

SUSTAINABILITY: THE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROPERTY

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SUMMARY

Sustainability is one of those busy words recently introduced in our vocabulary in order to explain present state of life support systems. In this respect there are number of definitions which are describing specific aspect of sustainability notion. The management system is complex system and requires adequate tool to measure sustainability as the complexity property of management system. The lecture will enlight the historical background of the sustainability development and emphasizes its importance for the management system validation. The complexity of sustainability notion is characterized by multi-dimensional structure including indicators of different scale. The application of sustainability development to the management system requires respective methodology and procedure. The complexity of management system is defined as structure of elements which are comprising individual functionality within the management system. Each element is described with number of indicators. The methodology is based on multi-criteria evaluation of the system. With the agglomeration of indicators of elements of management system the Sustainability Index is derived which introduce the quality measure of the management system. Quality of the management system is an immanent property which requires specific procedure and methodology to be measured. The multi-criteria Sustainability Index measurement leads to the evaluation of management system. Presented evaluation method is based on the priority list formation among the options under consideration, The essential feature of the evaluation method possibility to obtain the effect of different constrain on the priority list.

Key words: sustainability, management system, indicators, quality, multi-criteria assessment,

1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development encompasses economic, social, and ecological perspectives of conservation and change. In correspondence with the WCED, it is generally defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." [1,2] This definition is based on ethical imperative of equity within and between generations. Moreover, apart from meeting; basic needs of all; sustainable development implies sustaining the natural life-support systems on Earth, and extending to all the opportunity to satisfy their aspirations for a better life. Hence, sustainable development is more precisely defined as 'a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are all harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspiration.

This definition involves an important transformation and extension of the based concept of physical sustainability to the social and economic context of development. Thus, terms of sustainability cannot exclusively be defined from an environmental point of view or basis of

attitudes. Rather, the challenge is to define operational and consistent terms of sustainability from an integrated social, ecological, and economic system perspective. This gives rise to two fundamental issues that need to be clearly distinguished before integrating normative and positive issues in an overall framework.

The first issue is concerned with the objectives of sustainable development; that is, “what should be sustained” and “what kind of development do prefer”. These are normative questions that involve value judgments about society's objectives with respect to social, economic, and ecological system goals. These value judgments are usefully expressed in terms of a social welfare function, which allows an evaluation of trade-offs among the different system goals.

The second issue deals with the positive aspect of sustainable development; that is, the feasibility problem of “what can be sustained” and “what kind of system we can get”. It requires one to understand how the different systems interact and evolve, and how they could be managed. Formally, this can be represented in a dynamic model by a set of differential equations and additional constraints. The entire set of feasible combinations of social, economic and ecological states describes the inter-temporal transformation space of the economy in the broadest sense.

Complexity is the property which describes the state of complex system[6,7]. It is multi-criteria indicator which comprises all individual characteristics of the system. Complex system is entity which characterizes the structure with a large number of elements interacting among themselves. There is different structure of elements. Elements in biology are structured to perform specific function. Typical example is DNA molecule, comprising large number of elements interacting among themselves. In the information theory the structure of elements is described as the internet network with large number of nodes for information exchange. In energy system we can describe complex system as the system which produces, transport and utilize different energy sources. The complexity of these systems is the internal property of the system expressed as the wholeness property. This imply that the complexity describe the essential characteristic of the system. If the complexity is described in thermodynamic words, it represents the internal parameter of the system expressed by agglomerated indicators describing specific property of the system. If we take into a consideration only material system, we can take the entropy of the system as the macroscopic property of the system. These can be applied to chemically bounded molecules. Prigogine [8,9] has determined the characteristic property of these systems as the entropy generation. This means that every interaction between elements accompanying with mass, momentum and energy exchange ultimately is connected and contribute to the entropy generation in the system. It should be taken into a consideration that the entropy generation is defined per unit mass of the system and represent specific property of the system. So the entropy generation represent the complexity property of the system.

If we take into a consideration non-material system where complex properties include entities which are not defined per unit mass of the system, we have to introduce notion which represents wholeness of the system. Good example for this type of complex system Internet system. Large numbers of nodes are connected in large net serving to transfer information among nodes. If we assume that transfer of information contribute to the increase of informativity of the system, we can see that the increase of informativity is equivalent to the increase of the complexity of the system. In this respect the informativity is equivalent to complexity.

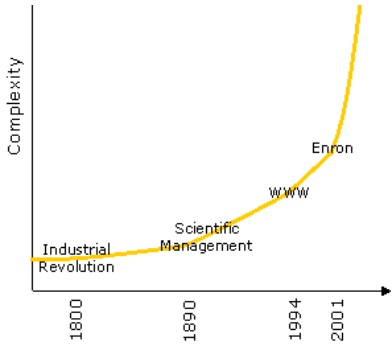
The management system is also complex system with defined functionality to produce, transfer and utilize different sources. Each of elements of the system is an open sub-system with different processes which perform its function by the exchange of capital and products. These transfer processes always include exchanges which are measuring parameters of the system.

If we introduce in this analysis the multi-criteria evaluation of energy system, we have to recognize also those indicators which are reflecting all potential interaction of the system and

surrounding. In this respect, we will use as the indicators the integral parameters of the system, which comprise resource, economic, environment and social indicators. Since these indicators are given in different scales it is necessary to convert them into the specific quantities which are expressed in the same scale. Convolution of these indicators will represent an integral measuring parameter which will reflect the total quality of the system. Any degradation of the system will lead to the decrease of Sustainability Index.

2. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Management system is structured organization system aimed to monitor and control performance, configuration, accounting, faults and security of the system. Elements of organizational structure are interacting among themselves leading to changes of the characteristic parameter of the system. Monitoring system is complex system and characterized by the complexity property. The complexity is measurement of interaction between elements of the system. In Fig. 1 is presented the increase of complexity of the management system. From very simple system of industrial revolution in 1800, scientific management in 1890, www in 1994 to Enron in 2001 the complexity has increased exponentially [3]



There are three interrelated approaches to the modern study of complex systems [4,5], (1) how interactions give rise to patterns of behavior, (2) understanding the ways of describing complex systems, and (3) the process of formation of complex systems through pattern formation and evolution. In dealing with management system it is of interest to focus our attention to the description of complex system. The management system is composed of number of element with functionally defined role within the system.

Figure 1. Complexity of Management system

It will include following elements: financing, organizing, market, education , fault monitoring, information and knowledge base elements. Each of the element will be described by the appropriate indicators in order to accommodate differences in the management system. Elements are agglomeration of the potential option of management systems. As the example we can describe financing element as the set of options meeting different criteria in validation of the management system. The same feature be exercised with other elements leading to the potential of the large number of management systems. In order to mathematically defined variation of the management system we can introduce notion of the complexity as the property of the management system. It was verified that the sustainability is property of the complex system .In this respect by the appropriate definition of General Sustainability Index as the parameter of complex system, we can have measuring characteristic for the assessment of management system.

3. SUSTAINABILITY INDEX OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

3.1. Sustainability

Lately, in a number of years “sustainability“ has become a popular buzzword in the discussion of the resources use and environment policy. Before any further discussion of the subject, it is

necessary to define and properly assess the term we are going to use. So, what is sustainability? Among the terms most often adapted are the following .

a.) for the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) [1]
“ development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs “

b.) for the Agenda 21 , Chapter 35 [2]

“ development requires taking long-term perspectives, integrating local and regional effects of global change into the development process , and using the best scientific and traditional knowledge available “

c.) for the Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences, Declaration of the Council Engineering and Technological Sciences,1995 [3]

“ It means the balancing of economic ,social, environmental and technological consideration, as well as the incorporation of a set of ethic values “

d.) for the Earth Chapter (The Earth Chapter, 1995) [4]

“ The protection of the environment is essential for human well-being and the enjoyment of fundamental rights, and as such requires the exercise of corresponding fundamental duties “

e.) Thomas Jefferson, Sept.6 1889 (Jenkinson C.S.,1987) [5]

“ Then I say the earth belongs to each generation during its course, fully and in its right no generation can contract debts greater than may be paid during the course of its existence”

3.2. General Sustainability Index for Management system

The definition of General Sustainability Index is essential requirement for the measurement of sustainability as the property of the system [11,12]. It imply that the system under consideration is complex system. Close link between General Sustainability Index and complexity of the system the essential property of the system. It reflects multi-dimension and multi-criteria properties as the essential parameters in the assessment and validation of the system. It has been shown [13] any complex system is in essence is composed of a number of element which are in interaction among themselves. These interactions are described as the non-linear processes imposing some chaotic behavior.

Management system is entity with a number of elements devoted to the specific function of the system [14]. For the identification of management system, it is of importance to clarify elements function and their contribution to the general behavior of the system. Each element is defined with respective number of indicators describing their multi-criteria attributes. Since all indicators are defined in different scale their contribution to the general property of element have to be appropriately defined , in order to meet requirement for the general scale in which the property of element is defined.

In general, the management system is composed of following elements: organization, operation, financing, resources, education, knowledge base, technology development and control. Each of these elements is associated with the respective cluster of indicators reflecting economic, social, environment and capacity building properties. Fig.2 shows graphic presentation of the management property structure It can be noticed that the first level represents the elements of the management property. The second level represents indicators marking specific property of all elements. All elements are defined by the same group of indicators but will have different values as specified for each element. The management property will be defined as the agglomeration function of element properties. Contribution of each element to the General Management Index is defined by the respective weighting coefficient multiplied with agglomerated indicator for the respective element .

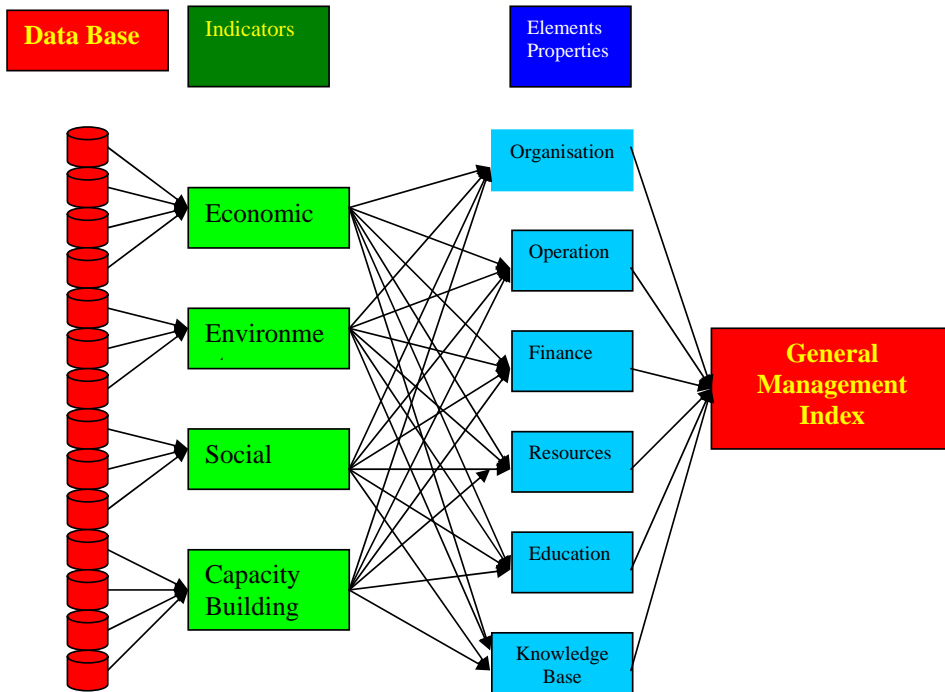


Figure 1. Management property structure

3.3. Indicators for Management system

In general, every management system is characterized with organization, operation, financial, resource, social and capacity building properties. The assessment and evaluation of the management system requires to take into a consideration all properties of the system. Contribution of each property to the General Management Index is defined with appropriately selected weighting coefficients

The management system is defined as the multi-level decision-making procedure which includes different aspects of the quality designation for the specific system.

The General Management Index is agglomeration function of the elements representing individual characteristic of management system.. It is anticipated that each element is function of the set of indicators representing economic, social, environmental and capacity building indicators. Indicators are defined as specific parameters characterizing criteria imposed to the description of elements. The data base is a set of data comprising values of sub-indicators measuring the specific quality of indicators.

Recently it has become necessary to make assessment of any system taking into a consideration the multiple attributes decision making method. It has been exercised in the number of cases the evolution of systems with criteria reflecting resource, economic , environment , technology and social aspect [15,16,17,18] . A complex (multi-attribute, many-dimensional, multivariate, etc.) management system is a system, whose *quality* under investigation is determined by many *initial indices* Any initial indices is treated as the quality's , which are related to the corresponding *criterion*. It is supposed that these indices are necessary and sufficient for the systems' quality estimation [19].

4. DEMONSTRATION OF GENERAL MANAGEMENT INDEX

In order to verify the application of multi-criteria assessment of management system it is necessary to define the structure of system including criteria and respective indicators. The management system to be taken into a consideration will be composed of following elements: business and financial effect, quality, health and safety and environment concern. Each of the elements will include a number of indicators. Indicators are clusters of sub-indicators reflecting quality of the criteria imposed on the element of the system. In this evaluation we will take into a consideration several options which are defined with appropriate numerical values of sub-indicators. These values are supposed to express the differences in qualities of the management system. In Table 1 are presented values of the sub-indicators and their aggregation[20].

Table 1-A

	Business & Financial Effects			Quality			
	Unit Cost	Increase in sale	Profit	Rejected parts (internal)	Rejected parts (external)	Late Delivery	Complains
	\$/product	\$/product	\$/product	\$/product	\$/product	Per unit	Per unit
1	285	9%	11%	0.03%	0.006%	\$ 0.04	0.003
2	7,859	16%	14%	0.007%	0.0005%	\$0.00	0.0007
3	32,440	1.4%	21%	0.04%	0.00001%	\$ 0.02	0.000
4	192	28%	14%	0.4%	0.07%	\$ 0.00	0.000
5	3,850	6.6	16%	0.008%	0.0004%	\$ 0.03	0.0004

Table 1-B

	Health & Safety			Environmental Concern		
	Injuries	Lost Time	Legal	Third party complaints	Legal citation	Env. impact
	Hr/worked	Hr/worked	Hr/worked	Per 1K empl	Per 1K empl	Per 1KEmpl.
1	1 per 94K	0.0006	2.47 per 100K	0.000	None	11,229
2	1 per 122K	0.00003	3.14 per 100K	0.03	None	15,677
3	1 per 228K	0.000006	3.14 per 100K	0.0005	0.007	22,7894
4	1 per 89K	0.0008	3.14 per 100K	0.000	0.0003	8,560
5	1 per 177K	0.00004	3.14 per 100K	0.0008	0.00008	48,556

This exercise is devoted to the automobile industry having products as the single item directly exposed to the market. In this analysis we will start from the zero level indicators. These indicators are expressed in different scale, and they are agglomerated in indicators of first level. It is assumed to have four indicators defining respective characteristics of the management system and representing the first level of indicators. These indicators are the quantitative measurement of respective criteria. In this analysis the criteria with following indicators are introduced: economic, environmental, capacity building and social indicators. Each of these indicators is component of the second level indicators which describes a specific characteristic of the management system. The General Management Index represents measuring parameter of the management system to be analyzed and represents the agglomeration indicator of second level indicators. Fig. 3 presents the structure of the General Management Index.

4.1. Indicator Agglomeration

In the design of the General Management Index structure, we have assumed three agglomeration processes. Namely,

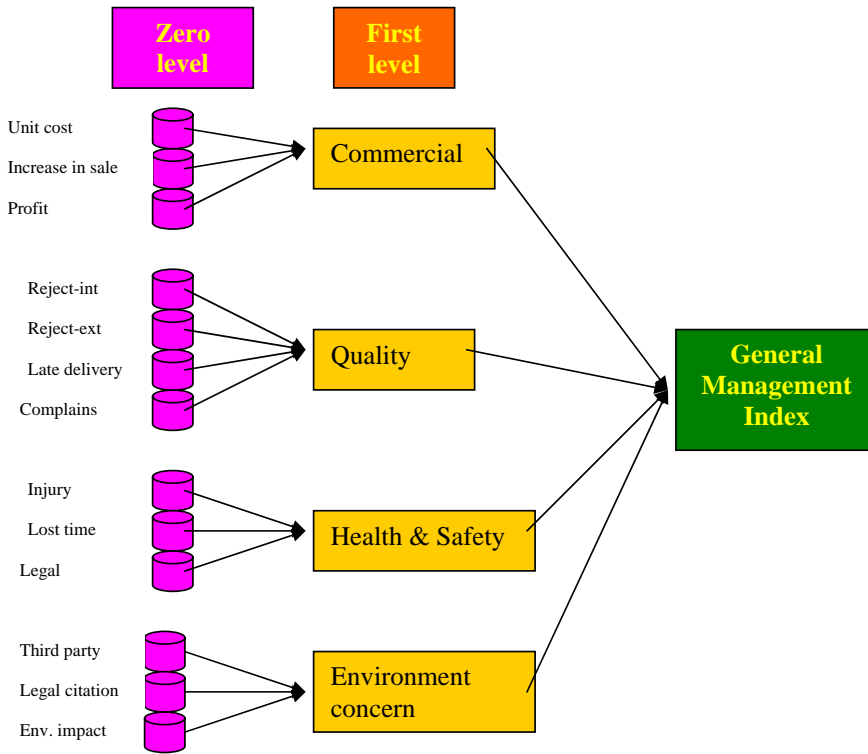


Figure 3. General Management Index Structure

Agglomeration at the first level

$$Q^{Com} = w_{Uc}q_{Uc} + w_{Is}q_{Is} + w_{Pr}q_{Pr} \quad (1)$$

$$Q^{qua} = w_{Rint}q_{Rint} + w_{Re\ x_2}q_{Re\ x_2} + w_{Ld}q_{Ld} + w_{Comp}q_{Comp} \quad (2)$$

$$Q^{H\&S} = w_{In}q_{In} + w_{LT}q_{LT} + w_{Le}q_{Le} \quad (3)$$

$$Q^{Env} = w_{Thp}q_{Thp} + w_{Lc}q_{Lc} + w_{Eni}q_{Eni} \quad (4)$$

Agglomeration at the second level

$$Q_{GMI} = w_{Com}Q^{Com} + w_{Qua}Q^{Qua} + w_{H\&S}Q^{H\&S} + w_{Env}Q^{Env} \quad (5)$$

The first level of agglomeration implies the need for normalization of each indicator of the zero level and determination of the weight coefficient of each indicator.

Normalization procedure is performed with selection of Max and Min values of indicator among the options under consideration and by the use of linear normalization function.

$$q_i(x_i) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x_i \leq MIN(i), \\ \left(\frac{x_i - MIN(i)}{MAX(i) - MIN(i)} \right)^\lambda, & \text{if } MIN(i) < x_i \leq MAX(i), \\ 1, & \text{if } x_i > MAX(i) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

or

$$q_i(x_i) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x_i \leq \text{MAX}(i), \\ \left(\frac{\text{MAX}(i) - x_i}{\text{MAX}(i) - \text{MIN}(i)} \right)^\lambda, & \text{if } \text{MIN}(i) < x_i \leq \text{MAX}(i), \\ 1, & \text{if } x_i > \text{MIN}(i) \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

The weight coefficients are determined by randomization procedure. In order to define weight-coefficient vector the randomization of uncertainty is introduced . Randomization produces stochastic with realizations from corresponding sets of functions and a random weight-vector. It is assumed that the measurement of the weight coefficients is accurate to within a steps $h = 1/n$, with n a positive integer. In this case the infinite set of all possible vectors may be approximated by the finite set $W(m,n)$ of all possible weight vectors with discrete components. In our case, we will use m and n so that the total number of elements of the set $W(m,n)$ is $N(m,n)$.

For each agglomeration indicator n and m parameters have to be selected. Also the priority of indicator has to be predefined.

With application of this procedure to all indicators a their agglomeration, we will obtain the General Management Index rating among options under consideration. Changing priority constrain in this procedure we can obtain the effect of the different constrain to the finale rating list. This will lead to the quality assessment of management system under predefined constrains.

5. RESULTS

Results presented in this chapter are obtained from the demonstration exercise for the five Management system options and number of sub-indicators as defined in the previous chapter. Multi-criteria assessment is based in the following steps. First step is the agglomeration of sub-indicators. Second step is determination of the General Management Index Rating.

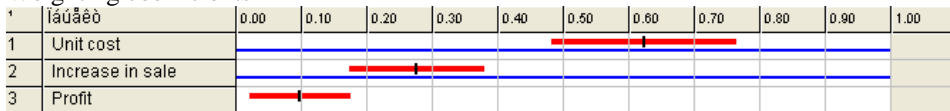
5.1. Agglomerated Commercial Indicator

In our exercise for the demonstration of the General Management Index rating, a following constrains for the Commercial Indicator are used:

1. Case 1 :Unit cost > Increase in sale > Profit
2. Case 2: Increase in sale > Unit cost > Profit
3. Case 3 :Profit > Unit cost > Unit cost

Case 1:Unit cost>Increase in Sale>Profit

Weighting coefficients



Agglomerated commercial indicator

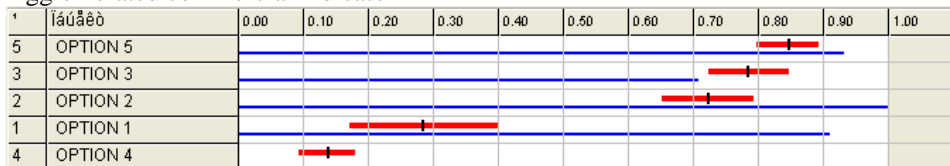
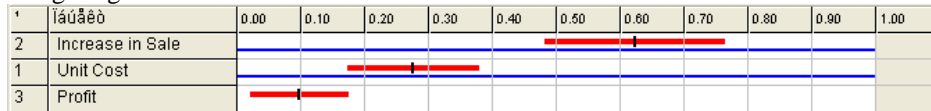


Figure 4. Agglomerated Commercial Indicator for Case 1

Case 2 :Increase in sale >Unit cost>Profit

Weighting coefficients



Agglomerated commercial indicator

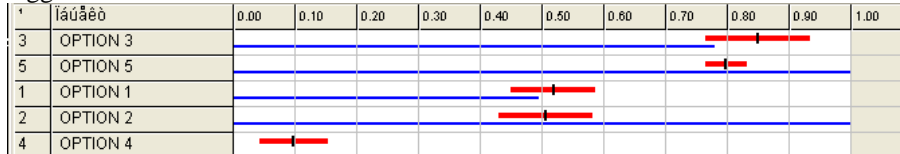


Figure 5. Agglomerated Commercial Indicator for Case 2

Case 3 :Profit >Increase in sale >Unit cost

Weighting coefficients



Agglomerated commercial indicator

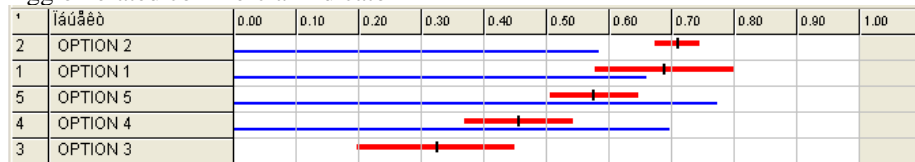


Figure 6. Agglomerated Commercial Indicator for Case 3

The same procedure is adapted for agglomeration of other indicators as follows

$$Q^{qua} = w_{Rint} q_{Rint} + w_{Re.xr_2} q_{Re.xr_2} + w_{Ld} q_{Ld} + w_{Comp} q_{Comp} \quad (8)$$

$$Q^{H\&S} = w_{In} q_{In} + w_{LT} q_{LT} + w_{Le} q_{Le} \quad (9)$$

$$Q^{Env} = w_{Thp} q_{Thp} + w_{Lc} q_{Lc} + w_{Eni} q_{Eni} \quad (10)$$

Also, there have been adapted respective constrains. And following results are obtained. Agglomerated *Commercial Indicator* for constrains as defined inn the Table 2.

Table 2.

Q ^{COM}			
Constrains	Unit cost>Increase in sale>Profit	Increase in sale>Unit cost>Profit	Increase in sale>Unit cost>Profit
Option 1	0.286	0.519	0.690
Option 2	0.724	0.500	0.710
Option 3	0.786	0.850	0.326
Option 4	0.138	0.099	0.465
Option 5	0.848	0.800	0.577

Agglomerated *Quality Indicator* for constrains as defined inn the Table 3.

Table 3.

Q ^{QUA}				
Constrains	Reject-int>Reject-ext>Late del.>Complains	Reject-ext> Reject-int>Late del.>Complains	Late del Reject-int>Reject-ext.>Complains	Complains>Reject-int>Reject-ext>Late del.
Option 1	0.278	0.450	0.296	0.161
Option 2	0878	.0830	0.930	0.797
Option 3	0.725	0.726	0.400	0.882
Option 4	0.191	0.191	0.580	0.580
Option 5	0.750	0.694	0.621	0.380

Agglomerated *Health & Security Indicator* for constrains as defined in the Table 4.

Table 4.

Q ^{H&S}			
Constrains	Injury>Lost time>Legal	Lost time>Injury>Legal	Legal>Injury>Lost time
Option 1	0.120	0.132	0.632
Option 2	0.561	0.710	0.372
Option 3	0.906	0.882	0.526
Option 4	0.025	0.028	0.156
Option 5	0.860	0.835	0.506

Agglomerated *Environment Indicator* for constrains as defined in the Table 5.

Table 5.

Q ^{ENV}			
Constrains	Third party>Legal citation>Env. impact	Legal citation> Third party >Env. impact	Env. impact >Third party>Legal citation
Option 1	0.840	0.847	0.845
Option 2	0.320	0.634	0.523
Option 3	0.414	0.209	0.445
Option 4	0.692	0.530	0.846
Option 5	0.692	0.686	0.289

Using the data obtained for agglomerated indicators and the same procedure as defined for the agglomeration of indicators, it can be calculated the General Management Index. In this exercises we have calculated The General Management Index under constrains as defined in the Table 6

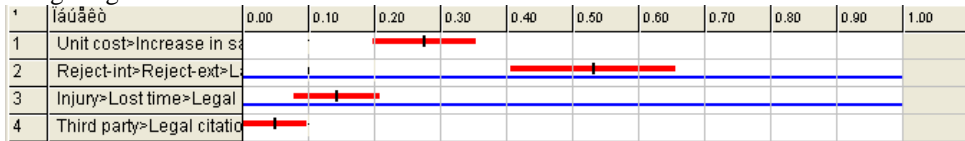
Table 6.

Q ^{GMI}				
Constrains	Unit cost>Increase in sale>Profit	Reject-int>Reject-ext>Late del.>Complains	Injury>Lost time>Legal	Third party>Legal citation>Env. impact
Option 1	0.286	0.278	0.120	0.840
Option 2	0.724	0878	0.561	0.320
Option 3	0.786	0.725	0.906	0.414
Option 4	0.138	0.191	0.025	0.692
Option 5	0.848	0.750	0.860	0.692

In the following figures are given graphical presentations for the General Management Index obtained for Commercial Indicator (*Reject-int>Reject-ext>Late del.>Complains*) Case and Environment Indicator (*Third party>Legal citation>Env. Impact*) Case

In Fig.6 we can notice the case with Quality indicator with constrain *Reject-int>Reject-ext>Late del.>Complains* has priority in comparison with other indicator with respective constrains, Options 5, 2 and 3 are having priority in comparison with other Options. Small difference between General Management Index among Options 5,2 and 3 proves that the general quality measurement of the different management system among options

Weighting Coefficient



General Management Index

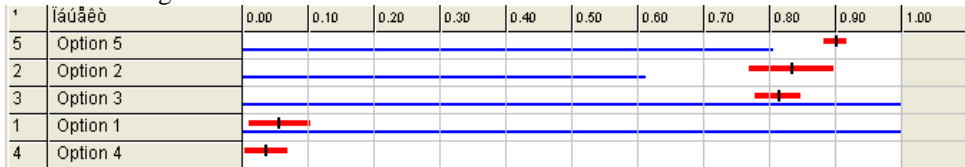
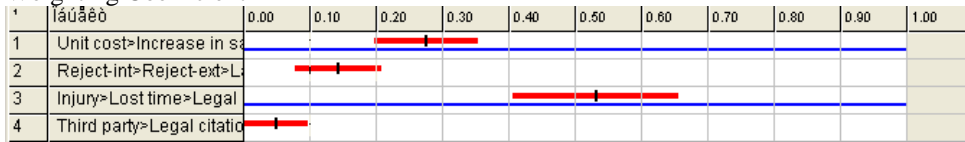


Figure 7. General Management Index with Quality indicator with constrain *Reject-int>Reject-ext>Late del.>Complains* has priority

Weighting Coefficient



General Management Index

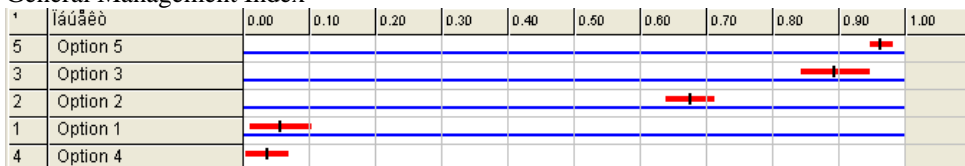


Figure 8. General Management Index with Quality indicator with constrain *Reject-int>Reject-ext>Late del.>Complains* has priority

From this exercise, it can be seen that there is obvious sensitivity of the multi-criteria assessment to the change of the sub-indicators as well indicators as defined in this evaluation. Also, it is of interest to notice that the General Management Index represent the quality measurement of management system.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Quality of the management system is an immanent property which requires specific procedure and methodology to be measured. The multi-criteria General Management Index measurement leads to the evaluation of management system. Presented evaluation method is based on the priority list formation among the options under consideration, The essential feature of the evaluation method possibility to obtain the effect of different constrain on the priority list.

The management system is defined as the multi-level decision-making procedure which includes different aspects of the quality designation for the specific system. The General Management Index is the agglomeration function of elements representing individual characteristic of management system.. It is anticipated that each element is function of the set of indicators representing economic, social, environmental and capacity building indicators. Indicators are defined as specific parameters characterizing criteria imposed to the description of elements. The data base is a set of data comprising values of sub-indicators measuring the specific quality of indicators.

Results presented are obtained from the demonstration exercise for the five Management system options and number of sub-indicators as defined in the paper.

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