

THE ROMANIA 2030 SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC CONCEPT – A TRIGGER FOR THE REFORM IN SPATIAL PLANNING

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ABSTRACT - The changing of the economic, social and political system in Romania brought the need of a significant shift in spatial planning paradigm. Between 1990 and 2005 it became clear gradually that the spatial plans, as they were conceived, are not anymore able to really support a structured approached of spatial development. The main problems identified are: the lack of strategic dimension of spatial (territorial) development plans; the modest cooperation among sectoral ministries and other national relevant bodies in order to organize and integrate national public investments programs at the national scale; the lack of awareness of sectoral and territorial actors regarding their potential and responsibilities in territorial development; the lack of core technical and legal tools in territorial planning.

Few consequences of the above situation are: the lack of the vision for Romania's territorial development at the national level and as a state member of the EU; there are no in place yet national policies, based on intersectoral cooperation, that could be implemented by sectoral policies, and could provide background for national public investments programs, for strategic documents that substantiate the use of EU funds; very few institutions use the spatial plans as instruments in the process of planning specific issues with territorial impact and relevance.

In 2005, the former Ministry Delegate for Spatial Planning, Public Works and Constructions (within the Ministry of Transport, Constructions and Tourism), currently Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing (MDPWH), initiated a process of the reform in spatial planning.

The paper presents: a) the reform process and design, its components and main directions for action, and b) the strategic document which takes the role of trigger of the reform process, relevant steps in its development and current stage of elaboration.

Key words: reform, spatial planning, spatial strategic development, inter-institutional and territorial partnerships.

The changing of the economic, social and political system in Romania brought the need of a significant shift in spatial planning paradigm. Between 1990 and 2005 it became clear gradually that the spatial plans, as they were conceived, are not anymore able to really support a structured approached of spatial development. The main problems identified are:

- the lack of the strategic dimension of spatial plans; the strategic vision is missing, the objectives are not clear, the blueprints contain just the approved investments, some plans for the future without resources provision, and the implementation plan is missing;
- as a consequence, the National Territorial Plan sections display in most of cases the existing situation and, in the most of cases, the approved national investments, from the line ministries; the only section which structures possible strategic approaching is the Section IV, The Localities' network
- the spatial plans do not have economic and financial dimensions; the investment plan (as a result of a multi-year budget program) is not connected to the spatial development provisions, and the land use plan speaks very little about future spatial developments;

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- the lack of regional spatial plan framework resulted in being replaced by an regional investment program regional development, and the National Development Plan 2007-2013 is relevant in that sense;
- from the spatial scale planning approaching, the regional level, as articulation between the local and national spatial plans, was missing (currently, one regional master plan is approved, few regional master plans are in process of elaboration); the cross-border and trans-national dimensions of spatial planning do not exist with the exception of the international transport and energy infrastructure plans
- the territorial, institutional and sectoral actors do not have very much to say; during the spatial plans elaboration, the national specialized entities are consulted but there is no proactive involvement all relevant actors, neither specific instruments in order to have a real interaction among the actors in elaboration and implementation of spatial plans.

In 2005, the former Ministry Delegate for Spatial Planning, Public Works and Housing (within the Ministry of Transport, Constructions and Tourism), currently Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing (MDPWH), initiated a process of the reform in spatial planning. The reform is based on a seven components' process (see the chart below) and their institutionalization within the National Reform Program (the implementation of Lisbon Strategy at national level):

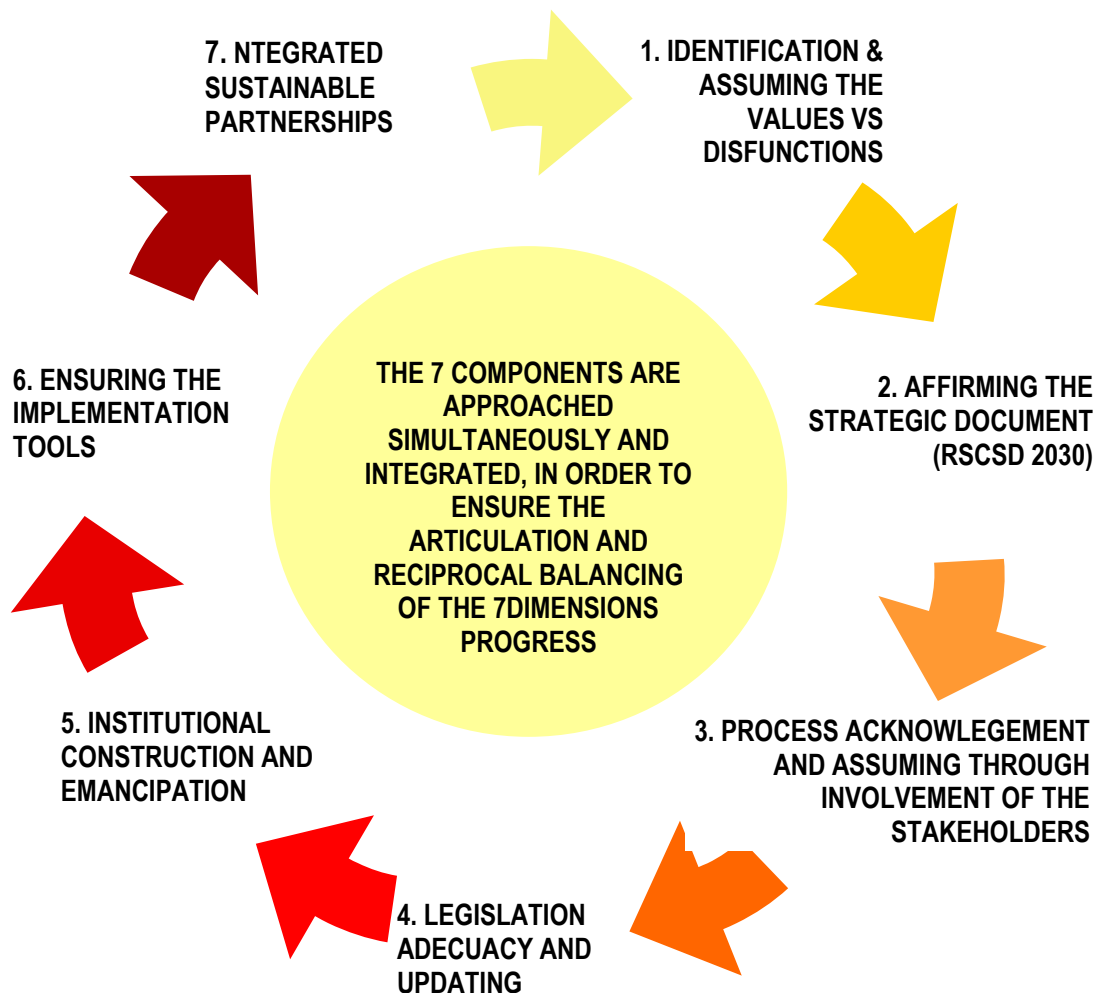
- Identification, defining and assuming of the current dysfunctions in spatial planning, and the values which the spatial planning should rely on, through: a) contributions of the MDPWH within the activities of the DG REGIO working group of Territorial Cohesion and urban Matters, within the process of elaboration of Territorial Agenda of EU and Leipzig Charter, within the activities of First Action Program for implementing the Territorial Agenda; b) formulation of national concepts regarding the territorial cohesion, territorial sustainable development; c) designing and approaching of new procedures in spatial planning; d) updating the legal framework, building institutional capacity and developing managerial instruments for implementing the change.
- Elaboration of the strategic documents (SCSD Romania 2030), long term oriented, able to work as triggers and which generate trust for starting the reform in (integrated) spatial planning, based on strengthening the internal development and affirming the Romania's roles at international level

Acknowledgement of the stakeholders regarding the strategic document (including the needs of reform), through their involvement in the elaboration and implementation process, in order to support their commitment to the document and to the reform: a) active information regarding the EU strategic documents (Territorial Agenda of EU, Leipzig Chart etc.) and their benefits for Romania; b) interactive consultation regarding the SCSD Romania 2030; c) interactive work in development of Romanian understanding and contributions to the definition of the spatial development concepts, e.g. territorial cohesion; d) cooperation in orienting the strategic priority.

- projects and research towards the relevant financing programs (e.g. ESPON 2013); e) interactive cooperation in development of relevant partnerships around priority strategic project of national and transnational relevance;
- Identifying, formulating, and step by step approaching the legislative up-date needed in spatial planning: a) including the economic and financial dimensions in planning procedures; b) relying on technical bases the making decision process in spatial planning; c) structuring the territorial observatory system; d) development of the territorial impact assessment of policies etc.;
- Configuration of the necessary institutional structures and developing the institutional and professional capacity in strategic spatial planning: a) strengthening and diversifying the services of spatial planning at local and regional level; b) building institutional and professional capacity in spatial planning; c) strengthening intersectoral approaching in planning; d) strengthening the spatial development financing system;
- Configuration of the necessary tools for the implementation of the reform in spatial planning: a) integration of strategic and financial components in the spatial planning and implementation process; b) ensuring horizontal and vertical inter-institutional cooperation; c) ensuring provision

THE ROMANIA 2030 SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC CONCEPT – A TRIGGER FOR THE REFORM IN SPATIAL PLANNING

- of territorial assessment tools; d) development of executive assistance tools in decision making process; e) planning the needed relevant territorial research;
- Identifying, stimulation and supporting the creation of relevant horizontal and vertical partnerships (critical mass of partners) for the implementation of the reform process: a) territorial partnerships; b) inter-institutional partnerships; c) inter-sectoral partnerships, tight to the strategic priority projects of national importance.



THE ROMANIA 2030'S STRATEGIC CONCEPT OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT (SCSD Romania 2030)

1. Overview

SCSD Romania 2030 is a strategic document regarding sustainable and integrated spatial development on medium and long term. The concept ensures the coherence with similar documents of spatial planning used in other EU member states and also a framework to substantiate the development phases of Romania in connection with the evolution within the European and international context.

SCSD Romania 2030 sets down the main guidelines of spatial planning in Romania at regional, interregional and national levels, integrating the relevant cross border and transnational aspects and correlating the territorial cohesion and competitiveness concepts, according to the Reform Treaty (Title XVII, art. 158 and 159).

2. Aim

The aim of **SCSD Romania 2030** is to: a) bring to front, from an integrated spatial perspective, the means of turning into value the national potential in order to recover the development gap as compared to the other member states; b) stimulate the balanced development of Romania; c) strengthen the role of Romania as EU member state and active player in Central and Eastern Europe.

SCSD Romania 2030 supports the impact enhancement of foreign and domestic investments by orienting them towards the relevant areas, through national scale strategic projects.

The approach of **SCSD Romania 2030** on spatial development integrates four perspectives, according to current practices and technical consensus at international level: a) Demographic and labor force trends; b) Scientific and technologic developments; c) Sectoral restructuring dynamics; d) Vision on spatial development.

3. Objectives

According to **SCSD Romania 2030**, *the medium and long term general objective of spatial development in Romania is to ensure the integration of the country in the EU structure by affirming the regional – continental identity, increasing territorial cohesion, enhancing competitiveness and sustainable development.* The general objective is further parted in *five objectives*:

- 1. Connecting the national territory at the European and intercontinental networks of growth poles and developments corridors;*
- 2. Structuring and developing the network of cities and functional urban areas;*
- 3. Affirming urban-rural solidarity and enhancing urban development tailored to different types of territories;*
- 4. Consolidating and developing the inter-regional networks;*
- 5. Protecting, developing and turning into value the natural and cultural patrimony.*

The Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing is responsible for elaborating the strategic concept and the subsequent public policies, according to its institutional objectives (stipulated in Law 350/2001, completed and modified by Law 289/2006), through the General Directorate for Strategies and Policies for Territorial Cohesion. The strategic concept is elaborated, under the ministry's coordination, by the National Institute of Research and Development URBANPROIECT Bucharest, in partnership with 'Ion Mincu' University of Architecture and Urbanism Bucharest, and experts in different fields representing other relevant institutions.

THE ROMANIA 2030 SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC CONCEPT – A TRIGGER FOR THE REFORM IN SPATIAL PLANNING

The process of drawing the strategic concept involves a permanent consultation, through work meetings and presentations, with local authorities associations, county and city chief architects, regional development agencies, relevant ministries, management authorities, research institutes, professional associations, private sector companies, universities and NGOs.

4. Supporting documents and accomplishments that form the basis of SCSD Romania 2030

The **SCSD Romania 2030** relies on:

- the EU main strategic documents regarding spatial sustainable planning and development² that resulted in the Territorial Agenda of the EU and the Leipzig Chart of Urban Sustainable Development³;
- the significant elements of national strategic documents such as National strategy of economic development on mid term 2000, Strategy of Romania's Sustainable Development 'Horizon 2025', Strategy for Sustainable development of Romania 2006, sectoral development strategies in economy, environment, rural development, education, health services, infrastructure of transport, water resources, tourism, natural and cultural patrimony, risks and hazards etc.; Government Program, Post- accession Strategy.

The **SCSD Romania 2030** is included as one of the framework documents, within both National Development Plan 2007-2013 and National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 which organize the EU funds absorption.

In that context, the **SCSD Romania 2030** provisions are more and more taken in account by the Management Authorities where they are relevant: the Regional Operational Program, with its sustainable urban development 1st axis, is oriented to support the polycentric development; on the other hand, the Sectoral Operational Program regarding the Competitiveness Strengthening takes in consideration the urban metropolitan areas as potential developers of economic clusters.

5. Horizontal and vertical territorial, inter-institutional and inter-sectoral partnerships in support of elaboration and implementation of SCSD Romania 2030

The role of local public and private stakeholders is crucial in the process of drawing and implementing the SCSD Romania 2030. The national, regional and local stakeholders have the capacity to integrate the development priorities at different territorial scales, by the potential of the institutionalized partnerships and networks that they form. They can contribute to the identifying and promotion of the strategic projects in order to implement national policies, they are the ones able to approach and implement a multi level management.

² Maastricht Treaty (1991), endorsed by the European Council; Lisbon Strategy (2000), including the amendments brought by Gotteborg (2001) and Rotterdam (2004) meetings, endorsed by the European Council; Spatial Planning Charter endorsed in the CEMAT meeting (Torremolinos, 1983), within the Council of Europe; European Spatial Development Scheme, endorsed in the Reunion of the Ministers for Spatial Planning in Potsdam, 1999; Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent, endorsed in the CEMAT meeting (Hanovra, 2000), within the Council of Europe; The Bristol Accord on Sustainable Communities endorsed in the EU Ministerial informal meeting in Bristol, 2005; The guidelines on cohesion policy, endorsed by the European Council in October 6, 2006; The European Landscape Convention, endorsed by the Council of Europe, Florence, 2002; The Green Paper on Urban Transport, initiated by the EU in 2007; Sustainable Urban Development Charter, Leipzig, May 2007; European Territorial Agenda, adopted under the German presidency in the EU Ministerial meeting in Leipzig, May 2007

³ Both documents, based on a substantial professional lobby done by the DG REGIO working group Territorial Cohesion and urban Matters, by the First Action Program of Territorial Agenda of EU and others, the inclusion of the spatial dimension within the cohesion concept.

It is also crucial that the partnerships are organized both horizontal and vertical, ensuring that, on one hand, the sectoral aspects are integrated, and on the other one, that the approaches and the projects are well scaled and synergic correlated among local, regional, inter-regional and national levels, including the cross-border and transnational relevant dimensions and components.

Territorial stakeholders:

- In its efforts to reach the economic, social and territorial cohesion, Romania needs a good polycentric policy, highlighting a strong and coherent territorial *network of urban metropolitan areas*, which should act as promoters of a new urban-rural relationship, as regional development poles (urban functional areas and regions⁴), nodes of urban national network, and as engines of national development, strengthening also the Romanian contribution to the EU competitiveness. The urban metropolitan areas' network should also catalyze the inter-regional accessibility development, at both national and transnational levels.
- *The specialized cities*, sub-regional and local urban localities⁵, the 2nd and 3rd rank cities⁶ play a major role in ensuring the balanced regional development and supporting of the national competitive profile. They decrease the development pressures' level upon the main functional urban areas at territorial level, carrying out specialized functions, complementary to the numerous tasks of the larger urban functional areas; the small and medium cities contribute significantly to catalyze the urbanization process, through structuring the physical accessibility and accessibility to knowledge at sub-regional and local levels, and they are also great facilitators in developing new relations with the rural areas.
- *The rural areas* are over then 89% of the total Romania's territory, where lives almost half of the Romania's population. It is a national obligation and a core issue for the spatial planning, to reconsider the role of rural localities, of rural space with its fabulous potential, in order to make it work for the competitiveness of Romania. The rural localities can and should play significant roles in the national development and national contribution to EU competitive profile, through becoming attractive places, which can keep the young population, catalyzing the balanced regional development, contributing to the capitalization of the cultural and natural inheritance, keeping and revitalizing local and regional identity.

Institutional and sectoral players:

- *Line ministries* have core tasks which deeply impact the territorial planning, and related instruments that implement the decisions with substantial impact at territorial level: sectoral strategies, legal framework, decentralized and de-concentrated services, and investments programs. In this context, they could easily closer cooperate in harmonizing strategies and policies, creating synergy at territorial level, and maximizing the territorial impact of the decisions. The line ministries usually work together using both informal ways (inter-ministerial working groups for quick correlation in fields and issues of common interests, simple instruments for keeping informed all parties involved) and formalized ones, such as through the Inter-ministerial councils⁷ which contribute significantly based on their responsibilities, and according to their specific profiles: strategic planning, territorial and regional development etc.; the issue of spatial planning needs to be strengthened as subject of inter-ministerial cooperation.
- *Management authorities* act as multi-year investments programs, within the National Development Plan 2007-2013; unfortunately, the spatial component was not enough

⁴ ESPON Project 1.1.1. The role, specific situation and potentials for urban areas as nodes of polycentric development, CRITICAL DICTIONNARY OF POLYCENTRICITY, July 2004

⁵ Ibidem

⁶ Law 350/2001, regarding the approval of National Territorial Plan, Section V, the Network of Localities.

⁷ Government decision no. 750/2005 regarding the establishment of permanent inter-ministerial councils.

developed within the strategic document, and it became more and more clear in time that this component is needed. The MDPWH invested energy, time and human resources in the process of integrating the spatial planning objectives with the operational programs approaches. A great opportunity was, in this respect, the merging between the former Ministry Delegate with Territorial Planning, Public Works and Housing (MDTPPW) with the part dealing with the operational programs (Regional Operational Program, Territorial Cooperation Operational Programs) of former Ministry of European Integration (MEI)⁸.

- **Local governments** have nowadays increasing roles and involvement in territorial development, through both their specific responsibilities at local level, and their capacity of structuring partnerships at territorial level⁹ and as institutions¹⁰ in order to generate and promote strategic objectives and projects.
- **Regional Development Agencies** could, based on their specific statute¹¹, be great facilitators in articulating the local and national levels within the territorial planning process and also within the process of implementation through specific projects.
- **Private sector, through its associations and organizations** must definitely play a greater role than in presenting spatial development. Some of the operational programs envisage directly the development of private sector, with impact at territorial level, such as the Regional Operational Program (in part: tourism development, urban sustainable development, urban infrastructure, health services), Sectoral Operational Program for Strengthening the Competitiveness (economic clusters, development of SMEs), Territorial Cooperation Operational Programs (economic development, accessibility, sharing of experience, improved services, research), and also does the Strategy for rural Development (although it is not clear the role of rural localities). The European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation¹² is in process of affirming its potential as catalyst of the cross-border cooperation in strengthening the economic development processes.
- **The academic and research sector is crucial** in exploring the core domains and issues of EU and national interest, forecasting projections, and providing contributions to the spatial planning process, through its specific responsibilities and professional expertise within Romanian Academy research institutes and relevant national research institutions. Academic sector should provide increased support to the reform in spatial planning through updated curricula, extended inter-sectoral cooperation (e.g.: territorial planning, geography, economics and public finances, public administration etc.) with the respect of improving the professional capacity in the specific domains. The research activity must regain the place in preparing through both fundamental and apply research the spatial planning process, and also in providing basis for the managerial instruments in implementing spatial development, in order to better structure the integrated approach of national development, and support the shaping of the Romania's roles within the EU and at international levels. Some of the requirements would be to strengthen the inter-institutional cooperation, to better articulate the fundamental and

⁸ In April, 2007

⁹ Forming metropolitan associations (0 and 1st rank cities with the urban and rural surrounding areas), urban systems (2nd and 3rd rank cities in urban-urban-rural associations), and rural associations, based on common problems and development objectives

¹⁰ Associations of counties (National Association of Counties of Romania), cities (Association of Romanian Cities), towns (Association of Romanian Towns) and communes (Association of Romanian Communes), even umbrella association (Federation of Local Government Associations)

¹¹ The Development Region is a voluntarily based association among counties, it is not administrative unit and has no juridical status in that respect, according to the Law no. 315/2004 regarding the regional development in Romania

¹² Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of The European Parliament and of The Council, of 5 July 2006, on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC)

apply research, to actively participate within the academic, research and innovation networks and programs (e.g.: European Knowledge Network, ESPON 2013 etc.)

- **National institutions and agencies** such as National Institute of Statistics, National Commission of Prognosis, the economy surveying institutes, Whether National Institute, bodies dealing with risk forecasting and management etc. should also be attracted and more involved within the spatial planning process.
- **Professional Associations**¹³ are the first ones facing the pressure of changing needs in spatial planning, in order to assemble the missing parts and approaches: the lack of strategic component; the lack of coordination the sectoral investment programs; the inter-sectoral, inter-institutional and territorial cooperation; the instruments for exploring the territorial trends and phenomena, for developing scenarios, implementing and monitoring the spatial development; the updating of the legislation. Since 1995 there were many attempts in structuring instruments of assemble the county master-plans and to improve the correlation between county, regional and national spatial levels in terms of mapping, geographic information systems used as support of spatial data; there were also developed studies¹⁴ regarding incorporation of strategic and financial components within the territorial planning process. Unfortunately they did not produced changes in legislation or/and in the spatial planning procedures. A part of the problem will be solved by the implementation at national level of the INSPIRE Directive¹⁵, and another step forward will be the creation of the national network of regional territorial observatories, which is one of the commitments made by MDPWK through the National Reforms Program.
- **Non Governmental Organizations** which work in relevant domains such as: urban development, rural initiatives, community development, protection of natural and cultural values, societal and economic research and exploring and monitoring, must also be more involved within the spatial planning process for at least few reasons: they are neutral actors, they are able to act as also promoters of ideas with regions and communities, they are more implementation oriented.
- **The mass media** is still needed in support of translating the very often technical information of spatial planning to the public, and make it transferable into a transparent way to the citizens.
- **Communities** are the ones who actually carry out, direct and indirect, both the spatial planning provision resources, and the impact of planning implementation. The Sustainable Communities Initiative under the United Kingdom Presidency¹⁶ developed a proactive perspective regarding the involvement of the communities in building the livable places through stimulating a better governance, public participation, partnership working, improving public services and civic pride, lobbying for linking social, economic and environmental programs.

6. Instruments for implementing the SCSD Romania 2030

In the implementation process, SCSD Romania 2030 relies on following categories of instruments:

¹³ Association of Romanian Architects, Association of Romanian Urban Planners, The Register of Romanian Architects, The Register of Romanian Urban (and spatial) Planners, Association of Municipal Chief Architects, Association of County Chief Architects, Association of Financial Managers with Local Governments, Association of Technical Directors with Local Governments, Association of IT Professionals with Local Governments, Association of Citizen's Information Centers

¹⁴ AMTRANS Program

¹⁵ Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

¹⁶ Information regarding the initiative on: <http://www.ascskills.org.uk/pages/home>

THE ROMANIA 2030 SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC CONCEPT – A TRIGGER FOR THE REFORM IN SPATIAL PLANNING

- The articulation of concepts of cohesion and competitiveness, in support of sustainable territorial development;
- The territorial development policies, and the related sketches derived from the strategic objectives of the SCSD Romania 2030, which generate further detailed master-plans at national, inter-regional and regional levels; the policies will also be developed as prioritization of measures, interventions and strategic projects;
- Correlation of strategic objectives and related policies to the strategic financing potential of the national and European funds;
- Systems for monitoring the significant trends and phenomena at territorial level, elaboration of development scenarios, territorial impact assessment of policies, with regard of technical substantiation of the decision making process in territorial development (The INSPIRE Directive will contribute to the territorial data and indicators structuring, data flows organizing and functioning etc.);
- Supporting and catalyzing the horizontal and vertical partnerships establishment, among territorial, inter-institutional and inter-sectoral partners for the identification, promotion and implementing of the strategic territorial projects of national importance;
- Updating the existing legal framework in the field of spatial planning and related relevant domains;
- Institutional and professional capacity building in strategic and integrated planning, and also in the implementation management process, strengthening and diversification of spatial planning services;
- Developing and launching specific pilot programs in support of new initiatives (Regional Competitiveness and Territorial Cohesion Course in support of generating sketches for economic clusters);
- Promoting research programs addressing the territorial issues (ESPON, programs prepared together with National Institute for Research and Development 'Urbanproiect', University of Architecture and Urban Planning 'Ion Mincu', Romanian Academy institutes, etc.);
- Contributions to the development of the strategic concepts (e.g.: territorial cohesion) and documents in spatial planning at the EU level through working with the relevant working groups (e.g.: Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters working group), and implementation of the activities related to the strategic documents (First Action Program for implementing the Territorial Agenda).

7. The SCSD România 2030 as trigger for the reform in spatial planning

a) The SCSD provides Romania with a strategic planning document for integrated and sustainable territorial development on medium and long term that:

- Formulates the strategic vision and objectives regarding the Romania's territorial development in order to capitalize the national potential for internal balanced and prosperous development and to strengthening its roles at international level;
- Structures the strategic directions of the Romania's territorial development, with the integration of the sectoral strategies at territorial level according to the social, economic and territorial cohesion concept;
- Provides the vertical harmonization and correlation of national policies with regional and local ones at territorial level;
- Supports integrated and synergic financing of the strategic objectives and strategic priority projects from the European and national programs, and also prepares the prerequisites for the next programming period;
- Ensures the articulation of the aspects concerning the cohesion with the ones concerning the competitiveness.

b) The strategic concept ensures the technical substantiation of decision concerning the territorial cohesion and competitiveness through:

- Technical substantiation of the territorial development strategies and policies, scientific based elaboration of functional and operational instruments for approaching and implementing territorial plans;
- Mapping the territorial location of the sectoral and inter-sectoral problems, of the disequilibrium, and also of the territorial potential for development;
- Structuring the specific systems for: observing the territory; elaboration of territorial development scenarios according to the strategic objectives, through prioritization of measures and interventions; assessment of the territorial impact of policies and programs; technical substantiation of the decisions in territorial development etc.;
- The correlation of the relevant investments programs with the territorial development scenarios and strategic objectives, in order to maximize the investments impact.

c) Based on the strategic concept findings, increases the potential and motivation of structuring the relevant partnerships/ associations (horizontally and vertically) at the territorial, inter-institutional and inter-sectoral level, for promoting, accessing resources and implementation of the strategic projects

d) According to the changes needed along the process of elaboration of the strategic concept, the needs of reforming the legal framework, relevant institutions and specific procedures and instruments became clearer, as well as the main ways in approaching the reform as a whole, through:

- including the concepts regarding the sustainable territorial development (territorial cohesion, competitiveness, territorial and multi-level governance, territorial impact assessment etc.),
- ensuring correct links of the strategic concept provisions and relevant strategic documents (National Development Plan, operational programs, National Reforms Plan, key-dossiers at EU level etc.);
- aligning the current procedures in planning to the EU practice (strategic planning, integrated planning, sectoral/corporate planning etc.),
- provision of strategic documents and technical instruments for strategic territorial planning (strategic concepts, territorial policies, territorial observatories network, elaboration the development scenarios, assessment of territorial impact of policies, technical substantiation of the decision process etc.)
- including the task of supporting the institutional and professional capacity development in the specific field.

e) Providing a strategic concept of territorial development (as the majority of the Member States), the SCSD Romania 2030 substantiates the cooperation between Romania and the EU Member States, concerning the EU roles fostering at international level, based on:

- aware involvement and contributions of Romania in elaboration of EU strategic documents regarding sustainable territorial development;
- professional contributions within the process of structuring, development and implementation of strategic concepts regarding sustainable territorial development (the MDPWH is in process of forming the working group for territorial cohesion at national level);
- valuable participation within the process of elaboration of the EU working documents regarding spatial development and its key-issues such as: demographic problems, climate changes, uncontrolled urban growth;
- coordination and synergy of activities at EU and national level within the implementation of strategic documents;
- realistic and synergic actions within implementation of National Reforms Program;

THE ROMANIA 2030 SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC CONCEPT – A TRIGGER FOR THE REFORM IN SPATIAL PLANNING

- participating in the concepts progress and configuration concerning territorial development: the territorial cohesion, competitively, integrated development, sustainable development etc
- the reform program implementation concerning the territorial planning at the EU level (the Territorial Agenda implementation Program)
- realistic contributions to the next programming period (the MDPWH is part of the technical group already generated by the Ministry of Economy and Finances).

As a very brief conclusion, it has to be mentioned that the SCSD Romania 2030 is a document in process, carrying out and triggering at the same time a series of processes as parts of the reform in spatial planning. The process is difficult, since it commits multilevel territorial, institutional and sectoral cooperation and partnerships. On the other hand, all the activities of the reform process have to face permanently a very high dynamic of the political environment, which often led to changing approaches, institutions, partners, legislation.

In this context, it is important that the reform process continues and keeps the momentum, in order to ensure the legal obligation that Romania will have always a Spatial Development Chart, long term oriented, and institutions and instruments for managing its implementation.

8. The SCSD Romania 2030 current stage and future steps

The main activities regarding the elaboration and institutionalization of SCSD Romania 2030 are displayed in the table below:

Stage	Elaboration	Institutionalization
May 2005	A proposal regarding the need of elaboration of a strategic concept of territorial development of Romania is submitted by few Romanian consultants to the former MDTPPWH and accepted.	The consultant is employed as personal advisor of the minister for initiating the project.
September 2005	An inter-institutional group it is formed and starts working for the elaboration of the SCSD Romania 2030, under the coordination of the MDTPPWH.	The working group elaborated the first sketch of the SCSD in order to substantiate the memorandum regarding the SCSD Romania 2030
October 2005		The SCSD Romania 2030 guidelines memorandum is approved, through the Government common session.
March 2006	The first SCSD Romania 2030 phase is finalized and presented in technical and consultative meetings.	The MDTPPWH approval.
April 2006		SCSD Romania 2030 is included as official document within National Development Plan 2007 – 2013.
July 2006		The Law 289/2006 completes the Law 350/2001 regarding the urban and territorial planning, with following issues: the strategic concept of territorial development of Romania; the

completion of spatial planning with the strategic and financial components; the need of integrated planning; the need of territorial data systems and of technical support in decision making process in spatial development.

November 2006	The second SCSD Romania 2030 phase is finalized and presented in technical and consultative meetings. Both phases made the substantiate of the strategic concept. The concept is also introduced at the Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters/ Nov 2006 meeting and at the DG REGIO/ Feb 2007).	Approved by MDTPPWH.
December 2006		SCSD Romania 2030 is included as official document within the National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013.
March-December 2007		MDTPPWH merges with the MEI. The new ministry is named MDPWH. One of the reasons of the merging is SCSD and the needs of ensuring the coordination of financing programs with the spatial strategic objectives for maximizing the investments impact. A specific directorate ¹⁷ , General Directorate Strategies and Policies for territorial Cohesion (GDSPTC) is created dealing with the concept and with strengthening the correlation among its provisions and EU funding programs.
September 2007	In order to rise professional awareness and provide process transparency, MDPWH presents to a large amount of public and private entities (universities, research institutes, companies) working in spatial planning, regarding future steps in elaboration of SCTD Romania 2030: sectoral and inter-sectoral research, methodologies for strategic spatial planning and integrated planning, territorial observatories, territorial data bases structuring, instruments for supporting executive decision making process in spatial planning.	
September 2007		The drafting of a protocol between the MDPWH and the National Statistics Institute in view of the establishment of territorial observation system was initiated.

¹⁷ General Directorate Strategies and Policies for Territorial Cohesion is responsible with: the elaboration and development of SCTD Romania 2030; territorial monitoring, elaboration of territorial development policies and scenarios, and territorial impact assessment of policies; facilitation of the territorial, inter-institutional and inter-sectoral partnerships in support of the SCTD Romania 2030 implementing; reform activities concerning the spatial planning.

THE ROMANIA 2030 SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC CONCEPT – A TRIGGER FOR THE
REFORM IN SPATIAL PLANNING

September – November 2007	The draft of seven tender books regarding the SCTD Romania 2030, failed to be approved. They are postponed for 2008.
November 2007- January 2008	The process of supporting the national metropolitan network is initiated, as part of approaching the polycentric development policy (within the SCTD Romania 2030), with the initiation of a series of working meetings with the existing and potential metropolitan areas.
January 2008	The Government approves the Memorandum on growth poles (urban metropolitan areas) and their integrated financing by Priority Axis 1 of the Regional Operational Program and others Operational Programs, according to the SCTD Romania 2030.
January – March 2008	Three tender contracts procedures on the SCTD and reform of territorial planning are launched. The contracts should be executed by July 2008.
January – March 2008	Legal amendments are in development regarding the upgrading of a series of terms and concepts in the area of territorial planning, identifying the responsibilities of the MDPWH, restructuring of the technical commission, the funding of the drafting of SCTD, of its studies and instruments. Their approval is envisaged for November 2008.
February 2008	The drafting of a protocol between the MDPWH and the associations of local authorities, on the implementation of the SCTD based on territorial strategic projects, is initiated.
February 2008	The drafting of a protocol between the MDPWH and the research institutes of the Romanian Academy on the cooperation for the drafting and specifications of SCTD, is initiated.
April 2008	Seven tender books on the completion of the SCTD and establishment of the territorial observation system, guides on territorial strategic planning and integrated planning have been launched. Their completion is envisaged for August-November 2008.
September 2008	The Action Plan for the approval of the SCTD in 2008, according to the commitments provided for by the National Reform Plan, is being drafted.
September 2008	An international experience-exchange meeting on the strategic concepts for territorial development is planned. Its major objectives are to explore

MIHAELA VRABETE

international partnerships and interests for the promotion of major projects, which would consolidate Romania's standing on the international arena.

November 2008	The SCTD is envisaged to be approved by the Government.
2008-2012	The renewed Lisbon Strategy is in preparation and it will provide more detailed approaches, financing and implementation calendar, regarding the reform in spatial planning.

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