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CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| SPINNING THE DISCOURSE FOR AMELIORATING THE NEGATIVE DISCOURSE OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN ALBANIA Adela DANAJ, Roland LAMI | 7 |
| WOMEN IN THE SOVIET UNION Lilith HAYRAPETIAN | 23 |
| THE CONSUMPTION OF DOMESTIC GAS IN A TROPICAL SAHELIAN METROPOLIS BETWEEN A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND ADAPTATION OF HOUSEHOLDS TO NEW WAYS OF LIVING: THE CASE OF THE TOWN OF N'DJAMENA IN CHAD. NDZIE SOUGA Clotaire, BANBOYE Gilbert FONDZE, DEYEMBAYE Albertine | 34 |
| THE ROLE OF INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION IN COMPETITION AND CONFLICT Gabriela MILITARU | 48 |
| INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT Alexandra DEACONU..... | 57 |
| THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENTM Ema Diana MARINESCU..... | 65 |
| SOCIOLOGIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS ON ADDRESSING THE REGIONALISATION OF THE PREFECT INSTITUTION Mariana PĂDUREANU..... | 71 |

SPINNING THE DISCOURSE FOR AMELIORATING THE NEGATIVE DISCOURSE OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN ALBANIA

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Abstract : The political discourse used during the electoral campaigns is one of the most essential indicators for the measurement of the level of democracy in a country. It impacts not only the voting behavior or the outcome of elections, but also at the same time the quality of democracy, in particular in countries with unconsolidated democracy such as Albania. From this point of view, the effect of the electoral strategies exceeds primary goals, such as winning of elections, and has a direct effect on the quality of democracy and as a consequence in the quality of citizens' life. From this point of view, the "language" used during the electoral campaign is a significant indicator in order to predict how the future directors of the state administration are going to lead and administer. This study aims at analyzing the political discourse that dominated during the pre-election period in Albania, in the framework of recent local elections for Mayor of Tirana during 2015. This study was focused only on these two political figures and not on other candidates, because of the number of the votes collected by them during the electoral process, by demonstrating the highest degree of the attention by the Albanian voters.

Mots clé: gestion ; traditionnelle ; alliance à plaisanterie ; conflit

I. Executive Summary

This study aims at analyzing the political discourse that dominated during the pre-election period in Albania, in the framework of recent local elections for Mayor of Tirana during 2015. The study is carried out in April, May and June 2015. All the statements made during this period by the two main candidates are in the center of this study. The two leading candidates are Erjon Veliaj, representative of the Socialist Party (SP) and Halim Kosova, representative of the Democratic Party (DP). This study was focused only on these two political figures and not on other candidates, because of the number of the votes

collected by them during the electoral process, by demonstrating the highest degree of the attention by the Albanian voters.

The political discourse used during the electoral campaigns is one of the most essential indicators for the measurement of the level of democracy in a country. It impacts not only the voting behavior or the outcome of elections, but also at the same time the quality of democracy, in particular in countries with unconsolidated democracy such as Albania.¹ From this point of view, the effect of the electoral strategies exceeds primary goals, such as winning of elections, and has a direct effect on the quality of democracy and as a consequence in the quality of citizens' life. In reference to one of the well-known figures in this field, Thomas Holbrook (1996: 1)², electoral campaign and used "language" do not have any extraordinary effect on the voting behavior compared to the effects on "political stance" in the long-term.

From this point of view, the "language" used during the electoral campaign is a significant indicator in order to predict how the future directors of the state administration are going to lead and administer. In case their political discourse is based on negative tones, this means that in the long-term, the role played by the newcomers into power, in regard to the further development, will not be positive (Johnston et al., 2004: 1)³. Negative discourse *per se* consists on the use of criticism about the achievements and the work of government and opposition, being a necessity in a free and democratic society. However, it is a problem when the negative discourse is not constructive, but personal, aggressive and emotional. Therefore, studies of this nature are increasingly in the focus of the researchers of this field, in particular for countries with fragile democracy.

Following the electoral campaign and analyzing the electoral strategies used by the two main candidates for the local elections in Tirana, it is important to mention the way the media has spread the news or the declarations of these candidates. It is also essential to emphasize that this study does not focus on the analysis of the media *per se*, as an actor that can or cannot influence the

¹ Ramet, S. P., editor. *Eastern Europe: Politics, Culture, and Society Since 1939*, Indiana University, Press: Bloomington, 1998

² T.M. Holbrook, *Do Campaign Matters*, SAGE Publication Press, 1996, pg.1

³ D. W., Johnston, M., Pollard, B., Kinmonth, A.-L., & Mant, D, *Motivation Is Not Enough: Prediction of Risk Behavior Following Diagnosis of Coronary Heart Disease From the Theory of Planned Behavior*, Health Psychology 23, 2004, pg. 533-538

voting behavior or contribute or not to the improvement of the political public debate. But, because the media is used as principal instrument for the data collection for this study, some important elements were put in the spotlight which are directly connected with the reflection of the political discourse of the candidates. After the processing and analysis of the data, it was concluded that the political discourse used by the political actors involved in the study, before and during the electoral campaign for the local elections in Tirana, was characterized mainly by negative tones. Their discourse was led by direct insults or non-direct personal insults against each other, accusations without evidence, as well as, comparing the political opponent with political traits of the past. However, the frequency of the usage of “negative language” from each of them is different. Detailed data on each of the candidates are described further in this study.

However, the goal of this study does not consist on explaining the *why* of this discourse, in other words, the reasons of using this language; but, only the presentation of some data which describe in an objective way the type of discourse and the frequency of the usage of certain words in each of the used categories for this study for the measurement of political discourse. This means that the study itself might be considered as an instrument that denounces or upraises the used language by the political actors during a delicate period, such as the period of electoral campaign where the public’s attention towards politics is at high levels. For this reason, political dialogue must be moderated and constructive, in order to transmit not only the political message with the aim at winning the elections, but with a high level of political communication in respect to citizens and country’s prosperity.

II. Methodology

From a methodological point of view, this study has used content analysis of documents that are used as a source of data collection. This analysis was carried out through a software. The selected method helped in identifying the model of political communication used by candidates Veliaj and Kosova, before and during the electoral period in local elections 2015 for Tirana mayor. The applied model for this study confirmed that the political language was characterized by negative tones, however the frequency of the usage of the “negative language” from each of them is different.

Some of the most popular newspapers in the country were used as sources for data collection. Their selection was not random and the reasoning behind their selection was based on: (i) the high number of sales that they have in the country, and (ii) on their profile. This means that in this study are involved newspapers that are classified as left wing, right wing or centrist. The

selection was done in such a way as to make possible the balance of the distribution of news. The involved newspapers in this study are: Mapo, Panorama, Gazeta Shqiptare, Shqip dhe Shekulli.

From these newspapers, the statements of the two candidates for mayor of Tirana were taken. The selected time segment included April, May and June. Through this period, the study generated data in relation to the used language before the election period, during the campaign and a few days before the election day, where it was realized that in May and June, the political communication was aggravated in comparison to April.

The selected analysis for this study, initially requests the fulfillment of a technical condition which is the establishment of a preliminary vocabulary. In order to accomplish the goal of this study, it was used the same vocabulary constructed previously by some experts of the field, in the framework of a similar study accomplished during 2012 by Open Society Foundation for Albania (OSFA)¹. The decision to use the same vocabulary came from several reasons, first (i) insufficiency of funds; (ii) the nature of the study, very similar with the one carried out a few years ago by OSFA. The preliminary establishment of the vocabulary as well as of the categories for the measurement of the political discourse was very helpful for the success of this study.

As in the previous study, in this study was used “computer-assisted textual analysis” (CATA). The selection of this technique increases the reliability of the study since it eliminates the possibility of “human error”. This means that in the study are not involved codes to count the frequency of words/expressions in the designed category. The analysis requires several stages and includes a number of techniques, starting with the analysis of statements through the vocabulary constructed before (vocabulary used by OSFA, 2012) and, later on, their processing through the computer, in a software that enables the analysis. In the first steps of the establishment of the vocabulary, the definition of the categories was made possible, because based on that the observatory of the words would be constructed, in other words, the vocabulary. Each of the category contains defined words/ expressions, which express a certain idea: for instance, a category for intelligence, would include words such as “intelligent, wise, smart” etc. The analysis with the computer measure the frequency of these categories in a particular document. In this case, the categories contain the descriptions of Veliaj and Kosova for each

¹ OSFA, Raporti nr. 1: Monitorim i deklaratave të figurave kryesore politike - Sali Berisha dhe Edi Rama, 2012

other, and the computer analysis compares which of the two statements contains more of such categories.

During the collection of the declarations for each of the candidates, from the newspapers selected for the study, it was realized that almost each of the newspapers had equal number of the declarations of each candidate, at least for the time period of study. However, the length of the news was not the same. But this does not influence the analysis of this study, as part of the analysis is not the comment of the newspapers itself, but the declarations of candidates. Hence, in the analysis, only the declarations of the candidates are included. Technically, in order to carry out the selection from the text of the newspaper overall it was easy, by taking into consideration that in each used newspaper, the declarations of the two candidates was detached from the comment part of the journalist. Their declarations were transcribed in the text, as they had declared. This was easily proved since all the newspapers in the study reflected almost the same thing.

In total 75 declarations of Veliaj and 72 declarations of Kosova were analyzed. As it was expected, the biggest number of declarations presented in the written media belonged to June, when the elections would be carried out. The lowest number of declarations included in the study derives as a result of the study focusing only on the declarations during the electoral period and only on the declarations reflected on the written media. However, the number of declarations meets the statistical reliability measures.¹ The declarations are focused mainly on the speeches that candidates have held in Tirana district areas when they went to meet the citizens.

As it was confirmed above, this study had some easiness since the categories and the vocabulary were built previously from a group of experts. The vocabulary was built by the programme Concordance 3.0, a suitable programme for the analysis of text that allows the researchers to carry out a research of the key words in the context (KWIC). Through the research of the words in the context, the software searches a word, or group of words in all the registered in advance declarations in the programme. What is important in the usage of this format is related to the fact that words are not searched detached from the context, something that allows the researcher to see the words which the key words is accompanied with the text. These words serve later on to build categories based on the values transmitted. More specifically, the words which Veliaj and Kosova refer to each other - for instance, *Veliaj, Kosova, civil society leader, doctor, party representative etc.j.* – are the main key words for which are found the descriptive words (positive or negative). The search of the

¹ K. Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction to its Methodology*, Sage Publications, 2003

key words in the context offered the opportunity to study the descriptive words that were found about these words, for instance: *coward*, *irresponsible*, *slandorous*, *sheep*, etc. According to what is reported in the study carried out by OSFA, based on the variations of these descriptive words, it was created a vocabulary with different categories, which measures the difference between professional critiques and those personal or without base.

After the words were found in the selected texts for analysis, they were classified based on their content in three categories established to measure the political discourse Veliaj-Kosova before and the election period for local elections in Tirana for 2015. The categories that were used to measure the tones of their political discourse are: (i) character (ii) performance (iii) relevance. Hence, in the study the same measurement categories were decided to be used which were previously used in the study carried by OSFA, since in the actual case, the political discourse of the two candidates was characterized by tones mainly negative in the way they referred to each other, before and during the election period for the local elections in Tirana.

Each of these three categories contains the descriptive words that Veliaj dhe Kosova used for each other and as confirmed above all were negatives. This does not make up any novelty in terms of improvement or moderation of political communication used by Albanian political figures, since even in the study realized by OSFA in 2012, it resulted that the political discourse of Rama and Berisha was dominated by negative tones, In the actual study, the category of Character includes 103 negative descriptive words for the candidate Veliaj and 63 negative descriptive words for candidate Kosova (such as *coward*, *big loser*, *he has no vision* etc.); the Category of Performance includes 123 negative words for candidate Veliaj and 78 negative words for candidate Kosova (such as *invades*, *rules*, *misgovernment*, *theft*, *problem*, *attacks*, etc.); Category of Relevance, which consists in the way candidates have associated each other with a stereotypic group with negative cultural resonances, includes 34 negative words for candidate Veliaj and 26 for candidate Kosova (for instance *old knack*, *typical politician of the old system*, *family*, etc).

The comparison of the declarations of Veliaj and Kosova as well the differences within their declarations from April till June it was realized through the programme of text analysis called Yoshikoder.¹ Yoshikoder is one of the latest software of text analysis developed in the University of Harvard. His advantage over other existing programmes is that it allows the establishment of the vocabulary by the researcher, as well as the usage of letters and symbols in

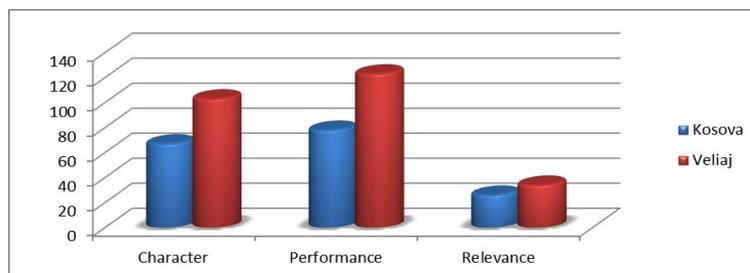
¹ For more details on the Yoshikoder programme visit: <http://www.yoshikoder.org/>

different languages, which was a necessity in the case of the Albanian language. Whereas in order to understand if the differences in the declarations had a statistical significance it was used Welch two sample t-test. This is because the used words by each candidate are not equal in total and in each category as well.

III. Analysis of the Results

In the last steps of the establishment of the political discourse vocabulary in each category, it was witnessed easily that the two candidates for mayor in Tirana, used words with negative tones when referred to each other. Hence, each category- Character, Performance, Relevance-is built only with negative words. However, the frequency of the usage of these words by each candidates is different and fundamentally noticeable.

In the following graph, the comparison between all the declarations included in this study is illustrated; the declarations of candidate Kosova, as well as those of candidate Veliqj by relying on the preliminary identified categories. The data illustrated in the graph testify that candidate Veliqj uses more critiques and negative descriptions towards his political adversary in the three categories. This means that all the received declarations in the study for the three months. April till June 2015, Veliqj has used in total a language with negative tones, with a high frequency in comparison to candidate Kosova.



Graph 1: Comparison of negative discourse of Veliqj and Kosova (with the total number of declarations of each for the period April-June 2015)

In order to understand whether this comparison is statistically significant, it was considered to be tested the difference between two political discourses for each candidate. Therefore, Welch Two Sample t-test was applied. The selection of this test and not of another statistical test derived as a result of the absence of an equal variance between the discourses of two candidates. This means that the number of words included in each category is not the same for the two candidates. Hence, in order not to violate any statistical rule, it was

selected the Welch correction.¹ The number of words used by each of the candidates for each category is illustrated in Table 1 for candidate Veliaj and Table 2 for candidate Kosova.

Table 1 Number of negative words used by Erjon Veliaj

| Erjon Veliaj | Panorama | Shqip | Gazeta Shqiptare | Mapo | Shekulli | Total |
|---------------------|----------|-------|------------------|------|----------|--------------|
| Character | 64 | 9 | 18 | 5 | 7 | 103 |
| Performance | 72 | 23 | 21 | 4 | 3 | 123 |
| Relevance | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 34 |
| Total | | | | | | 260 |

Table 2 Number of negative words used by Halim Kosova

| Halim Kosova | Panorama | Shqip | Gazeta Shqiptare | Mapo | Shekulli | Total |
|---------------------|----------|-------|------------------|------|----------|--------------|
| Character | 24 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 4 | 67 |
| Performance | 17 | 16 | 28 | 10 | 7 | 78 |
| Relevance | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 26 |
| Total | | | | | | 171 |

In order to carry out this test, the political discourse of each candidate was separated in two categories. In the first category, titled “0” all the words in total (260) were included, used by candidate Veliaj’ and in the other category titled “1”, all the words in total (171) were included, used by candidate Kosova. Based on the data included in Table 3, the study can confirm by 95% level of

¹ For more details on Welch t-test, visit:

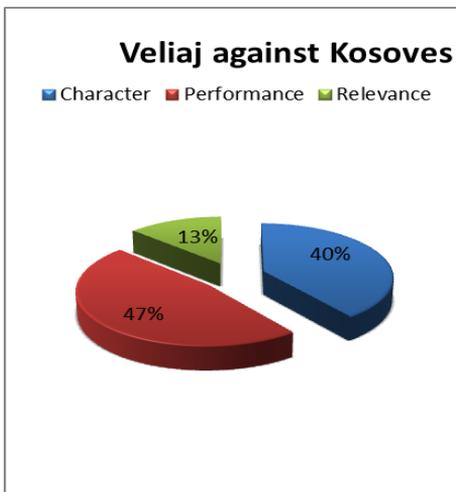
http://www.graphpad.com/guides/prism/6/statistics/index.htm?stat_the_unequal_variance_welch_t_t.htm

confidence that a significant difference exists between the negative political discourse of Veliaj and Kosova.

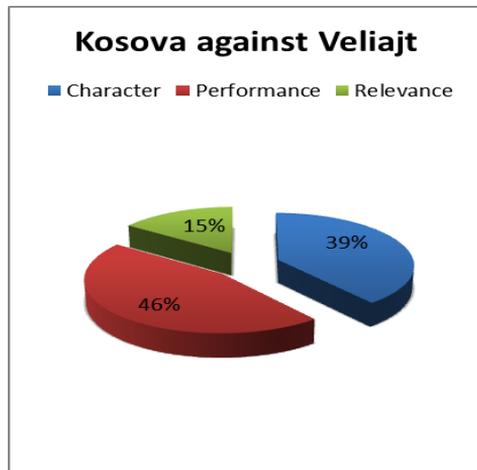
Table 3. Welch Two Sample t-test

| t-value | df | p-value | 95% Interval of confidence | Valuation of sample: Mean in group 0 and 1 |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
| t=5.4504 | df=40.216 | p-value=3.177e-06 |] 9.773943; 21.321226[| Mean in group 0=131.48038 Mean in group 1=89.93280 |

For more details on the distribution in percent of the language that each candidate has used when referred to each other, based on the categories of analysis, it was carried out a comparison between the two and the data are illustrated in the above graphs.



Graph 3: Negative discourse of Velia based

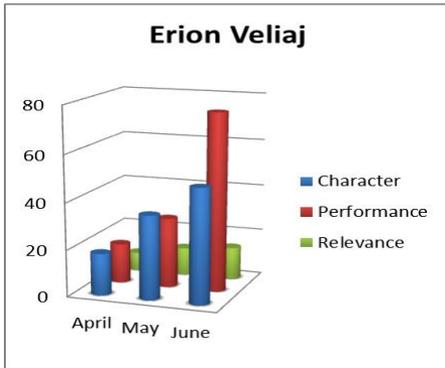


Graph 2: Negative discourse of Kosova

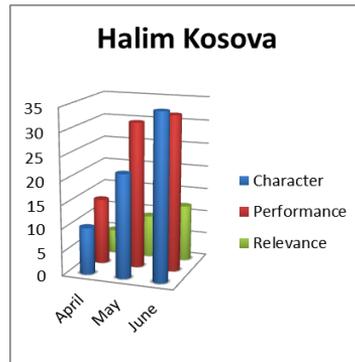
As it is easily noticed, graphs testify that the two politicians are approximately equal on percentages when criticize relying on Character, Performance and Relevance of their adversary. In their declarations, the two focus more than 45% of the critiques on the performance of adversary as political actor, whereas the other part is personal critique of character or comparison of the adversary with groups and political images with negative resonances.

In fact, these results were surprising by taking into consideration that Kosova has not been a political active actor and his figure as politician has not been in focus in comparison to Veliaj. This is also related to their past as political figures and not public figures. However, as it was clarified at the beginning of this study, the goal is not to analyze why but to present empirically what has happened before and during the electoral campaign for local elections in Tirana, for 2015. Meanwhile, Graphs 4 and 5 compare the differences in the discourses of Veliaj and Kosova from the period before the campaign, in April, when the official introduction of candidates for mayor in Tirana district was done until one day before the official completion of the electoral campaign in 19 June 2015.

As it is visible in these graphs, the negative discourse of Erjon Veliaj towards Halim Kosova has increased in all categories. During June, the negative discourse of him has considerably increased by focusing mainly on the category of performance. These data reinforce one more time what was realized above. Halim Kosova has not been a political active figure and his position as a leader in the state administration is only related with the time period when he led Mother Teresa Hospital Center in Tirana. However, political discourse of his political adversary is mainly focused on the category of performance.

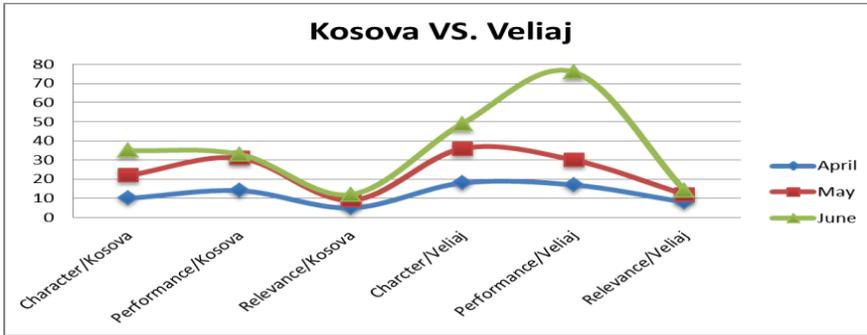


Graph 5: Comparison of Veliaj’s discourse from April in June (time segment: period before, during and in the end of the electoral campaign)



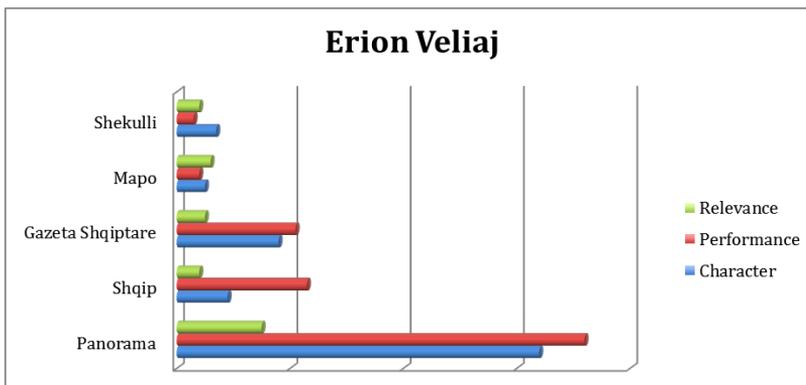
Graph 4: Comparison of Kosova’s discourse from April in June (time segment: period before, during and in the end of the electoral campaign)

In order to understand in what period, the discourse of each candidate is more negative, it was also carried out a discourse analysis according to months. As it understood, the negative discourse is considerably increased in the period before elections. However, this increase is not the same for the two candidates. As it is noticed in graph 6, this increase is not the same for the two candidates. As it appears in graph 6, candidate Veliaj has increased with over 50% the frequency of using the negative political discourse towards political adversary in the category of performance during the month of June. However, also in the other categories it appears a considerable increase in the negative discourse of Veliaj against candidate Kosova. Hence, in the last month until a few days before the election day, candidate Veliaj showed a clear and obvious tendency in relation to the increase of frequency of the usage of negative terminology in his political communication when referred to the candidate Kosova.

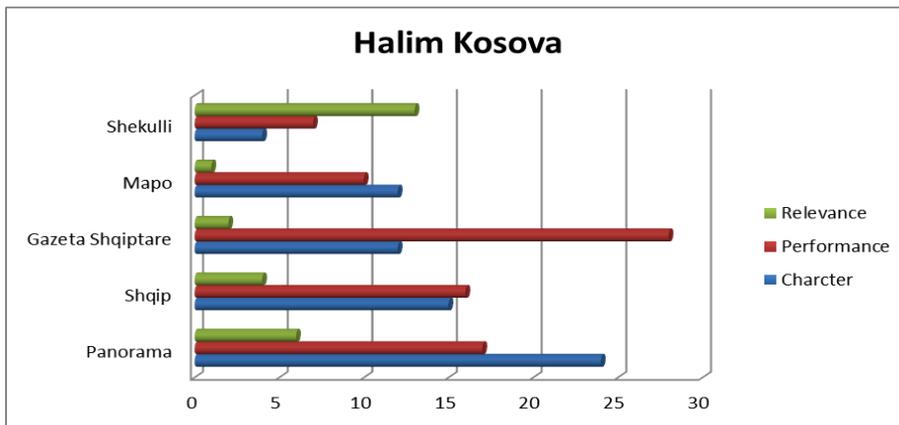


Graph 6: Comparison of Veliaj's discourse with Kosova in month

In the following graphs, graph 7 and 8, the frequency of the usage of the political negative discourse is illustrated for each of the categories from both of the candidates for mayor of Tirana, reflected in the selected newspapers as the source of collecting the data for this study. As it is noticed in the graphs no. 7 and 8, newspapers: Shekulli, Mapo and Gazeta Shqipëtare have reflected more negative declarations of the candidate Kosova, Shqip has reflected equally the negative colors of the political discourse of each candidate, whereas gazeta Panorama is the one that has differed from others, since it has reflected more than 50% of times the declarations with negative colors of the political discourse of the candidate Veliaj towards Kosova.



Graph 6: Reflection of political discourse of Veliaj based on the categories in the written media



Graph 8: Reflection of political discourse of Kosovo based on the categories in the written media

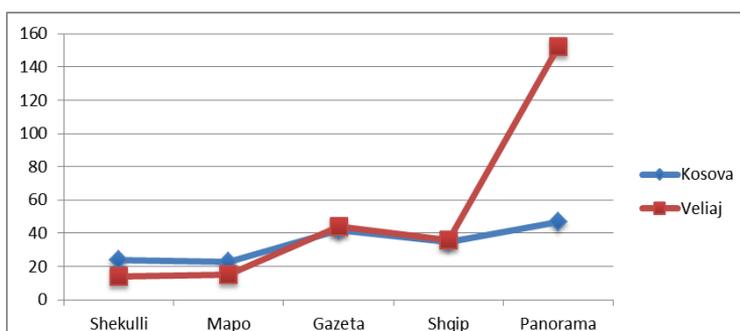
In order to make it more easy to understand the reflection of their declarations in the written media selected for the study, the data are reflected summarized in the following table

Table 4. Political discourse in total for both the candidates (included the total number of the words for the three categories)

| | Veliaj/political discourse in total (included the total number of words for the three categories) | Kosova/political discourse in total (included the total number of words for the three categories) |
|------------------|---|---|
| Shekulli | 14 | 24 |
| Mapo | 15 | 23 |
| Gazeta Shqiptare | 44 | 42 |
| Shqip | 36 | 35 |
| Panorama | 151 | 47 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Total number of negative words used | 260 | 171 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|

From the data of the table, it is concluded that Erjon Veliaj has used almost 20% more negative words towards the adversary in total during the period before and during the electoral campaign for the local election for mayor of Tirana 2015. The data of the table are reflected in the graph 9, in order to understand the distribution of the used vocabulary in the written media.



Graph 7: Reflection of total discourse (used words in the same categories) of Veliaj and Kosova in the written Media

Based on what is reported in graph 9, newspapers such as Shekulli and Mapo have had similar frequency in covering the statements of the two candidates, hence the dispersion of the used vocabulary in each of the three categories appears with a small difference. Meanwhile in the newspapers such as Gazeta Shqiptare and Shqip, it is a different situation. Based on the graphic representation (but also based on the data of table no. 4) these two newspapers have had a similar coverage in terms of political discourse used by each of the two candidates before and during the electoral campaign in Tirana. These data do not show the media coverage that each selected newspaper in the study has carried out for each candidate, but the frequency of the usage of words for each defined category. This means, that further studies might have as a focus the media coverage in order to generate further data in relation to the media as an instrument during delicate periods, such as periods before or during electoral campaign. In reference to the data of the above-mentioned graph, it is easily noticeable that in the Panorama newspaper, the elements of

the negative political communication of the candidate Veliaj are separated in distance from the opponent candidate. It must be emphasized that these data do not show the stance of each newspaper in transmitting the news for each candidate, but the differences appeared in each of them, which might be of interest for further detailed study.

IV. Integrated Conclusion

In the end of this study it was realized that as four years ago, in the study carried out by OSFA, the used language by the political actors at least before and during the electoral campaign is dominated by negative harsh tones in the moment when referred to the political opponent. However, it must be emphasized that the frequency of negative words used in the political discourse of the candidate Erjon Veliaj is 20 % higher compared to candidate Kosova in the three levels of categories.

The categories of analysis that were used in this study were: (i) Character; (ii) Performance; (iii) Relevance. It was expected that their political discourse would be focused mainly in the category of performance, as this is an element that is directly connected with their image as political persons. But, as it resulted in the published data in 2011 from the study of OSFA (at that time the study was carried out on candidates Rama and Berisha) and in this study, it resulted that the axis of political discourse was not focused on the performance category. About 25% of political discourse was focused on the character and around 12.5% on the category of relevance (for more details refer to graph 6).

In reference to these data it is difficult to analyze whether each of these candidates would enjoy the ability to include in the discussion agenda, mainly issues that are related to the local concerns, since the elections had a local character and it was supposed that the daily subject in each of their public appearance was assumed to be related with the actual problems of the city and not with the political relevance or personal insults. However, this study aimed at presenting an overview of the political discourse of the two candidates Veliaj and Kosova and not go in-depth analysis about the factors that influence the candidates in the usage of the political discourse with obvious negative tones.

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WOMEN IN THE SOVIET UNION

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Abstract : Women born in the 20th century were different from their grandmothers. Throughout the world women raised their voices, as they sought to prove to men and to themselves that they deserved equality with men in all aspects of life. The Soviet Union was one of the first countries in the World to equate men and women in rights and provide the same opportunities for both sexes. Yet it is to be mentioned that it was not done due to the humane ideals. The USSR saw women's great potential in both production and expansion of the communist ideology. The legacy of the Soviet Epoque still lingers in the post-Soviet space and Eastern Europe and in order to apprehend the essence of the existing problems, a look back is required. This article tackles the gender issues and difficulties of Soviet women as well as emphasizes the achievements and failure of the Era. In order to write the article, the author analyzed a vast number of secondary sources, visual arts of the epoque, used comparative method to compare the difference in cultures and its implications for women of that specific culture on the Soviet territory as well as statistical data of nowadays, which is closely tied to the results of the Soviet legacy .

Key words: Soviet women, gender issues, communist legacy, ideal communist woman.

“Young communist, athlete and last but not least, a beauty” or women in the Soviet Union

The 20th century has witnessed unprecedented changes in all aspects of life, including gender issues. Women born in the 20th century were not like their grandmothers. The devastating experiences of 2 world wars, revolutions and crises in the midst of war-ravaged cities and wrecked economies urged women to voice their rights and achieve independence. The path to emancipation varied from country to country, depending on cultural, religious and historical origins of the given country. This paper's focus is on the women in the Soviet Union and their path to emancipation and self-affirmation. The article examines the ideal communist woman's behaviour, role and duties during all 7 decades of the existence of the Soviet Union.

The USSR emerged on the ruins of the Russian Empire, in the aftermath of the 1st world war, in the mid of political, economic, social and cultural disintegration of the whole region once called the Russian Empire. Each historical period has its own philosophy and political ideology which is imposed on the population and has a particular long-term impact on the society. A glance at the Soviet society from the gender equality perspective is rather challenging given the political censorship and cultural diversity existing in the Soviet republics. Literature in three languages (Russian, Armenian and English) has been analyzed while collecting information on the topic. Therefore a combination of primary and secondary research has been used to write the article. A thorough analysis of a vast number of modern literature, movies, trends in fashion industry, statistical data (e.g. the number of employed or educated women) and cultural heritage led to the conclusions which will be highlighted in this article.

The foundation day of the USSR was 30th of December, 1922. 1922-1932. The first decade of its existence, marked by harsh political and economic conditions, suggested revolutionary transformations within the society. The Soviet citizen arose on the ashes of old prejudice and stereotypes. Consequently, the two main actors of the society; men and women, were obliged to alter their roles and behaviours to fit the new system of values. Who was the new Soviet woman? What was her role in the society? What clothes did she have to wear? What type of men was she supposed to marry? How was she supposed to look like? The answers to these questions explain the transition from ordinary man and woman to comrade. The woman, who temporarily lost her femininity and became comrade, was portrayed as young, enthusiastic, hard-working, courageous, yet modest and loyal to her principles(communist ideology) to the point of being ready to sacrifice herself for them. Wearing a soldier's blouse or tunic with a red kerchief on her head (red as the symbol of rebels) she articulated her willingness and ability to fight for the benefit of the society. By putting aside makeup, hairpins, jewelry the new comrade type of woman demonstrated no signs of sexuality. The man beside her was a true fighter for workers' rights and here comes a subtle issue regarding the balance of love and duty. If the man somehow betrayed their principles, she was supposed to get rid of him as the concept of love was tightly intervened with the concept of communist ideology. Her main duty appeared to be at first the comrade in arms of the man then the companion of man in building socialism. In the literature and visual arts, she was depicted next to the man, equal to him, yet guided by him. If we take a look at the famous sculpture Worker and the Kolkhoz woman made by V.Mukhina we will see the man is holding a hammer, the driving power of building communism, whereas the

woman is only assisting him with a sickle. However, even such a curtailed equality was a considerable step forward in terms of progress and emancipation of women as officially they acquired the same rights as men and for the first time in history women were granted the chance to openly play an active role in the society. They got the opportunity to take part in the social life of their communities, shape views and get engaged in something more than household and birth giving. Clear are the reasons of such a policy. The newly formed government in a war-torn country needed minds and hands to build a new country based on unprecedented concepts and the best audience it could address to were those who possessed less of everything: education, privileges, power, opportunities. Accordingly, the communist party took advantage of women's overwhelming ignorance and striking susceptibleness to the new ideology to root itself in the most remote areas of the country. Enlightened and empowered women acted as missionaries persuading other women and demonstrating by their own example that their only way to emancipation, thus better life, was in adherence and loyalty to communist ideology. Time passed and the new generation of young communist girls and boys grew up, their heads filled with communist postulates and Lenin's quotations. In the beginning of 1930s the idea of bringing up revolutionaries and genderless comrades was dismissed as outdated. The communist party's new policy encouraged young women to serve both their country and their families, while often not working officially but being a socially active person and committing herself to her community. Thus an ideal woman of the early 1930s was not employed officially, yet she was actively involved in community building, which was, by the way, nonmarket work. With regard to the politicization of all aspects of life, the visual arts of the Epoque depicted modern women as hard-working, modest and decent. Early Soviet culture rejected sexuality's dominance in female beauty as petty bourgeois. The communist party made an attempt to create an opposing to the consumerist culture image of women. The excessive zeal resulted in the propaganda of ascetic life and rejection of any type of makeup, the use of the latter considered a sign of easiness in the best scenario, or imperialist in the worst. Remarkable source of information are the decrees about family and women issued in the late 20s which entitle us to assume that in the dawn of its existence the communist propaganda of purity and chastity could compete in its strictness only with medieval Catholic church. Sex, as an unconditional means of reproduction, was only praised for reproduction causes and even a married couple had to abstain from performing too many sexual acts .

1932-1945. Stalin's omnipresent control of citizens' lives reflected upon the fashion as well. Health, natural beauty and hygiene became the

cornerstone ideas of the new image of a communist woman. Makeup and beauty treatment regarded as provocative sexual behaviour, pushed to the foreground elegance as the subtle balance between vulgarity and imperialist consumerism. With the development of industry and the USSR's transition from an agricultural country to an industry-based, women's physical abilities converted into national property. For instance the lack of manpower pushed even pregnant women to take up tractor or tramway driver's work, with little regard to their physical condition or the harm it could do to the foetus. WW2 made women's burden even heavier. With the outburst of the war, the propaganda of a Heroine Mother with ten children, working both in the factory and at home, getting almost no support and bringing up her children communist patriots appeared on the pages of all newspapers and journals. Mass mobilization of men, shortages of food and first-necessity goods added to the hardships of women quadrupling their workload. Literary heroines of the Epoque represent a curious and impressive combination of strength and humility. In addition to the literature, manipulation of printmaking considerably influenced the mass conscience. The street walls, covered with posters, delivered two major ideas to the masses: it was men's moral duty to go to the war and every Soviet woman was a heroine. Posters of the wartime present a particular interest as the woman portrayed on it is highly fertile, with hardened hands, holding a baby in one hand and embracing a toddler with the other. She is surrounded by her multiple children, among who can be noticed a future soldier, sailor, social activist, presumably a future party member, and a couple of hearty girls, who will apparently be just like their mother. This type of imaging circulated even after the war, praising the toughness and heroism of Soviet women. The word combination Heroine Mother has been widely used from that time onward.

1945-1955. The end of war lighted a hope in the hearts of millions. For a second it seemed to people that the misfortunes of the past were left behind forever, yet a dire disappointment was lingering in front of the Soviet citizens. The repressions of the past resumed and the ubiquitous ideology was enforced even more zealously. Despite the shortages of basic goods, young girls and women rediscovered their long gone femininity. Many made their own dresses as clothes were unaffordable or simply lacked. The light industry, adjusted to the production of war uniforms, failed to meet the necessities of the civilians long after the end of WW2. The lack of clothes, shoes, basic accessories, for instance scarves, hats or gloves made women sew and patch up their clothes, until the end of 1950s, when mass production of clothes was back on the rails. In the total absence of food and the presence of ration cards, plumpness became the synonym of well-being, especially for fertile women. The

abolishment of ration cards in 1947, massive inner migration from villages to towns, the economy's gradual return to the pre-war production revived city life. The main trend in women's fashion became decency, the exact meaning of which varied depending on the point of the person who used the word. The examination of soldiers' diaries represents a unique source of Soviet people's moral sense and conditions of life. When the Red Army made its way to Europe, Soviet soldiers and accompanying medical staff (mostly female) were both fascinated and repelled by the loose morality of European women. Brought up in a society where love was of a derivative of duty, commitment and marriage, soldiers accentuated the fact, that European type of love, free of ideological load and communist ideals, was exotic to them. Clear as it is in the most abject scarcity of all types of resources, including human resources, the Party's only way to keep the war devastated population in leash was to appeal to their sense of patriotism and puritanism. The post-war generation continued living with the pre-war concepts and morals until the shift in the USSR's policy which became possible only in 1953, after Stalin's death.

1955-1965. Doubtlessly, Stalin's death was a blessing for the country, though many thought that the era of the USSR's grandeur fade away with him. Stalin, as any dictator, left a heritage of unsolved problems, including the most pressing ones, like food supplies and housing. The country's new leader, N. Khrushchev, introduced a policy that is named by historians the thaw. Gradually the Party began to loosen its grip on social aspects of life and, thanks to Khrushchev's efforts, the quality of life greatly improved compared to pre-war time. The thaw had a particular effect of women of the USSR. Under Stalin's rule women were, although officially equal to men, yet de facto removed from the political sphere of life. Stalin was extremely patriarchal and conservative and he would not tolerate a woman to be in a leading position, either in a factory or in politics. Consequently, women were again considered mainly housewives and mothers who yet, had to fulfill her Soviet citizen's duty and additionally work for the benefit of the society. Khrushchev, although milder than Stalin, was also conservative in his policy towards women. Proclaiming a policy catch up and surpass (the USA), Khrushchev undertook a bunch of measures, all geared to alleviation of Soviet people's everyday hardships, including housewives' difficulties. As a part of the Communist party's efforts to balance the number of men and women in the legislative body a 33-40% gender quota, compelling the to have at least 33% of women represented in the Supreme Council. Inarguably a positive and progressive step, this kind of measures did not improve female's role in the society as these women were mostly kept away from decision-making processes and their presence in the Supreme Council was more symbolic than executive.

The decade of the thaw can not be called a prosperous one, yet the most pressing problems like food, housing and basic goods' demands were met and the victorious nation earned the right to eat something more than potatoes and milk and move from barracks and vaults to, perhaps tiny and by far not luxurious, however, their own apartments. As for Soviet women's issues, the situation of work conditions, motherhood, the Party's, i.e. the society's attitude towards working women remained pretty much the same. On the one hand the policy of positive discrimination had been adopted by the Party to boost birth rate and help thousands of women, who lost their husbands at war, raise their children in more or less humane conditions. Its essence was in providing women, especially mothers of large families, with all types of care and social benefits. Such methods were of ultimate importance for reducing child mortality, yet, they were insufficient to increase natality, decreasing from 1950s and continuing till the collapse of the USSR.

A modern woman in all 15 republics of the long gone USSR faces the dilemma of combining housewives duties and work, a heritage of the Soviet era. In the Academy Award winning Soviet movie "Moscow does not believe in tears" the hero Gosha states an idea that clearly expresses the Soviet society's patriarchal system. The hero Gosha helped out his beloved woman's daughter in a fight and when the girl thanked him for acting like a real man, he answered "...Don't thank me, any man would do that. Making a decision and protecting that's a man's duty". Then he added the crucial part "...You wouldn't praise a woman just because she does housework, would you?"

The permission to perform abortions granted in 1955, empowered Soviet women with the most essential right of having control over their own bodies. Women were supposed to work both at home and in the workplace, raise children and they could expect no help or support from their husbands who considered doing housework or playing with kids inappropriate pastime for a man. Additionally, women's wages were by 30% lower than men's. No discrimination existed in the same work either for men or women, however, many considered that women, due to their psychophysiological peculiarities, could perform only a limited number of work. The most common jobs for educated women were those of a doctor, teacher and librarian, however, women were not exempt of hard physical work, which could lead to unwanted side effects as health issues. That is to say, the jobs, previously performed by men and requiring low qualifications and physical strength, passed on to women. As for women in villages, no one abolished their lot of doing slavish physical work, which in the absence of machinery or even animals included harnessing themselves to till the land. Hence, the USSR's hypocritical attitude

towards women and the claim of female emancipation in the socialist country lay somewhere between rhetorics and forgery.

1965-1985. It would be unfair not to give credit the Soviet system for its achievement in gender issues. Even with all the misgivings and errors that have occurred, Soviet women developed social and civil rights earlier than most of the countries of both developed and developing worlds. Although officially abolished, religious and cultural diversity of the country played a substantial role in shaping the attitude towards women. In the second half of the 20th century it became evident that the communist ideology was not capable of subduing cultural differences in a country with 100 nations living within its borders. The Russian language and culture being predominant in most republics of the USSR, it should be acknowledged that several decades would not suffice to annihilate what had been developed and inherited through centuries, thus one can conclude that the state of affairs in all fifteen republics drastically differed from each other. For instance, in the Kyrgyz Soviet Socialist Republic it was (and still it!) a common tradition to abduct a girl and force her to marry the kidnapper. Call it a violation of human rights, but even women, belonging to the aforementioned culture, would deny that there was anything unlawful in such an act. By contrast, in the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic such actions would be regarded as a barbaric breach of law and treated respectively. Another good example is the situation in the Republic of Armenia, where under the communist rule and even nowadays, the women with tertiary education outnumber men, but the social bias towards women and their role in a patriarchal society is so thick, that only 30% of women with higher education prefer to work. Hereby it would not be erroneous to affirm that despite the efforts of the Communist party, women's rights in all 15 Soviet republics were the same only on paper, while in reality the cultural and religious legacy of the dominant nation of the state predetermined the common approaches to the issue.

Brezhnev's era of the USSR is often called the Stagnation, which reflected in every corner of the entire country, at least that is the widespread perception of the period. Nevertheless, due to the government's relative laxity over the society's life and the growing influence of Western capitalist culture, some type of ideological revolution was already looming in the near future. A number of official and nonofficial events contributed to the longed for changes in the society. In the mid 70s, it became evident that the Soviet model of a welfare state was not able to keep up with the time and face the challenges the latter offered. The youth brought up in peace and civilised living conditions grew conscious of the absolute irrelevance of the communist ideology. Western pop culture becoming more popular among the new generation, distrust and regret

arose in the minds of many. It became evident, that in rotten capitalist countries, despite the propaganda of the government, people lived better and freer than in the most glorious socialist in the world. The understanding of Soviet system's failure (compared to Western countries) in many aspects of life, marked the beginning of frantic copying of Western pop culture.

Decades of total mass deprivation had a complex effect on the generation born in 1970-80s. Henceforth the masses could afford to think about something more than their basic human needs which led to a rapid increase in consuming.

The puritan society of the USSR disapproved sex education for young people considering it shameful and inappropriate. The Soviet pedagogical system praised spiritual and nonphysical beauty, emphasising the absolute necessity for young girls to have a kind heart and rich inner world. Naive as it may sound, but it also discouraged any demonstration of physical beauty or feminine behaviour in young girls. It is obvious that this kind of policy was doomed to fail as it opposed the nature in its core values, trying to reduce the differences between boys and girls. Despite the above mentioned efforts, the women in the Soviet countries did their best to follow the Western fashion style and look as feminine as possible. The mass production of makeup, perfumes and other cosmetics as well as the society's relative well-being afforded women to pay attention to their clothes, look, manners and behaviour. The common trend was to accentuate men's attention on the fact that being a woman did not solely mean a mother and a housewife. For the first time in decades, urban women started realizing that there were many other things to do in life apart from giving birth to children and washing their families' clothes. The young generation's ideas varied from extreme liberal to radical conservative, however the mere fact that such ideas emerged was an unknown novelty for a society where there was no room for any other ideas than those dictated by the government. The mass expansion of Western fashion, pop culture and even dances like disco contributed to the development of independent views and consequently generated discontent towards the existing state of affairs.

1985-1991 and conclusion. Some political scientists believe that the agony of the USSR started before Gorbachev's ascension to the post of the Chief Secretary as no revolution could be carried out in reality if it had not existed in people's minds. Speaking of moral prerequisites, it is vital to indicate the moral decay of the society and the growing consumerist tendencies. Everything that was once seen as taboo became fashionable. Sex issues were intangibly tied with gender issues as women sought emancipation through bottomless manifestation of sexuality. Unprecedented movies of the Epoque put us in the picture of the generation gap between the young people and the existing

ideology. Moral values of the past turned futile and valueless whereas the influx of perverted interpretation of freedom conquered the youngsters. Women of the generation found themselves in the middle of the henceforth irrelevant ideology of decency and limitlessness a la mode.

To sum up all the above mentioned and give credit to the positive aspects of the USSR's policy towards women, while not forgetting about the negative ones, it would be appropriate to emphasize the advantages and disadvantages of the Soviet government's policy all along its existence as an actor in the political arena.

Advantages: Doubtlessly the Soviet government played an immense role in feminine emancipation at the beginning of the 20th century. It was one of the first countries in the world to grant equal right, at least on paper, to both sexes. This kind of breakthrough in the law seemed promising to the Soviet women and promoted women's active participation in social life and production. The USSR also made education free and available for everyone and encouraged women to work after graduation, providing equal rights with men in production and even favouring positive discrimination which manifested in social benefits and privileges for mothers. It was also one of the pioneers to allow women to do abortions, thus giving women the right to choose.

Disadvantages: The conventional wisdom suggests that every coin should have a reverse. The other side of positive discrimination and equality of men and women in the Soviet state was the negation of sexuality itself and suppression of feminine identity as a whole. This idea suggests that a woman can have two options in life: entirely devote herself to motherhood and housewife duties or try to combine everything at the same time: work and family with no support whatsoever and rejection of her own desires as well. The legacy of this policy is still lingering in the post-Soviet countries, where many believe that a woman can choose to work or not, but she cannot expect any support from her husband or family in raising the children or taking care of the house as it is her duty to do it, whereas working outside the house is more for her joy. This leads to the phenomenon of a 16 hour work day of an average woman who is paid half of what the man gets for an 8 hour work day. Thus the burden of women in the post-Soviet space is immense, as many opt to work, proceeding from financial needs or personal ambitions, but the social pressure to get married, have children and take care of them solely has not diminished not in the least. Thus, many women find themselves trapped between the legacy of patriarchal culture and the challenges of the time.

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THE CONSUMPTION OF DOMESTIC GAS IN A TROPICAL SAHELIAN METROPOLIS BETWEEN A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND ADAPTATION OF HOUSEHOLDS TO NEW WAYS OF LIVING: THE CASE OF THE TOWN OF N'DJAMENA IN CHAD.

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Abstract : This study analyses the strategies by the Chadian government to reduce deforestation around the town of N'Djamena as well as over the national territory. Up till date, we observe an increasing growth in the population of the capital of Chad. This growth leads to the abusive and consistent use of fuel wood and charcoal by the households. This situation is detrimental to the environment and to human activities with risks on the real-life of the population. Surveys carried out with the populations and interaction with resource persons as well as direct observations in the field permitted us to bring out the difficult adaptation of populations to the requirements of modernity and to the sometimes inadequate strategies of the Chadian government to limit human pressure on the forest resources of N'Djamena. It becomes very imperative to educate the population and to ameliorate their living conditions so as to control energy consumption and avoid compromising the vegetation cover around Lake Chad and in the Sahel.

Key words: Source of energy, government strategy, vegetation cover, environment, sustainable development

Résumé

La présente étude analyse les stratégies de l'Etat Tchadien pour réduire la déforestation aussi bien autour de la ville de N'Djamena que sur le territoire national. A ce jour, on assiste à une croissance démographique de plus en plus accélérée dans la capitale du Tchad. Cette croissance conduit à l'usage abusif et constant du bois de chauffe et du charbon de bois par les ménages. Cette situation est préjudiciable à l'environnement et aux activités humaines avec des risques sur le vécu des populations. Les enquêtes menées auprès des populations et des personnes ressources ainsi que les observations directes sur le terrain ont permis de mettre en évidence la difficile adaptation des populations aux exigences de la modernité et les stratégies parfois

insignifiantes des pouvoirs publics tchadiens pour limiter la pression humaine sur les ressources ligneuses à N'Djamena. Il devient impératif d'éduquer les populations et d'améliorer leurs conditions de vie pour réguler la consommation de l'énergie et éviter de compromettre le couvert végétal autour du lac Tchad et dans le sahel.

Mots clés : sources d'énergie, stratégies de l'Etat, couvert végétal, environnement, développement durable

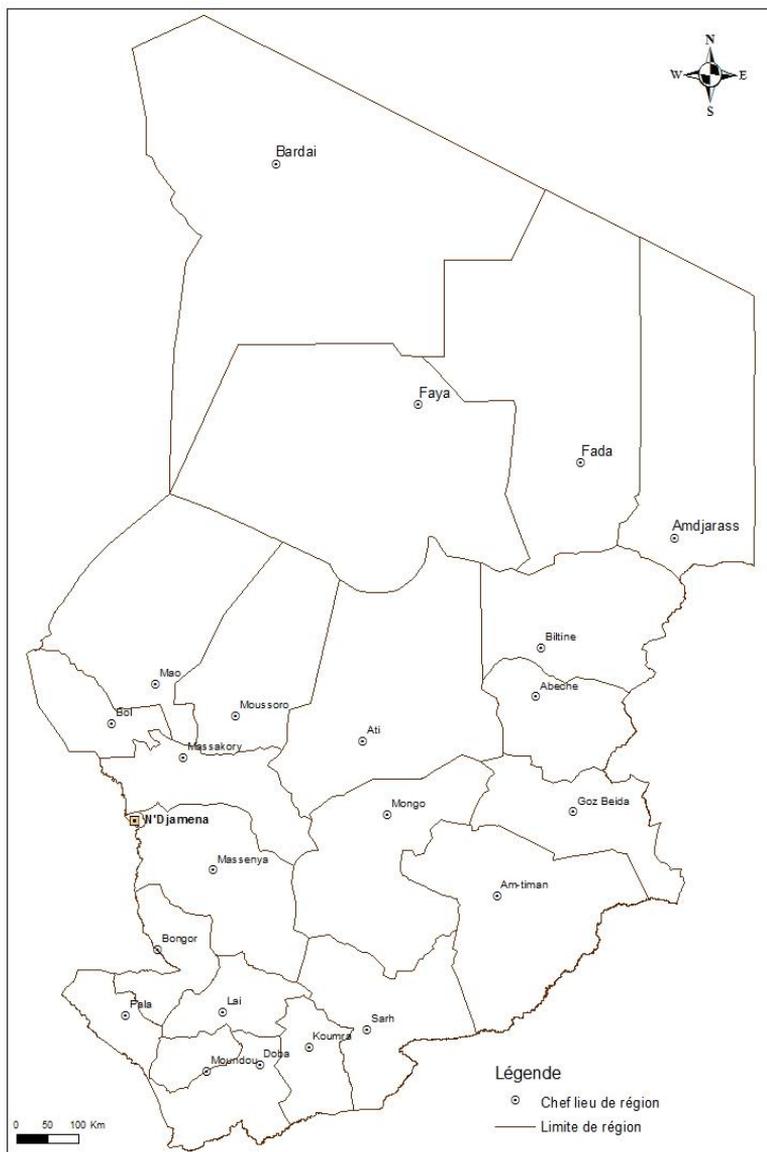
A- Introduction and problem

Chad is a country generally situated in the Sahelian zone. Here, household constantly use charcoal and fuel wood. However, confronted with the approaching desert which has reduced the potential and biodiversity around the Lake Chad, it becomes indispensable to preserve the vegetation cover in this country in order to avoid getting into regrettable situations. In order to do so, the Chadian government has taken measures by introducing the consumption of domestic gas for kitchens and other energy needs. In N'Djamena the political capital of Chad, there is a high demand for butane, more so as this town alone harbours 1/3 of the population of Chad. This provokes an increase in the consumption rate of this product due to eventual difficulties in this sector. However, the state of Chad has approved consistent investments in terms of subvention to reduce the price of domestic gas so as to make it accessible to all levels of the society. Since 2011, the N'Djamena refinery started functioning at full scale and price of gas per bottle has been reduced. This study looks at these political strategies aimed at stimulating sustainable development up stream as well as the adaptation modes of the people of N'Djamena to this situation.

B- Methodology

Situated between latitudes 12°7' and 12°10' North and longitude 14°59' and 15°03' East, N'Djamena (fig. 1), is experiencing an accelerated spatial expansion with an increasingly modern population developing interests for modern sources of energy. This study examines the socio-political, environmental and spatial implications of access to domestic gas in this space. To understand the research questions and to present data collected from the field, the approach used was inclined to systematic methods. It is based on secondary data acquired through documentary research, as well as on primary data resulting from field investigations. Primary data was obtained by way of

survey using questionnaires administered in the randomly selected areas. This questionnaire has been supported by question guides and analyses of field observations. Collected data was treated using the hypothetical-deductive approach.



Source: P.SIDRAT
Réalisation: Rathnan A. & Deneymbaye A.
Datum: WGS_84 UTM 33N

Figure 1:
Study area

C- Results and analyses

1) A poor population and affected by new living style

Spatially, the town of N'Djamena covers a surface area of 3500 hectares with a population density of 82.57 inhabitants/hectares until 2007. Today it covers about 45500 hectares (MATHUH, 2013). It is bounded to the North by the Kanem region, to the South by the Mayo Kebbi and the Tandjilé regions, to the West by the Republic of Cameroon and the Northern region of Guéra to the East.

According to the United Nations, the town of N'Djamena is one of the capitals in the world where the cost of living is very high. This is the largest metropolis of Chad in which is found a representation of all the ethnic groups of the country as well as foreigner. Just as other metropolises in Africa, N'Djamena for about 50 years now has been experiencing a very rapid urbanization. Its population increased from 289 000 inhabitants in 1984 to 1.300 000 in 2007. With an annual growth rate of about 7% (Estimation of the BCR, 2007), this population exceeds 1.900 000 inhabitants according to estimates from the United Nations, the World Bank and BEAC. It is a population characterized more than 60% by youths leading a relatively low standard of living. The average per capita revenue is estimated at less than 2 Euros per day (UNDP, 2014). It becomes difficult for these populations to access modern sources energy which are mainly petroleum products such as kerosene and domestic gas. The high concentration of population in N'Djamena (about 1/3 of the Chadian population), mounts a very high pressure on forest resources in the environments close to agglomerations. From available information, firewood and charcoal represent more than 97% of total domestic energy consumption. This amount of wood is high because a quasi-totality of rural households and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the urban households use exclusively it as a source of energy. This energy is principally used to cook food and for craft. The demand for other energy sources such as kerosene and gas concerns about 1% of the population of N'Djamena.

The coverage of electricity supplied by the service agent is estimated at about 7% only. Consequently, households consume more of charcoal and wood to make up for shortages in the other sources of energy. In the course of the last 20 years, for example, the individual consumption of charcoal in N'Djamena has been multiplied by three, while the consumption of firewood has been divided by five. The number of houses equipped by domestic gas bottles on the contrary is evolving sluggishly. It is estimated today at close to 10 000 (PNG, 2012). Here, most of the households use domestic gas as

exchange energy. Eventually, these households prefer natural energy for cooking food.

In 2001, each inhabitant of N'Djamena consumed an equivalent of 1.8 cubic metres of wood (representing 0.9m³ or 630 kg). Today these figures are multiplied by 5 and at times by 8. Due to the extent of this human pressure on the vegetation cover which itself is poor, the Chadian government with the assistance of international donors has engaged sensitisation campaigns aimed at compelling households to adopt new behavioural patterns in the consumption of available sources of energy. To this effect, the consumption of energy sources in N'Djamena clearly show that despite the efforts of the state to encourage the use of domestic gas, the actual standard of living and especially the high cost of living in the sahelian towns particularly that of Chad are not in the nature to encourage this situation. Poverty is surrounding them. Eventually, domestic gas continues to be a luxury for those who consume it. Human pressure on vegetation cover around the town of N'Djamena is very evident (table 1)

Table 1: Sources of energy consumed in Chad in tons in 2012

| Type of sector | Fire wood | Kerosene | Butane gas | Total |
|----------------|-----------|----------|------------|---------|
| N'Djamena | 33.400 | 550 | 950 | 86.700 |
| Urban total | 133.600 | 1.000 | 1.800 | 489.900 |
| Rural total | 590.600 | - | - | 990.600 |
| National total | 724.200 | 1.000 | 1.800 | 987.500 |
| Percentage | 95% | 2% | 3% | 100% |

Source : *Synthesis report, technical cell*

In the whole, we observe a very high increase in the consumption of firewood in the rural as well as the urban sectors (95%), a very low consumption of kerosene estimated at only 2% and a very low consumption of domestic gas in Chad estimated globally at 3% in the rural and urban areas. This situation, however, hides the alarming disparities. In effect, if realities in the regions of the country are quite alarming to be confirmed by these figures, the town of N'Djamena seems to be at rest. As such, although the consumption of firewood and charcoal is evident, it remains true that it is perpetually on the decrease since the state took over the management of petroleum products in 2006.

The high consumption of energy from forest sources by the population is clearly explained by their low purchasing power. It is more a cultural problem that creates losses in the use of wood and charcoal in Chad in general and in N'Djamena specifically. In effect, the population that comes from rural areas to the political capital bring with them habits and behaviours linked to dependence on ligneous sources of energy. Once in town, it becomes difficult for them to do away with these behaviours. Consequently, they continue going back to ordinary habits at times linked to their level of education and their income.

Only 2% of kerosene and 3% of domestic gas are consumed by these populations. Even if trends are actually on the increase as concerns the town of N'Djamena, it must be said that the state of Chad has difficulties in making service agents to facilitate access to other sources of energy by the population. This equally applies to electricity just as in kerosene and domestic gas. But the situation of domestic gas appears very preoccupying in the sense that its availability to a high proportion of the population will seriously contribute in reducing the human pressure on the vegetation cover.

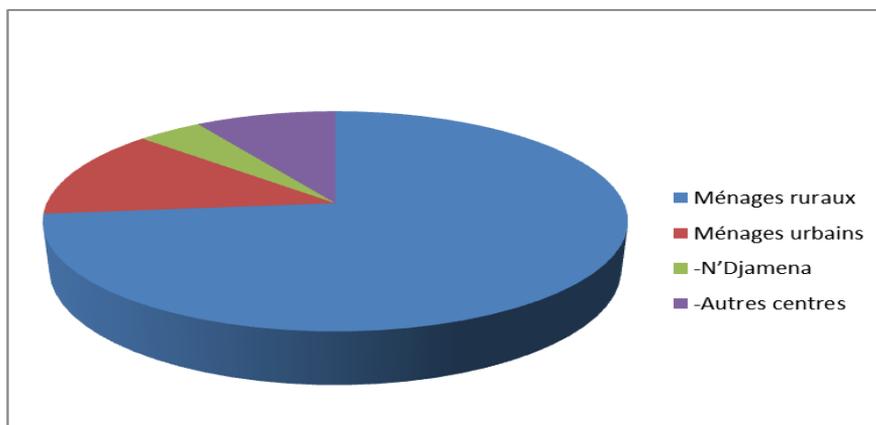


Figure 2: The final household energy consumption in Chad in 2011

Source : Comité Directeur de Suivi de la stratégie domestique (2014), Field survey (2014)

We realise that from year to year, the consumption of wood has been multiplied by 10 between 2000 and 2014, which amounts to 7.1kg/person/day in 2014. A comparison of this data with the one from FAO shows that the figures are not exactly intersecting but are found in the same level of increase. A comparison between the forest potentials and consumption rates reveals that forest resources are increasingly degrading and less sufficient to satisfy the needs of the population. From the survey carried out by ESMAP, it is revealed that a majority (71.4%) of the households in N'Djamena like cooking their food using several fuels as shown on table 2. However, close to one of every three households cook with a unique fuel, which is 2/3 made of wood. Wood is the principal fuel for more than 60% of households in N'Djamena. On the contrary, less than one household on two use charcoal as the main fuel. The butane gas remains the privilege of a minority (-3%) limited to the well-off of the population. The consumption of kerosene, which remains in N'Djamena a lighting fuel, as that of electricity is not significant in terms of the number of households.

Table 2: *The nature of fuels used for the cooking of food in N'Djamena in 2014*

| % total des ménages | Wood | kérosène | Butane gas | Electricity |
|---------------------|------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Unique fuel | 18,2 | - | 21,5 | 0,3 |
| Main fuel | 5,8 | 0,3 | 19 | - |
| Replacement fuel | - | 5,0 | 18 | - |

Source: Domestic energy survey ESMAP (2014)

It is clear that the sources of energy used by households in N'Djamena are diversified. But the preponderance and increase in the consumption of domestic gas was perceptible in 2013. based on the household, butane gas is used at the same time as the principal and replacement fuels. This situation varies in relation to the standard of living and the purchasing power of each household. The ESMAP survey judges that when a household uses firewood as the replacement and not principal source of energy, the specific daily consumption of firewood reduces by about 2/3. It was brought down from 0.65kg to 0.21 kg per person. A more restricted survey conducted in 2012 by this same structure indicates that charcoal is today one of the least used sources of energy in N'Djamena after it was forbidden. According to the same source, if in 2000 firewood was the principle if not the unique fuel used by 80%

of households in N'Djamena, in 2015, the use of this fuel has considerably reduced to reach 45% because other sources of energy have occupied an important place within the households of Chad.

The urban growth of the town of N'Djamena influences the consumption of domestic gas in this space. This situation partly accounts for the high demand of this product in this zone. In this light, other forms of energy are outlawed in the town of N'Djamena today. The state controls the consumption of wood and charcoal. This regulation of the consumption of energy influences and brings pressure to bear on domestic gas in the town.

The relative prices of wood and charcoal tend to orient consumers towards charcoal on account of its comparative advantage (Kitchen comfort, cleanliness, etc). It describes the impact of poverty on the consumption of firewood highly solicited by the poor families. It brings out the actors of the charcoal sector as well as the lucrative side of this activity. However, it demonstrates the harmful environmental character of this activity. To them, the constant exploitation of firewood and charcoal in particular destroys living milieu of the people. It becomes very important to protect the vegetation cover in order to ensure the effects of sustainable development.

2) Sustainable development initiated from the top

The situation of N'Djamena and the diversity of the modes of live within the urban society in Chad favours the consumption of mixed sources of energy in this locality. Henceforth, we differently resort to domestic gas, firewood and kerosene stoves. This diversity depends at the same time on the standard of living and the daily happenings within the households. In several records, the consumption of domestic gas in N'Djamena appears to be a social stratification criterion. It is for this reason that certain households having this source reserve its use for occasional situations: necessary economising. To this effect, the role of the state becomes determinant in the regulation and the control of quality and quantity of the production of domestic gas upstream and downstream.

In 2006, a government measure strictly prohibited the use of firewood as well as that of charcoal all over the national territory. Mixed control comates were created in all the 23 regions of the country in order to guarantee the effectiveness of this measure. Up till today, the use of domestic gas has been made obligatory in household by the state of Chad be it in the urban or the rural areas of the country. This governmental measure is made possible by subvention awarded to this product. This is a means to fight against desertification, which is threatening the Sahel countries in general and Chad in particular. We thus talk of the stimulus to sustainable development from the top. This situation articulates around diverse incentives of the government to

protect the environment as well as setting up strategies to promote sustainable development at the local scale.

3) A strategy to conserve the vegetal cover and promote sustainable development

Today, the equipping of 20% of households with butane gas stoves led to the economization of 150 000 bags, being 7.5% of charcoal consumption in N'Djamena between 2007 and 2014. This implies a sustained economic growth, a favourable evolution in the standard of living of urban households and a high increase in annual amount of financing for the gas Fund, which is more than the 1.65 billion FCFA agreed on in 2007 for the subvention of 6 kg of bottle and diverse equipment. The use of butane gas is made obligatory by the state of Chad in the households of the country. Through these measures, the state tries to preserve the living milieu of these populations this is done through the protection of biodiversity generally and fight against deforestation. The repeated cutting of trees in a sahelian milieu such as Chad finally risks compromising the equilibrium of the ecosystem and reinforcing global warming in this space. The matter here is to conserve the relatively declining vegetal resources in these zones. Since the publication of the Brundtland report in 1987, states of the world are under the influence of sustainable development. These reports consider that sustainable development responds to the expectations of present generations to satisfy their needs without compromising the capacity of future generations to satisfy theirs. This is an assumption of long term viable development that is based on respect of the environment, social equity and economic profitability. Today, most sub-Saharan African states are in search of their emergence. This vision projects the emergence of Chad in 2025, Gabon in 20250 and Cameroon in 2035, just to name these few.

.With the exigencies of major development projects in this part of Central Africa, Chad is facing difficulties to reconcile the development of spaces and territories while taking the environment into consideration. Nevertheless, the geographic situation of N'Djamena in open Sahel exposes its households to natural dependence vis-à-vis firewood made up mainly of acacia and charcoal for cooking of food. This situation in the long term contributes in the reduction of vegetation cover leading to the degradation of the environment with consequences such as climate change. However, with high the cost of living in N'Djamena, the largely poor population still faces difficulties to meet up with the susceptible efforts deployed by the state to instigate sustainable development upstream through mass sensitization of the need to consume domestic gas instead of wood in all its forms. Concretely, sustainable

development brings to light the necessity to maintain or ameliorate the quality of the natural environment by ensuring the durability of resources, in order to ensure self sufficiency of communities from one generation to the other.

According to several specialists, development involves a systemic and coherent policy of the state aimed at promoting economic and social progress of a people. This subject matter can in no instance be dissociated from the impacts produced by the intervention of the Chadian government in the domestic gas sector. The state of Chad has initiated different strategies to promote sustainable development in N’Djamena (figure 2).

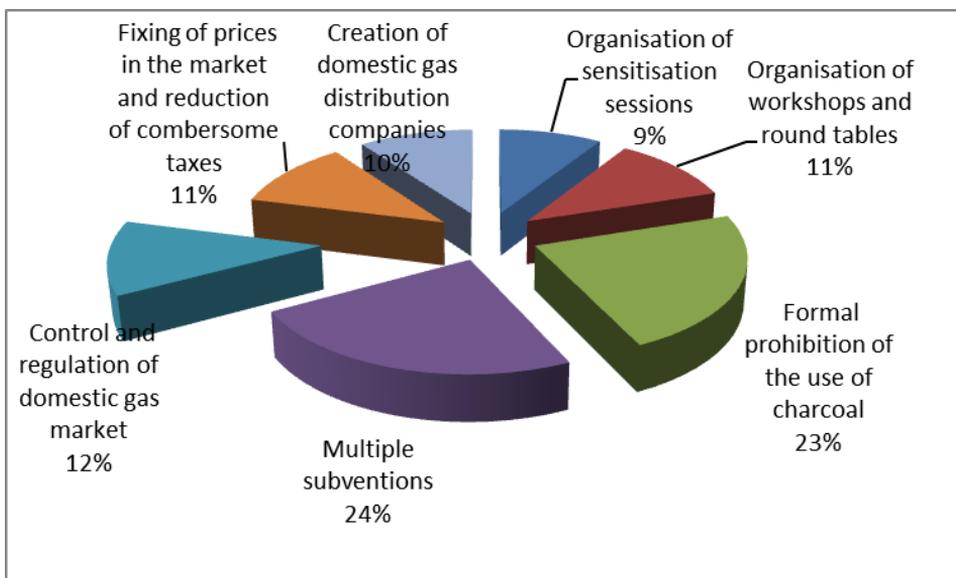


Figure 3 : Different strategies initiated by the state

Source : Field survey (November 2014)

Chad is one of the most exposed African countries to the desert, therefore to the heat and climate change with its numerous consequences. Conscious of this situation, the state has set up several strategies in terms of strategies to make the population better adapted to their environment. Among these measure, the following can be enumerated: organization of sensitization sessions (9%), holding of workshops and round table discussions (11%), formal prohibition of the use of charcoal (23%), multiple subventions (24%), the control and regulation of domestic gas market (12%), the creation of domestic gas distribution companies (11%) as well as the fixing of market prices and reduction of cumbersome taxes.

In detail, these strategies of the state evolve in function of their importance in the decision making platform and acceptance by the population. In effect, the subvention of petroleum products by the state of Chad appears to be the most envisaged and the most utilized. As such the government makes available to the production and distribution companies significant means evaluated in terms of investments to permit them to in turn subsequently reduce the cost of domestic gas. These subventions have become an obligation for the state to reduce the consumption of other forms of energy whose consequences on the ozone layer need not to be demonstrated again. This concerns firewood and charcoal. This also reduces the stress on the population especially women who at times compelled to trek several kilometres to acquires firewood or charcoal. As such, each year, the Chadian government introduces an important portion of its revenue into the subvention of petroleum products. This is also a means for Chad to fight against the high cost of living while ensuring social peace.

Apart from regular subventions constantly on the increase each budgetary year, formal prohibition of the use of charcoal appears to be the second most applied strategy by the Chadian state to promote sustainable development. In effect, since 2007, the government has been trying to prohibit the cutting of firewood around N'Djamena to cook food. It is as such that within this town, households are gradually getting used to the use of modern sources of energy. Even if there are still situations of the consumption of firewood and charcoal in this town, it should be noted that the origin of these materials is not directly from the town of N'Djamena and its environs. These are populations of the rural areas who continuing bringing them for commercial purposes. Each day they come to N'Djamena to sell off charcoal and firewood and make some money. In this context, police controls are common and at times often repressive at retailing points. Notwithstanding some complicity, we however observe a reduction in the activity in the town of N'Djamena today.

The organisation of sensitisation sessions (9%), the holding of workshops and round tables (11%), the control and regularisation of domestic gas market (12%), the creation of gas distribution and production companies (11%), as well as the fixing of prices at the market and reducing cumbersome taxes (10%) are generally found in the same pot of governmental strategies. Here, the state provides means to promote partnership with the civil society as well as production and distribution companies of domestic gas. These partners make it possible that all types of abuses are avoided and especially to make the populations face their responsibilities. Even so, the question is less that of adopting a market economy in a sector where the state still remains the main determiner, than that of finding specific legitimate regulatory modalities

between economic agents. It is the state and its different mechanisms that make it possible to reconcile the predationist, redistributionist and stock-holder logic to that of supplying petroleum products.

The role of partners in the production, distribution and consumption chain is certain and henceforth important. To succeed making available the necessary quantity of domestic gas for the needs of the urban and peripheral populations depends in most cases on the technical and organizational prowess of the state and its partners. Despite the unfortunate attempts to take over the supply of the towns of Chad with different goods especially petroleum products, the state has moved from the stage of competition with the private sector to that of partnership. The creation of local companies and their involvement in the gas sector in Chad aligns with this will by the Chadian government and has and it remains today in the trade of petroleum products. The requirements of sustainable development and of equitable urban governance for the interest of the community have questioned the correctness in the theory of total and complete retreat by the state. Analyses of the modalities to regulate the supply system of domestic gas in the town of N'Djamena generally has permitted an understanding of the study of the functioning of the distribution network and the state appreciated here based on the expectations of urban and rural actors who are the consumers. As such, in a context characterized by unemployment, the state insists that the activity of domestic gas should be organized in its entirety. This organization brings out the contribution of this sector in the fight against poverty and unemployment in N'Djamena.

D- Discussion

Despite strategies brought forth by the Chadian government to reduce the consumption of ligneous energy sources by limiting the degradation of the vegetation cover, access to modern sources of energy still remain preoccupying in Chad. In effect, populations living under difficult socioeconomic condition face enormous difficulties to abide to governmental measures. This is shown on the spot by the low level of education and especially by increasingly visible poverty within the Chadian society. On to this is added unemployment that affects young Chadians. In the past, young educated or trained Chadians in universities of the sub region and of the world on needed to submit a file to the administration to be recruited state agents based on the nature of training received. Today, this situation has significantly changed. This age group of the population now has to wait for an eventual competitive examination in vain. Even when this competitive examination is possible, the results are selective. As

such, the cost of living and the risks mentioned above do not still allow poor households to regularly access modern source of energy.

Conclusion

Despite the geographic situation of Chad and its proximity to the Sahara desert, the more or less educated population is not yet conscious of the phenomenon of desertification that is becoming irreversible nowadays. The restrictions of a new mode of life imposed on the population by the state and the diverse strategies to encourage the consumption of modern sources of energy remains up till date insignificant. These assumptions are doomed to failure with the exigencies of the contemporary society and of the population pressure that is increasingly on the rise. This will compromise the efforts of the government in the future between several expectations within a short or long period of time. Therefore, at the moment when Chad is actually getting afoot towards its emergence, it is urgent to transform the consumption of the modern source energy in reality within the Chadian society. This will be through the consideration of social needs and the economic contingency that allows for a better distribution of wealth and an undeniable social peace. It is at this cost that the consumption of domestic gas will become a means of reducing deforestation and conservation of the environment in N'Djamena in particular and in all Chadian territory in general.

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THE ROLE OF INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION IN COMPETITION AND CONFLICT

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Abstract : The society is made up of individuals and mirrored by the relations between them. The society is not a simple sum of people, but a network of connections among them, the resources they use and the results of these interactions. The social interaction is based on social exchange. The object of the individuals' exchange can be: information, material objects, activities, psychological support, emotional feelings etc. When people share information or show support they are actually communicating. Therefore people need to communicate in order not to feel isolated. Transmitting and receiving information makes them know, analyze, make decisions and, especially, feel accepted. The quality of interpersonal communication is given by the way individuals are able to code and decode the messages they send and receive. Sometimes, when there's a misinterpretation of a message, the natural cooperation between individuals turns into competition. The competition is conducted according to certain rules and competitors must comply. The reason is that the rules justify the respect for certain values which are superior to the interests of those who compete. But when competition gets rough it can easily turn into conflict. In this particularly case, using communication can solve the conflict.

Key words: interpersonal relationships; communication; competition; conflict; incongruity

1. Interpersonal Relations

Interpersonal relationships arise in the context of interaction between individuals and are based on common goals and interests. Therefore, society is made up of individuals and mirrored by the relations among them. Society is not a simple sum of people, but a network of connections among them, the resources they use and the results of these interactions. Interpersonal relationships are, in fact, "those types of interactions between individuals which lead to an exchange, an "understanding" between two or more people, a "transaction", as American psychologists call it. The object of the individuals' exchange can be: information, material objects, activities, psychological support, emotional feelings etc. "Depending on the duration, intensity and the

specificity of the interaction, interpersonal relationships engage people in varying degrees”¹.

Interpersonal relationships can be random and fleeting, and therefore they have a secondary role in developing social life of society. This category includes interactions between supporters in sports competitions. But interpersonal relationships can also be sustainable. The latter are carried out according to certain formal or informal rules, comply with certain codes and customs that make individuals assume certain statuses and roles. The individuals also consent on the behavior admitted and not admitted.

The fact is that social interaction arising in interpersonal relationships is the fundamental way of existence and functioning of individuals and social groups. And, essentially, is a way of existence for the society itself. The influence of interpersonal relationships and society is not unidirectional, the two shaping each other. Interpersonal relationships determine the way society works, but the society, in turn, has a word to say in shaping individuals who interact with each other. In this matter, interpersonal relationships are divided into two categories²:

1. Interpersonal relationships based on modifying the characteristics of the interaction partners. It is about the processes of mutual adaptation, assimilation of other characteristics, but also the stratification in which every social subject involved acquires a certain set of roles and statuses on which he occupies a particular place in the hierarchy of social partners.

2. Interpersonal relationships in which the partners’ characteristics suffer a minimal alteration. Here are considered the relations of cooperation, competition and conflict, the last two being the two relationships referred in this material.

What is noteworthy in interpersonal relationships’ dynamics is that they are always the subject to possible changes in strategy. In consequence, switching from one to another type of personal relationship becomes a natural thing. If we consider, for example, competition and conflict, it was found that when the first way of relating turns out not to be profitable, social actors being unable to reach their goals, they can move on to the second way of interaction. Thus, the transition from cooperation to competition and then to conflict is more than natural.

And the more interesting fact is that, despite appearances and prejudices, all these forms of relationships have both positive and negative aspects. What should not be ignored, however, is the fact that for individuals to enjoy the

¹ (Zamfir, 1997: 184)

² (Milcu, 2005 a: 29)

beneficial effects of these relationships, "the social environment subordinates cooperation, competition and conflict to a set of rules and conventions, institutionalizing, to a certain extent, these interpersonal relationships, keeping them under control, sanctioning the unwanted ones and gratifying the desired ones¹".

2. Interpersonal Communication

From a communicational perspective, the interaction processes are those forms of communication through which the social actors swipe information. "A communicative act, either verbal or nonverbal, once perceived by the other, will affect his perceptions, attitudes, beliefs and motivations. It is an axiomatic fact that social influence and communication processes are closely related"².

In simple words, communication is the process of information transmission (this category comprising ideas, opinions, moods, emotions) from a social entity (which may be a social actor, group or community) to another social entity through what we call "the message". From the Latin "comunico" (action of achieving or sharing something), communication involves the transmission of messages (generally speaking) both verbal (by spoken or written words) and nonverbal (gestures, attitudes). The way it is interpreted, transmission of information (by word or not) depends on how the social interaction evolves. The role of communication emerges from the functions it performs within relationships:

1. The function of transmission. The messages that contain certain information are transmitted by language. It can be an informational content (ideas, descriptions, concepts) or an emotional one (affective transmission of feelings).

2. Cognitive function. This function expresses the relationship between communication and thinking. Language is the tool of thought because its operations are conducted through verbal means

3. The regulatory function. Impulses can be controlled through internal language. Also, a particular form of manifestation of this function is persuasion, which seeks to change the behavior of others, inducing emotional states, beliefs, ideas.

4. Emotional – expressive function. By language and especially through its specific means (chosen words, rhythm, and intonation) the transmitter reveals his emotional states.

¹ (Milcu, 2005 b: 32)

² (Berger; Burgoon, 1995: 7)

5. Symbolic function. Verbal symbol replaces objects, phenomena. This feature is most common in literary works, especially poetry.

6. Cathartic function. By speaking, individuals are downloading their inner tensions in discussions with others.

7. Playful function. This is done through games and word associations.

8. Dialectic function. Thanks to this feature, through language, one individual formulates and resolves conflicts and problematic situations.

Therefore people need to communicate in order not to feel isolated. Transmitting and receiving information makes them know, analyze, make decisions and, especially, feel accepted. In connection with the latter, accepting and finding an identity in the community provides mental and emotional balance for individuals. Discussing with others, confession, self-disclosure "maintain the mental health of the individual. Self-disclosure helps the individuals express themselves, therefore it is an expressive function. It also has a self-clarification function. We confide to others to clarify our own thoughts and feelings"¹.

The interesting and challenging part of interpersonal communication is given by the way individuals encode and decode messages. Regarding the coding, the more stable the relationship is, the easier communication becomes. Individuals who know each other well have common jokes ("inside jokes"), similar ways of explaining various situations. Instead, individuals who relate spontaneously and accidentally may find it difficult to codify certain messages. Wishing to be understood and to please the other, individuals can send unclear, incomplete or even erroneous messages. Decoding messages follow the same pattern. Two people who know each other better will understand more easily an, either verbal or nonverbal, exchange of messages. Instead, individuals who relate by accident may have difficulty understanding what the other wanted to convey. Therefore, "communication is based on message exchanges, creating an understandable and an exchange of meanings between two individuals"².

Depending on a variety of features related to the cognitive-emotional and previous experience perspective, each individual has a personal way of interpreting the messages. Consequently, each individual reacts differently to the message. Here's the place where the discussion related to feedback comes along. The receiver's reaction (the one who receives the message) to the information sent by the transmitter (the one who sends the message) gives rhythm and direction to one interpersonal relationship.

¹ (Boncu, 2005: 75-76)

² (Hartley, 1999: 24)

Jean Claude Abric identifies four functions¹ that feed-back should comply in order to ensure an effective communication that has minimal chances to lead with conflict:

1. The correct understanding of the message.
2. Flexibility in decoding. Otherwise, a precipitate feedback may jeopardize the relationship.
3. Ensuring stability and security for individuals who are in an interpersonal relationship.
4. Avoiding preconceptions, overreacted susceptibility and dubious thoughts about the message.

In communication, people who reunite and strengthen their personal relationships will take into account their previous information exchange. Therefore, communication is a process of corroborating information. It is important that individuals have access to this corroboration because, in time, it will help to outline an accurate profile for those involved in a stable relationship. Based on this profile, the individuals will know what and how to communicate.

In social interaction, communication mediates psychological states of social actors. Therefore, disruption of communication determines the disruption of interpersonal relationships. In conditions of poor communication, knowledge of others becomes impossible and determinates a state of disbelief. In these circumstances, each social actor thinks that they need to manage the situation on their own so the cooperative relationship ends and passes to a false competition or even conflict level.

3. Theories about competition

The competition can be defined as a "form of interaction between two or more social actors, consisting in their efforts to achieve a goal (to get a benefit) which is indivisible or believed as such"². It is considered that individuals competing are oriented more towards the finality of the action than to the behavior of rivals. Or, as the Morton Deutsch notes, a competition is an opposition of purposes (or, rather, a simultaneously search for the same purpose) which, at one point, make one's probability to win to be higher, while the probability that the other party will gain to become smaller.

The competition is conducted according to certain rules and competitors must comply. The reason is that the rules justify the respect for certain values

¹ (Abric, 2002: 32)

² (Zamfir; Vlăsceanu, 1993: 120)

which are superior to the interests of those who compete. In other words, competing is not just about winning and doing everything for it. Competition entails rules that make the whole game to be a fair one and finality to reflect an objective ranking of competitors.

Psychosocially speaking, there are some factors and conditions¹ that make two or more entities engage in a competition:

1. Motivation shows that each participant involved is oriented towards its goal without being interested in the behavior of the adversary if that behavior doesn't bother him.

2. Attitudinal plan which involves the position that each of the competitors has during competition, most times this is a position that discourages the opponent and emphasizes its own potential.

3. Mutual perception is the way competitors see each other. However, the mutual interests of the competitors make social perception less objective. They tend to accentuate the differences and diminish the similarities. Also, the attention is all focused on personal interest rather than on the others' interests.

4. Power is the maximum possible influence of a social actor over another. This concerns both the induced force and the resistance force. In order to have a positive power the induced force has to be higher than the resistance power.

5. Emotions drawn into competition can determine the entire course of the competition. Depending on how the emotions are controlled, competitors can win or, conversely, may lose.

6. Aggression can also be present when the evolutions and the chances of winning are comparative. It is not a case of physical or verbal aggression but rather the effort involved in tense situations.

4. Transforming competition into conflict

When each of the above factors takes hold, it can distort competition and it could turn into conflict. Conflict is defined as "a fight between values and statuses claims, power and resources, the aim being to neutralize opponents, injure or eliminate rivals"².

It is not imperative that a conflict should be the exclusively result of a failed competition. There are situations where conflict erupts, surpassing the competition stage, which, in those cases, is only a fake. But most often, the

¹ (Milcu, 2005 c: 45)

² (Cosser, 1967: 8)

conflict is preceding the competition and, therefore, depends heavily on how the forces were conducted during the competition in order to know how conflict will take place.

For a long time it was considered that there was no difference between conflict and competition and the terms were, therefore, synonymous. "Like the competition, the conflict involves hoarding of rare resources. From a linguistically point of view, it is absolutely right to say that groups with conflicting interests are competing for power"¹. However, the literature of more recent date makes a distinction between the two concepts. There is a definitive break between competition and conflict. So one cannot say it is fair to equate the two terms. Some sociologists believe that the distinction between competition and conflict is visible through the concept of power.

Seen as a party's ability to influence and / or control the conduct of the other party, power has a small role in the competition, while it is very evident in the conflict. Also, affection and motivation shows that if, in competition, prevails the rather positive emotions and active orientation towards goals, in the case of conflict, emotions become negative, increase frustration and lose goals' intensity. It is worth mentioning that during the competition goals are well established and each entity engages in a race on their own. Conversely, if conflict arises a factor called divergent interests that move the focus from the goals to adjacent issues that are sometimes real and sometimes only imagined. From this we can conclude that, while the competition is a real fact, in conflict the purpose may be missing or be a simple matter of subjective thinking. Therefore, the conflict is not always a rational one, dictated by well-established purposes but can also be an emotional one that involves affective influences. Depending on the starting base, the expectations the involved subjects have, conflicts can be²:

1. True conflict is a form of real and objective conflict in which all parties perceive the situation correctly. This kind of conflict is difficult to be mediated because both sides want to take advantage at the same time.

2. Contingent conflict arises when none of the parties to the conflict sees or accepts other than the momentary gains that were the original reason of conflict.

3. Shifted conflict is that conflict in which the attention of the parties involved moves from initial conflict situation to other matters not related to it.

4. Award conflict arises when the parties are set incorrectly.

5. Latent conflict is that conflict does not occur but is repressed.

¹ (Dahrendorf, 1959: 209)

² (Deutsch, 1973: 11-15)

6. False conflict refers to the appearance of a conflict when there is a real basis for such a situation. Very often, a false conflict reveals emotions and attitudes that end up being a base of a true conflict.

The issue of conflict resolution must start from a new and perhaps unique approach. Namely, we could start by considering the conflict as a normal social phenomenon or even a positive one. Conflict is, we must admit, an unavoidable fact in a society operating in a free and fair manner. Why is it inevitable? Because people are different entities who bring their cognitive and emotional particularities within the communities they belong to and, there, they meet with the particularities of other individuals. In some cases, this meeting creates a conflict. This is not necessarily bad. A conflict, as long as it is being kept within the limits of physical and mental safety of those involved, may raise to creative disputes, ideological repositioning and general attitude changes. Therefore, the conflict is a factor of progress. J.S. Bruner says that differences of opinion or incongruity lead individuals to actively engage in conflict resolution. He believes that, in order to become positive, a conflict must provide a volume of incongruity large enough to attract the interest, but small enough to avoid frustrations. Or, once the conflict is surmounted, it occurs a state of contentment related to conflict management skills and optimized interaction with others.

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INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT

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Abstract : Migration or territorial mobility of the population is not limited to travel in space, but is a more complex process that brings into the equation multiple items and irrespective of the mechanisms that set in motion or influencing their manifestation, generates a broad spectrum of effects. The changes are visible in the economic life political, social, cultural, religious. They manifest both in the place of origin, from where potential migrants will go, and in the destination.

Key words: migration, population, mobility, effects, Romania

Migration has become nowadays a current phenomenon that leads to globalization. This reality deserves noted, because in the past this phenomenon was considered an exception, an anomaly in relation to the condition sedentary human communities. Migration, change of nationality, repatriation, foreign countries are perceived today, following a radical change of attitude as belonging normal, everyday, sometimes causing problems, sometimes generating new values in a community (H. Shryock, J. S. Siegel, 1976, p. 373.). XXI century has been called "migration era" (Castles, Stephen and Mark Miller, 2009), mainly because today there are more migrants in the world than ever. The number of international migrants worldwide has grown rapidly in the last fifteen years, reaching 244 million in 2015 (International Migration Raport 2015, p.1) to 232 million international migrants in 2013 (Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision - Migrants by Age and Sex., 2013), 222 million in 2010, 191 million in 2005 and 173 million in 2000. However, the world population reached a record 7.1 billion people in 2013 so it could be an explanation for the fact that the number of migrants worldwide has increased.

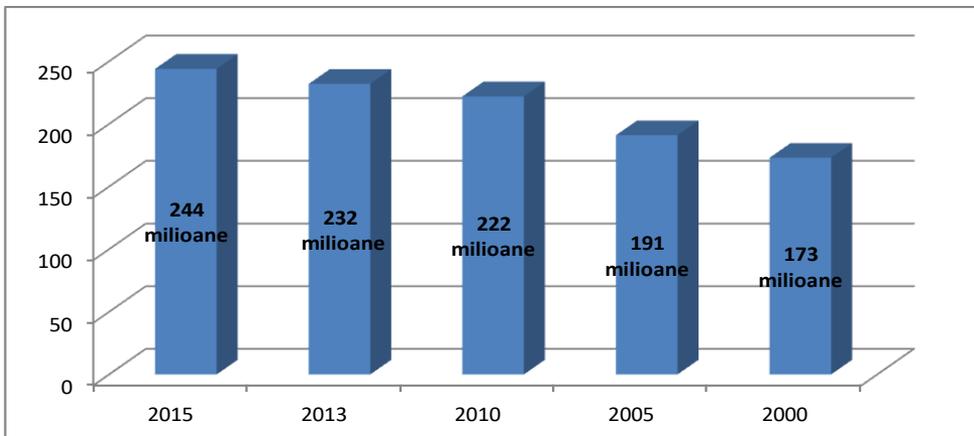


Fig. 1 - *The number of international migrants in the world during 2000-2015*

International migration is a global phenomenon that is constantly expanding. Migration is both a cause and an effect of the broader development process but also an intrinsic feature of globalization permanent. Not a substitute for development, migration can be a positive force for development if it is supported by a proper legislation and complete. Increasing global mobility, the increasing complexity of migration patterns and their impact on the countries of migrants, their families and communities have all contributed to making international migration a priority for the international community.

The global migration has changed in the last decades of origins, destinations, and the volume and types of migrants. Countries that were once origins of migration have become destinations for migrants and vice versa. Changing direction of emigration from Europe to America and Australia, mainly during the twentieth century is perhaps the most striking example recent history. At the beginning of the twentieth century a million migrants a year were leaving Europe, mainly to settle in North America (Hatton Timothy J. și Jeffrey G. Williamson, 2005). In 2010 the European Union has absorbed 1.2 million migrants who have settled in the EU, more than the number of permanent migrants in the United States (over one million), which represents a significant change in the overall migration scheme last hundred years (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2012).

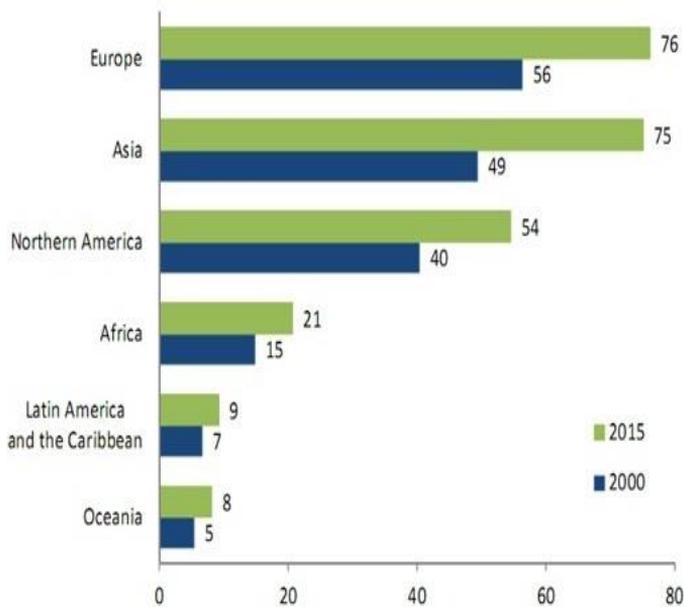
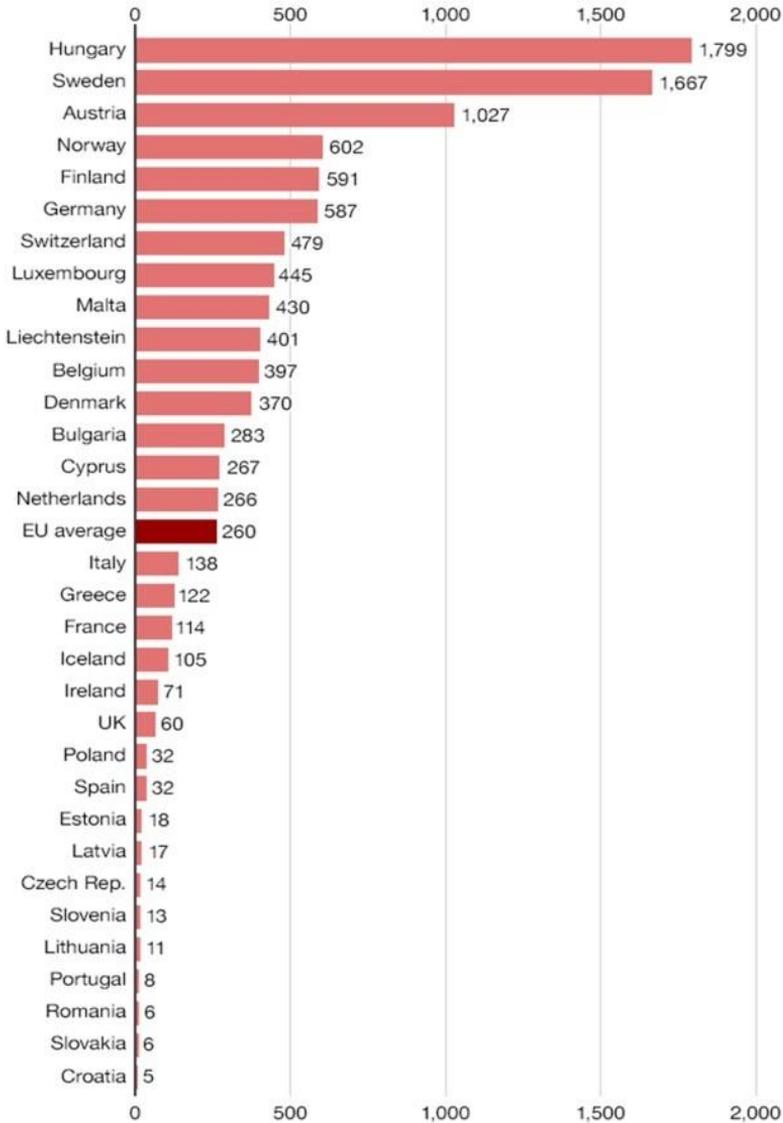


Fig. 2 - The number of international migrants by region of destination during the period 2000-2015 (millions)

In 2015, the refugee crisis in Europe began when more than a million migrants and refugees crossed the border to seek asylum in Europe. They came from areas such as South and West Asia, Africa and the Western Balkans. The vast majority arrived in the Mediterranean, but some migrants have traveled overland through Southeast Europe (mainly via Turkey and Albania). According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, among the nationalities of the million refugees who came to the Mediterranean Sea, between January 2015 and March 2016, Syrians are (46.7%), Afghans (20.9%) and Iraqis (9.4%). Of refugees and migrants who arrived in Europe by sea in 2015, 58% were men, 17% women and 25% children. The number of deaths at sea rose to record levels in April 2015 when five boats carrying nearly 2,000 migrants in Europe sank in the Mediterranean, dying more than 1,200 people.

According to Eurostat, the EU Member States have received over 1.2 million applications for asylum first time in 2015, a number more than double the previous year. Four countries (Germany, Hungary, Sweden and Austria) received around two thirds of EU asylum applications in 2015, Hungary, Sweden and Austria being the first beneficiaries of asylum applications.

Thus, in 2015 the situation has led to a refugee crisis where EU countries such as Italy, Germany, Hungary and others have struggled to cope with the influx of migrants and to handle their absorption.



Source: Eurostat

BBC

Fig. 3 - The number of asylum applications registered in 2015

After 1989, in Romania there were major changes in all areas of economic, social, political and moral, these changes have had a big impact on family life. The economic crisis, rising unemployment, falling incomes and rising poverty on the one hand, the absence of viable social protection measures, on the other hand, sparked social, convinced that it is impossible to provide acceptable living conditions in Romania. Poverty, lack of employment opportunities or family problems have caused massive departures of Romanians abroad after the fall of the communist regime in the hope of having a better life.

In this historical process of migration over the centuries the twentieth and twenty-first century, was coached population of Romania, so that, according to some statistics, about 13 million Romanian living outside national boundaries, which represents more half the current population of our society (Adrian Otovescu, 2010, p. 635).

After twenty-five years that have elapsed since the fall of communism, Romanian migration was turned into a mass phenomenon, with important implications for social, economic, demographic, geographic. Romanian migration process is not linear with respect to changes in the scope of migration, the destination, the categories of migrants, duration, number of emigrants etc. If in the early years, 1990-1993, German and Hungarian ethnic Romanians are those who enroll in a process migration in the coming years considerably increase the number of Romanians and Roma leaving the country of residence with the intention to settle in another country, the main reason being the search for a job. Among the main reasons for the weak and highly-skilled migrants are: work, professional fulfillment, hob reasons, family reunification, further education. In recent years, the number of people studying international universities has risen considerably, mainly under the influence of inter-university exchanges.

In addition to numerical growth between the characteristics of the current Romanian migration records and other changes. Migration macho in the first stage of migration balance is gradually leading to relatively equal proportions of the two gender categories. While each category of gender orientation is maintained by certain fields, men by construction, agriculture and industry, and to the care of women, domestic service, agriculture, hospitality system. From the temporary migration of low-skilled people for short periods of time, feature the first stage (1994-2006), there is increased migration of highly skilled persons and extend the residence by long-term or permanent migration, since 2007. Regarding the "brain drain" or brain drain, some areas absorb a high percentage of Romanian as well as the health sector, information and research (Dumitru Sandu, 2007, p. 23-24).

Analysis intensity of the phenomenon of migration of Romanians showed that over a third of the country's households (approximately two and a half million) had at least one family member gone abroad after 1989. The share of people 18-59 years old who worked in other countries after 1989 is approximately 12%. Temporary departures for work abroad had a frequency of about 28 per 1000 people aged between 15 and 64 years. The phenomenon was particularly pronounced after 2002, with the liberalization of the Schengen area for Romanian circulației. In 2007, the phenomenon departure temporarily working abroad was approximately three times more intense than in 2002. Between 1989-2012, Romania's stable population decreased by over 3.1 million people. Thus, more than 77% of the decline of population resident in this period was due to the migration process.

Romanian migration contains various European and non-European direction. In Europe, Romanians were originally targeted to countries such as Turkey, Israel, Hungary and Germany, then to Italy and Spain. Non-European countries by Romanian migrants headed constantly are the United States and Canada. In terms of choosing the direction of migration, it is influenced by legislation, access to employment and training level of the migrants. It found, for example, that in Italy and Spain prevails in which the percentage of low-skilled Romanian migrants, while countries such as Switzerland, Britain, Germany, Belgium and France recorded increased proportions of highly qualified Romanian.

As regards, the main factors that influence and determine the migration, they are social, so no individual act systematically and manifests both the origin and destination flow. When factors acting simultaneously with the origin of the destination produce a specific effect of migration that called factor of interaction. For example, a flow of migration can develop between a rural and an urban agriculture where productivity increases but decreases the number of jobs in rural and in urban locality increase the number of jobs (Dumitru Sandu, 1984, p. 47).

It seems that the presence of these factors origin and destination are specific in determining migration flows. Thus there are several types of migration according to the causal structure of that process:

- "Migration Flow: social causes at the origin and destination; interaction effect between causes of origin and destination;
- migration determined social origin / destination: social causes of the process in origin or destination; ineffectiveness of interaction between the causes of origin and destination;

- migration dispersed: there are social causes, but only the individual motivation of migration from the perspective of both the origin and the destination of the movement.

In this context, labor migration has taken on new dimensions and negative effects have occurred mainly on family structure, relationships intrafamiliale, the psychological development of children. According to data provided by the National Agency for Child Protection, an institution that has a role in monitoring this phenomenon, in early 2009, in Romania there were over 82,464 children without one or both parents, who are left to work abroad. Of these, 26 406 were from families where both parents were working abroad, 47,154 came from families in which one parent was left to work abroad and 8904 from families where one supporter was left to work abroad. Another 2,500 children were included in the social protection system.

Romanian migration, as it is known today, is a relatively recent but has large influence on the Romanian society as a whole.

International migration is a phenomenon that today takes many forms and shapes effect national companies. This phenomenon leads to migrating behavior and by globalization, producing significant changes in the way of living (Adrian Gorun, Horațiu Tiberiu Gorun, Ion Ghizdeanu, Gabriela Radu (coord.), 2013, p. 136).

In the contemporary world, international migration is a common reality of daily life, the variety of forms and causal factors requiring a dynamic analytical approach, according to the particularities of each category of migrants.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT

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Abstract : Etymologically, the term "management" comes from the English verb "to manage" which is translated as - "to lead", "to administer", but according to researchers it originates from the Latin "manu agree" meaning "to lead by hands". The words "management" and "manager" appear together, coming from the English verb "to manage" which is translated as - "leadership", "administrator, leader".

It is the teacher submitting new generations and contribute urgently to the formation of their future.

In human form there are two basic institutions namely: the family - is a primary school first and second educational institution is the unit in which the child through its transformation as an adult.

Starting from Alfred Marshall's statement "most valuable of all capital is invested in the human being", we note once again, mainly in investment importance of the human factor and secondary - investment in education.

The investments in education, according to experts, mean progress in all areas (economical, social, cultural and political).

The quality of education is a desirable social objective and its contribution is decisive for the entire economy, helping to streamline it.

Regarded as a model culture of the company, total quality management.

Key words: educational management , manager, interdisciplinary, leadership.

Etymologically, the term "management" comes from the English verb "to manage" which is translated as - "to lead", "to administer", but according to researchers it originates from the Latin "manu agree" meaning "to lead by hands".

The words "management" and "manager" appear together, coming from the English verb "to manage" which is translated as - "leadership", "administrator, leader".

The Explanatory Dictionary of the Romanian Language, deadline management offers several meanings, one of which is formulated as follows:

"The work and the art of leadership. The range of organizational, management and business management activities. The science and the technology of the organization and management of an enterprise. "

Nodex provides a definition of management as follows "The range of organizational , management and business management activities. The science of the organization and management of enterprises. "

Wikipedia Encyclopedia states that the term management "characterizes the process of leading or directing parts or an entire organization, from business , continuing with the restructuring by manipulating resources (human, financial, material, intellectual or intangible). "

In recent years management has been widely used word, with modern significance, and was employed in economic activities and now has expanded in all fields, such as education , sports, culture , etc ..

The management is the act of leadership, we can associate to human the right from its appearance, as confirmed by the authors Constantin Dumitru and Sorin Ionescu by the expression "management is there ever since".

"Frederick Taylor (1856-1915) and Henry Fayol (1841-1925) are considered the parents of management. Frederick Winslow Taylor, American engineer, promoter of trends labor rationalization to enhance them, propose a payment for standardized parts and other parts payment data over time.

Taylorist payroll system becomes widespread. In 1911, F. W. Taylor, he published The scientific management principles, work specifying the four principles of scientific management.

Henry Fayol, the French engineer and geologist, has conducted numerous mining companies, emerging as the main promoter of the European Movement and company management.

His main work was General Administration industrielle et Prevoyance, organization , command , Coordination , controle . Paris 1916 .

Researching some existing works that refer to management, we can say that depending on the fields, there were several schools that deepends and transmits these notions

These school literatures are classified as follows:

- management process School
- Empirical School
- Human behavior School
- social system School
- math School
- Classical school , neoclassical and modern organization
- behaviorist School
- Scientific school, etc.

With reference to the title of the theme and analyzing the current situation of problems in the management of education, we can say that after

1989, it has undergone a number of changes, not ended to this day, this has led to a series of negative effects.

In Romania the term educational management came quite recently and I dare say that after the communist regime, its application in education is still looming.

The lack of a stable political system and severe economic problems have led to neglect of many institutions of particular importance in a country such as, health care, the military or education; analyzing these situations we see negative effects of a poor quality management and lack of experience in this area of people who occupied key positions in our society where good management culture was quint essential for optimum functioning of all branches.

These negative effects have not gone unnoticed, with disastrous results and even education. This area is key.

A healthy education system will produce generations of people specialized in different fields , and those who reach the point of peak of some company will have solid knowledge of management, and not only that they will apply in a casual manner .

"What is happening to our education ? Here's a question that we can't avoid assisting indifferent to the degradation and disorganization daily that significant parts of national wealth .

What you find today is not the result of the past few years, but the result of a process developed in time, with ebbs and flows generated by various gear modifications introduced by a so sensitive system, as is the education . "

THE GOAL of the educational management, results in the following definition: "Management education is the theory and the practice, science and art design, organization, coordination, evaluation, adjustment elements educational activity (not just resources) as development work free, integral and harmonious, the human individuality, permanently, for asserting an autonomous and creative personality, established under ideal in education policy, "said Elena Joița.

Education management depends on the fulfillment of basic requirements: quality priority, clarity of purpose, motivation and participation of stakeholders, rational use of resources and elements of education, continuous adjustment of processes results .

Management education is seen as an interdisciplinary discipline studying "events which the decision to organize a determined educational activities and educational programs in management"

In my opinion, the management depends very much on the person who draws them all in terms coordinates namely moderns manager.

The manager is responsible success or failure.

Depending on the strategy we adopt in the management of the business, it is characterized as a successful manager or less good.

Driving style is a set of personality characteristics of the driver, which is structured in the activities of a group determined as a result of the joint between the elements of bio-energy and aptitude of character of his personality and the type of activity and requests of the group.

One of the most famous experiments on leadership styles is organized by Lewin, White Lippi, highlighting the three leadership styles in three different situations psychosocial:

1. climate and authoritarian style of leadership, the leader makes decisions,
2. democratic climate and driving style, in which decisions are made jointly,
3. climate and driving style laissez-faire, undirected.

This experiment proves that democratic leadership style obtained the best scores on productivity criteria, aggression, satisfaction.

There is no specific number of leadership styles, because style is adopted depending on their personality, the conclusion may be many people there are many styles of leadership.

In the contemporary era, of the economical development competition ,, the man is the main economical resource both nationally and internationally.

To face global competition every nation must invest in humans by health, culture and education.

Education is what gives the gain in global competition or at least help us to be on a part with advanced nations.

A good educational system is the one who knows that the future is in the hands of every child in school and must be guided by his teachers as well.

It is the teacher submitting new generations and contributes urgently to the formation of their future.

In the human form there are two basic institutions namely: the family – it is firstly a primary school and secondly the educational institution is the unit in which the child passes through its transformation as an adult.

Starting from Alfred Marshall's statement "most valuable of all capital is invested in the human being", we note once again, mainly in invetsition importance of the human factor and secondary - investment in education.

The investments in education, according to experts, mean progress in all areas (economical, social, cultural and political).

The quality of education is a desirable social objective and its contribution is decisive for the entire economy, helping to streamline it.

Regarded as a model culture of the company, total quality management has to guide all customer activity and its processes, and optimize them so as to bring long-term benefits.

Educational services customers both individuals are receiving their education and family but also society as a whole.

The school and university issues is the focus continuously, repeatedly finding solutions to existing problems as they occur on quality and not on achieving quality continue generating these deficiencies.

Sorin Cristea emphasizes in "Fundamentals of pedagogy" that management education is based on the following:

- Leadership primary system (holistic approach to all elements specific to the education and applications management at various levels);
- Leadership pilot type (the optimal use of resources pedagogical education system through management functions: planning - organizational, methodological guidance, control - self);
- Strategic Leadership (evolving innovative system perspective at different levels of organization).

"Management functions are defined first by H. Fayol. From his point of view management activity comprises five categories of activities: provision and planning, organizing, staffing coordination and control.

The number and nature management functions relating to the duties leaders and their remit .

The provision is the evaluation of the future, capturing trends, which will act conjunctures probable influencing factors.

Starting from the statement of Alfred There are three types of activities forecasting - weather - long-term, over 10 years, characterizes strategic decisions at the higher;

- planning - in the medium term, from a few years in a semester, product planning is plan;

- programming - short term, decade, week instead thorough in terms of actions, means and resources used for the plan. "

Currently, the issue of education is conscious, systematic and thoroughly studied different aspects of various categories of political analysts, philosophers, sociologists, statisticians, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations, etc., being organized many conferences, symposiums.

The doctrine, education is studied at different levels in the research institutions of numerous specialists and ever deeper investigation of this phenomenon is due, primarily, to its contemporary manifestations and tension it generates in society.

Education is what gives gain in global competition, or at least help us to be on a par with advanced nations.

A good education system in place is the one who knows that the future is in the hands of every child in school and be guided by his teachers as well. It is the teacher submitting new generations and contribute urgently to the formation of their future.

In human form there are two basic institutions namely: the family - is a primary school first and second educational institution is the unit in which the child through its transformation as an adult.

All young people need support and guidance both at school and in the family. Models of good practice are welcome and each school must adapt to these requirements that prevent what today we got to fight.

Next generations are in our hands and we must seek to implement the best solutions.

Unfortunately what is happening today in the Romanian education is lacking, for which we need to help and we must be there to help.

In conclusion – the educational management is a concept closely linked to education through which young people today, and not only they are helped to learn how to adapt to quick changes that occur at any step in their environment, were they learn, share, collaborate or work.

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SOCIOLOGIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS ON ADDRESSING THE REGIONALISATION OF THE PREFECT INSTITUTION

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Abstract : The Institution of the Prefect is highly important for the Romanian administrative system, because it represents the link between the central and territorial administration. Its position is essential for the coherence and the uniformity of the administrative action, for applying the law unitarily in the entire territory, in other words, for maintaining the unitary character of the Romanian state. Its organisation and the functioning have changed during the last years, as a consequence, on one side, of the depoliticisation and professionalization of the function, and on the other side, of the decentralisation tendency from the administration. Moreover, there are expected new changes to emerge, once with the constantly mentioned regionalisation. Nevertheless, the prefect has enjoyed, until nowadays, little attention on behalf of the researchers from the juridical and administrative sciences.

Key words: sociologic, administrative, prefect, regionalisation, law.

The perspective of regionalisation in Romania

Through the last years, there has been mentioned, in the Romanian public space, the idea of an administrative-territorial organisation, which stands for the creation of some regions, superior as surface, to the actual counties. Up until nowadays, there has been discussed only the number, and, occasionally, the division of the expected regions. The concrete and detailed projects are missing, for the time being.

The idea is not new in the history of the Romanian state. It has emerged repeatedly, along the modern and contemporary ages, and was even put into practice between 1938-1940 (during the authoritarian regime of Carol II, when there were 10 regions) and 1950-1968, an idea taken from the Soviet model (28, 18 and, finally, 16 regions, divided into districts).

Recently, the regionalisation has been brought forward as a way of making the public administration more efficient, even more necessary after the adhering to the European Union. As it can be seen from *The Report of the Presidential Commission Analysing the Romanian Political and Constitutional Regime*, the first preoccupations regarding the regional development in

Romania, appeared after 1996, being concretised in the *Law no 151 from the 15th of July 1998 on the regional development in Romania*, which created the eight “development regions”¹. Later, after the negotiations for the adhering to EU, the normative framework suffered modification through the *Law no. 315 from the 28th of June 2004 on the regional development in Romania*². This established the “institutional framework objectives, competences, and instruments specific to the regional development in Romania”. According to art.2, section 3, the basic principles for the regional development are: the subsidiary, the decentralisation and the partnership. The objectives provisioned in art. 3 are: the diminishing of the existent regional disparities; the correlation of the governmental sector policies; the stimulation of the internal and international inter-regional cooperation and the participation to European structures and organisations, for their socio-economic and institutional development. The law clearly mentions that the regions are not administrative-territorial units, do not have legal status, being set up upon conventions concluded between the representatives of the county councils. Their role is that of “a framework for elaboration, implementation and evaluation of the regional development policies” and to collect statistic data, according to the EUROSTAT regulations for NUTS 2 level of classification (art.6). In each region there is a Regional Development Board (made up of the presidents of the county councils, and a representative of each category of councils: municipal, city and communal), also without legal status (art.7). In each region, there are also organised the regional development agencies, as non-governmental, non-profit, of public uses, with legal status bodies. (art. 8).

The law does not refer explicitly to role of the prefects in the regional development policy, but because it is defined as “an entirety of the policies elaborated by the Government etc.” (art. 1), it might be deduced that they are involved, through the eventual tasks received from the specialised central administration bodies.

The Report of the Presidential Commission was constituted of “the failure of the development regions”, whose functioning “did not have a positive economic impact”, due to the fact that they are confusedly and inconsistently regulated, lacking legitimacy and historic, political and economic coherence. Briefly, it has been appreciated that they are “dysfunctional” and that “the

¹ *The Report of the Presidential Commission Analysing the Romanian Political and Constitutional Regime*, 2009, pp. 26-27 (http://cparpc.presidency.ro/upload/Raport_CPAPCR.pdf).

² O.G., 1st Part, no. 577 from the 29th of June 2004.

operation for partially solving the issue regarding the local governing rationalisation is prone to fail”¹.

The variants proposed are: the federalization (less probable, but with advantages, therefore it should not be ignored), the regionalisation (either “as administrative strategy that lacks political dimensions”, as in France, or as “political regionalisation”, according to the Spanish model), or only the rationalisation of the existent background, by defining new criteria to delimitate the counties².

As regarding the prefect, the Report advanced the idea of creating “a new constitutional state” for the institution. Because they exercise two categories of political attributions (representative of the Government and head of the deconcentrated territorial entities), along with technical-juridical attributions (when controlling the legality of documents), there are requested better-defined stipulations, for the clear separation of the two. One of the options might be “the qualification of the Prefect as a clerk”, by eliminating the role of leader of deconcentrated territorial entities. Another one suggests, on the contrary, “the maintaining of the prefect in the political area”, which means preserving only his attributes of leader of the ministries’ services (having, after the decentralisation, only powers of control and monitoring) and of the different local and county authorities, in cases of emergency. Under these circumstances, the actual attributes that enable the checking of legality, would consequently be incumbent on the governmental inspectors. In all the above depicted options, and even if it is chosen the preserving of the actual organisation of the Prefect Institution, it is considered as useful the substitution of the lawful suspension of the documents subjected by the prefect to the court, being suspended upon request by the previously informed administrative court³. On the same direction, it is also registered the legislative proposals for constitutional revision from 2014, which stipulates that “The Prefect can subject, to the administrative court, a document of the regional, county or local council, of the county council president, of the regional council president or of the mayor, if they consider the document as being illegal”, with the specific mention “that the document can be suspended only by the competent court, according to the law”⁴. Nonetheless, the Constitutional Court appreciated that the second proposal is “useless” and “redundant” and recommended its elimination, motivating that “it does not evidence any specificity of the effects

¹ *The Report...*, pp. 26-27.

² *Ibidem*, pp. 55-57.

³ *Ibidem*, pp. 61-62.

⁴ *Decision of CCR no. 80 from the 12th of February 2014...*, p. 41.

drawn by the action brought by the prefect, as compared to any other similar actions brought by any other person”¹. We consider that it is not the introduction of any kind of specificity that represented the intention of those who initiated the procedure, but the maintaining of the central authority’s possibility, through its representative, to control the performances of the central authority, accompanied by a constitutional guarantee against their arbitrary suspension.

Since the details regarding the expected regionalisation are still unknown, in order to prefigure the appeared transformations in the Prefect Institution somehow, it is necessary the research of similar patterns in the other countries of the European Union. The most certain thing to say is that they will concern, on one hand, the territorial area for exercising the competences, which will be extended, and, on the other hand, the sphere of attributions, which will be a reduced one, due to the fact that regionalisation is associated with decentralisation.

Very important, for our theme, would be to know if the actual counties are supposed to disappear, once with the emerging of the regions, which is an idea mentioned in *The Report*, or, if they are still preserved, as subdivisions of them, as the responsible factors from the political scene have made assurances in the last years, and as it is provisioned in the proposal for the revision of the Constitution: “The territory is organised, from the administrative point of view, in communes, counties, towns and regions”².

Because we consider that a federal type of organisation is out of the question, and a “political regionalisation” (which is actually a “quasi-federalisation”) is less probable, we must focus our attention especially on the French type administrative regionalisation – referring only feebly to the Spanish and Italian models – and on the examples provided by some central-east-European states, which have recently met processes of regionalisation/decentralisation. The French inspiration regionalisation is considered “a more cautious solution, from the constitutional point of view, providing that [...] it does not introduce an authentic self-governing element in the regions”, but it corresponds to certain measures “that the Romanian local administration is already exploring, with the difference that it brings, unlike the present formula, more rationality and the premise of a reliable governing”³.

¹ *Ibidem*, pp. 153-154.

² *Ibidem*, p. 6.

³ *The Report...*, p. 56.

Possible transformations of the Prefect Institution under the circumstances of regionalisation

Since the Romanian Constitution only indicates the administrative-territorial units, but it does not provide, as the French one, the possibility to create others, according to the law, the manner in which the reform can be done is debatable. It can be operated a constitutional revision, it can be commenced a simple retracing, which means the creation of wider counties, accompanied by decentralisation measures, or, it can just be created a new area, with a new name, considering that the enumeration of the constitutional text is not limitative.

Few things can be certainly mentioned as regarding the future of the Prefect Institution. Firstly, the fact that it will continue its existence, regardless the manner in which the administrative reorganisation will be done. Secondly, the constitution of a new administrative-territorial unit, the region, triggers the necessity of including a governmental representative. Beyond these aspects, the way in which the institution will be organised and will function, depends on more than a few factors.

Before trying a small number of possibilities, we must mention that, provided that the competence of the prefect to control the legality in the documents of the local authorities – and for preventing the complication of the administration, we consider the maintaining as necessary –, then the suspension of the lawful actions has to be replaced by the suspension upon request, in court. It is the proposal from the *Report of the Presidential Commission*, it is the same situation as that from the French system, and would be comprised in the already declared intention of decentralisation.

It is essential that, if the actual counties disappear, as proposed in the report, or if they are maintained, as provided in the proposal of constitutional revision, as an area inferior to the regions, as in the cases of French, Italy, Spain or Poland.

In case the counties are abolished, without analysing the opportunity of such a measure, the situation of the prefects seems rather simple. Actually, they would exercise the same attributes as they do presently – maybe with some unessential modifications – at the level of the regions. They would control the legality of the regional authorities' documents (being able to subject them directly to the court, as presently in Romania and France, or only to inform the Government, as in Italy), and would manage the activity of the deconcentrated services from each region, which would become the main level of deconcentration.

The maintaining of the present counties, along with the expected regions, would open more possibilities. It firstly emerges the question of the

counties' status in this situation. Will they be only simple divisions of the regions, exclusively areas of deconcentration (as the French *arrondissements*), or will they remain administrative-territorial units (as the French departments or the Italian, Spanish or Polish provinces)? In the first variant, it is highly probable the existence of some (deputy)-prefects of the counties. They would have a status and a role similar to that of the French deputy-prefects or Spanish deputy-delegates. They would be strictly subordinated to the region prefects, being maybe appointed by, or at their proposal, and acting (mainly) on the basis of a delegation. There will not be the case of having the job to control the legality of the county authorities, because they will not exist anymore, and as regarding the local documents, it is probable that their action will be limited to informing the regional prefect. It would remain the possibility to lead some deconcentrated territorial entities from the counties, also with the strict control of the regional prefect. The latter one would exercise, if not entirely, almost the highest share of the present attributions, the others being his auxiliary staff. There is not excluded the preserving, in the counties, of some simple agents or services, external to the regional prefecture, similar to the present prefectural offices.

The most probable variant – considering the desire to maintain the administration close to the needs of the citizens, and the European models – is the preserving of the county administrative-territorial status. It is hard to believe that, in this situation, there will be only a regional representative of the Government (possible with county offices), as in Poland. The issue that should be discussed is represented by the reports between the regional prefect and the county prefect. Will the first one be the prefect of the capital city, or a completely different person? The decision has to be made according to the balance of the competences given to the two areas and the manner of territorial organisation of the deconcentrated services. The occurrence would therefore correspond to a weak regionalisation – in which the region would receive less competences – or, on the contrary, to a very strong one – in which the counties would remain with few competences. Will the regional prefects have total authority on the county prefects (as in Spain or France, before 2010), a partial one (as in France, at present), or a simple role of coordination (as in Italy)? Again, the answer depends on how profound the regionalisation and decentralisation processes are supposed to be, on the relation of the competences between the areas.

It is noticeable the fact that, the revising proposal mentions the possibility of the prefects to control the legality of the regional, county and local authorities' documents, but it makes no differentiation between the

prefects¹. The provision that “the Government appoints, in the administrative-territorial units, the prefects and the deputy-prefects, under the provisions of the law”, is not explanatory, as long as, on one side, the towns and the communes are also administrative-territorial units, beside the regions and the counties, and, on the other side, the reports between the prefects and the deputy-prefects are not pointed out (will they be as the present Romanian organisation, or as the French one?).

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¹ *The decision of CCR no. 80 from the 12th of February 2014...*, p. 6

