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The economic culture- aspects concerning the energy consumption in the Romanian society

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Abstract

The economic culture represents that side of the human culture which refers to the way a society is reported to the production, resources and everything that means the economic life of the society. The energetic resources represent some of the most important resources for the human society. In this paper, the authors try to identify a model of the energy consumption in the Romanian society, because this consumption practically represents the position that different members of the society have, compared to this resource. The purpose is represented by identifying features of the consumption that are specific to the residential consumption, along with the particularities of the various sectors of the Romanian economy.

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1. Introduction

The culture represents the defining element for the civilization level that a human society has reached. According to (Taylor E.B., 2001), by “culture”, we understand all the elements that define the reporting manner of the members of a collectivity to the aspects of the surrounding reality. The concept of “culture” concerns both the artistic and spiritual aspects of the daily life in a collectivity (Boling et al., 2014), and its material side. Therefore, apart from the

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artistic and spiritual manifestations of the culture (Nica and Molnar, 2014), we can also discuss about technical culture, or economic culture.

The concept of “economic culture” refers to the manner in which the members of the community report to the aspects of the economic life of those communities (Mccahery and Vermeulen, 2014). By this, we understand the way in which the members of that community interact with concepts such as: property, resources, means of production, market, workforce, profit etc. This way, the manner in which the resources within the analyzed community are consumed (Misra and Mohapatra, 2014), represent an aspect of the economic culture of that community (Naert, 2014). Another aspect of the economic culture is represented by the members of the community (Popescu Ljungholm, 2014b) as they choose the employee position, or the entrepreneur position (Mulligan, 2015).

As energy represents a component that is essential to the survival and the development of the human society (Popescu, 2014), in a society, the energy consumption represents an important aspect of the economic culture of that society. In the Romanian society, the energy consumption customs achieved important modifications during the period that passed since the political regime changed, in 1989. The development of the economy during the communist period had, as a principal purpose, the accelerated industrialization of Romania. Given these conditions, the energetic resources were consumed in an accelerated rhythm, often detrimental to the efficiency, in order to achieve a quick development of the industry sector.

Afterwards, the nationalist orientation of the party and country leaders resulted in the attempt to also develop an independent economy from the financial resources point of view (Agarwal, 2014). That objective, although economically ideal, led to anomalies in the development of the Romanian economy, and to malfunctions in the population’s social life. The need to obtain high productions of all the products that could be capitalized at export (and we do have to admit that, back then, more products could be capitalized), led to the imposition of restrictions to the population, direct or indirect, for different energetic resources.

Thus, the alimentation with electric energy of the homes was interrupted at the rush hours, in order for the industrial installations to be maintained active, without unbalancing the national energy system. Another restriction consisted of allocating progressive shares of the consumption, that were differentially charged, with prices that differed a lot. So that overcoming the share that was indirectly sanctioned, through the medium of an overvalued charge.

The fuel for the personal cars was also rationalized, and the circulation of the vehicles in weekends was alternatively allowed, depending on the registration number.

All these restrictions, that were imposed to the population in that period of time, led to a different energy consumption behavior, compared the anterior period of time. It was characterized through the lack of restrictions concerning the energy consumption, and even in an abundance of these resources, which made the selling price accessible to the great majority of the population. Thus, the population was compelled to supply with alternative sources of illumination, for the long periods of time when electric energy was interrupted. This is how kerosene-fueled lanterns reappeared, along with the classical lanterns, candles or devices that were improvised from automotive batteries and neon lamps. In this paper, the authors try to identify an existent model of the energy consumption that is specific to the Romanian society, as a component part of the economic culture (Glac, 2014) of this society.

The sources of energy that were analyzed, were the following:

- electric energy
- liquid petroleum products
- natural gas
- solid fuel

The manner in which energy is consumed depends on the activity that is performed, so that we will analyze the particular features of the consumption in the following situations:

- residential consumption, urban and rural
- industrial consumption
- consumption in the transport sector, in which we include particular vehicles, which are used for touristic purposes or for solving family problems
- consumption in the services sector
- consumption in the agriculture and forestry apiculture sectors

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