

FROM MIGRATION TO MOBILITY: THE IMPACT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Increased migration is one of the most visible and significant aspects of globalisation: growing numbers of people move within countries and across borders, looking for better employment opportunities and better lifestyles. Although migration is usually seen as problematic, it contributes to sustainable development. Sustainable development has been a fundamental objective of the European Union since 1997. EU as an organisation creates a wide acting mechanism which is based on number of documents. 15-16 June 2006 EU heads of state and government adopted the reviewed sustainable development strategy in the European Council. Following the objectives and principles of the sustainable development defined in that strategy emerges the phenomena of migration transformation to mobility.

Key words: *migration, mobility, sustainable development.*

Scientific problem:

Goal of the research - to analyse the transformation of migration to mobility as the impact of the sustainable development.

Research objectives:

- To analyse the mechanism of sustainable development
- To study the EU actions towards sustainable development
- To define the transformation of migration to mobility

Research methods:

- *Analysis* of scientific literature, documents and reports.

The main thesis of the Draft

1. EU towards sustainable development

Sustainable development was defined by the Brundtland report in 1987 as "*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*". It is development based on consumption and production patterns that do not degrade natural resources, that protect the environment, promote equitable sharing of well-being to all and alleviate poverty. As a fundamental objective of the European Union sustainable development appeared from 1997. It was enshrined as article 2 of the Treaty. It is supposed to underpin all EU policies and actions as an over-arching principle.

As a complement to the broad EU strategy for socio-economic reforms, defined at the Lisbon European Council in 2000 (the "Lisbon agenda"), the EU adopted an equally ambitious Strategy for Sustainable Development (SDS) at the Gothenburg Summit one year later and added an external dimension to the strategy in Barcelona in 2002.

In 2005, the Commission started a review of the Sustainable Development Strategy:

- In February 2005, it published an initial and critical assessment of progress made since 2001 and outlined a number of future orientations for the review. This stocktaking exercise highlighted several unsustainable trends that have worsened since 2001 (climate change,

threats to public health, increasing poverty and social exclusion, depletion of natural resources and loss of biodiversity).

- In June 2005, EU heads of state and government adopted a declaration on "guiding principles for sustainable development", which states explicitly that the "renewed Lisbon agenda is an essential component of the over-arching objective of sustainable development".
- The Commission presented its proposal for the review "A Platform for Action" on 13 December 2005 after consultations with several institutions and stakeholders. The communication puts a stronger focus on **six priorities** (climate change, health, social exclusion, sustainable transport, natural resources and global poverty) and identifies key actions to be undertaken on these issues. It also presents ideas for more effective monitoring and follow-up such as a progress report to be issued by the Commission every two years.

2. The EU's sustainable development strategy faces several challenges.

Some of these challenges are very similar to the problems encountered by the other big strategy of the Union, the Lisbon agenda:

- *Clarification of SDS relationship with the reforms agenda for growth and jobs*

Although the EU has explicitly stated that sustainable development is the over-arching principle of all EU policies, in reality, the issue of Europe's economic competitiveness in the face of globalisation has come to dominate the political agenda. The refocused Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs has become the main objective of the Barroso Commission.

The three pillars of the Lisbon strategy (economic competitiveness, social inclusion and environmental protection) have been compared to "three children", one of which -competitiveness - needs more attention. In this process, the sustainable development strategy is sometimes even reduced to the environmental pillar of the Lisbon strategy.

Several commissioners have on different occasions made statements along the same lines, stating that what is needed is "economic growth first" before the EU can act to protect the environment or implement social protection policies. The fact that the EU has a "competitiveness council" but no "sustainable development council" and no member state has an SD minister proves that sustainable development is not yet a real political concern or that political leaders lack the understanding for the necessary paradigm change of economic and social development.

The fact that the Commission's own December Communication does not see the EU's competitiveness challenge as a seventh key focus demonstrates its own lack of understanding for the interlinking between the EU's two major strategies.

- *Lack of focus, effective monitoring and targets*

Because sustainable development is such a broad concept, sometimes too many different issues are being put under the umbrella of the SDS, therefore taking attention away from the most unsustainable trends. There is also a general lack of good indicators and future targets.

- *Ownership*

There is a lack of clarity about the relationship between the EU SDS and national sustainable development strategies. There is no mandatory goal for member states to have a sustainable development strategy, but for those who have a good strategy (with an effective and independent sustainable development council such as in the UK or Germany), it is not too clear how it relates to that of the EU.

- *Governance*

As sustainable development is a very horizontal, cross-sectoral issue, there is a question as to which council formation and which Commission Directorate-General should be in charge. Also, is there a need for mandatory national sustainable development plans, just as there are national Lisbon Reform Programmes?

3. Latest step of the EU towards sustainable development.

The June 2006 European Council adopted a renewed EU sustainable development strategy. This document sets out a single, coherent strategy on how the EU will more effectively live up to its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development. It reaffirms the need for global solidarity and recognises the importance of strengthening our work with partners outside the EU, including those rapidly developing countries which will have a significant impact on global sustainable development. The overall aim of the renewed EU SDS is to identify and develop actions to enable the EU to achieve continuous improvement of quality of life both for current and for future generations, through the creation of sustainable communities able to manage and use resources efficiently and to tap the ecological and social innovation potential of the economy, ensuring prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion.

Sustainable development means that the needs of the present generation should be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is an overarching objective of the European Union set out in the Treaty, governing all the Union's policies and activities. It is about safeguarding the earth's capacity to support life in all its diversity and is based on the principles of democracy, gender equality, solidarity, the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights, including freedom and equal opportunities for all. It aims at the continuous improvement of the quality of life and well-being on Earth for present and future generations. To that end it promotes a dynamic economy with full employment and a high level of education, health protection, social and territorial cohesion and environmental protection in a peaceful and secure world, respecting cultural diversity.

To serve as a basis for this renewed strategy, the European Council in June 2005 approved a declaration with the following **objectives and principles**:

Key objectives:

- Environmental protections
- Social equity and cohesion
- Economic prosperity
- Meeting our international responsibilities

Policy guiding principles:

- Promotion and protection of fundamental rights
- Solidarity within and between generations
- Open and democratic society
- Involvement of citizens
- Involvement of businesses and social partners
- Policy coherence and governance
- Policy integration
- Use best available knowledge
- Precautionary principle
- Make polluters pay

4. Synergies between the EU SDS and the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs

The EU SDS and the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs complement each other. The SDS is primarily concerned with quality of life, intra- and inter-generational equity and coherence between all policy areas, including external aspects. It recognises the role of economic development in facilitating the transition to a more sustainable society. The Lisbon Strategy makes an essential contribution to the overarching objective of sustainable development focusing primarily on actions

and measures aimed at increasing competitiveness and economic growth and enhancing job creation.

The EU SDS forms the overall framework within which the Lisbon Strategy, with its renewed focus on growth and jobs, provides the motor of a more dynamic economy. These two strategies recognise that economic, social and environmental objectives can reinforce each other and they should therefore advance together. Both strategies aim at supporting the necessary structural changes which enable the Member States economies to cope with the challenges of globalisation by creating a level playing field in which dynamism, innovation and creative entrepreneurship can flourish whilst ensuring social equity and a healthy environment. In this context the EU SDS recognises that investments in human, social and environmental capital as well as technological innovation are the prerequisites for long-term competitiveness and economic prosperity, social cohesion, quality employment and better environmental protection.

5. Key challenges of sustainable development

Bearing in mind worsening environmental trends, the EU's economic and social challenges coupled with new competitive pressures and new international commitments, the EU SDS identifies 7 key challenges and corresponding targets, operational objectives and actions:

- *Climate Change and clean energy* (to limit climate change and its costs and negative effects to society and the environment)
- *Sustainable Transport* (to ensure that our transport systems meet society's economic, social and environmental needs whilst minimising their undesirable impacts on the economy, society and the environment)
- *Sustainable consumption and production* (to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns)
- *Conservation and management of natural resources* (to improve management and avoid overexploitation of natural resources, recognising the value of ecosystem services)
- *Public Health* (to promote good public health on equal conditions and improve protection against health threats)
- *Social inclusion, demography and migration* (to create a socially inclusive society by taking into account solidarity between and within generations and to secure and increase the quality of life of citizens as a precondition for lasting individual well-being)
- *Global poverty and sustainable development challenges* (to actively promote sustainable development worldwide and ensure that the European Union's internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments).

Following the highlighted challenges the migration appears as one of them. There are also defined *operational objectives and targets*:

- Pursuing the EU objective that steps have to be taken to make a decisive impact on the reduction of the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2010 with a special focus on the need to reduce child poverty.
- Ensuring a high level of social and territorial cohesion at EU level and in the Member States as well as respect for cultural diversity. Supporting the Member States in their efforts to modernise social protection in view of demographic changes.
- Significantly increasing the labour market participation of women and older workers according to set targets, as well as increasing employment of migrants by 2010.
- Continuing developing an EU migration policy, accompanied by policies to strengthen the integration of migrants and their families, taking into account also the economic dimension of migration.
- Reducing the negative effects of globalisation on workers and their families.

- Promoting increased employment of young people. Intensifying efforts to reduce early school leaving to 10% and to ensure that at least 85% of 22 year olds should have completed upper secondary education. By the end of 2007 every young person who has left school and is unemployed should be offered a job, apprenticeship, additional training or other employability measure within six months, and within no more than 4
- months by 2010.
- Increasing the labour market participation of disabled persons.

Actions should include:

- On the basis of the new objectives and working methods for social protection and social inclusion endorsed by the European Council in March 2006, Member States and the Commission will continue their cooperation using the open method of coordination (OMC). In this context the EU and Member States will also take the necessary measures to rapidly and significantly reduce child poverty and will work towards giving all children equal opportunities, regardless of their social background, gender or disabilities.
- On the basis of the Communication on “Social Services of General Interest” the Commission and the Member States will continue efforts to ensure that social services contribute actively to social inclusion and cohesion, and support the objectives of growth and employment. The Commission and the Member States will also continue the work on a further clarification of the impact of Community law on social services of general interest.
- The Member States will continue implementation of the European Pact for Youth. In the structured dialogue with young people during each Presidency organisations active in the field of European youth policy, among them the European Youth Forum, should be invited to feed in sustainable development issues of interest for young people by preparing these dialogues between youth and governments.
- Member States and the EU will implement the European Pact for Gender Equality agreed at the European Council in March 2006.
- Taking into account the ageing of populations in all European countries, the sustainability and adequacy of pensions will remain an important issue for the coming decades. The EU will continue to support the efforts of Member States to modernize social protection systems and ensure their sustainability. Member States should reduce public debt at a satisfactory pace, raising employment rates and productivity, as well as reforming health care and long-term care systems.
- In 2006 the Commission will adopt a Communication on the demographic future of Europe examining how the EU can help Member States respond to the demographic challenges they face, notably by promoting active and healthy ageing strategies, the reconciliation of work and family life, better conditions for families, also taking into account the contribution of immigration.
- Member States should analyse the possible implications of demographic change for land use and resource and energy consumption as well as mobility, and take them into account in planning and investment at all levels.
- The EU and the Member States will continue to develop an EU migration policy, accompanied by policies to strengthen the integration of migrants and their families, notably through the policy plan on migration, including admissions procedures. They will intensify cooperation with third countries and work towards joint responses to control migration flows. In 2006 the Commission will present a Communication on future priorities in the fight against illegal immigration.

6. Knowledge Society and sustainable development

The erection and creation of Knowledge Society influences the new preconditions of sustainable development:

Education and training

Education is a prerequisite for promoting the behavioural changes and providing all citizens with the key competences needed to achieve sustainable development. Success in reversing unsustainable trends will to a large extent depend on high-quality education for sustainable development at all levels of education including education on issues such as the sustainable use of energies and transport systems, sustainable consumption and production patterns, health, media competence and responsible global citizenship.

Education can contribute to greater social cohesion and well-being through investments in social capital and by ensuring equal opportunities, citizens participation especially of disadvantaged groups to achieve a higher degree of awareness and understanding of the complexity and many interdependencies in today's world. Education that provides women and men with competences that increase their employability and lead to high quality employment is also key in strengthening the competitiveness of the EU.

Research and development:

Research into sustainable development must include short-term decision support projects and long-term visionary concepts and has to tackle problems of a global and regional nature. It has to promote inter- and transdisciplinary approaches involving social and natural sciences and bridge the gap between science, policy-making and implementation. The positive role of technology for smart growth has to be further developed. There is still a strong need for further research in the interplay between social, economic and ecological systems, and in methodologies and instruments for risk analysis, back- and forecasting and prevention systems.

It is key in that regard to ensure effective implementation of the 7th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities, involving academia, industry and policy-makers and to advance the implementation of the Environmental Technology Action Plan.

For better understanding of interlinkages between the three dimensions of SD, the core system of national income accounting could be extended by inter alia integrating stock and flow concepts and non-market work and be further elaborated by satellite accounts e.g. environmental expenditures, material flows and taking into consideration international best practices.

Universities, research institutes and private enterprises all have an essential role to play in promoting research that supports efforts to ensure that economic growth and environmental protection reinforce each other. Universities and other higher education institutions have a key role in providing education and training that equip the qualified workforce with the necessary competences to fully develop and exploit sustainable technologies. They should also contribute to low environmental impact management through interdisciplinary approaches and by building on existing networks. Creation of partnerships and cooperation between European and third country universities and higher education institutions, encouraging networking and peer learning, should be promoted.

The further analysis of the strategy and others documents as well as papers will let to represent the mechanism of sustainable development, to highlight the main actions of the EU towards sustainable development where the migration appears as one of the challenges. The analysis and studies of documents will let to represent emerging changes of sustainable

development as phenomena under the influence of the Knowledge Society creation where as the result of these changes the transformation of migration to mobility appears.