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NATO & EUROREGIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE: JOINT INTERESTS & POTENTIAL FOR CO-OPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF SAFETY

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Regionalisation of the Economic and Social Policy successively widens to the East of Europe [1] and simultaneously more and more concerns the Safety issues [2], which also expressively obtains regional character.

Universally recognised Sustainable Development as common approach for the actual global, national, macro- & microregional and local problems also has today two dimensions.

In “classical” sense Sustainable Development perceived as a path for anthropogenic activity that should provide the quality of the subsistence for today’s and future generations. Combined with nowadays understanding of Safety (economical, environmental, technogenic, national...) Sustainable Development looks like a mechanism for Mankind survival on all above mentioned levels.

Taking into account crucial diverse of Life Standards & Production Competitiveness in different countries as well as the differing level of Safety in administrative-territorial units of these states, it becomes possible to fix the follows.

1. Safety status becomes constitutive criteria [3] for any management efficiency as well as for production, social sphere, politics, transportation, informational, tourist’s-recreational or each other kind of activity.

2. In turn the experience, standards & regulations refined in the sphere of Safety now consecutively transform into key elements of the infrastructure & technologies for all above mentioned areas, since Management Systems and till the material consequences of mankind activity & disasters that should be utilised, disposed or eliminated [4, 5].

3. The most actually becomes now the realisation of such approach in the Border Regions [6] and especially in transfrontier Euroregions. All nominated aspects of the Regional Development & Safety gain here additional “dimensions” and need to consider specific factors (historical, block, ethnic etc.). For example these peculiarities concern 19 border regions out of 25 regions of Ukraine.

Whereas nowadays NATO is the global tool for the International Safety it’s expedient to investigate the existent opportunities for it collaboration with 4 Euroregions created by Ukraine together with its Eastern European neighbours (“Bug”, “Carpathian”, “Upper Prut” & “Lower Danube”).

One of the starting points for such collaboration was made in 1994 when North Atlantic Co-operation Council (NACC) included Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) into the Partnership for Peace Work Plan. To judge about the real possibilities for co-operation in this NATO modern activity, will be better to acquaint with real goals & structure of NATO Civil Emergency Planning firstly stated by its director in [7].

This Department provides constant support for the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee (SCEPC) that is one of the main consultative bodies of the Alliance. It integrates “nine specialised Planning Boards and Committees subordinate to SCEPS, which are responsible for developing crisis management arrangements in the areas of food and agriculture, industry, petroleum, civil telecommunications, air, sea and surface transport, medical planning and civil defence.

And if in the time of “Cold War” all the experience and possibilities of NATO was oriented to support the fulfilment of the military forces tasks with the simultaneous mitigation for civilians the consequences of operations — now in the new structure for partnership all this accumulated potential of “resistance to danger” was consequently transformed for prevention & action planning through menace or crisis situation arising as well as for their consequences clearance on the territories that are in the sphere of NATO Members interests.

Noting direct connection between the Department tasks, political questions, such aspects as constitutional power, citizen participation in democratic life, relations of public authorities & mass-media etc., author of [7] nominate as the main fields in the sphere of CEP the follows:

- promotion the development of emergency planning structures under the civil control;
- contribution to the enhancement and improved efficiency of CEP capabilities;
- making the best use of resources by promoting standartisation & interoperability in civil emergency plans, procedures services and equipment;
- promotion of regional self-sufficiency, including the development of bilateral & multilateral CEP agreements for mutual assistance.

But if for the western countries the crisis situations are not more as one of the sophisticated scenarios for one or some important Economical or Social Institutions malfunction — for main part of the CEEC & NIS the crisis character became now a basic concept for all anthropogenic sphere status — since Economics & Politics till the systems for security of vital activity.

Considering goals of the Regional Sustainable Development from such point of view it’s easy to see immediate connection between the main elements of Economy & Social Systems and dominant aspects of Safety:

- sources of resources (human/intellectual, material, energy, financial etc.) and the efficacy of their utilisation <—> Economical Safety;
- procurement of energyware, the efficiency of the Energy transformations and use in the systems of vital activity, manufacturing and services <—> Energetic Safety;
- employment & protectability for population <—> Social Security;
- status of Data collection, unification & protection, level of the information technologies as well as of management maintenance, information distribution for population <—> Information Safety;
- technologies & equipment level & status in the spheres of transportation, communication, productions and services <—> Technical Safety;

- conformity of the natural objects status, changes in the Environment as well as of the liquid, solid & gaseous waste impacts to the statutory requirements for ecosystems functioning and population health <—> Environmental Safety;
- status of the technical & communal objects and the amount of wastes or other negative impact factors which aren't conform to the forecast risks of natural & anthropogenic disasters <—> Technogenic Safety;
- degree of harmonisation & steadiness in the interior inter-parties, inter-ethnic, inter-confession, inter-authorities and other inter-group inter-relations in Society against the background of inter-states and blocks interests, oppositions and agreements <—> Political Safety etc.

One of the main factors should be taken into account when establish co-operation with NATO or any other influential international structure, is the crucial difference in ratio between the executive and legislative authorities. Both on the local & state levels this ratio in CEEC now changes intensive, but till now is principally differ from the western countries. In whole the situation in post-communist countries looks like sand-glass, when many centuries authoritarian traditions & legislation step-by-step flow through smooth neck of the social mentality (somewhere prompt and somewhere slowly) into the normal “pyramidal” construction of the democracy society.

Therefore for border regions of the unitary countries (which are Ukraine and its western neighbours) is very important task to work out the mechanism for collaboration of all branches and levels of power in the efficient cross-border co-operation. [8]. Such mechanisms (which was actively supported by the Council of Europe [9]) combined with the partnership between Euroregions and sub-regional structures of the EU & NATO countries [10] essentially improves conditions for joint projects realisation on the system “Sustainable Development — Safety”.

The necessity in such conditions establishment for the long-term sub-regional partnership was attested by the results of the survey for co-ordinators and participants of more then 40 TACIS projects realised in 90-th by variety of NIS cities & regions together with their partners from EU [11].

In connection with the decision of Ukrainian Government to appoint Chernivtsy Region as a pilot area for “working out the systems approaches of the State Regional Politics for Ukraine and for sub-regional integration into Europe in the frame of Euroregions” it will be expedient to analyse more carefully the joint interests of NATO and CEEC/NIS regional transfrontier formations to define the existent potential and certain ways for further co-operation.

For this aim it make sense to compare the above mentioned functions of CEP [7] with the list of priority spheres for the linked Economical & Social transfrontier activities agreed by the Council of the Euroregion “Upper Prut”:

- development of transport & communications infrastructure on the levels of Trans-European corridors and local traffic;
- development of energetic infrastructure on the levels of state systems and local sources;
- update of the water supply and canalisation systems;
- forestry and development of the timber and wood-working industries, agro-industrial complex and light industry;

- development of transfrontier trading on the local level and transit trading activity build-up;
- development of the modern categories of cross-border tourism;
- population health protection and recreational activity in Euroregion;
- joint development of the system for education, scientific & cultural collaboration in Euroregion.

As the main mechanisms for interaction in the aforesaid areas of activity in the Euroregion, which should be realised through the common projects & programs, taking into account the particular status of depressive regions, Council of the Euroregion defined:

- providing of the Sustainable Development for the territories – components of the Euroregion and in the transfrontier basins by means of more rational usage of the Resources, implementation of the Technogenic & Environmental Safety modern facility as well as establishment of the Regional Cleaner Production Centre;
- more close collaboration between the operating authorities in Standardisation, Metrology & customers protection for quality providing of goods & services in industrial & trading activity in the Euroregion;
- updating and simplification of the systems for the transfrontier taxation and checking in the frame of the national legislation accordingly to the EU norms;
- working out together with the European partners the proposals for harmonisation of the national legal & and normative systems with the EU Directives for the foregoing activities;
- arrangement of transfrontier inter-Party connections between authoritative political organisations in the Euroregion;
- tune of collaboration between mass-media of Euroregion members to provide the interest of population and their broad support for Euroregion activity.

It's obvious the likeness of the main part of tasks in above investigated spheres of NATO activity and of transfrontier co-operation priorities which are typically not only for Euroregion "Upper Prut".

At that is also necessary to pay attention to the claim in [7] about the specific efficiency of NATO interaction with CEE partners through the neutral states where on the first place was nominated Austria. After all for the main part of nowadays Euroregions "Carpathian" & "Upper Prut" the long term stay in former Austrian Monarchy defined the development for the basic branches of economy and other regional traditions. [12]. Today the Austrian federal Lands come forward as partners for the Ukrainian Members in these Euroregions. And in Euroregion "Upper Prut" the former parts of the Crown Land Bukovina — Chernivtsy Region of Ukraine and Suceava County of Romania for 5 years restored the partner's relations with other former part of the Austrian Monarchy – Bavarian Bezirk Schwaben.

All these predicates define the demand to work out the efficient & universal mechanisms for Euroregions interaction with the correspondent structures & programs of NATO. As it was shown by the experience of the collaboration with TACIS Program [11], the absence of the certain systemic multilevel co-operation in the determined

directions increase the risk of unpredictable and inconsistent results as well as the random selection of the projects.

One of the most efficient mechanisms for such consequent interaction can become the system for cross-border co-operation EcoEuroRegion [13], that was proposed as model in the framework of Euroregion “Upper Prut” by the Ukrainian-Romanian-Moldovian Summits. The obtained results are suggest to be further extended in whole Carpathian-Black Sea Region. The potential scope for this mechanism was preliminary discussed in March 1998 with author of [7] taking into account the results of their previous consideration by the NATO Seminars in Kyjv (1995) and also [14, 15].

The core of the problem is that till the last time the development of the Safety Systems gone practically singly in the Eastern & Western countries. As a result we have today crucial divergence in methodological approaches, standards, normative and facilities. And the real activity aimed to harmonise them started only few years ago. Whereas to do this job “ab ovo” is very complicated and needs tremendous resources — it seems as the most effective way to develop further well agreed modern harmonised Safety Systems. In such manner new common approaches will apriori be “implemented” into cardinal changes which take now place in the Economy & Social Spheres, especially in the Eastern countries. It’s completely correlates with the Article 63 of the Partnership Agreement between EU & Ukraine as well as with existent mechanism of collaboration with NATO. But on such way will become apparent also “order of priority” for that formerly separate mechanisms & legal-normative acts in the sphere of Safety which revision & harmonisation are mostly necessary for today.

In favour of such claim attests the analyse of the existent trends for the Environmental Management Systems [16]. Besides modern system of Standards ISO 14000 this global problems are aimed to solve such universal approaches in the field of Technogenic & Environmental Safety and Resource Conservation as “Pollution Prevention Act” in USA (1990), mainly European UNIDO/UNEP Program “Cleaner Production”, development of new CIS Interstate Standards group ГOCT 17.9... «Nature Protection. Waste Treatment » etc.

Besides the existent clash all these approaches have joint systems mechanism — source macro- & micro-evaluation of the anthropogenic systems optimality. In the most generalised form it foreseen in Standards ISO 14040 for Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). The possibility to use LCA mechanism for large national and regional technogenic complexes investigation as well as for certain production, technology or separate unit process “precision” research [16] shown on the scheme stated below.

This scheme demonstrate that the universal methodological principle allows simultaneously evaluate the optimality of energy & resource consumption (in other words technology perfection or, if more pragmatic — the potential of competitiveness) as well as the level of Technogenic-Environmental Safety (in other words the real “capacity” of already accumulated and continued to generate risk factors) for whole technogenic system both for local & regional levels.

Such approach implementation for common priorities of regional Economy & Social Sphere development as well as the decisions for Safety level improvement in border river basins of Danube & Dnestr systems was the core idea for the EcoEuroRegion establishment started in 1996 [13].

Further these ideas was supported in many-sided discussions by the groups of specialists from Ukraine & Moldova involved into transfrontier issues of Danube basin discussion [17]. And also the representatives from all border regions of Ukraine & Romania as well as from both countries governmental responsible bodies made common decisions on the UNDP Seminar [18].

First experience of this approach implementation for resource conserved Economy and simultaneous improvement of Technogenic-Environmental Safety was achieved in joint Ukrainian-Austrian-Romanian TACIS/PHARE Cross-Border Co-operation project [12, 19]. Though this project 3 enterprises in the region which cover life cycle in forestry & wood processing made consequent evaluation of their production cycles to reveal the “smooth” places together with representatives of local and central authorities and by the support of Austrian & Ukrainian experts. The acquaintance with modern western technologies as well as working out new solutions by themselves improved the situation and competitiveness on the enterprises and simultaneously stimulated waste minimisation as well as waste utilisation expansion. In the same way enterprises realised the set of measures for forward implementation of the main elements of ISO 14000 & GOCT 17.9... Standards.

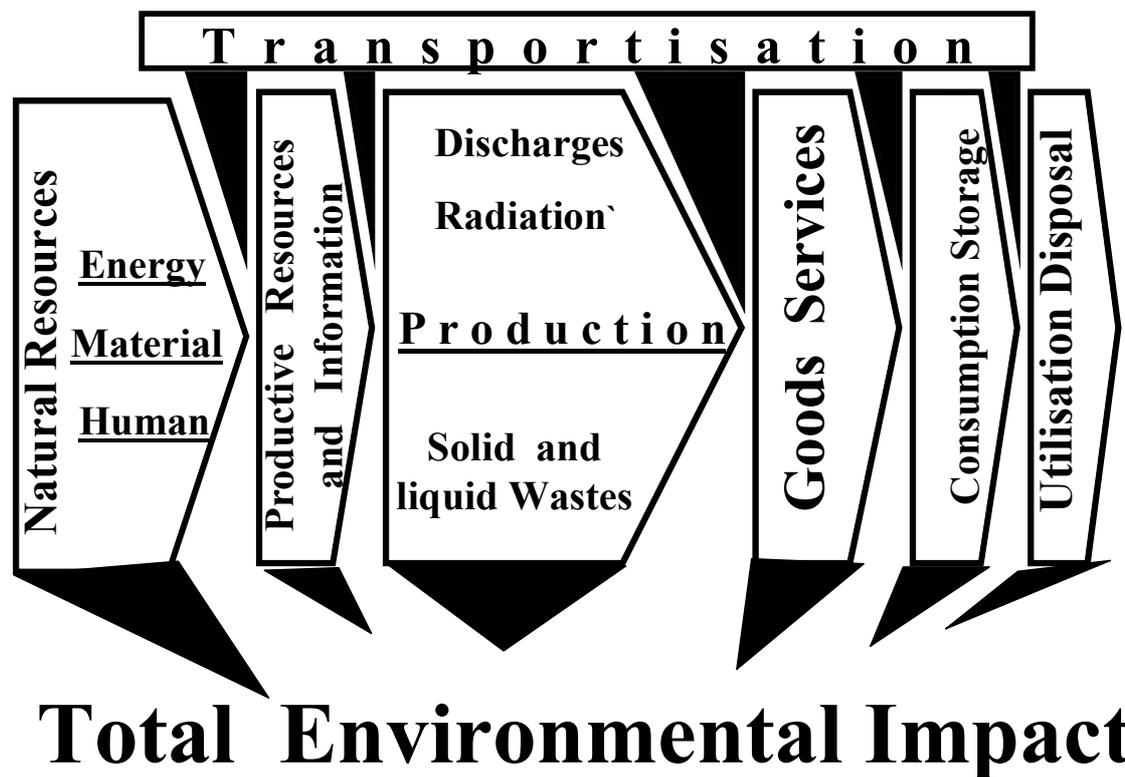


Fig. 1. General scheme for macro- & micro-assessment of technogenic systems Life Cycle

At the same time the experience & perspectives of the Safety system elements applying for simultaneous improvement of production & services economical indexes both on the local & regional levels was discussed in the frame of the USA governmental SABIT Program with managers of “Military Technologies”. This firm develops software for crisis situation management. Discussions shown that besides usage of modern information technologies, software and Internet resources, the key role for the Safety Management will play detection & primary processing of the authentic primary data.

The above mentioned arguments lead to conclusion that there exist mutual interest of the CEE/NIS Euroregions, as modern mechanism for sustainable & safe development on the future EU borders, and the NATO, as global Safety tool, to realise joint projects or to support the other programs projects that conform their common priorities.

To work out preliminary the principally new decisions in this area is expediency to make use of the pilot region status that was rendered to Chernivtsy Region by the Ukrainian Government as well as to avail oneself of EcoEuroRegion possibilities as an experimental model in the frame of Euroregion “Upper Prut”.

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Summary

NATO & EUROREGIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE: COMMON INTERESTS & POTENTIAL FOR CO-OPERATION IN THE SPHERE OF SAFETY

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In context of the parallel development & mutual influence of the Regionalisation in Eastern Europe and the hierarchical organisation of Safety Systems there are obvious the interrelations between the priority lines of NATO activity for Civil Emergency Planning & transfrontier co-operation in 4 Euroregions established along western border of Ukraine together with its Eastern-European neighbors. From the point of view of the Sustainable Development & Technogenic-Environmental Safety global approaches it proposes to use the nowadays principles of cross-border collaboration that are foreseen in the new facilities for co-operation of the authorities and business structures on all levels — the Euroregion “Upper Prut” and EcoEuroRegion. They should improve the Resource & Energy usage and competitiveness in the basic fields of Economy with simultaneous minimisation of risks, prevention of crisis situations and trim for joint efficient actions in the cases of emergency. Such approach already allows today to define the rang of common interests and concrete projects aimed to harmonize Western & Eastern methods of the Environmental & Safety Management in different areas as well as Normative – Legal and Information Technologies providing.

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