

# GLOBAL POVERTY AND THE CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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**Abstract:**

*Sustainable development has the fundamental strategic objective of establishing various and free practices and tools in order to have access to education and knowledge, to the cultural treasure of one's nation and of humanity as a whole, to all the resources that could develop creativity and innovating spirit. This means giving all individuals the opportunity to become culture producers, therefore exceeding the status of mere amusement consumers.*

**Key words:** *objective, humanity, resource, opportunity*

**JEL classification:** *O10*

The European Union and its member states are among the main supporters of the extension process for sustainable development principles and practices at global level, in order to reduce poverty and economic-social discrepancies and promote responsible policies for the preservation and rational use of the planet's natural resources. In order to achieve this, EU has undertaken precise obligations, in compliance with the programmatic documents adopted at the highest level by UN and by the World Trade Organization, regarding the substantial increase, both quantitatively and qualitatively of its contribution for the development aid and for improving international government in the matter of environmental protection.

From the point of view of official development assistance (ODA) extent, the European Union and its member states are the largest donor in the world with a contribution of approximately 60% of all ODA allocations at international level.

The renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) reiterates these international solidarity commitments by integrating the problematic area of sustainable development at global level in the External Policy and Common Solidarity of the European Union as a task of multilateral and bilateral collaboration in order to increase aid efficiency, coherence and quality for development in the future.

The European Council from June 2008 approved the Action Agenda regarding EU role as a global partner in achieving the Development Objectives of the Millennium, reiterating EU commitment of remaining the most important donor worldwide, as well as and taking all the measures in order to support the achievement of the Millennium Objectives.

The achievement of the Development Objectives of the Millennium within the context of sustainable development is a common responsibility of all partners, who will have to honour their commitments, the main liability belonging to developing states.

Along with EU accession, Romania became a development assistance donor state. The Ministry of External Affairs is the institution responsible for coordinating and managing the national policy with international cooperation for development.

The development cooperation is integrated in the Romanian external policy. As an EU member state, Romania may provide assistance to the developing states that are on the list of the Development Assistance Committee of OECD, both through its own policy and by affiliating to EU policy and financial efforts in the matter.

The main objective of the national policy of international cooperation for development is the support of poverty recovery efforts in assistance beneficiary states, within the larger framework of the contribution for the achievement of the Development Objectives of the Millennium.

At the same time, Romania has associated to EU commitments in the field of development financing (Monterrey Commitments) and development assistance efficacy increase (as signatory party of the Paris Declaration regarding assistance efficacy), including of those regarding the substantial increase of the development official assistance volume.

In compliance with the European practice, Romania adopted the National Strategy regarding the International Cooperation for Development and the Action Plan for enforcing this Strategy through a Governmental Resolution approved on 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2006.

The strategy sets the geographic priorities (Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, and the South Caucasus, the list of beneficiary states being able to be extended for other states from Central Asia, Africa and Latin America) and the main priority areas of the assistance (good government, consolidation of democratic institutions and lawful state, economic development, education and professional training, employment, health, infrastructure development, environmental protection).

For the next years, one takes into consideration the growth of the budget allocated by ODA, in order to comply with the undertaken obligations, to gradually increase bilateral assistance, to strengthen institutional capacity and action coherence at national level in the governmental field as well as in the non-governmental field, in order to consolidate Romania's profile as donor country in close collaboration and coordination with the other international donors.

At regional level, Romania will continue to provide assistance in the priority areas mentioned in the National Strategy where it has gathered experience during EU accession process that could prove useful for partner states. Romania will also continue to act in order to support the extension of cross-border collaboration focused on sustainable development objectives in the North Sea area, through the rational and efficient use of the funds made available by the Romanian government and by other European and international partners and through the implementation of the Bucharest Convention regarding the Black Sea protection against pollution (1992), in correlation to the complex objectives of the European Union's maritime policy and through the materialization of the common initiative with Austria regarding the cooperation intensification in Danube basin.

Citizens' acknowledgement actions will be performed upon the importance of Romania's involvement in assistance programs for implementing sustainable development principles and practices at global level, not only as an international solidarity moral obligation, but rather as an actual way of promoting Romania's national interests, especially in the economic field.

Romania will support, along with the other European Union member states, the consolidation of the role and competences of United National Environmental Program (UNEP) headquartered in Nairobi and its transformation into an UN specialized agency, as the main engine for integrating the concerns related to the preservation and rational use of natural resources worldwide into the general effort of achieving the objectives of sustainable development.

In order to consolidate Romania's international profile of a donor, one will take into consideration, among others, the increase of the budget allocated for the development official assistance in order to comply with the European and international obligation, the incorporation of a National Agency for the implementation of a

development cooperation policy, and the promotion of the expertise acquired by Romania as a donor state in the fields where Romania has comparative advantages.

Romania will promote a better coordination and complementarity among donors, through efforts directed towards common multiannual scheduling based on poverty reduction strategies, the creation of common implementation mechanisms, donors' development of common analyses and missions and efficient use of co-financing mechanisms.

In accordance with the Paris Declaration on assistance Efficacy (2005), Romania will monitor the development of partner states' ownership upon the development process, procedures harmonization with the ones of partner states, assistance alignment to their actual needs, with an accent on results achievement and double meaning responsabilization.

Romania will continue to increase the budget allocated for the purposes of development official assistance, will monitor the compliance with EU policies in the field of development cooperation and will support EU common actions in the field.

Actions will be taken to comply with OECD requirements, in order for Romania to get the membership within the Development Assistance Committee.

It will continue to promote the expertise acquired by Romania as a donor state in the fields where Romania has comparative advantages, and will promote coordination and complementarity among donors, in compliance with the main principles provided in the Paris Declaration on assistance efficacy.

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