

THE NONGOVERNMENTAL ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONS-AN INSUFFICIENTLY VALUED LINK IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF VIABLE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PROJECTS IN ROMANIA

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“To give value to animals, plants, landscape, natural areas, independent from their utility to mankind or to the benefits they bring to the man is a perfectly legitimate procedure from the philosophical point of view. To report every value to their utility to man is a kind of anthropocentrism which is not sustainable from a philosophical point of view”.

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Abstract. *The present work tries to open a door to the civil society, a new activity sector in Romania resulting from the 89th Revolution, a field strongly criticized and full of controversy, but at the same time recognized as a progress agent of change and permanent progress. The practical and stimulating role of nongovernmental organisations in the implementation of environment policies, in making successful environment protection projects and in the European legal context of long lasting development, cannot be neglected. In a national and international partnership, through viable projects on a national and international level the nongovernmental structures can access resources and identify new solutions for the global development guided by The Lisbon Convention, The Aachen Convention, and by The National Strategy of Long Lasting Development.*

Keywords: *nongovernmental organizations, environment policies, sustainable development, viable partnership.*

Rezumat. Organizațiile neguvernamentale de mediu - o verigă nevalorizată suficient în implementarea politicilor de dezvoltare durabilă și în realizarea unor proiecte viabile de protecție a mediului în România. *Această lucrare încearcă să deschidă o poartă spre societatea civilă, sector de activitate nou în România, rezultat al Revoluției din '89, domeniu mult criticat și controversat, dar în același timp recunoscut ca important agent al schimbării și progresului continuu. Rolul stimulator și practic al organizațiilor neguvernamentale în implementarea politicilor de mediu, în realizarea proiectelor de succes în domeniul protecției mediului și a dezvoltării durabile în context legislativ european, nu poate fi neglijat. În parteneriat intern și extern, prin proiecte viabile în plan național și internațional, structurile neguvernamentale accesează resurse și identifică noi soluții pentru dezvoltare globală în lumina Convenției de la Lisabona, a Convenției de la Aachen și a Strategiei Naționale de Dezvoltare Durabilă.*

Cuvinte cheie: *organizație neguvernamentală, politici de mediu, dezvoltare durabilă, parteneriat viabil.*

METHODS AND MATERIAL

In the making of the present work there have been used empirical quality research methods, in a comprehensive view, in a opened and extended manner. The aim was not for a demonstration but for a promotion of nonprofit structures of which expertise and capacity in the long lasting development and environment protection field the community can rely on.

Guided by Michael Quinn Patton` s suggestions (1990), through a critical and creative thinking, the paper tries at the same time to open the door to science and the art of analysis in order to get to the following results:

- a) to offer practical and multiple options and possibilities in the environment protection field;
- b) setting up a list of solutions not obstacles;
- c) using alternative ways of expression like the art, metaphors, relevant study cases;
- d) a nonlinear way of thinking, detached from the usual acting and thinking mode, so that the research object is perceived from a new perspective;
- e) introducing the creative, positive research concept, the devoted researcher model, involved in processes and not in obstacles, that puts energy into finding realistic solutions based on written down drafts.

CHAPTER I: WHAT ARE AND WHAT CAN THE NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OFFER?

The nongovernmental organisations are juridical personae, associations or foundations, set up on the grounds of the Law number 21 from 1924 (or on the Government Resolution 26/2000), which have a public purpose, objectives, internal functioning rules and status. They are nonprofit associations or foundations (they do not bring profit to the partners/members form a developed activity, the possible incomes being invested in the organisation` s activities). Independent private law structures participate as equal partners at the discussion table with State` s representatives, with the local authorities and the economical agents.

Beginning with 15th of May 2006, fifteen representatives of nongovernmental organisations from Romania are part of the Social Economical Board, representative forum for employers, unions, civil society, with the role of

examining the social and economic situation. CES offers consultancy and gives proposals to the Parliament and to the Government.

The benefice that the nongovernmental organisations (also called NGOs) bring to society is in competition with that of public institutions, the nongovernmental organisations can supply a great part of the deficiencies these institutions have in the organisation field, relations, practical activities and promotion. The influence the nongovernmental organisations have on the public is a positive factor as well, considering the fact that they can bring a large contribution to the forming of responsible civic attitudes and promoting solutions to the development of society.

1. ROMANIAN NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS; RESOURCES/RESULTS/DISCUSSIONS

Romanian nongovernmental organisations activity fields:

- a) academic and professional associations;
- b) commerce chamber and consumer protection organisations;
- c) human rights organisations (including women rights, youth and children rights);
- d) organisations from the healthcare and people with disabilities field;
- e) social services organisations and eradicating poverty;
- f) environment organisations and organisations dealing with problems from the rural areas.

The environment organisations from Romania are in a full evolution process, successfully making its presence felt in the general efforts of creating a healthier natural setting, physically and morally unpolluted. Their rising number is the solid proof of the interest the public gives to solving environmental problems. The active structures in the environment protection field can be found in the form of associations, foundations, clubs, networks federations and working groups.

In what concerns the environmental information, the nongovernmental organisations are one of the most efficient sources through which the information can be obtained, worked on and used. Satisfying the interests of nongovernmental environment organisations requires them to be well informed. The offer given to the public is also increasing, the nongovernmental environment organisations seeking through the nature of their activity and number of members and followers to represent a large segment of public's interests, sometimes with remarkable results in the decision making process.

At last but not least the nongovernmental environment organisations offer a great setting to the development of an eco-civic character among the young generation and, why not, give information to friend groups of the environment. Here is why a short presentation of environment organisations from Romania and of European environment information is very useful, being the first step in making partnerships with the universities, local authorities, state structures, institutions promoting culture and environmental surroundings, economical agents and other factors that should be involved directly or not in a solidary macro-holding of activities for preserving a natural habitat.

1.1. WHAT DO ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONS, NETWORKS AND WORK GROUPS HAVE TO OFFER?

Nongovernmental environment structures offer services and activities like: informing; training specialized personnel; promoting new products and services; arranging and maintaining national parks and protected areas; making durable partnerships, viable through monitoring and making the involved parties aware; building up public policies; having an active participation as experts and consultants in the urbanism commissions and at environment protection and sustainable development workshops.

1.1.2. WHY THE NEED FOR MACRO-HOLDING ACTIVITIES IN THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION FIELD?

The reasons are:

1. From the 522 species of fresh water fish that live on the continent, about 200 of them are in danger of being extinct, while 12 of them have already gone extinct in the last century as a result of development that had a devastating impact on the environment.
2. All rivers in Romania are affected by human activity and by institutions unaware of the deteriorating quality of water, of the damages brought to the touristic image of the country.
3. Over 100.000 hectares from South Dolj have become unproductive because of the massive tree clearing from the last years. There are cut down merciless even today, especially in coming winter when the people need firewood. In this area, as well as in other areas of the country, in the last 30 years, the percentage of forest areas has been cut in half.
4. Hunting-insufficiently legislated, uncontrolled and unmonitored.
5. The community is insufficiently informed and educated for a direct involvement and participation in preventing and solving environment problems.

CHAPTER II: EUROPEAN LEGAL CONTEXT

The European Union has a Sustainable Development strategy, which has clear objectives and actions that are linked to seven priorities, most of them of environment: a) climate change and clean energy; b) sustainable transport; c)

sustainable production and consumption; d) the preservation and management of natural resources; e) public health; f) social inclusion, demography and migration; g) poverty, challenges, global sustainable developments.

The sustainable development brings a lot of common issues to all countries but because of different ways of development, the industrialized countries are asked to support great deal of the immediate difficulties. In one of the most disputed stipulations of Rio Declaration, the developed countries admit to their explicit main responsibility for the present degradation of the environment and for its mending.

2.1. THE RIO DECLARATION, PRINCIPLE 7...“The developed countries admit to their responsibility for the international race of sustainable development, by virtue of the pressure that their society put upon the global environment and upon the financial resources and technologies that they control”. This differentiated responsibility is mirrored in many other international environment protection agreements. For example: the directing principles of United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Changes 7, asks form the developed countries to take the lead in the fight against climate changes and their results.

Equity and responsibility among generations. The sustainable development, as it was defined in the Brundtland Report, is closely linked to the objective of equity among generations. This objective recognizes the responsibility of every generation to be just with the future generation; the present generation has to leave to the future generation a legacy as “rich” as the one they received from the former generation. The minimum fulfillment of this objective needs to highlight the principles concerning the sustainable use of natural resources and avoid any irreversible damage brought to the environment. The concept of responsibility among generations has started to become important at the Stockholm Conference.

2.1.2. THE STOCKHOLM DECLARATION, PRINCIPLE 1...“The man has a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for the present and future generations”. The responsibility among generations is reaffirmed at the Rio Conference, as a central part of the orientation towards sustainable development. The sustainable development is presently accepted as a main objective for the economical and social activity. The definition given to the sustainable development in the Brundtland Report, although accepted, was considered vague.

UNEP has brought a newer interpretation to this definition, specifying that “the progress towards national and international equity, rational use and supplement of natural resource base stand as a foundation for the ecological rehabilitate and economic increase”.

A) The term still needs some specific explanatory notes and recently a group of lawyers define the sustainable development as: “A complex economical, social and political process. This process aims at a sustainable use of the Planet` s resources and environment protection, on witch the human nature and life depend, as well as the economical and social development. The objective of this complex process is to fulfill every human being` s right to a proper standard of life, based on their active, free and meaningful participation, to the improving and equal distribution of the resulting benefices, at the same time with giving the right attention to the needs and interests of the future generation”.

B) It can be said with certainty that the orientation toward the sustainable development has major implications for the political, economical and social policy. In the anthropocentric acceptance, the main effort orientation is for environment protection at an international level has to be focused on improving the human condition.

2.2. THE RIO DECLARATION, PRINCIPLE 1... “The human beings are at the centre of the sustainable development preoccupations”. Starting from this “anthropocentric approach”, the protection of savage life or of any other natural resources does not represent a purpose itself, but more a necessity to insure a superior and more sustainable quality of human life. Environment protection and for that the international environment legislation have to be linked together with the human welfare , and for that purpose, all the natural resources must be available to use.

At the opposite side we find the “biocentric” approach, witch values the nature in itself, protecting it mo matter her utility to the human being. The biocentric approach was adopted in the World Charta for Nature 3, but was rejected at the Rio Conference and it is not specifically approached in the international environment legislation.

The concept of sustainable development in tourism has appeared at the beginning of the `90s giving birth to sustainable tourism – a branch that rapidly gained importance in the academic and research field as well as in the touristic practice and activity. The ecotourism is a form of tourism that has appeared out of the people` s need of going back to the nature, to visit and to discover the natural areas that have a national and international protection status. The ecotourism in G.N. Wallace `s “Ecotourism” includes 4 fundamental elements: the moving notion, traveling from one place to another; the ecotourism is or should be based on nature; the ecotourism is led by the preservation principle; the ecotourism has an educational role.

Together with the development of the ecotourism on a world scale has appeared the recognition of the benefits of this type o tourism as the best “mechanism” of touristic resources and landscape valorization. In FNNPE view the sustainable tourism “includes all the forms of touristic development, management and touristic activities that maintain the ecological, social and economical integrity and the national and cultural welfare”.

Three very important objectives of recognizing the potential of ecotourism as an instrument of the sustainable development can be found according to the “Rio Convention” in: the preservation of bio and eco diversity; promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity by generating incomes, employment and business in ecotourism; the right

distribution of benefits coming from the ecotourism to the people and local communities by establishing the protection aims, discussions about the aims of sustainable development in tourism for all the partners, building up work teams with the local population or the regional nongovernmental organisations interested in the development of tourism; identifying the values and possibilities that stand at the foundation of sustainable tourism; launching proposals of new touristic products which include the educational tourism in different fields: scientific field, cultural field, environment protection field.

CHAPTER III: NONGOVERNMENTAL ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONS

3.1. 40% of the environment organisations are involved in the promotion of ecologic and sustainable tourism, from the two angles- hosting and sending – not leaving to chance the sustainable partnership and the local development according to 21 Agenda.

The 133 active environment organisations from Romania bring their contribution in a complex and different way to the environment protection and the active involvement of the citizen in the sustainable development. They militated through public campaigns and unconditional support to the promotion of laws of most important interest to the democratization of information and unconditional participation in solving problems related to the rights and obligations of the citizens from a Europe of democracy and free information access.

The nongovernmental organisations were involved in the final elaboration process of bills of maximum interest in the promotion of democracy in Romania having as a result the following:

- a) The 554/2001 Law- the citizen` s right to access public interest information;
- b) The 52/2003 Law – active participation in decision making;
- c) Government Resolution no. 878/2005 concerning public access to environment information,
- d) The Mountain Law promoted by the Academician Professor Doctor Radu Ray.

3.2. EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS MADE BY THE ORGANISATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER STRUCTURES FORM ROMANIA:

- a) **“Together for Nature 2006”**. The contest takes place annually in seven regional stages and one national stage. Starting with 2006 there is also an international stage. All the stages take place in the national and natural parks of Romania with the possible participation of 4000 students from 1-9 grade and 200 teachers and parents during 2 years. The result is remarkable: the setting up of 160 ecological clubs in the schools all around the country.
- b) **“Save the Green Spaces” Campaign**. Purpose: sensitizing the Romanian deputies to adopt a really benefic legislation for the green spaces and making the Romanians aware of the importance of protecting green spaces
- c) **Implementing the European Ecological Network: <<Nature>>**
- d) **“Save Roşia Montană” Campaign**
- e) **Community Centers Promoting Sustainable Living** - Grundtvig 1 project, promoter: Malta University, in partnership with other 9 countries, project developed in Romania by the Phoenix Carita Society Horezu, Bicz Phoenix Carita Association and Iasi Ecology Association.

Other financed projects can be found on the website: <http://www.epce.ro>

3.3. WAYS OG INTERNAL AND GOVERNMENTAL FINANCING FOR NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS. In the final results of the research made by FDSC and CENTRAS in May 2007 the internal philanthropy is insufficiently developed in Romania. In 2005-2006, the amount of money given by the individual tax payers, according to the stipulations of 2% from the Fiscal Code, to the nonprofit structures is of 17,683,973 RON (almost 5, 3 millions of Euro). Only 8, 6 % of the tax payers have used this legal stipulation.

The big companies that are active in Romania develop social responsibility projects giving funds to some nongovernmental organisations. In 2006, in the selection for the most representative projects of social responsibility of the companies participating in “People for People” Gala organized by The American Chamber of Commerce from Romania and the Community Relations Association there were projects of total value of 6,7 millions of Euro.

In the European Union the governmental financing represents a essential part of the total income of nongovernmental organisations. According to *European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)*, a typical European nongovernmental organisation, receives half of its incomes from public sources. ECAS thinks that for this reason, the financial relation that exists between the nongovernmental organisations sector and the public financers is vital one.

In 2003, the percent of income for the nongovernmental sector obtained from government financing was somewhere around 30 (Sweden, Norway) to over 70 (Bulgaria, Ireland) in west Europe, and in CEE countries form almost 20 (Slovakia) to 40 (Check Republic). The government financing for the nongovernmental organisations sector was estimated in 1995 at 5% form the total incomes the nongovernmental organisations in Romania had. The government financing for nongovernmental organisations represented then 9, 5 million dollars. In 2006, the financing from the central Romanian public authorities was around 17 million dollars.

At a European level there were identified 4 great approaches which determine the relation between the government and the nongovernmental organisations and which has influence over the financing mechanisms used more frequently:

- a) the approach based on the program;

- b) the approach based on the project;
- c) the approach based on opportunities;
- d) the QUANGO approach (quasi-autonomous nongovernmental organisations)

The main legal acts that settle the direct governmental financing for nongovernmental organisations in Romania are:

- a) Government Decree no. 68/2003 regarding social services, talks about service contracts and partnership contracts,
- b) Law 34/2006 regarding repayable financing from public funds given for nonprofit activities of general interest,
- c) Government Decree no.34/2006 regarding the granting contracts given for services. Legally the main forms of direct financing from public budget in Romania are: subsidys, subventions, repayable financing (grants) and contracting PIN services.

The funds were allocated in the following manner:

Table 1. The main Government financing institutions in 2006.

| Financing institution | Total NGO Financing | Total Financed NGOs |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| MMSSF25 | 39.343.410 | 102 |
| Others26 | 231.035 | 3 |
| ANT27 | 2.439.752 | 502 |
| DRI | 2.095.233 | 94 |
| AFCN | 1.531.667 | 31 |
| ASG | 1.066.452 | 11 |
| AFM | 1.022.817 | 20 |

The present table shows that the environment ministry has not allocated sufficient funds for the nongovernmental organisations, one of the reasons for not being mentioned.

3.3.1. FOREIGN FINANCING

- a) The Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Space
- b) Nongovernmental Organisation Fund

3.3.2. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS FUND

The objective of the Nongovernmental Organisation Fund created by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA) is to strengthen the civil society form Romania by sustaining projects in five priority fields.

3.3.3. FIELDS AND ALLOCATED BUDGET

The nongovernmental organisation fund gives the repayments for projects developed by nongovernmental organisations. The orientating financial allocation for this sort of project proposals is of 1.800.000 euros. Financing fields: a) democracy consolidation, b) opportunities for children and young people` s participation in the life of the community, c) social inclusion and access to social services; d) environment protection; e) cultural patrimony.

3.3.4. OTHER FINANCERS FOR ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

- a) **FVS Foundation:** Financing fields: art, science, European relations and natural resources protection. Website: <http://www.toepfer-fvs.de>
- b) **Beneficial Foundation:** Financing fields: arrange, protect and sustain the most important ecosystems. Website: <http://www.beneficialfoundation.org>
- c) **Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS).** Financing fields: atomic energy, radiation, sustainable use of energy. The fund sustains projects that participate in the antinuclear movement.
- d) **Robert Bosch Stiftung Gmb Fund.** Financing fields: healthcare, social field, education, art, science, inter-ethnic peace. <http://www.bosch-stiftung.de>
- e) **Macarthur Foundation.** Granting Programs: human and community development. Website: www.macarthur.org
- f) **Public Welfare Foundation.** Granting Programs: economic and community development, justice, dezadvantaged elders and children. Environment, healthcare, global security and human rights. Website: www.publicwelfare.org
- g) **7. Carnegie Corporation.** Website: www.carnegie.org
- h) **ISAR Granting Programs:** environment promotion, local nongovernmental organisations development, governing, social reforms. Website: www.isar.org
- i) **Charles Mott Foundation.** Granting programs: projects initiated by nongovernmental organisations, The Civil Society, strengthening the nongovernmental sector, promoting the rights and responsibilities of citizens, (as well as special initiatives that sustain political, economical and social transition through regional representations, regional and local programs). Website: www.mott.org

CHAPTER IV: RELEVANT ROMANIAN NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

4.1.

- a) Environment and Nature Protection Asociation Rhododendron, office: Str. Bartok Bela nr.1, Targu Mures 540035, Judetul Mures rhodo@fx.ro Szabo Geza 0265.267712

- b) Kogayon Asociation office: Str. Costesti, nr.343, 247115, Costesti, Judetul Valcea asociatia_kogayon@yahoo.com
Web: www.kogayon.ro, Florin Stoican florinstoican@yahoo.com, tel: 0723.071648
- c) The Romanian Environment Juornalists` Asociation al.r.avulescu @ b.astral.ro
- d) The Touristic, Sportiv, Civic and Ecological Asociation, The Ciclotourism Club "Napoca" (CCN) str. Septimiu Albini, nr. 133, ap. 18, Cluj-Napoca, Relatii publice: str. Sindicatelor nr.3 ap. 8 Tel: 0264 – 450013, fax: 0264 – 431626, E-mail: office@ccn.ro, Pagina web: www.ccn.ro, pc: Radu Mititean tel. 0744 – 576836
- a) The Regional Centre of Ecological Supervision "Muntii Apuseni" (CRSE), Piata 1 Decembrie nr.6 et.1, Oradea, cod 410068, telefon: 0259- 472434, fax: 0259 –472434, E-mail: contact@oradeaverde.ro, pc: Mihai Togor Tel. 0745107292
- b) The Ecological Club UNESCO Pro Natura, sediu: Calea Plevnei nr. 61, camera 20, sector 1 Buburesti, pronatura@ccs.ro, tel/fax 0213112644, Burdusel Emilian, emil@ccs.ro 0721333485, 0788422155, Peter Lengyel 0722459119 lengyelpeter@yahoo.com
- c) Ecotur Sibiu, ecotursb at yahoo.com, Str, Oituz nr.31, etaj 2, Sibiu, RO-550337, camera O.II.5. Angela Banaduc, tel 0740021945, 0722604338, banaduc at yahoo.com, Ana Maria Benedek, ana_benedek@hotmail.com, tel: 0744538278
- d) The Romanian Federation of Chiropterology: Sos. Kiseleff Nr.1, Sectorul 1, 011341 Bucuresti, Dumitru Murariu, Victor Gheorghiu dmurariu@antipa.ro, victor_gheorghiu@hotmail.com 0722.606566
- e) The Romanian Federation of Spelaeology, Bucuresti, Str.Frumoasa nr. 31, sector 1, bucuresti@frspeo.ro, www.frspeo.ro, secretariat: Ana Bulgar 0723-690082 Viorel Lascu 0745.602203
- f) "Speranta Verde" Foundation Cluj (FSV)
- g) "Czaran Gyula" Foundation Oradea, str. Costache Negruzzi nr. 8, bl. Pb25, ap. 2, tel: 161906 Egri Francisc
- h) Anaconda Foundation, office@anaconda.ro
- i) Carpati Foundation, Str. Pavilioanele CFR, nr. 100, Bl. 26, Sc. F, ap.9, Brasov, Tel/fax: 0268-330567, George Predoiu: 0744-363640, Ovidiu Ionescu 0744-362458 fundatiacarpati@go.ro
- j) The Ecology and Tourism Foundation "Potaissa" Turda, corespondenta: str. Zorilor nr. 3 bl. F2 ap. 32 cod 401070 loc. Turda jud Cluj, birou: p-ta 1 Decembrie nr. 6A Turda tel. 0264.316385, e-mail: potaissa@ngo.ro web www.potaissa.ngo.ro
- k) The Spelaeology Foundation "CLUB SPEO BUCOVINA" Suceava, O.P.4 - C.P.75, Suceava, 720330 tel/fax: 0230524944, tel mobil: 0741 967150; 0740 617584 www.speo.org.ro Adrian Done; Tatiana Done, tatiana_ingrid@yahoo.com 0230.222191
- l) ECO PONTICA Foundation, TULCEA, Str. Grivitei, nr.1, bl. C1, sc. A, ap. 9, cod: 880056, Sibille GASSER 0240.512.787 Fax: 0240. 511.261 contact@eco-pontica.ro www.eco-pontica.ro
- m) Edelweiss Foundation, edelweissfoundation@yahoo.com
- n) Edmond Foundation, Strada Centru 417, Bloc 4/B/II/6, Tulghes, Judetul Harghita, 0266 338201, 0727-055550 Edmond Hirlav hirlav@yahoo.com
- o) The Foundation for Culture and Ecological Education Ecotop Oradea, Piata Independentei nr. 39 Cetatea Oradea corp I, Oradea, cod 410067, Telefon 0359-425590, Tel/Fax : 0259-441681,
- p) Oceanic Club - Societatea de Explorari Oceanografice si Protectie a Mediului Marin, Popescu-Mirceni Razvan, Constanta, 0744-50-77-09 Chera Constantin, Constanta, Piata Ovidiu 12, 8700 Constanta, 0241618763 oceanic-club@home.ro, club@oceanic.ro, www.oceanic.ro androed@hotmail.com
- q) The Youth Organisation ECOS, str. Isacpei nr. 24, parter, Tulcea 820166, jud. Tulcea ecostulcea@yahoo.co.uk Torok Zsolt 0721.508521,0240.534935
- r) The Nongovernmental Ecological Organisation Mare Nostrum, sediu: Str. George Enescu, Nr. 32, Constanta 900692, jud. Constanta

4.1.1 ORGANISATIONS WITH MULTIPLE PREOCCUPATIONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- a) The National Ecological Agriculture Federation (NEAF), Ion Toncea 0724 384 301
- b) The Direct Civic Action, Cristian Grecu, cristi_grecu@yahoo.com
- c) The Association for Assistance and Programme for Sustainable Development - Agenda 21 agenda21@mymail.ro, agenda21_ro@yahoo.com
- d) Phoenix Carita Horezu Society , Str Nicolae Balcescu 47 B 240360 Ramnicu Valcea tel/fax 0040- 350802031 The National Network of Active Education Centers, Partnership, Tourism, and Sustainable Development in Romanian Rural Area, tel: 0724467833; phoenix_studia@yahoo.com

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSIONS RESULTING FROM THE BUCHAREST 28TH OCTOBER 2008 MEETING OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS : PLANNING THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY AND POLICY RO 2009-20013

5.1. THE RELATION NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS - ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITIES:

communication, relating, the institutional setting for cooperation, consultancy.

- a) With the purpose of meeting with the local society, in the new mandate PD-L takes into consideration to built at ministry level and subordonate institutions GNM, ANPM, and ARBDD some compartments and special offices for the relation with the environment nongovernmental organisations.
- b) There will be established half-yearly meetings between the ministry and the nongovernmental organisations to discuss the problems of nongovernmental organisations and of other themes of interest for environment protection.
- c) The ministry will establish a communication instrument on the Internet Newsletter like through which will send information to all the nongovernmental organisations interested in the authorities' activity concerning environment protection.

5.1.1. BIODIVERSITY: legislation, nongovernmental organisation involvement, protected areas delimitation and management.

- a) The ministry will take into consideration the revision of the environment legislation referring to biodiversity and for this will initiate public debates including with one of the most organized sector of civic sectors the nongovernmental organisations.
- b) There are problems in delimitating and defining the protected areas and their management, reason for which a bill for the management plans of protected areas needs to be elaborated and we invite you to participate.
- c) There are expected points of view regarding the role and attributions of The National Agency of Protected Areas-NAPA from the nongovernmental organisations.

5.1.2. SUSTAINING THE NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACTIVITY: financing mechanisms for the nongovernmental organisations activities, partnerships, etc.

- a) It is known that nongovernmental organisations have an important role in the structuring the environment policies in Romania and for that reason Romania has to have strong nongovernmental organisations with strong professional accent. Along with the existing possibilities, new ways of financing the nongovernmental organisations need to be found.
- b) The ministry and the interested institutions are aware that they have to lead a team work and for that they will be opened to partnership proposals with the nongovernmental organisations on problems with major interest for the citizens

5.1.3. EDUCATION: awareness actions through nongovernmental organisations, training, promotion.

- a) It is estimated that some nongovernmental organisations have the necessary resources and preparation to be sustained in awareness and information campaigns.
- b) It is wanted the involvement of nongovernmental organisations in actions and campaigns promoting some initiatives in the environment field.
- c) It is wanted the full cooperation of many nongovernmental organisations interested in promoting the sustainable development and to identify new resources in the interest of citizens.

5.1.4. LEGISLATION: consulting nongovernmental organisations on legal projects, elaborating plans and strategies. For very important legal projects the ministry intends to organize different debates and to directly take on the nongovernmental organisations' opinions.

5.2. THE NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTATIVES PROPOSALS IN 2008

- a) We need more standards in the environment field and not to forget certification of professional competences is a European demand that needs to be taken seriously in Romania.
- b) The decisions regarding the environment and elaborating the legislation in the field need to be taken in setting that includes not only the authorities and the employers, also the unions and the civil society - for example The Social Dialog Comity.
- c) Restoring the Danube Delta needs to be a priority. A similar approach for the Big Island of Braila needs to be close examined.
- d) The close and cautious settling of hunting and fishing activities in the delta.
- e) The afforestation program should lead to a 31% from the afforested surface until 2012.
- f) The financing programs for the nongovernmental organisations, including the Environment Fund, usually suppose complicated procedures and the information regarding the financing sessions are not sufficiently disseminated.
- g) There are interesting programs that must be financed through special projects because they refer to fields that are in handled by 2 or more ministries, for example healthcare- environment, agriculture- environment, etc. and it is proposed the settling of joint funds at the level of the authorities.
- h) For the Romanian nongovernmental organisations there are no financing programs to sustain international cooperation, experience exchanges and information.
- i) The importance of protecting the water resources and restoring the surface water quality has been highlighted.
- j) Along with sustaining the production of energy from unconventional resources the inclusion of investments in the production of energy from regenerating sources.

- k) Simplifying the connection procedures to the systems of taking on the energy coming from unconventional and regenerating sources.
- l) The responsible settlement of exploitation activities of mineral resources, oil and coal.
- m) A close control of the use of fertilizers in agriculture as a protection measure for the surface and underground waters.
- n) The nongovernmental organisations must be seen as mediators between the authorities, economic agents, local public administration and citizens.
- o) Extending the financing sources for the nongovernmental organisations.
- p) Promotion campaigns for green acquisitions
- q) Administrating the protected areas- conflict of interests at Romsilva for having economic interests and also being the administrator.
- r) The settlement of activities and getting the lands from the protected areas out of the system has some flaws.
- s) Setting up a data base for the environment organisations interested in promoting long term viable projects.
- t) Making a regional study in the SV area to settle an interest barometer for stockholders interested in starting joint projects.
- u) Partnership for sustainable development and environment protection between nongovernmental organisations, universities, cultural and environment protection institutions.
- v) Promoting the sustainable tourism, volunteering in the environment field and competence exchange between complementary institutions from in and out of the country, the environment nongovernmental organisations being the catalytic.
- w) Organizing informative campaigns and recurrent seminars/conferences with topics of local, regional, national and international interest.
- x) Making a twinning based on sustainable development and environment protection between communities from countries with different experiences and cultures; promoting projects financed by local authorities and interested local players.

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