

HABILITATION THESIS

” Developments in educational policies and strategies in the field of school organization management, projects and teaching staff training”

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ABSTRACT

The habilitation thesis summarizes the research activity and academic development in the field of Education Sciences conducted in the last 10 years, considered as relevant after the completing the doctorate in 2006. In structuring this habilitation thesis I have opted for a presentation of academic contributions organized on domains and thematic directions illustrating the most relevant scientific research results (publications, research projects, coordination or involvement in academic research teams), contributions to research and development of policies and educational programs (projects, public policies, research-development-training programs) and academic activity in terms of the involvement in the development of university degree programs, disciplines, partnerships and expertise in specialty commissions.

The scientific results are reflected in the publication of specialized books, elaboration of numerous studies, articles in specialized journals, research-development projects, citations and participations in conferences in the country and abroad, expertise in national commissions, academic management and involvement in the bachelor/master/doctorate programs in the field.

The issues addressed reflect the continuation of the research area began during the doctoral studies and a development generated by the specificity of the interdisciplinary educational projects and the dominance of the initial and continuing training of the teaching staff. The research directions developed in books/articles and illustrated in the habilitation thesis are:

- *School organization management and development. Project management.*
- *Policies, programs and strategies for initial and continuing training of human resources;*
- *Research, innovation and reform in education;*
- *Educational policies and changes in education systems in the knowledge society;*

Each thematic area is developed in the habilitation thesis, reflecting scientific outcomes corresponding to research criteria and performance indicators:

- articles published in „ISI proceedings” volumes with Peer-Reviews of the international conferences indexed ISI Thomson Reuters, articles published in journals indexed IDB or in „proceedings” volumes of international conferences indexed IDB (minimum 3 international data bases), citings of publications in journals rated ISI.
- articles published in foreign or Romanian journals with Peer-Review and international editorial committee, in journals indexed ISI or in proceedings of international conferences indexed IDB.
- books and chapters in collective volumes: single author in 3 books, co-author in other 10 books and various chapters in collective volumes in the field of Education Sciences.
- team research projects with young doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers;
- papers published in the volumes of various international and national conferences and presented at specialized international conferences held in Belgium, Spain, Germany, Turkey, Czech Republic, Croatia, Italy, Republic of Moldova and in the university centers of the country: Bucharest, Iasi, Pitesti, Suceava, Oradea, Galati, Baia Mare, Timisoara.

- member in the scientific committee of various conferences, keynote speaker, moderator, workshop coordinator and scientific reviewer in various national and international scientific conferences.

The habilitation thesis presents educational policy developments in our century are linked to the paradigm shift determined by the information society, the dominant being given by knowledge and creativity, two drivers of personal and institutional development, as well as by investment in human capital that becomes a priority at the strategic level of education systems. Scientific approaches exploit the complementarity between fundamental-theoretical and practical-action oriented, as well as quantitative and qualitative methodologies that facilitate the analysis of global socio-economic changes, in general, and the highlighting of the effects generated in educational policies and educational strategies for human resource development, in particular. The elaborated studies advance the idea of shaping a theoretical and methodological model that will allow the analysis and elaboration of new educational and strategies policies in accordance with the technological, cultural and socio-economic evolutions specific to the society of the 3rd millennium and to pursue fundamental dominants such as: identification of values, characteristics, requirements and changes specific to the knowledge-based society; identifying and analyzing the curriculum documents from education at national and global level; establishing paradigm changes due to socio-economic and technological developments; the foundation of an interdisciplinary theoretical-methodological model that would allow the development of new educational policies and strategies in line with the identified developments; determining the impact of socio-economic, cultural and technological changes on educational policies and human resource development strategies.

The habilitation thesis reflects the effectiveness of scientific collaborations in the field of education and the ability to work in interdisciplinary teams that have materialized in numerous research and development programs and projects, the membership qualities, leadership or manager skills standing out. (**National Council of Scientific Research in Higher Education Project - ESF – The Academic Profession in Europe: Responses to Societal Challenges EUROAC**, European Science Foundation, Eurocores Programme European Collaborative Research, EuroHESC Higher Education and Social Change, team member, **CNCSIS project - IDEI – no. 947**; exploratory research “The impact of the feminine character typology in post-war literary prose on socially reflected behavioral models” team member; **National Center for Programs Management - National Plan for Research-Development and Innovation II no. 4141/2008, CP project type**, “Partnerships in Priority Areas” - *Competitiveness Studies of the Small and Medium Enterprises sector in the perspective of sustainable local and regional development through economic and financial policies*, team member; **CNCSIS project - IDEI – no. 947, exploratory research** “*The impact of the political and ideological factor on the reflection of literature in the education system. Period 1948-1989*“, team member.

The research activity demonstrates a particular involvement in research and development projects, with a topical theme meant to contribute to the theoretical and practical-applicative development of the field of education sciences. The ability to lead research-development-innovation projects resulted in winning through competition and performing as a director in several projects: **CNCSIS project - CEEEX no. 160/2006 - European Network for the Promotion of a Sustainable Local and Regional Development Socio-Economic Model (EURO_NET_DEVELOP)**, 2006-2008; **CNCSIS Project – National Plan for Research-Development and Innovation - NP II - Ideas Program - WE no. 140/2008 – “Policies, models and strategies for human resource development in education”**; **Postdoctoral Research Project ESF - SOP HRD** “Knowledge Society - relevance and impact on educational policies and strategies in human resource training” 2010-2013; **the ESF – SOP HRD project - Interregional network for e-learning training of the teaching staff from the pre-university education**, coordinator “Al. I. Cuza” University in Iasi; **“Innovation and Change in Education” continuous teaching staff training** “Dunărea de Jos” University Galati – DPPD, etc.

The final part of the habilitation thesis reflects the academic development from the perspective of initiating university education programs, of supporting pedagogical disciplines in the curricula of Education Sciences and guiding students and young teachers through various types of activities:

- research-development projects and programs in the educational field;
- initiating, accrediting and coordinating bachelor, masters and continuous teacher training programs;
- counseling and professional development programs;
- coordination of the didactic activity in the Teaching Training Department programs, the bachelor's program of *Primary and Pre-school Education Pedagogy*, respectively the Master's program of *Educational Management*;
- coordinating scientific students events and specialized journals in the field.

The habilitation thesis also reflects an increase in complexity of the academic activities, while taking on the disciplines: *Contemporary education issues, Fundamentals of pedagogy, Curriculum theory and methodology, Education theory and methodology, as well as other disciplines in the teacher training program: Educational Management; Methodology of educational research; Management of educational projects*. Educational and scientific prestige is illustrated in the thesis by the many collaborations and partnerships translated into projects, articles and books published in renowned publishers, in specialized journals or in the volumes of important scientific events. The capacity to disseminate and transfer scientific results is also demonstrated by the coordination of a significant number of research and development grants, programs and contracts developed with internationally and nationally recognized partners in the field, as well as through collaboration agreements and partnerships with numerous Universities, research institutes, organizations in the country and abroad. There are also highlighted the activities carried out as:

- chief editor and member in the scientific and editorial committee of the volumes of scientific events and the annals of “Dunărea de Jos” University – Psychology and Education Sciences series, fascicle XXI.
- Coordinator of scientific events organized by Department of Teaching Staff Training – „The problem of education in the third millennium” annual conference with international participation (2000-2016).
- Coordinator of the Interinstitutional Center for Counselling and Professional Orientation (CICOP) and the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Education (CCIEd) from “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galati.
- Member, coordinator or trainer in multiple development projects with impact on the educational, economic and social environment (Phare Economic and Social Cohesion project “Developing continuous training for staff in secondary education”- “Teacher 2000+ - professional of student centered education” and “Teacher 2000+ - promoter of ICT in education”, coordinator of “Education 2000+” Center Bucharest; “Educational strategies centered on student” project, Ministry of Education and Research, 2007, financed by UNICEF; “EuropeAid Project: Technical Assistance to support the National Centre for Staff Training in Pre-University Education in Romania” Phare project, coordinated by WYG International – EuropeAid; „Development of an operational system of qualifications in higher education in Romania”, strategic project FSE - POSDRU 2007 – 2013, ACPART Bucharest coordinator; „Quality and Leadership in Higher Education” – strategic project FSE - POSDRU 2007 – 2013 UEFISCSU Bucharest coordinator, etc.

The thesis also illustrates the professional work carried out through collaborations/partnerships with other institutions, complementing the basic academic activity within the "Dunărea de Jos" academic center in Galați, such as the Ministry of National Education, the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, the National Agency for Qualifications, etc.

The habilitation thesis highlights in its abstract results and activities of didactic scientific research, project management and administrative-managerial that shows a responsible involvement in the field of Education Sciences and a capitalization of the expertise in policies and programs development for teaching staff training, professional dimensions intended to be developed in future projects and contributions.

Prof. Simona Marin,
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