

BU BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES

Doctoral School Economy I



DOCTORAL THESIS

Presented and publicly defended by the author:

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Thesis title:

**ECONOMIC GROWTH AND MACRO-
SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IN ROMANIA**

Scientific supervisor:

Prof. univ.dr. Gheorghe POPESCU

Doctoral thesis defense committee:

Conf.univ.dr. Nicolae Moroianu (chairman)	- Bucharest University of Economic Studies
Prof.univ.dr. Silvia Elena Iacob (referent)	- Bucharest University of Economic Studies
Prof.univ.dr. Ramona-Costina Pîrvu (referent)	- University of Craiova
Prof.univ.dr. Nicoleta Ramona Dinu (referent)	- Ovidius University of Constanța
Prof.univ.dr. Gheorghe Popescu (PhD supervisor)	- Bucharest University of Economic Studies

Bucharest, 2024

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Keywords

Economic growth, Sustainability, Macroeconomic policies, Fiscal policy, Monetary policy, Social cohesion, Environmental strategies, Labor market, Public services

Summary

This thesis explores the relationship between economic growth and macrosocial sustainability in the context of Romania, providing both a theoretical and practical analysis of how these two dimensions interact. The central objective of the research is to understand how Romania can achieve sustainable economic growth that is socially equitable and environmentally responsible, while overcoming the challenges of transitioning from a centralized to a market economy.

Chapter 1: Introduction

The introduction outlines the importance of the topic, highlighting the need to study the interaction between economic growth and social and environmental sustainability. The research objectives and main questions are defined, focusing on identifying policies and strategies that can support sustainable growth in Romania. The research methodology and structure of the paper are also presented.

Chapter 2: Theoretical Foundations of Economic Growth and Macrosocial Sustainability

This chapter provides a theoretical foundation for understanding the concepts of economic growth and sustainable development. It reviews relevant economic theories and explores the multiple dimensions of sustainability (economic, social, and environmental). Additionally, successful international models that have integrated sustainability into economic policies are analyzed.

Chapter 3: Evolution and Challenges of Economic Growth in Post-1989 Romania

This chapter examines Romania's transition from a centralized economy to a market economy and the challenges encountered during this process. The impact of Romania's accession to the European Union is analyzed, highlighting both the economic benefits and the persistent structural problems, such as regional inequalities, unemployment, and labor migration.

Chapter 4: The Impact of Economic Growth on Macrosocial Indicators

Chapter four evaluates how economic growth influences aspects such as income distribution, the labor market, and access to essential public services (education, healthcare). Regional disparities and social cohesion are also analyzed, emphasizing the tensions between economic development and social equity.

Chapter 5: Analysis of Public Policies for Economic Growth and Sustainability

This chapter provides an evaluation of the economic policies adopted in Romania to stimulate economic growth, with a focus on fiscal, monetary, and structural policies. Social policies related to social inclusion and environmental protection are also discussed, as well as the role of external financing (EU funds, foreign direct investment) in supporting sustainability.

Chapter 6: Case Studies and Best Practices in Integrating Sustainability into Economic Growth

To illustrate the ways in which sustainability can be integrated into economic growth, chapter six presents case studies from Romania and other European Union member states. Sustainable economic models and policies implemented globally are also analyzed, offering valuable lessons for Romania in the context of adopting sustainable development strategies.

Chapter 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

The final chapter summarizes the main findings of the thesis and provides concrete recommendations for decision-makers in Romania. The focus is on the need for policies that combine economic efficiency with social equity and environmental protection, thus ensuring long-term sustainable growth. Future research directions are also suggested to deepen the understanding of the interaction between economic growth and macrosocial sustainability.

Conclusion

The thesis highlights the importance of an integrated approach to economic policies, prioritizing not only GDP growth but also social and environmental sustainability. In Romania's context, the economic transition and EU accession have provided significant opportunities but also brought major challenges. This study offers practical solutions and policy strategies to ensure fair and sustainable economic growth in the future.