

## LOCAL ACTION PLAN - INSTRUMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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### *Abstract*

*The purpose of this article is to present the concept of sustainable development and highlighting the importance of the Local Action Plan, in rural development. Also are described the principles of local development actors, the factors and the resources of local economic development and their role in the planning and implementation of rural development strategy as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The last part presents proposals for prioritization, efficiency projects and sustainable rural development programs.*

**Keywords:** *Local Action Plan, Sustainable Rural Development, Local Government, Development Strategy, Local Strategy for Sustainable Development.*

### **Background**

The action plan is a detailed plan, short and medium term, which describes the actions and steps required to implement the strategy and objectives. Those actions should be prioritized so that their attainment and achieve progressive targets medium and short term goals lead to long term stability.

Content:

- assuming responsibility for tasks;
- timetable for carrying out the actions;
- resources;
- monitoring and evaluation methods.

Local Action Plan (LAP) is a tool for planning and implementation and a set of policies on the fields to be applied in a particular period in order to achieve the objectives set in the strategy. The deadline for implementation of local action plan should correspond to the period of 10-20 years, fixed for Local

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### Sustainable Development Strategy (LSSD).

Action Plan is to develop a participatory process relatively short plan that uses available resources to achieve limited objectives, usually in a well-defined.

LAP will be reviewed periodically so that the targets could take account of macroeconomic developments at national, state regional and local economy and local community's views on its implementation. The revision is made at shorter intervals, the margin of error in the assessment of project resources is lower, since, as they filled in time, and economic variables to be considered an economic forecast multiply.

Current development situation of economic, social, environmental and technological process have been analyzed in the diagnostic analysis of the development strategy and strategic objectives were outlined, attaching a few landmarks as references for further developments.

Action Plan for Local Development Strategy is a package of measures and projects necessary to change the local community to achieve specific parameters of modern society, so that sustainability becomes the strength of it.

The point is to present the main measures and projects necessary for planning and implementation phase of economic-social development, so that the process can be continuously measured by the indicators selected as relevant.

The need of an action plan is given by the scale and complexity of the actions to be undertaken to achieve the strategic objectives defined.

In order to achieve a unitary management are necessary three distinct phases so that the processes responsible for completing the objectives can be better coordinated:

- a. Development Plan (planning activities);
- b. Plan execution (implementation of activities);
- c. Monitoring plan (evaluation activity).

To have a cohesive development, the necessary support must be provided by:

- Local Public Administration - by the City Hall and Local Council Institution, who must plan for providing institutional development support to complex logistics necessary for an action plan;
- The local community - people and organizations leading actors of local development, the attitude and active participation;
- Business environment - companies and financing institutions, as financial and logistical support (information and modern technologies).

The action plan includes:

- Program management, planning a series of activities to organize and initiate the implementation, then following the progress of implementation to take appropriate action;
- Implementing the competences and duties are grouped into management

- structures and functions: forecasting, organizing, coordinating and training;
- Local development strategy implementation stages at local level. The annual plan is established by City Council prioritizing the achievement of objectives and criterion of measures scheduled under pressure - state - response.

This criterion applies as follows:

- It measures the need of pressure to fulfill each objective at baseline; this pressure quantifies the levels; maximum, medium, small;
- Assessing the initial situation, in fact, that is the action stage (feasibility study, impact assessment, project development, implementation, etc.);
- It is assumed the measure;
- Hypothetical final state is measured, which quantifies the response form.

Local Action Plan, presents the main measures and projects necessary for the planning phase and implementation of sustainable development, as follows: in the process of development can be assessed continuously SEET complexity factors (social-economic-environmental-technological) through sustainable development indicators (dimensions of sustainability) selected as relevant. The usefulness of an action plan is given the scale and complexity of actions to be executed to achieve strategic objectives defined in the Strategy for Sustainable Development of the village.

The main functions of implementing the local development strategy are:

1. Function prediction - includes activities that address:
  - the objectives contained in local development strategy and means of achieving resource allocation;
  - preparation of annual plans by taking the objectives of the strategy development and implementation of those that have a high degree of certainty;
  - development of project financing, feasibility studies, business plans, marketing studies, cost-benefit analysis, etc. which to settle ways and means necessary to achieve the objectives.
2. Function of organization - the processes of management, the group of duties and responsibilities, delegation of powers contained in the strategy development ranked as follows: individuals, entities, groups and committees, town hall, local specialized committees of the board.
3. Coordination function - includes activities harmonizing decisions, decisions and actions of persons involved in the implementation structure of the development strategy in the above functions (forecasting and organization).
4. Training function - includes actions involving and motivating people, structures and interest groups formed to implement the objectives of local development strategy.
5. Monitoring and evaluation function - includes activities that performances are measured and compared with the goals initially set for the degree of advancement of the program to eliminate the delays. It will determine the causes deviations from the plan and establish measures to correct deviations and to continue implementing the local development strategy.

## **Principles and conditions**

To achieve the Local Action Plan, the local authority should strengthen institutional capacity at all levels of decision and execution, this means attracting and providing sufficient financial resources and mobilization of human resources, identify the most effective mechanisms for communication and also analyzing the administrative allocation of responsibilities.

In order to deal with current and future problems that may occur, the local government must adopt effective management.

Materialization of institutional capacity is long processes in which public administration must act radically change the attitude of public servants to public access to government activity.

In this sense the main concern of the City Hall's manager was the harmonization of administrative procedures with the European Union.

## **General objectives**

The main objectives of local development strategy are:

- Provide unrestricted access to infrastructure (water, gas and sewer) of all inhabitants and consumers of economic policy;
- Rehabilitation and modernization in accordance with requirements and standards for schools;
- Optimization and development of transport infrastructure, telecommunications and energy;
- Environmental protection through progressive compliance with EU environmental standards that Romania will have to meet in totally;
- Ensuring the development of profitable activities in animal husbandry and agriculture;
- Combating social exclusion and imbalances by creating new investment opportunities.

Therefore, attention should be given to documents relating to financial aspects of the project presented by the feasibility study and technical project (development of estimated revenues and expenditures for the next period of time - usually the next few years, the rate of return, etc.).

A key element of any project is how to satisfy the community needs.

A first important distinction has to be made between the initial costs - which will be performed to move the new project - and the effective expenses of the project achievement.

The first usually should be made once, in the initial period. The second category of expenditure will have a more stable over time, but is even more remote in time to when drawing up the feasibility study and / or technical project.

It is very important to have a graph of the two categories of expenditure and to determine precisely when the project will be realized.

If this point is more distant in reality than assumed initially that profitability could be designed to stop the expected. When spending is projected current activity will be to determine the size of the necessary resources.

High volume assets will take resources unnecessarily, while too low a volume creates the risk of forced interruption of the project. You should be able to justify the level for which we chose.

Data on projected revenues and expenditures will give an insight into project profitability. In assessing the profitability is good to evaluate how the results will show if unforeseen events occur.

It was therefore concluded that strategic planning is financially difficult due to changes in legislation. For the same reason, the local budget for the next seven years can not express exactly.

Income distribution shows high degree of dependence on state budget and the need to allocate some money to allow at least ensure a minimum operating budget.

### **Conclusions and proposals**

Underlying conditions of a fast social-economic development are support and active participation, compliances with laws and honoring obligations to Village Hall as well as involving citizens in making decisions regarding of solving their own problems.

Local Public Administration, as an interface between citizen and state institutions must establish and develop a management system based on real local autonomy promoting and strengthening the institutional framework.

1. Local government activity should be directed to:
  - Sustainable development community will be achieved by uniting the efforts of all people to solve common problems;
  - Development of community infrastructure (water supply, sewerage etc.);
  - Further adjustment of expenditures to the real possibilities of accumulating revenues;
  - Development, approval and strict control of budget execution.
2. Efficient management of public funds by:
  - Organizing auctions for purchase of goods, works and services for the needs of state institutions from public money;
  - Halt the increase of spending, including staff reduction of budgetary institutions, where is needed;
  - Increase accountability of the officials responsible for exceeding the limits set by the costs and uneconomic use of budget allocations;
  - Reassessment of the whole system of public services and transfer of activities to the private sphere.
3. Establish and promote partnership:
  - Supporting non-governmental organizations working in the benefit of the citizen;

- Participation in investment projects with the economical sector in social, cultural and environmental domains.
- 4. Strengthening local government management consists of:
  - Developing human resources - the local authority concern for training of civil servants in priority areas of common development.
- 5. Level of professional development:
  - Identify an appropriate training system;
  - Identify training needs and opportunities;
  - Linking with existing human resources needs.
- 6. Efficient use of human resources:
  - Identify the rules of organization and operation of personnel and its rules of procedure;
  - Staff working in well defined fields.
- 7. Increase accountability and independence:
  - The responsibility of civil servants in accordance with the law;
  - Awareness of the activity of each employee;
  - Transparency functioning institutional system for each employee;
  - Provide financial incentives based on efficiency and competitiveness of the work done.
- 8. Changing of the relations between the administration and the citizen:
  - Public service oriented for the benefit of citizens;
  - Clearing bureaucratic facing the citizens and businesses;
  - Strengthening and expanding the framework for civil society participation in decision making;
    - Communication with citizens thereof;
    - Implement a quality management system.
- 9. Set up a system for monitoring the quality of public services:
  - Proper management of public funds;
  - Efficient scheduling of expenditure and income;
  - Village development by attracting projects and grant programs.
- 10. Development of information management:
  - Analyzing needs in software domain;
  - Correlation and integration of data from City Hall.

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