**BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES**

Doctoral School of International Business and Economics



**SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS**

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Driving factors of business performance in the European Union manufacturing sector: the effect of technological level and foreign direct investment

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**DRIVING FACTORS OF BUSINESS PERFORMANCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION MANUFACTURING SECTOR: THE EFFECT OF TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS**

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**Summary of the doctoral thesis**

Undoubtedly, manufacturing, as a crucial catalyst for economic well-being, has elevated living standards on a global scale. The susceptibility of the worldwide manufacturing industry has been brought to attention through occurrences like the Global Financial Crisis of 2008–2011, the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the conflicts in Ukraine and Israel. The importance of modeling company performance in the manufacturing sector has grown in recent years as a result of the incorporation of technology and the evolving dynamics of product characteristics, production cycle economics, and consumer demand.

The main objectives of the doctoral thesis are: (i) to provide a historical overview of manufacturing and its significance in the global economy; (ii) to examine the challenges faced by the manufacturing sector during periods of turmoil; (iii) to conduct a literature review on sustainability in manufacturing business performance; (iv) to analyze the manufacturing sector in the EU focusing on different countries, subindustries and indicators; (v) to investigate the impact of technological intensity, business ownership, location and size on business performance in the manufacturing sector and (vi) to examine business performance during periods of turmoil to extract lessons that can be applied to future crises.

This thesis demonstrates its significance by conducting a comprehensive analysis of the manufacturing sector, including its historical evolution and importance. It also examines current global events and evaluates their impact based on evaluations, outcomes, and deductions from the research conducted in the doctoral program. The significance of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) activities in the shift towards an eco-friendly manufacturing sector is highlighted, with a particular focus on the function of key moderators in comprehending ESG performance. Furthermore, the empirical research given in the thesis can provide economic policymakers with vital tools to mitigate the effects of future crises and formulate customized policies to foster manufacturing and sustainability in the manufacturing sector.

Keywords: manufacturing, business performance, sustainability, foreign direct investment, technology