

The policy brief: National Strategy for Regional Development 2013 - 2015:

The policy brief: Implementation of the National Strategy for Regional Development 2013 - 2015: The intermediate conclusions intermediate was prepared by the independent expert Valerian Tăbîrță. The study is an analysis from the perspective of the normative-legal, institutional and strategic situation in the sphere of regional development.

Study was developed between November 2014 - January 2015 and was conducted by applying qualitative research methods being practiced inter-disciplinary approach. The basic tools were: interviews; document analysis; observation.

For the study were interviewed three representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, 2 representatives of their RDA, one NGO representative, one representative of LPA, one independent expert. The selection process of participants for interviews was based on relevance to the research topic.

The study approaches the subject in an equidistant manner, respecting the principles of scientific research.

The main conclusions:

1. National Strategy for Regional Development is more operational than strategic document, although we could see some small positive changes. It doesn't offer a clear vision which is the ultimate goal of implementing this strategy;
2. Implemented Regional development projects , in some cases, rather have the character of social assistance programs than economic rehabilitation thus are not clearly established criteria or indicators of economic recovery rate and the determination of the economic impact of the project on regional development , also regional statistics are completely missing .
3. National Regional Development Fund is limited and does not correspond to the real needs of development. It is recommended that the National Regional Development Fund to be increased by 3% as well as the attraction of other external sources.
4. There is a need for greater involvement of civil society in the implementation of the national strategy for regional development, as direct beneficiaries and as a means of increasing of capacities for LPAs;
5. There is no clear mechanism for inter-ministerial collaboration in policy-making, thus it is necessary to develop a clear mechanism of policy elaboration as well as for an effective collaboration on an inter sectoral and inter-ministerial level.

In the period 2010-2012 first projects of Regional Development has been launched and implemented. These projects were directed towards solving problems like rehabilitation of physical infrastructure (water / sewer, roads, etc.) and solid waste management. However, many projects have been fragmented, isolated and poorly coordinated with other sectoral and territorial strategies. Past practices have demonstrated the need to promote integrated and participatory planning in the RDA (Regional Development Agency), which is in full conformity with EU practices. The strategy involves two instruments integrated planning - financial and institutional.

Thus the strategy states the principles of sectoral projects planning. When planning Water / Sewer projects, the Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions, the Ministry of Environment and the Local Public Authorities jointly with The Regional Development Fund and The Ecologic Fund have to participate to their funding. The same situation has to be when dealing with Solid Waste Management projects. When planning projects of Energy Efficiency, the Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions together with Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Environment and Energy Efficiency Agency has to participate and projects has to be financed from The Regional Development Fund, Ecologic Fund, Energy Efficiency Fund and Local Funds.

Representatives of the Ministry concluded with reference to the correlation between strategies and programs on regional sectoral, given the example of Energy Efficiency Program implemented by Regional Development Agencies and the Programs implemented by Energy Efficiency Fund that it seem at first view that these programs overlap and should actually provide the same activities and projects, but there are some major difference between the two Programs mentioned, namely the purpose and status. Energy Efficiency Fund programs are designed to achieve national policies developed at national level, through which are selected development projects and their implementation are allocated financial resources of the Fund.

Energy Efficiency Program implemented by Regional Development Agencies, has been developed to implement the provisions of national policies at regional level, which would also contribute to achieving the national targets. Thus, during developing this program were examined all national policies on energy efficiency and regional working groups always were attended by representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Energy Efficiency Agency, thus there is a big degree of correlation between these two Programs.