

BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES

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DOCTORAL THESIS

**SOCIAL COHESION AND THE DEFINITENESS OF THE
EUROPEAN MODEL OF INTEGRATION**

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Summary

The present scientific research aims to analyze social cohesion seen as the finality of the European model of integration, the most advanced model of globalization in practical terms. The social finality of the European model gives it particularity by referring equally to both economic performance and social justice. Usually, studies incorporate social cohesion alongside economic and territorial cohesion. The originality of the research also stems from the theoretical approach of this concept from an economic perspective (it being based on a sociological concept) and in interconnection with the finality of the European integration model.

The quantitative analysis focused on the dynamics of income inequalities and the poverty risk rate at the EU level, being identified as specific objectives in achieving social cohesion. Statistical data indicate that the states that joined the EU in the last stages, the CEE states, enjoy a socio-economic development that is reflected in the convergence of incomes and the decrease in the risk of poverty. Access to the single market meant economic growth, increased competitiveness, the reduction of inequalities and in association with the welfare state, European states experienced a sustainable and equitable development in favor of all citizens.

Determining the key factors that contribute to reducing the poverty risk rate at the level of the European submodels is what makes econometric analysis unique. The advantage of data modeling at the sub-model level is obtaining empirical results much more interconnected to the socio-economic specifics of the countries. The fact that there were no common determinants of the poverty risk rate in the four analyzed sub-models proves this. The main challenge of the analysis regarding the serious limitation of the data used caused by the small number of component countries in three of the 4 sub-models was solved by applying the Lasso method, a method that has the advantage of regularizing the model and selecting relevant variables.

Keywords: European integration model, social cohesion, economic and territorial cohesion, globalization, solidarity, inequalities, poverty risk rate, European sub-models, social protection, Lasso method.

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