



The Public Price of Asociality

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Annotation: An object of the present report is asociality's public price. An answer of the question why and for what reason the Bulgarian society is losing the thread with which it creates the social network of the individual, realizes his adjustment and narrows his social valence, is looking for. The defended thesis is, that it is necessary a social policy to be provided and a social environment to be formed, in which the individual to be not only invulnerable, but all the conditions for his whole development and recognition in the society, a guarantee for a standard of living, adequate to the regional and the global environment, to be available.

Key words: socialization, asociality, social policy, social sector, social services, social values, social expenses, institutional structures.

INTRODUCTION

Asociality is typical of individual's alienation from his group or society and loss of moral standards, social values' stupefaction, as a result of external influence and/or an impact of a lot of factors. When the social values and objectives are not well integrated with the institutional structures, and the social success is not equally accessible for anyone, then the failures give rise to antisocial adjustment as a form of adapting reaction of the individual. However, we think very rarely of how, why and to what reasons the society loses the thread with which it creates the social network of the individual, realizes his adjustment and narrows his social valence. With which of its actions or inactions the Bulgarian society creates a network, in which the sense of uselessness and of futility is raising in a large number of people and a clear form of maladaptiveness is appearing? Why, in spite of the significant efforts, exerting by several consequent governments in Bulgaria, and the widely-advertised social responsibilities, the sense that we are not socially protected is arising increasingly?

For the last ten years a number of legislative enactments are being passed, beginning with the Law on Child Protection (LCP) and the created State Agency of Child Protection (SACP), passing through the laws concerning education, health, integration of minority communities, and reach the laws regard to health and social insurance. In a large part of the cases we try to create and commit qualitative social services, to ensure social protection, to integrate and resocialize, to declare social responsibility. The main problems, however, go through and remain somewhere

aside, appear and disappear like a German proverb "The snow always melts".

To overcome the above listed problems is necessary to pursue social policy and to form social environment, in which the individual is not only invulnerable, but all the conditions for his whole development and recognition in the society, a guarantee for a standard of living, adequate to the regional and the global environment, to be available. In the scientific literature [1,3,6], the position, that social policy is exhibited mainly through a joint specific action of the government authorities and the non-government organizations for regulation of social relations among the different in its social status subjects, is being affirmed. The modern ideas define the social policy as a policy of social development, policy of standard of living, action for defense of the standard of living of separate individuals and groups, which are in more disadvantageous condition comparable to the rest part of the population [6, c.24]. One of the characteristic specifics of the social policy is that it appears as a specific action for public relations' regulation. Namely in the regulation of these relations is the key, with which we can close the door of asociality.

1. The good intentions and their un/realization

Social expenses analysis in the years of the transition shows, that in the time of crisis in 1996 their level falls a little bit under 12% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is the lowest for the whole period of the transition. In the years to 2010 they are raising fluently. For the period 1998-2006 the largest size as a percentage of the GDP have the expenses for social insurance, assistance and cares, as for the whole period there's the tendency for their raising [5]. That fact is a reflection of expenses' shortage in insurance funds and the unemployment level.

After Bulgaria's joining to European Union (EU), the size of the expenses in the social sphere raises without interruption. For 2010 social expenses are 15.5 % from GDP (37.6 % from the common expenses) and indicate growth toward 2009 with 2.3% from the GDP. Public expenses for education and health keep approximately stable level and are about 4.2% from GDP for 2009 and 2010. In the budget for 2011 the expenses structure remains comparatively constant. The largest article in the

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budget remains payments for pension coming to 9.2% from GDP [3].

The high state expenses, however, are not equal to a fair society. The high taxes, the redistributive role of the government and the restraint of the individual freedom of the citizens often find place in their root. In a number of countries with significant governmental expenses, the low productive majority lives on the back of the high productive minority, which finances the state expenses.

Why, in spite of the efforts of the several governments and the increased expenses in the social sphere, the Bulgarian society is not capable of determining the price of the social macroeconomic framework? The reasons are a few:

- According to the data from EUROSTAT for 2007, the countries from EU separate at the rate of 26.9% from GDP for social defense. France, Belgium and Sweden ensure social defense of their citizens with levels over 30%. After Bulgaria with level of 12.5 to 14 points are Latvia, Estonia, Romania and Lithuania. Having in mind the difference in demographic and economic aspect of the countries in the Union, as well as the systems for social defense, it is impossible not to pay attention to the fact of Bulgaria's significant fall from the leading three countries in the EU with a difference larger than 15 points.
- The excessive deficit procedure, set in motion by Brussels, because of the deficit in 2009, the economic processes, passing through Europe, the world crisis, etc., have direct and indirect effect over the budget and the revenues of Bulgaria, especially in regard with the external sources of financing, external markets, the issue of state securities, the public debt, etc.
- The social engagements, undertaken by the government, very often contribute to the budget of state social security shortage, for example decrease of insurance payments for pension. Usually, the shortage is being covered by additional subsidies on the expense of the state budget, and the growth of the social expenditures is on the expense of other sectors, which causes bad influence on the whole micro climate in the country.
- Besides the financial-economic reasons, there is an objective one, regarding the individual's attitude towards representatives or whole social groups of other kind. A change is necessary, not only in people's attitude and consciousness for the responsibility of the institutions, but for the personal responsibility for the whole prosperity, the standard of living and social environment. It is important to pay attention to the inefficient development of civil society and the efforts in this aspect.

2. Affected communities and groups by the high price of asociality

Children. A main priority in the Law on Child Protection (LCP) and the work of the State Agency of Child Protection (SACP) is lowering the number of children in institutions. From 2001 to 2010 that priority is not completed and

remains as such for the next ten years. There are a large number of institutions, which work in that sphere, unfortunately without a significant result. We have adopted all kinds of normative and programmed documents; we work with the children in the streets, in the institutions, with torment in family environment, with the orphans, with the children with deviating behavior and moral norms, with prostitution in under-aged, against drugs and violence, adoptive families, adoption. Words, which make us wonder and frown upon. Because that was actuality, it is now and will be actuality in the future too. Because our first associations and thoughts are not about the accepted and uncompleted social engagements, neither about the excessive interest of our politicians in the last two months before the elections, but about the BBC movie of village of Mogilino, about the girl in 8th grade from Plovdiv, killed by her two classmates, about the fifteen years old girls becoming prostitutes for 5 levs, lifting their right hand to stop the passing by cars, about the begging frozen little girls. The amazing fact is that these problems are chronic and clearly defined from years. That is the effect of the dominoes, but not the one with which the children are playing, but the one which multiplies the problems, contradictions, and society's indifference, starting with the financed by the principle "surviving" and continue with the lack of capacity in administrations and non-government organizations.

The low payment of the staff, the insufficient coordination among the institutions, the whole legal frame, the necessity of updating the models in regard with the quality of the services and their financing, are only a part of the problems.

Youths. There are a large number of young people without perspective. The fact, that the number of young people, who are not interested in their own development, is quite significant. On the other side, the one with education and qualification form a large part of the labor market, who emigrates in other countries. Separating the potentiality and the future of the nation in these two extremes puts in a difficult position the whole society. Having in mind the demographic collapse, the free movement conditions, and the labor market, we are forced to search alternatives.

By data from the British newspaper Daily Mail, Bulgaria is at 8th place in EU in number of people without job and unqualified young people aged between 20 and 24. By data from EUROSTAT for 2009, 14.8% from the young people in that age are without job or education. One of the leaders in that unpleasant classification is England, but in countries with strong economy and a higher social security, that is compensating, to a large extent.

Pensioners. Though the tendency of increasing the size of the pensions, as the largest item from the expenses, reaching 11.3% from the GDP and ¼ from the common expenses (budget 2010), Bulgaria is the country with the lowest size of the pensions in Europe. The constantly increasing size of the pensions does not lead to a real pension reform, ensuring the lowering of the insurance costs, without thus having an effect over the budget and a real enlargement of the pensions' size.



The unemployed. The level of unemployment is rising. The grey sector in the labor market in Bulgaria is not mastered, in spite of the constant changes in the legal order, which raises two kinds of unemployment – statistic and real. Thus influences directly the labor payment and its correlation in the both dimensions. In 2010 the expenses for relief funds and restitutions for unemployment are increased. Thus however does not mean protection, but ensuring a social minimum of the unemployed. The provided resources by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (about 60 million BGN a year) for realization of active measures in the labor market, as well as the gained resources by Human resources development Operational program are not enough to open the market in regard with the labor resource and to decrease the level of the real unemployment. In the analysis provided by the Institute of labor economy about the completion of the state budget for 2010, is shown that it is necessary to be taken the following precautions:

- The policy of restitutions and funds must not allow increase of unemployment
- Decreasing of the active measures on the labor market, which are proved to be inoperative

Minority group romes. The reasons for the slow integration of romes are two- way. On the one hand there are the legislative-institutional reasons, on the other – the community of the romes itself and the specific of their ethnops perceptions and understandings of way of living, philosophy and customs. Before 2007 in the period of the verification of the country for joining the European Union in regards with keeping the rules of the ethnic minority groups, the representatives of the European Committee (EC) express serious reserves, caused namely by the both reasons mentioned above. If the price of romes' integrity in 2000 was conditionally 100 units, in 2007 it has grown up to 200, and now it is 300 units.

In addition to the above described problems there can be mentioned those in education, in spite of the performed reforms and the induction of unique standard in schools. The vicarious budgets, characterized with chronic shortage of resources, are still an important problem in that sphere. There is still what to be done in regard with the autonomy of the universities, of healthcare, the unrealized health reform, the excessively high medicines' prices, the sport and its tendency for popularity and lack of sport bases and equipments, the social order and security, the social care for food and its origin and quality, etc.

CONCLUSION

An answer of the question whether the Bulgarian society will pay a high price for a society, gives the recommendation of the Committee of the regions, worked out in the debate's frames of the Lisbon's strategy after 2010 [7]. The Committee of the regions calls for explicitly declared common objective of the new strategy, which is to be orientated to "high quality of life and property for all the citizens of the European union", and affirms that poverty surmounting and the differences in incomes' levels requires territorial approach in all policies. The Committee of the regions, jointly with The Commission for measurement of the economic results and the social progress, the so called *Commission Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi*, informs of the grounded in

the recommendation five actions of better measurement of economic achievements and social progress:

- Addition of the index Gross Domestic Product with ecological and social indexes;
- Most actual information of taking of decisions;
- More accurately reporting on wealth distribution and social inequality;
- Working out an European informative register of stable development;
- Inclusion of ecologic and social aspects in the national calculations;

The given recommendations are enough and they serve as a base for the quotations, content in the strategy "Europe 2020". These actions are not to be taken only as an instrument of posterior estimation, but to be used for decisions to be taken.

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