development process. There are many stakeholders in the field of sustainable tourism. Major areas include; the host community, government bodies, the tourism industry, tourists, pressure groups, the voluntary sector, experts and the media. It is essential that all stakeholders work together for the common goal of developing tourism in a sustainable manner. Achieving sustainable development will require profound structural changes and new ways of working in all areas of economic, social and political life. [1. P.36]. This will include promoting pro-poor economic growth and reforming fiscal policies that adversely affect the poor or promote environmental damage. In the long term, countries will need to ensure that their net wealth (including natural, artificial and human capital) remains constant or increases. This will require ensuring that market prices reflect the full social and environmental costs of production and consumption. In the conditions of uncertainty at the level of national security, energy security, including the imminent risk at the Eastern border, the development of an inclusive national strategy, updated to the problems and challenges of the present as well as those of the near future is an indispensable measure at the level of government, and diplomacy, international relations, exchange of experience and inclusion in various partnerships with other international actors are the mechanisms that can boost this complex process. The Energy Strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2030 provides concrete benchmarks for the development of the energy sector in the Republic of Moldova, with the aim of ensuring the necessary basis for economic growth and social well-being. Through this document, the Government of the Republic of Moldova presents the vision and identifies the strategic opportunities of the country in the rapidly changing energy context of the geopolitical space that includes the region of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, Russia and the Caucasus region. The strategy highlights the priority problems of the country, which require quick solutions and a resizing of the objectives in accordance with the need to achieve an optimal balance between: internal resources (both currently used and projected) and the emergency needs of the country, EU and Community objectives Energy and national targets, international treaty obligations, agreements and programs (including the Neighborhood Policy) to which the Republic of Moldova is a member.

Results and Discussions

The general strategic objectives for the period 2013-2030 and the specific strategic objectives for the stages 2013-2020 and 2021-2030 are defined, specifying the measures for their implementation. In the current context, in addition to interventions to address current crises, in order to strengthen resilience to future crises and create the basis for sustainable and inclusive development, the Government has developed the National Development Strategy “Moldova Europe 2030” (NDS) – the national long-term strategic vision document, which indicates the country’s development directions and adapts the priorities, objectives, indicators and targets of the international commitments undertaken by the Republic of Moldova to the national context. The NDS proposes a human-centred vision of development, where people are the beneficiaries, not the resources or instruments of development [3]. The strategy will contribute to the definition of a series of priority interventions – regulatory, institutional, budgetary, investment, educational, which will have a direct positive impact on well-being and will harness people’s entrepreneurial, educational, cultural and productive potential. The development objectives set out in the NDS derive from the modern concept of quality of life and the major problems identified at national level, drawing a direct link between welfare aspirations and the policies that will contribute to achieving 10 objectives. It should also be noted that in 2023, on February 16, a new ministry was recreated within the Recean Government, dedicated to the energy sector, the Ministry of Energy, headed by Minister Parlicov [2]. In addition, awareness of energy security issues at state level is highlighted by the development of a new Energy Strategy for 2050, which is still in draft form. Sustainable development has an important policy, and institutional and capacity implications. At national and local levels, it requires cross-sectoral and participatory institutions and integrative mechanisms that can involve governments, civil society and the private sector in developing shared visions, planning and decision-making. Governments, corporations and development cooperation agencies will also need to be more open and accountable for their actions. Innovation and investment in actions that promote sustain-

able development should be encouraged. In general, economic planning and policy-making will need to become more participatory, prudent and transparent, as well as more long-term oriented, so as to respect the interests of future generations. There are many technical and political difficulties in integrating social, economic and environmental objectives and in adequately addressing the intergenerational dimension of sustainable development. In general, there is little documented experience in most countries in developing such mechanisms and no tried and tested methodologies. Integrating and making trade-offs between sustainable development goals also requires strong legislative and judicial systems. These are often very weak in developing countries.

Being strategic involves setting goals and identifying the means to achieve them. This involves taking an approach that has an underlying vision, which is based on sound evidence, sets priorities, objectives and direction and sets out key tactics for achieving them. In terms of sustainable development, being strategic requires a comprehensive understanding of the concept and its implications, but not necessarily a comprehensive set of actions – at least at any given time.

Conclusions

From the creation of the independent Republic of Moldova until now, the energy of the Republic of Moldova has been largely dependent on resources imported from the Russian Federation, gas being the most used energy resource in the national economy. The launch of the military aggression in Ukraine by the Russian Federation, brings with it an imbalance of forces and a major tension in international relations, which, of course, has a significant impact on the Republic of Moldova, especially through its political will and the condemnation of the Russian Federation for the war that started with Ukraine, ended with Russian blackmail and Russian Federation's uncertainty over Moldova regarding gas supply. Moreover, the energy problem is a problem for all spheres of services, especially the tourism branch.

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Date about author:

Natalia ANTOCI, Moldova State University.

ORCID: 0000-0002-7433-106X

E-mail: antocinatalia57@gmail.com

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