SECȚIA I
ECONOMIA INOVAŢIONALĂ: MANAGEMENT, FINANŢE ŞI CONTABILITATE PENTRU DEZVOLTAREA DURABILĂ/
INNOVATION ECONOMY: MANAGEMENT, FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/
ИННОВАЦИОННАЯ ЭКОНОМИКА: МЕНЕДЖМЕНТ, ФИНАНСЫ И УЧЕТ ДЛЯ УСТОЙЧИВОГО РАЗВИТИЯ

FISCAL INSTRUMENTS FOR DECARBONIZATION: ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC EFFECTIVENESS OF GREEN TAXATION VERSUS DIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENTS IN ROMANIA

Carmelia Mariana BĂLĂNICĂ DRAGOMIR, ORCID ID: 0000-0001-7743-928X
"Dunărea de Jos " University of Galati, Galati, Romania

Ciprian CUZMIN, ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2830-6728
"Dunărea de Jos " University of Galati, Romania

*Corresponding author: Carmelia Mariana Bălănică Dragomir, e-mail: Carmelia.Dragomir@ugal.ro

Introduction and Background

Environmental taxes are a fundamental instrument of environmental policy, falling within the broad category of economic instruments intended for environmental protection, pollution control and sustainable management of natural resources. In Romania, the annual collection of environmental taxes is structured into four main categories: energy taxes (including transport fuels); transport taxes (excluding fuels); pollution taxes and resource taxes.

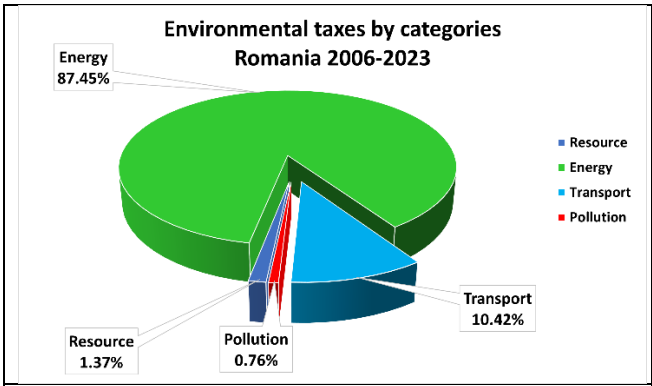

Figure 1. Environmental taxes by categories Romania 2006-2023

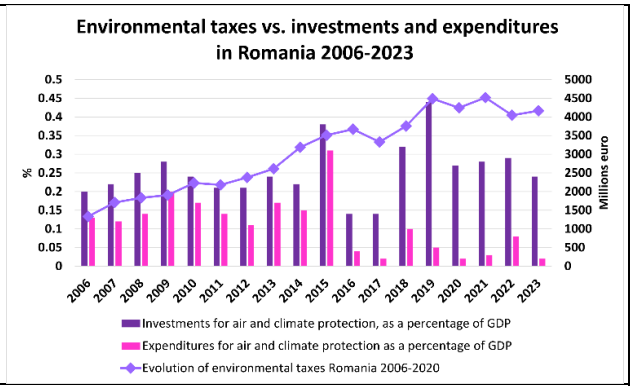

Figure 2. Environmental taxes vs. investments and expenditures in Romania 2006-2023

The impact of climate change is becoming increasingly evident and widespread, which makes, in the current socio-economic context, environmental taxes a key factor in ensuring the sustainable development of the entire society. Green taxes (or environmental taxes) have their origin in the tax system used in public accounting and are defined as mandatory expenditures (tax levies) that are collected either through national public administrations or through European Union bodies.

Methodology

According to processed statistical data (from the National Institute of Statistics) for the period 2006-2023, the structure of environmental taxation indicates a predominant concentration on the energy sector.

Results

More precisely, the highest share is held by energy taxes, which represent about 88% of total environmental revenues. In second place are transport taxes, with a share of approximately 10%. In contrast, resource taxes and pollution taxes register insignificant percentages (of approximately 1% each) in total

revenues. This distribution highlights the major dependence of environmental tax revenues on energy consumption and transport, while suggesting a reduced use of direct taxes on pollution and resource extraction as levers to discourage environmentally harmful behavior.

Conclusions and Implications

These fiscal instruments are essential not only as sources of revenue, but also as market mechanisms that internalize the external costs of pollution, thus orienting economic decisions towards practices that are less harmful to the environment. Therefore, environmental taxation plays a vital role in stimulating environmentally friendly behavior and in financing measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of the climate crisis.

Keywords: *Climate changes, Environmental taxes, Sustainable development*