

## IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF ORGANIZATION

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**Abstract:** *The responsible management of the organization can be defined as a way in which an organization's activities are planned, organized and evaluated taking into account the global environment's interests for the development and prosperity of both the present generation and the future. An important aspect in achieving this goal is the implementation of environmental aspects in the sustainable development of the organization. Sustainable development policy helps the organization to avoid, reduce or control the harmful impact of the sale of activities on the environment and the population, to comply with legal requirements. The goal of all parties involved is to respect environmental legislation, with a view to harmonious development of the area and of the world. Addressing responsible management implies the involvement of all stakeholders in adopting those decisions that lead to the sustainable development of an organization. This paper presents theoretical aspects regarding the integration of environmental aspects in the concept of responsible management at the level of an organization and practical transposition on the example of SNTGN Transgaz SA.*

**Key words:** *responsible management, sustainable development, environmental.*

**JEL Classification:** *M14, Q01, M21.*

### 1. Introduction

Responsible management can be described as an attempt to maintain the balance between the interests of the entire world (people, firms, the environment) for the prosperity of both the present and future generations.

In order to respond to this principle, the policies adopted within the company aim to:

- minimizing the negative impact of the activity on the natural and social environment;
- generating economic benefits to local society;
- improving working conditions;
- Conservation of natural heritage.

Sustainable development policy helps the organization avoid, reduce or control the deleterious impact of its activities on the environment and the population, comply with applicable legal requirements and may be part of a trend that customers appreciate.

The goal of all parties involved is to respect environmental laws with a view to harmonious development of the area and the world. The approach of responsible management requires the involvement of all stakeholders to adopt those decisions that lead to the sustainable development of the organization.

The responsible management of the organization is the way in which an organization's activities are planned, organized and evaluated taking into account the interests of the global environment for the development and prosperity of both the present generation and the future generation. An important aspect in achieving this goal is the implementation of environmental aspects in the sustainable development of the organization.

Integrating environmental, social and economic aspects into the organization's management leads to the implementation of responsible management

SNTGN Transgaz SA is the technical operator of the national transport system and is responsible for its operation in terms of quality, safety, economic efficiency and environmental protection. This paper presents theoretical aspects regarding the integration of environmental aspects in the concept of responsible management at the level of an organization and practical transposition on the example of SNTGN Transgaz SA

## **2. The importance of environmental management in the responsible development of society**

More and more types of organizations are increasingly concerned to achieve and demonstrate clear environmental performance by controlling the impact of their own activities, products or services on the environment and taking into account their environmental policy and objectives. These issues are in the context of ever-stricter legislation, the development of economic policies and other measures aimed at encouraging environmental protection, increasing stakeholders' concerns about environmental issues, including sustainable development.

International environmental management standards are designed to provide stakeholders with the elements of an environmental management system that can be integrated with other management requirements to help organizations achieve environmental and economic objectives. These standards, as well as other similar international standards, are not intended to create non-tariff trade barriers, increase or change the legal obligations of an organization.

Adopting and systematically implementing a set of techniques for environmental management can help deliver optimal results for the benefit of all stakeholders. However, adopting an environmental standard will not guarantee it alone optimal environmental outcomes. In order to achieve environmental objectives, it is recommended that the environmental management system encourage organizations to apply the best available technology if it is appropriate and economically viable. In addition, it is recommended to take into account the full cost of the efficiency of such technology.

In order to have environmentally responsible management, activities are needed to help the organization be prepared for the environmental requirements that are in place, and to successfully and efficiently implement these requirements.

In order to ensure an efficient development and implementation of the responsible environmental management system, it is necessary to entrust appropriate duties and powers, ie a balance between service tasks and authority.

An important component of the current concept of sustainable development, the environmental protection strategy must be thought today in a formula accepted by all governments of the world that devoted to maintaining a global, regional or local ecological balance of major importance for the purposes of social and economic policy. The first step in environmental policy and strategy is prioritization. Once priorities have been established, instruments for enforcing environmental policy must be chosen.

Environmental management tends to become, in our country, increasingly integrated into the practice of responsible management towards community involvement. Environmental management is a component of the overall management system, including organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, realizing, analyzing and maintaining environmental policies.

For contemporary society, environmental protection is of major importance, because economic development takes place within the framework created by the environment in which we exist and operate.

By definition, the environment represents the whole at one time of the natural - physical, chemical, biological and social factors (created through human activities) which, in close interaction, influence the ecological balance and determine the living conditions for man and the development of society.

Environmental protection issues have profound implications in all organizations, regardless of their size. Positive attitude towards environmental protection is an essential factor in the indefinite development of each organization.

Sustainable development addresses the concept of quality of life in complexity in economic, social and environmental terms, promoting the idea of a balance between economic development, social equity, efficient use and environmental conservation. The key element of sustainable development is reconciliation between development and environmental quality, promoting the integrated process of development and decision-making, both globally and regionally, nationally or locally. Sustainable development also depends on the correct distribution of the costs and benefits of development between generations and nations.

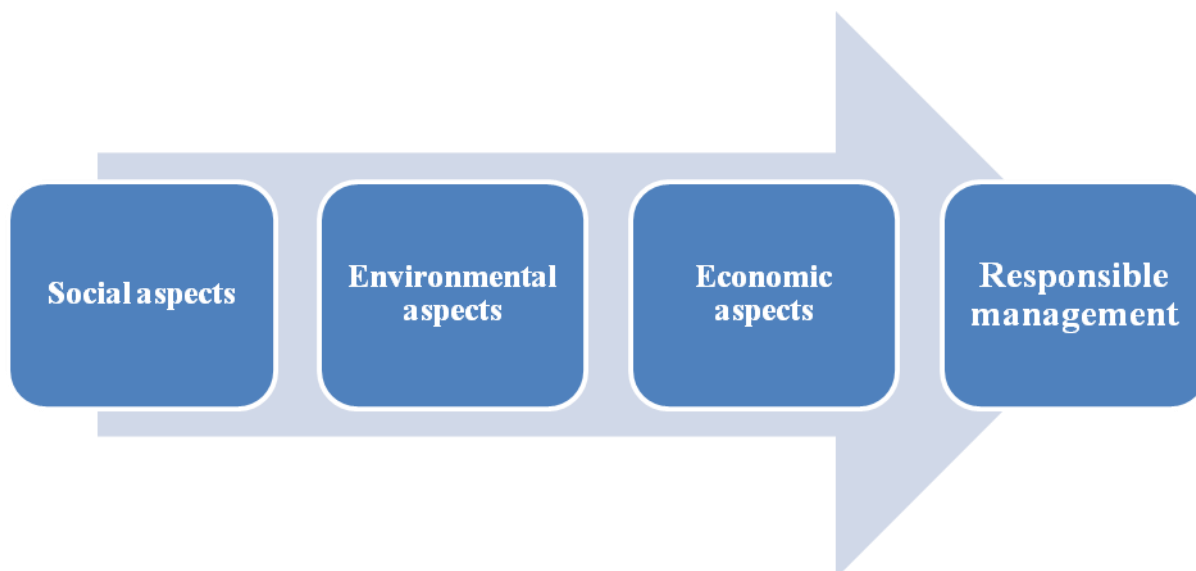


Figure no. 1. Components of responsible management

The objectives of economic and social policy for achieving sustainable development are:

- redimensioning economic growth to conserve natural resources;
- changing the quality of economic growth processes;
- meeting the essential needs for all inhabitants (work, food, energy, water, housing);
- ensuring a level of controlled population growth;
- preserving and enhancing the resource base;
- technological restructuring and putting it under control;
- integrating decisions on the economy, energy and environmental protection into a single process.

Sustainable development is a very dynamic concept, with many dimensions and interpretations, seen as a process of permanent change, very closely related to the local context, needs and zonal priorities, but the major principles that characterize it are the following:

- Preoccupation for fairness and fairness between countries and between generations;
- Long-term vision of development;
- Systemic thinking - the interconnection between environment, economy and society.

Sustainable development strategies highlight interdependence between local and global, between developed and developing countries, emphasizing the need for cooperation within and between the economic, social and environmental sectors.

It has been found that, in order to achieve sustainable development, it must be combined with economic and demographic development in order to ensure environmental and resource conservation measures.

### **3. Responsible management within SNTGN Transgaz SA**

Starting from the definition of sustainability, "meeting today's needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs," also known as sustainable development, we underline the importance of such a development policy.

Sustainable development policy helps the organization avoid, reduce or control the deleterious impact of its activities on the environment and the population, comply with applicable legal requirements and may be part of a trend that customers appreciate.

The main pillars of sustainability are:

- creasing competitiveness through innovation and transfer of new technologies;
- protecting the environment by implementing environmental management systems, by streamlining processes or by reducing the consumption of natural resources;
- technological development and integration of IT in the company by developing IT staff that will substantially increase the added value in the department's company, ie the ability to adapt to the market requirements;
- ♣communicating and developing human resources through interactive methods and key situations simulations.

The commitment assumed by the company's management through the "Quality Policy-Environment, Occupational Health and Safety Management Policy Policy Statement" is a clear proof that TRANSGAZ is responsible for ensuring an organizational climate in which all stakeholders: employees, shareholders, clients, suppliers, community and environment can interact effectively and responsibly both economically and socially.

The main activities in the field of environmental protection in 2017 were planned and organized, aiming to prevent pollution, to reduce the risks of producing environmental incidents on the sites within the company, as well as to comply with the legislative provisions in the field.

The locations within the company, as well as the compliance with the legislative provisions in the field. The main directions pursued were:

#### **a. Monitoring of regulatory acts**

From the point of view of the water management permits, the legislation in the field requires obtaining regulatory documents for all objectives related to the waters. As a result, the company owns 130 water management permits for crossing water courses with natural gas pipelines, out of which 2017 have been submitted renewal documentation for 17 of them.

According to the procedures issued by the National Environmental Protection Authorities, the Integrated Environmental System was registered for the development, repair and maintenance of the national gas transmission system.

#### **b. Assessment of compliance with relevant legislation**

This activity was carried out by planning the various types of integrated internal inspections, at the level of the Department of Environmental Quality, Protection and Security, as well as at Territorial Exploitation, being carried out by specialized inspectors from each field.

As a result, environmental inspections have been established following these inspections to assess compliance with the legislation and to improve the activity.

In 2017, SNTGN Transgaz S.A was subjected to a number of 15 external inspections carried out by the control structures within the National Environmental Guard, the Romanian Water Administration, the Environmental Protection Agencies as follows

Following controls and inspections, sanctions were not applied and only improvement measures were established, as shown by inspection reports by the control authorities, in the areas of:

- the waste disposal;
- analysis of environmental factors;
- authorizations for water management;
- contingency plans for accidental pollution;
- the handling and storage of dangerous chemicals and preparations.

**c. Specialty reports to relevant authorities**

Monthly and quarterly reports have been prepared for the authorities in the field, as required by regulatory acts held by the company. Waste management was produced at the company level and reports were made to the authorities according to the obligations of the environmental permits. Annual Environmental Reports for each Territory Exploration have been prepared and transmitted according to the environmental permit requirements.

**d. Maintaining the certification and transition to the new ISO 14001: 2015 standard for the Environmental Management System**

In 2017 the internal training of environmental inspectors was carried out, where the SRAC Surveillance Audit Report was presented, resulting in four areas of improvement in the environmental protection activity, namely:

- monitoring the implementation of the measures imposed following the inspections;
- specifying environmental aspects in projects;
- the disposal of the types of waste resulting from repair works

At the same time, the transition to the new ISO 14001: 2015 standard was started by identifying all the processes related to the activity and drawing up the Flow Diagrams and Process Sheets.

**e. The activity carried out by the Environmental Factors Monitoring Laboratory**

In accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Authorizations issued by the National Environmental Protection Agency in Bucharest, the monitoring involved systematically conducting measurements of the environmental factors on the company's sites as follows:

- configuring measurements on the noise level;
- determination of emissions of atmospheric pollutants (co, nox, so2) from the combustion gases from compressor stations, thermal power stations, convection stoves and gas heaters;
- identification of different situations not complying with environmental protection legislation and / or accidental pollution;
- manufacturing of measuring bulletins, environmental assessment sheets and monitoring reports.

The implementation of sustainable development aspects in the management of the organization implies:

- modernization of natural gas odor systems;
- reducing the impact of technological processes on the environment;
- reducing technological consumption;
- scientific research and projects in the field of natural gas transport.

The company has aligned itself with the international management systems and with the implementation and certification of the Integrated Quality Management System -

Medium, Health and Occupational Safety according to SR EN ISO 9001: 2015, SR EN ISO 14001: 2015 and SR-OHSAS 18001: 2008. The Standard permits to keep under control the health and safety risks of its own employees or providers operating on the organization's premises

The advantages of implementing SM-SSO are:

- improve the company image;
- improvement of relations with business partners;
- improving relations with competent authorities in the field;
- creating a unique and coherent framework for the elimination of hazards and risks related to work;
- setting a more effective control over the risk factors for injury and / or professional illness

#### 4. Conclusions

The responsible management of the organization is the way in which an organization's activities are planned, organized and evaluated taking into account the interests of the global environment for the development and prosperity of both the present generation and the future generation. An important aspect in achieving this goal is the implementation of environmental aspects in the sustainable development of the organization.

SNTGN Transgaz SA, consistent with the principle of applying responsible management in fulfilling the assumed mission, is aware of the importance that sometimes financial support for a noble cause or for an important purpose is vital and therefore through the programs and projects of social responsibility initiated, is actively involved in community life, demonstrating his status as a "good citizen".

As part of the SNTGN Transgaz SA sustainable development strategy, the social responsibility policy aims to increase the company's commitment to employees, shareholders, partners, the community and the environment, as well as streamlining the impact of social responsibility programs initiated for this purpose.

The company's responsible management policy is based on a set of principles that define this interaction between the company on the one hand and employees, shareholders, partners, community and the environment on the other.

Practice confirms the need to step up efforts to accept responsible management, as it has been noticed that organizations dedicated to implementing its principles have even managed to maximize their performance.

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