



Judgment of the Local and Regional Programs in Case of Sustainability (Slovenia)

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Abstract. Local and regional programs are strategic documents in which are planned activities for the time span of five or more years in advance. In this article we analysed inclusion of sustainable indicators into local and regional programs because in 2013 expires valid period of the majority of available development programs in Slovenia. With the help of the sustainable development literature we created the indicators and checked them in the selected local and regional development programs. Therefore we point out, that these programs were written on weak sustainable basis.

Key words: development programs, sustainable development, local community, Slovenia.

1. Introduction

Current regional and local development programs in majority have emphasized, that they are sustainable and that they support sustainable development (Vovk Korže, 2010; Jakešova, Vaishar, 2012). In their content is the most emphasised the need after their competition and GDP growth. There is the question, how is sustainability actually understood, according to the fact that we are being warned by the scientists, that the planet Earth in 21. century faces great dangers which are people in majority the reason for (Pintrich, Schrunk, 2002). These are shown as the lack of food and pure drinking water, growth of the massive force storms, extinction of the vegetation and animal species, which leads into collapse of the ecosystems and growth of the medical risks. Massive problem is as well high surplus of the nitrogen in the soils and waters because of extremely big intensification of farming. Many self-cleaning capabilities of our planets yet still remain unknown (Butt, Hemmer, Hernando, Houtsonen, 2006), therefore we need considerate, tolerant and planned relation to nature already

by planning the development activities. Accepting of the EU Strategy for sustainable development (Prugh, Assadourian, 2003; Ekins, Medhurst, 2003) in the European Council session in Gothenburg in June 2001 was a step to awareness that is necessary to take care for climate changes, traffic, health and natural treasures simultaneously. In year 2002 commission presented another message of the Commission about external dimensions of sustainable development. It points out that must economic, social and environmental views work as one (Prugh, Assadourian, 2003; Tilbury, Wortman, 2006).

In year 2013 expires 5- year program period in which have local and regional communities planned their development priorities. At the end of 2013 program area we evaluated selected local and regional programs in Slovenia with the goal to assess their sustainable basis. Sustainability pointers were created on the basis of professional starting points that define sustainability. Into the research we included five programs (three local and two regional) and assessed them according to the ecosystemic criteria, holistic and prosperity criteria, self-sufficiency criteria, and according to the inclusion of the local people into the program, which are the pillars of sustainable development.

2. Materials and Methods

From the views on the sustainable development that have been developed until now follows that it is made of ecosystemic viewpoint, prosperity and holism viewpoint and self-sufficiency viewpoint with the cooperation of local community. For these viewpoints we made criteria and used them by the assessment of the selected development programs in Slovenia.

Into the research were included programs, which were selected according to the following criteria:

- Programs were created in the last five years,
- programs are known to us, because of the locational vicinity – Northeast Slovenia,
- programs are defined as “sustainable”,
- programs include city, rural area and include Natura 2000 and

- reflect similar natural conditions, they all deal with the areas in macro region of Subpanonian Slovenia.

In the continuation we state criteria for sustainable development on local and regional level (Vovk Korže, 2010).

Table 1. Ecosystemic criteria

Speed up the variability of living spaces
Speed up natural and co-natural elements in the dwellings
Minimize floor urbanization
Minimize the entry of harmful substances into the air, water and ground
Minimize the use of non - renewable sources of energy
Minimize the use of non –renewable sources, speed up the preservation of the ecosystems
Minimize excessive mobility of the transport means
Support environment friendly varieties of transport

Table 2. Criteria of holism and prosperity

Develop activities, that derive from the local area
Connect the activities in a way that they supplement each other
Derive from the multi – purposeness of the each activity on the basis of tradition, natural and cultural heritage
Speed up the abilities of education for all residents
Rise personal responsibility and awareness in a long term relationi
Support cultural, social and regional identity
Look after own health and health of other people
Speed up living and life quality

Table 3. Criteria of self-sufficiency on the basis of the local community cooperation

Promote local products
Support shopping ways inside the region
Create innovative environments for work
Speed up new local qualitative working places
Connect local environments (rural area) with the urban areas (towns) with the offer of original services and products
Base on reconciled various interests
Ensure the ability of inclusion of all interested into the all areas of regional working
Ensure equality, dialogue and connection between people in region

In the selected programs we judged the inclusion of the ecosystemic criteria, holistic and prosperity criteria as also self-sufficiency criteria and public inclusion criteria. We assessed them by the following legend:

Common grade according to the criteria of sustainable foundation of the selected programs was the base for the creation of the model of sustainability.

Table 4. Criteria of sustainable basis

CRITERIA OF SUSTAINABLE BASIS	<i>Grade in %</i>
ECOSYSTEMIC CRITERIA	
CRITERIA OF HOLISM AND PROSPERITY	
CRITERIA OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY ON THE BASIS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY COOPERATION	
<i>All together in (%)</i>	

**total sum of positively assessed measures + is the basis for the calculation of % (maximal number is 8, that is the number of lines inside each individual criteria, all together is 100%, number of negative assesses with – is deducted from the sum +), 0 does not affect the result.*

Models of sustainability

On the basis of common grade in % we classified selected programs into the accurate model of sustainability, by which we assessed as classical model the one that has less than half of the all measures without sustainable basis and as an ecocentric the one with more than 90% of measures that are sustainably oriented.

Table 5. Models of sustainability

Level	Models of sustainability
under 50 %	MODEL OF VERY WEAK SUSTAINABILITY (CLASSICAL MODEL OF CONTROL AND POLLUTION)
between 50 and 75 %	MODEL OF WEAK SUSTAINABILITY
between 75 and 90 %	MODEL OF STRONG SUSTAINABILITY
over 90 %	ECOCENTRICAL MODEL

On the basis of the classification into the each model we get the answer on the condition of sustainability of models, details are described in the continuation.

Five selected programs were on a basis of three common criteria classified into four models of sustainability, which were taken from Backer (Vovk Korže, 2010).

MODELS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Model 4: very strong sustainability (ideal model of sustainable development)

Model 3: strong sustainability

Model 2: weak sustainability

Model 1: very weak sustainability (model of global market, pollution control)

DESCRIPTION OF SUSTAINABILITY MODELS

Model 4: Very strong sustainability – ideal model: it is shown in radical change of man's relation towards the environment. Emphasises a form of pure sustainable development, after which humanity returns into the environment as many as it takes from it, as well as it tries to enlarge and protect the biotic variety. There is no common growth in quantitative meaning in this type of approach as it is in traditionally measured approach (Pintrich, Schunk, 2002). Mankind live inside the environmental limits, development is not measured by the life standards but with the quality of life. Living and non-living world have intrinsic value which is independent from the

mankind. Emphasis is made on the social dimension of development in which there's a special place meant for the work of clubs and non-profit organisations, where each can cooperate according to interests (Jakešova, Vaishar, 2012).

Model 3: strong sustainability - improvement of the conditions in the social equality area which are being developed together with the economic development. View of the modern environmental economy in this approach denies the finding, that the expenses and benefits are economically calculable. It argues that are certain natural resources, which are according to their characteristics key for the health of biosphere that is why non-monetary pointers of environmental sustainability need to be used. It supports the development of pure technologies but the economic growth is still important indicator of sustainability. Strong sustainability leans on the broad understanding of the principle of cautiousness. On the area of the environment it means appropriate law arrangement, plans for the use of land, financial support and economical instruments such as eco taxes, pollution fees, allowances, subventions, awareness and various funds. Nevertheless that economic growth is still important can this model leads into the ecological restructuring and consequently to the improvement and minimisation of social inequality.

Model 2: weak sustainability - bases on the fact that existing political and economic system is able to solve all environmental problems, without extensive changes. View over the living and non – living world has no internal value that is why is its protection limited only to, whether preservation of certain species adds to direct economic growth or to direct benefit of the system preservation. Preferential goal of politics is still economic growth that is why environmental problems are exposed through the procedure of the damage estimates in the environment, which can be effectively mitigated with the so called technologies at “the end of the pipe”. Environment is pushed into the sectorial politics, there is no social equality, and prosperity is meant only for the part of the generation. Environmental management ignores and underestimates the experiences of the local population, political determiners lead inappropriate solving of the environmental problems (Snellen, Schrevel, 2005).

Model 1: very weak sustainability - natural environment is only in the function of the source providing, sustainable development is synonym for economic growth, which is measured with the raise of GDP, since the development is equalled with its growth, emphasis is on the technology, which should be able to solve any problem, economic and political instruments are pointed into the maximizing of production and growth, regardless the environmental consequences. This model satisfies the economic needs only of the part of generation and will in future be satisfying, because of the political power, only one part of the future generations.

3. Results and discussion

Selected development programs which are presented in the continuation are:

- a) Regional Development Program of the Development Region Podravje (2007 – 2013)
- b) Study of Sustainable Development of the Selnica Municipality (2008 – 2013)
- c) Municipality's Poljčane Program for the Protection of the Environment in the Municipality Poljčane (2008 – 2013)
- d) Bioregion – Region of Natural Varieties (2008 – 2013) and
- e) City Maribor Municipality's program for the Protection of the Environment for The City Maribor Municipality (2007 – 2013)



Map 1. Positions local and regional programmes in Slovenia (by A. Vovk Korže, 2013).

Following are these programs presented according to their fundamental measures, which are planned to be used for the achievement of the selected goals. After the presentation of each individual program we performed its judgement on the basis of the ecosystemic criteria, holism and prosperity criteria, and self-sufficiency criteria on the basis of the local community participation. These three groups of criteria were compared to the concrete activities, which are being followed in the measures of the five selected programs. On the basis of their

common assessment of the sustainable development we quantified the sustainable development model.

3.1 Regional Development Program (RRP) of the Development Region Podravje 2007 – 2013

Development Regional program for Podravje Region according to the ecosystemic criteria achieves only 25 % of the sustainable basis, which is distinctively not enough according to the fact that Podravska region is rich with ground water and that already has big problems with the quality and amount of ground water. Soils as well were on many places urbanised. We suggest that ecosystemic point of view should be more powerfully presented in the measures of this program. Similar condition is at the criteria of holism and prosperity, where measures did not connect enough and were because of that difficult to combine in a way that would assure the prosperity of the people. The worst is condition in the criteria of self-sufficiency and cooperation of local community, because the measures do not support locally projected activities, do not foresee the trading inside the region and do not plan inclusion of all people into the various spheres of regional working. In such way prepared measures do not support the ability of self-employment outside the cities and do not enable the development of the activities, which are connected to the local space.

From the connection of all three criteria of sustainable base we calculated common grade of sustainability and inserted the program into appropriate model of sustainability. Models of sustainability were quantified in a way that must programs show at least half of the measures that support sustainable basis; this is therefore the limit between classical model of sustainability, which means weak sustainability and higher level – the model of weak sustainability, where the measures are visibly connected to the sustainable way of living. Model of strong sustainability should have at least three quarters of such measures for the sustainable basis, where the ecocentric model should have at least ninety % of this kind of measures.

Table 6. Estimate of Program for Development Region Podravje

SUSTAINABLE BASIS FOR PODRAVJE	Estimates in %
ECOSYSTEMIC CRITERIA	25
CRITERIA OF HOLISM AND PROSPERITY	25
CRITERIA OF SELF – SUFFICIENCY ON THE BASIS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY COOPERATION	12,5
Grade all together in percentages (%)	20,8 %*

*Average value

Table 7. Model of sustainability for Podravje region

Level	Model of sustainability
under 50 %	MODEL OF VERY WEAK SUSTAINABILITY (CLASSICAL MODEL OF CONTROL AND POLLUTION)
between 50 and 75 %	MODEL OF WEAK SUSTAINABILITY
between 75 and 90 %	MODEL OF STRONG SUSTAINABILITY
over 90 %	ECOCENTRICAL MODEL

Program for Development Region Podravje is assessed from the point of view of sustainable basis of very weak sustainability, since it does not predict enough measures, by which we could protect the environment and nature, connect activities in space, include people and take into the consideration specifications of the local environments so municipalities in the Dravsko polje, at the bottom of the Pohorje slopes, in Dravinjske gorice and partially in Slovenske gorice. Regional specialties are for Podravje not enough considered. Such programs should be rationally judged according to the sustainable points of view already in the phase of creation, so that we could have the influence over their connection with the ecosystemic characteristics, people's ideas and connection of the measures.

3.2 Study of the sustainable development of Selnica ob Dravi Municipality

The background of the Study of the Sustainable Development creation is important because the priorities written in the study were created by the cooperation of the local people, so as the prepositions of the municipality's residents. The performer did not take the right to minimize the meaning of the priorities as the people saw them. It needs to be emphasised, that the Study of the Sustainable Development was made in the backgrounds of the discussions and arrangements about the financier helping by the performing of the priorities in the municipality in the exchange, that people allow the works on the pump hydro central.

In the Study of the Sustainable Development of the municipality Selnica ob Dravi ecosystemic criteria are not enough taken into the consideration, since are the measures, by which the procedures into the environment are limited, very rare. Goal of the municipality's residents is the development, that is understood by the road and infrastructure construction and other activities performed. It is true, that people especially emphasised that they want wholeness of the nature, but further than to the conservation of the current state they did not get.

Table 8. Estimate of program sustainable study Selnica region

SUSTAINABLE BASIS	<i>Grade in %</i>
ECOSYSTEMIC CRITERIA	37,5
CRITERIA OF HOLISM AND PROSPERITY	62
CRITERIA OF SELF – SUFFICIENCY ON THE BASIS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY COOPERATION	75
Grade all together in percentages (%)	58,2

Joined assessment 58, 2 % (average of all three criteria) defines the measures of the Study of the Sustainable development of the Municipality Selnica ob Dravi into the model of weak sustainability. It is different from the classical model by the common idea of municipality that creates its program by the help of their people, classics on the other hand is there shown in the understanding of the sustainable development as a quantitatively - productive economic development.

Table 9. Model of sustainability for Selnica

Level	Model of sustainability
under 50 %	MODEL OF VERY WEAK SUSTAINABILITY (CLASSICAL MODEL OF CONTROL AND POLLUTION)
between 50 and 75 %	MODEL OF WEAK SUSTAINABILITY
between 75 and 90 %	MODEL OF STRONG SUSTAINABILITY
over 90 %	ECOCENTRICAL MODEL

Study of the Sustainable Development of the Selnica ob Dravi municipality is the strongest in the sustainable basis on the level of the local community inclusion, where the weak point is consideration of the ecosystems and strengthening of own responsibility for the environmental development of the municipality. With the awareness this lack could have been surplused.

3.3 Municipality's Poljčane Program for the Protection of the Environment in the Municipality Poljčane

Municipality Poljčane has in their municipal program for the protection of the environment written next vision: "Residents of the municipality Poljčane live in the symbiosis with the nature and by the help of the ecoremediation develop innovative activities for the qualitative life". In the explanation of the vision it says: Municipality Poljčane becomes recognised educational, touristic, recreational and business destination with strongly emphasised nature on the basis of ecoremediation. Area of the municipality Poljčane is becoming the biggest and the most known classroom in nature and offers direct experiencing of the processes in nature, especially for young, so that they get the possibility of education for sustainable co-living.

All the assessments of the criteria are high; the lowest was calculated for the ecosystemic criteria. Assessment which we got is a challenge for the local community to organise the joined transport and by doing so, add to the independence from the car traffic. Holism and prosperity reach up to 87,5 % of the sustainable basis, lack is seen in the strengthening of regional identity,

which is now, because of the municipal sharing of the means that go over the region, understood. Lack of trust towards the region of Podravje, where the municipality Poljčane belongs, is also visible. There are no visible organised forms of cooperation. Regional identity is very low and will have to be built on the basis of trust and cooperation. A criterion of self-sufficiency is represented as a whole, since the process of cooperative co-working was made on the local grounds.

Table 10. Estimate of program Poljčane region

SUSTAINABLE BASIS Poljčane	Grade in %
ECOSYSTEMIC CRITERIA	75
CRITERIA OF HOLISM AND PROSPERITY	87,5
CRITERIA OF SELF – SUFFICIENCY ON THE BASIS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY COOPERATION	100
<i>Grade all together in percentages (%)</i>	87,5

Table 11. Model of sustainability for Poljčane

<i>level</i>	<i>Model of sustainability</i>
under 50 %	MODEL OF VERY WEAK SUSTAINABILITY (CLASSICAL MODEL OF CONTROL AND POLLUTION)
between 50 and 75 %	MODEL OF WEAK SUSTAINABILITY
between 75 and 90 %	MODEL OF STRONG SUSTAINABILITY
over 90 %	ECOCENTRICAL MODEL

Report of the State of the Environment for the municipality Poljčane is according to the criteria classified into the model of strong sustainability. The most direct way is to live in the symbiosis with the nature and planning and performing of all activities into that direction (various types of projects are prepared for the achievement of common vision), which is coherent with the notion, that must these procedures be connected (reaching of the secondary and tertiary intersection) and that must all processes base on locally-regional specialities.

3.4 Bioregion – Region of Natural Varieties

Project “Bioregion – region of naturel variety” builds on the basis that the natural variety is a quality that needs to be preserved and our own development understandings adapt to this assumption. At the same time it wishes to promote natural variety as a virtue, as the one characteristic, which is extremely important for the development, not as an development obstruction but as a development opportunity, which can be used by various economic fields, off course one of the most important industry stays tourism or ecotourism. It is regionally based project, where specific municipalities stay small and it would be much more difficult to realize the interests, that project Bioregion has. Carrier of the project is municipality Šentjur, main contractor is Razvojna agencija Kozjansko (Development Agency Kozjansko), and partner was International Centre for the Ecoremediation from the Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor.

Table 12. Estimate of program Bioregion

SUSTAINABLE BASIS BIOREGION	<i>Grade in %</i>
ECOSYSTEMIC CRITERIA	50
CRITERIA OF HOLISM AND PROSPERITY	100
CRITERIA OF SELF – SUFFICIENCY ON THE BASIS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY COOPERATION	50
<i>Grade all together in percentages (%)</i>	66,7

Table 13. Model of sustainability for Bioregion

Level	Model of sustainability
under 50 %	MODEL OF VERY WEAK SUSTAINABILITY (CLASSICAL MODEL OF CONTROL AND POLLUTION)
between 50 and 75 %	MODEL OF WEAK SUSTAINABILTY
between 75 and 90 %	MODEL OF STRONG SUSTAINABILTY
over 90 %	ECOCENTRICAL MODEL

Program of bioregion belongs into the model of weak sustainability. Proseses of Bioregion are in the connection of the activities, municipalities’ cooperation but

the concern after sustainable mobility will have to be increased, as well as greater motivation of the people, to cooperate at planning of sustainable programs. Ecosystemic criteria were as well assessed with partial sustainability. Even though the program is named Bioregion, the sectorial orientation is felt, so individual measures must be more connected on the basis of local specifics and not only into ecotourism, but to other activities as well.

3.5 Municipal program of the environmental protection for the Municipality Maribor 2007-2013

Vision of the Maribor city is to become “citizens’, visitors’ and tourists’ friendly town. City will become recognisable after the sustainable development politics. Holistic approach of the environmental management will be achieved by the connection of municipality’s administration to the local community, companies, University, professional and interested publicity, non-governmental organisations and individuals”.

Great influence on the creation of that program had the management of the Department for the environmental protection, by which all residents of the municipality Maribor were taken into account. From the financial assessment of the environmental program is seen, that are financially the most demanding measures for the realisation of the safe drinking water projects, holistic waste management projects and sustainable traffic projects.

On the ecosystemic level has Maribor weaker program, since there are no measures that would speed up the environment variety, natural and co-natural elements in the city that is why common ecosystemic assessment of the criterion 0 is. In the area of holism and prosperity there are the measures for support of social activities, while it completely lacks its connectivity. Publicly encouraged prevention of the green areas and areas without noise, but such measures are in the program for Town Municipality Maribor (MOM) not included.

Table 14. Estimate of program Maribor

SUSTAINABLE BASIS MARIBOR	Grade in %
ECOSYSTEMIC CRITERIA	0
CRITERIA OF HOLISM AND PROSPERITY	25
CRITERIA OF SELF – SUFFICIENCY ON THE BASIS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY COOPERATION	0
Grade all together in percentages (%)	8,3*

*explanation: average value

Table 15. Model of sustainability for Maribor

Level	Model of sustainability
under 50 %	MODEL OF VERY WEAK SUSTAINABILITY (CLASSICAL MODEL OF CONTROL AND POLLUTION)
between 50 and 75 %	MODEL OF WEAK SUSTAINABILITY
between 75 and 90 %	MODEL OF STRONG SUSTAINABILITY
over 90 %	ECOCENTRIC MODEL

Not enough stated is the value of local environment, but the measures from the field of culture and interested public cooperation are included, but nevertheless lack of other measures decreases the result to only 25 %. By the assessment of the model of sustainability it means only 8, 3 % which positions the program for Maribor between classical programs with weak sustainability. The city Maribor should, according to the strategic position and inherited environmental issues, decide to take deeper measures and make a step into more sustainable city.

The evaluation of the measures in local and regional programs shows, that evaluated programs have the weakest base in the ecosystemic criteria (joined assessment is only 37, 5%), which is far below the expected limit. The only positive factor in ecosystemic field is decreasing of the emissions of damaging substances into air, water and ground (while locally the emissions rise). Regional politics up to now was not meant into written ecosystemic approaches, on contrary, co-financing from regional funds increases the municipality's soil urbanisation, asphalt road building and the use of energy. Therefore it is

necessary that we search for reasons for such bad condition on the area of ecosystemic view in the country's and European politics, not only on local level.

Table 16. Sustainable criterias and common assessment regional and local programmes

SUSTAINABLE CRITERIA	<i>Podravje</i>	<i>Sustainable development Selnica</i>	<i>Poljčane</i>	<i>Bioregion</i>	<i>Maribor</i>	Common assessment %
ECOSYSTEMIC CRITERIA	25	37,5	75	50	0	37,5
<i>HLOISM AND PROSPERITY CRITERIA</i>	25	62	87,5	100	25	59,9
SELF-SUFFICIENCY CRITERIA ON THE BASIS OF THE LOCAL COOPERATION	12,5	75	100	50	0	47,5
Common assessment in percentage (%)	20,8	58,2	87,5	66,7	8,3	48,3

Holism and prosperity are in the measures the most presented and that is with 59%. The most measures are in the education, culture support, health and living culture. The lack is noticed in the area of measures cooperation, which will have to be necessary to increase in order to simultaneously increase sustainability. Medium value of sustainability was assessed at the criteria of self-sufficiency and local community cooperation and that is 47, 5%. Big differences between the programs are the result of various priorities and orientation. Locally oriented programs, here gain some more points. Regional and urban programs have lower assessments than municipal, because here is the possibility of people's cooperation as well as the motivation to the local community affiliation quite bigger.

Classification of the considered programs (regional and municipal) into the sustainability models warns, that only programme for the municipality Poljčane classifies into the model of strong sustainability with 87, 5% of common assessment of the sustainable development achievement while the two programs, these are the study of Sustainable development of municipality Selnica ob Dravi and Bioregion classify into the model of weak sustainability. Into model one, this is the model of very weak sustainability belong programme for the town municipality Maribor and Programme for Podravje.

Table 17. Classification of the assessed development programs from the view of sustainability models

class	% together	Model of sustainability	Program of development
under 50 %	8,3 20,8	Model 1 – very weak sustainability	OPVO for town municipality of Maribor RRP for Podravje
between 50 and 75 %	58,2 66,7	Model 2 – weak sustainability	Study of the sustainable development of municipality Selnica ob Dravi Bioregion
Between 75 and 90 %	87,5	Model 3 – strong sustainability	OPVO for Poljčane
above 90 %	--	Model 4 – very strong sustainability	--

Programs in model two (weak sustainability) are Study of sustainable development of the municipality Selnica ob Dravi and Bioregion – Region of natural variety. Because of the existing political and economical system in both programs there is no radical changes in measures. Nature protection and its marketing is closely connected to the direct economic benefits, priority goal of the measures still is economic growth.

Model 3 mean strong sustainability. Municipality Poljčane has in its council confirmed vision that the citizens live in symbiosis with nature. They supported the ecoremediation development, pure technologies and gave priorities to the nature. It is true that we miss non-existing management regulations and lack of

national mechanisms for self-sufficiency, but we also expect longer time phase of strong sustainability outside the municipal borders in Dravinja region.

3.6 Judgement of sustainable points of view of foreign programs (regional agendas)

We went through six various regional agendas of the European cities and regions, that are possible to reach on the websites and we presented them very briefly on the following pages. Starting point of the evaluation are measures by which they plan the sustainable steps. In the continuation we added their common characteristics and connected them to the sustainability models, where we see, and major improvement in the direction of sustainability according to the comparable Slovenian development programs.

Regionale Agenda Naturpark Mürzer Oberland

Starting point in this regional agenda is to protect Natural Park by Mura and to speed up the sustainable development by it. In RA they pointed out four pillars that are protection, rest, education and regional development. With the natural park we should find new developments for the region Mürzer Oberland (four municipalities connected). They support openness of the region, dynamics, working of the Natural Park and encouragement of the people to work and support the region (belonging to the region).

Regionale Agenda Mariazeller Land

Starting point for this RA were multiple activities of young, who decided to connect into joined regionally developing process. Next to these municipalities 'activities helped by choosing the working areas of RA like economy and natural care, young as the capital of the future, health, free time and sport, mobility, openness for work. Sustainability is provided with the strong regional economy and minimization of the import from the surrounding areas and by cooperation of the companies. They speed up the cooperation in existing society as well as they speed up the minimisation of the use of excessive energy and projects that improve the environment in region.

Regional Agenda Kulmland

Eight municipalities connected for the common future, since they have already cooperated in common projects and found out that the cooperation has advantages. They formed joined recognizable outlook, took care of the elderly, connected offers and gave special care to the energy.

They are project – like oriented and are connected into new LEADER region.

Experiences in Austria show, that the processes LA 21 overgrew into the need after broader regional connection in the direction of the municipality connections, LEADER regions and after stronger connection to the EU programs. It is common, that in all those regions, were connections made and decided by the partners in regions.

Regionale Entwicklungsleitbilder und -konzepte, Regionalmanagement, Regionalbetreuung, STEFREI

Aim of the region connecting is the strengthening of the promotions for the sustainable development, connecting of the regional concepts, and support to the regional structures, reinforcement of the information flow as well as the regional networking and appropriate activation of the endogen potentials. The goal of the RA 21 as the instrument of regional politics is enhanced common direction of all program activities. A starting point for such acting was a deal between development carriers and deciders. Regional agendas point the way of development of the region by the concrete activities and reply to the specific space questions that is why they have an important role. Regional approach is important, because the goals, concepts and programs are realized with the projects through various institutions that mean that they work according to the sectors.

Regionale Agenda 21 Stettiner Haff - Region zweier Nationen

Between the goals of this regional agenda (RA 21) is exposed achieving of the sustainable development in the region on the basis of the cooperation between partners and considering the environment as well as the regional identity

improvement. Between actual directions is the sustainably pointed cooperation between economic, social and political subjects. RA 21 should lead region towards the ecological development. Emphasised is the bottom up initiative. RA 21 is explained as the roof over the platform for local agendas. Through the joined projects, new ideas, goals and processes in region should be developed. With the connection of natural, historical, cultural and economic contents of border regions their across border sustainable development is enabled for which the projects are prepared.

Bodensee Agenda 21

It is named „Regionale Netzwerke für lokales Handeln: Fallstudie Bodensee Agenda 21«. It was prepared by two regional Interreg's projects, thematic seminars, symposiums, pilot projects, counselling, and openness and information. Topics of the RA 21 are care, energy supply, land use, infrastructure, regional identity, regional social capital and regional organisation. Especially are emphasised new ideas, new contacts, more knowledge, good discussion and pleasure of all. Theoretical frame is based on Luhmann's theory of open thinking, on the concept of connection and regional management (Krotscheck, 2007), on the concept of regional development as like on studies of the results of the local agendas 21 – and other developing processes (Jakešova, Vaishar, 2012). Methods that are used can be described as escorted observation of the process.

Joined findings of the characteristics of the regional Agendas in Europe and their sustainable development

Comparisons of selected RA 21 show that, the regional level for the dealing with sustainable problems is necessary and that only local is not enough that is why the municipalities connect to each other. Although it seems that RA 21 because of the sustainable concepts have in majority only environmental influences, we realise that they include politics, ways of human thinking and structural changes in region and awareness of the people, therefore its role is over average high.

It is important to take into the consideration geographical specifications, which enable the development of the specific activities (tourism). From the analysis of the public included it is seen that people gave initiative to arrange Botanical Park and connect it to the existing park or to arrange market for the organically grown food. This is a big difference from the happening in our country where most of the initiatives come upside down and people are integrated later. That is why the effect “NIMBY” “not in my backyard” is still very expressed since the ideas are not born in people, but are brought to them. With the ecosystemic approach we could enlarge the environmental responsibility and solve many problems of the public integration. In the continuation we assessed qualitative the measures of six European regional agendas and are inserted into the sustainable models of sustainability.

Common characteristics of foreign regional programs from the point of view of the sustainability integration are:

- Development of other activities on the basis of the nature protection;
- Taking into the consideration of the ecosystemic characteristics;
- Integration of all generation;
- Integration of local and regional environment;
- Regional management;
- Many various activities connected to the vision of the area development;

Sustainable integration of the European agendas is noticed in the change of the way of living and in values, which is the base for reaching of the sustainability.

4. Conclusion

Analysis of the regional and local programs showed that there are very big differences between individual programs according to the sustainable base. Simple judgement of the programs and their measures according to the indicators of sustainability has shown that often used one-way approach and sustainability area (economic, social and environmental) are not connected.

RRP for the development Podravje region is assessed as the program of classical economic model that does not have long-term effect and does not base on the sustainable development. Measures to protect the nature and environment, activities connecting and integration of the people as well the specificity of the local environment are not planned.

Common assessment of the **Study of the sustainable Development of the municipality Selnica ob Dravi** classifies the measures into the type of model of weak sustainability. From the classical model varies by the common idea of municipality to create their program together with the people, classicality is on the other hand shown in the understanding of the sustainable development mostly as manufacturing economic development.

Program for the Municipality Poljčane is after the criteria consideration classified into the model of strong sustainability. The most featured indicators of strong sustainability are clear vision of the development – to live in the coexistence with nature and in the cooperation with people for the reaching of well-being.

Program of Bioregion – region of natural variety belongs into the model of weak sustainability. Benefits of the Bioregion are in the connection of the activities, municipality cooperation, but necessary will be to increase the care for sustainable mobility and to more motivate people, to cooperate in the planning of the sustainable programs.

Program for Town Municipality Maribor we figure it out that in the program the emphasis is made on the solving of various fluent activities of individual services and that the program is not enough pointed into the common sustainable goals. These are the program activities of the environmental sector and less for the program with the vision of the sustainable development progress.

The research has shown that is necessarily needed at the formation of the programs on the local and regional base to take into the consideration all criteria of sustainability. It is not possible to expect reaching of the goals if the activities (measures) are not connected. Especially in the connection of the measures we managed with this research to identify the most important kea for reaching of the sustainability on local and regional level.

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