

CONCEPTUAL APPROACH REGARDING THE PUBLIC POLITICS WITHIN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN ROMANIA

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Abstract:

Any attempt on evaluating the performance of government or of the political system should take into account the most significant political and ideological divisions. The concernment origins on directing towards the public politics can be identified on both perceiving the government inconsequence, and on analyzing the non-contentedness offered by the academic disciplines, as well. A large availability on questioning the efficiency and effectiveness of public services has existed in the last decades in Romania. There are too many examples of non-adequate answers to issues, resulted from the lack of estimation, from not defining the objectives, from the low number of options and from the deficient training of these; the issues can also result from the insufficient implementation or lack of the monitoring and evaluation activities on politics. The diagnosis and defining of such issues has proven to be an extremely difficult task, in conditions of continuous changes and of the lack of qualified staff. A non-satisfaction also exists on the level of poor or limited contribution that the social sciences have on solving the issues. The reproaches are not only specific to Romania, but also: to the Occident, when the same critics were emphasized forty years ago regarding the social sciences, and some of these objections have also remained valid nowadays. The political sciences, being on their beginning in Romania, have been perceived as fighting in order to reach higher and higher levels on abstracting, as in theory of systems, thus moving away from the real issues, and determining the enunciation of some very sophisticated answers to completely not interesting matters.

Key words: public politics, education system, government, political system, education field;

JEL classification: H10, H11, H30, H52

INTRODUCTION

The practical actions appear to be a viewpoint of politics related to most of people. It reflects the government impact over the world, the ability of making things better or worst. A new different field was emphasized in the 60' or 70' related to the public politics and to an analysis over the public politics. Such analysis refers to the initiation, drawing up, adoption or implementation of public politics, as well as to the way such process can be improved. The analysis of public politics is not solely dedicated to the efficiency and effectiveness of it. This is also focusing over the significance of public politics: the type of government results over the global world. As regards the midpoint analysis of the public politics, one might ask the following standard questions: “Why does the government exist?” or “What is the definition of a good society?”

Another type of criticism aimed on the excessively institutional emphasizing, which has often brought recommendations related to the institutional change; such recommendations were lacked of knowledge as concerns the underlying processes or the power distribution. The public administration, regarded as academic discipline, hasn't enjoyed of a multi-disciplinary approach, being regarded as a concern towards the new public rules and services or structures rather than the dynamics, towards the procedures rather than processes, towards specific decisions rather than issuing politics.

Many times, the economic sciences seemed to be more concerned on claiming the scientific status and on building the abstract models. One has often considered that the economists are ignorant as regards other disciplines of the social sciences, whose knowledge might inform them better about the complexity of the issuing process and implementation of politics from the real world. More often than not, the prescriptions offered by the economists cannot make a distinction between situations when governments should start an activity within a new field, and the situation when replacing an already existing politics is intended.

The management studies have often represented a synonym for the business study, and some specialty schools have hurried on assuming that their offer can be applied to the public sector, as well. The political context has been ignored many times, and although the concern existed as regards solving the issues, an adequate attention hasn't been paid to the aspects related to the occurrence of issues or to their solving within the political management system on the central or local management levels. The risk refers here to the situation according to which many specialists in the fields of political sciences, economics, public administration, public finances or management might treat and discuss the problems within their circle, and potentially with their students as well, but not discussing to much with the probationers in the public administration and business fields.

Among the many definitions that were given to the public politics, some of them seem to be extremely simple, while others seem to be highly complex. We often understand by public politics that governmental declaration on actions within a certain field, and the determination on fulfilling the actions. Such evasive definition seems to have a prospective feature rather than a retrospective one, meaning: for the politicians, there is a higher concern on talking, rather than on acting. In the same usual language, the "public politics" term is seen as the behavior of one or more participants, meaning a politic leader, a governmental agency or the parliament, as regards a specific field of activity. Such definition is not quite adequate to a scientific speech. Other "large" definition says that public politics signifies "the relationship between the government and its environment".

Another definition says that "the public politics means what the government decides what to do or not to do". Such formulation is probably too simple and doesn't help on carrying out the concept on public politics. Seeing the public politics as any aspect of the governmental behavior, one cannot make a distinction between the insignificant and significant aspects of the executive activities. Though, the definition given by author Thomas Dye reaches essential issues: the author explicitly mentions that the government is the only one that performs public politics. This means that the private companies, various organizations, the interest groups or the individuals do not develop the public politics. Although these non-governmental actors might influence the actions of government, the decisions or the activities of these groups do not represent the public politics.

This paper emphasizes a different point of view, underlying that *the public politics* signifies *an assembly of measures taken by a legal and responsible authority, which aims the improvement of the citizens life conditions or conceiving the measures on stimulating the economic growth*. In generally, it foresees a concentration of different participants and a correlation between the lessons learned from the institutional and personal experiences. It can often take the shape of rules or incentives that determine the social and economic environment.

The reform related to defining the public politics in Romania is still at its beginning, and the main directions of action established on governmental level in this field, and for the following period of time, aim the following:

- *Introduction of the strategic planning*: the SGG has initiated a large process of strategic planning, by introducing the compulsoriness on issuing, by all ministries or by strategic plans. The final aim of such process in progress refers to the strengthening of connection between planning the public politics and issuing the budget, and on increasing the efficiency of public expenditures, as well.
- *The reform of public expenditures management*: the main objective consists in establishing the performance indicators concerning the budgetary programs, as well as clarifying the budgetary planning (the budget on programs).
- *The evaluation of administrative costs*: upon basis of the *Standard Cost Model* (known under the abbreviation of SCM) used by the Netherlander administration, the government proposed the application of an efficient and accurate methodology on identifying the administrative costs, as well as an instrument on efficient directing of measures on reducing the administrative tasks.

A modern process on issuing the public politics should meet the following parameters:

- *Alignment towards the future and the long term vision* – to design a long term image, based upon the statistical tendencies and estimations that regard the presumable impact of the politics;
- *The orientation towards the experience of other countries* – to take into account the European and international level experiences, which might have a benefic influence over the national level situation;
- *The innovation and flexibility* – to discuss the classical ways of approaching different issues and of encouraging new ideas; it is open to others' comments and suggestions;
- *Identification of pertinent information and their optimal use* - to use the best available information and analysis, within large series of sources and to involve the main owners of interests from the very beginning stage;
- *The inclusion sphere* – to take into account the impact over the necessities of all those who are directly or indirectly affected by the issued public politics;
- *The institutional cooperation* – to regard beyond the institutional boundaries and strategic objectives of that ministry; to establish the ethical and legal basis of the issued public politics;
- *The evaluation* – to reunite the systematic evaluations of the early results within the process of issuing the public politics;
- *Revising* – to submit the public politics implemented to a series of surveys, in order to be sure that this continues to approach problems for which this was issued, taking into account the effects associated to other areas;
- *Capitalization of previous experiences* – to learn from the past experience the elements that have or have not a good operation.

THE PUBLIC POLITICS WITHIN THE EDUCATION FIELD OF ROMANIA

The education objective of Romania consists in the free, integral and harmonious development of the human individuality, forming the autonomous personality and assuming the values system, which is necessary for the personal fulfillment and progress, for the entrepreneurship spirit development, for the active citizenship participation in the society, social inclusion and employment on the work market. In order to reach this objective, the state promotes an education based on values creativity and cognitive, volitional and action abilities, fundamental knowledge, competencies and abilities on direct utility, in profession and in society. Transmitting these values towards the young generation will support Romania's passing to a lasting, intelligent and ecological economy – key concepts of the "Europe 2020" Strategy, within the knowledge, innovation and a better use of the resources, which represent decisional factors of prosperity. The national education law no. 1/2011 that became effective has represented a step forward in the process of changing the state, by placing the education in the center of Romania's project of tomorrow. The implementation measures of law are based on financing carried out on relevant and depending upon performance. Simultaneously with becoming effective the national education law no.1/2011, there is certitude that allotment of resources will directly determine the quality growth in education and not its dissipation.

The educational politics resulted by applying the national education law no.1/2011 aim towards:

- Equal access to education and professional training of high quality, including the education that includes teaching in the national minorities languages;
- The implementation of early education, as priority to the education system;
- Modernization of the secondary-school education structure;
- Creating a curriculum for the secondary-school education system, directed towards competences formation;
- Rethinking the evaluation and examination system;

- Ensuring the predictability of secondary-school education system, by applying the principle: “financing is ensuing the pupil” and improving the financing formula;
- Reforming the politics within the human resources field;
- Stimulating the permanent education;
- Classifying the universities;
- Modernization of universities management and leadership;
- Financing the universities on competition criteria;
- Ensuring the quality and encouraging the excellence within the higher education;
- Reorganization of the research – development – innovation system on both universities, as well as within the research institutes.

THE TARGETS ASSUMED BY ROMANIA ON THE EDUCATION LEVEL:

In order to reach the objectives of “Europa 2020” Strategy, the targets assumed by Romania on the education level refer to:

- Reducing the level of early school abandoning;
- Increasing the people’s weight somewhere around 30 or 34 years old by a level of third party education.

DIRECTIONS OF ACTION, PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, ESTIMATED RESULTS AND TRENDS IN THE FOLLOWING PERIOD OF TIME

The action direction: Ensuring the equal access to education and professional training of high quality within the secondary-school education.

Proposed objectives:

- Ensuring the basic financial resources, within a decentralized environment, in order to develop the instructive-educative process in optimal conditions;
- Ensuring the free hand-books within the compulsory education;
- Financing the national evaluation for the pupils of VIIIth class, or developing in optimal conditions the matriculation exams, as well as the certifying or attestation exams on professional competences;
- Supporting the pupils coming from disadvantaged environments, by means of the social programs “High-school money”, “Offering of school text-books”, “Offering the financial support in the view of stimulating the computers purchase (Euro 200)”, in order to prevent and fighting against the social marginalization and exclusion;
- Stimulation of pupils performance, by their participation to school Olympics or contests, as well as to extra-school activities, as sports to local, national or international levels;
- Maintaining or protecting within the schools those pupils being in risk situations, or attracting those pupils that abandoned too early the school, by means of the educational system programs, such as “After-school” or “The second chance”;
- Recapitalization of professional and technical education; finalization of National frame of the Qualifications;
- The responsibility transfer (financing, human resources, and so on) by the councils of local administration and community;
- Motivation of teachers with high-performance results in the teaching activity;
- Continuous formation and training of teachers, working within the national system of secondary-school education;
- Continuation of financing, upon basis of government decisions, of some public units of secondary-school education, in the view of new education spaces edification, of rehabilitation, of strengthening the already existing buildings, on introducing the utilities etc.;
- Financing the other objectives included within the Investment program of MECTS, for which the lack of continuity on carrying out the activities will endanger the ability of exploitation, in conditions of maximum security of buildings;

- Continuation of financing, in order to ensure the building, rehabilitation or extension of units included within the Project of School Infrastructure Rehabilitation in Romania, the Project of Early Education and the Project of Social Inclusion, in the view of respecting the commitments assumed in Romania towards the international financial institutions that co-finance the mentioned projects, respectively the European Investment Bank, the Council of Europe Development Bank and the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development.

Estimated results:

Reducing the level of early school abandon, from 16.3% in 2010 to 14.3% in 2014, have been in accordance to the reference values that were assumed by Romania, within the “Europe 2020” Strategy.

The line designed for the early school abandon within the education system

Year	2009	2011	2013	2015	2020
Indicator (%)	16.6	15.8	14.8	13.8	11.3

The action direction: Ensuring the quality and stimulating the excellence in the higher-education system

The proposed objectives:

- Ensuring the chances equality within the higher-school education;
- Ranking of programs specific to higher-education studies, depending upon the education services quality;
- Financing the higher-education system, depending upon the performance, by means of resources concentration and investments prioritization;
- Opening the universities towards society and developing the partnerships with the economic and social environment;
- Stimulating the economic agents in order to increase the training level of employees (by means of courses on third party level);
- Increasing the scientific potential, the innovation, transfer and capitalization of research results, carried out in specialized structures within the higher-education institutions;
- Well-known finalizing of the investments objectives and of the interventions work activities carried out in the superior education institutions.

Estimated results:

Increasing the graduates’ percentage of third-party education, from 17.61% in 2010 to 21.3% in 2014, this being in accordance to the reference values assumed in Romania and within the “Europe 2020” Strategy.

The line designed as regards the people’s rate somewhere around 30 or 34 years old, graduating a third party education form

Year	2009	2011	2013	2015	2020
Indicator (%)	16.7	18.41	20.25	22.17	26.74

CONCLUSIONS

People that have in responsibility the public politics issuance should refer more and more to other countries experience, in developing the own thinking, although there is a long way until such thoughts to exterior should become a normative in all departments or specialty directions within the government. Such situation is also valid in order to develop the politics directed towards the future on long term, as well as regards the innovation and creativity on issuing the public politics. Improving the good practices has become also necessary, for the ministries and issuers of politics involved in presenting and implementing the European Union implementation. This should offer a precise direction towards the politics issuers, in order to evaluate the potential advantages and disadvantages of legislation and the way this might affect the European Union citizens, as well.

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