



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ  
SCOSAAR

## REZUMATUL TEZEI DE ABILITARE

TITLUL Servicii publice în sprijinul incluziunii sociale

Domeniul de abilitare: *Sociologie*

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The habilitation thesis entitled “Public services in support of social inclusion” includes a presentation of the key directions of the author’s professional development. The thesis is structured into four sections. The first chapter presents the advancement of academic and professional careers. The second section highlights the chief development sequences of the professional career. The third part describes the development and progress plans, whereas the last section points out the capacity of coordinating research teams. Bibliographic references are mentioned in the last part of the thesis.

The stages of professional development are presented starting with the first field research opportunities, from the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest. These initial stages paved the way for studies on social inclusion. They have been subsequently extended and widened in regard to the studied topics, with the support of studies conducted in the field of public management. Throughout these two key paths of academic development, there have been the grounds laid down for using an interdisciplinary research framework using the conceptual development from the sociology of organizations, public finances and public management. These have been intensively used in the PhD thesis as well as in the most recent single-authored book published with Springer, a publishing company with an established international reputation. Consequently, scientific production has been divided into five key categories differentiated by the general subject matter: (i) sociology of organizations and public administration; (ii) education and social stratification; (iii) child rights protection; (iv) protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and protection of other vulnerable groups. Ten scientific results are included from all these categories. Nevertheless, a noteworthy part of the professional career is marked by the capacity for coordinating complex research projects. In total, I participated in more than fifty research projects. Out of them, for a substantial part I coordinated the field research, with quantitative and qualitative approaches. The complexity of projects is underlined by the considerable research coverage area (EMZOT<sup>1</sup> samples of more than nine thousand households, in several research waves, census of municipalities in Romania, extended samples of more than nine thousand beneficiaries from child public care system or from the system of protection for persons with disabilities). In addition, still in favour of complexity are also the analysed topics - creating new research methodologies in several projects, including the ones on European funds absorption, digital society, or restructuring and reorganization processes of residential centers for persons with disabilities, to name but a few. They are included in the section on the capacity of coordinating research teams. Working with experienced national and international experts in numerous research projects has substantially contributed to my professional development.

Prospects of future progress and development include an improved usage of the accumulated expertise, reflected in the activity of dissemination of scientific products. Three key lines of development for future research projects are envisaged: (i) cross-disciplinarity; (ii) building

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<sup>1</sup> Master sample designed based on census data, used by the National Institute of Statistics from Romania.



evidence support for policy recommendations; and (iii) participation, in as much as possible, as part of international research teams, alongside the usage of open data and methodological approaches that would respond to the current societal challenges. Digital inclusion and disparities in public health services will be part of future research topics. The environment of public organizations will continue to be examined in relation to the current funding sources, but with respect to a different set of public institutions, namely deconcentrated institutions. They represent a special case of representation at the local level of the attributes of central level public organizations, usually ministries and national agencies.

To conclude, territorial discrepancies will continue to be analysed to provide evidence as a contribution to the harmonization of policy interventions at the local, county, regional, national and European levels. Future studies will bring out new reflective perspectives addressing the challenges of developing an inclusive society through using innovative methods for providing public services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive-like script.