

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA INFLUENCED BY THE NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN UNION'S AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION

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Abstract: *This paper proposes to present how it has influenced the application of agrarian legislation in Romania in terms of sustainable development, in close connection with the European Union's agricultural legislative norms. Which parts were good and bad for our country and what should be modified for the future. Sustainable development for our country is a national, economic and social necessity. All these can only be met if agricultural legislation provides for methodologies to enforce the legal provisions that citizens respect, and to pass them on to subsequent generations, even with proposals to improve environmental conditions and quality of life. These principles are fundamental for sustainable development, consistent with activities to reduce and even eliminate environmental pollution.*

Key words: *environment, agrarian legislation, sustainability, development, education*

INTRODUCTION

As sustainable development, it has implementation principles that take place over a long period of time, must be specified that Romania's agriculture must be based on strong, healthy and productive households, having as a principle of evolution, the use of resources to meet the needs of our generation and to ensure the continuity of future generations. In agricultural legislation, we meet with environmental protection norms, as well as concrete measures to improve agricultural land through the complex of land reclamation activities (irrigation, drainage, combating excess soil moisture and landslides, soil erosion). European agricultural legislative norms, have contributed to the development of agriculture and have been recognized at international level so they have been implemented in the new member states of the European Union.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to obtain an overview of the existing legislative norms both at national and European level, I have consulted specialized websites and collections of normative acts in the agricultural field. The official website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development from Romania, was also consulted on the part of agricultural legislation and methodological norms for implementation. In order to better understand the agricultural policies of the European Union, the EU's official website was also consulted in its structure on the part of agriculture, taking into account the real-time update of the data.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The study of existing agricultural legislation both at national and international level has brought to the attention that agriculture represents an area in which agricultural policies have been implemented in order to obtain the best economic efficiency.

Also, the purpose of legal regulations was to guide agricultural workers on a line that would be uniformly applied, taking into account the right way to obtain and ensure the healthy food needed for humans and animals. Evolution of human race can be sustained only in terms of sustainable development, both in small communities and worldwide and can be applied through communities able to use resources rationally and efficiently. [2]

In Romania and at European Union level, are needed future directions and suggestions for improving environmental conditions by legal provisions that have to be easy to understand and apply. Compliance with land-use legislation by their owners is a topical issue, and it must be applied by many landowners as possible. The more agricultural sanctions will be observed, the less sanctions and fines should be, the ultimate goal being to protect the environment and eliminate pollution.

Deterioration of soil quality, is also an important aspect that should be considered and prevented as much as possible because there can be no good quality and healthy agricultural produce in poor and polluted soil. To prevent soil degradation, specific maintenance works must be followed and applied at the right time, thus avoiding irreversible degradations. Analyzes on soil quality, both nationally and internationally, have brought into attention in recent times the degree of land pollution and the lack of nutrients in the fertile layer in which plants need to grow. Correcting nutrient deficiency in the soil is an expensive process and can only be achieved over a long period of time, that why a strict compliance with the soil protection legislation must be also in future an international objective. [1]

At the level of the European Union, as can be seen from the representation in Figure 1, there are over 500 million citizens who need a healthy food for a healthy life, so that agriculture has to produce food resources from the agricultural area that is available, given that large areas of agricultural land are used for other purposes. [5]

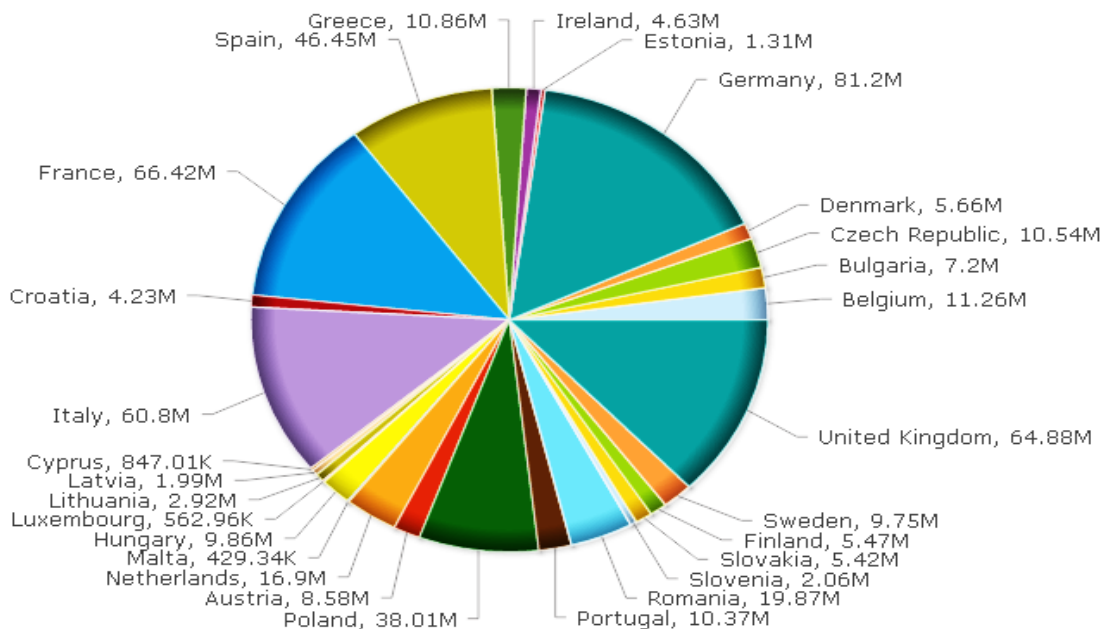


Figure 1. Population by country (Total EU population: 508 450 856)

Source: Statistical data presented on the official website Europa.eu/Eurostat, 2017 [5]

Also it may be mentioned, the surface areas affected by the erosion of water and wind, surface areas covered by water and eroded soil, salinized lands, landslides, polluted lands, land used for housing construction and also commercial spaces and storage spaces. All these represent only part of the land, which were previously used for agricultural production, and now have a different destination, given the increase in population numbers. [1]

Food safety, compel quality agricultural production, which unfortunately decrease as the soil is used without respecting the restoration time, and the legislation in the field stipulates which are these time intervals. In order to get bigger farm produce and also consumer animal meat, a series of chemical treatments and growth concentrates not very beneficial to the human body have been applied, which have led to illnesses, even if not immediately but surely after a while.

Could also be found a problem at the level of the European Union and implicitly in Romania, in food waste that has been found in legislative concerns as a corrected issue for the future. It can be noticed that although there are regulations, laws and provisions for quality agriculture both at national and European level, there are quite a lot of irregularities, which can hardly be corrected, and this, because too few people devote time to study and understand the law. Through agricultural and industrial overproduction, it has come to the fact that in different countries of the European Union, can't be properly controlled and managed the amount of household waste resulting, irreversibly polluting the environment. [1]

Legislation exists but its applicability has a delayed effect because it is bureaucracy and lack of reaction at the right time. Sustainable development is difficult to apply uniformly internationally, given the difficult way of understanding the right stages of evolution, and so often individual interests end up creating environmental damage that are hard to repair.

Table 1 shows the situation of the number of Regulations, Directives and Decisions, both in force and no longer in force. For each type of act is represented total number as well as detailed figures the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council. The figures are based on the date of the adoption of the act and do not include corrigenda. [6]

It can be noticed that during the analysed 10-year period at European Union level which also have an positive effect on Romania, the number of adopted Regulations and Directives has decreased and the adopted Decisions registered a trend with small changes.

Table 1.

**Number of legal acts adopted at the level of the European Union
during 2006-2016**

Type of legal acts adopted	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Regulations	1585	1211	1010	972	975	1050	914	1026	977	847	805
EP and Council	34	17	28	39	17	23	29	56	58	17	24
Council of the European Union	72	64	72	57	50	66	44	63	47	21	14
European Commission	1477	1128	905	875	906	961	840	901	865	808	765
Other	2	2	5	1	2	0	1	6	7	1	2
Directives	48	16	41	76	26	30	11	14	53	10	16
EP and Council	30	10	18	61	13	15	9	12	37	6	13
Council of the European Union	6	2	10	10	3	5	0	2	2	2	2
European Commission	12	4	13	5	10	10	2	0	14	2	1
Decisions	509	506	496	510	554	635	541	553	739	595	609
EP and Council	19	15	23	17	40	34	25	23	40	24	19
Council of the European Union	119	152	135	169	221	251	254	238	339	281	289
European Commission	349	319	310	279	243	310	223	243	289	241	251
Other	22	20	28	45	50	40	39	49	71	49	50
Total	2142	1733	1547	1558	1555	1715	1466	1593	1769	1452	1430

Source: Statistical data presented on the official website <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>, 2017 [6]

Since the introduction of the concept of sustainable development in 1987 in the Brundtland Report “Our Common Future”, it can be appreciated that targets have evolved positively and the adoption of the concept by Romania is a good auspicious. [4]

From the study of existing legislation, we found that there are several laws for the agricultural sector, which set out how funds will be allocated, for the development of infrastructure for land improvement and environmental protection.

Because of that a fact established through these normative acts is that we have observed that certain provisions of the legislation are in contradiction with each other, given the wide character of normative acts.

According to legislation, European Union is oriented to develop so that it can also help countries that need help at international and even global level, these being also its external policies. The main objective of this policy is to reduce and eradicate poverty by focusing on issues such as social protection, health, education, job creation, business development and the sustainable nature of agriculture, with energy production green, and efficient resource consumption. It can be noticed thus, the positive character of these policies for Romania in terms of participation in these measures. Supporting innovation is also a very important aspect that the European Union supports in all member states and implicitly for our country, which for sustainable development adds value and increases the way it will be implemented. As can be seen from the research, in 2015, countries from United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development worldwide and set out 17 principles to transform the world in terms of sustainable development that the European Union has also adopted and made steps, for their application. Romania is part of the United Nations member states of December 14, 1955, and this is proof that it had a supportive commitment to the principles of sustainable development. [6]

It is also noteworthy that, from the publication of a law, to the application and also in the course of time, there are several changes, additions, abrogation, all of this, often bringing the impossibility of being studied in time by those whom legal provisions were directly interested in. It should also be noted that studying and understanding the law is a thing that is not at the hands of any person, this being directly related to the level of training and education of people, both at national and European Union level. [3]

How much work force does the European Union have in the field of sustainable development, which is the number of people trained in tertiary education and also upper secondary & post-secondary and non-tertiary education, are statistical data with high importance for sustainable development.

It is worth mentioning that at the international level in 2017, has been awarded the UNESCO - Japan Award for Sustainable Development Education which honors annually outstanding programs / projects developed by people, institutions and organizations in the field of sustainable development education. [7]

Good results for the implementation of sustainable development in Romania can be related to the country's development level and the investment made in educating those who will need to implement these principles in the future, taking into account also the international study regarding nine different indices for measuring sustainable development, including the Change in Wealth Index (CWI), Ecological Footprint (EF), Environmental Performance Index (EPI), Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI), Genuine Savings Index (GSI) Global Well-Being Index (GWI), Happy PlanetIndex (HPI), Human Development Index (SSI) and Sustainable Society Index (SSI). [2]

In the next figure (Figure 3) it is represented the share graduates of higher education in Romania compared with European Union.

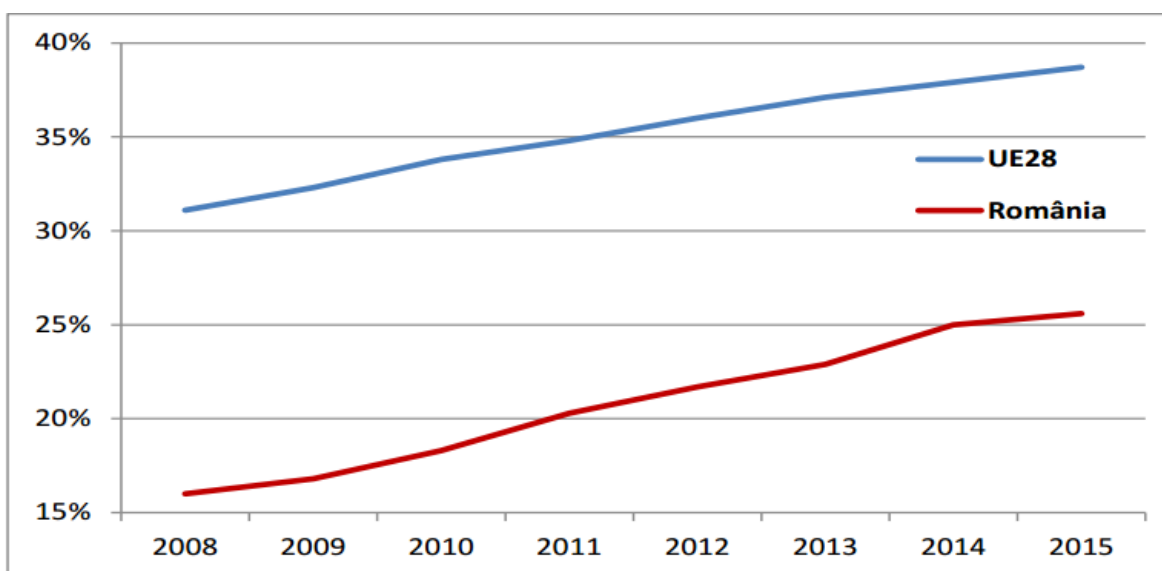


Figure 3. The share graduates of higher education in Romania compared with European Union

Source: Official graphic data <http://ec.europa.eu/Eurostat> 2016, [5]

In Romania the share of higher education graduates has increased, so this is currently very close to the national target but is still one of the lowest in the EU. At the same time, public spending on education continues to be very low. The level of education and training of the population has a great influence on the implementation of European agricultural policies, and our country still has a lot of work to do, about this matter.

CONCLUSIONS

Agricultural legislation is the starting point for the proper organization of sustainable development and, following the study, was noticed that legislation seeks to combine and have common provisions at national level with that at the level of the European Union. The large number of amended normative acts often hinders the process of implementation.

The changes that occur through the instability of the state's governing regime, and the fight against corruption is costly from an economic point of view and has long-lasting effects on human resources, by creating many states of conflict between people, and where is no cooperation between people, development cannot be achieved.

The process of sustainable development in Romania cannot be achieved without a change of people's mentality, which can only take place if the number of people who will benefit from tertiary education increases, because education and also public health, means change for the better, and the possibility of correct implementation of the legislative provisions, in the near future, and also for the future generations.

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