

# THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION MANAGEMENT

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**Abstract:** *In approaching this issue, we start from the consideration that the immediate experience of those who passed through all the stages regarding the constitution, implementation, application and certification of an environmental management system in their organizations, represents, for those who are interested, a very valuable resource of practical information. Along with these, we add the ascertainment that in numerous countries, the implementation of the environmental management systems succeeded in convincing not only through their financial benefits but also through increasing their credibility in obtaining financial credits, in attracting investments and new beneficiaries. In our communication, we focus on a few major segments: (1) placing the issue worldwide with a short presentation of the situation, with references to international organisms of preventing and interfering in cases of emergencies, (2) environmental protection in UE, insisting on the legislative preoccupations for environmental protection and presenting the experience of evaluation of the ecological impact in the UE countries.*

**Keywords:** environmental protection management, international organisms of prevention, community acquis, ecological impact.

**JEL Classification:** J<sub>58</sub>

## ***1. Placing the issue at worldwide level***

### ***1.1. Short presentation of the situation***

All over the world, the progresses made in health, on social and economic levels were interrupted at a certain point by natural disasters or

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disasters due to human activities. These had devastating effects over the communities and implicitly over their countries. At these disasters, deterioration of the environment and increasing of the urban agglomeration added, which increased the vulnerability at disasters. A series of the negative phenomena have one ongoing at the planetary level, so that one can say that globalization is manifested mainly on widespread problems still unresolved, such as: the environmental pollution, the climate changes with catastrophic effects, the problem of drinking water and food, the economic financial instability and crises, excessive unemployment and poverty in some areas of the planet, etc. (Dragomir, C., Panzaru, S., 2012, p.85).

From the disasters due to human activities, the majority is caused by the energetic industry, which between 1979 and 1986 appeared in the field of coal mining as fires, in the field of natural gases and oil as explosions, dam wrecking of the hydroelectric plants or destruction of the core in a nuclear plant.

The scientists draw the conclusion that an extreme natural event becomes a natural disaster when it has a significant direct impact over human settlements and activities and, indirectly, over the environment.

The disastrous events in the last years meant millions of dead people, diseases and socio-economic destructions. There were devastating earthquakes, enormous flooding, volcanic activities, and technological disasters. Of great concern is the fact that these calamities and catastrophes have become more and more frequent in the last years.

To prevent these unlucky events, some states adopted the following measures:

- periodic training of the civil protection units in cooperation with all the specialized units for such interventions;
- annual seminars organized on themes such as civil protection at NATO school in Oberammergau, Germany;
- doing some ample application in order to train the civil protection units and updating the notifying and alarming plans for population in case of disasters;
- defending applications between states in case of necessity on the borderline;
- measures of equipping with the necessary means the civil defensive units and the population;

- trying to warn the population through modern, centralized and alarming systems;
- exercise to prepare the population and training the civil defense organs;
- continuous research to realize a phonic and optic system to warn and notify people which should be installed in houses and in working places.

As well, the wastes produced by people represent a significant problem for the humanity, these being very difficult to destroy and accumulating ceaselessly, their degradation generating a very powerful pollution.

Fires have disastrous effects as well: industrial and urban fires, forests fires and big building fires.

The chemical accidents produce disasters through dangerous substances leaking which are suddenly introduced in the environment in big enough quantities to endanger the health and wellness of the environment, of people and of their activities.

The major problem for humanity is to limit the continuous destruction of the environment and the growth of urban agglomeration which favors the vulnerability to disasters.

### *1.2. International organisms of preventing and intervening in case of emergency*

Given the fact that air, water, flora and fauna are endangered at national, multinational and worldwide level, the countries turn to UNO, considered solely and competent leader, which assumed the conduction of preventing process and intervention in case of emergency worldwide.

UNO activity thus started in 1946 with the first International Ecological Treaty. Other approaches followed in protecting the migrating birds and of the ozone layer, in eliminating the use of CFCs, protecting the fishing zones in oceans and seas. They also involved in the negotiation related to stabilizing the climate. UNO activity is based on a series of international directing principles in environmental filed, which constitute as official declarations, forming the basis on which an environmental politics can be built and a platform for action.

At the basis of these principled lays the idea that the human beings are in the center of the preoccupations for sustainable development, having the

right to a healthy and productive life in accordance with nature. The right to development has to be exercised permanently taking into account the present and future generations. Environmental protection is an integrant part of the development process. Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

## ***2. Environmental protection in European Union***

Through environmental protection, one understands the totality of the actions meant to ensure the conservation of the natural resources and protection of the quality of the environmental components.

European Union aims to a series of politics, objectives, activities and standard that represents levels of references to be reached and maintained by all the member states and which refer to: realizing a socio-economic connection, constant promotion of an environmental politics, encouraging technical-scientific research, education and training programs, developing transportation webs and systems at the same standard, developing the cooperation among all these states and the external states.

The community acquis is made of the assembly of the constitutional treaties, legislative acts, decisions and legal principles of the Community Court of Justice. Inside EU, an environmental legislation was made and it contains about 300 legislative acts.

The community treaties referring to the environment define the community principles referring to the environmental protection, being reference documents in elaborating the laws and establishing the politics and objectives in this field.

The community directives establish the legal requirements in EU referring to environment, with compulsory character for all the member states and flexible enough to allow the manifestation of the traditional spirit present in the legislation of each country.

The regulations of the community are compulsory for all the component states of EU, being designed for precise purposes regarding the environmental protection.

The community decisions contain necessary data to execute the directives and the regulations, having an extremely specific character and being always compulsory for those to whom they are destined.

All these regulations refer to a large range of aspects: protection of the quality of the environment, processes, services and activities of the economic and productive nature, procedures and methodologies of work relating to the environment. The domains related to the communityacquis contain aspects related to the water and air quality, wastes management, protection of nature, industrial pollution, chemical substances, genetic modified substances, vehicles noise, and radiations. Big domains are also contained as horizontal legislation referring to environment, climate change, civil protection, international cooperation.

In 1972, in Stockholm, on the first Conference of the United Nations, the European Community has adopted its first program of Action for environmental protection for a period of five years. The Conference stimulated national activities in the field of environmental protection.

The general principles were established which are found in the passed legislation, among which we mention:

- to prevent is more effective than cure;
- the environmental impact should be taken into account in the first phase of conception an objective;
- the exploitation of nature which produces ecological imbalances should be abandoned;
- the European Economic Community and the Member States should promote a policy of environmental protection through international organizations;
- protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility.

The goals and actions of the community in the field of environmental protection are:

- preserving, protecting and improving the environment;
- human health;
- prudent and rational utilization of natural resources.

In Romania, the harmonization with EU regulations cover the following areas: harmonization at the level of strategic directions, harmonization of regulations on water resources, air protection, management and disposal of waste, nature protection, chemicals and those that cause genetic changes, noise pollution control. To support accession and legislative assimilation, one considers actions to raise some funds to support the harmonization and by creating appropriate institutional capacities to implement and maintain the requirements

### ***3. Environmental impact assessment experience in European Union countries***

The European Community Council directive of 27 June 1985 on environmental impact assessments treats some public and private investment.

One of the examples of applying environmental impact assessment is the Danish experience. The example is available for countries that want to develop their own system of ecological impact assessment in strict relationship with spatial planning. This type of planning is well developed in countries in transition.

Alongside the European Community Council Directive, another important document is the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in the Context of the Interstate, signed in Espoo, Finland on 25 February 1991. Its purpose is to link business activities with environmental protection problem, to internationalize their cooperation in the context of ecological impact assessment, particularly in the case of projects with interstate impacts. The signatories of the Convention have decided that a country wishing to bring an action with the Interstate impact is bound to inform the countries which can be negatively affected by this activity. It is also mandatory to carry out an environmental impact assessment on which to introduce the interested parties. The country that initiated this kind of work is required to ensure the participation of the local community in its interior and the exposed.

The Annexes of the Convention establish very precisely the types of investments covered by the Convention and what shall contain a statement of environmental impact assessment.

Accelerating the transition to a sustainable future rests in Germany on the planning of waste management as well. For planning the waste management one uses the forecast quantities of waste that are an indispensable basis. Only based on information relating to the quantities of waste to be treated in the future, there may be a basis for decision-making regarding the establishment and operation of the sites and waste disposal.

The different types of waste are classified into three groups, with the aggregation of data based on the following criteria:

- composition of the waste/waste treatment capacity
- the quantity of waste

The first step determines whether the waste can be treated before storage, and in what manner. In the second stage, they're considering

separately each type of waste, dominant in terms of quantity. In this sense, it is about massive waste, household waste and construction waste.

Theory and practice of environmental protection exists. Environmental law in its current form is found in numerous texts. In our country, nature protection initiatives are old and very rich. We only have to focus our efforts to make significant steps towards the spirit of the regulations in this area in the European Union.

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