ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL-EVALUATION IN THE FUNCTIONING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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Abstract

In all its work, the local government aims to satisfy the interests of the local community. That purpose cannot be achieved without exercising the administrative functions and control-assessment in the local government. To reflect the importance of these two functions for the proper functioning of local government, this article proposes to review their contents. The investigations show that by exercising the administration function is made a rational management of resources - human, material, financial and information - that enables efficient pre-defined targets to meet local interests. In addition, the targets are expected to be executed by the intervention of the control-evaluation function. Achieving the ultimate goal of local government – satisfying the local public interest is linked to the exercise of control and evaluation function and its role in sensing shortcomings and their elimination for the good management of local public affairs.

Keywords:
administration, control-evaluation, local government, local community, local public interest.

JEL classification: H83.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Knowledge of local government functions, explaining the content of each of them, and observation of their features is important because each one and all alike concur to fulfil the purpose of local administration process - meeting the interests of the local community.

Specialists of the domain list and explain the five functions of public administration: policy development, planning, organization, leadership and motivation, control and evaluation. In another approach, are retained for public administration the following functions: planning, organizing, coordinating, managing, motivating and control-assessment.

For reasons of space, this article reserve the study of two of the listed functions. From such a perspective, the objective of the current research is contrary in investigation of the content of management and control-assessment functions in order to highlight their importance for the functioning of local administrative system, with implications for solving local public affairs.

II. EXERCISING THE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Although there are not many works that deal with this function, we believe that it reflects best the purpose of local government, respective satisfying the local public interest.

In connection with this function, Professor A. Androniceanu believes that through her are managed the existing human, material, financial and information resources and attracted into the public institution in the process of achieving the forecasts.

In our opinion, the management function in local government gathers management processes that meet both existing resources and those attracted and integrated into local administrative system are converted and used in a rational manner according to and in furtherance of the objectives projected, in order to meet the expectations of the local community.

A complete and correct perception of the management function in local government is possible if we examine its components and their role in the local government.

4 Idem, p. 42.
In the structure of management function in local government, we find the following four components: human, material, financial, informational.

The human component of management function in local government is based upon the management of human resources and concerns their management in local government. Viewed from the human component, exercising the management function at the local level of government bears the mark of the relating legislative framework. Law no. 188/1999 on the Status of the public servant fixes the category of public positions management and those of execution, stipulates the structure of civil servants' career, regulates the access conditions to public office, and their rights and duties as civil servants.

Management function in local government through its human component implies the practice of rational and effective ways of managing human resources in local administrative structures, in order to achieve the planned objectives.

Material component of management function in local government aims at exploitation of the material assets owned by public or private administrative-territorial units in order to achieve predetermined goals. According to art. 36 para. 5 and art. 91 para. 4 of Law no. 215/2001 on local public administration, local council or county council decides commissioning the management, concession or lease of the public property of the village, own or city, or county (a), and the sale, concession or leasing letting of private property of the village, town or city, or county (b).

Through this component, exercising the management function in local government provides the most effective ways of managing material resources of public or private property of the concerned territorial-administrative unit, in order to meet projected targets.

7 In local administrative system, leading civil servants category includes persons named in the public service as executive director, deputy executive director, office manager, head of the service (art. 13 par. 1 d, e, f), and the category of civil servants consists of persons appointed to public service as advisor, legal advisor, auditor, expert, inspector, expert reviewer, reviewer (art. 14 par. 1, 2, 3).
8 Art. 9 of Law no. 188/1999 provides that public functions are divided into three classes, defined in relation to the level of education required for their employment, and according to art. 15 the execution public functions are structured on professional grades: junior, assistant, principal, superior.
9 Art. 54 of Law no. 188/1999 lists the conditions, which must be fulfilled in order to hold public office.
10 The rights and duties of public officials are subject to Chapter V of Law no. 188/1999 (art. 27-49).
The financial component of the management function in local government highlights the crucial role of financial management in the operation of local public authorities and institutions. As all objectives to accomplish imply, in particular, the use of financial resources, it is impossible to achieve them other than entailing, enhancing and integrating resources in the local administrative system, in order to meet the interests of the local community.

In light of the financial component, the management function in local government involves the practice of the most rational and responsible ways of managing the financial resources integrated to local government that the program objectives can be achieved.

Information component of the management function in local government reflects the importance of information in local administrative process. Raw material for management, information plays a crucial role in establishing relations with the external environment, but also of the processes and relationships within the local administrative system.

In addition, the management function in local government, in terms of this component, conditions the expression of the other three. An appropriate, accountable and efficient management of all resources integrated into the local government system, regardless of the form it takes, is not possible without the organization of an adequate information system for management of the activities at the local government level.

From the perspective of the informational component, the exercise of management function in local government involves the practice of the most efficient ways of managing information resources within local government, serving to achieve the planned objectives.

III. REALIZATION OF CONTROL-EVALUATION FUNCTION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION PROCESS

Marking the completion of a management cycle and forming, at the same time, the basis for the resumption of a new one, the control-evaluation function can be instrumental to the success of any entity, actively contributing to the achievement of the planned objectives.

By exercising this function, after J. Kutty, is checked whether the results are in line with plans.

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12 Filip, P., op. cit., p. 43.
Referring to the administrative control, the French specialist D. Levy believes that the essence of the control function is to compare government, as it is, how it was and how it will be with what needs to be, which had or what should be\textsuperscript{15}.

In the optics of teachers I. Bordean and C. Tureac, the control-evaluation function in public administration consists of all actions through which is made the operative and postoperative evaluation of the results of public institutions, his organizational links and each public servant, identifying irregularities and causes that generated them, and adopt corrective measures and maintaining dynamic balance of the system\textsuperscript{16}.

In our opinion, the control-evaluation function in local government management comprises the ensemble of managerial processes through which are realised the confrontation of the achieved results with established objectives, is checked the conformity of local administrative authorities activities with the legal incidents, correlative with the establishment of remedies there where there is a malfunction, to improve local administrative system corresponding to the fulfilment of business objectives and to meet local needs\textsuperscript{17}.

Two dimensions can be identified in the content of the control-evaluation function in local government:

- **Active dimension**, correcting of deviations from forecasted objectives and regulations in force;
- **Passive dimension**, verification of results against objectives and expected reference to the laws.

On the local public administration authorities, exercise an administrative control and a financial control within the limits and under the conditions provided by law\textsuperscript{18}.

Because the activities of local authorities and civil servants who work at this level is expressed, mainly, through administrative and subsidiary acts, through administrative operations and material acts carried out in order to issue the administrative act; the administrative control envisages, first, regulations and, of course, administrative operations and materials\textsuperscript{19}.


\textsuperscript{18} According to art. 18 of Law no. 215/2001 on municipalities.

By exercising the administrative control function it aims: direct checking whether and how government decisions are met; correct decisions as necessary for them to be consistent with the social realities in constant motion; taking of decisions in order to solve problems faced by government institutions; discover and highlight the most appropriate methods of work used by administration to be generalized, and establishing the causes that hinder work and propose measures for their removal; check if are used all legal means available to government authorities and institutions for carrying out their functions, and if assigned tasks are completed in a democratic framework.\textsuperscript{20}

At the level of local administrative system, work of the mayor and the president of the county council is controlled by the local council or county council. In accordance with legal provisions, the mayor presents to the local council, in the first quarter, an annual report regarding the economic, social and environmental development of administrative-territorial unit and, at the request of the local council, other reports and briefings. County Council President presents to the county council, annually or on request, reports on the fulfilment of its duties and county council decisions.\textsuperscript{21} Then, acts of local authorities are subject to judicial review by the prefect. It checks the legality of administrative acts of the county council, local council or mayor.\textsuperscript{22}

Financial control is carried out by the Court of Accounts whose mission consists in exercising control function over the formation, administration and use of financial resources of state and public sector. In administrative-territorial units, the attributions of Court of Accounts are exercised by the county chambers of accounts\textsuperscript{23}. The control function of the Court of Accounts is performed through procedures of external public audit, activity comprising\textsuperscript{24}:

- Financial audit, which seeks to whether the financial statements are complete, accurate and in compliance with laws and regulations;
- Performance audit, which assesses how an entity, a program, activity or transaction works in views of efficiency, economy and effectiveness.

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\end{itemize}

\textsuperscript{20} Ivan, S., Osolinschi, A., Ivan, R.-C., (2001), Managementul administrației publice, Editura Axa, Botosani, p. 139.
\textsuperscript{21} According to art. 63 para. 3 letter a, b and art. 104. 3 letter b of the Law no. 215/2001 on municipalities.
\textsuperscript{22} According to art. 19 para. 1 letter e of Law. 340/2004 regarding the prefect and prefect institution. Romanian Constitution orders, through art. 123 para. 5 that, “Prefect may challenge, in the administrative court, an act of the County Council, of a Local Council or the mayor if he deems it unlawful. The contested law is suspended”.
\textsuperscript{23} According to art. 1 para. 1 and 5 of Law no. 94/1992 on the organization and functioning of the Court of Accounts.
\textsuperscript{24} Idem, art. 2 lit. b, c, d.
A proper performance of the evaluation-control function in local government implies\textsuperscript{25} a preventive character, exercising routinely and promptly, being carried on immediately after the adoption of administrative decisions, whatever the form it takes (decisions, rules).

It is worth mentioning that the control function is intended to measure the results of administrative action in implementing political decisions and to reschedule activities, making necessary corrections\textsuperscript{26}.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above mentioned in the current article, we could conclude that without the exercise of the administrative and control-assessment functions, the proper functioning of local government would suffer.

On the one hand, configuration of management function in local government after four components - human, material, financial, informational, reflects the complexity of conversion and use of local resources, whatever form it takes, to achieve the final goal, namely satisfying local interests.

On the other hand, exercising the control-assessment function in local government permit the achievement of expected objectives, deviations from them, resulting adjustments necessary to maintain the equilibrium state of the whole system of local government, with implications for the settlement of the affairs of local communities.

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