

Project no 20 CEEEX 05-D8-78 System of prevision for demographic evolutions and changes, impact evaluation and rapid answer for metropolitan areas

Phase II: Building a set of scenarios of demographic prevision for metropolitan areas

Phase III: Creating two metropolitan demographic Observatories in Bucharest and Constanta

The project answers to national and European needs as it is designed and accomplished according to the research directions of Frame Programme 7 (FP-7) of the European Union, Area 8.3.1 (“Demographic changes/SSH-2007-3.1.1, The Impact of Demographic Changes in Europe”).

The project combines the fundamental and the applicative research and it is contracted for realization with the Ministry of Education and Research, the National Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, within the Excellency Research Programme (CEEEX-2005), part of the National Research, Development and Innovation Plan – PNCDI1; the project is developed in partnership with the Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest, the Faculty of General Economy.

Methodology applied:

- ❖ Knowing the economic-mathematic models for the analysis of the demographic evolutions on short and medium term
- ❖ Building up a data base integrating evolutions and prognosis for the metropolitan areas and evolutions and prognosis of the demographic changes in Romania in general, like a “Demographic Observatory”
- ❖ Assuring the electronic accessibility - web site

Dissemination:

- ❖ Research report- given to the contracting authority
- ❖ Activity report - given to the contracting authority
- ❖ Scientific communication within a seminar and a workshop
- ❖ Project’s web site, in construction, www.demofias.ro

Project’s coordinator: Catalin Ghinararu, PhD, scientific researcher I

Project no 21 CEEEX 05-D8-59 - The development of the concept of social responsibility in the Romanian enterprises, in European Context

Phase II: Elaboration of empirical analysis regarding the situation that exists at Romanian level, the external dimension of IRS/CSR

Phase III: Design of the informatic instruments for documentation, communication, collaboration and unrolling of certain activities

Phase IV: Elaboration of a methodology for the investigation of the IRS/CSR internally, in enterprises

The European Commission introduces the concept of “social responsibility of the corporation – RSC” as a contribution to the put into practice of the strategic objectives established in Lisbon, that the European Union should become an economic space with high dynamism and competitive capacity, capable of ensuring a sustainable economic growth based on knowledge, with more and better jobs and a greater social cohesion. The European Commission assumed the role of arbitrator in promoting RSC, mediating between the regulations and the voluntary approach. An important document in the RSC field is the “Green Paper – Promoting a European Framework for Corporate Social Responsibility” elaborated by the European Commission, that on one hand marked the importance of CSR and on the other hand stimulated reflections and analysis in the following areas:

- ❖ How will the EU be capable to promote CSR , at the European and international level
- ❖ The efficient use of the accumulated experience, the best practices
- ❖ How can the development of innovation, the increase of the transparency degree, the evaluation and the validation of different initiatives at the European level be encouraged

In this sense a European Forum on CSR was launched in October 2002 in order to formulate a number of recommendations on the necessity of transmitting the best practices in CSR and the development of network of best practices’ exchange, in order to create a CSR culture through its inclusion in University courses.

The European Commission’s strategy to promote CSR is based on a series of principles like:

- ❖ Recognizing the voluntary character of RSE
- ❖ The necessity of giving credibility and transparency to the activities specific to CSR
- ❖ The equilibrate approach of CSR, from economic, social and environmental perspective, including the correlation with the consummators’ interests
- ❖ Giving a higher attention to the specific requirements of SMEs
- ❖ Sustaining and respecting the existent international accords and instruments (the Standards of the Labour Force elaborated by the International Labour Organization, the Guidelines elaborated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, International Norms for the elaboration of annual reports of the

corporations that promote CSR, elaborated by GRI – Global Report Initiative, ORSE studies, FEDERE, the CSR platform, and so on).

Also the European Commission focused its strategy on the following areas:

1. a better recognition of the positive impact of CSR on corporations and societies, in Europe, mainly in the developing countries
2. the increase of the experience exchange and best practices in the CSR area, between corporations
3. the promotion of the development of administration capacities of CSR
4. the stimulation of CSR attitude in SMEs
5. the integration of CSR with other communitarian policies, like the observance of social standards (SA8000) and environmental standards (ISO 14001) in such a way that the fundamental rights should be consistently respected

The acknowledgement of CSR, evoked by the Lisbon European Council conduced to the introduction of “Best Practice” concept in areas such as: lifelong learning, labour organization, equal opportunities, social inclusion, and sustainable development.

The gravity center is the corporation and its responsibility in the social and environmental areas. The action plan of the Johannesburg Summit (2002) speaks mainly about the collective social responsibility about the social and environmental impact that the corporate, the public administrations and the consumers’ decisions have, underlining in this way the important role of the corporation in assuring a sustainable development, in poverty eradication and in the sustainable management of the human resources. The social, environmental and economic dimensions will have to be introduced in all the phases of the products’ life cycles.

Together with the rapid increase of transnational enterprises, as number and dimension, the environment and the development will be affected. As a consequence they adopted voluntary initiatives. Their nature differ very much from country to country, from area to area, but they are promoted in order to improve their environment balance sheet, the working conditions of their employees, the relations with the employees and the costumers, the local collectivities, including the governmental ones, the unions and others involved. Through the integration of the social and environmental preoccupations in the economic activities of the enterprises that is in fact the definition most largely accepted for the Corporate Social Responsibility, this responsible attitude becomes an engine for the sustainable development.

In this context the research of the manner in which CSR is defined, known, applied, as well as the opportunities induced by the socially responsible behavior becomes very important for our country.

The applied methodology:

- ❖ the scientific observation of the phenomena, data and information from programmatic documents of international acknowledged organisms as well as of the studies in the field
- ❖ analysis of the approached area, connections with the international area, EU / European Commission regulations, with the results obtained in this area nationally and internationally, with the need of understanding this phenomenon of rapid evolution
- ❖ Systemic approach: documentation and analysis of the experiences and preoccupations of the EU countries and internationally, strategies of the governmental organisms with attribution in this field, and so on
- ❖ Analysis methods and techniques: the project implies a survey in order to determine a system of indicators for the measurement of the social responsibility, internally and externally. Building up a typology regarding actions, activities and programmes unrolled by the Romanian firms, programmes that allow the framing of the corporations that promote these actions into the socially responsible corporation group
- ❖ The investigation will measure the dimension and the type of CSR practices in Romania, the level of knowledge and application of CSR standards, the CSR impact on the corporation and at social level
- ❖ Another method is the evaluation through statistic instruments - quantitative indicators

Dissemination:

- ❖ Research report - given to the contracting authority
- ❖ Activity report - given to the contracting authority
- ❖ “Risk prevention through CSR” scientific communication within the session of scientific communications of INCSMPS, 2006
- ❖ Corporate Social Responsibility – factor of sustainable development. Measurement methods. Within the Octav Onicescu Seminar, organized monthly by the National Institute of Statistics, the 4th of May 2006
- ❖ The Importance of CSR in the knowledge society, within the Scientific Communication Session of the Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, the 26th of May 2006
- ❖ Dedicated site

Project’s coordinator: Vasilica Ciuca, PhD, scientific researcher I

Project no 22 CEEEX 05-D8-77 Foresight scenarios of sectors and branches of the Romanian economy with high innovative potential, in the offing of 2020

Phase II Elaborating the methodology of innovation identification

Phase III Evaluating the present situation in Romania on sectors and branches regarding the existing capacity and potential in innovation

The starting point for this theme consisted in the official documents of the European institutions. Thus, the Lisbon Agenda (2000) established as the main strategic objective that the European Union should become an economic space with high dynamism and competitive capacity, capable of ensuring a sustainable economic growth based on knowledge, with more and better jobs and a greater social cohesion. Encouraging the investment in research up to a level of 3% of GDP is one of the EU priorities established as a target for 2010. Achieving this objective includes a series of integrated strategic documents that establish priorities, objectives, directions for the acceleration of the transition to the strongly innovative knowledge based society. Knowledge is the heart of the added value both in products and technologies and in services and, together with the innovation and the investment in the human capital, they represent the pillars of the knowledge society and of the knowledge culture.

In this context the preoccupations regarding the norms for the security of the knowledge product, become extremely important and necessary, especially as the encouragement of the public/private partnership is a very important objective for the solving of the developmental problems. In order to avoid singular isolated actions, without efficiency in valorization, for the funds allocated in EU the ERA – European Research Area has a catalyst role, fighting against the fragmentation of research.

The development perspective on medium and long term implies the fast transition to the knowledge society and acknowledges the importance of the fact that the economic future of Europe depends on the way in which industries of high value, highly innovative and based on research, capable to successfully compete against any exterior performance, will be created and developed. The European values acknowledge the fact that obtaining and maintaining the quality of life of all its citizens can't be achieved unless the demands and criteria of sustainable development - social, economic and environmental are satisfied. The competitive advantage in these circumstances is created and maintained through the continuous efficient and effective valorization of knowledge, through the increase of product and productivity

quality, based on an efficient allocation of resources as a natural consequence of the absorption of the scientific and technical progress.

The Romanian State promotes innovation as a national priority and in this perspective: promotes the creation of innovative networks and technological platforms that might concentrate the demand and the offer of research, to maximize the utilization resources, to stimulate through direct and indirect measures the research development and innovation and an environment that is favorable to the diffusion, the absorption, and the valorization of research development and innovation results in order to ensure the sustainable economic development, the increase of welfare and quality of life and the enrichment of the knowledge base, accept the existence and the taking over the market risks for the financing from the state budget in order to implement the RD&I policies, creates the general research development and innovation policy and assure their correlation using as the main instrument the National Plan for Research-Development and Innovation, assures the free participation of economic organizations to the research-development activities.

In this perspective the effects of a culture of innovation can be identified on different areas such as the labour market and the changes generated through innovation; the new risks induced by the management focus on innovation; structural socio-economic and cultural changes induced through innovation; the apparition of new sectors and branches in the economic space with major innovations in the education and lifelong learning system; new pressures on the social protection system; consequences of the economy's structural changes and employment structure; implications of globalization and sustainable development and the movement towards the knowledge based society on the society's development.

The applied methodology

- Defining the methods and instruments of identification, measurement and valorization of innovation
- Analysis of the most recent and important practices and tendencies national, European and international
- Selection and filtration of the most relevant sources in order to obtain an efficient and qualitative documentation
- Obtaining dynamic knowledge regarding innovation and the innovation potential of the Romanian firms on industries, structured in a coherent, logical, complex manner through which on one hand the experience and the abilities of all the partners involved are developed interactively and continuously and on the other hand we assure the

obtaining of autonomous results with multiple possibilities of connection and valorization

- The design of theoretical and empirical models tested on real data as well as the analysis and interpretation methodologies have a high degree of novelty for Romania's socio-economic research, similar approaches are of high novelty in the global economic literature
- The use of informatic instruments for the research activities and for the dissemination activities

Dissemination

- Research report- given to the contracting authority
- Activity report - given to the contracting authority
- “Development of innovative performances – a challenge for Romania”, authors Vasilica Ciuca PhD, Draga Atanasiu, Cristina Lincaru PhD, Beatrice Chiriac, presented within the international scientific seminar “Romania and European Union: Romania – Integration Quality” organized by the Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest 2006

Project's coordinator: Vasilica Ciuca, PhD, scientific researcher I

Project no 23 CEEEX 05-D8-60 The main elements of evaluation of the social integration/participation degree of the disabled

Phase II Defining the concept of person with disability

Phase III Identifying the needs and facilities for the disabled

Phase IV Quantitative and qualitative analysis regarding the social integration/participation of the disabled

The theme was selected according to the thematic of social inclusion of different high risk groups:

- According to PNAincl, and the international context regarding poverty and social inclusion: the Summit regarding the Social Development Copenhagen¹ 1995 and Geneva 2000, the Lisbon Summit 2000, the Nice Summit 2000, the Laeken Summit 2001, and so on
- The action directions included in the Joint Inclusion Memorandum

- The action directions of the National Development Plan for 2007 – 2013, Chapter “Equal Opportunities”
- The action directions of the National Action Plan for Employment, the National Programme for the Employment of Socially Marginalized Persons, the National Strategy for Employment

The applied methodology

- Scientific observation of the phenomenon, study connections with international area, documents, recommendations, regulations of the European Union, communitarian aquis
- Systemic approach: knowledge of the strategic objectives of the national strategies in this area
- Methods and techniques of analysis and measurement (indicators), through elaboration proceedings and models, through hypothesis and methods evaluation
- Research based on the field survey
- Statistic data analysis
- Evaluation through the quantitative and qualitative indicators system

Dissemination:

- Research report- given to the contracting authority
- Activity report - given to the contracting authority
- Presentation within the session of scientific communication organized by INCSMPS in 2006 of the following studies: “Evaluation of the social integration degree of the disabled – general presentation”; “Integration of the disabled on the labour market – international practices”. They are both in publishing.

Project’s coordinator: Cristina Stroe, scientific researcher II

Project no 24 CEEEX 05-D8-61 Projection of employment and qualification deficit on short and medium term

Phase II Analysis of the facts regarding employment and qualifications deficit in Romania of the last years

Phase III Analysis of the impact of the EU recent evolutions regarding the need/the deficit of qualifications on the Romanian labour market

The progress towards a knowledge based economy, an economy where the use of the human capital becomes a priority compared to the other forms of capital, claims for new studies regarding the contribution that the individual can bring through his knowledge in order to improve the processes, the products and the services, a contribution that becomes more important than the physical work. The knowledge incorporated in a product will become a key element of the economic activities. The economic restructuring of our country will generate excess and deficits of qualifications inside a county or a region. On the other hand the demographic evolutions that mean unequal regional population aging can generate qualification deficits in some sectors and regions.

In this context the design of projections of supply and demand at regional level in employment and sectorial structure is useful for labour market policy decisions. The actual labour market qualifications deficits estimation is essential in solving the balance supply – demand at a certain moment. As in Romanian there are no such preoccupations we consider that this is of maximum utility.

The applied methodology:

- Building up dynamic data series for the employment indicators
- Building up the work instrument for national qualification deficit identification (questionnaires for firms and employees)
- Sample design for the survey on firms and employees
- Data collection/data base creation/analysis/ primary and secondary processing
- Documentary analysis regarding the **impact of evolutions of qualification need/deficit on the labour market**

Dissemination:

- Research report- given to the contracting authority
- Activity report - given to the contracting authority

Project's coordinator: Speranta Pirciog, PhD, scientific researcher I

Project no. 25 CEEEX 05-D8-70 Productivity, wages, employment and the connection between them from the perspective of EU integration

Phase I Methods and techniques regarding productivity

The studies realized in Romania in the last few years showed that the wage level is the complex result of the interdependent action of a multitude of factors, among which the most important belong to the labour market area (the connection supply - demand of labour force, collective bargaining), the fiscal policies (income taxes, social contributions) and wage policy. For many developing countries that have low levels of labour productivity compared to that of the EU member states, a reduced income value can be, on the short term, a factor of competitiveness, especially in activities characterized through high consume of labour force. Still, the persistence of this situation might have negative implications on other dimensions of the economic and social development. In this context we consider that the elaboration of a study that might underline the evolution trends and the direction for increasing the efficiency of productivity, income and employment management and of the connection between them would be useful. These correlations can be improved through different instruments and economic policies and they can consequently contribute to the increase of the competitiveness of the economic agents. The international research in this area show that the development process of the industrialized countries abandoned the industrial model, characterized by the positive relation between productivity and employment growth in the favor of a “post-industrial model” characterized by the negative relation between these variables. Employment is presently developing in sectors where the share of productivity is below the average. Macro-economically the level of productivity is a useful guide for defining the income policies or the policies regarding inflation. At the micro-economic level this allows a better knowledge of the organization’s performances. In the last 20 years in the highly industrialized countries a decrease of the productivity growth rhythm can be noticed. Without the necessary intervention of the public authority, the productivity remains low. Governments can use different methods: creating public enterprises, accepting the accelerated amortization, small interest loans, anticipated exonerations, fiscal advantages, privileged regimes offered to the enterprises that explore new directions.

Numerous studies revealed the existence of an important positive correlation between education and productivity.

The studies of the researchers from the General Research Direction of the European Parliament confirmed that the idea that higher salaries lead to employment growth as they stimulate the demand is valid only in very restrictive conditions that are almost impossible to achieve in practice.

The simulations designed with macroeconomic models indicate, on the contrary, that higher salaries are unfavorable to employment as their effect on the offer is much more important than the effect on the demand.

The problem of income and labour productivity is systematically approached by numerous prestigious universities and scientific organizations. The scope of these studies is that of offering relevant data and information to the deciding factors.

The applied methodology:

- Documentary analysis regarding the methods and techniques used in the area of productivity measurement

Dissemination

- Research report- given to the contracting authority
- Activity report - given to the contracting authority

Project's coordinator: Nicolae Cataniciu, PhD, scientific researcher I