

A GEOGRAPHIC RETORT TO THE NATURAL AND SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DISFUNCTIONS OF CONTEMPORARY ROMANIA

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Abstract. Structural diversity and functional performance insure the systems viability on a long term. Inherently, these ones suppose also varied causes/conjunctures with a disfunctional effect. The capacity to attenuate or to eliminate the produced disfunctions, on the basis of their own self-regulation resources, is the surest possibility to maintain the system's status. The degradation/reduction of this capacity allows some interconnections of the initial disfunctions, with an aggravating effect and produces/attracts new disfunctions etc.; the adverse evolution orientates the system, gradually or rapidly, towards dezorganization. The attenuation of the disfunctions, the reconstruction and the maintainance of viability suppose either the spontaneous/conducted activation of some natural self-regulating devices or some deliberate actions in order to clear up the genesis of the functions, to obtain a diagnosis of the state and the documentation/substantialization of the decision. The actual quantitative domination of the sectorial diagnosis creates the wrong impression of a systemic reliable documentation. In reality, the sectorial documentation induces, extrapolating, analitical decisions over some complex, active areas which need a decisional synthesis. So, insufficient or unadvised documentation is at the origin of some big errors and losses. On the background of some strong disfunctional consequences, the succession of political, social and economic, variable and complex conjunctures of the last twenty years has introduced and produced in contemporary Romania a series of natural and social-economic disfunctions which potentiate themselves mutually, oversoliciting and sometimes exceeding their own redressing possibilities. The progressive continentalization of the regime of the main climatic elements, the increasing frequency and length of the extreme climatic phenomena, the frequency of the great positive oscillations of the river levels and flows, the oscillations with an important difference of value of the level of the underground waters, the increasing instability of the slopes and the exacerbated dynamics of the river beds etc. express the overbalancing of the natural interactive performance on our national territory. With strong implications in the political and social-economic performance,

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these disfunctions are often potentiated/ released by political and social-economic activities and decisions. By its capacity to produce an integrating, synthetic, fundamental and applicative research, the geographic demarche can insure a systemic diagnosis of state and, so, a pertinent documentation of the decision, building and offering - in its specific, spatialized vision – the quantified/qualitatively evaluated visual image of some elements, processes and phenomena, of some areas of actual acute interest: the natural dynamics of the slopes and of the river beds; the consequences of the land use on the actual morpho-dynamics; the liability to flooding; the anthropic impact on the underground waters; the spatial variability of the bio-climatic confort; the actual quality of the soil in relation to the natural pedogenetic processes and to the anthropic influence; the actual state and the evolutive trends of the natural ecosystems, the rehabilitation premises of the degraded ones; the evaluation of the natural potential and of the natural favorability for habitation, transportation and tourism; the evaluation of human-dermographic and economic potential; the identification of the objective forms of evolution of the network of human settlements; the analysis, the evaluation and the rational use/rehabilitation of the natural/anthropized environment etc.

1. The origin of the disfunctions in the systemic structures

The *measure* (with the meaning of formal, dimensional, rhythmic and other adequations) in which the structural diversity is involved in a properly well-balanced functionality, has a capital importance for the viability of every system. The richer and the more diverse it is and the better it is organized, the more communicative inside, more open and suppler it is in outer relations, and more capable it is to self-regulate efficiently in its evolution and not only on a short or medium term.

But, if the mentionned measure is no more (naturally) maintained, or if it is infringed (deliberately or under the pression of some artificial and unfavourable conjunctures), neither the structural diversity nor the dynamic „experience” can save the system any more. More and more numerous and more serious disfunctions interconnect themselves, the resources can not mobilize themselves any more for the internal benefit, the access to the external resources becomes neither motivated nor accepted, the systemic reactions become weak, delayed or ceasing, the flows segment themselves and lose their best trajects, the constitutive elements partially perish, partially degrade themselves or they are polarized by other structures, the identity becomes dimmer and, gradually or sometimes very rapidly, the system disorganizes itself.

Evidently, during the existence of every system, this wasting evolution is equally possible, so as its viability on a long term. Equally evident, the structural and functional complexity can play a positive part, as a self-regulatory potential,

but can also operate as a diversified source of disfunctions, since the appearance of an essential lack of balance.

With a different weight and a different effect on the guiding of the evolution of the natural, artificialized or half-artificialized systems, of different sizes and with different degrees of complexity, the disfunctions are also, concomitantly, warning signals or even indicators of the rhythm and of the duration of the dezorganization.

Appreciating, according to its spatial and functional limits, to its constitutive elements, to the systemic communication infrastructure, to the reserves, to the flows, to the characteristics of the decision and to its specific rhythms, that every state can be assimilated with a complex system, we consider that an attentive geographical analyse of the existing disfunctions in our national system, especially in the actual social, economic, politic and environmental context, is absolutely necessary. This is, in fact, the first step towards the diagnosis of the actual condition of the national system, state whose recovery can only rely on a perfect documentation.

2. Reasons/conjunctures with a disfunctional effect in contemporary Romania

With the precise purpose of the most realistic identification possible of the reasons generating disfunctions in the present and taking into account the great complexity of a structure in which the constitutive elements with a decisional role enter also concomitantly in the aria of human resources, the fact that the decisions and the corresponding flows affect and implicate not only these resources but also all the elements and reserves which constitute Romania's natural frame and that frequently the processes and the phenomena with a disfunctional effect are unleashed, potentiated or attenuated in an artificial way, a differentiation becomes imperative between those with a natural dominating characteristic and those produced as an effect of the social-economic and politic, internal and external functionality.

Even if the differentiation which we propose afterwards wears the mark of an utilitarian vision, it may be, nevertheless, objectively argued. This way, one can distinguish a *powerfull natural mark* in the case of some disfunctions with a climatic, hydric, morpho-dynamic, pedological and ecosystemic character, such as:

- the *continentalisation* of the regime of the main climatic elements, on the background of the constant growth of the average temperature and of the *growing frequency and duration* of the extreme phenomena;

- the *frequency and the great positive oscillations of the river levels* and flows, so as the great *oscillations* of the underground water levels;

- *the fragilisation with natural/induced* reasons of the alteration crusts, the *destabilisation* of the slopes and the *(natural/induced) exacerbated dynamics* of the river beds;

- *the (spontaneous) renaturation of the destructured soils and the metabolization*, with a specific inertia, of the nocive substances penetrated in the soil;

- *the specific inertia of the regeneration* of the degraded ecosystems.

The *internal and the international systemic social-economic, politic and juridical context* generates another series of disfunctions, which points out to abnormal conditions and announce some adverse, destructuring or even agonizing evolutions of the system, such as:

- *the degradation of demographic behaviour*, with the value lowering of the main indicators, *the disturbance of the population age groups structure, the reduction of life expectancy at birth* and a *constantly progressive professional devitalization*;

- *the proliferation of some administrative structures* with social functions and of some *non-governmental organizations* with the same orientation, both categories with a very variable efficiency (partially compensated by the interventions of the mass media and by the implication of the religious institutions);

- *the aleatory dynamics* of some institutionalized structures involved in the settlement of the social life, the juridical and public order frame included, *a strict social segregation*;

- *the oscillating public/private status in the economy* (industry, agriculture, transports etc.) and *the inefficiency of some privatization*, frequently illegal and with an illegal evolution, to the detriment of the public interest;

- *the status and the uncertain resources* of the small and medium companies, *insufficiently encouraged and supported*, frequently upset or even eliminated from the economic exchequer;

- the systematically maintained *confusion, uncertainty* and *legislative unproperty*;

- *the frequently insufficient, dishonest and inefficient financial control*;

- *the long term modest foreign investments*, discouraged by bureaucracy and by legislative instability, only lately becoming more substantial and still producing relatively inconsistent benefits on the internal plan;

- *the systematic externalization of the capital and of the labour force*;

- *the savage evolution of the dwelling* (extensions, densification), of a *precarious quality, undersized and with a chaotic development* of the utilitarian network;

- *the aberrant evolution* of the real market, with an exaggerated, deliberately hindered takeoff, which cannot be made more accessible even by the current economic crisis;
- *serious insufficiencies of the transportation infrastructure* and of the transport *organization*;
- *imbalances of the rural settlement network*, by the vulnerabilization, reaching their disappearance, of the small and ageing settlements and by the lack of administrative support for the settlements having a polarizing capacity;
- *irrational interventions*, coming from the centre, *on the evolution of the urban settlements network*, the systematic implication of many local administrations in a wrong valorization of the urban space and patrimony;
- the prevailing *unstable financial market*, supplementary destabilized by the current economic crisis;
- all the above mentioned on the background of an evergrowing corruption and the serious problems of maintaining a reduced level of the general revenues of the population, on an individual, local and national plan, and the incapacity of the society to connect itself to the engaged european level and the important difficulties to react to the shocks produced by the dynamics of the European or world market.

3. The diagnosis of the layout

A very accurate diagnosis of the layout, however gloomy or promising could it be, is an imperative condition to identify the possibilities to maintain the system quality, and then, to create some new possibilities of development. Under a concrete aspect, although some sector diagnosis have already been achieved, in the national system, these ones are not yet useful instruments, because many of them are still unhomogenous from the point of view of the data basis, reference intervals, detail level etc. But the most important decision and diagnosis deficit come from its exclusive and perennial sectorial character. No institutional sector, research structure, statistical system, law article or administrative structure etc. can endorse the integration of the sectorial status diagnosis and the wording of some diagnosis with a synthesis character. The integrated environment monitoring, the most advanced form of overfulfillment of the sectorial approach, is nothing but a sum of sectorial information about the quality indicators of some natural elements, accompanied by the indication of some remediation/struggle, attenuation/improvement etc. measures. No official, public or private, demarche proposes a simultaneous investigation of some natural and social-economic disfunctions, in the contingency of their genetic co-determination, of some evolution in a consecutive succession, of the consequences with a retro- and interactive effect etc.

4. The quality of the decision and its objective documentation

But, logically necessary, the identification of the causes/conjunctures with a disfunctional effect is, in itself, only ascertaining, having no ability for a functional rehabilitation. Referring to an attenuation of the disfunctions and to the accumulation of some premisses of recovering, the attention must be concentrated on the decision in the system.

Generally speaking, the importance of the decision's quality in the viable systemic structures is concretized *by the correct orientation and sizing of the flows, the rhythm modulation, the fitting of the self-regulation mechanism by reduction, compensations etc.*, a possible *more realistic prediction and responsible strategies*, at least on medium term; a decision of a good quality is the only thing which can attenuate and can even lastingly remediate interior or internalized disfunctions, ensuring a dynamic restoring of a dynamic equilibrium.

The decision's quality competences are, firstly, of an internal origin. In complex systemic structures, as the social-economic ones are, polarizing natural structures and having an important impact on them, these competences wear the mark of the anthropocentrism and of all the negative conceptions of human subjectivism.

Valid anywhere in the world, this finding is strongly confirmed in the contemporary Romania, where, for nearly two decades, the structures, the mechanisms and the forms of decision oscillate in a vicious or in a rapidly corrupting field, where *the incompetence* and *the indecision* are only some benign dead weights. *The decisional disfunction* has serious consequences, all the more so that the structure has begun to run with half-lethal lacks, it has been pushed to an (irrational) rapid consumption or its specific resources have even been robbed, at the end the structure finding itself in the situation of connecting itself to European equilibrated structures, having a running evolutive technique and being highly demanding.

In the theoretical and applicative conclusion of the constated facts (concerning the significance of the disfunctions in the systemic evolution, formulating the state diagnosis and taking the decision), at least one of the possibilities of valoric recovering of the last one comes into view: the assurance of a relevant documentation.

A brief look over the general assurance method of the today decision documentation in Romania give emphasis to the fact that for the generating of very many of the mentioned disfunctions, for their analysis and for the possible solutions the documentation is frequently insufficient, expedited and incorrect. Very often it is missing. In an allarming proportion, it is made by unspecialized persons or by persons having only a very narrow specialization, specialization extrapolated over some structural segments or some functional sequences which

are not known or not understood by them, but in connection with whom these ones make pronouncements and fundament theories.

The Romanian geography, slowly, little and still unconclusively involved, with its immense applicative capacity, is today more necessary than ever in the social, economic and politic life of the country. Although it has wasted much of the capital of useful time, period in which it would have had to become already involved in the social and economic life, it remains an exceptional resource, more than ever necessary, as the general way in the political, economic and social transition time has been and still is difficult, frequently obstructed/corrupted and, so, wearing, during the time, some permanent difficulties, resource more useful as an important part of the strictly gheographical documentation of the decision is still covered (with its respective errors, gaps and damages) from the exterior of the geography.

An (brief) enumeration of some areas of good geographical documentation, made in time, which, perhaps, would have been able to avoid many local and national damages, is more than a conclusive one:

- *the natural dynamics of the slopes and of the river beds; the effects of the land use on the actual morpho-dynamics;*
- *the natural / influenced by human activity regime of water levels and flows; the submission to floods; the anthropic impact on the feeding and the dynamics of the underground waters;*
- *the climatic regime; meteorologic phenomena with extreme manifestations; the spatial variability of the bio-climatic confort;*
- *the actual state of the soil in a natural context; the soil quality in relation to the natural pedo-genetic factors and to the anthropic influence;*
- *the actual state of the ecosystems; tendencies; premises for equilibrium /rehabilitation;*
- *the appraisal of the natural potential, with the esteem of the ajustement for habitation, for agriculture, transportation and tourism;*
- *the appraisal of the – demographic, economic - human potential;*
- *the analysis, the appraisal and the reasonable land use /rehabilitation of the environment.*

Completing this enumeration and adding to the still mentioned documentation areas the specific mark of the geography – the spatiality and the spatialized visualization by the map, we delineate, in fact, one of the most efficient and useful proportional manners of our science, to the support of the objective knowledge, of the improvement, even of the settlement, on a long term, of some of the most acute actual problems of the country.

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