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Summary DOCTORAL THESIS

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**ROMANIA, NATO AND EU' SOCIO-ECONOMIC SECURITY IN
THE CONTEXT OF EMERGING THREATS**

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Summary

Keywords: Economic and social security; emerging threats; EU; indicators; NATO; Romania

The doctoral thesis *Romania, NATO and EU' socio-economic security in the context of emerging threats* addresses the issue of socio-economic security across these international entities and Romania, accounting for the rise of new challenges and threats.

Thus, Romania, as a member state of NATO and the EU, faces various economic and social threats in an ever-changing global environment. New threats, such as: cyber-attacks; terrorism; climate change; economic instability; mass migration, etc.; put pressure on the country's economic and social security. In terms of economic security, Romania must adapt to the challenges posed by globalisation, while developing a sustainable and competitive economy. Investments in infrastructure, education, and research are needed to support economic growth and ensure the country's sustainable development. In terms of social security, Romania faces challenges related to health, education, poverty and social exclusion. It is important for the Romanian authorities to allocate adequate resources and increase access to high-quality public services, but also to reduce societal disparities. Thus, Romania's economic and social security is a major concern and requires innovative approaches, but also cooperation between the various organizations and institutions involved. By promoting a sustainable economy, investing in infrastructure and developing social services, Romania can strengthen its security and stability when facing new threats.

Moreover, NATO promotes economic and social security by strengthening cooperation and solidarity between member states. NATO aims to ensure an environment of stability and prosperity by developing national economies and promoting democratic values, protecting human rights and the rule of law. With regard to new threats, NATO is aware of the evolution of the global context and adapts to these changes in a rather prompt manner. New threats, such as: cyber-attacks; terrorism; climate change; economic instability; mass migration, etc.; are addressed through appropriate strategies and measures, including cooperation in the field of information technology and the development of cyber capabilities. In addition, NATO plays a significant role in ensuring the economic and social security of member states by promoting cooperation and protecting democratic values. By addressing these new threats and adapting to global change, NATO contributes to maintaining stability and prosperity in its region of responsibility and increasing the collective resilience of its members.

In addition, the EU focuses on ensuring the economic and social security of the Member States, given the current challenges. New threats, such as: cyber-attacks; terrorism; climate change; economic instability; mass migration etc.; represent complex issues that require innovative

approaches and cooperation between Member States. In terms of economic security, the EU promotes an integrated and sustainable internal market that boosts economic growth and protects citizens from economic risks. Innovation, research and sustainable development strategies and policies aim to strengthen the EU's competitiveness and economic stability. In regards to social security, the EU strives to ensure a high level of well-being for its citizens by promoting access to quality social services, such as health, education and social protection. Tackling poverty, social inequality and exclusion is a priority for the EU in guaranteeing social security. In this context, the EU pays particular attention to economic and social security in the face of new threats. By promoting sustainable economic growth, protecting social rights and promoting social cohesion, the EU aims to ensure the security and prosperity of its citizens in the face of today's challenges. At the same time, because it represents a fundamentally exploratory approach, the entire work is not directly framed in any of the paradigmatic limitations related to the social sciences, although there is a tendency to follow the prevailing narratives in certain places. Rather, it represents a pragmatic and applicative investigation, being distant from the elements presented and maintaining neutrality towards the topics treated, including when criticisms or comparisons are presented or selected. This approach arises from the desire to approach the subjects in a manner as deep and diversified as possible, avoiding the preconditions that may arise at the moment of strict adherence to one narrative or another, especially since they represent an observation of processes and phenomena that by their nature transcend the boundaries of any doctrine.

The structure of the doctoral thesis *Romania, NATO and EU' socio-economic security in the context of emerging threats* consists of the following elements:

Introduction

The introduction establishes the context and importance of the study on economic and social security within the EU, NATO and Romania. The objectives of the research, the methodology used, and the general structure of the work are presented.

1. **Socio-economic security – Generalities**, the theoretical elements of economic and social security have been studied.

1.1. International organizations' logic (integrationist logic)

In this subchapter it has been identified that there are several levels of integration, different possibilities of classification and even different definitions of integration. The evolution of international relations from a political and economic-social point of view has led to the formation and establishment of international organizations among the subjects of international law. International cooperation, based on international relations, has given rise to an international community that respects the principle of independence and sovereignty of the states involved.

1.2. A UE-NATO comparison (commonalities/differences between international organizations and nation-states – Romania

In this subchapter it was presented that international organizations represent the most important forces in coordinating actions and cooperation in areas such as: political; economic; social; military; cultural etc. Apart from nation-states, which are the basis of the world system, international organizations are the most important participants in it. The similarities and differences between the EU and NATO are analysed, both in terms of their security objectives and the way they interact with nation-states, including Romania.

1.3. Socio-economic security in times of peace vs. war

In this sub-chapter it was presented that peace, well-being, justice, economic and social cooperation are the result of a combination of factors that represent the process of modernization. Differences in economic and social security approaches in times of peace and conflict are discussed, highlighting the adaptations needed depending on the security context.

2. The construction of Romania' social and economic security studied the elements of Romania's economic and social dimension, as a member of the EU and NATO, as well as the vulnerabilities to economic and social security that must be analysed taking into account both Romania's international and political relations, based on multilateral treaties (economic, political, judicial, environmental, etc.), but also by the current state of development of the Romanian economy as a result of the transition to the market economy, but also by the effects of the global financial crisis, which have left their mark on the economy as a whole.

2.1. Interpretations regarding Romania's economic security

In this sub-chapter, it was presented that Romania, as a partner of numerous international organizations and institutions, as a signatory of international acts and treaties, has a pressing need to complete the international security system, through the in-depth analysis of production policies, the particularity of European markets, etc.

2.2. Interpretations regarding Romania' social security

In this sub-chapter, it was presented that in Romania, there are common national systems of mandatory pensions, healthcare, unemployment, etc., which apply to all employees and employers.

2.3. Matrix of Romania' social and economic security

In this sub-chapter, it was identified that Romania's economic and social matrix is complex and multifaceted. Thus, Romania has taken significant steps in recent years towards improving economic stability and social welfare systems.

2.3.1. Matrix of Romania's economic security

In this subsection, SWOT analysis has been explained and used to identify: strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities; Threats; to Romania's economic security. Thus, economic efficiency

is an area of major importance for the performance of the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), which are based on systems of indicators customized for each pillar, at the micro, meso and macroeconomic levels.

2.3.2. Matrix of Romania social security

In this subsection, Romania's SWOT analysis was used to identify: Strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities; Threats; to Romania's social security from the point of view of the CSR. Thus, CSR is one of the essential components for the sustainable development of an entity, including aspects such as ethics, corporate responsibility and the relationship with employees, customers, shareholders, suppliers and local communities, as well as in terms of a positive long-term financial result.

3. The construction of NATO' social and economic security elements of the economic and social dimension of security that was considered adjacent to the central problem, that of military security, were studied. NATO is a grouping of like-minded states with similar political and economic systems.

3.1. Approaches regarding NATO's economic security

In this sub-chapter, it was presented that human security has become a more important factor in the context of NATO, which strengthens its new identity being not only a military alliance, but also a political-military institution. NATO member states contribute directly and indirectly to the costs of running NATO and implementing its policies and activities. The sub-chapter details NATO's approaches to economic security, including strategies and policies adopted.

3.2. Approaches regarding NATO' social security

In this subchapter it has been presented that security, in the traditional sense, has been associated with military power. Moreover, the security of states is one of the most studied and regulated areas in the activity of human communities, generating profound transformations, especially in terms of the geopolitics and geostrategy of the world, the development of the armed forces, but also, in connection, of some transformations in social life and, even, of technological evolution.

3.3. Matrix of NATO' social and economic security

In this sub-chapter it has been identified that the efficient use of NATO's defence budget for the realization of military capabilities is a process that generates extensive discussions, as it involves a systematic approach to various economic, military, social and political aspects. SWOT analysis is used and aims to recommend strategies that ensure the best alignment between the internal and external environment, so that strengths are adapted to opportunities, minimize risks and eliminate weaknesses for NATO member states.

3.3.1. Matrix of NATO's economic security

In this subsection, SWOT analysis was used to identify: Strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities; Threats; to NATO's economic security.

3.3.2. Matrix of NATO' social security

In this subsection, the NATO SWOT analysis from the CIMIC perspective was used to identify: Strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities; Threats; to NATO's social security.

4. The construction of EU' social and economic security was addressed, a topic that still arouses lively interest, if the EU's economic and social security is a construct carried out in a concerted, conscious, voluntary and responsible manner by all Member States. The chapter includes the conceptual approach of the notion of economic and social security as a process and not as a static/accounting phenomenon. The results of the research carried out have been inserted and contain an analysis of scientific materials related to economic and social security.

4.1. Concepts concerning specific indicators of EU's economic security

In this sub-chapter it was presented that the EU has gradually gone through all the logical and necessary steps to achieve the final goal, namely the creation of an integrated community at regional level, both economically and socially, practically inventing and strategically concretizing the theory of globalization through integration.

4.2. Concepts concerning specific indicators of the EU' social security

In this sub-chapter, the various features of European social policy have been analysed, with a focus on the distribution of competences between the EU and the Member States. The social indicators presented in this subchapter, in general terms, are perceived as a support for monitoring the standard of living and social dynamics.

4.3. Matrix of EU' social and economic security

In this sub-chapter , SWOT analysis has been used and aims to recommend strategies that ensure the best alignment between the internal and external environment, so as to tailor strengths to opportunities, minimise risks and eliminate weaknesses, for the EU as a whole, as well as for its Member States.

4.3.1. Matrix of EU's economic security

In this subsection, SWOT analysis was used to identify: Strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities; Threats; to the EU's economic security.

4.3.2. Matrix of EU' social security

In this subsection, SWOT analysis was used to identify: Strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities; Threats; to the EU social security.

5. Emergence of new threats: definition, analysis and interpretation it was presented that threats represent the emergence and development of dangers, risks or challenges with a significant impact on society, the environment or global security. These threats can arise as a result of technological developments, economic factors, social changes or geopolitical events. Defining new threats can be difficult, as they can be varied and constantly evolving.

5.1. New risk vectors: theoretical approaches regarding emerging threats in Romania, NATO and EU

In this sub-chapter, it was presented that the theoretical approach to emerging threats in Romania, NATO and the EU involves analysing key factors and concepts in order to better understand the nature and extent of the risks faced by these entities.

5.2. Matrix of emerging threats in Romania, NATO and EU

In this subchapter, it was presented that in order to build and detail a new simplified mechanism for analysing new emerging threats, a matrix of new emerging threats in Romania, NATO and the EU was developed, which is an interesting and useful process to assess the situation and identify: categories of threats; their impact and likelihood, specific to each entity.

5.2.1. Defining the indicators that form risk vectors

In this subsection, it was presented that the indicators that form risk vectors for the new emerging threats, on Romania, NATO and the EU, may vary depending on the specific context and the security field considered.

5.2.2. Indexing indicators: cyber-attacks; terrorism; economic instability; climate change; mass migration, regarding Romania, NATO and EU

In this subsection, the indexing of indicators specific to new threats has been achieved, which are a crucial part of addressing security issues and adapting to changes in threats to Romania, NATO and the EU, and can include various aspects relevant to economic and social security. The indexation of these indicators can serve as a basis for the development of policies, strategies and preventive measures to manage and counter new economic and social threats.

6. Instrumentalizing Romania, NATO and EU' social and economic security in relation to emerging threats It was presented that the instrumentalization of Romania's economic and social security in the context of NATO and the EU is a complex subject, given geopolitical developments and emerging threats. Both NATO and the EU have distinct roles in promoting security and stability, each approaching these issues from different perspectives. In this context, economic and social security is increasingly seen as a vital component of national security in an interconnected global context.

6.1. Juxtaposing Romania, NATO and EU' social and economic matrices

In this subchapter, an analysis of the key elements of these matrices was carried out, as follows: **economic matrix:** *Romania:* GDP and economic growth; inflation and price stability; unemployment and employment rates; exports and imports; *NATO:* defence expenditures of member countries; defence industry and military technology; economic cooperation in the field of security; *EU:* single market and free movement of goods and services; common agricultural policy; structural and cohesion funds for regional development; **social matrix:** *Romania:* literacy rate and access to education; standard of living and income distribution; access to and quality of health services; poverty and social exclusion rates; *NATO:* well-being of military personnel and their families; access to health services for military personnel; reintegration programs for veterans; *EU:* labour mobility and social integration; European social policy; social rights and social inclusion.

6.1.1. Identifying common or complementary areas and categories

In this subsection, it was presented that in the complex context of economic and social security, the identification and understanding of common or complementary areas and categories is a crucial stage in the development and implementation of effective security strategies.

6.1.2. Mechanisms to monitor socio-economic indicators

In this subsection, the tools and methods used to quantify and analyse the various aspects of an economy and society have been explored. From macroeconomic measures, such as GDP and inflation, to social indicators, such as health and education, this subsection brings to the fore techniques and approaches that allow performance to be assessed and compared in an objective and comprehensive way.

6.2. Managing new threats through complex analysis systems: correlating the security architecture with socio-economic indicators

In this sub-chapter, it was presented that the management of new threats through complex analysis systems represents a major challenge in the dynamic context of contemporary society, characterized by increased interconnectivity and an exponential growth of data generated daily. These threats are not limited to the cyber domain, but also include economic, social and political risks that can have significant impacts on national and international security.

6.3. Barriers and repercussions associated with the use of indicators in the development of security policies and at the systemic level

In this sub-chapter, it was presented that the use of indicators in the development of security policies presents both challenges and opportunities. Understanding the associated barriers and repercussions is essential to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks associated with these analytical tools. In the context of security policy development, indicators play a crucial role.

Conclusions and recommendations

In this chapter, the necessary conclusions are argued, the generalizations that are required from the investigation carried out and some recommendations are formulated, in the given field, of a theoretical and applicative nature, for the continuation of the investigations, further, of the approached problem and the implementation of the results obtained.

The bibliography contains a list of 921 titles, mirroring the informative sources studied, is varied, current and representative of the problem addressed and completes the theoretical, but also metacognitive path, carried out with seriousness, responsibility and professionalism and is structured according to academic requirements, as follows: I. Books; II. Chapters from books; III. Articles; IV. Articles/chapters published in volumes of papers; V. Papers published in conference papers; VI. Websites; VII. Legislation. It includes the bibliographic sources used in the paper.

The annexes provide additional materials and technical details to support the main research.

Without claiming to offer totally new perspectives of the methods of analysis and assessment of threats and risks, the doctoral thesis brings to the attention of the academic community, but also of intelligence analysts, some own approaches with results that can be used in the analysis of information, both operational structures in the field and of the academic environment. These approaches are presented in the different sections of the paper, including the introduction, chapters, subchapters, and subsections. In addition, most of the sources represent programmatic documents, national and international norms in the field of economic-social security and defence, studies, forecasts, databases, statistical information products, articles, even press publications.

In this context, addressing economic and social security in the context of Romania, NATO and the EU represents a complex challenge and requires careful management and cooperation between all parties involved. By adopting integrated policies and promoting common values, these entities can help ensure a stable and prosperous environment both nationally and internationally. Moreover, the adaptability and usefulness of this work can be seen through its potential to influence security policies, strategies and decisions at the level of Romania, NATO and the EU, contributing to improving resilience and response capacity in the face of contemporary challenges.