

## EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION VECTOR

CS drd. *Andreea CONSTANTINESCU*<sup>1</sup>, CS I dr. *Victor PLATON*<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

*Sustainable development process supports human solidarity and responsible attitude the same way that educational process creates individual characters and competences. Under the pressure of climate change, maintaining social and territorial cohesion remains a priority objective of sustainable development. In this context, any advocacy for transforming education for sustainable development into mandatory educational discipline meets the need to move from awareness on the importance of environmental issues towards change of attitude and behavior on this topic. In the absence of educational support for ecological attitude, efforts of the scientific community and civic specialized organizations risks failing to receive the necessary public adhesion in order to disseminate good practice.*

**Key-words:** *education for sustainable development, climate change, environment, social and territorial cohesion.*

**JEL classification:** I25, A13

### INTRODUCTION

Romanian Education and Research Ministry approved through no. 1862/30.08.2007 Order *Environmental and Ecologic Education*, as optional course, and methodical guidelines for pre-school, primary and secondary education. This happened on one side, because of the utmost importance shown by UN thorough UNESCO to *education for sustainable development (ESD)* and proclaiming 2005-2014 as sustainable education official decade, and, on the other hand, due to some Romanian initiatives.

This paper aims both to analyze the current state of ESD on global scale as well as the premises for ESD to become a mandatory course in secondary education in Romania.

The contribution of this paper falls within the efforts made within the research and educational institutions to integrate ESD, as a central pillar in the plan to transform the strategy for sustainable development into national priority.

The importance of the topic addressed is that ESD, placed within general frame of *ecological education*, suits to the objectives set at the Tbilisi conference in 1977 - first intergovernmental conference on environmental education:

- Raising awareness and informing the public on environmental issues;
- Thorough knowledge of essential aspects of the environment as a whole;
- Training of skills and abilities of observation, experimentation and research;
- Forming an environmental ethic (attitudes, principles, beliefs);
- Creation of behaviors that reflect concern for quality of the environment;
- Develop a sense of responsibility, possible alternatives, and establish penalties for inappropriate behavior towards nature (M. Mazilu, 2008, p.9).

---

<sup>1</sup> Institute of National Economy , andreea\_constantinescu07@yahoo.com

<sup>2</sup> Institute of National Economy, victor.platon@clicknet.ro

















