



Best Practices

- Sustainable Development - (Sustainable Development Goals)

— ROMANIA —

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The goal of Romania's first sustainable development strategy from 1999 was to promote the continuous improvement and preservation of the well-being of the population in correlation with the requirements of a sensible use of natural resources and the conservation of the ecosystem. This strategy was based on the premise that the benefits of economic development should outweigh its costs, including those relating to the conservation and the improvement of the environment.

The country's accession to the European Union in 2007 led to a change of Romania's national priorities, which resulted in the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Romania – Horizons 2013-2020-2030. Adopted by the Romanian Government on 12 November 2008, the Strategy sought to reduce the socio-economic gap vis-à-vis the member states of the European Union. To achieve sustainable development in Romania, and, by extension, to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda, together with the European Union's commitments regarding the 2030 Agenda, this Strategy is built around the citizen and the needs of future generations.

Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy is based on the premise that sustainable development requires a mindset which, once adopted by the citizen, will help create a more equitable society defined by: balance and solidarity, and the ability to cope with the changes brought about by current global, regional and national challenges, including a declining population. The state's concern for its citizens, and the citizens' respect for public institutions, for their peers, for moral values, and for cultural and ethnic diversity will lead to a sustainable society

In economic terms, it is necessary to ensure long-term economic growth that benefits the country's citizens. The economy of a country is often measured in figures that do not take into account the potential of each citizen. The transformation of the economy into a sustainable and competitive one requires a new approach, based on innovation, optimism, and citizen resilience. This approach should create an entrepreneurial culture in which each citizen is able to fulfil his/ her potential in both material and aspirational terms.

In social terms, it is necessary to create a cohesive society able to benefit from improvements in education and health care systems, a reduction in gender inequality, and the urban-rural divide. This will result in the promotion of a more open society, in which citizens feel appreciated and supported. To achieve this, it is necessary to develop the resilience of the public to enable citizens to realise their dreams within an equitable institutional framework. To ensure the sustainable development at the community level, the state needs to provide an enabling environment to boost the potential of each citizen by addressing issues of health care, education, and labour fairness. The aim is to achieve the highest possible standards of living for all citizens. Boosting social capital – the fostering of a civic spirit based on trust between citizens – will unlock the potential of Romania's citizens, enabling them to realise their potential.

Environmental awareness has risen significantly in recent years. Protecting our environment, be it natural or human-made, is the responsibility of everyone, given the reciprocal impacts between humans and the environment. This recognition presents an opportunity for citizens to come together in a noble pursuit by raising awareness of this responsibility. The creation of a sustainable human-made environment can only be achieved by cultivating a sense of belonging and community. This will help diminish feelings of loneliness – a risk factor which limits the individual's potential and, by extension, the functioning of one's community.

Sustainable Development Gala, an event organized by the Department for Sustainable Development within the Romanian Government, has presented 7 organizations as authentic champions of sustainable development:

1. University of Bucharest, through the project *Geoparcul Țara Hațegului*, as a champion model in the EQUITY field;
2. The Ascendia, which created the educational platform *Livresq*, performed in the field of EDUCATION;
3. The Romanian Society of Anesthesia and Intensive Care was extremely involved in resolving the crisis of 2020 and continues a very successful activity for almost a decade in the field of HEALTH;
4. Ivan Patzaichin Association - Mila 23 constantly innovates, develops highly applied local development projects and draws attention to the field of WATER;
5. The innovative Green Energy Cluster has an integrative vision, with results not only in the economic area and social construction, but also in the field of CLIMATE CHANGE;
6. Kaufland Romania performed in the field of CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION;
7. The City Hall of Ciugud Commune from Alba County is a pioneer of the way in which they understood to adopt the DIGITALIZATION of the public administration for the benefit of the citizens.