

SESSION SIX: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- Regional development is a new concept that aims at stimulating and diversifying economic activities, stimulating investments in the private sector, contributing to decreasing unemployment and, last but not least, a concept that would lead to an improvement in the living standards.
- Regional development policy represents a set of measures planned and promoted by the local and central public administration authorities, having as partners different actors (private, public, NGOs) in order to ensure a dynamic and lasting economic growth, through the effective use of the local and regional potential, in order to improve the quality of life.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- to reduce the existing regional disparities;
- to correlate the governmental sector policies at the level of regions;
- to stimulate inter-regional, internal and international and cross-border cooperation.

PRINCIPLES OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Decentralization of the decision making process;
- Partnership;
- Planning;
- Co-financing.

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- **Law no. 151 / 1998** – provides the basic legal and institutional framework as well as the objective of regional development policy;
- **Law no. 315 / 2004** – establishes the objectives, the institutional framework, the specific competencies and tool necessary to promote regional development policy.

THE DEVELOPMENT REGIONS

- include a number of counties associated on a voluntary basis (8 Region-NUTS II level);
- represent the implementation and assessment framework of the regional development policy;
- are not a territorial-administrative entity and does not have legal personality;
- THE AIM: to support larger communities in order to solve their problems who can not be managed financial by a single county.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- **Regional level**

- **National level**

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

REGIONAL LEVEL

The Regional Development Board

- co-ordinates the activities promoting the objectives implied by the regional development policies
- takes strategic decision on regional development design and implementation (on the regional programming documents, on the criteria, priorities, allocation and destination of the resources coming from the Regional Development Fund and on the selection of projects to receive assistance from the above mentioned Fund).

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
REGIONAL LEVEL

The Regional Development Agencies

- are non-governmental bodies, non-profit, for public use;
- have legal personality;
- act in the area specific to regional development.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
NATIONAL LEVEL

The National Board for Regional Development

- is the main decision making body for the regional development policy in Romania;
- proposes to the government the establishment of the national fund for regional development;
- approves the criteria, priorities, allocation procedures and the use of the funds allotted for regional development projects from national and international sources;
- approves key strategic documents such as National Development Plan and the National Strategy for Regional Development.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK **NATIONAL LEVEL**

Ministry of European Integration

- is designated as the **Management Authority for Regional Operational Programme**;
- It has the responsibility of management, implementation, financial management and control of funds;
- At present, MEI and RDAs are preparing for Structural Funds implementation through programming, management and implementation of Phare programs for ESC (economic and social cohesion).

The National Development Plan (NDP) **-instrument of regional policies-**

- was prepared under the coordination of the Ministry of European Integration;
- it aims at supporting Romania's economic and social development;
- includes the Government's overall development strategy;
- NDP 2004-2006 is the first document carrying out the multi-annual planning and programming of public investments in infrastructure, business environment, human resources, environmental protection etc

The Priorities of NDP 2004 – 2006

- Improving the competitiveness of the productive sector and making it more attractive to foreign investors;
- Improving and developing transport and energy infrastructure and ensuring environmental protection;
- Human resources development, increasing employability and fighting social exclusion;
- Developing the rural economy and increasing productivity in the primary sector;
- Promoting a balanced participation of all Romania's regions to the socio-economic development process.

Regional Development National Strategy – Main principles

- a better integration of the regional economies by supporting the small and medium towns in order to become economic growth poles at local level and by encouraging all development initiatives in order to stimulate inter-counties economic relationships;
- supporting the current decentralization and delegation of responsibilities process to local authorities by creating a financial multi-annual instrument in order to accomplish their delegated responsibilities;
- ensuring the proper conditions in order to have a better correlation between the national initiatives and local needs and priorities

The Regional Operational Programme

- represents the regional component of the NDP;
- will be funded through ERDF (the co financing following to be ensured by national sources);
- will include measures and priorities for regional development;
- will also include integration means for the European policies at region level (environment protection, equal opportunities, promotion of communication and information technology).
- the elaboration of ROP is based on a partnership structure at the level of each region, on the Regional Programming and Implementation Document