

**ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC FINANCE**

**METHODOLOGY FOR DRAWING UP THE “STRATEGY” FOR THE  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2007-2013**

**The Chapter “Strategy” represents the essential element of the NDP 2007-2013, in order to establish the national development priorities for the reference period and the objectives that will lead to achieve these priorities.**

Also, the major development priorities and objectives of NDP will substantiate and guide the drawing up of the Operational Programmes, through which the EU Structural Funds are implemented.

In conformity with the “*Vademecum for Structural Funds Plans and Programming Documents*” prepared by the European Commission, the Strategy chapter of NDP must include the following elements:

- Presentation of the NDP priorities established in order to solve the problems identified within the first stage of the NDP drawing up, respectively the social-economic analysis;
- Mentioning, within each priority, the development objectives, quantifiable as much as possible.
- A description of the strategy aimed to reach these development objectives, including measures established in order to achieve these objectives;
- A synthesis of the planned activities for the implementation of the strategy and a brief presentation of the expected impact of the strategy;
- How the drawn-up strategy reflects:
  - the characteristics specific to each state/region, including the demographic trends;
  - the situation on environmental protection, integration of the environment requirements and presentation on how the policy and Community instruments on environment protection are in compliance with;
  - integration of women and men on the labour market;
  - the EU strategy on employment, including how the priorities reflects the National Programme on Employment, as well as the European Guidelines on the employment policies of the Member States;
  - regional, national and Community policies, including those relevant for human resources development from economic and social perspective (education and vocational training, R&D and innovation, information society, social inclusion, etc.);
  - indicative orientation of the Commission that establish the Community priorities;

- correlation between the priorities established in the NDP and Operational Programmes, that will be presented to the Commission simultaneously with the NDP.

### **National development priorities for NDP 2007-2013**

The development strategy of the NDP 2007-2013 will be structured starting from a limited number of national development priorities, therefore ensuring the concentration of the available resources in order to achieve the objectives and measures having a maximum impact on reducing the discrepancies compared to the European Union and on reducing the internal discrepancies.

At the same time, having in view the role of NDP 2007-2013 to substantiate the applying for the EU Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund, **these priorities should be compatible with the fields of intervention of these instruments**, in conformity with the Community regulations.

The socio-economic analysis and the SWOT sectoral and regional analysis lead to the following **proposals on the national development priorities for the 2007-2013 programming period**:

- *Increasing economic competitiveness and development of the economy based on knowledge;*
- *Development and modernisation of the transport infrastructure;*
- *Protection and improvement of the environment quality;*
- *Human resources development, increasing employability, and combating social exclusion;*
- *Development of the rural economy and increasing productivity in the agricultural sector*
- *Support the balanced participation of Romania's regions to the social and economic development*

This set of priorities maintains the guidelines established by NDP 2004-2006 (approved by the Romanian Government in December 2003), and agreed by the European Commission. Furthermore, within the negotiations for Chapter 21 "Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments" (closed at 23 September 2004), the Romanian authorities and the European Commission have established the future Operational Programmes by means of Structural Funds will be managed on the basis on areas covered by the above-mentioned priorities.

Also, the Strategy will include, as for NDP 2004-2006, a chapter dedicated to objectives in the field of **cross-border cooperation** for 2007-2013.

## General Guidelines

1. The starting point to draw up the NDP Strategy will be the **NDP 2004-2006**, finalised and sent to the European Commission in December 2003. The priorities, objectives and guidelines established in this document for the period 2004-2006 should be analysed in order to identify the strategic elements that maintain the relevance and availability for 2007-2013. The NDP 2004-2006 strategy provides a suggestive picture on how the presentation of the strategic elements for 2007-2013 should be structured by priorities.

Also, the ex-ante evaluation report of the NDP 2004 - 2006 provides additional guidance's elements to reduce certain discrepancies registered in the previous programming exercise, as well as to complete the strategic options.

2. A very useful source of information is the **relevant programming documents drawn up by the new Member States for 2004-2006**, respectively: *National Development Plan, Community Support Framework and Operational Programmes*.
3. NDP 2007-2013 doesn't intend to present a comprehensive list of development objectives, but, in conformity with the principle of the concentration of resources, to **prioritise** the objectives in order to obtain a maximum impact on the level of social and economic development of Romania in the future programming exercise, with the support of financing for the structural actions granted by the European Union.
4. All development priorities and objectives should be **supported by the social-economic analysis** elaborated in the first stage of drawing up the NDP 2007-2013, mentioning in this way the logic link between the identified development need/deficiency and the measures proposed for the improvement of the situation.
5. An essential aspect for drawing up the NDP Strategy is **designing the strategic options from the point of view of a Member State**. The current programming documents focused on the priorities and objectives imposed by the preparation process for EU accession. On the other hand, the NDP 2007-2013 will be the first development plan drawn up by Romania as a Member State. One of the main implications is, obviously, the fact that the commitments made during the negotiations to be fulfilled up to the date of accession will not be relevant for the NDP 2007-2013. On the other hand, the commitments (for which the transition periods have been obtained) on the *acquis communautaire* implementation, mainly those that consist in significant financial efforts (e.g. environment protection) will be taken into consideration.

6. The NDP 2007-2013 should make a multi-annual programming of the economic and social development, through the **correlation** of:
  - National sectoral development strategies;
  - National strategy for regional development;
  - Strategic guidance at the European level;
  - Specific requirements on applying for Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund
7. As regards the **sectoral development strategies**, the accession to the European Union and the accession negotiations lead to draw up, in the last years, many programming documents, but having different reference periods. The drawing up of the NDP Strategy implies the **compliance of these periods and the extrapolation of the major guidelines up to 2013**.

A key element from this point of view is the sectoral strategies developed within the **National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Romania "Orizont 2005"**. The coherence of the development planning process at the national level imposes the assurance of a close correlation between the NDP and the Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Having in view the spatial/territorial dimension of the economic and social cohesion policy, establishing the priority guidelines should also take into account the provisions of the **National Plan for Territory Arrangement**, as well the County/Regional Plans for Territory Arrangement.

8. The strategic objectives for regional development will be based on the options formulated by the development regions through the **Regional Development Plans** (RDPs) that represent the substantiated elements for NDP.

Therefore, a special attention will be paid to the delimitations between the areas supported by the sectoral development priorities on the one hand, and by the territorial priority for regional development on the other hand. The identification of these delimitations from the drafting stage of the NDP Strategy will ensure the coherence in drawing up the Operational Programmes, these two processes being close linked.

9. Taking into account the fact that Romania will be a member of the European Union starting with 2007, the national development priorities and objectives should be within the **strategic orientation and guidelines established at the Community level** (e.g. economic policies, employment policies, trans-European networks, education, research & development, etc.).

Therefore, the Community objectives established by the horizontal strategies as the **"The Lisbon Strategy for Economic, Social and**

**Environmental renewal”, “The European Employment Strategy”** or by **specific sectoral strategies** represent the issues of high importance for drafting the NDP Strategies.

10. As it was previously mentioned, due to the essential role of the NDP 2007-2013 to substantiate at national level case in applying for EU Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund funds, **the development priorities and objectives of NDP should be compatible with the fields of intervention of these instruments**, in conformity with the Community regulations. However, these will be further developed in drawing-up of the Operational Programmes.

From this point of view, the difficulty resulted from the reform process of the cohesion policy at the EU level for the 2007-2013 programming exercise is highlighted. Therefore, the strategic options of NDP should start from the valid *acquis communitaire* on the Structural Funds implementation (mainly the Council Regulation no. 1260/1999), but should also take into consideration, in advance, the modifications proposed by the European Commission through the set of draft regulations published in July 2004.

11. The NDP Strategy should contain **quantifiable objectives**, based on which the state of achieving these objectives could be further monitored. Therefore, the support of each national development priority will be accompanied by a **table** containing **defining development indicators** for the areas covered by the respective priority, their current levels, as well as the targets foreseen for 2013. Therefore, the similar tables of NDP 2004-2006 represent the starting point in establishing the appropriate matrix of indicators.

### **Institutional and partnership framework**

As regards the institutional responsibilities and the co-ordination and co-operation methods to draw up the NDP 2007-2013 Strategy, in conformity with the Government Decision 403/2004, the **Ministry of Public Finance** - CSF Managing Authority – NDP Department play the role of the general co-ordinator of the work.

The body at national level that links the central public institutions, representatives of the development regions, economic and social partners, research-development institutes and the higher education institutes that co-operate in drafting the NDP is the **Inter-institutional Committee for drawing up the NDP (ICP)**, in conformity with GD no. 1115/2004 on drawing up the NDP in partnership.

At the regional level, the Regional Committees for drawing up the Regional Development Plans (RCP) will provide under the methodological co-ordination of MEI the necessary elements on strategic options of regional development.

The effective drafting of the NDP Strategy, by each of the identified development priorities, will be carried out within the **thematic working groups** established in order to draw up the NDP, as follows:

<b>Thematic Working Group</b>	<b>Co-ordinator</b>
Increase the economic competitiveness (industry, energy, SMEs, tourism, research-development, information society)	Ministry of Economy and Commerce
Development and modernisation of the transport infrastructure	Ministry of Transport, Constructions and Tourism
Protection and improvement of the environment quality	Ministry of Environment and Waters Management
Human resources and social services development	Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family
Agriculture, rural development and fishery	Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and rural Development
Regional development and cross-border cooperation	Ministry of European Integration

The co-ordinating institutions in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Finances will ensure the co-ordination and coherence of the contributions (inputs) made by other institutions participating in the thematic working groups.

Having in view the complexity of this NDP 2007-2013 chapter, in the next period the Ministry of Public Finance will contact the above-mentioned co-ordinators in order to organise meetings at the level of experts in order to discuss in detail the conceptual and methodological issues on the NDP 2007-2013 Strategy. The participation to these meetings of the representatives of the MAs and OIs for the related operational programmes is a **compulsory requirement**.

In order **to carry out in partnership the planning process**, the involvement in drafting the strategic development options of the ministries and public institutions with responsibilities in the relevant area, and of other relevant partners (e.g. professional associations, employers associations, regional structures, research institutes, universities, etc.) is important. Therefore, the more active involvement of the partners creates the premises to draw up a more efficient strategy based on the real needs of the social and economic development.

## **Timetable**

- The deadline for co-ordinating institutions of the thematic working groups to send to MFP the draft strategy corresponding to 6 national priorities of development, as well as the cross-border cooperation strategy is **3 December 2004**.
- Finalisation of the NDP Strategy - **31 December 2005**.

*The MPF, through the NDP Department, express the total availability to support altogether with the technical consultation team for drawing up the NDP, the drafting of strategic options for NDP 2007-2013 at the level of thematic working groups and their component institutions.*