

## THE LOCAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TOWARDS THE MEASUREMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

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**Abstract:** *The execution of the reform in the public administration and its foundation on the democratic principles of the rule of law is an essential element of the economic-social reform in Romania. For this we have at hand the legal regulations of the European Charter from Torremolinos (May 20, 1983, Spain) and the Territorial Agenda of the U.E. (Leipzig, May 24-25, 2007). Those consist that territorial cohesion envisages a more special type of relationship, based on solidarity, such as solidarity between territories and regions, or between local and regional. This, according to the aforementioned regulations, should involve ensuring better living conditions and quality of life, oriented towards local and regional potential, regardless of where people live - either in the area of central Europe or on the outskirts of Europe. In this paper, we will start from Europe's model, from its regions, from the possible cohesion between its territories, and we will focus mainly on the resources available to the cohesion of the inhabited areas of Romania. That is why, this paper attempts to present how, using the principles of organizing local authorities and authorities, means of cross-border cooperation can be established that will lead to a harmonization of interstate.*

**Keywords:** cross-border cooperation, law, local authorities, harmonization, territorial cohesion

### 1. Introduction

The importance of territorial cohesion has been emphasized in numerous acts of the EU, starting with 1992, when the first cross-sectorial cooperation strategy was developed. The follow-up of this first decision consisted in the adoption in 1999, in Postdam, of the European Space Development Perspective (PEDS), an act that includes among its guidelines the promotion of polycentric space development, but also increased accessibility to services and transport infrastructure; prudent management of natural and cultural resources [1].

The objective assigned to territorial

cohesion adds the dimension of the cross-sectorial and cross-territorial political process (cross-border, trans-regional, etc.) [7], which allows decision-makers to look at the European territory in a new perspective - not necessarily regional or national, but at an integrated and macro-regional cross-border level [6] - which can help territories build their future on the basis of territorial capital by providing the best performing opportunities at different geographical Regional development policies are also an inherent part of the Lisbon Treaty, while the territorial approach, aiming at a more horizontal integration of sectorial policies, has become

increasingly important levels.

At the same time, there has been a growing recognition of the need to promote cooperation, dialogue, and partnership between different levels of governments [5], as well as between them and organizations and individuals, for reasons that directly concern the development process [4].

The European Commission supported some of the actions proposed on this occasion with a view to land use planning, with the help of a new strategy - INTERREG - which eventually led to the development of the first cross - border program.

Equally important are the Community Strategic Directives adopted by the European Council, which stated that promoting territorial cohesion must be part of the effort to ensure that the whole of Europe has the opportunity to contribute to the agenda of growth and job creation jobs.

## 2. Methodology

Cross-border cooperation involves local public administration. By this, we try to support the idea that although the local and county public administration are deeply hierarchically linked to the central authority, in fact, specific to unitary states, this administration and especially that of communities located at the country's borders can be actively involved in developing cross-border cooperation, and in attracting European funds through cross-border cooperation programs [2].

We will, therefore, say that, although it appears in many European acts, with official character, territorial cohesion refers to a harmonious development of the territory, to the balance of the regions by diminishing the existing inter and intra-regional disparities due to the administrative borders, to the exploitation of the potential and the territorial diversity [8].

A special kind of cooperation is frequently based on special European funds, such as the INTERREG-A program. It has a big impact on the reduction of the barrier effect along the border across five dimensions

(institutional-urban, accessibility, culture - social, environmental - heritage and economy - technology) [10], [11].

As mentioned above, in order for the regions of the Union to support economic development and employment in a competitive environment, two complementary sets of conditions should be met. The first set of conditions would be the existence at member level of adequate levels of physical infrastructure (efficient transport, telecommunications, and energy networks, good environmental facilities, etc.) and human capital (a workforce with an adequate level of skills and training).

The second should contain those regulations on a knowledge-based economy, with regions having the capacity to innovate and make effective use of both existing skills and new technologies and to pursue a sustainable development path within the terms set by the environment. For this, for the existence of these sets in an appropriate way, especially lawful, an efficient institutional and administrative framework is needed to support the development of cross-border relations [6].

The dominant mode of intermediation of interest in EU environmental policy is represented by the relational governance, characterized by the interposition of negotiations between the actors coming from the public and the private domain, whose activity has implications in the protection and improvement of the environment quality. The emergence of this mode has been influenced by the principle of horizontal integration of environmental policy in environmental action programs, as well as in the regulations drawn up by the EU Treaty itself. This principle of horizontality states that the measures to be taken for any areas other than those already existing in the two categories of acts must take into account the specific environmental problems of those areas. In this sense, a large part of public or private bodies concerned with the state of the environment have integrated with the process of making

and creating environmental policies, different forms of action, through which the most important are consultation, cooperation, and exchange of information. But it is not to be overlooked that groups with environmental activities have their roots in different cultural and political traditions that often compete with each other. Analyzing these considerations, we will be inclined to believe that only certain groups will have privileges and access to decision-making. Some of the European regulations come to prove this analysis and type of thinking!

### 3. Conclusions

We believe that this paper we have succeeds in showing that, although the European Union creates cross-border cooperation structures, care should have been a vector for the implementation of cross-border cooperation policies, local and county public administration to remain the most important actors in local matter using the levers of cross-border cooperation [9].

The local and county public administration in the border areas has in the model of cross-border cooperation and the financial instruments that accompany it, levers through which to adapt to decentralization tendencies and to be able to develop an active and applied governance to the local particularities, the mechanisms of decentralization, greatly reduced in the context of a possible economic and financial crisis.

What is very important to note in this case

is that local public administrations in the border area show that they have the potential to take over non-specific tasks of European public policies.

Some examples of possibilities on how to improve cross-border relations between local public administrations are given below [10]. Thus, the first step would be to increase the capacity to design and implement public policies at the level of county and local public administrations and decentralized institutions alike by developing a code of procedures and rules that clearly support the competencies of local public authorities, in terms of cross-border cooperation.

Then, increasing the quality of human resources working in the local public administration in the direction of knowing the functions of other subordinate institutions or on the same hierarchical level that are potential beneficiaries of cross-border cooperation projects to be integrated into the current strategies of localities from the frontier.

The development of local and county public administration culture requires the ongoing evaluation [3] of the implementation of cross-border cooperation projects and programs, involving institutions that can provide this expertise, we consider that it is also a means of cross-border relations between administrations.

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