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Application Specifications Regarding Project Decisions in the Local Public Administration of Grăniceşti Commune, Suceava County, Romania

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Abstract: In order to optimize the public administration process, the local authorities initiate and implement projects oriented to the needs of the beneficiaries of the administrative-territorial unit they represent. In this context, this paper aims to analyze projects initiated at the local community to highlight the results that the beneficiaries will have from the implementation of those projects, by reporting to the case of Grăniceşti commune in Suceava County. Through the project of restoration and modernization of the primary school in the locality, the renovation of the educational institution was carried out, thus ensuring an institutional framework in which the teaching activities to take place in optimal conditions. Through the project of restoring the calamited bridge in the area, a new bridge was built for traffic, being guaranteed the safety of crossing the river, with an effect on improving the living standards of the local citizens. The project for the rehabilitation and modernization of the human dispensary in the locality ensured the endowment of the sanitary unit with high-performance equipment capable of providing quality public health services.

Keywords: *decisions for public projects; local public administration; local collectivity; mayor; local council; modernization of primary school; restoration of calamitated bridge; rehabilitation of human dispensary.*

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I. Introduction

The project is an investment of resources over a period of time, with the aim of achieving a specific objective or set of objectives (Chirleşan et al., 2001). In practice, when preparing and implementing public projects, in particular in the decision-making process for an investment option, the contracting public authority is faced with the problem of choosing the optimal investment option (Juričić et al., 2020).

From such a direction, this paper aims to analyze projects initiated at the local community to highlight the results that will have the beneficiaries from the implementation of those projects, by reference to the case of Grăniceşti commune in Suceava County.

The locality was initially established under the name of "Crăiniceşti", and later, in 1800, its name was changed to "Grăniceşti". In 1780, Grăniceşti was joined by three localities that are still part of the commune today: Iacobeşti, Românești and Dumbrava.

From a physical-geographical point of view, Grăniceşti commune is located in the northeastern part of Suceava county, its territory being part of the large natural unit of the northern Moldavian plateau, namely in the hilly region between Suceava and Siret rivers (Bojoi, 1979).

The locality has developed in close connection with the existence on its territory of some traffic arteries that allow a direct connection with the cities Suceava (27 km), Rădăuți (12 km) and Siret (15 km) (Hrehor, 2014).

The commune covers an area of about 5,000 ha and has a population of 5,725 inhabitants. In order to obtain the necessary ones, they carry out activities characteristic of the area, for example: raising animals and capitalizing on the resulting goods, constructions, wood processing, transports. Due to the fact that in the commune there is a rubber factory in Slobozia and a gravel pit in Gura Solcii, a situation that makes many people have a job.

In recent years, for example in the period 2016-2020, numerous projects have been carried out, namely:

- modernization of communal roads;
- repair of the sports field in Grăniceşti;
- rehabilitation and modernization of the human dispensary in Grăniceşti locality;
- extension of the water supply network in Grăniceşti commune;
- establishment of the sewerage system with treatment plant in Grăniceşti commune;
- extension of the electricity network;

- setting up a sports field in the village of Gura Solcii;
- restoration of the disaster bridge over the Solca river, in the village of Gura Solcii;
- modernization of the gymnasium school in Româneşti;
- restoration of the primary school in Dumbrava.

II. Restoration and modernization of the primary school in the locality of Dumbrava, Grăniceşti commune, Suceava county

Explanatory memorandum. Analyzing the mayor's explanatory memorandum, initiated on 17.02.2017, in order to achieve the investment objective of modernizing the Primary School in Dumbrava, he intends to present in a meeting of the Local Council the draft decision initiated to be brought to the knowledge of the local councilors, and subsequently to be submitted for approval.

Purpose and objectives of the project. At the time of initiating the draft decision, its sole purpose was to modernize the educational institution, in order to create an institutional framework in which to carry out teaching activities in optimal conditions. Until the decision to modernize the Primary School, the building where the classes took place was small, with very few classrooms, the teachers being in a position to carry out teaching activities in unfavorable conditions. For example, in one classroom, until that moment, they were working in class I and class III, and in another room, classes II and IV.

In order to support the stated purpose, the following objectives have been set:

- expanding the space of the educational institution and creating a classroom specific to each class of students;
- the establishment of sanitary spaces inside the institution and not in its yard, where they were until now;
- the creation of laboratories specific to each subject, in which experiments can be carried out or activities can be implemented;
- facilitating a favorable framework for carrying out teaching activities.

Approval of technical-economic indicators. On 24.02.2017, the Local Council of the commune met in an ordinary meeting to analyze the explanatory memorandum initiated by the mayor, the report of the financial-accounting office, public procurement and enforcement, as well as the report of the Commission for economic-social development programs, budget, finance, for the administration of the public and private domain of

the commune, agriculture, communal management, environmental protection and urbanism (Grăniceşti Local Council, 2019d).

During the meeting, the implementation of the project is approved, financed largely by the National Local Development Program, and the related technical and economic indicators are admitted, the mayor being appointed as responsible for the project to be carried out, and will conclude a contract regarding financing through NLDP, coordinated by the Ministry of Public Administration.

In order for this project to be financed by only one program, the commune must declare that it does not benefit from financial resources other than those specified in the approval report, the draft decision must be made public by publishing it in a public place, visible to all citizens, so that it can be challenged if any irregularities are identified.

The total value of the investment is 653,600 thousand lei, its duration being 24 months:

Table no. 1: Technical and economic indicators

Technical-economic indicators	**Thousand lei**
CHAPTER 1- Expenses for landscaping	10,710
CHAPTER 2 - Expenses for providing the necessary utilities	13,090
CHAPTER 3 - Expenses for design and technical assistance	70,448
CHAPTER 4 - Expenses for basic investment	502,125
CHAPTER 5 - Other expenses	57,227
CHAPTER 6 - *Expenses for commissioning*	0,000
TOTAL	653,600

Source: Grăniceşti Local Council (2019d)

Approval report related to the approval of indicators. The specialized commission for economic and social development programs, budget, finance, for the administration of the public and private domain of the commune, agriculture, communal management, environmental protection, urbanism meeting in session on 24.02.2017 submitted for debate the approval of the draft decision aforementioned (Specialized commission for economic and social development programs, budget, finance, for the administration of the public and private domain of the commune,

agriculture, communal management, environmental protection, urbanism, 2017b).

The draft decision together with the explanatory memorandum were presented by the mayor, as initiator of the project, after its analysis, the councilors were in favor of the approval, the project being submitted to vote and approved with 5 votes out of 5.

The specialized commission for economic and social development programs delegates the chairman of the commission to present the respective report during the Local Council meeting. The report was endorsed by the President of the Commission and the Secretary, with the institution's control stamp affixed.

Financing from the local budget of a category of expenditures. During an ordinary meeting, the mayor informs the local councilors that a series of expenses must be paid from the local fund of the administrative-territorial unit, because they are not included in the list of funding obtained through the National Local Development Program. At the end of the meeting, the financing of the expenses regarding the obtaining and arrangement of the land was approved, but also of the expenses for design and technical assistance from the own revenues of the institution, amounting to 67 thousand lei.

Project development period. The works of the project took place over a period of 24 months, being started in the spring of 2017 and completed in early 2019, when the school was modernized and equipped with furniture and equipment necessary for teaching activities. After these activities were carried out, and the verification of the correctness of the work was approved by the site manager, the school was put into use, and the students resumed their teaching activity within this educational institution.

Realization of the project. The designer carried out most of the works financed by NLDP within Grăniceşti commune, and due to the special results obtained at the end of each project, he gained the appreciation and trust of the initiator.

Sources of funding. The expenses necessary for the restoration of the Primary School were financed mostly through the NLDP program, but also from the local budget of the respective administrative-territorial unit.

Expenditures covered by financing from the local budget. As part of the eligible expenses for the investment project did not fall into the category of those to be covered by NLDP, the initiator of the project informed the Local Council what must be financed from its own resources, so that the work to be able to be implemented.

Thus, the local budget of Grăniceşti City Hall incurred expenses in the total amount of approximately 89,500 lei for (Grăniceşti Local Council, 2017a):

- arrangements for environmental protection and bringing the land to its original state;
- field studies;
- necessary documents and expenses for obtaining approvals, agreements, authorizations;
- technical expertise;
- design and engineering;
- public procurement procedures;
- consultancy;
- technical assistance;
- site management;
- commissions, fees and quotas.

Financing from the state budget through NLDP. Being a project whose main source of funding is the state budget, it is obvious that the work is largely supported by it.

The amount allocated for this project is 564,200 lei, being divided accordingly for the following activities:

- expenses related to providing the utilities necessary for the operation of the investment objective;
- design theme;
- technical verifications regarding the project and its execution in the best conditions;
- technical design and execution details;
- constructions, installations, machinery, technical equipment that require or not assembly, but necessary for the realization of the work;
- construction works;
- various expenses that were not foreseen at the initiation of the project, but which were registered during the 24 months.



Image no. 1. Dumbrava Primary School at the end of the project
Source: Official page of Grăniceşti commune City Hall.

III. Restoration of the calamitated bridge over the Solca river in Gura Solcii locality, Grăniceşti commune, Suceava county

Explanatory memorandum. On 17.02.2017 the mayor of the commune initiates two explanatory memorandum, attaching together with them the related report, to be presented at the ordinary meeting held on 27.02.2017, to present them to local councilors and find out their opinions them regarding the draft decision.

Purpose and objectives. This draft decision was initiated in order to build a new bridge over the river Solca, which would connect the localities of Slobozia and Gura Solcii, because the existing bridge was damaged and because it was not built of resistant materials. In terms of traffic, only pedestrians could travel on the bridge, the cars having to travel through water due to the small size of the bridge, but also due to the fact that it was built of wood, which does not ensure traffic safety.

In order to achieve the purpose of the project, the main objectives to be met were formulated:

- construction of a new bridge to be used for road traffic;
- safety of crossing the river (either as a driver or as a pedestrian);
- improving the living standard of the local citizens.

Technical and economic indicators. Convened during an ordinary meeting, the Local Council of Grăniceşti commune was informed of the mayor's explanatory memorandum regarding the approval of the indicators necessary for the project initiated by him.

The implementation of the project "Restoration of the calamited bridge over the Solca River in Gura Solcii locality, Grăniceşti commune, Suceava county" is approved by the National Local Development Program and the project indicators are approved, the mayor being appointed representative of the project. (Grăniceşti Local Council, 2019c)

At the moment of financing through NLDP, the commune no longer has the right to accept financing from another program, the draft decision being brought to the citizens' notice by its publication.

The total value of the investment is estimated at 3,174,760 thousand lei, the duration of the works being 24 months. The construction of the bridge will be done on a length of 56 meters, with a width of 6.10 meters.

Table no. 2: Technical and economic indicators

Technical-economic indicators	Thousand lei
CHAPTER 1 - Expenses for obtaining and arranging the land	29,750
CHAPTER 2 - Expenditures for ensuring the utilities necessary for the investment objective	0,000
CHAPTER 3 - Expenses for design and technical assistance	279,650
CHAPTER 4 - Expenses for basic investment	2.767,181
CHAPTER 5 - Other expenses	98,180
CHAPTER 6 - Expenses for commissioning	0,000
TOTAL	3.174,760

Source: Grăniceşti Local Council (2019c)

Approval report. After the presentation of the project initiated by the mayor, the specialized commission dealing with the respective field submitted for debate the approval of the project. Following the analysis, the draft was approved by all members of the board and will be implemented.

Approval of funding from the local budget. Due to the fact that such a project requires an extensive list of expenses, these categories cannot be fully covered by the project's funding program, meaning that the need for funding from the administrative-territorial unit's own budget to identify start-up works is identified. Therefore, during the meeting of the Local Council, the explanatory memorandum addresses this issue, being brought to the attention of councilors in order to receive approval and funding. After the debate, the financing from the local budget of the ineligible expenses necessary for the project is approved. Because without the financing of these expenses from own resources, the works for starting the project cannot be started, it is approved the granting of the amount of 248,727 lei to cover the expenses regarding:

- arrangements for environmental protection;
- bringing the land to a stage suitable for starting the works;
- feasibility study;
- technical assistance;
- site organization;
- axes;
- commissions;
- notices, etc.

Deployment period. The works of the project started in June 2018 and took place over a period of 24 months, with a completion date of May 2020. After the completion of the work, the related controls were performed and the bridge was given in use of the commune and open to road traffic.

Sources of funding. In order to achieve this objective, the amount of 2,872,668 lei was obtained through NLDP, and the Local Council agreed to grant the amount of 248,727 lei from its own budget to cover the expenses that are not covered by the main source of financing.



Imagine no. 2. Restoration work on the calamited bridge over the Solca River
Source: Authors' own conception

IV. Rehabilitation and modernization of human dispensary in the locality of Grăniceşti, the community of Grăniceşti, Suceava county

Explanatory memorandum. During a Local Council meeting organized on 24.02.2017, the mayor of the commune presents the draft decision regarding the fulfillment of an objective to satisfy the needs of the citizens, namely "Restoration and modernization of the human dispensary in Grăniceşti".

Purpose and objectives. The purpose of this project is to modernize and equip the human dispensary of the commune with state-of-the-art equipment, in order to offer the best services in the field of human health.

In order to fulfill the formulated goal, a series of objectives were outlined, such as:

- building an elevator for people with disabilities or for those who cannot go upstairs with stairs;
- restructuring the building so that the pharmacy has a separate entrance, so that patients do not spend a lot of space in the lobby of the room, which was quite small;
- creation of vaccination rooms;
- creation of offices for each doctor, respectively nurses;
- offering better conditions: high-performance equipment, waiting room, elevator, dental chair;

- arranging the space in a style as welcoming as possible.

Technical and economic indicators. Meeting in an ordinary meeting, the Local Council examined the explanatory memorandum initiated by the mayor, the report of the Financial Accounting Bureau, public procurement and enforcement, as well as the report of the Development Committee.

Based on those presented, in accordance with the legal provisions, the decision was approved to approve the project "Rehabilitation and modernization of human dispensary in Grăniceşti locality, Grăniceşti commune, Suceava county, through the National Local Development Program" (Grăniceşti Local Council, 2019b).

Because a project must be financed only by a source / institution / program, the commune must declare that it does not obtain income from other parties, apart from the registered ones, in order for it to be approved and receive funding.

The value of the investment is approximately 1,081,070 lei, money that will be spent during the work.

Table no. 3. Technical and economic indicators

Technical-economic indicators	Thousand lei
CHAPTER 1 - Expenses for securing and arranging the land	11,900
CHAPTER 2 - Expenditures for ensuring the utilities necessary for the investment objective	0,000
CHAPTER 3 - Expenses for design and technical assistance	97,104
CHAPTER 4 - Expenses for basic investment	916,175
CHAPTER 5 - Other expenses	55,891
CHAPTER 6 - Expenses for commissioning	0,000
TOTAL	1.081,070

Source: Grăniceşti Local Council (2019b)

Approval report. The specialized commission for economic and social development programs, budget, finance, for the administration of the public and private domain of the commune, agriculture, communal management, environmental protection and urbanism met in the meeting of 24.02.2017 submitted for debate the approval of the draft decision mentioned above (Specialized commission for economic and social development programs, budget, finance, for the administration of the public and private domain of

the commune, agriculture, communal management, environmental protection, urbanism, 2017a).

Following the analysis of the project, the councilors were in favor of approving it, being approved with 5 votes out of 5.

Co-financing from the local budget. At the date of elaboration of the draft decision and of the expenses necessary for its realization, a series of payments were identified that will not be financed by PNDL. Thus, a draft decision is initiated in order to approve the co-financing of an amount from the local budget. Analyzed during a meeting, for this project it is approved the allocation of the amount of 91,701 lei from own revenues for the payment of expenses regarding:

- landscaping;
- design and technical assistance;
- basic investments.

Project duration. The project works started in July 2018, with a deadline of 24 months from the beginning of the works, the project being completed in June 2020.

Sources of funding. In order to achieve this objective, the amount of 1,081,071 lei was required, the financing from the state budget being 989,370 lei, and the difference of 91,071 lei was granted from own funds.



Imagine no. 3. Human dispensary in Grăniceşti, after completion of works
Source: Official page of Grăniceşti commune City Hall.

IV. Conclusions

Based on the above, we can conclude that this approach has made it possible to analyze a number of three projects initiated at the local level - restoration and modernization of primary school, restoration of calamited bridge and rehabilitation and modernization of human dispensary, highlighting the results on which the beneficiaries - locals from Grăniceşti commune will obtain as a result of the implementation of these projects.

The project "Restoration and modernization of the primary school in Dumbrava locality, Grăniceşti commune, Suceava county" aimed at

renovating the educational institution, in order to create an institutional framework in which the teaching activities can be carried out in optimal conditions. For this, it was necessary: the extension of the space of the educational institution and the creation of a classroom specific to each class of students; the establishment of sanitary spaces inside the institution and not in its yard; the creation of laboratories specific to each subject, in which experiments can be carried out or activities can be carried out; facilitating a favorable framework for teaching activities.

The project "Restoration of the disaster bridge over the Solca River in Gura Solcii, Grăniceşti Commune, Suceava County" aimed to serve local needs regarding traffic and traffic safety. Through this project, a new bridge was built to be used for road traffic; the safety of crossing the river was guaranteed (either as a driver or as a pedestrian), with an effect on improving the living standards of the local citizens.

The project "Rehabilitation and modernization of human dispensary in Grăniceşti locality, Grăniceşti commune, Suceava county" aimed at equipping the sanitary unit with state-of-the-art equipment, in order to offer the most efficient services in the field of health. For this purpose, this project succeeded in: building the elevator for people with disabilities or for those who can not go upstairs with stairs; restructuring the building so that the pharmacy has a separate entrance, so that patients do not spend too much space in the lobby of the room, which was quite small; creation of vaccination rooms; creation of offices for each doctor, respectively nurses; endowment with high-performance equipment, waiting room, dental chair; arranging the space in a style as welcoming as possible.

In total, the analysis of these three projects initiated at local level made it possible to highlight the results of community members in Grăniceşti commune - modernized primary school, rebuilt calamit bridge and rehabilitated human dispensary, respectively.

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