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**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IMPACT ANALYSIS OF THE
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS ON SOCIO-
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND COHESION POLICIES**

ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT

The complex evolution of the process of global economy development, as well as the diversity of production in the world states, a diversity based particularly on the explosion of technological progress, favored the widening of economic cooperation at global level, as a condition indispensable for the evolution of the world economy towards globalization, a process which is enwidening more and more now, at the beginning of the 21st century. Globalization encompasses a multipolar world, based on economic cooperation which generates an increase in the economic efficiency and effectiveness, as well as a rational, balanced distribution of production and sales at the global economy level. Indisputably, at European level, the economic environment stability, economic growth and European integration are currently undergoing a remarkable evolution in both theoretical and, particularly, practical terms, by adapting along the way to the present macroeconomic changes. As a matter of fact, the actuality, complexity and difficulty of the issues approached are suggested by the very title of the paper which raises the interest for "deciphering" the aspects related to the complex process of European integration and globalization, as well as the analysis of the concepts of integration and economic growth. The structure and content of this paper are intended to be captivating, requiring concentration and attention in order to succeed in understanding in essence the issues subject to research, this paper combining the theory, method and practice in the field in the attempt to prove that it has scientific value, meaning, but, most of all, applicability. For these reasons, I considered as pertinent to approach in a unitary paper the complex issues referring to the impact analysis of the European integration process on socio-economic development through regional development and cohesion policies. In order to attain the proposed scientific step, I have tried to achieve a theoretical, conceptual, as well as a practical approach. Throughout the scientific research undertaken, I generally regarded two principles, namely: those competent, who can "read" beyond the figures and form a picture closer to reality, while others assume that the information presented is accurate, clear and true, leaving no room for interpretation or questions. According to this desideratum, I addressed aspects concerning: the concept of Europeanization and globalization, the policy of global integration and development, as well as regional development policies and, in relation to these, aspects related to the implementation process of the regional policy. For the accuracy of the scientific endeavour, it is justified to structure the analysis into two categories, namely the intensification of globalization and the European Union. As concerns globalization, from the the nation-state towards globalization there is a thorough approach to global integration and development policy and, regarding the European Union, there is an analysis of the regional development and cohesion policies starting from the economic growth models, their benefits and the impact on the increase in the standard of living. Based on these criteria, the research carried out could not forget a practical aspect of statistical analysis of the human development index, a study conducted for all 28 EU Member States for a 6 year-period, namely 2010-2015, which individualises this paper through the practical value and alternative of calculating the human development index. In the assumption described, I estimated that, in order to take shape a full picture of the issues approached, there are also necessary elements of knowledge of the factorial influences on the life expectancy index, the index of education, the indices of gross domestic product, the index of human development in the 28 countries of the Union European. At the same time, for the consistency of the research, it is underlined a

comparative analysis of the problems of this nature is revealed by achieving a correlation of the first 10 countries that recorded an increase in the human development index, respectively: Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Poland and the United Kingdom. Also, from the desire to fill in the information table with landmarks capable of directly and completely reflecting the Romanian reality, it can be also seen during the research a instrument board presenting the efficient management of Romania focusing on the factorial influences of the life expectancy index, the index of education and the GDP index / inhabitant on the human development index. Generally, regarding the overall paper, I can specify that, for the purpose of reaching the research objective proposed in the thesis, the following aspects have been considered:

- the integration and development policy at global level;
- aspects related to the European Union, that target to boost the globalization;
- the development and cohesion policies of the European Union;
- the factorial influences concerning the life expectancy index, education index, Gross Domestic Product index per capita, on the human development index in the 28 countries of the European Union;
- realities and perspectives in Romania.

The Ph.D. thesis "Contributions to the Impact Analysis of the European Integration Process on Socio-Economic Development through Regional Development and Cohesion Policies" is structured on 4 chapters which present a logical order of approach, starting from the theoretical aspects that center the thesis very well in the research area and continuing with the practical ones that verify and certify the models applicability in the entirety of the contemporary economy.

GLOBAL ECONOMY AT THE JUNCTION OF GLOBALIZATION AND REGIONALIZATION - THE CURRENT STATE OF THE RESEARCH

Chapter I tackles aspects of the global economy that aim at the globalization process, from the nation state to globalization, thus attempting a practical presentation of the European Union integration and development policy at global level. In addition, there are also targeted various theories of the European integration that follow the process of regional policies implementation. Economic growth theories show that both types of integration processes, both regional and global, have had a strong impact on the economies of the states involved. For this reason, it may be found the interest of the specialists in the field on studying the effects of European integration on the economic and social development of the member countries, of the process of convergence and decrease the disparities among countries. The conclusions corresponding to the research from "Chapter I" are based on the fact that regional economic integration is a key factor in the process of globalization, thus creating an institutional and political framework adequate for the world economy liberalization. The state can recognize a regional identity - the region being perceived as a territory deemed homogeneous by the state - and can take the necessary steps for the regions to participate in managing their own businesses. Regionalization can be exhibited both nationally and internationally, the starting point of regionalization being actually underlined by regional imbalances, in fact by their awareness. This awareness is followed by the intervention of national government structures or supranational entities having the purpose of decentralizing

or deconcentrating at regional level activities or competencies that have been previously at central level. The history of global economic development has clearly pencilled that the well-being of a people has been given by the level of gross domestic product, ie the gross value of the final production of goods and services produced over a period of time by the economic agents carrying out their businesses inside the national borders of a state. The EU regional policy has financed over the years tens of thousands of projects that had as result economic growth strengthening and job creation, bringing thus benefits to the Member States and the Union as a whole. Between 1989 and 2016, over € 800 billion have been allocated out of the EU budget to co-finance projects meant to back up regional growth. The 274 EU regions targeted by the regional policy in 2014-2020 are characterized by:

- category of less developed regions (GDP/capita <75% of the EU average);
- category of transition regions (GDP/capita \geq 75% and <90% of the EU average);
- category of more developed regions (GDP/capita \geq 90% of the EU average);

The GDP evolution from U.E. 28 can be seen very well by looking at the corresponding data in Figure 1 and Figure 2, where GDP in the European Union amounted to 16,397.98 billion dollars in 2016. The EU's GDP amounts to 26.45% of the world economy. The GDP in the European Union averaged 7,242.67 billion dollars starting with 1960 until 2016, reaching a maximum value of US \$ 19,117.80 billion in 2008 and an all-time high of US \$ 358.94 billion in 1960. Taking into account that regional integration is more effective and much more realistic than national integration, Romania has to get the most out of this opportunity through an efficient mobilization of political factors, a pragmatic coordination of decision-making levels and through an actual civic involvement and participation. The labor factor is the most important element of the economic growth, and in the global economy any other factors that actually takes part in the production process - goods, raw materials, materials or even technology itself - can be purchased or borrowed. A state can buy telecommunication equipment, computers and any other modern equipment, but all these investment goods can be effectively used and maintained only by skilled and well-trained workers. The employment of the active population available in the society plays a major role in action carried out by the human factor in the process of economic growth. In conclusion, the quantitative and qualitative factors that can act on economic growth in a country, from my point of view, can be grouped as follows:

- the workforce and its level of education and training;
- investments;
- development of science and technological changes;
- the material resources and the way they are turned to account in the production process;
- the structure of production activities and of the economic system.

Personally, I consider that public debt, the degree of indebtedness of a state, plays an essential role in the economic development and raising up the living standards of the population. In the structure by destinations of the domestic public debt, the largest weight in general is held by the debt contracted in order to finance the budget deficit and for refinancing public debt, the projects financing having a relatively small weight of the total domestic public debt. The state borrowing policy should be oriented towards making productive expenditure, namely investments in human resources, infrastructure, research, technology, advanced technology, and other long-term beneficial activities that can ensure in the future both the reimbursement of the issued bonds as well as the payment of the related

interest, for the development of the economy as a whole. International commodity trade is one of the fundamental elements of economic development and evolution, and the results of the Eurozone compared to the commercial activity of all the Member States are probatory on this line.

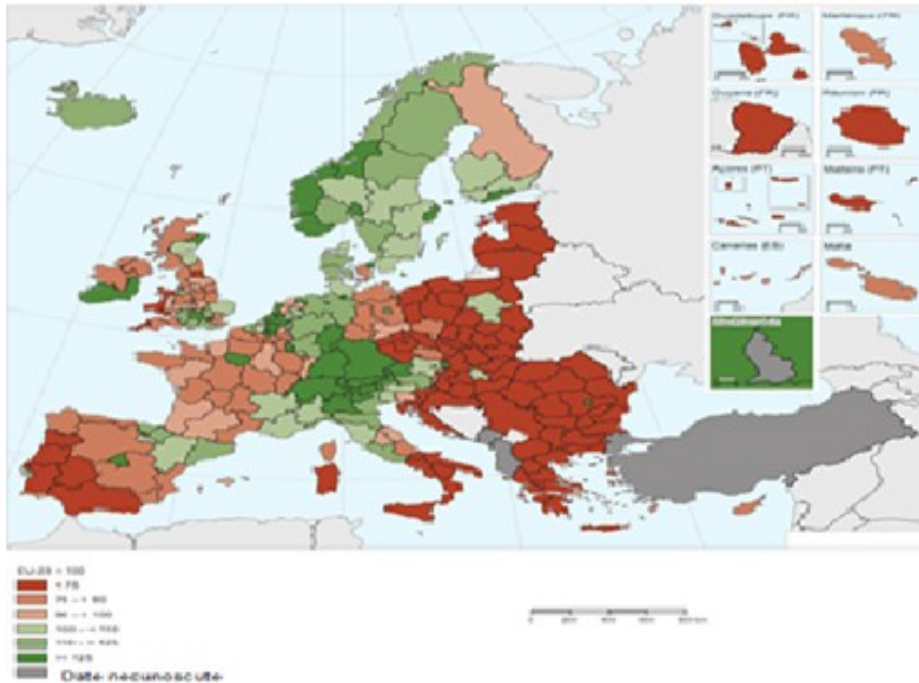


Figure 1. GDP per capita [Eurostat (nama_10r_2gdp) and (nama_10_pc)]

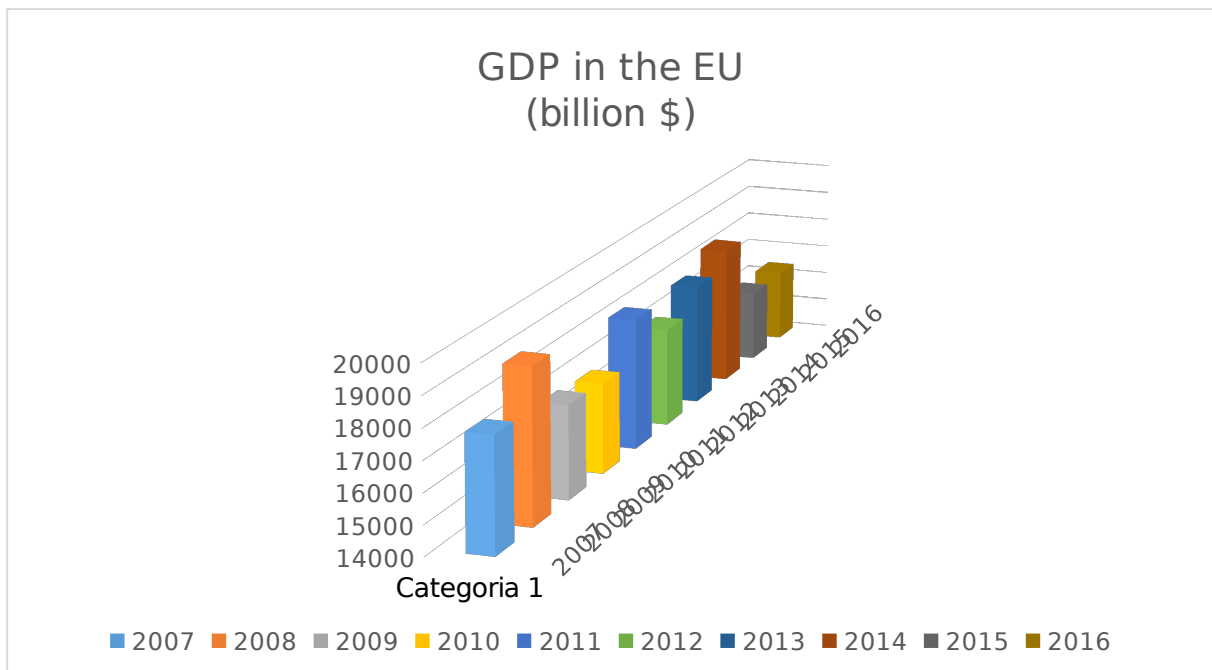


Figure 2. GDP in the European Union [***<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/european-union/gdp>]

THE POLICIES OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COHESION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Chapter II focuses on the European Union development policies, starting from the variety of economic growth models that have been presented briefly and the analysis of the benefits and costs of economic growth with a significant effect on raising the standard of living. As a result of the fact that the standard of living is in a permanent correlation with the social cohesion, in this chapter there have also been presented other viewpoints of the think-tanks, being performed, as a matter of fact, a parallel to the realities and perspectives of the community policy in Romania. The foundation that highlights the research outcome starts from the fact that regional development and cohesion policy is a policy through which resources are exchanged among Member States for a dynamic supporting of a sustainable growth and development, through investments in human resources and stimulating growth factors and economic competitiveness and employment. It can be seen that the regional development intends more efficiency and an increase in the number of activities and projects that are carried out locally, using the resources available in the territory. In a wider context, each state makes efforts to enhance economic development by maximizing the material, natural and human resources available to it, the production factors and neofactors, respectively, as well as attracting foreign investments to ensure new jobs and obtain access to technical and technological information. In the European Union, it has been observed an economic development and an increased standard of living in the north, north-west, while in the south, south-east areas, it is seen a slower evolution of the economic development, an increase in unemployment, with other words an smaller evolution of the economic development and of the living standard rise of the citizens of the states in those areas. In this context, the comparative statistical analysis of economic development and living standards rise among four countries whose geographic arrangement is representative for the above mentioned cardinal points, pencils the correlation expressing the GDP dynamics in Germany compared to France, Italy and Spain in 2016. Germany, France, Italy and Spain express in 2016 compared with 2015, an economic development and an increase in the standard of living, since the GDP dynamics are higher than population dynamics.

- Germany shows in 2016 a growth by 109.74% in relative sizes, respectively an increase by 3100 in absolute sizes of the GDP, in contrast with the GDP of France;

- Germany expresses in 2016 a growth by 134.23% in relative sizes, respectively by 8900 in absolute sizes of the GDP, in contrast with the GDP of Italy;

- Germania reflects in 2016 a growth by 134.23% in relative sizes, respectively by 11100 of the GDP, in contrast with the GDP of Spain;

The GDP of Germany and France (northern part of Europe) express in 2016 an increase by 133.93% in relative sizes, respectively by EUR 16900 in absolute sizes, compared to the GDP of Italy and Spain (the southern part of Europe).

The labor factor is the most important element of economic growth, and in the global economy any other factor that actually participates in the production process - goods, raw materials, materials or even technology itself - can be purchased or borrowed. A state can

buy telecommunication equipment, computers and any other modern equipment, but all these investment goods can be effectively used and maintained only by skilled and well-trained workers. The employment of active population available in society plays a primordial role in the action of the human factor in the process of economic growth.

ANALYSIS OF THE FACTORIAL INFLUENCES CONCERNING LIFE EXPECTANCY, EDUCATION AND GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ON THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX AT THE LEVEL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

CHAPTER III, which constitutes the novelty element of this paper, presents a practical comparative analysis of calculating the human development index by using a 3rd degree radical calculation method, the analysis targeting the factorial influences on the life expectancy index, the education index, the gross domestic product index per capita, on the human development index in all 28 Member States of the European Union. In order to calculate the factorial influence of the education index it was necessary to calculate the index of the average grade years of schooling and the index of the the school years expectation, following that, in order to obtain the final result, to determine the mean proportional of the two above mentioned indices. From the total factorial influences analyzed at the mean proportional we choose the highest value of the average as being the constant of calculating the education index. Once known the values of the three indicators, namely the life expectancy index, the education index and the GDP /capita index, it is proceeded with the calculation of the human development index using the formula:

$$\sqrt[3]{\text{life expectancy index} \cdot \text{education} \frac{\text{index} \cdot \text{GDP}}{\text{capita}} \text{index}}$$

In this chapter, we determined the HDI value in all EU countries, based on the methodology presented above, between 2010 and 2015. Following the determination of the human development index value for 2010 and 2015 respectively, we analyze the favorable factorial influences of the life expectancy index, education index, the gross domestic product per capita index in 2015 compared to 2010. Thus, we determine which is the top of the countries showing the factorial growth influence of the three indices, namely life expectancy, education and GDP per capita, on the dynamics of the human development index in 2015 in comparison with 2010. Based on the data obtained by applying the calculation formula:

$$I_{2015/2010}^{HDI(I^{SPERANTA_VIATA} \cup I^{EDUCATIE} \cup I^{PIB/LOCUITOR})} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{I_{2015}^{SPERANTA_VIATA} \cdot I_{2015}^{EDUCATIE} \cdot I_{2015}^{P.I.B./LOCUITOR}}}{\sqrt[3]{I_{2010}^{SPERANTA_VIATA} \cdot I_{2010}^{EDUCATIE} \cdot I_{2010}^{P.I.B./LOCUITOR}}}$$

there will be determined the combined factorial influences of life expectancy index, education index, gross domestic product per capita index on the human development index in 2015 as compared to 2010, thus succeeding in establishing a ranking of the countries that recorded a growth.

The difference from the outcome of the human development index presented by the United Nations Development Program in the Human Development Report, an outcome which is updated annually for most UN member states, is that, in the analysis of factorial influences on the life expectancy index, education index and gross domestic product index per capita on the dynamics of the human development index, the minimum and maximum of the

calculation formula used takes into account the data of the 28 Member States of the European Union. If the HDI is normally calculated for most of the UN member states, eg the minimum value for the Gross Domestic Product per capita belonging to a state in the African continent, with a low-developed economy, and the highest value belonging to a state in America, Europe or Asia, it is obtained a world-wide representative value of the human development index, which is presented annually, as I have mentioned, in the Human Development Report by the United Nations Development Program. By adapting this calculation procedure, we will obtain a result of the human development index only at European level by using the values corresponding to the Member States of the European Union. Of course this version is useful and can be used properly by other actors of globalization with regional implications, such as, for example:

- NAFTA - North American Free Trade Agreement, established in 1994 through signing by Canada, the United States and Mexico;
- MERCOSUR – The Mercosur South Common Market which was founded on March 26, 1991, the member countries being Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Venezuela.
- ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asian Nations which was set up in 1967 in Bangkok Thailand by the ASEAN founders, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

This procedure can also be limited to an analysis of the human development index by each continent and even by groups of countries that help each other in the process of economic growth and development, such as, for example:

- Benelux is an economic union in Western Europe, composed of three neighboring monarchies: Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg;
- The Visegrád Group, a cooperative organization made up of four Central European countries: the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary.

Through the comparative analysis of the human development index for a determined period of time, it can be seen which were the factors that contributed to the positive influence of this indicator, in this manner, based on the obtained data, managing to make the necessary corrections for obtaining a result as good as possible in the near future. Based on a correct analysis, with accurate data, it is very important to know, for example, what financial value should be used for education or health, in general, so as to generate a more accurate economic forecast of the expected outcome. In this way, a country is no longer evaluated only by taking into account the gross national product, but the emphasis is mainly laid on the achievements of each state as concerns education, health, in other words the actual contribution of the government to ensuring the quality of life for its citizens.

As we have mentioned, the factorial influence calculations were based on a period of 6 years, ie from 2010 to 2015 inclusively. The second part of this chapter is the analysis of the correlation between Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Holland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Poland, UK, which focuses on the dynamics of the human development index under the factorial influences of the life expectancy index, the index of education and the GDP/ capita index in the years 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010. The presentation of the main indices, in the author's perspective and in that of the specialists in the field, confers this chapter clarity and shortness. Starting from the human factor, from the primordial importance it exercises in the process of economic growth, we considered appropriate a more thorough research of the human development index in "Chapter III", index which actually reveals the degree of social comfort (education, health and income) of the labor in the world economy. The HDI methodology and limits are based on the fact that this index satisfies the subgroups coherence. This is explained by the fact that improvements or deterioration in the distribution of human development in a particular group of the society are inevitable (while human development remains constant in the other groups) and will be

reflected in the changes in global measure of the human development. This index is also independent of what means that the order in which data is aggregated among individuals or groups of individuals, it has the same result - so there is no need to rely on a particular sequence or a single data source. This enables the estimation for a large number of countries. Although the HDI refers to the loss of human development due to inequality, measuring inequality in any dimension implies inequality and inequality due to chances, choices and circumstances, ethical and policy issues are not approached around these aspects. The main disadvantage of HDI is that it is not responsive to association. In order to make the association of measures sensitive, all data per person should be available from a single source of study, a procedure that is currently unfeasible. In 2015 compared to 2010 (see table 38 of the thesis), in the ranking of the countries that highlights the favorable factorial influence of the Life Expectancy Index on the Human Development Index, Estonia has an increase by 30.73%, Romania with an 6.48% increase and the Czech Republic with an increase of 4.09%. In the elite of countries expressing the favorable factorial influence of the Education Index on the dynamics of the Human Development Index in 2015 compared to 2010, there is Croatia with a 32.02% increase, Slovenia with a 17.49% increase and Bulgaria with a an increase by 14.56%. The effective management reflecting the favorable factorial influence of GDP per capita on the dynamics of the Human Development Index in 2015 compared to 2010 is achieved by Latvia with an increase of 35.32%, Lithuania with an increase of 22.97% and Romania with an increase of 12.35%.

Table 38. RANKING OF THE COUNTRY MANAGEMENT FOCUSING THE INCREASES OF FAVORABLE FACTORIAL INFLUENCES OF THE LIFE EXPECTANCY INDEX, THE EDUCATION INDEX, GDP / CAPITA INDEX ON THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX IN 2015 IN COMPARISON TO 2010

COUNTRY	INFLUENCE OF THE LIFE EXPECTANCY INDEX ON THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX IN 2015 COMPARED TO 2010		INFLUENCE OF THE EDUCATION INDEX ON THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX IN 2015 COMPARED TO 2010		INFLUENCE OF GDP/CAPITA INDEX ON THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX IN 2015 COMPARED TO 2010	
	Value	% increase	Country	% increase	Country	% increase
ESTHONIA	130,73 %	30.73 % increase	CROATIA	32.02 % increase	LETONIA	35,32 % increase
ROMANIA	106,48 %	6.48 % increase	SLOVENIA	17.49 % increase	LITUANIA	22,97 % increase
CZECH REPUBLIC	104,09 %	4.09 % increase	BULGARIA	14.56 % increase	ROMANIA	12,35 % increase
PORTUGAL	103,96 %	3.96 % increase	M. BRITANIE	14.27 % increase	ESTONIA	8,12 % increase
LUXEMBURG	103,23 %	3.23 % increase	DANEMARC A	12.35 % increase	MALTA	2,36 % increase
SLOVENIA	102,68 %	2,68 % increase	LITUANIA	5.36 % increase		
ITALY	102,48 %	2,48 % increase	AUSTRIA	4.33 % increase		
POLAND	102,40	2,40 % increase	GERMANIA	2.67 %		

	%			increase		
DENMARK	102,32 %	2,32 % increase				
SPAIN	101,06 %	1,06 % increase				
GREECE	100,74 %	0,74 %				
NETHERLANDS	100,73 %	0,73 % increase				
HUNGARY	100,72 %	0,72 % increase				

Finally, the structure of the ranking of the countries showing the combined favorable Factorial Influences of the Life expectation index, Education index and GDP/capita index, on the Human Development Index in 2015 compared to 2010, is made up of Estonia with a 35.33% increase, Latvia with an increase of 30.12% and Denmark with an increase of 13.28%. Very useful is also the analysis of the correlation among the states (10 countries with an increase of the human development index: Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Holland, Czech Republic, Sweden, Poland, UK), which focuses the dynamics of human development index under the factorial influences of the life expectancy index, the education index and the GDP per capita index in the years 2015 and 2010. The research was carried out on three levels, namely:

- analysis of the results of indicators at European and national level for the period 2015-2010, period during which it has been firstly pursued the evolution of the average GDP per capita at the European Union level, following that, subsequently, to be analyzed the results at national level and, respectively, of the Southeast development region (see Figure 18);
- the trend and forecast of the GDP per capita in Germany, France, Italy and Spain for which the time period analyzed was between 2006 and 2013, the monetary expression of the value being in euros, the research using the regression method, thus being performed forecasts until 2020 concerning the GDP per capita trend and prognosis in Germany, France, Italy and Spain; in this context it has been observed whether the values of the variable (eg GDP/capita in the country corresponding to the analysis) reflect a linear (function of degree 1), parabolic (function of degree 2) or exponential trend.
- in order to better compare the level of development of a country, it has been used the Human Development Index (HDI), the use of this index being generated by the need to measure the progress or downfall of human capital in the course of a country's economic growth. It has been carried out a comparative analysis for the years 2015 - 2010 in order to observe which were the factors that contributed to the positive influence of this indicator, on the basis of the data obtained by making the necessary corrections for obtaining the best result possible. Based on an accurate analysis, with precise data, it is very important to know, for example, what financial value should be used for education or health in general order so as to generate a more accurate economic forecast of the expected outcome. In this way, a country is no longer evaluated only by taking into account the gross national or domestic product, but the emphasis is mainly laid on the achievements of each state in terms of education, health, in other words the actual contribution of the government to ensuring the life quality of its citizens.

The common element resulting from this analysis reflects an increase in the gross domestic product per capita in 2015 compared to 2010 in both Romania and Europe, also resulting directly in the growth at the level of four analyzed Central European countries.

Chapter IV presents the research findings and outlines that human development is certainly a qualitative element of globalization, a model that individualises the paper. It can reasonably be mentioned that, in the context of the current changes and transformations in the world economy, changes occurring at an increasingly high speed, any of the chapters approached will find new followers interested in debating them, a reason for which it cannot be claimed that this thesis would have an exhaustive analysis of the researched issues. Naturally, there are also limits to the thesis, shortcomings due to unpredictable factors, such as Brexit, one of the phenomena that was very difficult to anticipate some years ago by specialists in the field and perhaps even by eurosceptics. Even with these limits, certainly, the paper as a whole can be useful to all those interested in the world economy evolution, theoreticians and practitioners equally. Finally, I would like to specify that throughout achieving this thesis I have consulted reference papers from both from the Romanian literature and especially the international literature, all these reflecting the multidisciplinary of the issues approached, part of the ideas contained in this Ph.D. thesis have been included in certain articles and presentations at scientific meetings both at national and international level.

It is very interesting to note that, in general, given the diversity of data sources underlying the reports and studies on human development, sometimes arise criticisms about the standardization of indicators, especially in relation to delays of the countries to provide data to international organizations and bodies. Even if it is not perfect, I believe that the HDI is useful since it has a higher degree of coverage than the GDP, thus measuring also other human possibilities alongside income. Higher does not necessarily mean better! Richer may mean more chances of development, a satisfactory present and a more promising future. Actually, it can be mentioned that resources can dictate the wealth of a country, but they can also bury it if these natural resources are not exploited properly. The richest countries in the world depend on certain underground riches, but there is no rule from this point of view, services and a good organization can rise the standard of living. As regards cohesion strengthening, there should be developed strategies that are adaptable to Member States individually. All the more so since the differences between the cohesion strengthening factors in the EU countries during 2007-2017 are higher, these cohesion strengthening strategies will have to be as diverse as possible. Certainly a "one for all" approach developed in Brussels can not adequately address this challenge.

At present, all the political and social tumultuousness shown in the world economy ensures unfavorable economic development conditions for the world. To combat these global problems, we believe that it is imperative that every nation, every state, struggle to continue investing even in times of crisis, infrastructure investments, but it must not be neglected to educate the active labor force, with an active participation of citizens to important decisions that ensure them with a better standard of living, thus being maintained a sense of trust.

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