RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Region and the Public Administration in Romania

Florin Ghiocel Ph. D Student

1University of Craiova Faculty of Economics and Business Administration Craiova, Romania

Abstract

The public administration of the administrative-territorial units has regional development is a vital process that underlies the economic and social integration of Europe, the diversity of European regions not being an obstacle to regional development, due to the fact that it does not aim to standardize the entire geographical area, and on the contrary to achieve a standard of living decent. The European Union is one of the most prosperous economic areas in the world, but the differences between Member States are striking, especially when the 268 regions of the Union are taken into account. The differences between the regions do not consist in history and traditions, or in the language used but in the level of development, respectively the standard of living of the inhabitants. The concept of regional development is closely linked to that of economic development and is oriented towards territorial, zonal or local aspects. This is a concept that aims to boost economic activities, stimulate and diversify investment in the private sector in particular, reduce unemployment and not ultimately lead to an improvement in living standards. Starting from the conviction that, at present, the financing mechanisms have a decisive role in the process of regional development, and the financial phenomena have a special impact on the economic, social and political fields, I was interested in the evolution of the relations between financing mechanisms and development policy. regional. Given that most countries in the world have not experienced, from a territorial point of view, a uniform economic development, they face either an overdevelopment or an underdevelopment, being aware of the complexity of this issue, through this paper I proposed to identify the main funding mechanisms that can lead to the reduction of discrepancies between regions, respectively to a balanced and harmonious development.

Jel Classification: G32, G53

Keywords: local administration, local autonomy, finance system, economy
1 | INTRODUCTION

The challenges posed by globalization over the last decades have highlighted the multiple valences of progress and economic growth, and in this context the "region" can be seen as a foundation of economic and social life, a basic scale of economic development.

Given that most countries in the world have not experienced, from a territorial point of view, a uniform economic development, they face either an over development or an under development, being aware of the complexity of this issue, through this paper I proposed to identify the main funding mechanisms that can lead to the reduction of discrepancies between regions, respectively to a balanced and harmonious development. Globalization has had the effect of reducing the control of national economies and increasing competition in the regions, the region being able to organize its own development trajectory. These trends as well as the launch of decentralization processes have led to an increase in the importance of regions, at least in some modern states. However, local and regional development remains strongly correlated with international and national events even if the regions have registered favorable individual developments. Romania was given the opportunity to join the European Union, to be part of a united community in which the solidarity of its members is strongly felt, and mutual support between states has a true history behind it, each stage being based on specific pillars. Eliminating and reducing differences in the level of development, productivity and employment between Member States but also between regions of the same state can be done primarily by accessing structural and cohesion funds but also by policies. specific development. First of all, competitiveness at European level cannot be achieved only through European policies at the level of each Member State or at regional level, economic success is a process that requires close cooperation, European regional policy having the potential to turn common challenges into opportunities. the benefit of the whole of Europe. Romania is still far behind most European countries in terms of economic development. In order to achieve the economic growth aspirations reflected in the global objective mentioned in the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement, namely to reduce disparities in economic and social development between Romania and the Member States of the European Union, Romania could have a competitive and modern economy by addressing the following areas also in the Europe 2020 Strategy: Competitiveness; People and Society; Infrastructure; Resources; Administration and governance. Secondly, better public finance plays a key role in long-term economic growth. The composition of public spending, with an emphasis on education and infrastructure spending, is paramount. At the same time, the structure of the tax system impacts the growth prospects. While taxes can be classified according to the least negative impact on growth (ie, property taxes, consumption taxes, personal income taxes and profit taxes), the design of tax systems clearly raises trade-offs other than the targets. economic growth. Thirdly, how efficient the public spending system is and what quality of public services is required by citizens is mainly influenced by cultural factors. This implies that quality changes can only be implemented slowly. Fourth, the role that counter cyclical fiscal policy can play in economic growth remains debatable. Fifth, strong fiscal governance, including through national fiscal rules, medium-term budgetary frameworks and fiscal institutions, are considered to be a key pillar for better public finance quality.

2 | REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - A CONTROVERSIAL CONCEPT

Most countries of the world have not experienced, from a territorial point of view, a uniform economic development throughout their history. Some territo-
ries (eg southern Italy and western Ireland) have developed more slowly compared to the general level, while in countries such as Germany and France, strong economic growth has tended to be concentrated in certain areas of the country, while others remained in a state of relative underdevelopment. In Norway and Sweden, for example, sparsely populated regions have not been able to maintain a satisfactory level of social infrastructure and economic development.

From a conceptual point of view, regarding the notion of "regional development", some specialists associate this term with the notion of "spatial planning". In Germany, for example, it has been given the notion of "spatial organization" (raumordnung), in England "natural planning" (pysical planning), in Spain "territorial organization" (ordinacion del territorio), all with a more spatial connotation, in In France, however, this term acquired an economic content (amenagement du territoire). In order to have a unitary approach and for a comprehensive coverage of regional policy coordinates, the theme of "regional development" is used in the official texts of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development but also in those of the European Union.

The history of regional science dates back to the 1950s, with the establishment of the International Association of Regional Science Specialists, founded in 1954, an association that promotes the free exchange of ideas and views on this vast field. The main landmarks that contributed to the understanding of the regional development process and its efficiency were the neoclassical, Keynesian, neoc-Maxist and monetarist conceptions. All these concepts spring from general economic science, without a single current of regional economic thinking, but numerous schools and theories, each highlighting the impact factors on regional development taken into account.

3 | ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION IN THE CONTEMPORARY PERIOD

Any state being a public power, organized on a territory delimited and recognized by the other states, has the role not only to represent the people on this territory, but also to solve their interests so different from one person to another or from one group of individuals to another. In order to fulfill this role, the state divides its territory and its population into certain areas of interest, based on different criteria: geographical, religious, cultural, etc. These areas - smaller or larger - are the administrative-territorial units that throughout history have had various names: county, county, region, city, commune, etc. Today, according to the Constitution (2003), "the territory is organized in terms of administration in communes, cities and counties."

In all these administrative-territorial units, the state has created public authorities, which will represent it and act in them to achieve its interests, but also those of the respective inhabitants. To the same end, the state has created authorities at the central level, to represent it and ensure the realization of the interests that are imposed at this level.

The basic principles of local public administration are stipulated in the texts of the revised Constitution and in the Law on Local Public Administration no. 215 (2001) with subsequent amendments and completions.

Thus, the Constitution (2003) provides for three principles on which the public administration of the administrative - territorial units is based, namely: the principle of decentralization, the principle of local autonomy and the principle of deconcentration of public services. Also, the public administration from the administrative-territorial units is organized and operates based on the following principles: the principle of local autonomy, the principle decentralization of public services, the principle of eligibility of local public administration authorities, the principle of legality and the principle of consulting citizens in local issues of special interest.

The application of these principles cannot prejudice the character of the national, unitary and indivisible state of Romania. Among the stated principles, that of decentralization of public services is the closest to administrative decentralization. The decentralization of public services represents the transfer of attributions from the competence of the specialized central public administration authorities to a deter-
mined body, a determined public service, from the administrative-territorial units. Thus, decentralized public services acquire a certain freedom of action. Centralization presupposes in organizational plan the hierarchical subordination of local authorities to the central ones and the appointment of civil servants from the management of local authorities by the central ones, and in functional plan, the issuance of the decision act by the central authorities and its execution by the local ones. The centralized system ensures a coordinated operation of public services. The operation on the principle of hierarchical subordination of public services has as a consequence the elimination of overlaps of the same level, as well as of parallelisms. Centralized management, in the principle of hierarchical subordination, also ensures absolute control, which is an additional guarantee for the protection of the interests of those administered. In addition to the advantages already mentioned, centralization in public administration also has some disadvantages. In the regime of centralized organization and functioning of the public administration, local interests cannot find an optimal solution, because the central authorities cannot know in their specificity these interests that differ from one locality to another. The central concentration of the management of some public services of local interest results in the overcrowding of the central authorities, which leads to the delayed and superficial solution of the problems that would be solved more operatively and better by the local authorities. In a centralized administrative regime, based on the appointment of civil servants by the center, citizens no longer participate in the administration of their affairs and are deprived of initiative. Unlike the centralized system, the decentralized system in public administration is a legal regime in which the solution of local problems is no longer done by officials appointed from the center but by those elected by the electorate. In this administrative regime, the state also confers on some public authorities the right to exercise public power in some matters. Administrative decentralization consists in recognizing the legal personality of the administrative-territorial units, the existence of public authorities that represent them and that are not part of a hierarchical system subordinated to the center, as well as the transfer of public services from central to local authorities. The degree of administrative decentralization depends on the number of public services provided under the competence of local authorities. The higher their number, the greater the decentralization. Decentralization in public administration also depends on how local public authorities are organized and their relations with the central ones. Local authorities can be elected (decentralization is higher) or can be appointed by central authorities (in which case decentralization is lower). The degree of administrative decentralization also depends on the form in which control is exercised at the central level. In an administrative decentralization, the local interests can be solved in better conditions, the local public services being able to be better managed by the local authorities in a regime in which they do not have the obligation to comply with the orders and instructions from the center. Measures and decisions can be taken more operatively by local authorities and material and financial resources and even labor can be used more efficiently and to meet priority needs that local authorities know better than central authorities.

Civil servants elected or appointed, under the regime of administrative decentralization, for a limited term, remove to a greater extent the bureaucratic phenomena in the local activity. The participation of the inhabitants through elections in the designation of the local authorities emphasizes the spirit of responsibility and initiative for the public life of the locality in which they live and determines them to seek and find themselves solutions to the problems they face. Control over decentralized administrative authorities has traditionally been referred to as "administrative guardianship".

Under the administrative guardianship regime, the holders of the local authority are not appointed by the center, but appointed by the local authority itself. They have the competence to solve local problems, issuing them in their own administrative acts, but only after these acts have been approved by the central authority provided by law. When the number of administrative acts subject to the guardianship regime is kept to a minimum, limited only to those that are related to a general interest, leaving the local authorities to solve economic and social problems concerning them, the guardianship regime is
approaching much more than decentralization.

Decentralization aims to give local communities a certain autonomy by allowing them to define their own rules of action and choose their means of intervention. Decentralization is the principle that gives the local public administration the possibility to manifest a degree of originality in carrying out its activities.

Oates has studied the issue of decentralization in terms of its impact on the well-being of local communities. The optimal decentralization theorem (Wallace Oates) argues that “for a public good whose area of consumption extends over several geographical areas (local communities) and whose cost of production is the same both centrally and locally, will it should always be easier (or at least as easy) for that good to be produced in optimal quantities in the Parisian sense at the local level than at the central level (or just as at the central level)”

4 | CONCLUSIONS

The provisions of the law no. 215/2001 regarding the local public administration from Romania [1] also states that “the relations between the authorities of the local public administration in communes, cities and municipalities and the authorities of the public administration at the county level are based on the principles of autonomy, legality, responsibility, cooperation and solidarity in solving the problems of the whole county” (an aspect already noted), and that “in the relations between the authorities of the local public administration and the county council, on the one hand, and between the local and the primary council, on the other, there are no subordination relationships”. It follows from the previous ones / it can be concluded based on the previous ones that the place and the role of the local public administration and the way of their organization and functioning influence also the nature of the relations that are established between the different components of the subsystem of the local public administration and between them and the state authorities. “The subsystem of local public administration is part of the system of public administration, which, in turn, enters into the structure of the global social system”. [2] Consequently, the public administration is ultimately a system of relations.

The provisions of the law regulate the relations between the authorities that exercise the local autonomy at the level of the commune, the city and the municipality and the authorities that exercise the local autonomy at the county level, [3] in the sense that these / the reports in question are based / based on / are based on the principles of autonomy, legality, responsibility, cooperation and solidarity in solving the problems that interest the residents of the entire county. [4]

In order to consolidate this regulation, the rule / norm of the hierarchical non-subordination of the authorities from the administrative system (mayor and local council) to the county council, applicable principle and in the relations between the mayor and the local council was enshrined. [5] The principle of autonomy is compatible only with the idea of hierarchical subordination - autonomy and hierarchical subordination are two antagonistic concepts. It is observed, in this case, that the principle of hierarchical subordination operates only in the relations between the authorities from the administrative system and the county deliberative authority and in the relations between the mayor and the local council. [6]

REFERENCES


